

The HIGHLANDS
Current



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ON THE MOVE — Students from The Foundry School in Cold Spring walked from their building on Kemble Street to the gazebo on April 29 as part of International Day, which is celebrated by all Montessori schools. After learning about the geography, traditions and food of various countries, each student chose one to represent, typically from his or her own heritage. Here, the class is led down Main Street by teacher Bethany Ciulla.

Photo by Emily DeGroof

Avian Flu
Creeps into
Dutchess

No threat to humans, but
chickens at risk

By Brian PJ Cronin

The state Department of Environmental Conservation confirmed last week that a highly contagious bird virus has been found in Dutchess County, in addition to other counties across New York, although no cases have been reported in Putnam.

Avian influenza poses no threat to humans, but it can be fatal to backyard chickens.

The virus is spread by migrating birds such as ducks, geese, gulls and shorebirds. Strains that have high mortality rates in wild birds and domestic poultry are designated as highly pathogenic, or HPAI. It does not appear to affect songbirds, so bird feeders can remain unless they attract ducks and geese.

Richard Ball, the state commissioner of agriculture, said that people who own chickens should make sure their flocks are not coming in contact with wild geese or ducks. Ball said the first detected case of the virus in New York this season was on Long Island, where a woman who kept chickens also fed migrating ducks and geese, attracting them to her yard. “Not doing that is the first order of business,” he said.

(Continued on Page 20)

New Dutchess Districts Would Flip Beacon Wards

Commission members clash
over Vassar voters

By Leonard Sparks

Two of Beacon’s four wards would switch districts under a draft map approved by a seven-member commission redrawing boundaries for

the Dutchess County Legislature based on 2020 census figures.

The county’s Independent Reapportionment Commission approved its first reconfiguration of Legislature boundaries on April 26, and will introduce the plan on Monday (May 9) at the first in a series of public hearings. The commission must adopt final boundaries for the county’s 25 districts

— currently represented by 17 Republicans and eight Democrats — by June 25.

In the draft map, Beacon remains split into two districts, 16 and 18, that are shared with different parts of the Town of Fishkill. But the map reshapes the districts’ boundaries and changes the wards that each encompasses.

(Continued on Page 21)

Garrison One of 15 Districts Seeking Override

Driving costs: Inflation
and high-school tuition

By Joey Asher

When Garrison residents vote May 17 on a proposed \$12.36 million school budget, they will decide whether to approve a tax increase

that is four times higher than the district’s state-mandated cap and among the largest increases in New York by percentage, according to a review of state records.

With a proposed tax levy increase of 9.18 percent, Garrison will be one of 15 districts seeking to override its cap, about the same number among the state’s 731 districts that make the attempt each year. For Garrison,

the cap for 2022-23 is 2.2 percent; to set it aside, the budget must pass with at least 60 percent of the vote.

The referendum raises important issues for a district that already spends about \$42,000 per student, nearly double the state average. And the vote has implications for neighboring districts Haldane

(Continued on Page 8)



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5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: ASHER PACHT

By Zach Rodgers

Asher Pacht is the director of environmental programs at the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries. His responses are excerpted from an interview for the podcast *Beaconites*.

What is the Beacon Institute?

It was founded in 2006. Initially we focused on real-time monitoring of the Hudson. But as that project sunsetted, Clarkson University — which is located in Potsdam, near the Canadian border — said it was interested in the institute for the research that we were doing. It hired our research team and in 2011 the ecology center became its Beacon campus. We run graduate programs and do programs for K-12 students to inspire them to explore the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Didn't you have a storefront on Main Street?

We had two locations — the Water Ecology Center

at Dennings Point and a location on Main, which was an environmental gallery. As we rehabbed the factory buildings at Dennings Point, it made more sense to focus our efforts there, so we left Main Street. The city and mayor were happy, because obviously retail spaces are at a premium.

How did you come to the institute?

I grew up in New Hampshire. I met my wife, Fay, who is from New Windsor, in college.

While I was finishing at New York University, we moved to Beacon because she was teaching in Newburgh. I started working at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall. In graduate school I had studied water resources and environmental policy, so when the job came up at the Beacon Institute, I jumped on it. That was 10 years ago.

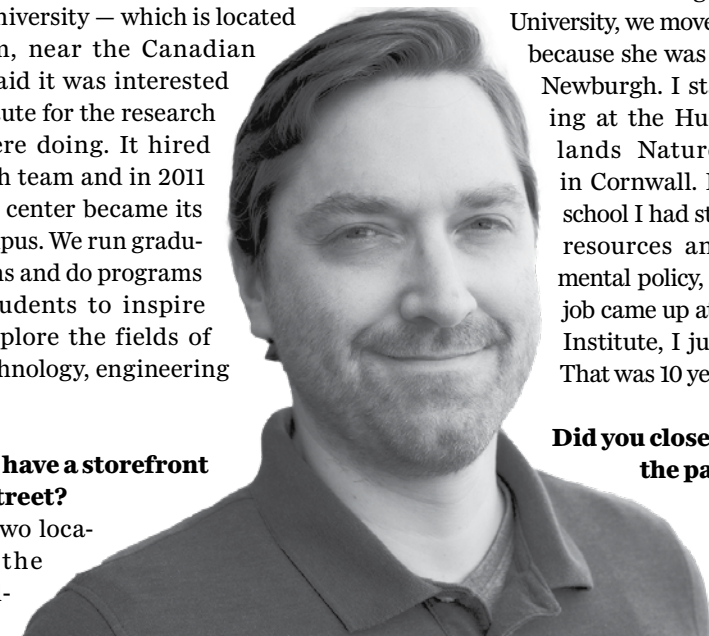
Did you close during the pandemic?

Yes, but we are now open on weekends with new

exhibits on the river's ecology and history that we've been working on for two years. When you're putting something on the wall that is going to be there for, ideally, 10 years or more, you have to get it exactly right, with a nod to universal design so that the maximum number of people can digest the information most easily. It's been quite a process. We tried to make it as much as possible about the place where we are on the Hudson River, which is River Mile 60, Beacon Harbor and Dennings Point. We're near the salt front of the river — people might not be aware that the fresh water that comes from the north meets the salt water from the Atlantic, and the average salt front is near Beacon or Poughkeepsie, depending on the time of year. You can learn all the physical aspects of the river, the food webs, the migrations, the species, the habitats at Dennings Point and how they all interconnect.

In terms of habitats at Dennings Point, I have seen bald eagles and snakes, including one that I think was constricting a cottontail rabbit. Do you see that sort of thing at work?

Oh yes. Everything eats the rabbits. They're popular with most of the predators — bobcats, eagles, hawks, coyotes, foxes. It's a good thing they breed a lot.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Are you a morning-bagel person?

Once a week, an everything bagel, toasted, with butter



Jeff Amato, Cold Spring

Of course! Plain, with egg white, salt and pepper



Sam Rodriguez, Beacon

Yep. Toasted, cinnamon-raisin with butter



Owen Carmicino, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Library Budget Passes

Three new trustees added to board

Voters approved the 2022-23 budget of the Howland Public Library District on April 28 by a wide margin and elected three members to its board.

The proposed budget passed 227-31. It includes \$1.34 million in spending, which represents an increase of 5 percent, or \$61,069, which was more than the state-mandated tax cap for the library in 2022-23 of 1 percent, or \$22,107.

There were nine candidates for three open seats on the nine-member board: Karen Twohig did not run for re-election and two were vacant.

Brooke Simmons received the most votes and will succeed Twohig and serve a 5-year term; Marguerite (Greta) Byrum will serve the four years remaining on one of the vacant seats; and Jeffrey Young (Yang) will serve the final three years of the other.

Two Jan. 6 Defendants From Putnam Sentenced

Mahopac residents pleaded guilty

Two Mahopac men were sentenced last week for their roles in the attack on Jan. 6, 2021, on the U.S. Capitol, an attempt to disrupt the certification of the presidential



MAIN STREET CLOSURE — Beacon completed the final section of paving on Thursday (May 5), between the DMV building and Route 9D, and began marking out crosswalks, parking spaces and lanes. Main is expected to reopen to parking and traffic this afternoon (May 6) before closing again overnight on Monday and Tuesday to complete the striping. The city said the dummy light, which was damaged April 26 by a paving truck, will be repaired and “probably even spruced up some.”

Photo by Valerie Shively

election results.

As part of an agreement with prosecutors, Anthony Vuksanaj, 52, pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing inside the Capitol. Police had detained Vuksanaj in June 2020 in connection to a robbery at knifepoint; he denied being involved but a search warrant showed his phone had been at the Capitol on Jan. 6.

On April 29, he was sentenced to three

years of probation that includes three imprisonments of 14 days each and three months of home confinement, as well as \$2,510 in fines.

Robert Ballesteros, 28, posted a video on Instagram of himself inside the Capitol wearing a black mask. He said he had “made my stand.” Ballesteros pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing and was sentenced on April 28 to 36

months of probation and fined \$510.

In addition, an Orange County man, Thomas Webster, a 20-year veteran of the New York Police Department, was convicted by a jury on Monday (May 1) of six counts related to his assault of a Capitol police officer on Jan. 6. The Goshen resident faces 20 years in prison on the most serious charge, striking the officer with a metal flagpole.

Short-Term Rental Suit in Cold Spring Dismissed

Plaintiff says he may refile

A lawsuit filed against the operator of a short-term rental in Cold Spring has been dismissed.

Carl Mauro, owner of the apartment building at 153 Main St., had sought an injunction prohibiting Frederique Henriot from operating a short-term rental at 3 Furnace St. Mauro also sought \$150,000 in damages.

The suit alleged that Henriot and her guests block access to Mauro's building when they parked on an easement along the rear of his property. Mauro also alleged that Henriot's STR violates regulations adopted by the village last year.

Mauro's attorney, Norah Hart, said a state judge in Carmel dismissed the case after she was unable to attend a court session because she had traveled to California for a family emergency. She said her client may try again in Cold Spring Justice Court.



The HIGHLANDS
Current

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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Incline railway

I was surprised to read of the demise of the Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society ("End of the Line," April 29). My grandfather and uncle purchased the railway from J.M. Lodge in 1960, and I spent my teen years working and living at the lower station house and later the White Stone Hotel after the house burned in 1967. Eventually, my grandfather and I moved to an upstairs apartment at 45 Robinson St. The memories of growing up there from 1963 to 1971 flooded my mind while reading your article.

Earlier this year, my daughter was returning from a trip to Connecticut and stopped by the Mount Beacon park. She took pictures of the historical plaques and one photo caught my attention. The person standing on the tram was me! I believe it was taken in 1967, when I was 16. Imagine, me, on a historical marker!

I managed the railway in 1971, after my grandfather was disabled by a stroke, but left when he recovered. I tried rejuvenating the place, but it was like oil and water between myself and my grandfather and uncle trying to improve the facility.

From atop the mountain, I watched the building and connection of the Beacon-Newburgh Bridge and could see the Empire



Robert Allen ascends on the railway in this 1967 photo that appears on a marker at Mount Beacon.

State Building from atop the fire tower on clear nights. I have scars from the close calls I received working there, when I lost a few of my "nine lives."

Of the videos you posted online, the first shows a dapper gentleman in a fedora sitting on the rear bench of the roofed tram. That is my grandfather. He died in 1978. The third video shows the fellow on the "go-digger" following the tram car down

the mountain. We found the gadget and I tried a ride, almost killing myself when the brake handle broke. That is one of the scars I mentioned.

The white guides on either side of the tracks were the emergency braking system for the tram in event of the cable break. Centrifugal force would engage a double-wedge into the 8x8 to stop the tram. I painted guides from top to bottom, by hand, with can and brush, both sides.

Robert Allen, *Brackney, Pennsylvania*

I was sad to learn that I must remove ascending Mount Beacon on the incline railway from my bucket list. My last ride was in 1971; I had hoped for one more.

Jeanne Wiley, *via Facebook*

Could something like a ski lift be installed, something less massive than the incline railway? That would allow the elderly and physically challenged people to benefit from our beautiful mountain vista.

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

Bummer. Hoped they would find a way.
Michael Koch, *via Instagram*

Garrison school budget

I wonder how many seniors would benefit from the proposed tax reduction with an annual income cap set at \$37,000 ("Garrison School Lowers Tax Request to 9.2%," April 22). I suspect not many. If the district wants to benefit seniors with a tax reduction, they should double that figure.

Frank De Angelis, *Garrison*

Haldane school board

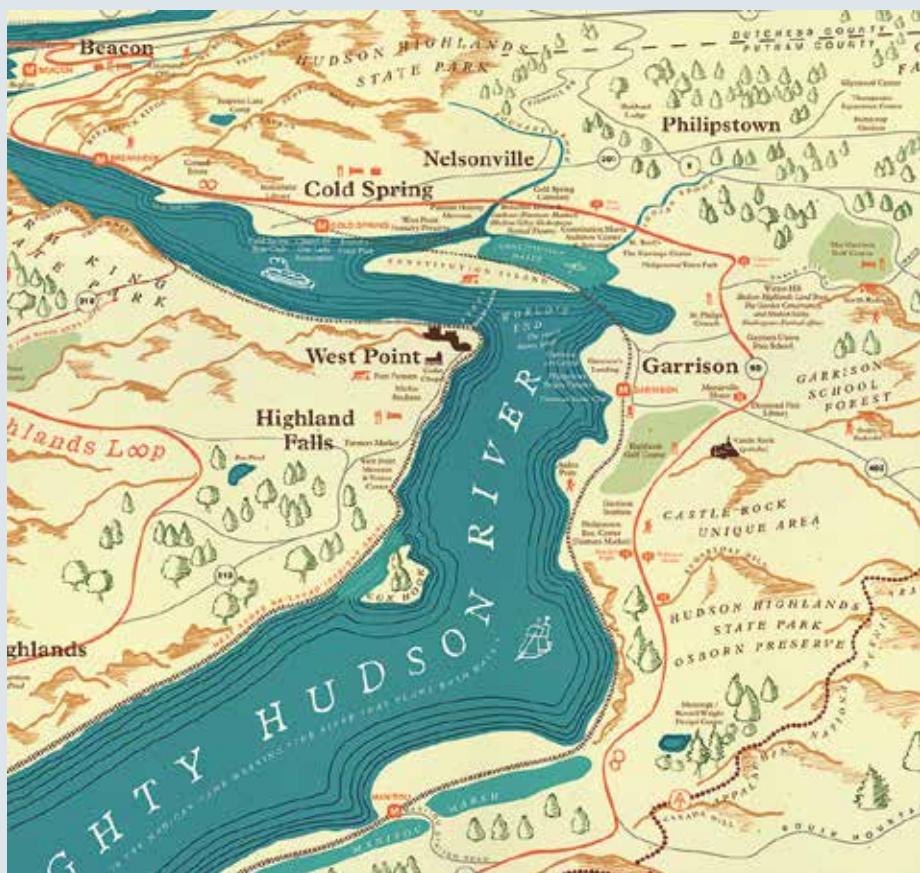
As a community member, parent, educator and Haldane school board trustee, I am thrilled that Sean McNall and Ezra Clementson are candidates for the Board of Education. My service on the board for the past nine years has taught me many things, one of which is just how challenging, yet incredibly crucial, effective school governance is.

Board members must be able to see what is in front of them, as well as what is 10 years down the road; call on their personal experience without letting it shift their perspective from working for *all* students; make tax dollars and providing an excellent education equal priorities; and have strong, informed opinions while working as a collective.

It is a complicated position, one that requires creativity, empathy, patience, diligence and leadership. I know that both Sean and Ezra embody these important qualities and I am grateful that they have raised their hands to contribute to our

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What is 'The Highlands'?

The name of this newspaper, *The Highlands Current*, reflects the communities we cover: Beacon and Philipstown, which includes Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Garrison, North Highlands and Continental Village.

The Hudson Highlands are mountains on both sides of the river; on the east side, they stretch from Fishkill Ridge to Anthony's Nose, or roughly the northern edge of Beacon to the southern edge of Philipstown, a distance of about 13 miles.

The bedrock here is more than 1 billion years old, and the river is distinguished because it becomes narrower and reaches its deepest point (216 feet) between Garrison and West Point in a gorge dubbed "World's End."

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

schools. Please join me in enthusiastically voting for them on May 17.

Jennifer Daly, *Cold Spring*

Redistricting maps

I can't wait for New York's "huge victory for free and fair elections" — as the head of the state Republican committee described the Court of Appeals throwing out the Legislature's redistricting maps — to trickle up to higher courts and/or to the rest of the country ("Court Strikes Down Democrats' Maps," April 29).

Republicans in red states are the main exploiters of gerrymandered district maps and the main beneficiaries of lopsided elections. The Brennan Center for Justice reports that gerrymandering has given Republicans 16 or 17 extra seats in Congress over most of the past decade.

What's really terrible about our districting laws is that they only go halfway (and barely) — when forced, state legislators draw maps to include voting rights for communities of color. But they don't have to lift a finger for those disenfranchised for any other reason. Once a party controls a state's government, it redraws the maps so that it controls that state forever and, last I heard, there's noth-

ing "unconstitutional" about it.

It would be great if the high court deciding the New York case had gotten that memo, but if its ruling stands, I will look forward to free and fair elections in the 10 most gerrymandered states, which include Texas, North Carolina, Arkansas, West Virginia and the swing states of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Jacqueline Foertsch, *Philipstown*

Fjord Trail

There is no good reason to terminate the Fjord Trail at Dockside Park in Cold Spring, and numerous reasons for Cold Spring and Nelsonville to demand safe pedestrian and bike access to Little Stony Point and the Fjord Trail for village residents, as was proposed in 2014 by consultants from the RBA Group ("State Provides \$20M for Fjord Trail," April 22).

Dockside Park has a special place in the hearts of many residents of and visitors to Philipstown, whether painting a sunset, watching a Cold Spring Film Society movie, skipping rocks at the old dock or gazing at clouds rising over Storm King. Too little consideration is being given to what will be lost if the intangible "end of the earth" quality of Dockside is lost when

(Continued on Page 6)



This award-winner by Ross Corsair was taken during a visit by the Two by Two Zoo to the Desmond-Fish library in Garrison.

Current Named Newspaper of Year

Wins 20 awards in annual statewide contest

The *Highlands Current* was named Newspaper of the Year on Saturday (April 30) at an annual awards program sponsored by the New York Press Association, whose members include small and mid-sized publications from across the state.

The Current scored the most points in an editorial and advertising contest for work that appeared in 2021, with 20 citations. The nonprofit weekly has won 97 NYPA awards since 2013.

The competition, which included 2,481 entries from 132 newspapers, was judged by members of the Nebraska Press Association.

The Current won 11 first-place awards. Among papers of all sizes, Brian PJ Cronin won for best environmental coverage; the staff was recognized for headline-writing and coverage of elections and politics; and Deb Lucke won graphic illustration for her cartoon about children's librarian Lucille Merry's retirement from the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison.

Among papers with circulations of 4,000 to 8,000, Pierce Strudler won for best front pages among tabloids; Skip Pearlman took top honors for sports action photo; and Leonard Sparks won for sports feature for "When Beacon Was King," a piece about a Little League team that won the state title 40 years ago.

The staff won the Thomas G. Butson Award for Investigative In-Depth Reporting among papers with circulations of 4,000 to 12,000 for *Operation: Infrastructure*.

In advertising categories, Michele Gedney and Strudler won for advertising excellence among all papers, while Teresa Lagerman was honored for the local business support campaign among all papers and promotional campaign among smaller papers, both for the Ice Cream Passport. Gedney and Strudler also won second place among all papers for best advertising media kit.

The Current won two third-place



In Skip Pearlman's award-winning shot, Ryan Smith (left) of the Beacon 14U team tagged out a sliding runner in a Bulldogs win.

awards for Cronin's series, *Hunger in the Highlands*, in the solutions-journalism category among all papers and in news and feature series for papers with circulations of 4,000 to 12,000.

Among honorable mentions awarded to papers of all sizes, *The Current* was recognized for best news website; Ross Corsair for use of video ("A Fun Afternoon at Winter Hill") and photo story ("Rice Harvest Day ... in Philipstown"); and Sparks for COVID-19 news coverage ("Busy Signals for Vaccine"). Among smaller papers, *The Current* was recognized for its coverage of local government and a feature photo by Corsair.

In addition, Cronin's series, *Sundown at Indian Point*, is a finalist in an annual contest organized by the New York City chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists in the category of reporting by newspapers with circulations under 100,000. The other nominees are from the *Asbury Park Press* in New Jersey and *Crain's New York Business*. The winner will be announced Thursday (May 12).

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

it becomes the terminus to the Fjord Trail.

There is no good reason for the Fjord Trail, a rustic, riverside trail, to end at a rustic, riverside point in the village that has no public amenities, no food or water available, and no commercial destinations for people who have supposedly just walked or biked along the river for 8 miles. Why irrevocably alter the character of this village treasure when there are viable sidewalk connections on Route 9D and/or Fair Street?

The proposed route passes over underwater village and town land. Those entities should have a seat at the table. The emphasis has shifted from the 2014 focus on safe bike and pedestrian routes to having people park cars along Route 9D.

The Fjord Trail proposal keeps the parallel parking on 9D to force the state to lower the speed limit along the Fjord Trail corridor. This does not seem like a rational design decision. The Fjord Trail committee seems to be ignoring the demand that will be created by all the additional parking.

Ethan Timm, *Nelsonville*

It is important to recall the origin of the Fjord Trail project: managing critical safety issues along Route 9D related to the popularity of Breakneck Ridge and other nearby public trails. The Fjord Trail is a local solution, thought up by some of the same residents who are working on it now, in response to a problem that needs atten-

tion now more than ever.

The special magic of Dockside Park is not at all lost on me. Nearly 28 years ago, my husband and I were married at Dockside looking out at Storm King, with a reception at Jim and Lori Ely's former restaurant on the site.

There are several good reasons to have the trail begin/end at Dockside Park. All of these have been borne out by a comprehensive alternatives analysis and public input:

1. The trail has always been planned as a safe and scenic 7.5-mile walk/bike route between Cold Spring and Beacon through the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. As the Fjord Trail has evolved, the desire to build in Americans with Disability Act accessibility has become a guiding principle. The trail is now envisioned as a favorite spot for families with small children to go for a bike ride; for walkers and runners to get outside for some exercise; and for seniors to enjoy a midday stroll to Little Stony Point or beyond.
2. With Dockside Park as the southern gateway, Cold Spring residents can easily walk or bike to this trailhead. Likewise, visitors from farther away can easily access the trail from the Cold Spring train station. Fewer cars circulating in search of parking spots is good for the environment, as well as the village's congestion problem, and safer for cyclists and pedestrians. The first iteration of the Fjord Trail design by RBA included a plan for all hikers to travel through the village after disembarking

Corrections

- The name of the illustrator of the Beacon map that appeared in the April 29 issue was misspelled. It is Maria Rabinky.
- In a story in the April 29 issue about the closing of the Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Association, the historic photos should have been credited to the Beacon Historical Society. In addition, we reported that its exhibit on the incline railway, which opens May 14, will close May 30. In fact, it will continue through July 30.

the train or parking, making their way up Main Street and along Fair Street to Little Stony Point, the Cornish trail and beyond. Feedback from the village opposed this route, considering it invasive to Cold Spring neighborhoods and unnecessarily congesting Main Street, where shopkeepers and restaurateurs wanted earnest customers. The Fjord Trail committee took this feedback seriously. The new route will bring hikers from the train station along the waterfront to Dockside Park, which is part of the public Hudson Highlands State Park. Those that choose instead to meander along Main Street to shop and dine will still be able to do so. In

this way, visitor flow will be split, further reducing congestion.

3. The plan to increase parking options north of the village is a direct response to the critical problem of dangerous pedestrian and vehicular congestion at hyper-popular hiking destinations like Breakneck and Bull Hill. By developing organized and rational parking options for visitors and locals alike at Breakneck Ridge and points north, and connecting the entire route through a shuttle system, visitors will be dispersed along the 7.5-mile route and fewer cars will need to cruise Route 9D and Main Street for parking spots.
4. The proposed route of the Fjord Trail does not pass over underwater Cold Spring or Philipstown land. The land where the Shoreline Trail is planned belongs to Metro-North Railroad. Both Dockside Park and Little Stony Point are part of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.
5. Cold Spring and Philipstown have a seat at the table. Elected leadership from these two communities, along with Fishkill and Beacon, is part of the 19-entity steering committee that has helped to move the Fjord Trail project forward from the beginning. Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley and Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel, and their predecessors, have brought great value to this coalition of partners. We look forward to continued thoughtful engagement.

Our plan for Dockside Park is by no means complete and public input is welcomed. There will be restrooms and trash receptacles maintained by Fjord Trail staff, and management responsibility and expense will be removed from the village once Dockside is incorporated into the Fjord Trail. Additionally, we are keen on finding the best ways to ensure that beloved community uses such as fireworks and outdoor movies can continue at Dockside. We are open to other ideas and there will be opportunities for residents to weigh in before a plan is finalized.

It's time to solve the problem that has been plaguing this community for decades. The

(Continued on Page 7)



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 6)

Fjord Trail is an essential part of that solution.

MJ Martin, *Philipstown**Martin is the director of development and community engagement for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.*

There is a hidden, unfortunate and troubling contradiction between Scenic Hudson, State Sen. James Skoufis and the public in your front-page article on the Fjord Trail regarding the key issue of continued parking along Route 9D.

At the March 23 meeting of the Philipstown Town Board, two representatives from Scenic Hudson told the crowd that even though tens of millions of dollars were going to be spent on fixing the situation at Breakneck Ridge, there would still be parking allowed along the east side of 9D.

A number of us immediately objected and questioned the bizarre logic of this. However, your article quotes Skoufis saying: "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. Those cars will no longer be crowding the shoulder all up and down 9D."

Thus, is the senator not clued in to Scenic Hudson's very quiet plan for parking along 9D? Did Scenic Hudson not share this with him?

This is a disturbing discussion because I would bet that a huge majority of Philipstown residents are against any continued parking along Route 9D north of the Breakneck Tunnel. We know it is a dangerous, unsafe portion of the road, with drivers doing U-turns, back-parking and causing a situation known far and wide as an accident waiting to happen. Why is Scenic Hudson committed to this self-sabotaging plan? And why should we trust them with their other plans, which could cause irreparable damage to the rural character of Cold Spring?

Pete Salmansohn, *Garrison*

In the past few years the parking behavior on Route 9D has gone to new levels of chaos and congestion. What used to be excessive parallel parking on either side of the road became nose-in parking, particularly on the east side of the road, with people backing into the high-speed high-

way. This needs to be fixed.

The Breakneck Connector will implement a five-point strategy of traffic calming improvements in the mile north of the tunnel. This includes:

1. A new "Welcome to Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve" gateway sign on the hill as drivers descend toward Breakneck southbound, signaling the entry to a recreation use area.
2. Vegetated bump-outs to provide a safe space for pedestrians to gather as they wait to cross the road.
3. Crosswalks to control and direct street-crossing behavior.
4. Sidewalks to provide a safe route to crosswalks for those exiting their cars.
5. Formal parallel parking spaces, which will remove the opportunity for unsafe and illegal nose-in parking and constrict the road in a way that alerts drivers to slow down.

With this package of improvements installed, the state will lower the speed limit to 40 mph, which will help safety, as well.

As Sen. Skoufis noted, these measures will ameliorate the haphazard parking and congestion that has made for a dangerous and stressful condition for visitors and locals along 9D. Whereas 250 cars might have squeezed themselves along the road, the new design will allow for 77 cars in painted parallel spaces. Even with an additional 36 spaces in parking lots, the number of cars parked in that area will be greatly reduced, with people directed to find overflow parking at Dutchess Manor and other points north and take a shuttle.

We are grateful for the state support and the senator who stepped up as a champion to bring the resources needed to advance this overdue and much needed improvement to public infrastructure and safety at Breakneck.

For those interested in learning more about the planned improvements, visit hhft.org, where you can find lots of info and watch a recorded public presentation from 2020. We'll also be having a public meeting with the Cold Spring Village Board on May 25. Hope to see you there!

Amy Kacala, *Poughkeepsie**Kacala is executive director of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.*

The Fjord Trail: Good or Bad for Cold Spring?

Jack Goldstein, who chairs the Cold Spring Planning Board, has been outspoken about plans to connect the village and Beacon with the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. He was interviewed this week by reporter Michael Turton. For responses from the Fjord Trail's executive director and director of development and community engagement to criticisms of the project, see their letters to the editor on Pages 6 and 7. The HHFT is scheduled to address the Cold Spring Village Board on May 25.

Are you speaking here as chair of the Planning Board or as a village resident?

The Planning Board has been discussing the HHFT at its public meetings. If a question pertains to something the board has addressed, I'll answer as its chair. Also, the board has authorized me to investigate the [potential impacts of] HHFT, but if a question pertains to an issue the Planning Board hasn't reached a consensus on, I'll speak as an individual.

Do you think the Fjord Trail will be of net benefit?

I can't answer that question at this point. But speaking as an individual, I do not think it will be of net benefit to the Village of Cold Spring.

The Planning Board typically comments on proposed development within the village boundaries. Should it play a role in the Fjord Trail, which will extend to Beacon?

The Village Code authorizes the Planning Board to investigate matters relating to planning and development in Cold Spring. The Fjord Trail is a 7.5-mile linear development of which approximately half is in the Town of Philipstown, in which Cold Spring is located.

It is a large, unified project that will affect our interests. In this case, the role of the Planning Board is to investigate, and if it so chooses, share its findings with the Village Board and the public. Our discussions to date are available at coldspringny.gov.

Are there avenues for formal input from the planning boards of the four municipalities along the trail's proposed route — Cold Spring, Philipstown, Fishkill and Beacon?

That is a question for the HHFT, but, speaking personally, in my experience there are always avenues. Nothing could be simpler than to share facts in a timely way.

Won't the state-mandated Environmental Quality Review address many concerns related to the trail?

The Planning Board hasn't yet gone into the matter of environmental reviews. I'm speaking as an individual who knows enough about best practices to be concerned. HHFT is effectively segmenting their environmental review by beginning in the middle, in the Breakneck Ridge area. They are sophisticated people. They understand the implications. Again, my opinion and my words: The village is a sitting duck with no resources to deal with the overcrowding the trail will produce.

What concerns you about the work being done at Dockside Park, which will serve as a gateway to the HHFT?

I expressed concern over the secrecy in which the state parks department designed Dockside, and its lack of candor since. I used the boat ramp and its potential negative impacts on traffic and parking as one example of how little thought the parks department has given to Cold Spring as a stakeholder. The

same can be said of the HHFT.

Can an increase in Metro-North Railroad ridership alleviate concerns over traffic and parking posed by the trail?

Speaking for myself: If successful in its own eyes, HHFT will significantly increase both car and train traffic. It is just common sense. That is what it is meant to do. HHFT started at the local level to conserve the trails and improve public safety. It has ballooned into a grandiose plan for a destination amusement park — my view. Do we want that here? At least, shouldn't we be asked before the state awards it \$20 million?

Has the potential impact of the Fjord Trail been adequately documented in your view?

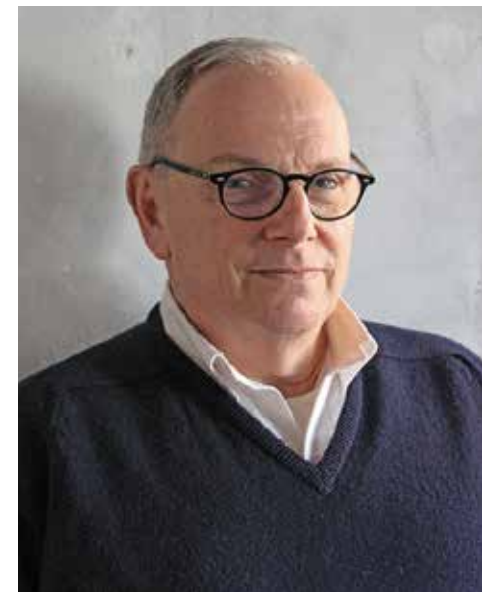
No.

What is your biggest concern; what would you like changed in the trail's design?

My personal concern is that the over-tourism intentionally generated by the project, as planned, will destroy the quality of life in our village. I would like to see HHFT improve their work product to prevent that. Cold Spring, precariously balanced and geographically confined, is an organic, living space, every bit as fragile and endangered as any trail, just as rare and just as important. Not to mention the village lies entirely within a local and federal historic district.

You helped formulate Cold Spring's effort to deal with its parking problem. Do we know how the Fjord Trail will affect parking in the village?

Speaking as someone who worked on that project with other citizens, in my view,



Jack Goldstein

File photo by Alison Rooney

it will make it worse.

Several public meetings have been held over the years and there is no shortage of opinions on the Fjord Trail. Hasn't public input been adequate?

Actually, there is a shortage of opinions on the Fjord Trail. The public meetings were held years ago. The project has been totally "re-imagined" — their term — behind closed doors during the last five years, with no external communications. In my view, timely public involvement is an obligation and should be part of such major projects.

Is there still time to improve communications as plans for the Fjord Trail go forward?

I don't see any other option than for HHFT to make time, unless they wish to cause irrevocable damage to the home of 2,000 people. That outcome is not in their mission statement, nor would it be a legacy of which they will be proud.

Override *(from Page 1)*

and Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery, where Garrison sends its high school students who attend public schools.

“We’re at a crossroads,” said Superintendent Carl Albano. “The district has to decide if they’d like to maintain all of the quality programs and services and if they’d like to maintain the choice of two quality high schools.”

Sarah Tormey, president of the Garrison school board, said she fears that failure to pass the override will result in the loss of important, non-mandated programs. “We can cut art. We can cut band and environmental education. We can cut all of these things. But it doesn’t make us competitive with our neighboring districts.”

Many residents say they support the budget. “Without this override, our kids, our community, our school will suffer,” said Ned Rauch, president of the Garrison School PTA, speaking at the April 6 board meeting.

But others question the size of the proposed increase. “I’m voting ‘no’ to send a message,” said Linda Lomonaco, a longtime Garrison resident, who thinks the district spends too much on administration. “There is a whole set of the population that thinks this is ridiculous.”

In a letter to the editor of *The Current*, another resident, Lily Essely, wrote: “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 [in increased taxes] is a lot of money.”

K-8 Districts and Increases

Below are 11 New York districts, including Garrison, that send their students to high schools elsewhere, along with their proposed 2022-23 tax levies and the percentage increase. Among this group, only Garrison is seeking an override.

	Students	Cost per pupil	Tax Levy (Millions)	% increase
East Moriches (Long Island)	683	\$22,100	\$21.4	0
Greenwood Lake (Orange)	446	\$37,800	\$17.6	3.9
Lyncourt (Onondaga)	391	\$22,000	\$65.2	3.2
Wynantskill (Rensselaer)	370	\$18,700	\$57.8	2.1
Montauk (Long Island)	334	\$62,339	\$16.8	0.5
Pocantico Hills (Westchester)	309	\$57,100	\$25.4	-0.5
Menands (Albany)	307	\$18,100	\$74.7	2.9
Garrison (Putnam)	294	\$42,000	\$10.6	9.2
Tuckahoe (Long Island)	288	\$49,600	\$19.2	1.9
Wheelerville (Fulton)	114	\$27,800	\$25.3	2.6
Lake Pleasant (Hamilton)	77	\$51,100	\$39.4	1.2

Source: New York Department of Education; State Comptroller

How did Garrison, which boasts the lowest taxes in Putnam County, find itself needing to raise so much more money to educate about 300 students next year?

The answer is a story of inflation, the formula-driven world of New York public-school finance, and the challenges of being a small, well-off, K-8 district with little control over large portions of its budget, especially the cost of sending its graduating middle school students to high school.

of how much the district relies on property taxes rather than state and federal funding. On average, school districts statewide receive 58 percent of their revenue from local taxes, according to the ASBO. But it’s harder for wealthier districts to get state and federal aid, Cechniki noted.

Indeed, Garrison gets far less state and federal aid than the average. Property taxes accounted for 83 percent of its revenue and would rise to 86 percent under the proposed budget. At Haldane — another district considered by the state to be “low need” — property taxes account for 80 percent of revenue.

By contrast, Beacon — considered by the state to be an “average need” district — gets 56 percent of its \$78.6 million budget from property taxes and 38 percent from state aid, according to Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi.

Garrison’s state aid this year was cut by nearly \$100,000, although it did get a one-time injection of money last month after lobbying Albany. By contrast, Haldane’s aid rose by nearly \$360,000, and Mahopac, Carmel, Putnam Valley and Brewster received a total of \$2 million.

No high school

Another issue driving Garrison’s proposed increase is that it has lost control over the cost of sending students to high school, particularly Haldane.

One of the district’s selling points is that its eighth grade students can choose between Haldane and O’Neill High School in Highland Falls. “People move here because we have high school choice,” said Tormey.

The costs of sending students to O’Neill has remained stable, dropping slightly this year before an expected 5 percent increase to \$16,980 per student for 2022-23.

Haldane has become costlier. Before this year, Garrison and Haldane had an agreement that stabilized what Garrison pays. After that agreement expired, Haldane began charging based on a state formula that increased prices by 54 percent over two years, to \$21,473 per student in 2022-23.

Philip Benante, the superintendent for

Haldane, said the increase is justified. “We feel that the program we offer has a particular value to it and that the state rate best reflects that value.”

On the other hand, Benante said he is sympathetic to Garrison’s challenges and doesn’t want to lose its students. “We want to maintain a relationship with them.”

To do so, he said, Haldane is willing to reduce the costs for 2022-23 to the state rate calculated for 2020-21.

Albano said he would like an “agreement that controls costs and makes them predictable.” He said he has made progress in discussions with both O’Neill and Haldane but that none of the school boards has approved any agreements.

Garrison has added to the ballot a measure asking voters to permit the district to enter into a longer-term agreement with Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery.

Low rates

Even if the override is approved on May 17, the Garrison tax levy will remain low relative to its neighbors and most districts statewide.

The Garrison levy is \$9.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which means that the owner of a \$500,000 property pays \$4,875 annually. If voters approve the override, it would rise to \$10.64 per \$1,000.

That would still be the lowest rate in Putnam County, by far. The next-lowest rate is Haldane at \$17.01 per \$1,000. By contrast, Brewster property owners pay \$27.74 per \$1,000. And in other areas of the state, tax rates get much higher. For example, property owners in the Levittown district in Nassau County pay \$42.52 per \$1,000.

In terms of neighboring counties, Jimick points out that Garrison’s tax rate is the second-lowest of the 84 districts in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland and Orange counties. If the override is approved, Garrison would be the third-lowest behind Rye City and Pocantico Hills.

Even with such low taxes, Garrison still spends about \$42,000 per student; the state average is \$23,500. Haldane spends \$27,000. Beacon spends \$21,000. But a survey of other K-8 districts shows that many do have higher-than-average per-student costs, including Montauk on Long Island (\$62,000), Pocantico Hills in Westchester (\$57,000) and Lake Pleasant in Hamilton County (\$51,000).

The fact that Garrison is able to raise so much per student and still have the lowest property taxes in the area is a consequence of having a wealthy tax base. “If the properties weren’t worth so much in Garrison, there would definitely be a higher rate,” said Jimick.

Albano points out that the high cost per pupil is driven in part by the district’s size. “The economies of scale make it expensive to run a small district,” he said. For example, the district must pay administrative costs as well as the costs of educating students with special needs. Larger districts absorb those costs more efficiently, he said.

Albano added that with such a small district he often hears discussions of whether it would make sense to combine with a larger district such as Haldane. “Could you merge?” he asked. “Absolutely. But the Garrison community probably wouldn’t want it because it would increase the taxes well beyond what we’re proposing.”

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16 W. Main St.

Number of units: 62

Status: The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the environmental impacts of the four-story project, at the corner of West Main and Bank streets, at its Tuesday (May 10) meeting.

Beacon Views

Number of units: 40

Status: This Conklin Street project has been on and off Planning Board agendas since 2019. Access to the site has been an issue, but materials submitted to the board indicate that the developer plans to work with the new owners of a Townsend Street subdivision to establish access via Townsend. The developer has also reduced the footprint from 43 townhouses to 40 and will increase wetland mitigation efforts to address environmental concerns at the site. A public hearing on the environmental impacts of the proposal will continue at the Planning Board's May 10 meeting.



1113 Wolcott Ave.

Number of units: N/A

Status: Plans call for converting the former Reformed Church of Beacon into a 350-person-capacity event space with restaurant and bar. Developers appeared before the Zoning Board of Appeals last month seeking a waiver for 104 of 136 required off-street parking spaces. Project officials have said they expect to make up the shortfall through a combination of nearby public lots, street parking and the Metro-North station. The applicant plans to have attendants on duty during events to ensure attendees don't cross Wolcott (Route 9D) except at designated crosswalks.

Booming Beacon

Updates on development (and recreation) in the city

By Jeff Simms

There's been a modest uptick in projects before the Beacon Planning Board in recent months. Here are updates on several that are pending.



4 Hanna Lane

Number of units: N/A

Status: The property owner is seeking a special-use permit to create an indoor/outdoor event space. A portion of the existing workshop building would be used for performances for up to 99 people, with the adjacent lawn (not the front lawn that faces Route 52) used as an exterior venue for concerts, weddings, rehearsal dinners or artisan markets.

There are 34 parking spaces on the property or the adjacent property, which is controlled by the applicant. There are 49 more spaces owned by Tallix Condominiums on the adjacent property that can be leased on a per-event basis. The applicant noted that it secured permits from the city for its outdoor events last year and received no noise complaints.



364 Main St.

Number of units: 20

Status: The Planning Board approved this three-story mixed-use proposal last month. Initially proposed as a four-story building, it was downsized and will now replace the former Citizens Bank with retail on the ground floor and a total of 20 apartments on the second and third floors.

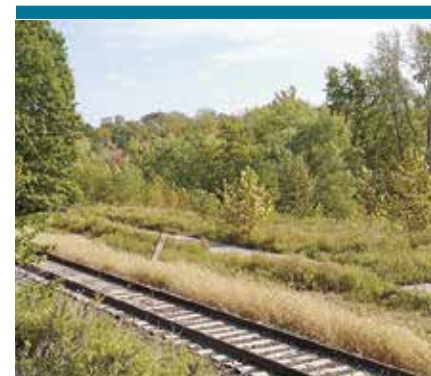


2 Cross St.

Number of units: 18

Status: First submitted to the Planning Board as a four-story building in 2019, the developer now proposes a three-story building at the corner of Main and Cross streets. It would include retail on the street level and 18 apartments for seniors, half of them below-market-rate, on the two top floors. The building will be constructed using energy-efficient "passive" design standards, including a green roof.

172 Main St. will retain its facade and be integrated into the new building, while 4 Cross St. will be demolished and replaced with new construction. A publicly accessible "plaza" at the corner of Main and Cross will remain. The applicant has planned parking behind the building, in a lot at 10 Cross St. and in a public parking lot at 152 Main St., but city consultants have asked for more information about the other uses that rely on the Cross Street and municipal parking lots.



248 Tioronda Ave.

Number of units: 64, plus 25,400 square feet of commercial space

Status: The Planning Board approved the project in 2020, and the Zoning Board of Appeals held public hearings last year on the developer's request to build residential buildings before the commercial component. The developer said he was having difficulty securing a loan for the commercial building without having a tenant in place, but tenants had been reluctant to commit to the space due to the uncertain timing of its construction, because of supply-chain shortages.

ZBA members expressed concern that the commercial building would never be constructed if the variance was approved, while residents said the developer seemed to be looking for a loophole in the city's zoning, which requires a commercial component for projects in the Fishkill Creek area. The hearing was adjourned in August and the developer has not returned to the ZBA.



Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail

Status: The trail is slated to receive \$50,000 in state funding for stabilization and remediation of the Bridge Street bridge, which would create what organizers call a critical pedestrian link between neighborhoods on the east and west sides of Fishkill Creek, and allow access to planned and existing segments of the trail on the east side, and to existing trail networks and passive areas of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve and Hiddenbrooke preserve.

Organizers recently received plans describing the trail's route over the remaining parcels between The Roundhouse and the Bridge Street bridge — parcels which represent a large gap in the greenway, and from which easements will be needed. Construction at 23-28 Creek Drive — the city's former Department of Public Works facility — is nearing completion, and will include a greenway segment which will be open to the public.

Tioronda Estate

Number of units: N/A

Status: Developers plan to restore the historic Tioronda Estate, the home of the former Craig House psychiatric facility, as an inn and spa, with a restaurant; "estate-caliber gardens," according to materials submitted to the Planning Board; and cottage rentals. The Craig House mansion, built in 1859, will be renovated with "core hotel facilities" and four hotel rooms. An addition to the mansion will include eight more rooms, while a new, four-story spa building will feature 63 more. The spa will replace a 1978 accessory building, which will be demolished.

Future phases will see resort cottages constructed, along with a "micro-farm" and the restoration of the Tioronda School. The project proposes 272 parking spaces near the hotel, spa and restaurant.

AROUND TOWN



▲ **SURPRISE SEND-OFF** — The Beacon Police Department recently surprised Vincent Cervone, the owner of Cervone's Auto Body, to celebrate his retirement after more than 50 years in business. If an officer needed a car towed, Cervone usually got the call. *Photo by Jeff Simms*

◀ **STREET EXPERIMENT** — On Arbor Day (April 29), Charles Day, along with Tony Bardes, Kory Riesterer and Taro Ietaka — all members of the Cold Spring Tree Advisory Board — grafted four species of flowering trees onto branches of village-owned Callery pears. The mission: to slowly replace the invasive tree without creating gaps in the canopy.



▲ **CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT** — Brian Cookstra of Cold Spring shared this photo of his daughter, Ellie. During a walk back from Angie's Bake Shop, he said, she discovered a new favorite hangout on Main Street. *Photos provided (2)*

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Manitoga / The Russel Wright
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The Calendar



Hana Yilma Godine in her studio in Addis Ababa

Photo by Nathanale Taye

Bringing Ethiopia to Beacon

Following residency, artist's work on display

By Alison Rooney

How women inhabit their own spaces, when they occupy areas delineated by their gender, is the focus of many of the works by Ethiopian painter Hana Yilma Godine on display at Fridman Gallery Beacon through May 31.

The show, *Substance in Ethiopia*, features recent work Godine created during a three-month residency in Beacon. It includes wintry landscapes and lush florals, along with the Ethiopian-set studies, often made with oils and acrylics on canvas with elements of collage and textiles.

Some of the paintings connect with those presented earlier this year in a solo show, *A Hair Salon in Addis Ababa*, that ran simultaneously at Fridman in Manhattan and the nearby Rachel Uffner Gallery.

It has been a quick transition for Godine from graduate student — she received her master of fine arts from Boston University in 2020 after studying at the Ale School of Fine Arts and Design at Addis Ababa University — to professional artist. Her first solo show, *Space Within Space*, opened at Fridman soon after she graduated.

In the work she exhibited earlier this year, Godine depicts and celebrates the domestic spaces in which women can let down their guard in Ethiopia, particularly social settings in Addis Ababa in which men are not present.

Much of the work she created in Beacon focuses on fabric, which she has described as “a metaphor for the fabric of life, reflecting the multiple fashions, languages, religions and celebrations in Ethiopia. Experimenting with the body as a substance creates a connection that nature, weather, environmental phenomenon and culture have with love embodied in us.”

She notes that the earliest known human fossil, dating to 3.3 million years, was found in Ethiopia in 2000, making her country “the likely place of origin of the human race and of the body.”

Godine’s paintings borrow from the traditions of Ethiopian iconography, particularly in regard to flatness, the elongation of faces, vivid colors and specific light. However, the subject matter, bold colors and use of fabrics make it clear that these are works of the present.

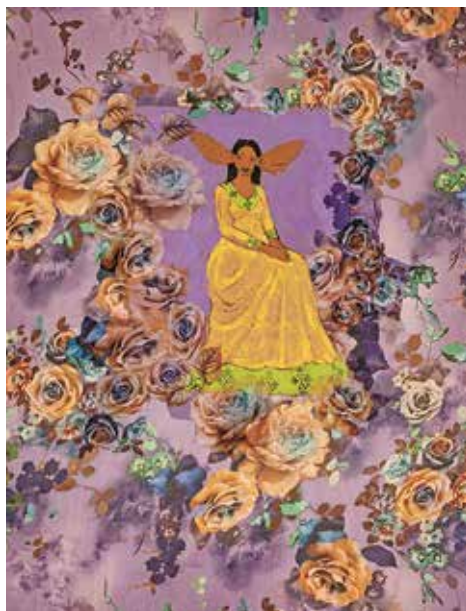
The artist spent her time in Beacon living in an apartment and working in a studio behind the Fridman, and brought along marketplace fabrics from Ethiopia typically used to make dresses. “I look forward to pinning them up on a wall of my new studio and considering what they will become,” she told Art.net.

Godine has returned to Ethiopia, where she keeps her studio. Her country has been wracked by civil war, although there now exists what could be described as a shaky truce.

Fridman Gallery Beacon, at 475 Main St., is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. See fridmangallery.com.



“Substance in Ethiopia 6”



“Substance in Ethiopia 7”



“Substance in Ethiopia 1”



“Substance in Ethiopia 2”



“Substance in Ethiopia 4”

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 7 Donations for Ukrainian Refugees

CARMEL
9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Paladin Center
39 Seminary Hill Road
putnamcountycares.com/ukraineaid
The local Polish community and Putnam County will partner to send aid to refugees sheltering in Poland. See the website for a list of needed supplies. Also SUN 8.

SAT 14 Birdathon

PHILIPSTOWN
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

For 24 hours, teams will record as many species as possible in this annual fundraiser for the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. *Cost: \$20 per individual or \$80 per team*

SAT 14 Funminster Dog Show

PATTERSON
Noon – 2:30 p.m. Recreation Center
65 Front St. | putnamservicedogs.org
Friendly dogs of any breed or age can compete in 10 categories, such as best tail, in this event to support the training of service dogs for conditions other than blindness. The entry fee is \$20. *Cost: \$15 adults (\$5 ages 12 and younger)*

SUN 15 Run and Walk with the Dogs

BEACON
10 a.m. Memorial Park
runsignup.com/Race/NY/Beacon/ARF5K
Bring your well-behaved dog and run or walk at this 5K to benefit the Animal Rescue Foundation. *Cost: \$30*

SUN 15 Community Safety Day

BEACON
Noon – 4 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | beaconvac.org
The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps will share info and offer free bike helmets and fittings for children.

SUN 15 Flower Moon Eclipse Gathering

GARRISON
9:30 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
Watch the full lunar eclipse on the grounds, with guidance from Lisa DiMarzo, and a celestial magic lantern show. *Cost: \$24 (\$21 seniors, \$13 ages 5 to 18, discounts for members)*



Tom Rush, May 14

MUSIC

SAT 7 Sixties Sing-A-Long

COLD SPRING
7 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St.

Bring the family and sing along to Beatles and Motown songs with a band led by Dar Williams. *Free*

SAT 7 The Little Things

NEWBURGH
7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform an assortment of miniatures at Aquinas Hall with a program that includes Bach, Debussy, Copland and Liadov. *Cost: \$35 to \$50 (\$25 seniors, students free)*

SAT 7 Prognosis

BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The American Pink Floyd Show covers iconic songs from *The Wall*, *Dark Side of the Moon* and other albums. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 7 The Last of the Mo'Ricans

BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The band will perform traditional Puerto Rican jibaro music. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

MON 9 Ray Blue Group

BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon
The band will perform as part of the weekly jazz series. *Cost: \$15*

FRI 13 Damn Tall Buildings

COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
As part of the chapel's Restoration Roadhouse series, the bluegrass band — with Max Capistran (guitar), Sasha Dubyk (bass) and Avery Ballotta (fiddle) — will perform. *Cost: \$25*



FRI 13 Eileen Ivers Band

BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The woman who has been dubbed “the Jimi Hendrix of the violin” will perform songs from her latest release, *Beyond the Bog Road*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

FRI 13 In This Moment

POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. MJN Convention Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
The woman-fronted heavy metal band will perform. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

FRI 13 Orleans

PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Founders John Hall and Lance Hoppen will be joined by Lane Hoppen, Fly Amero and Charlie Morgan to perform 1970s hits such as “Still the One” and “Dance with Me,” along with other music from their four-decade career. *Cost: \$32.50 to \$49.50*

FRI 13 Rabbbits Record Release

BEACON
8 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St.
lightcultcryptoclub.com
The band will celebrate its tenth album, *Grey Matters*.

SAT 14 Harry Bolick

PUTNAM VALLEY
6 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Bolick will sign copies of his book, *Fiddle Tunes from Mississippi*, and perform with the Mississippi Travelers String Band. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 14 Tom Rush

BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The folk singer is celebrating his 50th year of songwriting and playing. *Cost: \$50 (\$55 door)*

SAT 14 Damn the Torpedoes

PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The tribute band will create a Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' concert experience. *Cost: \$25 to \$35*

SUN 15 Michael Davidman

COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The pianist will perform a program that includes works by Chopin, Couperin, Franck and Ravel. *Free*

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 7 Riverkeeper Sweep

BEACON
7 – 10 a.m. Dennings Point
199 Dennings Ave. | riverkeeper.org
Bring work gloves, water and a mask to help clean up the park during New York's I Love My Park Day. Meet at the loop trailhead.

SAT 7 Riverkeeper Sweep

COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D | riverkeeper.org
Bring work gloves, water and a mask to help clean up the park during New York's I Love My Park Day.

SAT 7 Invasive Plant Sweep

GARRISON
9 a.m. – Noon. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
Volunteers who help clean up the Woodland Trail will receive free admission to the grounds for the day.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 7 Stunt Dog Experience

PEEKSKILL
1 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Watch tricks, challenges and athletic feats performed by dogs trained by Chris Perondi. *Cost: \$42*

SAT 7 Off Peak

ARMONK
3 & 8 p.m. North Castle Library
914-271-2811 | hudsonstage.com
Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson of Garrison star in this premiere of a new play by Brenda Withers about old flames who reconnect on the evening commute. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 students and seniors, \$10 student rush)*

SAT 7 The Cake

GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
This Bekah Brunstetter play, directed by Christine Bokhour, is about a pastry chef's reaction to a same-sex wedding in her family. Also SUN 8. Continues weekends through May 22. *Cost: \$25 (\$22 students, seniors)*

SAT 7 Nick Di Paolo

PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The comedian and radio talk-show host will perform stand-up. *Cost: \$25 to \$37.50*



SAT 7 Young Frankenstein

WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countyplayers.org
The classic Mel Brooks comedy has been adapted for the stage. Also FRI 13, SAT 14, SUN 15. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$25 (\$22 seniors, military, children 11 and younger)*

SAT 14
Student Film Festival
BEACON

6:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
foundationforbeaconschools.org

Students from the Beacon City School District will present 2-minute films at this inaugural event. *Cost: \$8 (\$4 children)*

SAT 14
Mabel's Married Life
COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

The Butterfield Library's Silent Film series will feature the 1914 film with Charlie Chaplin and Mabel Normand, and live musical accompaniment by Cary Brown.

SAT 14
The Artichoke
BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
artichokeshow.com

Drew Prochaska will host this installment of the monthly storytelling series with Andrew McGill, Julie Polk, Jess Salomon, Adam Selbst, Nina Lesiga and Adam Linn. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 for recorded show)*

SUN 15
Raphael Kosek
PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

The poet will read from her latest chapbook, *Harmless Encounters*. An open mic will follow.

KIDS & FAMILY

WED 11
Squishy Circuits
BEACON

3:45 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Students in grades 1 to 5 are invited to use conductor dough to make a circuit with LED lights and batteries. Registration required.

THURS 12
Podcast Workshop
BEACON

5:30 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

In the first of four sessions, teens will learn how to produce a podcast with Brandon Lillard, co-host of *This is Beacon*. Registration required.

THURS 12
Paw Pals Read to a Dog
GARRISON

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children can practice their reading skills with a non-judgmental listener. Registration required.



Designing Nature, May 13

FRI 13
Ree Play Sale
BEACON

9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
University Settlement Camp
724 Wolcott Ave. | weeplayproject.org

This tag sale of gently used children's clothing, gear, books and games will benefit programs for children. Also SAT 14, SUN 15.

SAT 14
Kids' Craft Connection
GARRISON

9:30 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Children and families can take a flashlight tour of the mansion and learn about toys and games, then make a ball-and-cup craft. *Cost: \$24 (\$13 children, members discounted)*

SAT 14
College Essay Workshop

COLD SPRING
1 – 4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Eric Tipler will share tips for engaging college admissions officers and students will write a first draft. Registration required.

PLANT SALES

SAT 7
Plant Sale

CARMEL
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

This annual sale by the Master Gardeners at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County will include vegetables, perennials, native pollinator plants, herbs and baskets and gifts.

SAT 7
Plant Sale
FISHKILL

9 a.m. – Noon. Town Hall
807 Route 52
facebook.com/verplanckgardenclub

This sale, organized by the Verplanck Garden Club, will include perennials, herbs, annuals and gifts.

SUN 15
Plant Sale
GARRISON

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Recreation Center
107 Glenclyfe Drive
philipstowngardenclubny.org

The Philipstown Garden Club will have a large selection



of annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables and hanging baskets.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 7
Piero Gilardi: Tappeto-Natura
PHILIPSTOWN

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

The sculptor's first solo exhibit in the U.S. of his "nature carpets" will continue through the end of the year. Dancers will perform at noon, 12:30 & 1 p.m. on both days of the opening weekend and then monthly. Also SUN 8. *Free*

SAT 7
Alfred Schwartz | Carla Rae Johnson
GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Schwartz's exhibit of photographs, *No Parity*, range from 1950 to 1994 and will include urban landscapes and street portraits. Johnson's work from her *Séance Series* will include drawings and sculpture. Through June 12.

FRI 13
Designing Nature
GARRISON

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Manitoga
584 Route 9D | 845-424-3812
visitmanitoga.org

The Italian design duo of Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin will exhibit their work in collaboration with Magazzino Italian Art. Through Nov. 14.

FRI 13
Trudy Benson | Russell Tyler
BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art

The couple will share their geometric paintings in their first exhibit with the gallery. Through June 19.

SAT 14
Mural Show
POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon – 8 p.m. Cryptic Gallery
358 Main St. | thecrypticco.com

The art and tech collective will feature the work of 12 outdoor muralists along with music, children's art projects and food trucks.

SAT 14
Hello My Name Is | Chomp'd
BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
clutter.co

With custom toys by 7 Sketches, 5th Turtle, Hot Actor and the Chomp Group. Through June 3.

SAT 14
Daniel Berlin
BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Berlin's paintings and monoprints will be on view, along with works by collective members and a curated group show, *Flux*. Through June 5.

TALKS AND TOURS

SAT 7
History Hike
PUTNAM VALLEY

10 a.m. Fahnestock State Park
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Cassie Ward, director of the Putnam History Museum, and Dan Ricci, the Putnam Valley historian, will lead an 8.5-mile hike along Sunken Mile Road and discuss historical events that happened along the way. Register online. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members)*

SAT 7
The Art of Flower Arranging
PHILIPSTOWN

4:30 – 7 p.m. Stonecrop Garden
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

Frances Palmer will discuss

her new book, *Life in the Studio: Inspiration and Lessons on Creativity*, and lead a workshop. An exhibit of her pottery and photographs are on display through May 30. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 members)*

WED 11
Beaver Ecology
MILLBROOK

7 p.m. Via Zoom | bit.ly/cary-forest

The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies will host this discussion of the role of beavers in an ecosystem, their history in New York and how we can coexist.

SAT 14
History Hike
PUTNAM VALLEY

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Granite Mountain Preserve
bit.ly/cce-guided-hikes

Master Gardener volunteers will lead a 5-mile hike to Lookout Rock and share history along the way.

SAT 14
Mount Beacon Incline Railway Exhibit
BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
61 Leonard St. | beaconhistorical.org

Stories, photos and artifacts from the Incline Railway will be on exhibit as part of an open house and ribbon-cutting for the new Meyer Galleries and Johnson Library. The dedication of the society's new home, named to honor Robert Murphy, will take place at 1 p.m. The exhibit will run through July 30.

SUN 15
Vegetable Gardening
PUTNAM VALLEY

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

Chris Bonura will share how to grow food in any space. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

CIVIC

MON 9
City Council
BEACON

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

MON 9
Dutchess Legislature
POUGHKEEPSIE

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

MON 9
Budget Hearing
BEACON

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

WED 11
Village Board
COLD SPRING

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

We are back!



Annual Plant Sale

NEW LOCATION: Philipstown Rec Center, 107 Glenclyfe Dr, Rte 9D, Garrison

SUNDAY MAY 15, 2022

10 AM - 3 PM RAIN OR SHINE

Pollinator Plants
Annuals & Perennials
Member Plants • Natives
Vegetables & Herbs
Hanging Baskets

Garrison Art Center

Alfred Schwartz
No Parity

Carla Rae Johnson
From The Séance Series



May 7 - June 12, 2022
Opening Reception Saturday, May 7, 5-7 pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Sunday 10-5
Garrisonartcenter.org



Montesanto

Kid Alert

Two New Children's Librarians!



Morgan

Howland: Stephanie Montesanto

By Nix Spodek

After joking with her partner that it might be fun to move to Beacon, Stephanie Montesanto noticed that the Howland Public Library was hiring.

One thing led to another, and, after 12 years at Westbury Memorial Public Library on Long Island, the quip became reality: She was hired to succeed Ginny Figlia, the Howland children's librarian who retired in 2021 after 31 years in the position.

"I became a librarian to combine the things I loved the most — working with kids and reading," Montesanto says, adding that she finds it especially rewarding to watch as children grow up into readers and library lovers.

Some of those aspects that drew her to the profession disappeared with the virtual programming of the pandemic, so she is excited to form personal connections again.

"So far, the best part of being in Beacon is how welcoming everyone has been," she says. Her hope is to retain some of what Figlia introduced but put her own twist on it. She also appreciates the "more laid back" feel in Beacon, in part because it's a smaller library than in Westbury.

Librarians must always gauge community interest when coming up with programming, Montesanto says. Before the shutdown, there were story times, crafts and similar programs. Then librarians had to pivot to virtual and "learn very quickly how to promote the library, and the things we do for people, in a different way."

As the restrictions loosen, Montesanto says she is eager to connect with members of the community, especially as the mask mandate lifts and she can see people's faces — many for the first time.

"I'm so excited to do in-person programming, especially as the weather gets nicer," she says, noting that story time and baby time will be returning. In addition, "I'm interested in doing programming centered around STEAM, particularly the art aspect," she says, using the acronym for science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Montesanto, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, says there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work by the staff at Howland for the community. They also try to create a kind and open environment that is a welcoming space for everyone, she says.

Desmond-Fish: Veronica Morgan

By Lily Zuckerman

Veronica Morgan, the new children's librarian at the Desmond-Fish in Garrison, is no stranger to the library: She worked there as a circulation desk clerk in 2014 before leaving for a job at Rose Memorial Library in Stony Point.

Morgan grew up in Highlands Falls, where she attended O'Neill High School. As a student, she gained her first experience in a library when she worked at the circulation desk, organized and shelved books and assisted with children's programs at Highlands Falls Library.

At Hofstra University, Morgan majored in English literature. After graduating, she worked briefly in retail before landing a job with the National Park Service at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in Hyde Park. While there, she realized how much she loved working at libraries.

Morgan enrolled at Long Island University, earning a master's degree in library science. Her first job was as a children's librarian at a New York Public Library branch on Staten Island. She then moved to the Desmond-Fish and Rose Memorial before becoming youth services librarian at

the Poughkeepsie public library.

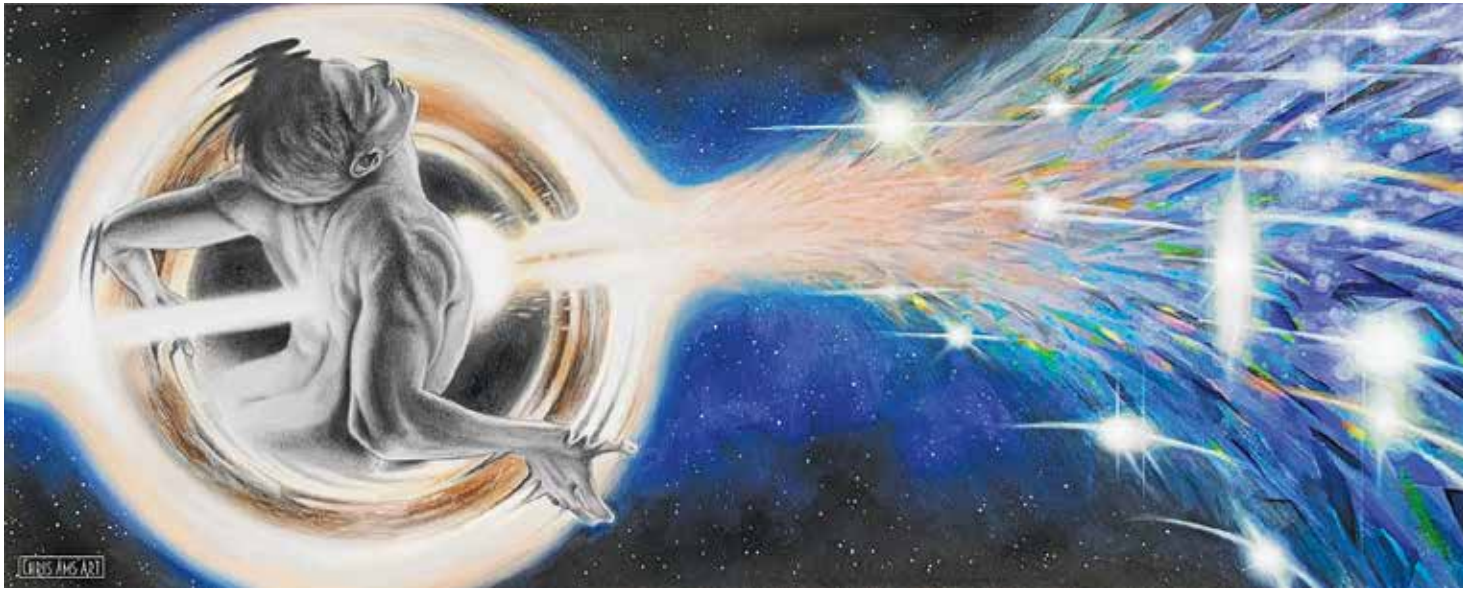
When Lucille Merry retired last year as Desmond-Fish children's librarian, Morgan knew she had to apply.

"Not only is it one of my favorite libraries, but I was really excited to work in the children's department," she says. "It is wonderful to share with children the books that I loved when I was younger. To see children discover books that they love and want to share with others is a really lovely thing."

Morgan says she hopes to launch a story time for babies and continue the relationships that library has with organizations and schools in the community. Morgan also hopes to refresh the collection by removing outdated books and ordering new copies of popular texts.

She says her favorite children's book is *Caps for Sale*, by Esphyr Slobodkina; she also loves *Sense and Sensibility*, by Jane Austen. In her free time, Morgan and her husband often watch Mets and Islanders games and snuggle with their three cats.

Spodek is a ninth grader at Beacon High School and Zuckerman, who lives in Garrison, is a sophomore at the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry. Both are members of The Current's Student Journalists Program.



"Prism" (Graphite, acrylics, oils)

The Artist Next Door

Chris Ams

By Alison Rooney

Chris Ams graduated in 2007 from Oakland University near Detroit with a degree in fine art and a focus on illustration.

Then he became a musician.

"Music brought me to New York City in 2010," says Ams. "I was playing in a jazz/funk/soul band and teaching art when a friend convinced me to move to Brooklyn. I'd only been to New York once, for a quick trip, but I decided to take a dive." Soon after the move, he and his band released an album, *Chris Ams & the Favored States*.

But there was never a question that art would remain part of his life, says Ams, who moved to Beacon two years ago and is one of the three organizers (with Darya Golubina and Evan Samuelson) of Beacon Open Studios, which will take place this year from July 22 to 24.

"Creative freedom is something I'm very invested in," he says. "I did some random freelance design gigs, working in publishing, film, even some theater where I had to build puppets."

Ams' drawings — a sampling of which can be viewed at chrisamsart.com — often depict fantastical worlds inhabited by creatures and the nature-filled environment they dwell in. With some, it's difficult to intuit whether they were created digitally or by hand, but most suggest a narrative. He has carved out a reputation as a children's book illustrator.

"Some authors come to me with a specific style in mind," he says. "I assume they like my style, but, still, it's their baby: They have an image in their mind of what they want it to look like. If they don't have a mental image of what a creature looks like and they hand over the reins, I approach it as a collaboration. I want to guide the ship but never would discredit anyone else's vision. At its best, we come to a mutual decision that we're excited to show to the world."

He says that the whimsy of his illustrations for children "stems from being a kid falling in love with artists like Chris Van Allsburg, who did *Jumanji*, and other literature and children's stories. As I got older



"Encounter at the Pond"

I focused on fine art, but a piece of me has always enjoyed exploring a side of me that is not always serious and realist.

"As artists, people judge your work based on three seconds of looking at it, so with most things I want to come across as creatively consistent, being open to different ideas and influences. It can be a challenging balancing act to update one's portfolio to reflect a continuous evolution."

“A piece of me has always enjoyed exploring a side of me that is not always serious and realist.”

During the decade he spent in Brooklyn, Ams says he felt a nagging need for the natural world. "I found myself reaching for the one single leaf outside the window in the city," he says. "I missed nature a lot and, probably because of the disconnect I had with nature, and knowing how the natural world can inform art-making, I started doing a lot of fine art, nature-themed pieces."

For years, Ams and his husband, composer Will Reynolds, had been coming to the Hudson Valley, considering it as a future home. The pandemic gave them the assist in making the move to Beacon in July

2020, along with Cosmo, their 7-year-old, 80-pound German shepherd/lab mix.

Ams, a former instructor at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History, continues to teach online. "A lot of people feel a healing capability to art-making work, focusing on creative freedom and getting in touch with feelings that are not able to be vocalized," he says. "I do a Sunday morning Zoom class in self-expressive painting and the students are forming their own community, connecting with each other."

He connected with Golubina soon after the move, hoping to get involved in Beacon Open Studios. When the pandemic prevented it from happening in 2021, they volunteered to help Beacon Arts "build a platform and add a music component. We brought in the River Valley Guild, which focuses on artisanal products; they are offering some outdoor space for artists who may not have their own studio to show their work. We got accepted into Upstate Arts Weekend."

"People here have so many visual influences, and it's a cool, energized community," he says. "We're so excited to showcase the talent up here in a way that stands out."

Although art is front and center, music is still a part of Ams' creative life. On July 8, he will be playing an acoustic set with guitarist Emilio Tostado at Reserva, on Main Street in Beacon. Ams says he is a contented Brooklyn-to-Beacon transplant. "I'm super grateful to have landed in such a beautiful place," he says.



"Prayer" (Digital)



Chris Ams in his studio Photo by Darya Golubina

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Small, Good Things

Everything Everywhere All at Once

By Joe Dizney

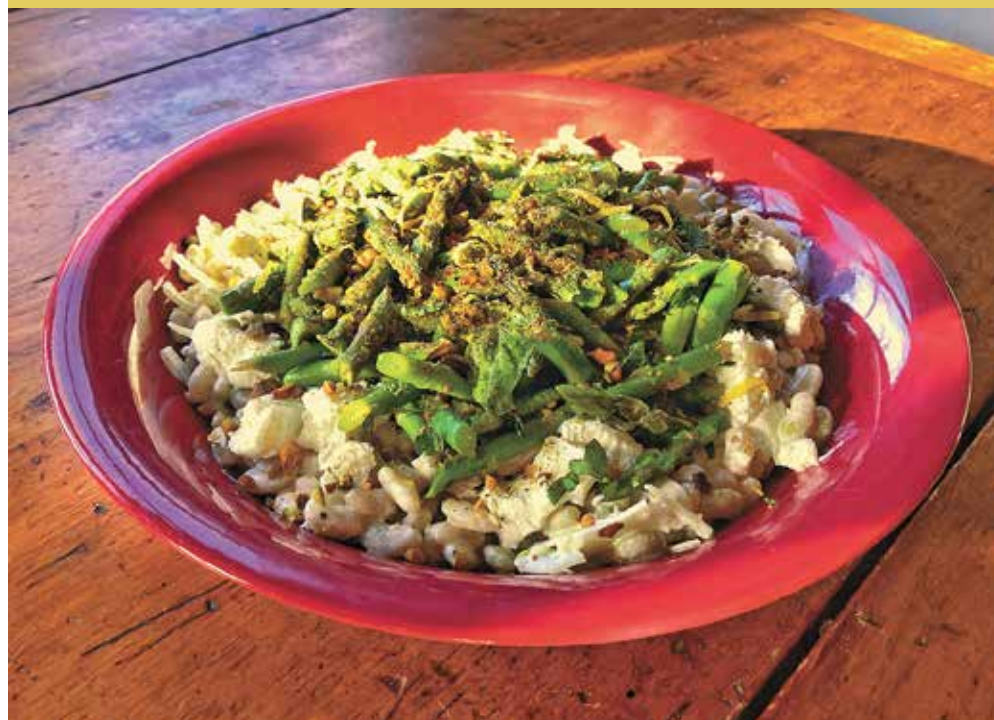
Although he probably wouldn't admit to it, Jerusalem-born Yotam Ottolenghi is a certified "celebrity chef," a reputation he deserves as the bestselling author or co-author of a host of cookbooks, *New York Times* columnist and co-owner of eponymous delis and restaurants that feature a vegetable-forward cuisine.



The food he espouses is a layered distillation of Middle Eastern flavors and textures, married to a Mediterranean palate and a Southern California (or Hudson Valley) farm-to-table sensibility.

This layering of ingredients, tastes and texture was recently evidenced in his *Times* recipe for a "chef's salad" of butter beans, tossed in a dressing of Greek yogurt with lemon and garlic, topped with a layer of crumbled feta, another layer of peas tossed

Salad of White Beans, Goat Cheese & Asparagus with Pistachio Dukkah



Serves 6

FOR THE DUKKAH

2 teaspoons coriander seeds
1 teaspoon fennel seeds
1½ teaspoon green peppercorns
½ cup roasted shelled pistachios
1 teaspoon dried basil
1 teaspoon dried mint

FOR THE SALAD

½ cup plain, whole-milk Greek yogurt
1 to 2 cloves garlic, grated
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
Salt and cracked white pepper
3 cups cooked white beans (I used flageolets; substitute cannellini, Great Northern whites or Navy beans.)
½ cup thin-sliced fennel or celery
½ pound blanched and cooled asparagus spears, bias cut into 1- to 1½-inch pieces
¼ cup fresh mint leaves, cut into a thin chiffonade
¼ cup fresh basil leaves, cut, as above
4 ounces goat cheese, crumbled

with olive oil, mint and dill, finished with a crunchy dukkah (a personal favorite small, good thing) composed of chopped toasted nuts, cracked seeds and spices and dried herbs.

A mashup of flavor and texture, the dish has no right to be as good as it is, with its jarred butter beans and frozen peas. I can't quarrel with the frozen peas — a culinary secret weapon that freezes well

and is readily available and inexpensive — but the butter beans are more problematic. To my experience, jarred beans always bring a bit of a discernable but unwelcomed taste, no matter how much you rinse them. I tried the recipe with frozen lima beans, blanched briefly in boiling water, drained and chilled, which at the time seemed more agreeable. But that opened up the recipe to digression and expansion, the result of which you see here.

Why couldn't this recipe or at least the tactics behind it be a conversation between the seasons? Dried beans, especially "fresh" dried beans, no more than perhaps a year old (not the fossilized things you find on supermarket shelves in plastic), cook up nicely with a bit of a "tooth" to them and offer the cook opportunities of choice in both variety and preparation. Keep an eye out at farmers' markets or look for Rancho Gordo or Purcell Mountain Farms products, both available online.

Instead of frozen peas, what about the asparagus just beginning to appear in green markets? In addition, make the fresh and dried herbs and spices talk to each other: Sliced fennel adds crunch to the beans and is echoed by substituting fennel seed for cumin in the dukkah, while fresh mint and basil is a better mix for the asparagus and mirrored by dried mint and basil in the dukkah. (Were it later in the season, tarragon would have been a great option.) While less assertive than salty feta, goat cheese's creaminess pulls things together nicely.

This layering approach to recipe composition can be a useful strategy for addressing the omnivore's *real* dilemma: balancing seasonality, variety, flavor and surprise with creativity and economy. Serve it on a bed of tender lettuces for a fully satisfying dinner salad, or as Ottolenghi himself would attest, as an excellent side dish to a roast salmon, lamb or pork headliner.

With a little imagination you really can have everything everywhere all at once.

1. For the dukkah: In a small pan, toast the coriander and fennel seeds stovetop over medium heat, shaking the pan until the seeds color and become fragrant (about 2 minutes). Transfer to a small bowl to cool; repeat with the peppercorns for 30 to 60 seconds, adding them to the same bowl as the seeds when done. Once cooled, add the spices, pistachios, dried basil and mint to a small food processor or mini-prep. Pulse to a rough crumble with larger bits of pistachio. Reserve.

2. For the salad: Whisk together yogurt, grated garlic, lemon juice, 1 to 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large bowl. Season to taste with salt and pepper and add beans and fennel (or celery). Using a spatula, gently fold the vegetables to coat in yogurt dressing, being careful not to mash the beans.

3. In another bowl, toss together asparagus, fresh mint and basil chiffonade, with a pinch of salt and a healthy glug of olive oil. (Add a splash of a sweetish white wine vinegar if you have it.)

4. To assemble, layer the dressed beans and fennel into a large shallow serving bowl or large concave plate. Scatter the goat cheese evenly over the surface of the beans. Layer the dressed asparagus and herbs over that, and top with a healthy (¼ to ½ cup) dusting of the pistachio dukkah, followed by a drizzle of good olive oil. This is best served at room temperature.



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Living Green

Bitcoin Waste

By Krystal Ford

Imagine, for a moment, that you spend the weekend cleaning your house and some random dog jumps on the couch, shakes mud on the walls and steals your roasted chicken on the way out.

“Where did that dog come from, and who let it in?!”

That’s how I feel about cryptocurrency.

New York State has an ambitious goal of having 70 percent of our electricity by 2030 provided by renewable sources such as solar and wind — while simultaneously trying to electrify everything. Now comes a wrench thrown into the gears: a growing demand for energy to power computers for digital currency “mining.”

If you are not familiar, cryptocurrency is digital money that is exchanged outside of a traditional central authority, such as a bank. Instead, transactions are managed by a decentralized network of its users. In the case of the best known digital currency, Bitcoin, transactions are accounted for in a public ledger that anyone can examine.

This ledger is vast, and anyone in the world, whether individuals or companies, can compete to validate a transaction by guessing the solution to complex mathematical problems, and part of the security of the currency is that it takes a large amount of energy and hardware to do this. The method is known as “proof of work” and the entities, which often combine forces, are known as “miners.” If they win the race to validate, they are rewarded with Bitcoin, which they can divide.

This is where the tremendous energy use comes in — you are playing a guessing game to find and quickly validate to earn the reward. One study calculated that every Bitcoin transaction consumes 1,173 kilowatt hours, more than the average American household uses in a month.

Fossil fuels power 60 percent of Bitcoin mining. But even if these operations could be switched to 100 percent renewables, that would mean that power wouldn’t be available for homes, businesses or transportation.



What’s happening now is that many upstate New York communities are grappling with crypto-mining operations, or warehouses filled with servers operating 24/7 that must be cooled. In some cases, miners have purchased and restarted former fossil-fuel plants, generating power “behind the meter.”

A bill in the state Legislature that is co-sponsored by Sandy Galef (a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown) and Jonathan Jacobson (a Democrat whose district includes Beacon) would ban new crypto-mining facilities that don’t rely on renewable energy. It also would place a two-year moratorium on the issuance of air permits and permit renewals for existing crypto-mining facilities that generate electricity through fossil fuels.

The bill passed in the Assembly on April 26 and was sent to the Senate. An earlier version passed the Senate, 36-27, in June with “nay” votes from Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, and James Skoufis, a Democrat who is running for re-election in a district that may next year include the Highlands.

The bill would require the state to conduct an environmental review of mining operations. “We must understand the impact of these operations on our state’s ambitious plans to mitigate climate change,” Galef said this week.

Jeremy Cherson is the senior manager of governmental affairs at Riverkeeper, one of many local environmental organizations that support the bill. “The last thing we want to see in the Hudson River watershed is old decommissioned power plants, fossil-fuel plants, being purchased and turned on for the sole purpose of proof-of-work cryptocurrency mining,” he said.

There is also the matter of the e-waste produced by mining operations. The computers are used so intensely that they last only 18 to 24 months before being discarded. By one estimate, cryptocurrency mining produces 30,700 tons of e-waste annually. The facilities also use large amounts of water for cooling, and the water returned to water bodies or wastewater treatment is hotter than what is withdrawn — fluctuations that can affect aquatic species.

“We have climate change warming the water, salt fronts are moving farther north [up the Hudson River] and a rise in invasive species — the last thing we need is another fish blender,” said Cherson.



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Haldane High School Honor Roll

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Grade 12
Principal's List
Ella Ashburn, Robbie Baker, Maya Beck, Tim Ben Adi, Caroline Cates, Madison Chiera, Shea DeCaro, Mia DiLello, Kylie Falloon, Eden Feinstein, Kyle Frommer, Stefano Hammond, Bianca Harmancin, Jaclyn Landolfi, Betsy McBride, Matthew McCoy, Emma McGillicuddy, Jesse Osterfeld, Luke Parrella, April Ransom, Stephen Robinson, Marcel Schwarz, Katie Shields, Molly Siegel, Meghan Tomann, Robert Viggiano

High Honor Roll
Bozley Beachak, Ezra Beato, Blake Bolte, Katrine Buslovich, Helen Chiera, Patrick DiNardo, William Etta, Zoe Harris, Rose LaBarbera, Camille Maglio, Mazzie Maxwell, Joia (Elijah-Lee) McKelvey, Emilia Osborn, Maya Osborn, Sophia Scanga, Felix Schmidt

Honor Roll
Hannah Benson, Giancarlo Carone, Antoinette deMartine, Kimberly Edge, Soleil Gaines, Ryan Irwin, Sharon Torres Nieves

Grade 11
Principal's List
Julian Ambrose, Kate Bolte, Zachary Cannova, Celia Drury, Sara Ferreira, Elliott Goldberg, Matthew Junjulas, Rowen Kuzminski, Nathaniel McPherson, Mary Mikalsen, Mairead O'Hara, John Perricone, John Peters,

Daniel Phillips, Kaelyn Powlis, Rhys Robbins, Sophie Sabin, Roy Smith, Aidan Sullivan-Hoch, Andreia Vasconcelos-Meneses, Liv Villella, Jillian Weinpahl

High Honor Roll
Samuel Bates, Edward Bauer, Elizabeth Cates, Matteo Cervone, Jude Columb, Chase Coulson, Aleksander Danilov, Ryan Eng-Wong, Megan Ferreira, Olivia Flanagan, Jesse Hagen, Diego Haskell-Ramirez, Amanda Johanson, Charlie Keegan, Andrew Kubik, August Lee, Albina McFadden, Caroline Nelson, Thomas Rockett, Chloe Rowe, Josephine Russell Jarmusch, Aidan Sabatini, William Sniffen, Sean Brennan Spruck, Jackson Twoguns, Lucas Vladimiroff, Sofia Wallis, Conrad White

Honor Roll
William Bradley, Carmela Cofini, May Columb, Gael Frezza, Maya Gelber, Dylan Horan, Raunaq Kapoor, Helen Nicholls, Gabriel Petty, Jakob Schmitt, Fiona Shanahan, Ethan Woods

Grade 10
Principal's List
Scott Bailey, Lily Benson, Vanja Booth, Liliana Cappello, Quinlynn Carmicino, Luca DiLello, Liam Gaugler, Evan Giachinta, Clement Grossman, Jeremy Hall, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, Madeleine Hutz, Finola Kiter, Helena Kottman, Amelia Kupper, Gabriel Lunin-Pack, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel, Ella Mekeel, Matthew Nachamkin, Ellen O'Hara, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Ruby Poses,

Emily Tomann, Isabella Tomizawa-Rincon, Ryan Van Tassel, Joseline Vasquez, Mackenzie Warren, Max Westpahl

High Honor Roll
Grace Bradley, Alissa Buslovich, Frankie DiGiglio, Oscar Donahue, Colin Hopkins, Sarah Jones, Mary Junjulas, Mac Lake, Elaine Llewellyn, Lola Mahoney, Simon Pieza, Julie Shields

Honor Roll
Alexandra Busselle, William Busselle, James D'Abruzzo, Liam Flanagan, Emily Gilleo, John Mangan, Michael Murray, Jacqueline Muth, Henry O'Neil, Peter Ruggiero, Olivia Scanga, Ivan Siciliano

Grade 9
Principal's List
Amelia Alayon, Domenica Awananch, Dahlia Beck, Dustin Berkley, Judine Cox, Violeta Edwards Salas, Marc Firpo, Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Robert Freimark, Scotia Hartford, Frederick Hohenberger, Helen Hutchinson, Zohra Kapoor, Micah Morales, Gabriela Perilli, Brandt Robbins, Julian Schwarz, Brendan Shanahan, Keira Shanahan, Matthew Silhavy, Caroline Sniffen, Ashley Sousa, Dana Spiegel, Nathaniel Stickle

High Honor Roll
Claire Bolte, Alexandra Cairns, Christopher Coronel, Kira Drury, Edwin Dubroff, Hunter Erickson, Leif Heydt-Benjamin, Patrick Locitzer, Thomas Locitzer, Jake Powers, Charles Rowe, Jake Thomas, Crystal Timmons

Honor Roll
Brody Corless, Christian Ferreira, Sophie Koch, Oliver Petkus, Laurel Sassano



NEW HOWLAND LEADER – The board of the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Wednesday (May 4) announced it had elected Theresa Kraft as president. Formerly the board treasurer, she succeeds Craig Wolf, who was elected in 2017. Kraft was an original board member of the nonprofit cultural center and returned in 2019. Beginning in August, the center will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its building at 477 Main St., which began its life as the public library and became the cultural center's home in 1979.

Photo by Meredith Heuer



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beloved

Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, will hold a public hearing on the budget at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2022-2023 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2022-2023 school year (the Budget), as prepared by the Board of Education, as well as the Exemption Report, listing every type of exemption granted, as provided in Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, may be obtained by any resident of the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, commencing May 3, 2022, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at each of the District's schoolhouses, at the Administrative Offices, and on the District's website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect four (4) members to the Board of Education as follows:

- Three (3) members to the Board of Education for three year terms (commencing July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2025),
- One (1) member for a two year and six week term (commencing May 17, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2024)

B. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the 2022-2023 School Year (the Budget).

C. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, dated March 21, 2022 authorizing the purchase of school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$546,000; authorizing the issuance of \$546,000 bonds of said School District to pay the costs thereof; and that such sum or so much as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law; and providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District shall be issued; determining the period of probable usefulness and maximum maturity thereof to be five years; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?

D. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund, to be known as the "2022 Facilities Capital Reserve Fund," for the purpose of appropriating sufficient funds necessary for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the cost of capital expenditures, including but not limited to: the construction and reconstruction of additions, renovations, refurbishments, replacements and/or repairs to its facilities, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith; as well as and to plan for future District-wide capital improvement projects and expenditures, in the ultimate amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 over a probable term of ten (10) years; and that such amount shall be raised from the unexpended and unencumbered general fund balance and such other available funds, of the Beacon City School District?

E. To vote on any other proposition legally proposed.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that for the purposes of voting, the School District has been divided into two (2) election districts and that an accurate description of the boundaries of these school election districts is on file and may be inspected at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular work hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the 2022 Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held at the following polling places in the School Election Districts hereinafter set forth;

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 / POLLING LOCATION: BEACON HIGH SCHOOL
Description: First Ward, First and Second Districts
Second Ward, First, Second, and Third Districts
Third Ward, First, Second and Third Districts
Fourth Ward, First and Second Districts

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2 / POLLING LOCATION: GLENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Description:
Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County; south by the common town line of the Towns of Fishkill and Wappinger and west by the Hudson River.

Bounded on the north by the common town line of the of Fishkill and Wappinger, east by Wappinger Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Union Free School District No. 3, Town of Fishkill, south by Beacon City line and west by Hudson River.

Bounded northerly by former Common School District No. 4 in the Town of Fishkill and Wappinger, easterly by Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Dutchess County; southerly by Central School District No. 1 in the Town of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Putnam County and the Town of Fishkill in Dutchess County; westerly by the Hudson River and the City of Beacon being the former Union Free School District No. 3 of the Town of Fishkill.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M. on the 20th day preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote Wednesday, April 27, 2022. Such petitions must be signed by at least one hundred (100) qualified voters of the District, shall state the name and residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. or they can be downloaded from the district website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, has fixed Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York, as the date on which the Board of Registration of said School District will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of preparing the register of the School District for each election district for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register if known or proven to the satisfaction of the registrars to be then or thereafter entitled to vote. Persons whose registration to vote with the County Board of Elections is current, pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law, shall be qualified to vote without further registering with the School District's Board of Registration, as well as all persons who shall have previously registered for any annual or special district meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special district meeting or election held or conducted at any time during the 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021 calendar years.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the register of voters so prepared shall be filed in the Office of the District Clerk and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, beginning fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Said register will be open for inspection in each of the polling places during the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk or downloaded from the school district website. The completed application must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the election, and at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed or the day before the election, if the ballot will be picked up at the Office of the District Clerk. The completed application can be sent by email, or delivered by a designated agent. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the said Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a qualified military voter who is not currently registered can obtain a military personal registration form on the District's website, or from the District Clerk between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A registered military voter may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk in the same manner. Additionally, qualified military voters can contact the District Clerk to indicate their preference to receive a military personal registration form, absentee ballot application or absentee ballot via mail, facsimile or electronic mail. Ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the election and vote. Military voter registration and absentee ballots shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of Section 2018-d of the Education Law and Part 122 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Dated: March 21, 2022 / Revised: April 4, 2022

By the Order of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District

Kelly Pologe, School District Clerk



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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of cases:

24,546 (+322)

Cases per 100K,
7-day average::

9.4 (+1.7)

Percent vaccinated:

83.0

Cold Spring (10516): **94.3**

Garrison (10524): **86.4**

Number of deaths:

123 (+1)

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of cases:

66,111 (+776)

Cases per 100K,
7-day average::

9.0 (+1.6)

Percent vaccinated:

77.3

Beacon (12508): **72.1**

Number of deaths:

658 (+1)

Source: State and county health departments, as of May 4, with totals since pandemic began and change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.

Avian Flu *(from Page 1)*

While the virus does not pose a health threat to humans, it can cling to shoes, pants and car tires. Ball pointed to a 2015 outbreak in the Midwest in which contact tracers figured out that a feed delivery person who

visited one infected backyard flock transmitted the virus to every other flock on the route. Poultry inspectors also inadvertently spread the virus in a similar way.

For that reason, those who keep chickens should refrain from visiting the homes of friends who keep chickens. If that can't be avoided, owners should wear plastic coverings on their feet and disinfect their shoes after visiting flocks.

"Discourage visitors from coming in and out of your poultry yard if you can," Ball said. "Just be really sensitive to the idea that it can be easily transmitted."

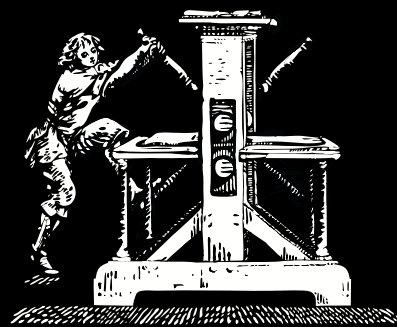
In terms of symptoms, Ball said to watch for unusual behavior, such as chickens ignoring food, showing discoloration or turning their heads in an odd way. "People who care for chickens are looking at their flock every day," said Ball. "If anything seems abnormal, let us come down and do a test."

Like influenza in humans, HPAI follows a seasonal pattern. Generally, once spring migrations are over, usually around the end of May or the beginning of June, the virus dies out. But some flocks of ducks and Canada geese stick around in one place for long periods, such as the geese often seen at Long Dock and Seeger parks in Beacon or Mayor's Park in Cold Spring. If you have chickens, Ball recommends wearing foot coverings and disinfecting shoes after visiting parks where ducks and geese are present.

Residents should also keep an eye out for dead ducks, geese, bald eagles, herons, owls, hawks and turkey vultures, and report the carcasses to the DEC for tracking, said Jim Farquhar of the agency's Wildlife Bureau.

"This information is helpful not only to understand the scope of the outbreak, but to alert nearby owners of backyard flocks and commercial poultry producers to remain vigilant with good biosecurity measures to protect their investment," he said. His office can be reached at 845-256-3098.

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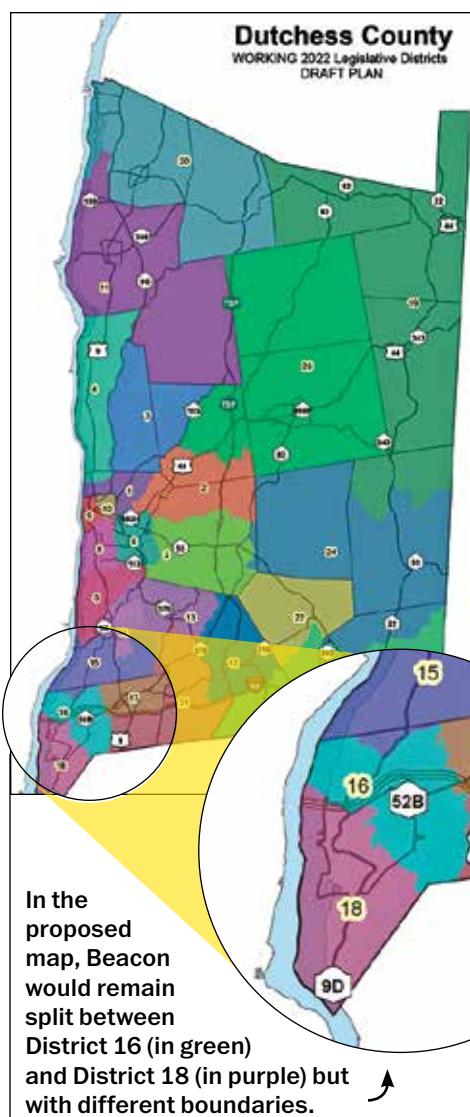
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Coming Up

The Independent Reapportionment Commission has scheduled three public hearings on its draft map, including one at 7 p.m. on May 24 at the Fishkill campus of Dutchess Community College at 461 Route 9. Its map, and instructions to attend its hearing remotely, can be found at bit.ly/dclegislature-map.

Redistricting *(from Page 1)*

District 16, represented by Yvette Valdes Smith, a Democrat elected in November, currently includes Ward 4 and one of the three election districts from Ward 3. Although the map released by the commission does not include election district boundaries, it shows the district taking in Beacon's eastern neighborhoods and parts of the city's north and southeast, an area predominantly within Ward 3.

In addition to gaining all or most of Ward 4, District 18 would retain Wards 1 and 2. The area of the Town of Fishkill that lies along Route 9D between Beacon and Philipstown would fill out that district, which is represented by Nick Page, a Democrat first elected in 2018.

Before the commission approved its draft on April 26, one member, Patrick Blanchfield, suggested that Beacon could be placed into a single district. But Beacon's population, which the Census Bureau counted as 13,792, exceeds the "ideal" population of 11,693 for each district, based on the county's popula-

What's Happening in Putnam

The process of redrawing legislative boundaries in Putnam County was complicated by a law enacted last fall by New York State, Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo told legislators in December.

Every 10 years, based on U.S. Census data, the county shifts boundaries so that each of its nine districts has about an equal number of residents. Based on the 2010 census, that number is about 11,000. District 1, for instance, includes Philipstown but also part of Putnam Valley to reach the threshold.

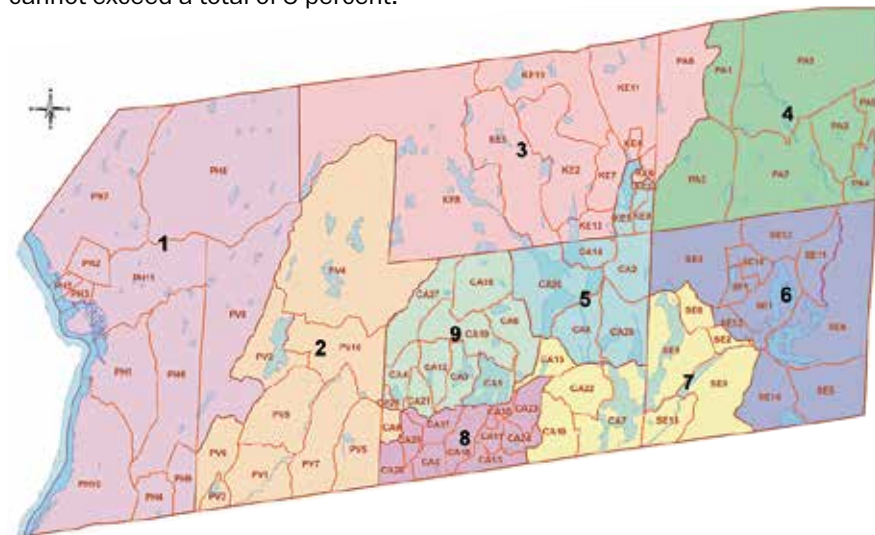
The Putnam Legislature is required by the county charter to appoint a bipartisan redistricting committee.

For the past two revisions, enacted in 2001 and 2011, the legislative counsel chaired the committee, which did not include any legislators. The commission makes recommendations to the Legislature for its approval.

On Oct. 27, New York State enacted a law that requires counties that operate under charters, such as Putnam and Dutchess, to redraw their

lines if the difference in population between the most and least populated district exceeds 5 percent. The previous standard had been 10 percent, and in 2010 the deviation in Putnam was 8.8 percent, Firriolo said.

The average population per district is currently 10,852. To comply with the state law, the percentage by which the largest district is over and the smallest district is under the average cannot exceed a total of 5 percent.



The deviation based on 2020 census figures is 10.28 percent, Firriolo said, which means that the county will need to make many changes to get to 5 percent. That could include making election precincts smaller so they can be more easily shifted between districts, although towns and villages cannot be divided unless they account for more than 40 percent of the district's population.

Any changes would not likely go into effect until 2023, Firriolo said.

tion of 292,325 and its 25 districts.

"From the perspective of 'communities of interest,' we would want to keep those people together, but we can't; there's just too many of them," said Mona Kleinberg, a Beacon resident who co-chairs the commission.

The final map will likely differ from the draft, in part because Beacon has to finalize new boundaries for its wards. By law, that process must be completed within six months of the release of new population counts from each decennial census. The city's charter says the population of each ward cannot deviate more than 5 percent from the average for all wards.

The City Council held a public hearing Monday (May 2) on the proposed election district changes, which would move 268 residents from Wards 3 and 4 into Ward 1. Seventy-four residents would move from Ward 3 to Ward 4, while Ward 2 would not change.

The changes would be subject to a city-wide referendum in the fall if at least 277 people, or 5 percent of the number of Beacon residents who voted in the last gubernatorial election, sign a petition within 45 days of passage by the City Council.

The Independent Reapportionment Commission was created in 2020 following a countywide referendum that was approved by 65 percent of voters. It was envisioned as a solution to partisan redistricting; it cannot, by law, draw maps to "discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties."

Its members include two Republican appointees, Blanchfield and Gregory Rakow, the commission's chair; and two members appointed by Democrats, Taneisha Means

and Lewis Rose. Those four selected the remaining three members, Kleinberg, Donna Cisek and Alyson Miller.

Their work has been delayed twice — by the later-than-normal release of the 2020 census data and the disbanding of the original commission last summer after a Democrat appointee was found to be a school board member, violating a prohibition on elected officials.

The reconstituted commission held its first meeting on Feb. 25 and has been meeting twice, and sometimes three times a week, and on consecutive days, to meet its legal deadline.

Joshua Simons, a senior research associate at The Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz, and a consultant for the commission, reminded them on April 14 that they should refrain from discussing "incumbents, previous elections, or how a particular district has voted or will vote in the future as the law is written."

Yet, that was exactly the context of an argument that began during the commission's April 26 meeting, when Blanchfield and Rakow complained that the draft map puts all of Vassar College, currently split among three districts, in District 6, where Republican Tony D'Aquanni defeated Rebecca Edwards, the Democratic incumbent, in November.

Blanchfield, who claimed he does not "follow" which Legislature districts are Democratic or Republican, argued that the change amounted to "taking primarily Democrat voters" and "jamming" them into District 6. He also noted that Edwards and Means are Vassar professors.

"So, we have a Vassar professor on the commission who's pushing to put Vassar

College, a predominantly and overwhelmingly Democrat demographic" into a district held by a Republican, he said.

Means called the claims "baseless" and "unsubstantiated." And Kleinberg said that the decision to consolidate Vassar into one district was driven by the requirement that the commission consider "communities of interest," defined as "an area with recognized similarities of interest," when redrawing districts.

Returning to splitting Vassar among three districts "ruins this entire map," said Kleinberg.

"Our motivations initially were not partisan. Now, you are turning this into a decision that will be a partisan decision," she said.

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NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on

Thursday, May 19th 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board May 2022.

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NOTICES

CAT NEEDS A NEW HOME — I have to move and can't take Lovey, my cat. She is about 4 years old, very friendly, and like her name, loving. She likes to curl up on my lap. She is ok with dogs but not so happy around small children. She has all her shots up to date, and would come with her bed, her tunnel, her favorite scratch pad, as well as litter and litter box, and cat food. I am

heartbroken to have to rehouse her and hope someone in the area would love to adopt her. Email debdichter@gmail.com.

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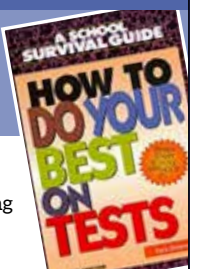
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Knock

4. *The Thin Man* dog

8. Tabloid writing

12. Post-op area

13. Pace

14. Alike (Fr.)

15. Sushi fish

17. "Hi, sailor!"

18. "Burnt" crayon color

19. Melody

21. Ordinal suffix

22. Game fish

26. Looks intently

29. Chaps

30. Man-mouse link

31. Has bills

32. — de deux

33. Mythical birds

34. Capote nickname

35. Stable diet?

36. Hill of *Moneyball*

37. Raw bar mollusk

39. Impose

40. Ms. Thurman

41. Tristan's love

45. Tibia's place

48. Saltwater fish

50. Mata —

51. Hotel chain

52. Hot tub

53. Rhyming tributes

54. Lake bird

11. Layer

16. Leg joints

20. Author Fleming

23. Earth orbiter

24. Killer whale

25. "One-L lama" poet

26. Attend

27. Wrong

28. Jupiter counterpart

29. Spring month

32. Sunshade

33. Copter blade

35. Skirt edge

36. Singer Timberlake

38. North African capital

39. Steinway product

42. Privation

43. Hoodwink

44. Coup d' —

45. HBO rival

46. Possessed

47. Hot temper

49. Comic Philips

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 winces with embarrassment (7)

2 blocked (10)

3 the "P" in VIP (6)

4 overstatement (9)

5 serving for personal greed (9)

6 strong tendency (10)

7 Japanese charcoal heater (7)

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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

1. AISLE, 2. EARTHWORMS, 3. TERRESTRIAL, 4. HEEL, 5. SARDINIA, 6. RESPITE, 7. CLUBS

SPORTS



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VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

GIRLS' LACROSSE

The Haldane team — playing its first season as a varsity program — picked up three wins in the past week, collecting a pair of 5-4 victories over Blind Brook on April 29 and 30 and shutting out Keio Academy, 8-0, on Wednesday (May 4).

The Blue Devils' victories followed an 11-9 loss at home on April 28 to Edgemont.

On Wednesday at Keio, Haldane controlled the draws and ground balls and dominated possession in building a 7-0 halftime lead over the winless Unicorns.

Mairead O'Hara led Haldane with two goals and an assist; Carmela Cofini scored twice; Amanda Johanson had a goal and two assists; and Helen Nicholls, Caroline Nelson and Scotia Hartford each scored. Lola Mahoney had nine saves in net.

"Our goal was to perfect running some of our plays," said Coach Keri Dempsey. "Our defense played great, our offense had a strong game, and our transition was working well."

In the April 30 win at Blind Brook, Haldane got the game-winner with 1:52 remaining when O'Hara deposited an 8-meter shot. She finished with two goals and an assist, and Ruby Poses, Kayla Ruggiero and Johansen each had a goal. Mahoney recorded 13 saves.

A day earlier, hosting Blind Brook at Haldane, the Blue Devils went up 5-3 with 11 minutes to play, and held on for the victory. O'Hara had two goals and two assists; Johanson, Nicholls and Erin O'Hara each had a goal; and Ruggiero and Cofini each had an assist. Mahoney stopped eight shots.

"Lola has improved so much since the beginning of the season," Dempsey said. "She's been way more confident in the net. On defense, the girls have been looking sharp, and that's been making a huge difference."

Haldane (4-6) is scheduled to host Rye Neck today (May 6) at 4:30 p.m. and visit Briarcliff on Saturday.

TRACK & FIELD

Sophomores ruled the day for Beacon on April 29 at the Iron Duke invitational meet in Marlboro. Rubio Castagna won the 400 hurdles in 60.4, Bella Migliore took the 800 in 2:34, and Damani DeLoatch was first in the triple jump at 42-0.

On Wednesday (May 4), in a meet against Chester at Washingtonville, Beacon's boys



Mairead O'Hara puts a shot on net against Keio.

Photo by S. Pearlman

won, 98-29, and the girls were victorious, 62-51. The boys' 4x100 relay team of Lucas Vermeulen, Jazziah Whitted, Jonah Mensch and Eddie Manente ran a season-best 44.8, and long jumps by Cody Shields (20-5) and DeLoatch (20-0) were both among the top 10 leaps this season in Section IX.

Beacon is scheduled to compete on Saturday (May 7) at the Oval Office Invitational at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park.

Haldane participated in the 41-team Gold Rush meet at West Nyack on April 30, with Luke Parrella finishing fifth in the boys' 3,000-meter steeplechase in 10:50.20 and Andriea Vasconcelos taking eighth in the girls' triple jump at 29-08.50.

BASEBALL

In a four-team tournament on April 30, Haldane defeated Palisades Prep, 16-3, but fell, 11-2, to Saunders, which had defeated Peekskill.

In the win over Palisades, Scott Bailey pitched an inning before John Kissinger came to the mound and got the win, fanning nine batters. On offense, Trajan McCarthy homered and drove in three runs, Hunter Erickson tripled and had an RBI, and Kissinger had an RBI double.

In the second game, McCarthy, Julian Ambrose and Dan Nakabayashi combined on the mound.

"We got burned on a few balls that got by the outfielders on a field that had no fence," said Coach Simon Dudar. "We just had some bad luck and ran out of gas on a hot day."

A day earlier, Haldane picked up a 13-3 win at Yonkers Montessori Academy. Ryan Eng-Wong earned the decision with 10 strikeouts in five innings. McCarthy and Milo Pearsall each had two-run home runs, Ambrose had two RBI and a double, and

Jeremy Hall had a pair of doubles.

The Blue Devils (4-6) were scheduled to host Croton-Harmon on Thursday and Putnam Valley today (May 6) at 5 p.m. before traveling to Tuckahoe on Saturday. Pawling comes to Cold Spring on Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Beacon fell to Port Jervis, 8-4, on April 29, but picked up a 7-1 victory over Port Jervis Tuesday (May 3) on the road, with Joey Vollaro striking out five and allowing only one hit for his second win of the season.

At the plate, Vollaro went 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI; Chase Green had two hits, including a double; Jackson Atwell went 2-for-4; Owen Bozsik drove in two runs; and Ronnie Anzovino had an RBI.

The Bulldogs (5-6) was scheduled to play Thursday against Lourdes at Dutchess Stadium and to honor their seniors. The team travels to Newburgh Free Academy today (May 6) and Valley Central on Monday before hosting Washingtonville on Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Beacon dropped a 7-4 decision at Wallkill on Tuesday (May 3), with Bella White taking the loss in the circle for the Bulldogs (4-9). Olivia Spiak had two RBI and went 3-for-4, and Olivia Ciancanelli went 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI.

"The girls played a fantastic game up to the fifth inning, with Bella pitching great, and some solid defense backing her up," said Coach Michael Carofano. "In the fifth we didn't play our best ball, and they took the lead, which we were not able to overcome. But overall, our girls have been playing much better than we were a few weeks ago, and we will continue to develop."

On April 30 at home, Mikayla Sheehan smacked a two-out single in the bottom of the seventh, scoring Christina Merola, to give



SOREN SIGNS — Soren Holmbo, a senior at Haldane High School who was named this year to the sixth team All-State among smaller schools, on Wednesday (May 4) signed a letter of intent to play basketball for SUNY Purchase. He was joined at the ceremony by his parents and siblings.

Photo provided

Beacon an 8-7, walk-off win over Wallkill.

White got the win in the circle, in relief of starter Sheehan. Spiak and Ciancanelli each went 3-for-4 with doubles, and Haleigh Zukowski had an RBI.

"I was so proud of our girls for their mental toughness, coming back when facing adversity," Carofano said. "It was one of our better days at the plate, and Bella came on in relief with the bases loaded in the seventh and didn't allow a run. She also had two clutch bunts."

The Bulldogs are scheduled to travel to Washingtonville on Tuesday (May 10) and Monticello on Wednesday.

BOYS' GOLF

Beacon defeated Port Jervis, 252-257, in a match played Tuesday (May 3) at the Southern Dutchess Country Club — its lowest score of the season behind Jack Philipbar (44), Will Martin (44), Mike Serino (52), Dillon Kelly (55), Ronan Moran (56) and Jack Signorelli (64).

Beacon dropped a 201-257 decision to Warwick a day earlier at Southern Dutchess, with Philipbar leading with a 43, followed by Martin (45), Kelly (51), Serino (54) and Leo Lopez (64).

The Bulldogs (4-5) were scheduled to visit Port Jervis and Middletown this week. They travel to Burke Catholic on Monday (May 9) before starting regional tournament play.