

The HIGHLANDS Current



Shoulder
Blades
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APRIL 22, 2022

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PEDALING FOR CHANGE — Bicyclists organized by Beacon resident Veekas Ashoka of Climate Can't Wait rode the ferry to Newburgh on Monday (April 18), gathered for a rally to protest the failure of state legislators to pass 12 climate bills as part of the annual budget and rode home across the bridge. The event was part of a trek this week from New York City to Albany that ends with a rally today at the Capitol. Shown here are Tara Vamos of Cold Spring, Andrew Wells of Brooklyn and Will Lulofs of Beacon.

Photo by Valerie Shively

Removing Books from Schools

Nearby districts react to challenges

By Leonard Sparks

A vote by the Wappingers school board last month to remove a copy of *Gender Queer: A Memoir* from the library at John Jay High School injected the district into a national culture war, while battle lines also form in other Hudson Valley communities.

Along with Wappingers, the Carmel, Mahopac and Yorktown school districts are reviewing books, spurred by parents who have complained that the titles contain graphic images, profanity, sexual language and, in one case, critical views of the police.

On April 5, Carmel's school board voted to uphold their superintendent's recommendation that *Gender Queer* remain in the Carmel High School library, despite complaints that some of the book's images are too explicit. The Arlington school district, facing the same complaint, also voted at a special meeting on March 31 to keep the book.

Although book challenges are not new, the complaints reflect a surge driven by conservative organizations such as Moms

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Beacon Plans to Rehab Fire Station

Tompkins Hose would become central facility

By Jeff Simms

The construction of a modern, centralized Beacon fire station is expected to begin in 2023 — more than 15 years after discussion about the project began.

Under a plan being prepared for the City Council, the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. station, a 10,000-square-foot building constructed in the 1980s, would be gutted, refurbished and enlarged, with three new bays that will allow engines to enter and exit from Route 9D. The trucks must now negotiate a tight squeeze on South Avenue.

City Administrator Chris White said he expects to bring a five-year capital proposal to the council by the end of May with details about how the city could absorb its nearly \$11 million price tag. Construction

would take about 14 months and include a 6,500-square-foot addition to the north end of the station.

The council two years ago hired Mitchell Associates Architects, an Albany County firm, to design the renovations. White said he will ask the council on Monday (April 25) to approve a \$250,000 contract for Mitchell's ongoing design and the implementation of the Tompkins upgrade. It will cost about \$1 million to hire the firm to oversee construction.

During the council's April 11 workshop, White said the city would need to come up with a "thoughtful way" of digesting the cost of the project over several years. "We're going to have to balance it, because we still have to buy plows and police vehicles and we have parks to invest in," he said.

The city has commissioned various studies since 2006 to consolidate its three fire stations. It considered building a station

(Continued on Page 21)

State Provides \$20M for Fjord Trail

Money will allow work to begin in the fall

By Brian PJ Cronin

A line item in this year's state budget included \$200 million for the state parks department for capi-

tal improvements, an \$80 million increase over what is typical.

State Sen. James Skoufis, a Democrat whose district will include Beacon and Philipstown if he is re-elected in November, said it wasn't enough.

In the end, the line was increased by

(Continued on Page 20)



State Sen. James Skoufis announces new funding on Thursday at the Breakneck Ridge station for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

Photo by B. Cronin

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: EMILY QUANT

By Michael Turton

Emily Quant of Garrison is a fire-spinning belly dancer. Later this month she will attempt to set a world record for sword-balancing.

Was this the career path your high school guidance counselor recommended?

No! I was going to be a philosophy major, you know, go for the big bucks, then go into one of the sciences. But in college, I realized how much I missed dancing — I'd danced since I was 5 years old. So I danced professionally, including with contemporary companies in New York City. A few years ago, I was no longer performing much. I'm 41; my body was changing. I wanted to keep dancing — I can be a philosopher when I'm 78 — so in 2019 I launched my own company, The Pyro Department.

What prompted you to chase the record for sword-balancing?

I have a ballet background, so balancing was easy. During the pandemic, I had no shows, so for fun I started demonstrating sword balancing via Zoom. People really got excited about it. It took me a year to be able to balance 21 swords at once. It takes a lot of



strength. The swords weigh 2 pounds each and at one show I balanced 61. It's intense. They're dulled prop swords, but they can still cut me when they fall. I started thinking about doing sword balancing as a show at Renaissance fairs. I thought I was onto something: It's hard to come up with something that's not already a world record.

How will you establish the record?

I'm going for most swords balanced in one minute and the most in three minutes. I must balance at least 12 in one minute and at least 30 in three minutes for it to be recognized as the record; that's difficult!

I can position myself any way I want. An assistant will hand me each sword and I place them on my body, one at a time. I must document the attempt on video and have three witnesses. There are numerous rules: limits on the size and curve of the swords, no sticky substances, no skin-drying agents. I'll make the attempt in Salem, Massachusetts, at the end of this month.

What is fire-spinning?

That's mainly what I perform. You use metal or wood props with Kevlar wicks soaked in white gas. They become fire props. It's like having a dance partner without having to hire one. It's like juggling. You learn the movements and techniques without fire. With repetition, it gets more relaxed, more fluid. I always have a person with me who has taken a course in fire safety. If someone in our field has an accident, it brings everybody down.

Where do you perform?

Mostly in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. About 70 percent of my business comes from thebash.com, where you can book any kind of entertainer, from fire dancers and balloon twisters to singing telegrams, caricaturists and aerialists. People also book me at pyrodept.com. We'll be performing at the Kingdom Faire, the pirate show in Putnam Valley, on April 30. I wanted to do that show because pirates and swords go great together!

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

You're on *Jeopardy*. What category do you want, and not want?

"I'd die if Science came up; I'd hope for Music."



Karen James, Beacon

"Unfortunately, not Poetry. My strengths are Basketball and Horror Movies."



Tim Haskell, Cold Spring

"No Civil War! Star Wars would be good for me."



Beth Weintraub, Cold Spring

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Garrison School Lowers Tax Request to 9.2%

Increased state aid allows for revised budget

By Joey Asher

Thanks to some newfound state aid, the Garrison school board revised its proposed 2022-2023 budget at its meeting Tuesday (April 19) to include a 9.2 percent tax levy increase, down slightly from the 10 percent increase previously proposed.

The increase would still exceed Garrison's state-mandated tax cap of 2.2 percent. An override of the cap would have to be approved by 60 percent of the voters on May 17. 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.

Albano said the district received additional state funding in recent weeks through

the efforts of state Sen. James Skoufis, who because of redistricting would represent the Highlands if he is re-elected in November. In its budget for 2022-23, the Legislature provided an additional \$270,000 for the district. Of those funds, \$180,000 is unrestricted and \$90,000 is designated for capital improvements.

Albano said that the board has chosen to use \$80,000 from the unrestricted funds to help with the 2022-23 budget and the remainder for capital improvements, including roof repair.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Albano announced that:

■ The district is considering ways to provide property tax relief for seniors on fixed incomes, such as offering residents older than 65 a reduction in their bills of up to 50 percent, depending on need, with an annual income cap of about \$37,000. If

approved, the exemption would begin with the 2023-24 budget cycle.

■ The district is eligible for the first time for prekindergarten funding of as much as \$108,000. With the money, Albano said, Garrison could create a program for up to 18 students who turn 4 by Dec. 1 of this year. He said the district must first analyze if there is a need for the program.

In meetings from earlier this year:

■ The board approved an agreement with Erin Wik for photography services at \$175 per hour (Jan. 5).

■ The board hired Tetra Tech Architects and Engineers to conduct a building condition survey (Jan. 5).

■ Board member Madeline Julian inquired about plans to provide an outdoor toilet in the Garrison School Forest (Jan.

19). On April 20, Albano said the toilet will likely be installed in 2023. Because of the approvals needed, "it's a little more complicated than we thought," he said.

■ The board approved hiring Caitlin Moreno as an academic intervention services teacher (Jan. 19).

■ Michael Twardy, director of facilities and transportation, announced that he planned to retire (Jan. 19), as did teacher Robin Waters (Feb. 2).

■ With Twardy's departure, the board restructured the facilities and transportation department to save \$50,000 annually (Feb. 2).

■ Joseph Jimick, the business administrator, explained funding that would be coming to Garrison from the federal American Rescue Plan (Feb. 2). Albano said this week that the district has since received \$234,351 in ARP funds, which it plans to use for tutoring and a summer academic program. Under federal guidelines, pandemic relief money cannot be used to lower taxes.

Catching up with the Haldane School Board

Highlights from recent meetings

By Joey Asher

At recent meetings, the Haldane school board:

■ Hired Scott Vrooman as a world language teacher for the middle and high schools at salary of \$68,521 (Jan. 4).

■ Hired Ashley Cortes as a special education teacher in the middle and high school at a salary of \$61,681 (Jan. 18).

■ Hired Charles Norton as head groundskeeper for \$29.94 an hour (Jan. 18).

■ Accepted a \$1,700 grant from the Haldane Arts Alliance for the production of the elementary school play, *Annie Jr.* (Feb. 15).

■ Appointed Kelsey Flaherty DiFrancesco as varsity volleyball coach (Feb. 15).

■ Accepted two grants from the Haldane School Foundation: \$4,000 for an eighth-grade trip to Frost Valley and \$8,300 for the junior class trip to Washington, D.C. (March 8).

■ Accepted an anonymous donation of a cold and compression therapy unit valued at \$5,600 for the athletic trainer (March 8).

■ Voted to include on the May 17 ballot a proposal to spend up to \$185,000 on transportation and maintenance vehicles (March 15).

■ Accepted a \$1,500 grant from the Haldane Arts Alliance for T-shirts and transportation costs for seventh- and eighth-grade band and choral students to perform in the Music in the Parks festival at Lake Compounce (April 5).

■ Agreed to pay CS Arch up to \$44,458 for architectural, engineering and consulting services for a campus master plan to address capital improvement needs. "More importantly," Superintendent Philip Benante said, "it will create a campus identity that unifies our people, history and community" (April 5).

■ Hired Regina Kaishian as director of pupil personnel services, effective June 6 (April 19).



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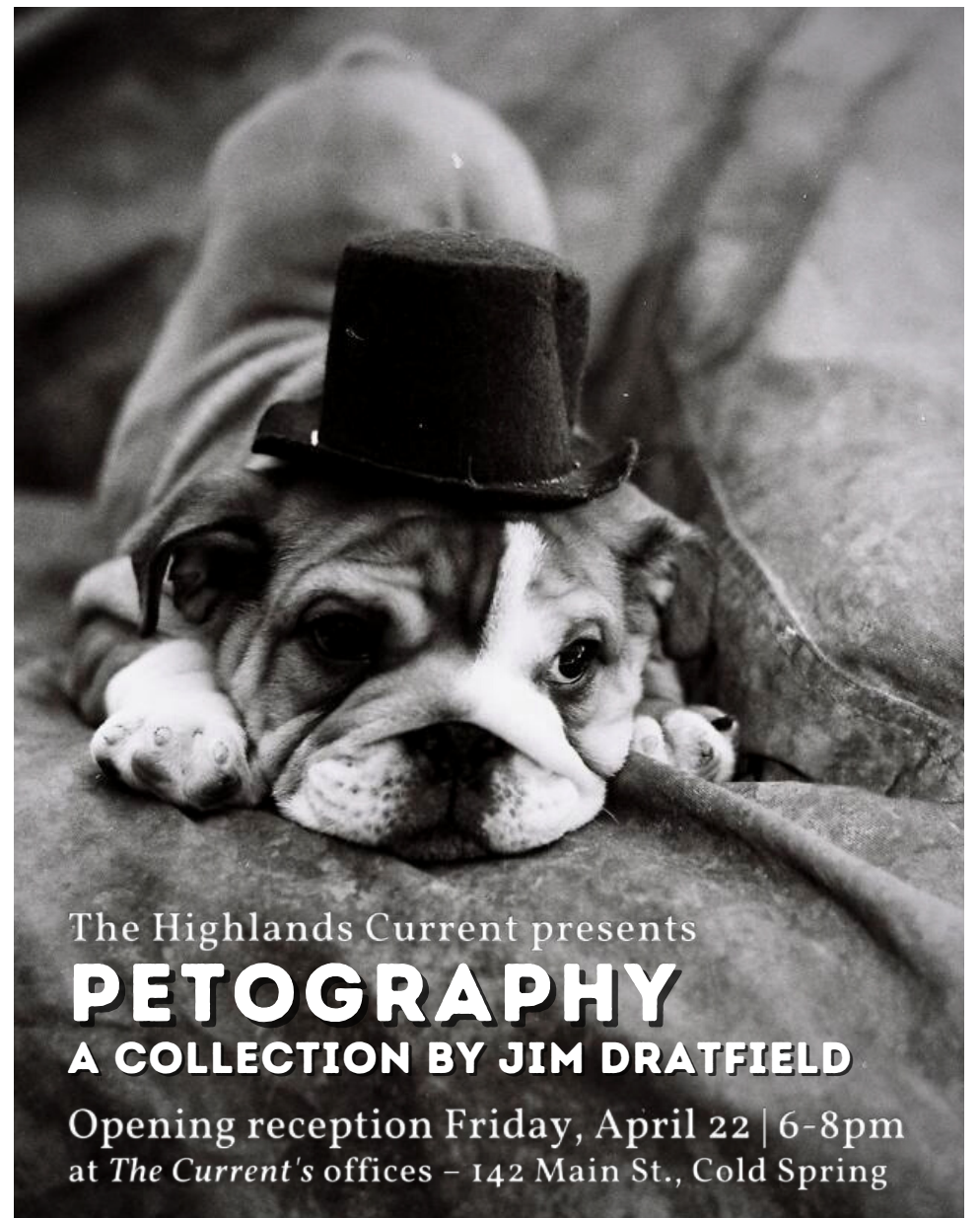
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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon compost

Conundrum: I've been working with a private composter for a couple of years and want to support them, but I also want to support Beacon ("Beacon Wants More Compost, Less Trash," April 1). If I use the municipal service, it will hurt my composter.

Tom Kenny, *via Instagram*

Two of us on the Conservation Advisory Committee are keeping our Community Compost Co. bins. We don't want to hurt anyone's business with this pilot, just want the option available to everyone. Do what you feel best.

Eleanor Peck, *via Instagram*

Garrison school budget

The Garrison school district has proposed a budget that would exceed the state-imposed 2.2-percent cap on the tax levy ("Garrison School Board Endorses 10 Percent Hike," April 8). No one wants to cross that threshold. At a recent budget hearing, former Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra rightly shared her concern for seniors living on fixed incomes.

And yet we must vote to support this budget. The cost of navigating the pandemic; significant increases in high school tuition at both O'Neill and Haldane; a spike in

health insurance premiums; high inflation — these are all major expenses over which the district has little, if any, control. Where the district can exercise fiscal restraint, it has. For example, it reduced the size of the staff by several positions. There's no fluff in this spending plan.

Supporting this budget supports our school and its excellent administration, faculty and staff. But it also supports the kids who attend the school, who learn and grow on its campus. It prepares them for success in high school. It tells them, "We, the community, believe in you." That's a message all kids deserve to hear.

On May 17, let's pass this budget and tell our kids we believe in them.

Ned Rauch, *Garrison*

I have supported the district for over 20 years but I find this proposed 10 percent increase unreasonable.

This is not the time to expect residents to support this. Enrollment has decreased, and the school board keeps kicking the issue of long-term viability down the road. If Haldane is asking for much more tuition than O'Neill for Garrison students, maybe we should not send our kids to Haldane. And why are we paying so much money in salaries for a tiny district? Why are we not

cutting transportation?

Other districts have increased the amount that employees pay for health care; it is part of collective bargaining. These are the same arguments we heard 10 and 15 years ago; the board has learned nothing and not made good fiscal decisions. It's not maintainable. What happens when enrollment goes to 150? Are we willing to pay then? We pay \$215,000 a year to a superintendent for 221 kids. Other districts that have thousands of students at multiple schools are paying that much.

It is unreasonable to be asking seniors and people who actually work for a living to cut their own spending while the district makes no concessions. Not all of us live on our investments or have our money work for us. The board and the district should keep the entire community in mind, not just members of the PTA.

This is not a private academy and the community isn't all rich. For some people on fixed incomes, \$500 or \$800 more a year is a lot of money. Others spend more than that on wine for the weekend.

Lily Essely, *via Facebook*

This is the first override in more than 10 years. The district has been ensuring low taxes for decades. But a number of costs have impacted the district in an extreme way, the pandemic being one. Garrison has the second-lowest tax rate in five counties.

I would say that the board has mainly kept taxpayers in mind, sometimes at the expense of the physical plant, hiring and educational mission. Transportation is determined contractually and one of its cost drivers is special-needs placements.

If you eliminate school choice, I am guessing there will be an argument for consolidation, which would not save any money for Garrison residents. Health care is another huge problem; retirements, as well. There has been a huge increase because people are living longer and keep having babies.

I contribute \$13.70 per day. A 10 percent increase will take that to about \$15 a day. Given what I would be paying if I lived elsewhere, it's not a big ask.

James Hoch, *via Facebook*

Hoch is a former member of the Garrison school board.

People want the taxes to be lower so they can live more comfortably but suggest lowering the salaries of district employees so they must live less comfortably.

Brandon Juby, *via Facebook*

I intend to vote in favor of the budget and the hike in taxes. I attended two budget presentations by the administration and school board that were thoughtful, clear and thorough. This

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

year has brought a perfect storm of less state aid available to meet a cluster of unavoidable cost increases. In response, staffing has been cut and other economies taken.

The administration has done a great job of providing Garrison's students with a strong education during COVID-19 and deserve our support.

Anita Prentice, *Garrison*

The Garrison school board has presented an order to the community: We are expected to pay a 10 percent increase in our taxes. How could this extraordinary amount be possible? Simple: no foresight, no savings, no consideration for the community. It would appear that the board members think that debt can always be solved with a card. But we are not your debit card.

Betsy Calhoun, *Garrison*

Fjord Trail

I would like to respond to the critical letter that appeared in the April 8 issue regarding the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. Our master plan is in environmental review, with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as lead agency. We have been going through a robust process evaluating habitat, projecting visitation, studying traffic impacts, completing an archeological field inventory and all the rest of the suite of evaluations, inventories and studies that need to be completed for the environmental review process.

The process began in 2017 with a strongly attended public presentation at Dutchess Manor. While a public hearing is not required at the start of an environmental review, we believe deeply in process and involvement and felt it was important to have that time for additional dialogue. This built on the many public workshops that were held in the master planning process and we were happy to see many return attendees among the 150 to 200 people who turned out for each meeting.

At that 2017 meeting, Cold Spring residents comprised the majority of the attendance and strongly asked for additional review and consideration of routes through the village so as to not unnecessarily congest Main Street with through traffic and to lessen the impact on Fair Street homes. The project essentially took a pause and studied those routes, some of which were identified by then-Mayor Dave Merandy. The result was the change in the updated master plan to have the trail route start at Dockside Park rather than directing people down Fair Street. The updated master plan was the subject of two well-attended webinars, as COVID prohibited meeting in person. Recordings of these are available at hhft.org/news. The full alternatives analysis will be part of the environmental review document.

A public hearing will be held when the public review draft of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement is available.

In the meantime, we look forward to continuing the 10-year-plus conversation with the community on how to manage the high and growing visitation to the village. The idea for this project was started by

Corrections

- A story in the April 15 issue, citing a report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, stated that “30 percent of the annual median income in Dutchess (\$100,500) would be \$754 per month, and in Putnam (\$81,700), \$613.” In fact, those rent figures are 30 percent of the income of low-income households, defined here as those earning 30 percent of the AMLs in Dutchess and Putnam.
- A listing in *The Week Ahead* in the April 15 issue said that the annual Shredder Day sponsored by the Cold Spring Lions Club will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday (April 23) at The Nest at 44 Chestnut St. In fact, it will take place from 9 a.m. to noon.

residents of Cold Spring and Philipstown. It grew to a 20-member steering committee and is now a small nonprofit, given the complexity of dealing with a host of agencies and a challenging site, but our commitment has always been to keep this as a project that serves the community and helps alleviate quality-of-life impacts.

We hope this sets your mind to rest and encourage you to stay apprised of project progress by signing up for our newsletter at hhft.org/support/connect.

Amy Kacala, *Poughkeepsie*

Kacala is executive director of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

Dutchess housing

You also need to focus on the costs associated with affordable housing (“Housing Report Reveals Critical Gaps,” April 15). How are water, sewer, emergency services and schools impacted? Who pays for it? Plus, who benefits from it?

Ozzy Albra, *Fishkill*

Albra is the Town of Fishkill supervisor.

During my employment with the Aspen and Pitkin County planning departments in Colorado, the city built low-income housing. By the time the housing was completed, low-income people could not afford to live there.

Fern Sartori, *Wappingers Falls*

It's good that the county and Beacon, where I live, are looking for a broad range of housing options. In other places across the country, activists are asking cities to address this problem through the zoning code, by making it legal for people to live in “tiny houses” on wheels. They can be placed in backyards as accessory dwelling units or even in planned developments

Anne Pratt, *via Facebook*

Shakespeare Festival

Pushed by two fire-threat evacuations in recent years, my wife and I moved from California's dry Sierra foothills to Putnam County in 2021. We are building a new home in Cold Spring near the intersection

of Routes 301 and 9D and hope to join the Hudson Valley community in 2023.

No small part of our wish to live among you is the local Shakespeare festival. For more than 20 years we've traveled almost yearly to Ashland, Oregon, to see plays put on by the acclaimed, 95-year-old Oregon Shakespeare Festival in one of its three venues (two indoor and one open-air). We have such fond memories of its theatrical excellence.

We were a bit chastened, however, to learn that the development of an indoor venue has been scratched from present plans, especially as one would permit a longer performance season and a deeper silent intimacy. Sure, any increase in visitors will bring change to the area, and this understandably will be most borne by those living closest to the festival. But Ashland residents have found a benign area effect of its festival through its peaceful cultural influence and support for service-industry jobs. And what a gold mine of talent from the city that this festival has.

We hope, in balance, that residents will support the inclusion of an indoor venue along with the planned tent facility, even if the 20-room hotel is left out of the mix, and that festival organizers keep exploring how more of its initial plan may be finally implemented.

Jonathan and Anna-Maria Pierce, *Carmel*

I wasn't surprised to read the comment in the April 8 issue calling the neighbors surrounding the Garrison Golf Course a bunch of rich NIMBYs and blaming them for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival scaling back its planned commercial development application. I have seen this expression before. To be clear, Garrison taxpayers are

(Continued on Page 6)

Howland Library Vote Set for April 28

Nine candidates for three spots on board


The Howland Public Library District will hold its annual budget and trustee vote at the library on Thursday (April 28) from noon to 8 p.m.

All registered voters in the Beacon City School District are eligible. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained at the library or from beaconlibrary.org and must be returned by 5 p.m. on April 28.

The district's proposed \$1.34 million budget includes a 5 percent increase in spending, or \$61,069, which is more than the state-mandated tax cap for the library in 2022-23 of 1 percent, or \$22,107. About \$1.06 million would be spent on salaries; \$107,000 on materials and programs; \$79,000 on building maintenance and utilities; and \$97,000 on administration. See bit.ly/howland-budget-2022.

The nine-member library board has three open seats; Karen Twohig is not running for re-election and two are vacant. The candidates are Marguerite (Greta) Byrum, Yvonne Caruthers, Pattian LaVeglia, Elaine Leinung, Erin Mack, Mark Roland, Brooke Simmons, Emilia Sweeney and Jeffrey Young (Yang). Each has written a statement posted at conta.cc/3xBKGRy.

The three candidates who receive the most votes will serve a five-, four- and three-year term, respectively.




Real Estate

Market Report (March)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
New Listings	7	11	9	14
Closed Sales	6	7	12	7
Days on Market	71	40	110	99
Median Price	\$454,250	\$515,000	\$561,250	\$935,000
% List Received	99.6	99.2	91.1	94.8
Inventory	14	13	42	21

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



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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facing a potential 10 percent increase in our school taxes due to a shortfall of more than \$1 million. On top of this, there will be a significant shortfall due to much of the course being donated to nonprofits.

Many of my Garrison neighbors who pay high property taxes are not rich financially, although we are very rich in lifestyle. Many of us have chosen to live here for the incredible natural and quiet environment, not for being in close proximity to a large Shakespearean development that is nonprofit. Many of us spoke out at the public hearing held by the Philipstown Planning Board. The fact that commentary took up parts of three meetings says a lot.

None of us said we were against development of the golf course. But because the course has closed, the special development district should revert to the zoning district, which is rural conservation. That would require 10 acres minimum per single family residence. Any developer could easily develop part of the course and leave an area for residents to walk on and enjoy the views. These houses would pay a large amount of local taxes, saving Garrison taxpayers money. Any developer would have to respect all of our zoning laws.

The HVSF's application has many profound flaws. The entrance on Route 9 is extremely dangerous, coming at the end of two opposite passing lanes feeding into two one-way lanes. The Snake Hill proposed bridge is two one-way lanes, with no room for a turning lane and a tiny shoulder. There are neighboring driveways that will be impacted during arrival to the shows every day. As noted in the public comments, the water and sound tests are flawed. In the past, neighboring wells have run dry.

There are serious considerations before the Planning Board about the future of Garrison. Once the genie is out of the bottle, there is no turning back. The fact that the HVSF is already scaling back shows that the neighbors have standing in their concerns.

We are not NIMBYs who whine. We are not against HVSF or a development. We are for our natural lifestyles and environment. We are happy to share this magical place where we live with some, but not with tens to hundreds of thousands.

Stephen Wallis, *Garrison*

Pocahontas at 100

Jeff Simms' story about my grandmother Pocahontas Jackson's 100th birthday ("I'll Be Darned," April 15) is the type of human interest reporting that makes local journalism so special and important. I appreciate that he took time to speak with her and my dad, and I hope he was able to hear some of her more colorful stories!

Marianna Jackson, *Washington, D.C.*

Wow — Pokey Jackson at 100. When I was just a kid, we worked together at Chemprene, along with much of Beacon at the time. She is a sweet, smart lady. So glad she's still going. I had to stop working by 45, and there she was, working at 95!

Craig Nixon, *Beacon*

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS	PUTNAM COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Cases per 100K, 7-day average::	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	24,027	428,850	7.8	82.7	122
	(+187)	(+2,456)	(+3.0)	Cold Spring (10516): 94.0	(+1)
				Garrison (10524): 86.2	
	DUTCHESS COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Cases per 100K, 7-day average::	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	64,773	1,327,581	4.7	77.1	665
	(+392)	(+7,396)	(+0.9)	Beacon (12508): 72.0	(+1)
	Source: State and county health departments, as of April 19, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.				

Nelsonville OKs \$358K Budget, with 2.45% Tax Hike

Also discusses using pandemic relief funds for sewer study

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Nelsonville Village Board on Monday (April 18) unanimously adopted a fiscal 2022-23 budget of \$358,066 — a drop in spending of 8.8 percent from the year before but with a tax increase of 2.45 percent.

The board acted at its formal monthly meeting, held in the Village Hall annex, where it also discussed the possibility of using federal American Rescue Plan money to study the feasibility of installing sewers.

The budget, which takes effect June 1, reflects a 500 percent increase in staff health insurance benefits, from \$5,000 to \$30,000, and an expected 67 percent reduction in state highway assistance funding, from \$30,000 to \$10,000. It also includes \$11,475 for snow removal, a 2 percent increase.

On the revenue side, the rent paid by Putnam County Sheriff's Department for the former village firehouse will increase to \$15,900 annually from \$14,400.

Mayor Chris Winward said that because Nelsonville did not increase taxes in 2020 or 2021, it could have raised them by 4.9 percent this year under state law. The average homeowner will see an increase of \$27,

said Winward, who won the mayor's job in March after serving as a trustee.

She noted that health care costs increased because for about 15 years no employee needed coverage through the village government but now the situation has changed. Winward said the village is evaluating alternatives, so the cost may be less than allocated.

Putnam County has promised to share its \$19 million in American Rescue Plan money with its municipalities, with about \$31,000 going to Nelsonville. The mayor said the Village Board has asked a consulting firm about conducting a sewer feasibility study underwritten with ARP money.

"Normally, we wouldn't have the funding" for such analysis, she said. "This is a good opportunity."

Residents who attended the April 18 meeting seemed wary. Although Nelsonville taps into the Cold Spring water system, homes in the village typically rely on septic systems or cesspools — underground backyard pits that collect sewage piped from the house — for waste.

Frank Ricevuto, a lifelong Nelsonville resident who grew up in a duplex that had a cesspool in the backyard for one apartment and another in the side yard for the second, noted the village "has had this talk, on and off, for many, many years."

He observed that the Cold Spring sewage/wastewater treatment plant "is capable of handling us without problems." Conse-

quently, he reasoned, the onus "should be on them to put the sewer line in" because Cold Spring would collect the fees after Nelsonville connects to the system. For Nelsonville, "it's cheaper to have your old cesspool or whatever. It doesn't make sense for us to put the line in."

Ricevuto acknowledged that "change can be good. But you've got to think, economically, what it's really going to do to us."

He predicted that if Nelsonville installs sewers it would have to reconsider its zoning laws, lest high-rise apartments, condominium complexes and other development get built, bringing costly expansion to the Haldane school system and other expenses.

Mary Lou Caccetta noted that Garrison and North Highlands homes generally lack sewer lines. "I don't understand what the worry is," she said.

Winward responded that the village has a "dense population and small lots. "We're lucky to have public water from Cold Spring," because "not everybody has lots big enough to have a well and a septic." She recommended the board "get all the numbers and bring it to the public, and the public decides."

Trustee Maria Zhynovitch said the cost of sewer installation "is a valid concern" and questioned whether residents would be required to hook up to a sewer line, instead of "enjoying your cesspool."

Trustee Thomas Campanile, who recently took office, said "it would be nice to get facts. In the absence of facts, it's all speculation."

The HIGHLANDS

Current

PODCAST

April is National Poetry Month and, in a new episode, *Current* editor Chip Rowe shares a conversation he had last year with James Hoch, a Garrison resident who has been a professor of creative writing at Ramapo College since 2006. Hoch's most recent collection of poetry, *Last Pawn Shop in New Jersey*, was published in February.

Visit highlandscurrent.org/podcast



Good News or Bungled?

Legislators offer mixed reviews of state budget

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The \$221 billion state budget for 2022-23, enacted April 9, includes money for environmental protection, infrastructure, housing, health care and education. It also tweaks bail reform, temporarily cuts a fuel tax and allows bars and restaurants to sell carry-out alcohol.

State Assembly Members Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathon Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, both part of the Democratic majority, backed it. In the Democrat-controlled Senate, Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, opposed it.

A few days after it passed, Galef and Jacobson each called it “a good budget.” Said Galef: “There are many things in the budget trying to help people very directly.”

Jacobson listed its high points: more funding for education; expanding preschool programs; and addressing child care needs. “And we did all that while having a middle-class tax cut and a property tax rebate,” he said. “We also made some common-sense changes to bail reform.”

Serino, in contrast, described the budget as a “bungled” piece of spending that failed to allocate enough money to public safety, access to child care and fighting tick-borne diseases, or to ensure “adequate care and fiscal relief for seniors and other vulnerable New Yorkers.”

“While I am proud that this final budget includes a number of proposals that I fought for,” including school aid, mental health programs, streamlining services for military veterans and infrastructure funding, “ultimately, I could not support the budget in its entirety,” she said in a statement on April 9.

Serino said she did support provisions that moved a middle-class tax cut to 2023 from 2025 and created an investment tax credit for farmers.

Education

The budget provides \$31.5 billion in education spending, the most ever and 7.2 percent more than 2021-22. Galef said its 7.7 percent increase in aid should mean 15 percent more for Haldane and 3 percent for Garrison.

The funding includes \$100 million over two years for “high-need” districts to provide after-school programs and mental health services to tackle such problems as student learning losses from the pandemic; teacher recruitment; and \$2.2 billion for capital projects at State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York (CUNY) campuses, plus funds for tuition assistance for part-time students and for community colleges that experienced declining enrollments.

Environment

The budget allocates \$1.2 billion for clean water and air programs; \$400 million to fight climate change and for conservation; and \$500 million for offshore wind energy. It also



The state Capitol building in Albany

File photo by L.S. Armstrong

requires that, by 2027, districts purchase only zero-emission school buses and that, by 2035, the entire gas-powered fleet be replaced. It provides \$500 million in bond funding to help districts buy the buses and charging stations.

On a related front, the budget reduces the state tax on vehicle gas by 16 cents per gallon from June 1 through Dec. 31 and encourages counties to limit their gas tax to the first \$4 per gallon. It also suspends other fuel taxes, such as one that supports mass transit, while reimbursing transit agencies from the general fund.

Galef said that while the tax cut benefits consumers, it’s “taking money away from roads and transportation.” The cut “also, in a way, is counter to our efforts to deal with climate change,” she said. “So it’s a conflict.”

Taxes and business

To aid small businesses harmed by the pandemic downturn, the budget establishes a tax-relief program for capital improvements. Recipients can apply the money to such overhauls as changes to facilitate social distancing; upgrade heating and air conditioning; and install equipment for no-contact transactions.

In addition, the budget creates a property tax relief credit for lower-income homeowners, including seniors, and expands eligibility for child care subsidies to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$83,250 for a four-member family.

During the pandemic, the state allowed restaurants to sell takeout alcoholic drinks. The budget extends that for at least three years, although the drinks must be in sealed containers (no bottles) and sold with carry-out meals.

Infrastructure and housing

The budget dedicates nearly \$33 billion over five years to improve roads and bridges in smaller municipalities and make communities more resilient to extreme weather, among other initiatives. It also dedicates \$25 billion over five years to create or preserve 100,000 affordable homes.

It further provides \$800 million to aid

renters facing eviction and \$250 million for assistance to residents behind on utility payments.

Health

The budget provides \$1.2 billion for bonuses for front-line health care workers; \$3.9 billion for hospitals financially strapped by the pandemic, and \$2.4 billion for health infrastructure. In addition, it

creates a program to spend \$7.7 billion over four years to increase the basic pay of home health care workers. “That’s one where I think we could do better — and we will continue to do better,” Galef said.

Bail reform

The budget revisits changes made in 2019 that eliminated bail for people charged with most misdemeanor and nonviolent felony offenses, such as burglary, illegal drug use, assault that does not lead to serious injuries and stalking. The reform faced criticism that it let too many dangerous suspects remain free pending trial.

Galef said the law needed tightening, especially around guns, “whether they were loaded or not” and regardless of “how they were used. Guns are guns and can kill people. So we did some changes.” The revised law permits judges to require bail if a suspect is accused of having or using a gun.

“The other one [concern] was repeat offenders,” Galef added. “People would get misdemeanor tickets and go out and do something again even before they were back in court.”

Despite praising the budget, Galef said some matters could have been dealt with elsewhere. “We got caught up in other issues besides funding” state government, she said. “That was the downside.” Bail reform or drinks-to-go legislation “does not need to be in a budget,” she said.

This was Galef’s last budget vote after 30 years in the Assembly. She will retire at the end of the year.

TransformingLives

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COME TO THIS CRITICAL CONVERSATION AND Q&A

APRIL 26

7:00 PM

IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT

RIKERS ISLAND

WITH FOUR WHO HAVE BEEN THERE

VINCENT SCHIRALDI
Co-Director Columbia University Justice Lab; Senior Advisor to de Blasio with improving Rikers in his portfolio

JOSE SALDANA
Director, Release Aging People in Prison (RAP). Advocates to dismantle Criminal Legal System - had son at Rikers for 5 years before he was tried and acquitted.

ALELUR DURAN
Program Officer with Galaxy Gives Criminal Justice Reform. Incarcerated at Rikers for 3 years awaiting trial

STEVEN DOMINGUEZ
Author of Across The Bridge: A Rikers Island Story; Corrections officer at Rikers for 5 years

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Most-Challenged Books

Below is a list of the 10 most-challenged books in school libraries in the U.S. in 2021, according to the American Library Association, and whether Beacon High School and Haldane High School have them on their shelves.

- 1

Gender Queer, by Maia Kobabe

CHALLENGES LGBTQIA+ content, sexually explicit

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: NO

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: NO
- 2

Lawn Boy, by Jonathan Evison

CHALLENGES LGBTQIA+ content, sexually explicit

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: NO

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: NO
- 3

All Boys Aren't Blue, by George M. Johnson

CHALLENGES LGBTQIA+ content, profanity, sexually explicit

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: NO

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: YES
- 4

Out of Darkness, by Ashley Hope Perez

CHALLENGES Depictions of abuse, sexually explicit

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: NO

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: NO
- 5

The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas

CHALLENGES Profanity, violence, "anti-police message," "indoctrination of a social agenda"

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: NO

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: YES
- 6

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie

CHALLENGES Profanity, sexual references, use of derogatory term

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: NO

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: YES
- 7

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, by Jesse Andrews

CHALLENGES Sexually explicit, "degrading to women"

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: YES

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: YES
- 8

The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison

CHALLENGES Child sexual abuse, sexually explicit

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: YES

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: YES
- 9

This Book is Gay, by Juno Dawson

CHALLENGES LGBTQIA+ content, sexual instruction

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: NO

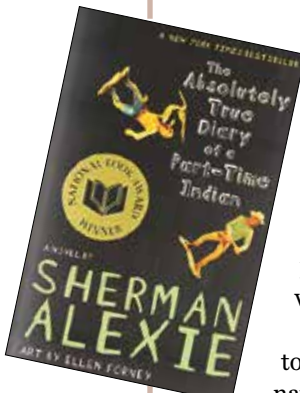
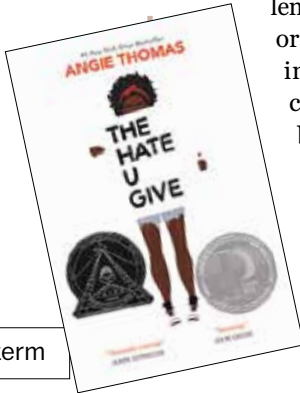
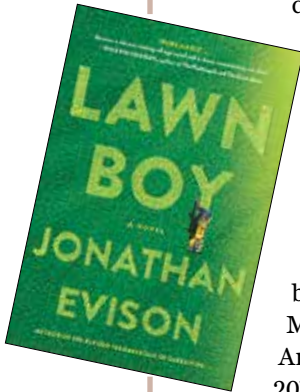
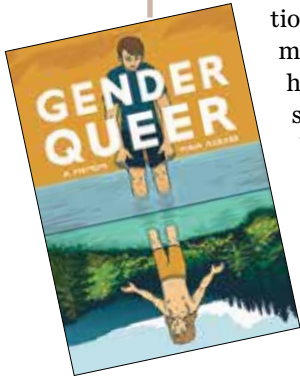
HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: NO
- 10

Beyond Magenta, by Susan Kuklin

CHALLENGES LGBTQIA+ content, sexually explicit

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL: NO

HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL: NO



Book Bans *(from Page 1)*

for Liberty. The group, based in Florida, describes itself as an adherent of "parental rights" and lists chapters in Dutchess and Putnam counties.

The American Library Association said on April 4 that it had documented 729 challenges to books held by school, public and university libraries in the U.S. in 2021, the highest number since the association began compiling an annual list of the most challenged books 20 years ago.

Most of the targeted books are by or about Black or LGBTQIA+ people, said ALA President Patricia Wong, using the acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual, and the plus sign, which represents any other gender identifiers.

Gender Queer, a 2019 graphic novel by Maia Kobabe, topped the ALA's 2021 list, which also includes *Lawn Boy*, by Jonathan Evison; *All Boys Aren't Blue*, by George M. Johnson; *The Bluest Eye*, the first novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison; and *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas, which was adapted in 2018 into a film.

Although no one has recently challenged books in the Beacon, Garrison or Haldane school districts, according to administrators, the nearby challenges concern Dede Farabaugh, director of Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison. That is reflected in a new Banned Book Club that the library launched on Thursday (April 21). The first selection was the two-volume *Maus*, a Holocaust-themed graphic novel that was removed in January from schools in McMinn County, Tennessee.

The removals are not just about the individual texts, but threaten the larger freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment, said Farabaugh. "When you're banning a book, you're denying someone else their First Amendment rights," she said. "No person gets to decide for another what is not appropriate."

The First Amendment was central to a U.S. Supreme Court case that originated on Long Island when students in Nassau County sued the Island Trees Union Free School District after the school board removed books deemed "anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Semitic and just plain filthy."

In its 1982 decision, the court ruled 5-4 that while school boards can remove titles that are "educationally unsuitable" or "pervasively vulgar," they could not legally exclude books "because they dislike the ideas."

Tom Carrigan, a Cold Spring resident who spent 18 years as a librarian at Fox Lane High School

How Local Districts Handle Book Complaints

Beacon

Complaints must be submitted in writing to the superintendent, who may designate an Instruction Material Review Committee to "investigate and judge the challenged material." The committee will forward a recommendation to the superintendent, who will issue a decision. The decision may be appealed to the school board, whose decision will be final.

Garrison

Complaints are to be submitted in writing to the superintendent, who will notify the school board. The superintendent will designate a committee, including the building principal, to "investigate and evaluate the challenged material according to the principles and qualitative standards stated in district policy."

Haldane

Complaints are to be submitted in writing to the superintendent, who will notify the school board. The superintendent will designate a committee, including the librarian and building principal, to "investigate and evaluate the challenged material according to the principles and qualitative standards stated in district policy."

in the Bedford Central School District in Westchester County, said he was "very aware" of book challenges. "Censorship has a long history and there have been waves of people trying to ban one book or another," he said.

The unanimous Wappingers school board vote on March 14 to remove *Gender Queer* came in response to a complaint filed in January by a woman named Pat Whalen. John Jay High School's copy had never been checked out, the district said.

Whalen named as complainants "concerned parents and grandparents" and Moms for Liberty, and said they objected to "all content" in *Gender Queer* and considered the book, which has images depicting a sex act, inappropriate.

Whalen addressed the board on Dec. 20, calling *Gender Queer* "pornography and pedophilia." In her comments, she referenced the Nuremberg Codes and said she had heard "that there are children as young as the fifth grade who come home and tell their parents that half their class identify as bisexual."

"It's disgusting and it should be in a porn shop, not in a high school library," she said

(Continued on Page 9)

When Cold Spring resident Tom Carrigan joined the Bedford Central School District as a high school librarian in 1996, the district was defending itself against a federal lawsuit filed by two sets of parents and a guardian.

Each alleged that the district violated their Roman Catholic beliefs by promoting “Satanism and occultism, pagan religions and a New Age Spirituality,” citing activities such as readings about the Buddha, Earth Day, the *Magic: The Gathering* card game and yoga.

A federal appeals court dismissed the case in 2001, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal. “A lot of teachers were deposed, [along with] students and administrators,” Carrigan recalled.

Carrigan, who spent 18 years as a librarian at Fox Lane High School in Bedford, recalled the case on Tuesday (April 19) as he talked

How Districts Select Books

Beacon, Haldane policies emphasize diversity

By Leonard Sparks

about the process school librarians use to select books and a nationwide resurgence of challenges to books at local districts.

“The first thing you do when you’re hired at a district is to check that there will be a book selection policy that’s approved by the school board, so there is a process,” he said.

The Beacon and Haldane districts have each posted their policies, including ones covering book selection, on their websites. Both follow the same blueprint: a declaration of learning goals and a general process.

Among the goals endorsed in Beacon’s policy for the selection of library materials

are to: “enrich and support” the curriculum; “stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards”; prioritize “principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice” in material selection; and “promote the understanding and appreciation of culture, class, language, race, ethnicity and other differences.”

The district’s librarian and library media specialist are charged with developing the collection, “based on recommendations of the professional staff and suggestions of students and parents,” with building prin-

cipals making the final selection.

“Materials will not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political opinions or religious views of the author,” according to Beacon’s policy.

Haldane’s book selection policy is generally the same, in some spots mirroring the language in Beacon’s policy, while noting that one of its goals is to provide materials “on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking.”

Carrigan said he would consult department deans at Fox Lane, and research books partly by reading reviews in *The New York Times*, the *School Library Journal* and *Choice*, an American Library Association publication.

“You want to support kids becoming lifelong learners,” he said.

(Continued from Page 8)

of the book. “They’re [students] supposed to be taught academics, not sexual identity.”

The complaint was reviewed by the district’s Instructional Review Committee, comprised of a parent, a librarian, two secondary teachers, an elementary teacher, three administrators and the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

Although the committee determined that the book was purchased for the library in accordance with board policy, Superintendent Dwight Bonk on March 12 said he was upholding the complaint.

He said that while he did not agree with the objection to “all content” in the book and had no problem with “either the ideas or message of the book,” he found it to be “educationally unsuitable” because of “several extremely graphic, sexually explicit images depicting sexual acts.”

The outcome at Carmel was different.

Just before the board approved, by a vote of 5-2, keeping *Gender Queer*, Vice President Matt Vanacoro said some of the pictures made him uncomfortable but “if one kid sees that book and it helps them, then we did our job.”

“I certainly don’t feel comfortable knowing that my students who are trans have a higher likelihood of being depressed, have a higher likelihood of feeling isolated or feeling alone,” he said.

Gender Queer is also one of eight books at Yorktown High School that an ad hoc committee began reviewing in response to complaints about “vulgarity.” The others are: *All Boys Aren’t Blue*; *Beyond Magenta*; *Jack of Hearts and Other Parts*; *Looking for Alaska*; *Out of Darkness*; *The Bluest Eye*; and *The Hate U Give*.

The reviews for *Looking for Alaska* and *The Hate U Give* have been completed, and it was determined that each will remain available to students, according to the district. The committee reached the same determination following a complaint about *Lawn Boy* in the library at Mildred E. Strang Middle School.

Challenges to books have been receiving pushback from some parents, several of whom addressed the board in Yorktown when it met on Feb. 7.

Jeremy Newberger told the board that his daughter loved *The Hate U Give*, a novel that centers on the shooting of an unarmed Black teenager by a white police officer. It has been challenged for “profanity, violence, and because it was thought to promote an anti-police message and indoctrination of a social agenda,” according to the ALA.

“This is hysterical, partisan nonsense,” said Newberger. “It inspired her in a way a book can and should. She did not then decide to hate police after reading it.”

Another parent, Gary Stallings, defended *Gender Queer*. He said he teaches medical students at the New York Medical College in Valhalla about LGBTQ topics and he decided to read the book after being told that it was on the list of those being reviewed. He found the book well-written and touching on difficult topics that face doctors who treat LGBTQ patients, including ones who tried to commit suicide “because they had nothing to relate to growing up,” said Stallings.

“Yes, there’s some pictures that some parents may not appreciate for younger children,” he said. “I’m OK with that. But the work in its entirety, to me, covered essential topics that someone who’s struggling would benefit from greatly.”

In Mahopac, a school district committee is reviewing about a dozen books that have been challenged, Tom McMahon, president of the Mahopac Teachers Association, told the *Journal News* last month.

“Books in schools are not randomly chosen,” he said. “They are chosen by trained professionals who have completed years of schooling and have even more years of experience in ensuring well-rounded libraries based on student need and interest. These professionals, our school librarians or library media specialists, should be trusted to do what they have been trained and hired to do.”

Even the appearance of a removal can ignite emotions. The Marlboro school district faced a backlash after, in Febru-

ary, a motion by a board member to add two books — *The Poet X* and *Dear Martin* — to the Marlboro High School curriculum was not seconded, meaning it could not be voted on.

The board voted to adopt the books at its March 3 meeting, during which Board President John Cantone apologized, saying members “unintentionally failed to approve” the books because of “procedural mistakes and failure to follow meeting protocol.”

He also said a news article about the February meeting triggered an “onslaught of very hateful and ugly emails” and “social media attacks accusing us of everything you could think of — practicing exclusionary tactics, racism, homophobia, Aryan dictatorship, collusion.”

“Words like *book-banning* are a flash-point across this nation, and to use them to describe what happened was not an accurate reflection of what had happened,” he said.

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The HIGHLANDS
Current



AROUND TOWN



▲ **RETURN TO FORM** — The Highlands Choral Society, which meets at the Methodist Church in Cold Spring, on April 15 held its first Good Friday concert in two years. *Photo by Ross Corsair*



◀ **TICK TOCK** — Once a week, Kasey Calnan, the collections manager at the Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison, hand-tunes this antique clock, which dates from between 1789 and 1796. (She also adjusts the date at the end of months with fewer than 31 days.) The clock was constructed by Effingham Embree of New York City of mahogany, tulip poplar, brass, iron and a few unidentified wood inlays.



▲ **HIGHLAND LIGHTS** – The Garrison and the Processional Arts Workshop hosted the first Highlands Lights procession on Sunday (April 17). More than 120 people attended workshops to create and paint lights and lanterns for the celebration of art and nature, and about 250 people attended. The evening culminated with food, drink and a campfire. *Photo by Ashley Garrett*

Garrison Art Center

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 3-5 PM

ARTIST TALK

Meg Hitchcock leads a conversation with Ann Provan and Leslie Fandrich
Followed by an open Q&A



ANN PROVAN



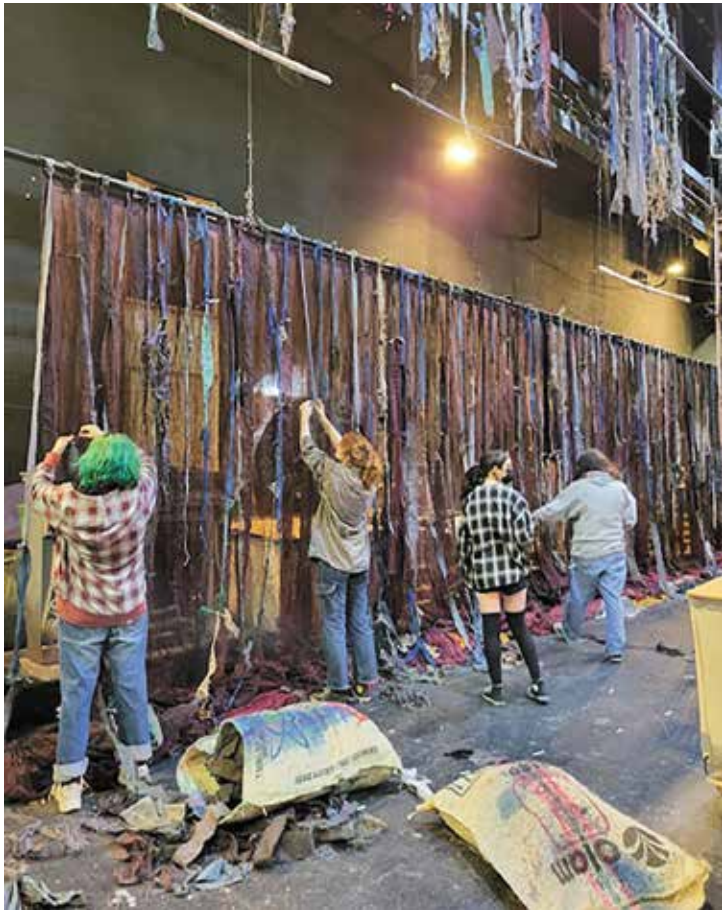
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The Calendar



Art crew members Nico McKible, Mia Nelson-Cheyne, Rebecca Levy and Una Hoppe hang dyed fabrics to create a forest and work together to design a tree for the *Into the Woods* set.

Photos by Lori Christie

Something You Don't Know About Me

Ben Seibert

The Beacon resident is a volunteer support specialist with the American Heart Association. He has also been a street musician, furniture mover, elementary school teacher, house painter, limo driver, real estate agent and community theater actor. He spoke with Alison Rooney.

Right after my first week of first grade, learning to read, I happened to see *Mary Poppins* and was intrigued by the line she sings: “Or you could say it backward, which is docious-ali-expi-listic-fragi-cali-repus.”

The next week myself and a few other kids were on the reading rug while the teacher sat on a chair with a large-print book. That’s where I spotted the word *was*. I noticed that backward it was *saw* and got so excited. My teacher didn’t appreciate the interruption, and I got shut down.

Still, I made up my mind to find all words which, backward, are other words. As the youngest of six children, watching my siblings doing homework, I was ready for it. I taught myself to read backward and over time became quite fluent.

I had another bad school experience when I was in fourth grade. We were filling in yes or no answers in workbooks and I wrote the answers in backward. When we finished, we traded workbooks to grade. The girl grading mine said the answers were correct but written backward. They teacher made me go out to the hall. I learned not to do it in school, but I was so mad it made me want to do it more.

During elementary school I was doing this because it kept my mind occupied; it stopped me from going astray. I was bored and found that my mind could be occupied while still listening.

Around that time family members started calling me Neb. I also started seeing the backward words in my head, written out right to left. Seeing words in my mind I was able to take spoken words and pronounce them backward.

(Continued on Page 14)



Neb Trebies

Behind the Scenes in the Woods

Beacon Players to present Sondheim classic

By Alison Rooney

Clearly, Anthony Scarrone, the director of Beacon Players, wants equal applause opportunities for the many Beacon High School students working behind the scenes on the drama club performances. That includes *Into the Woods*, which opens April 29 and showcases the talents of the light, sound, costumes and art crews.

“Theater would be nothing without the behind-the-scenes people,” he says. “What would the Sistine Chapel look like without its ceiling? What would a circus be without clowns dressed in their elaborate outfits? A concert would be in the dark without light, and without a sound crew we would hear nothing, and what would a magician pull out of his hat?”

At Beacon Players, these crews are almost like traditional apprenticeships which operate fairly autonomously under the guidance of an adult specialist, but are largely devised and created by the students themselves.

Into the Woods is the late Stephen Sondheim’s — who composed the music and wrote the lyrics — most frequently produced show. It depicts familiar fairytale characters such as Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Cinderella, along with a wolf, a witch, a baker and his wife, and

assorted princes who live out their covetous and coveting lives without realizing the consequences of having their wishes and dreams come to fruition.

The musical “subverts all expectations,” says cast member Max Goodhill. “It’s funny yet still heartfelt, with serious themes and subtle comedy.” Another cast member, Zoe Moreno, notes that “there are fun characters that everyone loves” and “the costumes are awesome to look at and the set feels like we are really in the woods.”

That illusion is largely the work of the art crew, which is responsible for props and painting and decorating the set. It is supervised by Lori Christie, who started out as a parent volunteer and eventually became the art crew adviser. Last year she received the Dutchess County Executive Award for Arts in Education.

(Other parent volunteers include Randy Caruso on sets and sound; Caleb Herrera on lights; Nicole Paoli and Rebecca Mensch at the front of the house; and Jayne Warner and Karin Zdrojewski on costumes.)

Christie says she teaches her students “techniques, helps them stay on track and encourages them with positive reinforcement. The main goal is to allow creativity and expression while providing guidance and maintaining an organized and efficient crew.”

Nico McKible, a sophomore who is a member of the art crew, says Christie “comes to us with ideas and set pieces to paint or make, and we work together with

her to come up with the best version of the idea we can. For example, the lettering on the oversized books that will be on either side of the stage were based on a design by Jayden Featherstone and Mia Nelson-Cheyne, and the rest of us worked with them to make their ideas a reality.”

McKible joined Beacon Players last year, helping with the production of *Rent*. “What appeals to me is the sense of community in crew and getting to work together to make the sets that I used to marvel over as a kid.”

To create the woods, another crew member, junior Ruby Rodgers, says the students “have been spending much of our time cutting and dying fabric in order to build up layers of netting panels, affectionately dubbed ‘portals.’”

Rodgers began working with Beacon Players in the fifth grade as a cast member; this year she shifted backstage, where she found “a highly collaborative environment. It encourages teamwork between people of different interests and grades to make the show as good as possible. I have learned new skills from art crew, such as how to dye fabric and add dimension to flat surfaces, that have inspired me to pursue other creative projects.”

Into the Woods will be performed at Beacon High School at 7:30 p.m. on April 29 and April 30 and at 2 p.m. on May 1. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors) at beaconplayers.com. A free matinee on April 30 for younger children is sold out.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 23

Chicken Run 5K

FISHKILL

7 a.m. Sharpe Reservation
436 Van Wyck Lake Road
bit.ly/chicken-run-5k

Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the run begins at 9:30 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. there will be a reading of *Jolene the Disability Awareness Chicken* and raffle winners will be announced. The run will fund the publication of the book and benefit the Foundation for Beacon Schools.



SAT 23

Shredder Day

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – Noon. The Nest
44 Chestnut St.
coldspringlions.org/shredder

Philipstown residents are invited to bring personal and business documents to be disposed of by a certified shredder. Remove paper clips, staples and bindings. Donations are appreciated to support the programs of the Cold Spring Lions Club.

SAT 23

Habitat for Humanity Donation Day

WAPPINGERS FALLS

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D | habitatdutchess.org

Drop off gently used furniture and household goods that can be sold through the ReStore in Wappingers Falls to support Habitat's work providing affordable homes in Dutchess County. See the website for a list of accepted items.

SAT 23

Seedling Swap

COLD SPRING

2 – 5 p.m. Supplies for Creative Living
143 Main St.
suppliesforcreativeliving.com

The shop will have vegetable, dye and flower plants, and gardeners are welcome to bring seedlings to share or swap. Leftovers will be donated to the Haldane school garden.

WED 27

Blood Drive

BEACON

11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Recreation Center
23 W. Center St. | redcrossblood.org

Sign up to help address the national blood shortage. Donations are now screened for COVID-19 antibodies.

WED 27

Used Book Sale

COLD SPRING

5 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

The Friends of the Butterfield Library organized this sale to benefit library programs. Also THURS 28, FRI 29, SAT 30.

THURS 28

Hudson Valley Community Power

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Via Zoom | nelsonvillen.gov

The Nelsonville Village Board is considering joining a program to provide residents with renewable electricity and better purchasing terms using community choice aggregation. The discussion will include time for questions.

SAT 30

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

KENT

9 a.m. – Noon. Fahnestock Park
1498 Route 301
845-808-1390, x43125
putnamcountyny.com/recycling

For Putnam County residents only; registration required. See website for a list of accepted items.

SAT 30

Cherry Blossom Festival & Plant Sale

PEEKSKILL

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Riverfront Green
peekskillrotary.com

This annual event will have children's activities, food and drinks for purchase, craft booths and a silent auction. Bring a new or gently used book to donate to the Golden Bookshelf Project. *Free*

SAT 30

Veterans' Town Hall

POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon. Elks Lodge
29 Overocker Road | dutchessny.gov
Dutchess County Executive

Marc Molinaro will host. Attend in person or watch on Facebook.

SAT 30

Arbor Day Tree Planting

GARRISON

1 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Jennifer Lerner, an educator from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, will demonstrate how to plant and prune a tree.

SAT 30

Taste of the Valley

PHILIPSTOWN

6:30 p.m. Glynwood
362 Glynwood Road
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

This annual Haldane School Foundation fundraiser will include a silent auction and local food and drinks. *Cost: \$85 (\$100 after SAT 23)*

SUN 1

Marathon for Mental Health

COLD SPRING

bit.ly/hub-race

Walk, hike, run or bike 26.2 miles throughout the month and share your progress with the community during this fundraiser for the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub. *Cost: \$26 (\$50 per family)*

SUN 1

Toy & Comic Book Show

BEACON

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. VFW Hall
413 Main St.
facebook.com/beacontoyandcomicshow

Dozens of vendors will have comics, graphic novels and figures for sale.

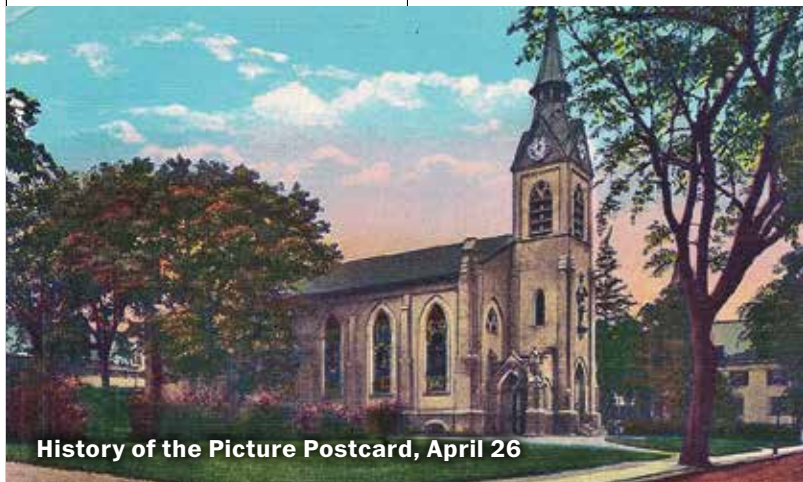
SUN 1

Grazing on the Grass

GARRISON

4 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary's Way
csfarmmarket.org/dinner

Enjoy food and drinks from Fresh Company while strolling the grounds during this benefit for the Cold Spring Farmers' Market. *Cost: \$100*



History of the Picture Postcard, April 26

EARTH DAY



SUN 24

Electric Buildings Tour

PHILIPSTOWN

11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.
bit.ly/37BAMEw

Climate Smart Philipstown has organized this tour of custom and retrofit passive houses to demonstrate how homes can use renewable energy to heat and cool and how well a building can be sealed to maintain comfort. Addresses provided after registration.

SUN 24

Earth Day Hike

COLD SPRING

1 p.m. Fahnestock State Park,
Route 301 at Big Woods Drive
sustainableputnam.org/events

Outdoor educator Pete Elder will lead this 2-mile, easy-moderate hike and discuss the native trees, plants and wildlife that call the park home. Registration required. Email info@sustainableputnam.org.

SUN 24

Nature Walk

NELSONVILLE

1:30 p.m. Village Woods
facebook.com/nelsonvillen

Meet at the trailhead at Secor and Pearl for a hike led by Peter Cutul of the state parks department to identify trees and discuss environmental impacts on the woods.

SAT 23

Little Stony Point Cleanup

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D
facebook.com/littlestonypoint

Meet at the Volunteer Center to clean up the beach, trail or roadside.

SAT 23

Community Cleanup

BEACON

9 a.m. – Noon. Various
greenbeaconcoalition.org/events

Join forces to cleanup sites around the city. Register online to see locations. Organized by the Green Beacon Coalition.

SAT 23

Earth Day Fair

GARRISON

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

Learn about solutions to climate change, including composting, food-scrap recycling, pollinator gardens, climate-friendly lawn practices, zero waste and the lending library at Butterfield Library while getting something repaired at the Repair Cafe. Guided hikes start at 11 a.m.

SAT 23

Artisan Market

BEACON

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | bit.ly/earth-weekend

The River Valley Guild will bring together sustainable artisans from the Hudson Valley to kick off the season. At 1 p.m., there will be a waterfall walk and wander with Outward Mind. Also SUN 24, when there will be a Burying Treasure workshop at 1 p.m. and a closing fire ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 23

Learn Apiculture

BREWSTER

1 – 5 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

Learn about sustainable beekeeping in this five-part course. *Cost: \$125 each, or \$525 for all*

SUN 24

Small-Space Gardening

PUTNAM VALLEY

1 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St. | putnamvalleygrange.org

Master Gardener Chris Bonura will explain ways to make an impact in gardens of any size.

TUES 26

History of the Picture Postcard

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
51 Leonard St.
845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org

In this program at St. Joachim's School Hall, a panel of postcard collectors will discuss their

favorites and the process of finding, buying and selling.

FRI 29

The Jewish Community of Ukraine and the Current Crisis

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The Philipstown Reform Synagogue will host this Holocaust Remembrance Day event with David Fishman discussing how the Russian invasion is impacting Jewish Ukrainians. It will be followed by a discussion with Rabbi Helaine Ettingere.

SAT 30

Civil War Weekend

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Brinckerhoff House
68 N. Kensington Dr.
eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Learn about the all-volunteer 150th Infantry Regiment that formed in Poughkeepsie and included farmer Richard Van Wyck. There will be demonstrations, presentations, building tours and viewings of period artifacts. Also SUN 1. *Cost: \$5*

SUN 1
Wildflower Walk

PHILIPSTOWN

2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge | 2920 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Learn about spring wildflowers and how to identify them. Registration required.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 23
Off Peak

ARMONK

8 p.m. North Castle Library
914-271-2811 | hudsonstage.com

Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson of Garrison will star in the world premiere of a new play by Brenda Withers about old flames who connect on the evening commute. See Page 14. Also SUN 24, FRI 29, SAT 30, SUN 1. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 students and seniors, \$10 student rush tickets)*

TUES 26
Weird Al Yankovic

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The musical satirist will perform as part of his Unfortunate Return of the Ridiculously Self-Indulgent, Ill-Advised Vanity Tour. Emo Philips is a special guest. *Cost: \$69*

FRI 29
Into the Woods

BEACON

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

The Beacon Players will perform the Stephen Sondheim musical that intertwines characters from multiple stories by the Brothers Grimm, including Cinderella, Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood. See Page 11. Also SAT 30, SUN 1. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 students, seniors)*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 23
Beacon High Art Exhibit

BEACON

2 – 4 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon
18 Front St. | 845-202-7211
loftsatbeacon.com

The Lofts will host its first show with works by Beacon High School art students since 2019.

SUN 24
Artist Discussion

GARRISON

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

Meg Hitchcock will interview Ann Provan and Leslie Fandrich on the final day of an exhibit of their works.

SAT 30
Material Matters

PHILIPSTOWN

3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

Elizabeth Mangini of the California College of the Arts will discuss Giuseppe Penone's sculptures in the context of aesthetics and the Italian social and intellectual trends of the 1960s and '70s. *Free*

MUSIC

SAT 23
Graham Parker

BEACON

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

Parker will perform music from his latest release, *Mystery Glue*, with Rumour guitarist Brinsley Schwarz. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SAT 23
Virtuosos

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

Guest conductor Kelly Corcoran will lead the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and soloists Max Tan and Yalin Chi in a program that includes works by Bruch and Beethoven. *Cost: \$40 (\$36 members, \$15 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 23
Choban Elektrik

BEACON

9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

Enjoy Balkan music from this local band led by Jordan Shapiro. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 24
37th Military Tattoo

WEST POINT

12:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com

The U.S. Corps of Cadets Pipes and Drums, Hudson Valley Regional Police and Celtic Dancers, the West Point Band Hellcats and other music and dance groups will pay homage to the military traditions of pipes and drums. A "mass bands" event concludes the performance at 5 p.m. In case of rain, the show will move to the Eisenhower Hall Theatre. *Free*

SUN 24
Soo Bae and Mia Chung

COLD SPRING

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

The cellist and pianist will perform a program that includes Brahms' *Cello Sonata No. 2 in F Major* and *Cello Sonata No. 1 in E minor*. *Free*

SUN 24
Margaret Vetare and Lindsey Horner

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com

The guitarist and stand-up bass player will perform.



Weird Al Yankovic, April 26

MON 25
Jon Irabagon Quartet

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

The quartet will perform as part of the weekly jazz series. *Cost: \$15*

THURS 28
Benefit Concert for Ukraine

BEACON

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

Tom Chapin, John Sebastian, Joe Louis Walker, Annalyse and Ryan and other Hudson Valley musicians will perform, with proceeds benefiting the Ukrainian National Women's League of America to support displaced children and military hospitals. The concert is being organized by the Garcia family, who last month began a letter-writing campaign to displaced Ukrainian children.

FRI 29
Lara Hope & The Ark-Tones

BEACON

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

The roots rock 'n' roll band will perform songs from their latest release, *Here to Tell the Tale*. Jerry Lee opens. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

FRI 29
Vanilla Fudge

PEEKSKILL

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

Original band members will perform their hits during the Spirit of '67 Tour. The Albino Love Slaves open. *Cost: \$35 to \$49*

SAT 30
David Wilcox

BEACON

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

The folk singer, known for personal revelations in his music, will perform. Singer and songwriter Jesse Ruben opens. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 30
The Father Who Stayed

BEACON

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

The concert will feature a reading from the book by Rinde Eckert and Jeremy Schonfeld and songs written by Schonfeld and performed

by Eckert, Daniel Rowan, Jen Malenke, Christian Campbell, Kelly Ellenwood, Ryan Dunn, Hannah Cornish and Annalyse McCoy. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 30
The Jersey Tenors

PEEKSKILL

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

This opera and rock mash-up will perform classics by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Frank Sinatra, Bon Jovi and others. *Cost: \$30 to \$45*

SUN 1
6th Annual Seeger Festival

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Scheduled performers include David and Jacob Bernz, Betty and the Baby Boomers, Reggie Harris, the Neverlee Brothers, Rick Nestler, the Trouble Sisters and Sarah Underhill. Donations will benefit organizations that Pete Seeger started: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, the Beacon Sloop Club and River Pool. *Free*

SUN 1
Attacca Quartet

BEACON

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

The quartet, which won a Grammy for *Orange*, will perform as part of the Howland Chamber Music Circle series. *Cost: \$40 (\$10 students)*

CIVIC

MON 25
City Council

BEACON

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

MON 25
School Budget Discussion

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Crowdcast
gufs.org/boe/budget-updates

Register for a presentation by Superintendent Carl Albano.

TUES 26
School Board

BEACON

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

WED 27
Village Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

THURS 28
Budget and Trustee Vote

BEACON

Noon – 8 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org

All registered voters in the Beacon City School District are eligible. Along with the \$1.34 million budget, there are nine candidates for three trustee seats. See Page 5.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 23
Poem in Your Pocket Day

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 2 to 12 will read poetry at this open mic.

SAT 30
Fairy House Hunt

POUGHKEEPSIE

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Locust Grove Estate
2683 South Road | lgny.org/calendar

Search for more than 30 fairy houses and other surprises on the grounds at this annual event open weekends through June 26. *Cost: \$10 (ages 4 and younger free)*



SAT 30
Compass Arts Showcase

BEACON

1 – 6 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | compassarts.org

Watch student performances in improv and theater and hear the Rompatom Choir and the Beacon Rising Choir. There will also be an art show, food trucks and a dance scavenger hunt. Also SUN 1. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 30
Claribel Ortega

GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The author of *Ghost Squad* will read from her new young adult book, *Witchlings*. Co-hosted by Split Rock Books. Registration requested.

Before Romeo & Juliet, There's Off Peak

Kurt and Nance to portray old lovers, rather than new

By Alison Rooney

Before they take on the challenges of playing Romeo and Juliet for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in July, Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson will play the leads in a contemporary story — so new, it's a world premiere — called *Off Peak*.

Written by Brenda Withers, who co-wrote the HVSF production of *Cyrano* with Jason O'Connell in 2019, the play opens today (April 22) at the Whippoorwill Theater at the North Castle Library in Armonk.

"I wrote this play with Kurt and Nance in mind but couldn't know for sure if they (or we) would be able to do it," Withers says. "If there's one thing the pandemic hammered home for theater artists, it's that plans change."

"I feel so lucky that they had the time and inclination to take this project on. It centers on characters who share a deep, lasting connection, so putting it in the hands of a real-life couple — let alone one as talented as Kurt and Nance — elevated the process."

She says *Off Peak*, which is being presented by the Hudson Stage Company, was inspired by "the current conversation around apology — how difficult it seems to make amends in this particular cultural moment. I'm always interested in where the personal and political intersect, and



Nance Williamson and Kurt Rhoads, on board for *Off Peak*

Photo provided

wanted to explore whether forgiveness is easier in one realm or the other."

The couple, who live in Garrison and have been performing with HVSF for years, will portray former lovers who see each other again after 17 years when they are stuck together in a delayed Metro-North train.

"It gives them space and time to remember, regret and forgive their past," says Williamson. "I'm so interested to follow *Off Peak* with *Romeo and Juliet*, which of course is about young love bursting into being with

hardly any time or space to breathe."

Rhoads is not concerned that he will get the two plays confused. "There are no tights in *Off Peak*," he says.

Off Peak continues weekends through May 7. Tickets are \$40 (\$35 for students and seniors; \$10 for students 30 minutes before each performance). See tickettailor.com/events/hudsonstage. Audience members must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear masks.

Seibert (from Page 11)

I coined the term *retrolexia* for what I do. It shouldn't be confused with *spiegelography*, which is when a person writes words in a manner which requires a mirror to be deciphered. Retrolexia is pronouncing each word as read from right to left but keeping the words in the same order within a sentence and within a paragraph. One starts at the beginning and goes to the end, as usual, but each word is spelled backward and pronounced accordingly.

By the time I was in sixth grade, I would translate the television evening news backward as it was presented, to the fascination and guffawing of my family. I remember that we had just gotten a TV around the time of President Lyndon Johnson's famous, "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term" [in March 1968]. He always started his speeches with "Good evening, my fellow Americans," and I'd reverse it. My brother and sister were on the floor, laughing, and I realized, "This could be cool."

I was always a very good student so, as I got older, any teacher who knew about my ability wasn't concerned. I let some of my friends know, but in school it turned it into a circus sideshow and I started to feel like a trained seal, especially because I didn't get to explain the thought processes [that went along with the recitation].

I didn't know anything about dyslexia until many years later. Now I'm always scanning for words I want to use. If I do it backward, I

get to decide how to pronounce it. If it's using Roman letters, I can do it. It works best if I sound it out and use every letter in it.

I tried it using foreign words, but it's harder, because I think in English. I studied German in college, and have tried it with French and Polish, but I can't keep the letters in my head long enough.

There's a fascination that this is, somehow, a new language, which it isn't. It's English, with different syntax. Sometimes people scoff and say, "What are you going to do with that?" It's hard for people to connect. People like the way I present it — I do it as funny as possible — but they can't see what I see. I was at a linguistic conference once, for other reasons. I talked to a few people there but they didn't know what to make of it.

It's never caused any problems for me. I can watch subtitles with ease, and if I see a word that's a palindrome, I will take note of it, but nothing more. If I ever tried to play an LP record backward, looking for secret messages, it wouldn't work, because that would be going from the end to the beginning and that's not what I do. I've never applied retrolexia to reading music, though there is a piece by Mozart which is basically a palindrome. I've never heard it played, though I have a bachelor's degree in music. By the way, *music* backward is pronounced "kiss 'em."

I'm sure there are at least a few other people who do this. I found a chemical engineer in Minnesota but lost the details. I hope to start a database. I would love to compare notes, like, did they start when they were young? And can we actually talk to each other this way?

What Does Science Say?

After they published a study in 1982 of a philosophy professor who could talk backward, three linguists heard from more than 50 people who could do the same. Five were children ages 8 to 11 and four were adolescents. Most of the subjects could immediately reverse words of up to 10 phonemes, or units of sound.

"A few talked backward starting with the last word in each sentence, but most left the words in forward order [such as Ben Seibert does]," the researchers noted.

Some of the backward talkers used a sound-based method and others a spelling-based method. For example, with sound, silent letters were not pronounced, so *bomb* became *mab*. With the orthographic method, *bomb* became *bmob*.

Backward Talk

What does it sound like when someone talks in reverse? Ben Seibert sings "You're a Grand Old Flag" at bit.ly/grand-old-flag and recites an original poem, "I T'ndid Wonk," at bit.ly/wonk-poem.

Shakespeare Fest Announces Casting

Season will begin on July 7 at new location

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival on April 14 announced the casts for its summer productions at the former Garrison golf course.

The season will begin on July 7 with *Romeo and Juliet*, which will star Nance Williamson and Kurt Rhoads in an "age-blind" production directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch. It will run through Sept. 18.

The cast also will include Kimberly Chat-terjee, Kayla Coleman, Erin Despanie, Zachary Fine, Zoë Goslin, Merritt Janson, Lauren Karaman, Sean McNall, Emily Ota, Will Ormsby Cary, Luis Quintero, Brit-ney Nicole Simpson, Destini Stewart and Roman Alec Trevino.

Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play, by Anne Washburn, with music by Michael Friedman and directed by Davis McCallum, will play in repertory beginning on July 8 and run through Sept 17. The cast will be the same with the exception of William-son and Rhoads.

The play is set "in a not-so-distant future where the grid has failed, society has crum- bled and memories can no longer be stored on hard drives," according to HVSF. "A group of survivors come together to recreate their vanished world through the life-affirming act of telling stories under the stars."

The season will also include a stop from Aug. 13 to 22 by the national tour of *Where We Belong*, written and performed by Madeline Sayet and directed by Mei Ann Teo. The performance "traces the inter- twined relationship between Shakespeare and colonialism, a relationship with deep roots along the banks of the Muhheakan- tuck, the tidal estuary colonially known as the Hudson River," HVSF said.

Tickets start at \$10 at hvhshakespeare.org. Audience members will be able to picnic before performances as they did at the festival's former home at Boscobel, or dine indoors at The Valley Restaurant.

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Help for the Guardians

Nonprofit provides support for veterans, first responders

By Michael Turton

When Alex Othmer joined the U.S. Navy in 2013 after graduating from the Merchant Marine Academy, he got to “see the world,” as promised.

But serving as a part of an elite sea, air and land team, including in combat, took its toll on his psyche. By the time Othmer completed his active duty as a lieutenant in 2019, followed by time in the reserves, he knew things weren’t right.

The SEAL motto, “the only easy day was yesterday,” was proving true.

“When I got out, I saw my mental health decline quickly,” Othmer said. Along with a difficult transition back into civilian life, he was recovering from traumatic brain injuries suffered in the service.



Alex Othmer

Photo by M. Turton

He turned to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for support but said the agency “just gave me a menu of prescription drugs.” He decided he’d have to help himself, so he got a dog and started hiking.

Othmer, who lives in Kent, had many trails to choose from. He said his Belgian Shepherd may have saved him. Even during his darkest days, he had to get out of bed to take care of Chief, “because he couldn’t take care of himself,” Othmer said.

The stakes are high for veterans such as Othmer, who take their own lives at far higher rates than people who have not served in the military.

Once he had his mental health under control, Othmer wanted to help other veterans. In 2019, he founded the nonprofit Guardian Revival with Chris Watkins, who, like Othmer, is a graduate of Carmel High School. Their goal was to supply dogs to veterans and get them on the trails but, soon after, they expanded the definition of “guardians” to include first responders (including dispatchers), as well as former FBI and CIA agents, “who are trained to keep things bottled up inside for their entire careers,” he said.

Guardian Revival, which has nine employees and 30 volunteers, is renovating a space at 413 Main St. in Beacon to serve as its headquarters. The city-owned building is also home to local chapters of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League and the Nam Knights of America.

Guardian Revival delivers three programs at no cost to participants.

Another Summit offers hiking, back-

packing and paddling, primarily in the Hudson Valley. “Some people come out on the trails every week,” Othmer said. “You see a noticeable difference in their mood; their sense of purpose and sense of belonging are clear.” The group has organized more than 120 excursions, he said.

Boots and Paws provides companion and service dogs, including training and equipment. Eighteen participants have received dogs, which Othmer said add stability to a veteran’s life and can be an antidote to post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and loneliness. The dogs do everything from retrieving medication to waking their owner from a nightmare.

Rise provides training and equipment for police officers and firefighters. “They’re usually the first on the scene, so trauma medicine is a pillar of the program,” Othmer said. Such training is often not considered essential and trimmed from budgets, he said.

The program also provides assistance in decision-making under pressure: “To pull your gun or not pull your gun; what to say before a suspect gets out of the car; minimizing the possibility of a blow-up.”

Rise has trained more than 450 first responders in Putnam, Dutchess and Westchester counties and contributed more than \$85,000 in equipment. In addition, Dutchess County sheriff’s deputies have applied trauma medicine using kits provided by Rise, he said.

Two more initiatives are in the works: an equestrian program and music therapy.

Othmer estimates that while there are 120,000 veterans in the Hudson Valley, only half are registered with Veterans’ Affairs, and even fewer take part in American Legion or VFW programs. Many younger veterans return to civilian life and disappear, he said. The challenge is developing programs that appeal to them. “They’re not going to want to sit around talking,” he said. “They want to go out and do something.”

For more information, or to donate, see guardianrevival.org. If you are a veteran or first responder experiencing distress, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255.



Guardian Revival will soon move its headquarters to the Memorial Building in Beacon.



Participants in the Guardian Revival program hike above the Hudson.



▲ One program offered by Guardian Revival provides medical trauma training for first responders.

Guardian Revival provides companion dogs to veterans and first responders. ▶

Photos provided





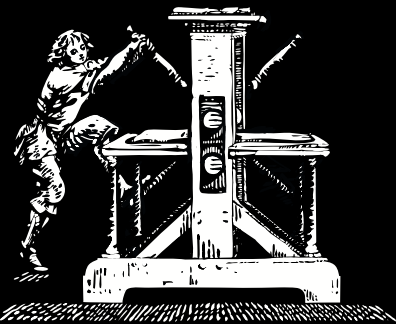
A daily oasis for National Poetry Month

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison and *The Highlands Current* are back with another year of *One Poem a Day Won't Kill You!*

Each day in April, a podcast recording will be posted at bit.ly/hear-poem-2022 featuring a community member reading a favorite published poem. Drop by to hear readings from Reeya Banerjee, Meredith Caraher, Anita Prentice, Trenton Pollard, Matilda Hoffman, Ida Hoffman and Annabel Hoffman. The 2020 and 2021 selections are also archived at the site.

Submissions are still being accepted. Drop by the library and ask to read, or email a recording of yourself reading the poem to ryan@desmondfishlibrary.org. For technical assistance, see bit.ly/record-poem.

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Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (April 1872)

The steamer *Neversink* docked at Fishkill Landing to take aboard a 3,000-pound hat press to be delivered to New York City. When two deckhands were halfway across the gang plank, it snapped and the press and men dropped into the river. One hand was quickly rescued; the other, John Murray of Catskill, disappeared. His mates lowered a weighted line where they thought he might be, and he grabbed it, but they could not pull him up. A deckhand dove in and found Murray alive but with his legs beneath the press. He tied a rope around Murray's arm and the men made another attempt but could not rescue him. The *Neversink* departed, and Murray's body was recovered the next day.

A landslide near Glenham covered the railroad tracks with 3 or 4 feet of mud.

About 25 feet of the deck railing of the ferry Fanny Garner, traveling from Newburgh, was torn away when it was pushed by the wind into the Dutchess Junction pier. "The lady passengers were badly frightened," reported *The Cold Spring Recorder*.

The *Matteawan Enterprise* reported that counterfeit nickels made of lead were in circulation.

A case of varioloid — a mild form of smallpox that affected people who had already been infected or vaccinated — was reported in Matteawan.

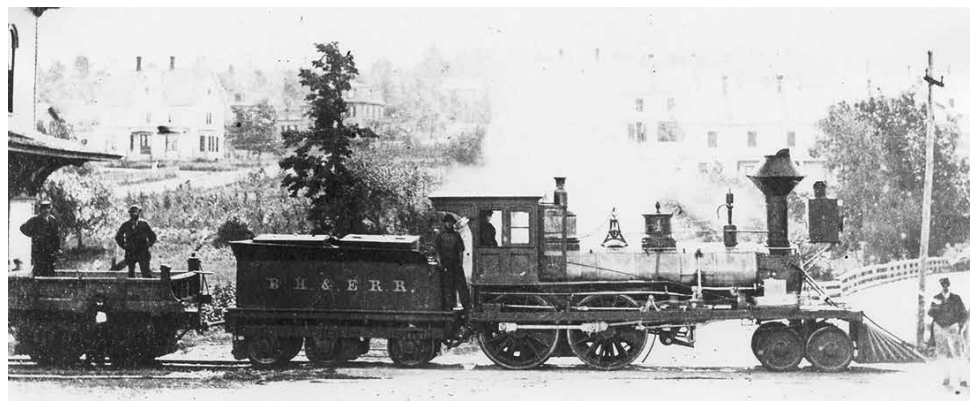
Following the wake for a 38-year-old Newburgh woman at her home, her widower and another man agreed to remain with the body as overnight "watchers." In the middle of the night, they were awakened by smoke and the crackling of flames; candles at the feet of the corpse had ignited the shroud. They escaped, but the heat was so intense that every pane of glass within 6 feet shattered.

Local property owned by the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad was scheduled to be auctioned at the Orange Hotel in Newburgh after the firm defaulted on its \$1 million mortgage. Along with a ferryboat, its holdings included Denning's Point on the east side of the river, and a dock, store and warehouse on the west side.

Benjamin Higgs was jailed on a charge of setting fire to the barn of the Glenham Manufacturing Co. Higgs was notorious because of his testimony in an 1866 lawsuit filed by the Francis de Wint family of Fishkill Landing, who said they had been swindled in a land deal. Higgs testified that the landowner had hired him to plant oil on the property to increase its perceived value, earning him the nickname "the swamp angel."

125 Years Ago (April 1897)

The propeller ship *Ramsdell* left the pier at the foot of Franklin Street in New York City at 5 a.m., made four landings in an hour and was moored at Newburgh by 9 a.m., a distance of some 60 miles.



Locomotive No. 1 of the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad was built in 1863.

University of Connecticut



Sarah and Jacob Ritter, shown here about 1940, were founding members of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance and local business leaders. Courtesy Frank Ritter

Beacon Jewish History

The Beacon Historical Society and Beacon Hebrew Alliance have collaborated on an exhibit that explores 100 years of Jewish history and culture in the community.

The free exhibit, which continues through April 30, is open to the public at 61 Leonard St. The society also has created a virtual walking tour of former Jewish businesses on Main Street. See jewishbeaconhistory.com.

Among other topics, the exhibit covers Jewish immigration to the Hudson Valley; notable early Jewish residents of Beacon; the vacation resort Camp Nitgedaiget (later Camp Beacon); the founding of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance in 1921; the changing role of women; and Jewish veterans of World War II.

The Beacon Historical Society is open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m., or by appointment. Call 845-831-0514.

Orville and Charles Conkling, two of the fastest bicycle riders in Matteawan, according to the *Fishkill Standard*, announced they would use only Fowler racers during the current season.

Susan Haight celebrated her 84th birthday at the Teller House, where Gen. George Washington often stopped. She was the last surviving daughter of Confederate Capt. John Haight.

According to an account in the *New York World*, a few minutes before her death at age 69, Mrs. Edward Thomas of Fishkill Landing looked through her eyeglasses at a sweep-

ing view of the Hudson. About three weeks later, her daughter saw what she thought was a smudge on her mother's spectacles. On closer examination, it appeared that the irises and pupils of her mother's eyes had been imprinted on the lenses, apparently by the sunlight. The spectacles were sent to Columbia University for examination.

100 Years Ago (April 1922)

More than 1,000 men attended a smoker hosted by the Beacon council of the Knights of Columbus. The undercard of a four-round boxing exhibition between two Poughkeepsie fighters included a son-and-father bout between Midget and Pete Vidman of Newburgh.

A gang of about 10 armed robbers held up a northbound New York Central Railroad freight train overnight. Police believed the gang members parked at Roseton on the west bank of the Hudson and took motor boats across about 4 miles north of Beacon. Two crooks had boarded at Harmon while the others waited in the brickyard sheds along the tracks. Someone pulled the air brake to stop the train as it traveled about 6 mph up an incline. The men forced the engineer to uncouple the locomotive from the seven freight cars and continue toward Poughkeepsie. Police surmised the gang was targeting a train that passed by 15 minutes earlier known as the "silk and money" special; the seven cars of the one they hijacked were filled with sugar.

Cornelius Keheler purchased the eight-acre Thompson estate at the foot of Mount Beacon and said he planned to open a tourist hotel.

Samuel Lewis Jr. visited Beacon as a member of the staff of the grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, who was speaking at a convention. In 1911, as chief of the bill-drafting bureau of the state Assembly, Lewis had written a charter for the city, which would be formed in 1913 by merging Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

The city attorney called City Judge Ferdinand Hoyt "a nuisance" when the jurist visited the finance commissioner and asked to see the invoice submitted by Thomas Shannon, who had been paid \$400 by the mayor as an informant against local establishments allegedly violating temperance laws. The city attorney ordered finance clerks not to answer questions from Judge Hoyt or any reporters from the local newspaper, which the judge happened to own. The mayor then called on Hoyt to resign; the judge said he would if the mayor went first.

(Continued on Page 17)

(Continued from Page 16)

Mary Hinkley, the superintendent of the New York Training School for Girls in Hudson, was held in contempt for failing to produce in court a 20-year-old Brooklyn woman whose mother had sued for her release. The woman had been committed to the reformatory at age 14 “on the charge of improper guardianship,” according to the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*. After being released to the custody of Fred Burbrow of Beacon, described as “a newspaperman,” the woman “got into trouble and returned to the home,” the paper reported. “She has refused to name the man responsible for her condition.”

Seven Spanish and Puerto Rican immigrants — none of whom spoke English — were sentenced to 10 days in the Dutchess County jail on the complaint of Samuel Beskin, the former mayor of Beacon who was constructing a dam at Wingdale. Beskin said he hired 30 men from New York City as laborers, but that the seven were unhappy with the conditions and robbed the other 23 of shirts, razors and watches.

The *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* noted that, while the water in Beacon wasn’t so great and its milk sold unpasteurized, two residents had recently celebrated their 80th birthdays and another turned 100.

Although John Yaccarine of Beacon survived the war, his mother continued for more than three years later to receive letters from the Graves Registration Commission asking where to ship his body. Yaccarine lost a toe during a battle on Sept. 27, 1918, and was taken prisoner for several months, which may have led to the confusion. His mother was informed on Dec. 24, 1918, that he was dead and soon after began receiving commendations and citations in his name.

75 Years Ago (April 1947)

Because the Beacon charter had no provision that allowed the City Council to fill a vacant seat — W. Vincent Grady had resigned to become county district attorney — it was left to Gov. Thomas Dewey. The local Republican committee voted 8-7 to ask Dewey to appoint Richard Gerentine, president of St. Rocco’s Society.

A 25-year-old Ferry Street man was accused of stabbing a Beekman Street bar owner in the face with a penknife.

Members of Mac’s and Beacon Bombers couldn’t agree on a time to play the deciding game of the city basketball title series, so they were named co-champions. The league said the Bombers wanted to play on a weeknight and Mac’s insisted on Sunday. Mac’s blamed the Bombers, saying the team had postponed the game three times because of alleged injuries, while the Bombers accused Mac’s of filling its roster for the playoffs with college players.

The newly constructed First Presbyterian Church was dedicated; the previous sanctuary had burned down in 1943.

The American Legion hosted its first drum competition since before the war.

Thirteen employees of Castle Point veterans’ hospital, including seven residents of Beacon, were injured when the bus they were riding to work overturned on Route 9D. The driver said something went wrong



Curt Stewart, a Beacon native, starred in the PBS series, *Our Street*.



Jacob Moreno in the early 1960s

with the steering as he rounded a curve.

Thomas Hanlon, owner of the Wonderbar, died at Highland Hospital.

A 64-year-old Beacon man on his way to Cold Spring with his wife to see his heart doctor went into cardiac arrest as the train passed through the Breakneck Tunnel and was pronounced dead at the Cold Spring station.

50 Years Ago (April 1972)

A group of Black students at Beacon High School presented a play, *Nation Time, Nation Builders*, written and directed by Curt Stewart, a city native who was starring in the PBS series, *Our Street*. “It’s not the regular, standard American play,” he explained. “It’s free-form. Each character has his own plot — this is the direction of the young Black artist.”

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* profiled Jacob Moreno, 81, a psychologist who in 1935 established the Moreno Sanitarium and Institute at 259 Wolcott Ave. Moreno, who studied in Vienna with Sigmund Freud, was credited as an early practitioner of group therapy, “sensi-

tivity sessions,” “sociometry” and “psychodrama,” or “exploring the truth through dramatic methods.” He claimed that President Lyndon Johnson once sought his advice because he was unsure how to act while receiving the English prime minister at the White House. Moreno said he told Johnson to act out the encounter beforehand, playing both roles.

The Mid-Hudson Council of Mayors met for the first time.

Members of the Beacon Jaycees helped monitor an election at the Green Haven Correctional Facility in Stormville in which prisoners selected 27 members for a newly formed Inmate Liaison Committee.

The principal from Sargent Elementary reported to the school board on his early impressions of an experimental open classroom that combined students from kindergarten through second grade. He said discipline problems had decreased and that some 5-year-olds were reading at the first- and second-grade levels.

25 Years Ago (April 1997)

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* named Luke Dysard, a Beacon High School senior, as its wrestler of the year. Competing at 220 pounds, Dysard finished 28-5 and won the Section I title.

David Lemon, who had been commuting by train to New York City from Beacon for 20 years, told a reporter that Metro-North had much improved. “When I began, there were maybe 20 of us getting on at Beacon,” he said. “On some days, the train wouldn’t show up and we would drive down to Croton to catch it there. Sometimes the Amtrak train would take us on.”

In the first vote held by the Howland Public Library District, residents approved a 3 percent increase in the annual budget, to \$410,000. The vote was 223-210.

Advocates for the disabled rallied in a park across the street from the Tallix foundry on Fishkill Avenue to protest that none of 10 sculptures in a new memorial in Washington, D.C., for Franklin D. Roosevelt showed him in a wheelchair. (Tallix had cast two of the 10 sculptures.) The president used a wheelchair from 1921, when he contracted polio, until his death in 1945. [The design team had reasoned that since Roosevelt did not show his disability in public, they would not, either. However, a statue of FDR in a wheelchair was added in 2001.]

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NEWS BRIEFS

No Challenges at Haldane, Garrison

Two candidates for two seats in each school district

There will be no challenges on the ballot for the Haldane and Garrison school board elections on May 17.

At Haldane, Ezra Clementson and Sean McNall are the only candidates who submitted nominating petitions by the Monday (April 18) deadline for two open seats on the five-member board; Clementson is seeking his first, 3-year term and McNall is seeking his second. Jen Daly did not seek a fourth term.

At Garrison, Kent Schacht and Sarah Tormey are the only candidates who submitted petitions by April 18 for the seats they hold on the seven-member board; Schacht is seeking his first 3-year term (he was appointed to a vacant seat last year) and Tormey her second.

Nominating petitions for four open seats on the Beacon school board are due by Wednesday (April 27). To receive a candidate packet, contact Kelly Pologe at 845-838-6900, ext. 2032, or by email at pologe.k@beaonk12.org.

Beacon Considers Ward Revisions

Public hearing set for minor changes

The Beacon City Council on Monday (April 25) is expected to schedule a public hearing for May 2 on minor revisions to the city's four ward boundaries.

The proposed changes, which are based on 2020 census data, would move 268 residents from Wards 3 and 4 into Ward 1. Seventy-four residents would move from Ward 3 to Ward 4. Ward 2 would not change.

The changes would ensure that the difference in population between the most and least populous ward does not exceed 5 percent of the average population of all wards, the city said. If approved, the new districts would become effective for the fall 2023 elections.

The changes would be subject to a permissive referendum, which means that if residents disagree with the redrawn boundaries, 277 people, which is 5 percent of the number of city residents who voted in the last gubernatorial election, could sign a petition within 45 days forcing a citywide vote on the changes this fall.

Officer Saves Driver from Burning Vehicle

Pulls man and dog to safety in Carmel

A state environmental conservation officer has been credited with pulling a driver to safety following an automobile crash in the Town of Carmel on April 7 just moments before the vehicle exploded into flames.

Officer Daniel Franz was on patrol when he saw a vehicle had gone over the edge of an embankment at the intersection of Route 301 and Gipsy Trail Road.

As fire spread beneath the vehicle, Franz crawled into the damaged car through the passenger door, allowed a dog inside to



A police officer pulled the driver from this vehicle moments before it exploded. DEC

escape and pulled the driver out, police said. He had dragged the man a few yards away when the vehicle exploded.

The driver was transported to a hospital and Franz continued his patrol, the Department of Environmental Conservation said.

Bridge Tolls to Rise

10-cent increase for cars

Tolls on the Bear Mountain and Newburgh-Beacon bridges will rise on May 1 as part of a phased increase that continues next year.

Cashless tolls are collected in eastbound lanes on the bridges, as well as on the Mid-Hudson, Kingston-Rhinecliff and Rip Van Winkle.

Cars, pickups and motorcycles will pay \$1.55, a 10-cent increase, with E-ZPass; or \$2, a 25-cent increase, with tolls by mail. Tolls also will rise 10 cents for commuters (at least 17 trips per month), to \$1.30. The last of a four-year series of increases will take place on May 1, 2023, to \$1.65, \$2.15 and \$1.40, respectively.

Commission Approves New Area Code

329 will join 845 in Putnam and Dutchess

The New York State Public Service Commission on Wednesday (April 20) approved a new phone code for an area that includes 10 counties, including Putnam and Dutchess.

The area code — 329 — is expected to be introduced in late 2023, when 845 numbers are exhausted. Existing 845 numbers will not change; 329 will only be issued for new lines. The commission said it expects the code to last about 28 years before being exhausted.

In addition, customers nationwide will

need to dial 10 digits for local calls starting July 16 because of the launch of a 988 number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Counties to Receive Opioid Settlement Funds

First funds from payments by manufacturers, distributors

Dutchess County will receive \$2.6 million and Putnam \$707,000 as part of a settlement with opioid manufacturers and distributors, the state attorney general announced on Wednesday (April 20).

Counties can spend the money, which is part of \$1.5 billion secured by New York State in settlements, on addiction treatment and prevention. Six counties and Yonkers are sharing \$10.8 million in this round of funding from settlements with three distributors: AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson.

The attorney general's office said Hudson Valley counties should eventually receive more than \$95 million. Later this year, counties will receive payments from settlements with Endo Health Solutions, Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Allergan, as well as money from the state Opioid Settlement Fund.

Body Found at Dockside Identified

Sheriff says it was New Windsor man

Putnam County Sheriff's Office investigators and medical examiners this week identified a body found on the Hudson River shoreline at Dockside Park in Cold Spring on April 4.

They said David Leanza, 50, of the

Town of New Windsor, jumped from the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge on Feb. 4.

If you are experiencing distress, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255.

Scenic Hudson Bill: \$22B

Says GE should still pay for damage

Environmental groups were not happy when, three years ago, the federal government said General Electric had done enough to clean up the toxic pollutants it dumped into the Hudson River over three decades.

Scenic Hudson on April 12 said it had studied the damages that GE should still pay and came up with a bill for at least \$22.1 billion. It argued the trustees of the federal Natural Resource Damage Assessment, created in 1980, could pursue the money.

Under a 2006 order, GE spent \$1.7 billion dredging 310,000 pounds of PCBs from the river north of Albany at what the Environmental Protection Agency said was the most polluted 40-mile stretch.

Scenic Hudson, which is based in Poughkeepsie, said it commissioned three analyst firms to arrive at an estimate. The study calculated that the damage by GE to the Hudson's wildlife, drinking water and recreational fishing was \$11.4 billion and that additional dredging was needed at a cost of \$10.7 billion.

Former Putnam Officer Admits Aiding Traffickers

Pleads guilty to trading protection for sex

A former Brewster police officer pleaded guilty in federal court on April 8 to protecting two Queens-based prostitution rings in exchange for sex with women recruited from Mexico.

Wayne Peiffer, 48, faces up to 25 years in prison on extortion and bribery charges. He was arrested in December, accused of providing the organizers of the prostitution rings with "advance notice of law enforcement activities and assistance with avoiding detection and apprehension" from 2010 to 2018.

In exchange, prosecutors said, the traffickers brought women to Peiffer for sex, at sites that included the Brewster police station.

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New York State Approves First Cannabis Licenses

Six Dutchess hemp farms to grow pot for adult use

By Leonard Sparks

Six Dutchess County hemp farmers are among 52 statewide who last week received licenses to grow marijuana for retail sale.

The newly created Cannabis Control Board on April 14 approved temporary cultivation licenses for Hudson River Hemp in Wappingers Falls and Hopewell Junction; Passion Field Farm in Millbrook; The Hemp Division in Millerton; Spadafarm in Lagrangeville; and Clear Natural and Lunulata, whose locations were not given.

None of the licenses were issued to farms in Putnam County.

More than 150 farms applied for the licenses, which are issued by the state Office of Cannabis Management, which oversees the control board. New York legal-

ized the growing and sale of marijuana a year ago; granting cultivation licenses is the first step to building a taxable industry.

Next will come retail shops. The Beacon City Council has allowed sales and on-site consumption by taking no action to prevent them; Cold Spring voters in November allowed retail but turned down on-site consumption; and the Nelsonville and Philipstown boards voted to disallow both types, although they can change course with another vote.

Each cultivation license allows farmers to grow marijuana on up to 1 acre of land or 25,000 square feet of greenhouse space. Another option allows growing both indoors (up to 30,000 square feet) and outdoors (20,000). The temporary licenses expire in two years, when farmers in good standing can apply for a standard license.

For now, hemp farmers will supply the first marijuana to retail dispensaries, which were authorized under the Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act. Enacted on March 31, 2021,

the MRTA allows anyone 21 and older to possess up to 3 ounces of marijuana and keep up to 5 pounds in the home.

"Growing season waits for no one, and we're moving as quickly as possible to help our local farmers take full advantage of it this spring," said Tremaine Wright, chair of the Cannabis Control Board.

Sales from this year's harvest are expected to begin as early as the end of the year, when the first retail shops could open. Just as the state prioritized hemp farmers for the cultivation licenses, it is giving people with marijuana convictions first crack at retail licenses in order to ensure legalization benefits communities, primarily Black and Latino, where marijuana arrests were high.

Under proposed Cannabis Control Board



regulations, conditional licenses to sell marijuana will initially go to residents who have a marijuana-related conviction from before March 31, 2021; have a parent, guardian, child, spouse or dependent with a pot conviction before that date; or are a dependent of someone found guilty of a marijuana offense. They also must have experience running a business.

Business entities applying for a license must have a majority owner who meets those criteria, or a partner satisfying those requirements who owns at least 30 percent of the company and exercises "sole control," according to the proposed regulations.

Retail licenses would also be open to nonprofits that "serve justice-involved individuals and communities with historically high rates of arrest, conviction, incarceration or other indicators of law enforcement activity for marijuana-related offenses," and that operate a profitable "social enterprise."

The state's 2022-23 budget includes \$200 million for a "social equity fund" that will provide grants to dispensary owners to help with startup costs.

Is Beacon a 'Disadvantaged' Community?

State releases draft of environmental justice report

By Brian PJ Cronin

To a visitor, Beacon may appear to be booming: luxury apartments, high-end shops, trendy eateries and an internationally renowned museum.

But a draft report by a state climate-justice working group concludes the foundation of that prosperity may be shaky. The census tracts of the City of Beacon rank higher than much of the state in flooding risk, diesel pollution, housing-cost burden, environmental remediation sites and how long it takes to reach a hospital, among other criteria.

In fact, the tract that includes the waterfront, southern Beacon and Dutchess Junction has a higher environmental burden than 98 percent of the state, making it especially susceptible to the effects of climate change, the report says. As a result, Beacon fits the measures to be considered a "disadvantaged community."

"Climate change will impact everybody, but not everyone will be impacted equally," notes Adriana Espinoza, the deputy commissioner for equity and justice at the state Department of Environmental Conservation, who helped prepare the report.

As part of the state's ambitious Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, enacted in 2019, New York is required to get 70 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2030 and reach zero-emissions electricity by 2040 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. But the law also set an environmental-justice target that aims for 40 percent of state spending on clean energy to accrue in communities defined as disadvantaged.

The draft of another study released earlier this year offered a plan for the state to achieve these goals, but it was up to the climate-justice panel to define "disadvantaged." It came up with 45 criteria in two areas: population characteristics and vulnerability, and environmental burden and climate change risk.

Disadvantaged communities have higher concentrations of people who are low-income, unemployed, paying more of their income in rent, less likely to own a home and less educated, and are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, Espinoza explained.

About a third of the state's census tracts qualified, including 45 percent in the Mid-Hudson Valley, about the same as found in New York City. In Putnam County, Brewster Hills was the sole tract to meet the criteria, mostly because of a high level of pollution, minority Hispanic population and fewer people with health insurance.

The decision by the working group to include race as a criterion is notable. Both the federal government and California, when working on climate-justice targets and definitions, shied away from race to avoid legal challenges. But the New York group said it felt it was impossible to identify disadvantaged communities and environmental justice without considering race.

"There is decades of social science research that shows that income and race are both important indicators for understanding disproportionate environmental burdens," said Espinoza. "Even when you remove income, race is a huge driver for being able to identify disproportionately polluted communities."

Any funding sent to Beacon because of its status could be used for projects such as weatherization; zero- and low-emission transportation; "microgrids" that can

disconnect from the power grid to operate autonomously; renewable energy; and the treatment of medical conditions exacerbated by climate change, such as asthma.

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Putnam Sheriff Won't Discuss Road Patrol Numbers

McConville also says he will crack down on overtime

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The agenda for the Tuesday (April 19) meeting of a Putnam County legislative committee included the topic of Sheriff's Department road patrols, but the legislators and Sheriff Kevin McConville barely touched it.

Instead, when the Protective Services Committee convened in Carmel, McConville delivered a 12-minute statement underscoring his authority to run the department and justifying a crackdown on previous overtime practices that, he asserted, condoned spending \$11,520 or more each week on "unfunded positions."

McConville, a Republican who lives in Cold Spring, took office in January after defeating another Philipstown resident, then-Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., a Democrat, in the November election.

After McConville began a reorganization of the department, Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, in March asked about claims that the number of road patrols had been cut from six to five. She pressed for information, and Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, who chairs the Protective Services Committee, asked McConville to discuss the issue.

But when the committee met, McConville avoided specifics. "Contrary to past practices, I will not address any specifics regarding patrol operations, including the number or location of patrol posts, other than to assure everyone that patrols are assigned to provide effective and respon-

sible public safety services in the towns that comprise Putnam County," he said.

Montgomery persistently sought more details, eliciting reprimands from the committee members, whom she in turn accused of ignoring an agenda item. The Legislature's lone Democrat, she often clashes with her Republican colleagues. Ultimately, she was allowed to pose a question: How many road patrols existed at the end of 2021, and how many exist now?

McConville declined to say, citing "concern for safety and security for our members as well as for other law enforcement agencies."

In his statement, the sheriff emphasized that "deployment of personnel, assignment duties and responsibilities to address public safety issues is a fundamental responsibility charged to me along with the fiscal duty and obligation to ensure expenditures are properly supported within the finite budgetary constraints that the Sheriff's Office must operate [under]."

He said scheduling changes and staffing modifications were driven solely by "efficiency" and to avoid unnecessary overtime. He expressed confidence that "reasonable people" would "conclude I have acted on high principle and extensive law enforcement knowledge and experience."

McConville told the legislators he had been "astonished to find that first-line supervisors were operating as the sole and absolute authority regarding the approval of all time-off requests as well as the sole authorization and final approval of overtime coverages, without input, direction or oversight of command management. Let that sink in for a minute."

He said overtime will be used for traffic

Where's the Report?

Because of its concerns about overtime and other spending at the Putnam County Sheriff's Department under then-Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., the Legislature 18 months ago agreed to pay an accounting firm, Bonadio & Co., \$45,000 to study the issue.

The county finance commissioner, Bill Carlin, noted at the time that the concerns did not originate with Langley. He reminded legislators that "we've been going back and forth" on agency overtime since at least the tenure of Sheriff Robert Thoubboron, who left office in 2001. "We never seem to get past the arguing and bickering about what is right, so we thought we'd bring in an independent analysis," he said.

In a 2018 examination of overtime among Putnam County employees by *The Current*, seven of the top 10

earners were sheriff's deputies. The others were two corrections officers and the highway crew chief. The nine officers filed for an average of 10 to 18 extra hours per week.

In November, *The Current* filed a Freedom of Information Law request to obtain a copy of the Bonadio conclusions; the county said on Dec. 6 it was "not in possession" of the report. On Dec. 8, the paper filed a second FOIL request for the report and/or any drafts. This was denied on Jan. 6 because, the county said, the final report had not yet been produced and that any drafts were exempt from disclosure.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, said she asked County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Bonadio to see the report or any drafts but was rebuffed.

enforcement, special details focusing on criminal activity, finding missing persons and other urgent needs. Overtime was warranted, he said when an armed robbery occurred at a Garrison gas station in February and in "extensive and laborious" child-pornography investigations.

Legislators who had repeatedly questioned Langley's autonomy and decisions

praised McConville and endorsed his independence.

Sheriff's Department affairs are "under the sheriff's discretion, which we really don't have any purview over, to dictate what his discretion is," and whether legislators agree with him "is not for us to say," Nacerino said. "Some of the gross negligence there has to be corrected, as well."

Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

\$50 million — \$30 million to be spent on upgrades at Harriman State Park and \$20 million on the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. The boost in funding will allow construction to begin this fall, officials said.

Skoufis announced the additional funding on Thursday (April 21) at the Breakneck Ridge train station with local elected officials and environmental leaders in attendance.

"You're going to see all of these cars that clog up Route 9D and make for a really awful quality of life issue for local residents and businesses be ameliorated as part of this Phase 1," said Skoufis. "Those cars will no longer be crowding the shoulder all up and down 9D."

The Fjord Trail project was conceived years ago as a riverside trail running from Cold Spring to Beacon. But in light of Breakneck Ridge's surging popularity as a day hike, resulting in overwhelming crowds, traffic and frequent visits from emergency responders, the project became more ambitious.

Phase 1 will involve the construction of a vehicle lot that will allow hikers to park between the river and the train tracks and



MAIN STREET CLOSURE — Parking will be suspended from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. and one lane closed in Beacon daily from Monday (April 25) to Friday (April 29) for asphalt milling. Parking will be available April 30 and May 1. Paving is scheduled to begin on May 2 for three days, during which sections of the street will be closed.

Photo by Valerie Shively

a pedestrian bridge to cross over the tracks to a trailhead that will not be accessible from Route 9D.

In addition, erosion damage caused by large numbers of hikers will be repaired. The Breakneck Ridge train station, which has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic shutdown, will be upgraded; a Metro-North representative confirmed this week that the agency plans to reopen the

station following the installation of fencing that has been delayed by supply chain issues.

Ned Sullivan, the president of the nonprofit environmental group Scenic Hudson, said that while he believes New York has the best state parks in the country, the state budget has not kept pace.

"The safety, the health and the basic public amenities in our park system have

fallen down because the funding has not been there," he said. "Breakneck Ridge has exemplified that crisis. People have paid in life and limb, literally, for these deficiencies and safety hazards."

Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley noted that while the county and state have promoted the village as a tourist destination, it has largely borne the cost of that tourism alone.

"We have, if we're honest, felt besieged by the crowds passing through the village on their way to the trails," she said. "The crowds aren't going away. So we have to manage them. The Fjord Trail will bring a rationalized pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow, and much-needed basics like toilets, which we just can't afford to provide on our own. And God willing, it's going to bring proper park staffing, so that our first responders stay safe and ready in our village, where they belong."

Amy Kacala, the executive director of the Fjord Trail, said construction managers are planning on Phase I taking about 20 months. She noted that when it begins, Breakneck Ridge and the Wilkinson Trail will be temporarily closed. "There's going to be a lot of construction activity happening in a very limited space," she explained.

Beacon Firehouse

(from Page 1)

at the Memorial Park dog run site or on the edge of the Sargent Elementary School campus.

In 2020, just before the pandemic shut-down, the council hired several new firefighters and voted to close the 130-year-old Beacon Engine station on East Main Street. The moves allowed the fire department for the first time to have two firefighters on duty at Tompkins Hose and Mase Hook and Ladder at 425 Main St. around the clock.

Once the Tompkins Hose renovations are complete, the 6,000-square-foot Mase station, which was built in the 1920s, would be closed, White said. “We’re basically taking the space that isn’t readily usable for modern fire operations [at Mase] and putting it all into one building,” he said.

In a presentation to the council on April 11, Bob Mitchell, the design firm principal, called the Tompkins Hose building “functionally obsolete.” For instance, he said, it lacks a system to redirect exhaust from the engine bays and adequate decontamination facilities, making it unsafe for firefighters.

According to the plans, the front of the station on South Avenue will be downsized

to two bays, one for an ambulance and the other for a smaller fire apparatus. At the same time, three bays for ladder trucks and fire engines will be constructed on the other side of the building, which faces Route 9D.

The renovated station will include training facilities, an exercise room, a dining room, a conference room and a sprinkler system — features lacking in the existing building. It would also add three offices; Chief Gary Van Voorhis’ office at the current station is a converted closet.

The building will include six bedrooms for firefighters working overnight, a modernized “mission-control” dispatch office and gender-neutral restrooms, according to the plans. At present, the main floor of the Tompkins station does not have a women’s bathroom.

In addition, the city-owned parking lot behind the station would be paved and restriped, providing about 55 public spaces.

Mitchell recommended that the city not delay the project any further, noting that the cost of construction has increased by more than 150 percent since a 2006 consolidation study. “It’s not going to get cheaper,” he said.



Some of Beacon’s fire engines cannot fully fit into the bays at the Tompkins Hose station.

Photo by J. Simms



Earth Day Q&A: Holly O’Grady

By Jeff Simms

Holly O’Grady is volunteering with the Beacon City School District to create a network of pollinator pathways.

What is a pollinator pathway, and why is it important?

The most common planting that people would recognize is milkweed, but it can include wildflowers. The goal is to use plants and wildflowers that are indigenous to the area to attract butterflies. Rather than having miles of grass, you could have something more productive for insects and butterflies and bees. In Denmark, farmers are encouraged to plant pollinators between the road and their crops so that they’re keeping the bee population alive and giving them plenty of food.

What are you planning with the school district?

Cornell Cooperative Extension offered a climate-steward program last year and, after going through an intensive, 12-week training, I had to design a project for my city. Being rather new to Beacon, I approached Sergei Krasikov [the chair of the city’s Conservation Advisory Committee], who said they had been talking about collaborating on environmental projects with the schools. We met with [Superintendent] Matt Landahl and felt that pollinator pathways could be a good starting point.

Beacon’s schools have vast acres of land, much of it grass. Our goal is to come up with a plan — where should these things be, and why? What are the criteria? And if it’s on school property, what are the educational opportunities? So many of the elementary schools already have gardens, where children are taught about how to grow food, so this could augment that learning.

When you talk about there being too much grass, do lawns count?

I don’t think grass lawns will ever be eliminated, but it takes a lot of pesticides and gas mowers to keep grass looking good. The idea is to adopt a more sustainable way to protect your yard, and a pollinator path, or even a patch, can help. The plantings can be perennials that come back year after year. They’re protecting the soil but they don’t require chemicals and give people another way to make their lawn look interesting without so much grass.

What’s your impression of the environmental scene here?

My impression is that while there are many people here who are committed to protecting the environment, a lot of their work is a best-kept secret. Communication is a challenge for a lot of these projects, even though Beacon is not a huge community. I’m hoping that by involving the team I’m working with, and working across the schools, we can create and keep a buzz going.



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Out There

Off Ramp

By Brian PJ Cronin

My son and I go through this each spring: We get to the enormous, lichen-covered mass of boulders that we have to scramble over, and he tells me it's too steep.



I remind him that he climbed it without a problem last year, and the year before that, and the year before that. He's been hiking the trail since he could walk, and when he was too young to walk, I carried him on my back.

The reason we come back in late April or early May is for ramps, the wild onions that are one of the first edible plants to appear. They're almost impossible to cultivate, so your best bet is to find a spot where they're growing and keep it to yourself. Their scarcity makes them mysterious and problematic. When foraging, how much can you take? Where is it OK to harvest? What can you do to ensure that they return?

Because they are hard to find, ramps are a hot item in swanky restaurants, an aura that doesn't extend to, for example, dandelions, which are also wild and edible but not scarce. This means that those who know where to look can sell them for a hefty price. The more you harvest, the more you can sell. The angel on one shoulder tells me not to overharvest and the ramps will return. The devil tells me to dig.

The generally accepted way to harvest a ramp is to only cut one of its two leaves, just above where the root pokes from the ground. By leaving the roots intact, as well



A reasonable ramp harvest

Photo by B. Cronin

as one leaf, the plant can propagate later in the season. And yet, when you see ramps for sale, they usually have roots. I see them for sale less and less, presumably because market owners have grown weary of being yelled at by customers who see roots.

I understand the temptation to overharvest. The first time my son and I stumbled upon a vast ramp patch, it felt like finding gold at the end of the rainbow. I had been looking for years, doing research, poring over maps. Yet I've only ever found a patch by accident. Drunk with luck, I dug roots, filled bags and cooked all week with our bounty draped across salmon, in frittatas, with pasta, on pizza. We returned and harvested each spring, until I noticed the patch was shrinking.

I have since discovered a few other spots with ramps, but I let them be. I no longer dig or fill bags. Instead, I cut enough for

one meal. I use what we harvest for the pot-roast recipe from Ronni Lundy's *Victuals*:

An Appalachian Journey, With Recipes. It is meant to be made in late April, when it's warm enough to open the windows but not warm enough to leave them open. You wrap the meat in ramp leaves and roast it low and slow, warming up the house and filling it with the fragrance of the deep woods.

Lundy suggests, if ramps can't be found, to use a mixture of diced garlic and scallions. I make it like that a few times a year and it's still pretty great. No one in my house turns up his or her nose at a ramp-less roast, but we ate this week with relish, which is why it surprises me that folks pay so much for ramps at restaurants. What you're buying can't be bought.

For me, that's going back to the same spot in the woods year after year, or the scent of ramps that permeates the car on the drive home. It's teaching my son the other plants that can be mistaken for ramps: the trout lily, the skunk cabbage. It's caring for "your" patch and the woods it grows in, so that they'll return next spring to catch the eye of someone else who's been looking for years and can now start their own family tradition.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL PURSUANT TO SECTION 506 AND 526 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

Notice is hereby given that the Assessor for the Town of Philipstown, County of Putnam, has completed the tentative assessment roll for the current year. A copy will be available May 1, 2022 at the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY, where it may be examined by any person interested until May 24, 2022. On that day, the Board of Assessment Review will sit at the Town Hall, Cold Spring, NY between the hours of 4 PM and 8 PM to hear and examine all complaints in relation to such assessments.

The Real Property Tax Law requires that grievances be in writing. Forms for written submission are available in the Assessor's Office, Town Hall, Cold Spring, NY.

Dated this 20th day of April 2022

Brian Kenney, Assessor

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Facts and figures

5. Bygone jet

8. Son of Seth

12. Latin love

13. Historic period

14. *Peter Pan* pooch

15. "No problem!"

17. Darkens

18. Skip

19. "Delicious" crop

21. Three, in Rome

22. Hold sway

23. Zsa Zsa's sister

26. Stitch

28. Justice Ruth — Ginsburg

31. Missing

33. Pouch

35. Shrill barks

36. Toy (with)

38. Prattle

40. Make lace

41. Beer, slangily

43. Capote nickname

45. Black Sea port

47. Indigenous

51. Accomplishes

52. "Yes?"

54. Garfield's pal

55. Napoleon's title (Abbr.)

56. Actress Turner

57. Breaks down

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
			21					22				
23	24	25		26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

58. Coifs

59. Stretches (out)

DOWN

1. Calendar squares

2. Mine, in Montreal

3. Talk up

4. Lingo

5. Small sofas

6. Lanka lead-in

7. Early Mongolian

8. Bridge tactic

9. Aced a test

10. "My treat"

11. Lip

16. Partially mine

20. Tavern

23. Sprite

24. Book-spine abbr.

25. "In my view ..."

27. Witty one

29. Clean air org.

30. Trio after Q

32. Bridge supports

34. Short snoozes

37. Super Bowl stats

39. Unruly kid

42. Cut lumber

44. Of service

45. Scent

46. Nitwit

48. Author Dinesen

49. Tarzan's commuter line?

50. LAX guesses

53. Med. plan

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Answers for April 15 Puzzles

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

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

1. FABRIC, 2. TAGLINES, 3. MONTOYA, 4. FRONDS, 5. APATHY, 6. SEARINGLY, 7. SEETHE

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

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 lines of stitches (5)

2 inventor Tesla (6)

3 creative (5)

4 unwise (11)

5 putting final touches on (9)

6 President of France Macron (8)

7 diverting (9)

SOLUTIONS

SE	FIN	ART	NI	IN
LA	EMM	BLE	ISH	ENJ
ING	EL	ISA	SY	KO
ADV	OYA	AMS	ANU	BLE

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

SOFTBALL

Beacon took on Minisink Valley on Wednesday (April 20) at Memorial Park but fell 15-2 to drop to 1-5 overall and 1-2 in league play.

"Today's game was a microcosm of our last few games," said Coach Michael Carofano. "We played good defense, and we're limiting errors, and that's been a positive. But in both games we scored in the first inning, then our bats cooled down. We struggle to hit consistently."

Mikayla Sheehan took the loss on the mound for the Bulldogs, going five innings. Bella White pitched the final two innings.

"Minisink was the No. 1 seed in the Class A tournament last year, so we knew they would be a quality team," Carofano said. "They're a strong-hitting team and put the ball in play a lot."

Despite the score, "we made a lot of solid plays," he said. "Katherine Ruffy has been coming into her own — she's been playing a big role as a freshman, and is turning into a solid shortstop. Olivia Spiak in center has been doing well — she was our shortstop, but unselfishly moved to center field. She covers a lot of ground."

Carofano said his pitchers also have been showing steady progress. "Although she didn't play last season, Mikayla can throw strikes," he said. "Olivia Ciancanelli is our most experienced pitcher. Bella is also new and has been providing good relief."

In Wednesday's game, Ruffy and Spiak each had a hit and scored; Sally Betterbid had a hit; and Ciancanelli had an RBI.

On April 16 against visiting Valley



Mikayla Sheehan delivers a pitch against Minisink Valley. Photos by S. Pearlman



Haldane's Ryan Eng-Wong went 3-for-4 against Hamilton.

Central, the Bulldogs dropped an 8-3 decision, with Sheehan taking the loss in the circle. Haleigh Zukowski doubled and drove in two runs, and Spiak scored a run.

"Our bats started out hot, but we ended up leaving eight runners on base after the first inning," Carofano said.

On April 14 at Middletown, Beacon fell, 23-1, with Ciancanelli taking the loss. White pitched in relief. Zukowski went 2-for-2 with a double and Sheehan singled.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to host Washingtonville today (April 22) at 4:15 p.m. They travel to Port Jervis on Saturday and Lourdes on Monday, and host Cornwall on Tuesday.

BOYS' TENNIS

Beacon swept Minisink Valley, 7-0, on Wednesday (April 20) in a league match held at Beacon High School.

The Bulldogs got singles victories from Alex Wyant, Matt Sandison, Beckett Anderson and Danny Barry. Doubles victories came from Brock Barna/Scott Bunker, Tommy Franks/Jamison Sheehy and Charlie Klein/Frank Zezza.

"We haven't played in a while, but we're working hard, and improving as we go," Coach David Ryley said. "Today we played well consistently."

Beacon improved to 2-1 overall, and 2-0 in league play. The Bulldogs are scheduled to host Valley Central today (April 22), Cornwall on Monday and Newburgh Free Academy on Tuesday.

BASEBALL

Haldane picked up a 13-7 victory on Tuesday (April 19) at Alexander Hamilton, improving to 2-2 on the season.

Dan Nakabayashi notched his first varsity win on the mound, going four innings and striking out four. Milo Pearsall, Jeremy Hall and Ryan Eng-Wong pitched in relief.

Eng-Wong led the Blue Devils' offense with three hits, including a double, and stole a base.

Julian Ambrose went 2-for-5 with an RBI, John Kisslinger had three stolen bases and scored twice, Trajan McCarthy went 2-for-4 with a triple and an RBI, and Pearsall got his first varsity hit with an RBI double. Jake Hotaling also knocked in two runs with a double.

"That was a great job by a lot of young pitchers getting their feet wet on the mound of Beacon, and being efficient," said Coach Simon Dudar.

Haldane will host North Salem on Saturday (April 23) at 11 a.m. and Pawling on Monday at 4:30 p.m. before traveling to Irvington on Tuesday.

Beacon ripped Middletown, 15-2, on Tuesday at home to improve to 3-2. Freshman Derrick Heaton won his first varsity game on the mound, striking out four batters in four innings. Mikey Fontaine pitched a scoreless fifth.

Tyler Haydt led the offense, going 3-for-4 with four RBI and two home runs. Ronnie Anzovino also slugged a three-run homer, Liam Murphy went 2-for-3 and drove in three runs, Owen Bozsik was 2-for-3 with two doubles and Joey Vollaro hit a two-run single.

The Bulldogs will host Wallkill on Saturday (April 23) at noon and travel to Cornwall on Tuesday.

GIRLS' GOLF

The Bulldogs won their first match on Monday (April 18) since Beacon's move to Section IX, defeating Monroe-Woodbury by a stroke, 179-180.

Beacon was led by Elizabeth Ruffy with Izzy Amundson close behind. "That was a great team effort," said Coach Jeanmarie Jacques.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to host Cornwall on Tuesday (April 26).

TRACK AND FIELD

Beacon competed at the Mountie Madness meet at Suffern on April 14, where Damani DeLoatch placed second in the long jump (19-9) and triple jump (39-10).



Evan LaBelle of Beacon took second in the 1,600 meters in 4:32 at the Mountie Madness meet. Photo by Jim Henry

In a home match on Wednesday (April 20) against O'Neill, the boys fell, 71-58, and the girls lost, 56-44.

For the boys, Edward Manente and Jazziah Whitted tied for first in the 100 meters; Rubio Castagna-Torres won the 400 hurdles; the 4x800 and 4x100 relay teams were first; and DeLoatch took the triple jump. Evan LaBelle won the 400 meters and Manente won the 200 and the shot put.

For the girls, Isabella Migliore won the 400 and 800; Zakiyah Johnson won the high jump; and Moa Lopez took the 400 hurdles. Beacon's 4x800 and 4x100 relay teams also won.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Matteo Cervone, a junior at Haldane, was named this week to the second team of the New York State Sportswriters Association all-state squad for smaller schools, while senior Soren Holmbo was named to the sixth team. The Blue Devils finished 19-3 and ranked 11th among Class C teams.



The Beacon girls' golf team won its first match in Section IX over Monroe-Woodbury at the Southern Dutchess Country Club. Photo by Jeanmarie Jacques