

The HIGHLANDS Current



Caught Sleeping
Page 11

JUNE 24, 2022

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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PART 5

Always Present, Never Seen

A Black history of the Highlands

By Leonard Sparks

In fall 1974, with urban renewal having erased many of its West End buildings and Main Street decades away from a renaissance, Beacon officials and community leaders faced another problem.

For several days in late November, beginning with a football game between Beacon and Kingston, Black and white teens and young men had been clashing with their fists and with blackjacks, clubs and other weapons.

The conflict peaked on Nov. 19, when police arrested more than two dozen

people on charges that included weapons possession, disorderly conduct and public drunkenness. Windows on Main Street were smashed and some of the combatants were injured seriously enough to require trips to Highland Hospital.

Mayor Robert Cahill ordered a curfew from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., for anyone 18 and younger not accompanied by a parent. Two hastily organized community meetings took place and schools closed for a day. When they reopened, parents and clergy patrolled the hall-

(Continued on Page 20)



Members of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department tactical squad patrol Main Street in Beacon on Nov. 19, 1974, following racial unrest.
Photo by James Deckner/Poughkeepsie Journal

Garrison School Budget Passes on Second Try

69 percent of voters approve tax-cap override

By Joey Asher

Voters in the Garrison School district on Tuesday (June 21) approved a spending plan that includes a 6.6 percent tax increase, avoiding a contingency budget that the board said would have resulted in cuts to sports, arts and music, along with the loss of five employees.

The district in May asked voters to approve a budget with a 9.18 percent increase, far more than the maximum 2.2 percent state-mandated tax increase allowed for the district in 2022-23. Under state law, at least 60 percent of voters must approve such an override, but the vote was 314-314.

The board then submitted a revised budget for the Tuesday vote, which passed 614-269, or with 69 percent approval. The turnout was 42 percent.

"This will allow us to maintain high quality programs and services for the children of Garrison," said Superintendent Carl Albano, following the vote. "I'm certainly relieved."

The polls closed at 9 p.m. After anxiously awaiting the count, the school board ratified the budget at a meeting convened at 10:30 p.m.

In attendance was Ned Rauch, the PTA president, who helped organize more than a dozen parents to make phone calls, send

text messages, write letters and place advertisements urging passage. Rauch said he was "profoundly grateful" to the volunteers.

The threat of a contingency budget appeared to have swayed some voters who had voted against the budget in May. The second budget received 45 fewer "no" votes

than the first (and 300 more "yes" votes).

Linda Lomonaco, who had been an outspoken opponent of the May budget, said she planned to vote for the revised plan. "I can't condone a contingency budget," she said. "That's not fair for anybody."

(Continued on Page 7)



NEW MURAL — Sabrina Crowley earlier this week put the finishing touches on a mural on the Dutchess County government building at 223 Main St. in Beacon with the county motto, "Think Differently." It's adjacent to a mural Crowley painted in November in anticipation of Veterans Day. Both projects were funded by Libby Funeral Home.

Photo by Valerie Shively

Planning Board Wants Deeper Look from HVSF

Makes 'positive declaration' on environmental impacts

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Planning Board last week called for a full-bore environmental impact review of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's proposed redevelopment of the former Garrison golf course.

In a vote taken June 16 at Town Hall, six of the seven board members (one abstained) made a "positive declaration" that the project threatens to come with significant adverse environmental impacts and needs more mitigation.

With the vote, the board concluded its analysis of the project's Environmental Assessment Form, a document required by New York State, and set the stage for HVSF to prepare a lengthier, more in-depth Environmental Impact Statement.

HVSF, which performed at the Boscobel estate before receiving the donated, 98-acre golf course tract, responded to the board vote by pledging continued cooperation.

The festival wants to turn the site into a permanent home with an outdoor perfor-

(Continued on Page 6)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: ETHA GROGAN

By Jeff Simms

Etha Grogan retired last month after 30 years working for the City of Beacon.

How many jobs did you have?

I started as a secretary for the Department of Public Works. We were in the original municipal office by the Mase Hook and Ladder firehouse on Main Street. That was right around when the government changed from a commissioner system to an administrator and mayor with City Council members. I was the first one to have a computer in the city office. Then, when we moved to the present City Hall, Anne Thomas, my predecessor, groomed me for her position, so when she retired, I took over as the assistant to the city administrator. That encompassed a lot of things — grant work, managing the bidding for city projects, annual reporting, acting as a liaison between department heads and the city administrator and acting as the secretary for the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board, which took up a lot of my time.

How has city government evolved over three decades?

There are more regulations, there's more



public input and there's more interest. When I first started, Beacon was vacant. There were empty properties; there were apartments on Main Street in the front, where the storefront should be. So the difference was the change in regulations and the support of the council to change the way landlords took care of their prop-

erties. Tighter building inspections really changed Beacon, and now there is much more regulation and public oversight.

What were the best memories of your career?

Oh my gosh, the fun times we've had. It was like we grew up together. There was a group of us and we were like family. There were a lot of fun times — that and being part of the community. That to me was the most important thing.

What advice did you offer your successor?

Her name is Amanda Caputo, and I told her that Tuesdays [when the Planning Board meets, often late into the night] will never be the same. But I also told her that this is a good job. You can stay here, because people don't start and end in one place anymore. She'll gain so much knowledge and have her finger on the pulse of everything that's going on. That's going to be enjoyable. She's going to learn something every week. There was not a week that went by that I didn't learn more about building or zoning codes. There are so many regulations, and the zoning code is so big, so to understand that — to know what can go where, to know that a business can't go in a residential neighborhood, or other regulations — she'll learn something new all the time. It's never boring.

What's next for you?

I'm taking the summer off, then we'll see what happens. I could do something part-time. I might get bored in the winter, but I'm going to travel for now and enjoy the freedom with no responsibility. My daughter-in-law is pregnant; she's going to have a baby in December. So I'm going to enjoy being a grandma. It'll be fun to do that and enjoy living life.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

How do you feel about flying?

“Flying in a helicopter is cool, but my flight to Sacramento last week was absolute torture.”



Timothy Delaney, Beacon

“Both of my parents are flight attendants; I love flying.”



MacKenzie Warren, Cold Spring

“I don't like flying — large planes or small. I prefer the train any day.”



Linda Murphy, Beacon

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The first fall foliage cruise of 2021 docked at Cold Spring on Oct. 2. File photo by M. Turton

Talks Continue on Seastreak Cruises

Revenue for village, customers for Main Street, concerns for residents

By Michael Turton

The pros and cons of increased tourism took center stage at the June 15 workshop of the Cold Spring Village Board, as the mayor and trustees, business owners and residents weighed in on the likely return of Seastreak's fall weekend cruises and the possible addition of midweek summer dockings.

Seastreak officials have proposed bringing cruises to the village on Saturdays and Sundays from Sept. 17 through Nov. 13. Mayor Kathleen Foley said the New Jersey company is also considering dockings on Wednesdays and/or Fridays from July 1 to Sept. 16.

The workshop, she said, was intended to discuss the need to preserve "critical village revenues" from docking fees balanced against concerns raised by residents.

Seastreak began its fall excursions to

Cold Spring in 2012, with passengers boarding in New Jersey and at the foot of Wall Street in New York City. On some pre-COVID weekends, two boats docked on the same day, each with up to 500 passengers, creating crowded sidewalks and long lines at public restrooms.

"We've learned from the past," said Trustee Eliza Starbuck. "We've tried to reduce the impact and negatives that residents were expressing."

Even 600 to 800 passengers "inundated the village," she said. "I always felt that was too much for businesses, too much for residents; it was very uncomfortable."

Restaurants "did not have enough seats to feed those numbers at one time," Foley said. "So, you ended up with a lot of angry folks."

For its 2022 agreement with Seastreak, the village has proposed restrictions such as allowing only one boat to dock each day; limiting passengers to 400 on weekend cruises and 200 on weekdays; limiting weekend docking times; requiring boats

(Continued on Page 8)

NEWS BRIEFS

Maloney Appointed Subcommittee Chair

Will lead panel on commodity exchanges, energy and credit

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat from Philipstown whose district includes the Highlands, this week was named chair of the House Agriculture Committee's subcommittee overseeing commodity exchanges, energy and credit.

The subcommittee "plays a vital role in Congress, from supporting our rural farmers and expanding broadband access to conducting oversight on rapidly developing industries such as digital assets," Maloney said in a statement.

Along with the Agriculture Committee, Maloney, who is seeking his sixth term in the November election, is a member of

the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Intelligence Committee.

State Schedules Hearing

Seeks comments on criteria for 'disadvantaged' communities

The state Department of Environmental Conservation will hold a virtual public hearing on June 29 to receive feedback from Hudson Valley residents on its draft criteria to define what makes a community "disadvantaged."

Beacon, which ranks higher than much of the state in flooding risk, diesel pollution, housing-cost burden, environmental remediation sites and how long it takes to reach a hospital, fits the proposed criteria.

See dec.ny.gov/press/125281.html. Public comments can be submitted until July 7 to DACComments@dec.ny.gov.

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THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

June 24, 2022
Volume 11, Issue 25

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Mail delivery \$30 per year. highlandscurrent.org/delivery delivery@highlandscurrent.org

Distribution audited by the Circulation Verification Council
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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Dutchess Mall

Building warehouses on old shopping centers, or even ones still operating, is becoming more popular ("New Life for Dutchess Mall?" June 17). I'm glad the eyesore will be gone but disappointed it's becoming a warehouse.

Gail Kalinoski, *via Facebook*

I don't think the powers that be care what it is. It would have been nice if it was something that would benefit the community.

Jill Sussman, *via Facebook*

With Dutchess Community College next door, that should open more foot traffic in that area. They should add businesses that would attract the college community.

Jasmine Sanchez, *via Facebook*

Should be a theater.

Katie Bissinger, *via Facebook*

Should be a truck stop.

John Walter, *via Facebook*

A 3,000-seat venue with a hotel would be perfect.

Reinaldo Anjos, *via Facebook*

Better use sustainable materials, better have

a green roof, better have solar and gray-water capture. Otherwise, 150 jobs ain't enough.

Paul Yeaple, *via Instagram*

It should have been an entertainment complex or Revolutionary War theme park. Fishkill could benefit like Williamsburg. A warehouse is great for jobs but there are so many empty areas in Dutchess County where it would be more suitable. There are also many empty warehouses waiting to be filled. In 20 years, instead of an empty mall, we will probably have an empty warehouse.

Jason Verzi, *via Facebook*

It's odd that the shopping center has sat undeveloped for so long. The location, with close proximity to I-84, next to Home Depot (an anchor store) and tons of parking, seems like it would be prime real estate for a grocery store or some other large retailer. Is there something wrong with the land?

Andrew Mimran, *via Facebook*

Car chargers

Re: the installation of two electric-vehicle chargers at Philipstown Town Hall (June 10). We need more high-speed CCS [Combined Charging System] chargers. These slow chargers are becoming outdated. It'll take 10 hours to charge a new Ford F150 on a

Level 2 charger. If we want real adaptation of electric vehicles, we need to start putting in the right chargers for modern EVs.

Tom Cerchiara, *via Instagram*

Krystal Ford, who spearheaded the installation of the chargers as Philipstown's Climate Smart coordinator, responds: "We do need more Level 3 chargers, especially on highways for non-Tesla drivers, but they are incredibly expensive. The Level 2 chargers at Town Hall are 'destination chargers,' i.e., they are meant for drivers to get a charge over the course of a few hours while they shop, hike, dine, etc. The average charge is 25 to 35 miles an hour, depending on the vehicle."

Gun safety

Thank you, Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery! You are an inspirational advocate and I, as a mother of two kids at Haldane, am so grateful ("Putnam County Creates School Safety Team," June 10).

I ask that your colleagues in the Legislature and county officials consider who they represent carefully. It is not gun-rights advocates or the National Rifle Association. It is our children. Let's make sure that they are the ones who benefit.

Alexandra Dubroff, *Cold Spring*

We can only hope that signs in Dutchess County warning of the risks of owning a fire-arm would be more effective than the health warnings printed on packs of cigarettes ("Legislators Propose Warning Sign," June 17).

William Cornett, *Beacon*

Black history

Kudos for your Black history of the Highlands, *Always Present, Never Seen*. We applaud *The Current* and have encouraged our administration and the local history community to dive into the series.

On behalf of the Historian's Office, congratulations and thank you for this important series.

Jennifer Cassidy, *Brewster*

Cassidy is the Putnam County Historian.

I appreciate your series on Black history in Beacon. It's one of the best things I have read in the paper. Thank you!

Donna Minkowitz, *Beacon*

What a wonderful article on the history of Beacon's African American population in the 20th century (June 17). My parents, Henry and Mazie Whitener, arrived from South Carolina in 1936 and made Beacon their home. We loved this community, despite any discrimination we encountered, because our family prospered here. Kudos to Leonard Sparks for a job well done!

Connie Perdreau, *Beacon*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

*(Continued from Page 4)***Campaign money**

Colin Smith, one of three candidates in the Democratic primary on Tuesday (June 28) for state Assembly District 95 [which includes Philipstown], hasn't filed any financial disclosures with the Board of Elections. He's either irresponsible or hiding something — which is it (“Questions for Candidates: State Assembly Democrats,” June 17)?

People have a right to know who is funding these campaigns. Democrats also need to know who will be able to mount a credible general election campaign. If Smith were to win the primary, he'd be facing two opponents [on the Republican and Working Party lines], one of whom hasn't had to spend any money and one that has a lot of outside money being spent on her behalf. Why isn't the media reporting on the money in this race?

Cheryl Hornbeck

In January, Smith told the Board of Elections his campaign had a balance of \$7,496, but he has not filed a report since. Vanessa Agudelo told the Board of Elections last week that she has raised \$92,082 and spent \$32,552. Her largest donors are the Courage to Change PAC, which is associated with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (\$4,700); three individuals, including a family member, who gave \$4,700 each; the Democratic Socialists of America (\$4,500) and the DSA's Lower Hudson Valley chapter (\$2,000). The largest local donor is Antigoni Kanaris of Philipstown (\$630). Agudelo has no opposition to appear on the Working Families line. Dana Levenberg reported last week she has raised \$142,603 and spent \$18,824. Her largest donors are Murray Azaria, a family member (\$12,000), and five individuals who gave \$4,700 each. The largest local donors are Peter Davis of Garrison (\$2,500) and Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery (\$1,000).

Juneteenth

In 2021, Democratic legislators in Dutchess County proposed a resolution to make Juneteenth a county holiday. We believed Americans in every corner of the nation should share this opportunity to celebrate Emancipation, spend time with family and friends, and remember and reflect on the 250-year struggle against slavery.

A quick search finds that many New York counties (among them Albany, Erie, Essex, Onondaga, Suffolk and Ulster) have declared Juneteenth a holiday. But the chair of the Dutchess Legislature rejected the bill (the 34th time he blocked consideration of a Democratic proposal). He informed us that the Legislature could not “recommend employee contractual benefits” and observance could only be decided by “those who control the county holiday calendar” — the executive.

Last week, County Executive Marcus Molinaro said he supports Juneteenth — though I could find no record of him ever calling for a county holiday — but can't act “without a decision by the county Legislature.”

What a joke. Either these guys are too incompetent to understand their own offi-

cial powers, or they don't want Juneteenth in Dutchess but don't want to say so. (If past experience is a guide, both will now hastily claim it was the unions' fault that employees did not get the holiday.)

Democratic legislators tried again last week, on the eve of Juneteenth, to urge Dutchess to join the nation, state and other counties in recognizing Juneteenth but they were rebuffed again.

Dutchess has one of the largest African American communities in the Hudson Valley, as well as thousands of allies who care about the legacies of injustice. At a time when citizens are struggling with economic hardship and lack of services, here is one more sign of contempt. We deserve better.

Rebecca Edwards, *Poughkeepsie*

Edwards is a former Democratic member of the county Legislature.

95th endorsements

I am supporting Dana Levenberg to represent us, the 95th district, in the New York State Assembly.

Dana has the background, experience and qualifications necessary to serve on the Assembly, and that sets her apart from her opponents. In my observation, she is the only candidate in this race that has a real grasp on issues and needs in Cold Spring and Philipstown, and is ready to address them right from the start.

Dana is in her seventh year as Ossining town supervisor, following nine years as an elected school board trustee and eight years as Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's chief of staff. During those eight years working alongside our representative, Dana helped deliver state funding for important projects in Cold Spring and Philipstown. She knows how hard it is to properly plan and carry out capital projects without state dollars getting where they are most needed — here on the ground at the local level.

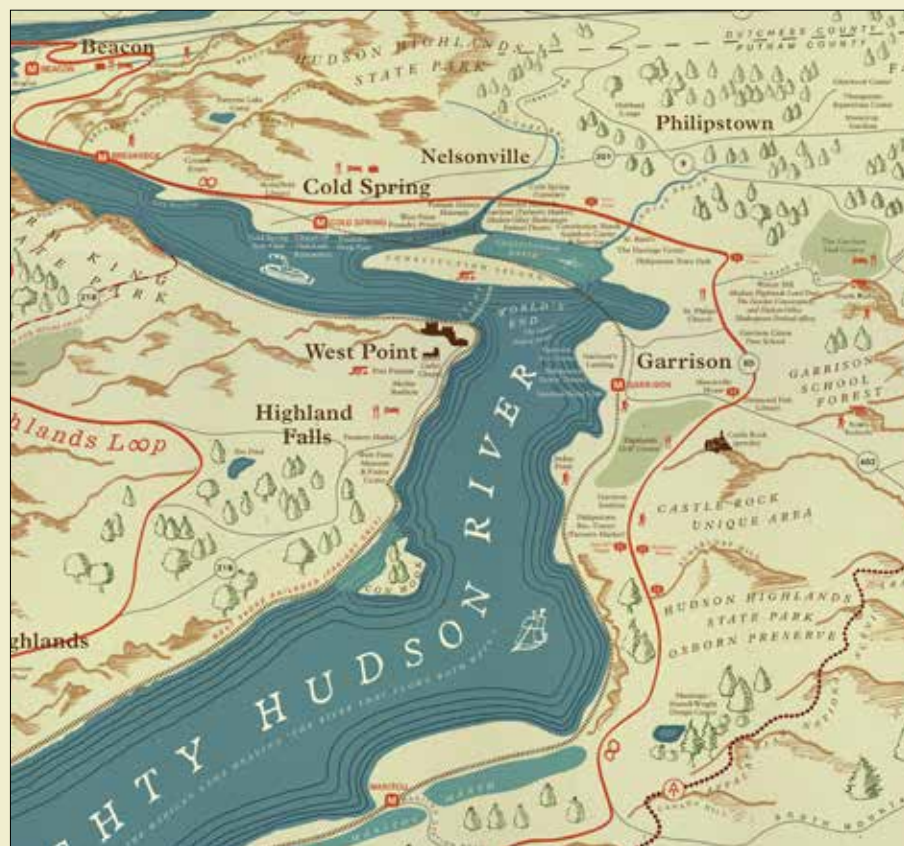
It says everything that Dana is endorsed by Sandy Galef. Sandy knows best what it takes to succeed in this role, having done so for 30 years. I am proud to be one of the elected officials from across the district who have joined Galef in endorsing Dana, including Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery and my fellow mayors Vivian McKenzie from Peekskill and Rika Levin from Ossining, as well as deputy mayors Patricia Riley from Peekskill and Ann Galleli from Croton. Our expectations are high for Dana, and we feel confident that she will meet them.

Dana would be an incredible partner for Cold Spring in the state Assembly, and I am excited to work hard with her on behalf of our village. Make a plan to vote for Dana during early voting through Sunday (June 26) or on primary day, Tuesday (June 28).

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*

Foley is the mayor of Cold Spring.

As I review Dana Levenberg's qualifications to represent the 95th District, I am struck by how superbly credentialed she has become for the job. Her experience in local government has been thorough and successful, her working directly for Sandy

**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 between Garrison and West Point in a gorge dubbed “World's End.”

Galef herself is a tremendous asset, and her training and “on-the-job” growth will enable her to hit the ground running.

When you couple all that experience and training with a personality that's as exuberant, energetic, articulate and diligent as Dana is, you will have a powerhouse representing us in the Assembly. As beloved and effective as Sandy Galef was, I cannot imagine anyone more equipped to fill her huge shoes than Dana Levenberg.

Frederick Osborn III, *Garrison*

If you've ever wondered why nothing ever seems to get done in Albany, one reason is that our state government is designed to work that way. A laughably short legislative season (it's already over), lax campaign finance laws, a stifling leadership structure and other roadblocks virtually guarantee that progress is slow if it happens at all, especially when it challenges entrenched money and power.

This year, despite having one-party rule with supermajorities in both houses, the Legislature failed yet again to pass major climate, health care or housing legislation. We did, however, get a billion-dollar giveaway to the billionaire owner of a football stadium.

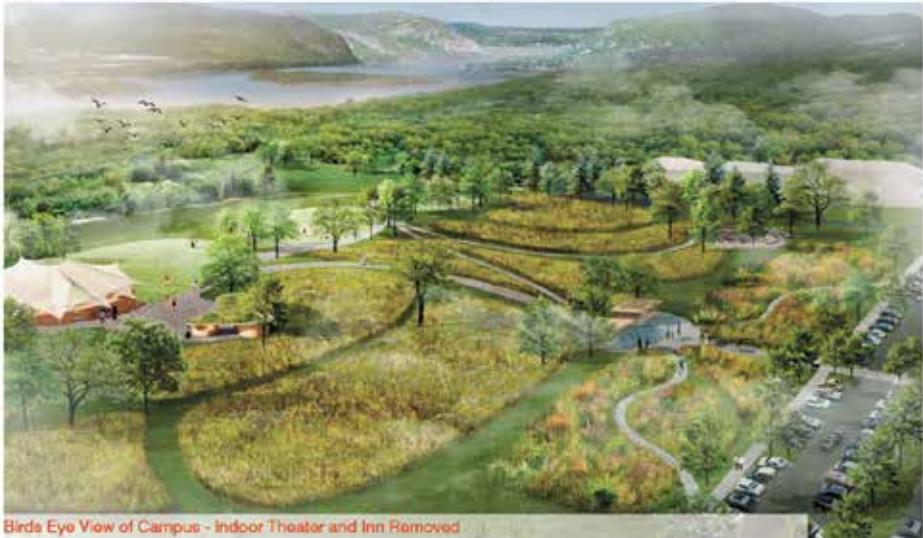
Another reason for this inertia is a dearth of champions in state government willing

to fight on behalf of working families rather than moneyed interests. The good news is that we have a chance to elect someone right now who has spent her adult life fighting for ordinary New Yorkers.

Vanessa Agudelo, a Democrat running for Assembly District 95, has been on the front lines of the struggle for climate, health care, housing and immigrant justice for many years. The daughter of Colombian immigrants and a lifelong Peekskill resident, Vanessa is the youngest person ever elected to the Peekskill Common Council, a seasoned official and dedicated activist running on a bold platform to rapidly expand New York's renewable energy, to guarantee comprehensive health care to every New Yorker, to massively invest in green jobs at a living wage, and to systemically address New York's income inequality and housing crises.

I've had the good fortune to organize alongside Vanessa, and I can tell you she's the real deal: smart, compassionate, strategic and fiercely devoted to creating a better world. Electing more people like Vanessa is the only way we'll ever break through the logjam of New York State politics. Early voting has already started, and Election Day is June 28. I strongly urge you to vote for Vanessa Agudelo.

Jeff Mikkelsen, *Cold Spring*



Before and after renderings submitted by HVSF to the Planning Board in April show the removal of a proposed indoor theater and inn, at right.

HVSF *(from Page 1)*

mance tent, actors’ housing; rehearsal and administration buildings; lawn pavilion; visitor center-box office; backstage structure; retention of The Garrison country club’s restaurant and banquet hall; paths; meadows, woods and parkland; vehicle parking; and reconfigured access to Snake Hill Road and Route 9, on the corner of its property.

After pushback from the public, HVSF dropped plans for an inn and indoor theater.

Davis McCallum, the HVSF artistic director, said on Monday (June 20) that, while the festival was disappointed with the vote, “we look forward to continuing the process.” HVSF continues to believe “that the proposed adaptive reuse” of the golf course “will be a great benefit to the Philipstown community, and that the extra due diligence will ensure all parties welcome it as a model of ecological restoration,” he said.

In tandem with the HVSF project, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust will receive 74 acres at the site, from the same philanthropist, Chris Davis, who donated land to HVSF.

At the June 16 meeting, Neal Zuckerman, who chairs the Planning Board, repeated his previous assessment that “this is a good project in terms of the social benefit” and “what the Shakespeare Festival does is important for the community and the region.” However, he said, the Planning Board wants to take “a harder look” because “there are several factors that are significant adverse environmental impacts that haven’t been sufficiently mitigated.”

In explaining their votes, Planning Board members repeatedly questioned the project’s effects on water supplies, wildlife and traffic.

“It does concern me that we already have a water problem” in part of Garrison, said Laura O’Connell. HVSF “is going to be tapping into that [supply] significantly. What does that leave? And what does that yield for the future?”

“How much of the land are we [the public] really going to be able to get access to?”

~ Peter Lewis

Zuckerman cited data suggesting that the HVSF project would increase water consumption from the present 9,820 gallons per day to 14,814 or even 16,814 gallons.

“Whether 51 percent or 71 percent, it’s a big increase, he said. “The public was vociferous in their concern for water. This is a community that’s deeply embedded in the climate movement. Collectively, I see using increased volumes of water as material and I see a need for greater diligence.”

Heidi Wendel expressed concerns about the project’s implications for wildlife, especially nocturnal creatures not currently subjected to lights, cars, crowds and noise that accompany evening theater. “Obviously, this is an incredible project in terms of the amount of conserved land and the amazing sensitivity to studying it,” she said, while recommending that HVSF go further because the impacts on animals “have not been sufficiently explored.”

HVSF’s plans contains pedestrian paths, but Peter Lewis sought elaboration. “How much of the land are we [the public] really going to be able to get access to?”

Lewis and other board members also questioned the project’s effect on traffic on busy Route 9 and its intersection with Snake Hill Road, seen by many residents as already hazardous, and wondered if backups there would encourage drivers to use narrower, more secluded backroads as alternatives.

Since taking up HVSF’s application in December 2020, along with plowing through documents on environmental issues, the Planning Board has presided over public hearings, held discussions with the applicant and made multiple site visits.

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Election Commissioner Discusses Departure

Says leaving early an effort to install deputy

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Two weeks after announcing his resignation, Anthony Scannapieco, the longtime Republican commissioner on the Putnam Board of Elections, said he plans to resign on Thursday (June 30) because of a dislike for the acrimony in county politics and because he hoped an early exit would smooth the way for his deputy to succeed him.

Scannapieco's term would have ended in December; he has been the Republican commissioner for 31 years and also serves as head of the Putnam County Republican Committee. In New York, commissioners are recommended by the county party committees and appointed by the Legislature.

This spring, Scannapieco became

embroiled in a dispute over petitions he circulated to get incumbent Legislator Neal Sullivan on the ballot for a primary election. When Sullivan's primary opponent challenged some petitions, a state court got involved and Sullivan ended his campaign.

In his May 31 resignation letter to County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Scannapieco wrote that "the political landscape in Putnam County has become more contentious than ever before, and individuals no longer behave with civility and decorum," prompting him to retire. He proposed that Kelly Primavera, his deputy, succeed him.

Scannapieco said June 14 that the county Republican Party's executive committee backed Primavera. However, he said, while two county legislators wanted quick action, others said it was too late to add a vote to the agenda of their June 2 monthly meeting. (The Legislature scheduled a special meeting for Thursday, June 23.)

Moreover, he said, some Republicans questioned Primavera's selection by the executive committee, instead of the entire committee. Scannapieco said that if the full committee isn't in session, the executive committee can make appointments. "That's what we did," he said, adding that precedent exists: "I've been voted chairman more times by the executive committee than the whole committee."

Scannapieco's leadership took a hit in February when the full Republican committee, voting 148-76, endorsed state Assembly Member Kevin Byrne for county executive, rejecting county Legislator Carl Albano, Scannapieco's choice.

Then came Sullivan's campaign. Petitions signed by Republican voters had to be submitted to the Board of Elections by April 7. Scannapieco acknowledged that he goofed up. "I did put down May, instead of April," as the month he collected one page of signatures, he said, which was past the deadline.

But he asserted that Sullivan erred, too, seeking signatures from backers of Rob Astorino, a Republican gubernatorial candidate, not all of whom live in Sullivan's district. "A lot of the petitions were knocked out for that reason," Scannapieco said.

Asked, in an email, whether he, like Scannapieco, made mistakes in circulating petitions, Sullivan on Tuesday (June 21) replied with the statement he issued when ending his campaign in April. In it, he blamed "issues involving the arduous and highly subjective petition process."

After Sullivan dropped out, the state court judge gave Scannapieco three days to find another candidate. However, he said: "I had nobody to run. So that was the end of it." Later, various Republicans "were going on and on, saying it's my fault, and Kelly's fault," although "there's nobody, *nobody*, in this county who did what I did for the Republican Party. There was just nothing I could do at this time.

"There's some lies going on out there," he said.

School Budget *(from Page 1)*

Lomonaco added that she was grateful that the district listened to the concerns of those who felt the proposed 9.18 percent tax increase was too high.

The approved budget includes \$12.1 million in spending; the tax levy will rise to \$10.39 per \$1,000 of full value, or an increase of \$322 annually on a home valued at \$500,000. That remains the lowest property tax rate in Putnam County; Haldane's tax rate is \$17.01 per \$1,000 and Brewster homeowners pay \$27.74.

Garrison's budget crisis is the result of several factors. Along with rising inflation, the district faces increased costs in 2022-23 for health care (14 percent) and transportation (12 percent). Garrison's state aid for 2022-23 is nearly \$100,000 less than this year, although it did get a one-time injection of funds after lobbying Albany.

If the revised spending plan had not been approved, state law would not allow the district to hold additional votes. Instead, spending would have been frozen at the 2021-22 level, with no tax increase. Along with cutting music and sports, the district said it would have been forced to eliminate five jobs: for an elementary teacher; the school psychologist; a dialectical behavioral therapist, who helps with students' social and emotional needs; the environmental science teacher; and the director of technology.

Statewide, the average increase in school taxes was 3.2 percent, according to the Empire Center for Public Policy. The state tax cap was implemented in 2012 and Garrison was the first local district to attempt an override.

Voters on Tuesday also approved, by a vote of 791-92, a proposition that will allow Garrison to negotiate high-school tuition rates with the Haldane district for up to five years, rather than annually. Garrison educates students through the eighth grade, after which those who attend public high schools can select Haldane in Cold Spring or O'Neill High School in Highland

Falls. Voters on May 17 approved a similar measure allowing Garrison to negotiate a multiyear agreement with the Fort Montgomery-Highland Falls district.

As part of the effort to lower the 9.18 percent increase to 6.6 percent for the second vote, Garrison teachers agreed not to receive raises in 2022-23, which saved \$70,000. A freeze on administrators' sala-

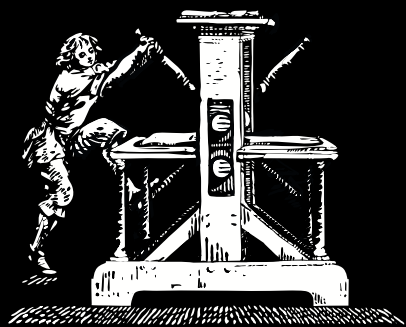
ries saved another \$20,000.

The district saved \$107,513 under a tentative, multiyear agreement with the Haldane school district for high school tuition costs. Haldane had proposed charging Garrison \$21,473 per student in 2022-23, using a formula devised by the state. Instead, it will charge \$16,500 per student.

The revised budget approved on Tuesday

also eliminates a part-time music teacher position to save \$48,865; reduces the field-trip budget by \$15,000 (parents will pay the full costs); cuts a startup lunch program to save \$10,000 (students will continue to bring their own lunches); and eliminates a Land to Learn program to save \$20,000. Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

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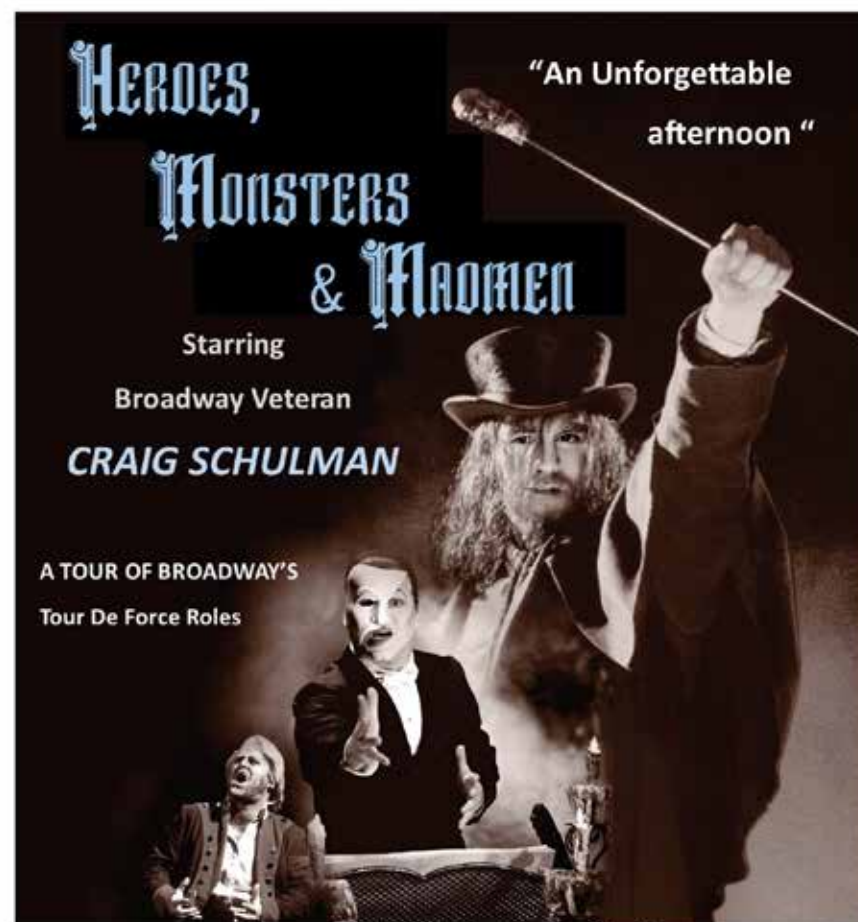
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Seastreak *(from Page 3)*

to dock at West Point or other locations; limiting the time weekday boats spend at the dock; and ending the summer weekday schedule in August.

A number of people at the meeting, including board members, business owners and a Chamber of Commerce representative, agreed that the crowds were manageable when passenger counts were reduced to 400 during the pandemic.

While the cruises add to what are already busy tourist weekends, Seastreak has become a noteworthy source of revenue, adding \$36,000 to village coffers last year. Starbuck estimated that could increase to \$44,000 or \$45,000 this year.

"That keeps our taxes relatively low; the fees offset village costs," she said. Starbuck, who owns a wine store on Main Street, noted that passengers support local businesses "without contributing to parking shortages."

Cold Spring charges \$8 per linear foot for boats tying at the main dock. For prolonged dockage, the fee increases to \$12.

Seastreak officials have asked that the village base its fees on ticket sales, but Starbuck said the village will stick to boat size. "They are taking the business risk, running a boat when they are not sure they can get enough customers," Starbuck said. "That risk should not be ours."

Foley noted that Seastreak revenues cannot be earmarked to support specific village projects. "They become part of the general fund, with the board deciding spending priorities,"

she said. "It creates budget relief which allows us more flexibility."

Nat Prentice, the president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, presented comments submitted to him by Main Street business owners who consider the return of Seastreak vital to their livelihood. More than one said that foot traffic has been slow this spring and that the economic outlook is not promising.

Residents of the lower village view the situation differently. "Here at 'ground zero,' a lot of us are at the end of our rope; there's is so much traffic, so many people, so much noise," said Derek Graham, who lives on West Street. "We can't have a quiet picnic on weekends; there is just no quiet."

Graham questioned the relative value of Seastreak revenue. "If we're generating \$40,000 in revenue [from Seastreak] and the budget is \$2.5 million, it is less than 2 percent of revenue. That's not worth it for what we have to put up with. The whole waterfront is ruined. It's not just the boats; it's everything."

Gaston Alonso, also a resident of the lower village, said something was missing from the discussion. "This summer and fall are not like previous ones; Dockside Park is a construction mess, out of commission," he said. "Residents and tourists who usually go there aren't able to; lawns next to the bandstand are already overcrowded on weekends and that will get worse once school ends."

Alonso cautioned the board not to assume residents of the lower village are not upset because only two of them spoke up at the meeting, compared to nine business owners.

"Please prioritize the needs of residents," he said. "We should not have to bear the brunt of this, so others can benefit."

Foley responded that issues in the lower village are being looked at from "all angles" and that the board has advocated impact mitigation at Dockside and regarding the proposed Fjord Trail.

“We cannot stop people from visiting [the waterfront] it belongs to everyone; it’s a matter of finding balance.”

~ Mayor Kathleen Foley

"We recognize it is a neighborhood impacted by tourism, a unique neighborhood because it is on a public waterfront," she said. "We cannot stop people from visiting, it belongs to everyone; it's a matter of finding balance."

Graham commented that taxes derived from an increase in village business from Seastreak cruises will simply "go to the slush fund in Putnam where the backroom good old boys decide" where the money will be spent.

Foley urged residents to pay attention to the Putnam County Legislature during the next two months as it enters the budget cycle. Legislators, she said, will have to consider the county executive's proposal for tax sharing. (See Page 9.)

Putnam is one of a small number of counties in New York state that does not share revenue raised from retail sales tax with its municipalities.

During the discussion of Seastreak revenues, Starbuck described the village budget process as "torture" because there are so many projects the village is unable to fund. Foley added: "Revenue streams are limited, and we have to take advantage of those we have. What do we want to accomplish in terms of quality of life, and how do we get there?"

Answering her own question, she said the village has to either have adequate revenue sources or raise taxes. "It's all about

balance," she said.

In other business

■ Jennifer Zwarich was appointed on June 15 as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Short Term Rentals. Zwarich also chairs the village Tree Advisory Board and is one of three members of the seven-member STR committee who does not operate a rental.

■ Veronika Bilinski was hired as seasonal parking enforcement officer. A graduate of the Putnam County sheriff's cadet program, she will be paid \$17 per hour.

■ The board gave its approval on June 15 to selling a piece of village-owned property at 14 and 16 Stone St. for \$4.55 per square foot.

■ The Village Board will hold fewer meetings over the summer. Tentative dates are July 13 and 20 and Aug. 10 and 17.

■ The board on Wednesday (June 22) postponed action on a resolution that would permit only the U.S., New York State and POW/MIA flags to be displayed on village properties. Earlier in the year, it agreed to fly the Ukraine flag, which has since been removed, and it is flying the LGBTQ flag for the month of June. Foley said she would like to know more about how other municipalities handle the flag issue. "If we need to ask these questions to get to a level of satisfaction that we have turned every stone, we're willing to do that," she said, although she questioned the amount of time the board should spend on the issue. "It is about using our time wisely, not entangling local government in culture wars," she said.

■ The board approved the purchase of a \$205,000 dump truck that will be financed through M&T Bank at 4.03 percent over six years.

■ The board approved increases in the water and sewer usage rates to 15 cents and 12 cents per 1,000 gallons, respectively. Water rates have been unchanged since 2004 and sewer rates were last increased in 2008.

■ The contract between the village and the Cold Spring Police Benevolent Association will be amended to include Juneteenth as a paid holiday for police officers. Other village employees were granted the holiday this year.

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New Podcast Episode

Senior Editor Leonard Sparks speaks with Carl Bon Tempo, a Cold Spring resident and history professor at SUNY Albany who is the author, with Hasia Diner, of *Immigration: An American History*, published in May by Yale University Press.

Visit

highlandscurrent.org/podcast



Trickle-Down Funding

Who gets what in Putnam from pandemic relief, sales tax

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A Putnam legislative panel on Tuesday (June 21) approved allocations for sharing the county's federal pandemic relief funds and sales tax income with towns and villages, including more than \$1 million for Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville.

The Rules Committee vote sent the proposed distribution to the Audit Committee for consideration on Thursday (June 23) and, presumably, to the full Legislature for its July 5 meeting.

A separate plan to spend \$14 million on county-level projects chosen by County Executive MaryEllen Odell also passed, despite criticism from some legislators.

Odell announced in March that she planned to allocate \$10 million of the county's American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds and sales-tax revenue to towns and villages on a per-capita basis. The plan includes \$739,341 for Philipstown, \$203,342 for Cold Spring; and \$63,890 for Nelsonville. Philipstown requested \$860,000 to overhaul the Garrison Water District but under the pending initiative would receive \$120,659 less.

Cold Spring asked for \$4.2 million to upgrade the three dams in its reservoir

system, two of which date from the early years of the West Point Foundry, established in 1818. (The village acquired them after the foundry closed.) The Odell administration said that the county "recognizes the critical importance of dam remediation," but called on state and federal authorities to fund the repairs.

Nelsonville initially requested \$101,945 for a feasibility study on establishing a sewer system, an HVAC upgrade for Village Hall and fixes to the village-owned Sheriff's Department substation but later reduced its list. The Rules Committee proposal pledges \$31,945 for the study and the same amount for the HVAC system.

During the Rules Committee session, held in Carmel, Mayor Kathleen Foley of Cold Spring urged the county to collaborate with municipalities. She noted that the committee discussed other topics as well on Tuesday but that "none of this matters in Philipstown if the dam breaks."

Cold Spring's dams are located in North

Highlands, beyond village limits, but a dam disaster would affect far more than the village.

The mayor also said Putnam should hold a public hearing to discuss the county-level ARP projects.

Odell's proposals include \$2 million for a school safety task force; \$1.5 million to upgrade software at the Sheriff's Department; \$2.5 million for a police and fire department radio communications system; \$2.5 million for a stabilization center for those suffering from addiction and/or mental health crises; \$130,000 for a mobile food pantry; and \$25,000 for a refrigeration unit for the Second Chance Food Pantry.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, observed that the county wants to establish its own mental health program but rejected spending the federal aid on some local agencies that already exist. "We need to understand what we have and what

we're not funding, before we go and fund something else," she said.

Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast objected to the short time period given legislators to consider Odell's initiatives. "This is reckless," he asserted, noting the lack of public hearings.

Montgomery concurred. "This is the first time we [legislators] have discussed" it, she said. "All my requests to discuss this have been ignored" by county officials except for Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin, whom she credited with being helpful.

"There's no reason to pass this tonight," Jonke added.

Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac, a Rules Committee member, suggested the panel postpone voting on the \$14 million for county-level projects, but neither of the other two committee members seconded her move. Instead, the committee passed the \$14 million proposal, 3-0, and sent it to the Audit Committee and full Legislature.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of cases:

26,284 (+152)

Positive Tests, 7-day average:

8.8% (+1.1)

Percent vaccinated:

82.9

Cold Spring: **94.8** / Garrison: **86.9**

Number of deaths:

125 (0)

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of cases:

70,618 (+342)

Positive Tests, 7-day average:

8.9% (+0.3)

Percent vaccinated:

77.3

Beacon: **72.5**

Number of deaths:

664 (0)

Source: State and county health departments, as of June 22, 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.



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **FREE TO FLY** — The Libby Funeral Home in Beacon hosted its annual butterfly release on June 11 at the Elks Lodge for families to honor loved ones. The children killed in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24 were also remembered. *Photo provided*



◀ **HISTORY AWARD** — Cassie Ward, executive director of the Putnam History Museum, holds an award presented to the museum by the Putnam County Historian on June 12 in recognition of the Cold Spring museum's efforts to continue public programs during the pandemic. *Photo provided*



◀ **HISTORIC YACHT** — The 58-foot Maiden sailed north past the Highlands on June 8 on its way to Kingston. In 1989-90, the first all-female crew in the Whitbread Round the World Race took the yacht on the 33,000-mile trip, finishing second. The ship was sold and, after it was found in 2014 rotting on an island off East Africa, the former captain and her crew raised the money to restore it and take it on a three-year global voyage to promote girls' education. *Photo by Margaret Pepper McNamara*



◀ **FIRST GALA** — Kristan Flynn, Ana Joanes, Alex Cohen and Katy Hope were among the 110 attendees on June 11 at a gala organized by the Foundation for Beacon Schools at the University Settlement Camp Theater. The event raised more than \$4,500 for teacher grants. *Photo provided*



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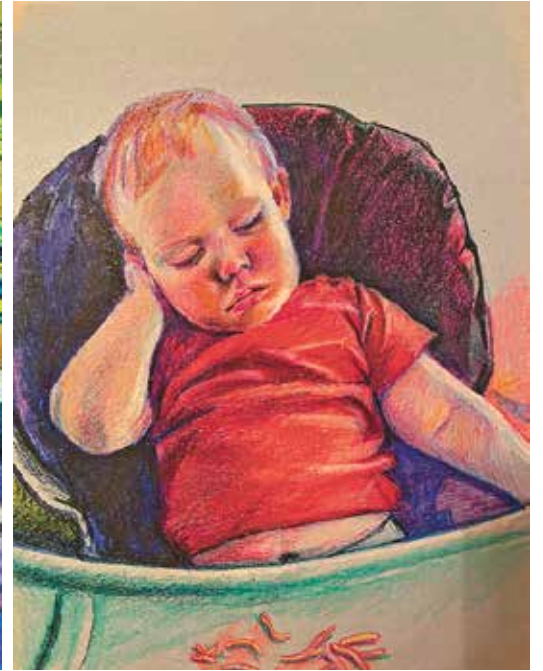
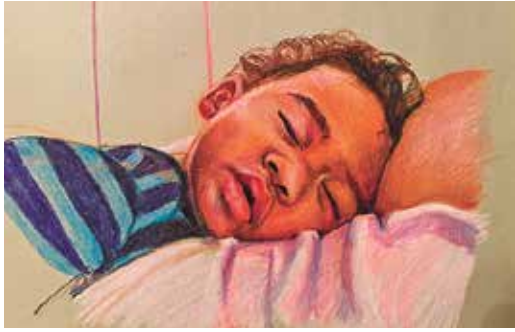
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The Calendar

Caught Sleeping

Beacon show will focus on napping children

By Alison Rooney

For some, new motherhood overwhelms art. Not so for Alyssa Follansbee.

"After so many years of saying, 'I wish I had time to paint,' the birth of my first child, Sammy, brought art into a laser focus," says the Beacon resident. "I would paint while he was napping. The newborn stage of working over 24 hours continued; it propelled my art, and kept my body in motion."

Although she felt qualms about producing "a lot of baby-themed work," she says she was inspired by being a mom. "I wanted to record things," she recalls. "You feel trapped by love — and it's all good. The first thing after my son was born that I made was a painting of me and my son; very straightforward. I love drawing from life, so I painted a scene from my life to get the muscles going."

"For me, becoming a parent was empowering," she adds. "In the past, I was plagued by self-doubt that I didn't belong in the art world. Becoming a parent, in charge, capable, made me ask myself, 'Why couldn't I pursue my art?' The next natural step was to paint more and put my work out there more."

One of the ways Follansbee has done that is by joining the Beacon Artist Union, or BAU. Her first solo show will take place at its gallery on Main Street from July 9 to Aug. 7.

She'll be sharing a wall of portraits of sleeping children and babies made using the fundamental tools of child art: crayons and construction paper.

Follansbee said she switched from paint to wax following the birth of her second child, Jude, who is now 10 months old. "If I tried to set up an easel, inevitably the baby would wake up and cry," she says. "I drew my boys while they were sleeping, then

drew my friends' kids. Some of it came from the joke we all had of: 'Why do we love you more when you're asleep?'"

She says the response to the drawings was overwhelming. "For people with pandemic babies, who couldn't socialize their children, these quiet portraits meant something. Because they were done with accessible material, they served as an entry point for people in my life who weren't experienced in art."

Along with the portraits, Follansbee's show will include a few paintings and fabric sculptures. One piece "is based on my kid's soundwave from his laugh," she says. "I needed to address those great joys of being a parent, and how we measure time, how we balance it. Once you have a kid, your perception changes. When they're little, it's so fleeting, and that has driven me to obsessively create work about them. The irony is I have

to be apart from them to make the work."

Follansbee said she didn't want to be "pigeonholed as a mommy artist," and asked herself, "Is this just a glorified way of taking pictures of your kids?" But her children are "a massive part of my everyday life, which would naturally filter into my art. That's my truth. If I tried to downplay, it wouldn't be authentic."

Also in her life is the Happy Valley Arcade Bar, which she operates at 296 Main St. with her husband, Johnny Coughlin. It is filled with her bright, bold murals. The renovation and opening of the space was a saga unto itself, as Follansbee explains.

"When we moved up here I could not find a job," she recalls. "Right after that my sister had a baby, and her husband was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. I nannied for them for a year; he beat the cancer. Then

I had Sammy in September 2019.

"During that time Johnny and I decided to open the bar. An arcade bar was his dream. It was a raw garage, with no installations and dirt floors on a grassy lot with a chain link fence. I was very pregnant and scared. 'Should we be doing this?' We took some time to think about it, then signed the lease in January 2020, knowing we'd be having a big build-out."

"Then came COVID and, on top of everything, we could legally only have two people working in construction at a time. We finally opened in August 2020. A few weeks later, we got a call that we couldn't have the arcade games. This was after a health inspector had OKed it, so it was frustrating. Finally, in March 2021, they were allowed. Thankfully, the community here has been phenomenal. They've been kind and boosted our spirits throughout."

Follansbee grew up in Connecticut, the youngest of three daughters. She calls her path to becoming an artist "windy and unusual. I've always made art, ever since I was small; I had encouraging parents who recognized my talents, but I didn't know anyone who was a professional artist. I wound up going to Indiana University, where I knew no one, because it had the highest 'happiness rating' in one of those college guides. I loved it."

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in studio art and moved to Chicago, where she did office work while making art on the side such as commissioned portraits and murals on abandoned buildings. "I had a lot of kids come by and ask if they could help; I loved getting them involved," she says. "This convinced me that I should become an art teacher."

Follansbee earned a master's degree in art education from Brooklyn College in 2014, then worked as an art teacher in New York City until moving to Beacon in 2020. "We drove up in January," she says. "We thought, if we love it during the dreary months, we would really love it, and that's been the case."

BAU Gallery, at 506 Main St., in Beacon, is open from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, or by appointment. See baugallery.org.

BB In the past, I was plagued by self-doubt that I didn't belong in the art world. Becoming a parent, in charge, capable, made me ask myself, 'Why couldn't I pursue my art?'



Alyssa Follansbee with her son, Jude, and an art baby

Photos provided

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 25

Hudson Valley Taco Fest

BEACON

1 – 5:30 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | hvtafest.com

Meat, seafood, vegetarian and vegan options will be available. Mariachi music, a DJ and drinks will fill out the afternoon. *Cost: \$20 to \$79*

SAT 25

Community Day

BEACON

1 – 4 p.m. Dutchess Manor
263 Route 9D | hhft.org

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will host this event with music by Hudson Lovell, art with Dani Locastro, free ice cream and family activities. There will also be information about the project.

SAT 25

NY Cider and Cheese Marketplace

GARRISON

1 – 6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Sample from more than 20 cider and cheesemakers and take self-guided tours of the historic mansion. *Cost: \$23 to \$38*

SUN 26

Say Their Names

BEACON

7 p.m. Polhill Park
Main and South | compassarts.org

A silent procession will begin at the corner of North Chestnut and Main streets and continue to the park. Suprina will lead the march with a sculpture of Themis, the blind Greek goddess of justice. Poet Gold and the Sounds of Heritage, a Newburgh choir, will perform “Say Their Names,” a work that honors Black, brown and poor people who have been killed by police.

FRI 1

Blood Drive

COLD SPRING

11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | redcrossblood.org

Register to donate and address a nationwide shortage.

SAT 2

Support Ukraine Food Sale

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St.

Pick up varenyky (pierogies), holubtsi (stuffed cabbage), borscht, kielbasa and sauerkraut and desserts at this fundraiser to send supplies to the besieged country.



League of Their Own , June 25

SAT 2

Independence Day Celebration

WEST POINT

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com

The West Point Concert Band, the Hellcats and the Benny Havens Band will perform, followed by fireworks. *Free*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 25

Mason Bees

BREWSTER

11 a.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312 | putnam.cce.cornell.edu

These gentle, nesting, native, wild bees are extraordinary pollinators and there are some easy ways to support them in your landscape. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 25

Guided Hike

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Mark Forlow, chair of the Putnam History Museum and author of a book about the Foundry, will lead this tour and discuss the site's history. Register online. *Cost: \$10*

TUES 27

The Indestructible Man

BEACON

7 p.m. St. Joachim's School Hall
51 Leonard St. | 845-831-0514
beaconhistorical.org

David Rocco, co-author of *The Indestructible Man*, will discuss Navy plane crashes in 1935 and 1945 on Mount Beacon that killed eight servicemen, including Commodore Dixie Keifer. The program, organized by the Beacon Historical Society, will also be available via Zoom.

WED 29

Composting: An Ecological Perspective

MILLBROOK

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

Jane Lucas, an ecologist with the

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, will demonstrate how to compost and remove food waste from the garbage system.

FRI 1

Arnold's Flight

GARRISON

11 a.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glenclyffe | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

This moderate, one-mile Putnam History Museum hike will follow the path that Gen. Benedict Arnold used to escape after his plan to surrender West Point to the British was thwarted. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members)*



VISUAL ART

SAT 25

Zoë Buckman/ Vanessa German

BEACON

4 – 7 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art

In *We Flew Over the Wild Winds of Wild Fires*, the artists create a dialogue that reclaims their ancestral heritage. The artists will discuss their work at 4 p.m.

SAT 25

Summer Night

NEW WINDSOR

5:30 – 9 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road | 845-534-3115
stormking.org

This after-hours event will include new art, a performance by Vagabon and food from Pizza Vitale and Farmhouse Market. *Cost: \$55*

SAT 2

Reflections of a Local Life

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Karen Gersch curated this exhibit of works by more than two dozen artists in all media that pays homage “to our roots and reveries.” Through July 24.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 25

Patti Murin

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
beaconperformingartscenter.org

Murin, a native of East Fishkill who played Princess Anna in *Frozen*, as well as other Broadway roles, will perform with Beacon Performing Arts Center students and alumni in a concert featuring familiar showtunes. *Cost: \$15 (\$8 students/children)*



SAT 25

Ghostbusters

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
Upper Landing Park | walkway.org

Movies Under the Walkway returns with the 1984 film starring Dan Aykroyd, Ernie Hudson, Harold Ramis and Bill Murray as parapsychologists who offer a ghost removal service in New York City. Registration required. *Free*

SAT 25

A League of Their Own

COLD SPRING

8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org

The Cold Spring Film Society kicks off its summer season with this 1992 film directed by Penny Marshall set during World War II when a group of women are scouted to step in for male baseball players. It stars Geena Davis, Madonna, Rosie O'Donnell and Tom Hanks. Bring chairs, food and insect repellent. *Free*

FRI 1

The Princess Bride

BEACON

6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

Watch the 1987 film starring Robin Wright, Cary Elwes, Mandy Patinkin and Wallace Shawn outdoors on Bannerman Island. *Cost: \$40*

SAT 2

Heroes, Monsters & Madmen

BEACON

3 & 4 p.m. Boats leave dock
bannermancastle.org

At this benefit for Bannerman Island, the Chef's Consortium will prepare a five-course dinner and Craig Schulman will perform a concert of Broadway hits. *Cost: \$165 (\$155 members)*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 25

Summer Reading Kick-Off

GARRISON

Noon. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Enjoy watery games to celebrate this summer's Ocean of Possibilities. There will also be a water slide.

THURS 30

Magic and Illusion

GARRISON

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

Magician and juggler Scott Jameson will perform a mind-bending set. Registration required.



MUSIC

SAT 25

Feel Good Music Series

PEEKSKILL

11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Charles Point
facebook.com/feelgoodmusicpeekskill

A student band, string ensemble and dance performance will perform at 11 a.m., followed in the afternoon by Gillian Margot, Love Honey and Katy Maeve. Also SUN 26, when Marion Cowlings, Reencuentro Andino and the Blue Chips will perform. There will be food trucks on site. *Free*

SAT 25

Block Party

WEST POINT

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com

The Benny Havens Band will perform classic rock, pop and rhythm and blues songs as part of the Music Under the Stars series.

SAT 25

Cortlandt String Quartet

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

The quartet — violinist Andy Stein, cellist Leo Grinhauz and violists Rachel Evans and Sarah

Adams — will perform a program of chamber music. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 25
The Swan Becomes the Sun
NEWBURGH
7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
330 Powell Ave.
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform a program at Aquinas Hall that includes works by Nielsen, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius. *Cost: \$25 to \$50 (students free)*

SAT 25
Composers Concordance
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

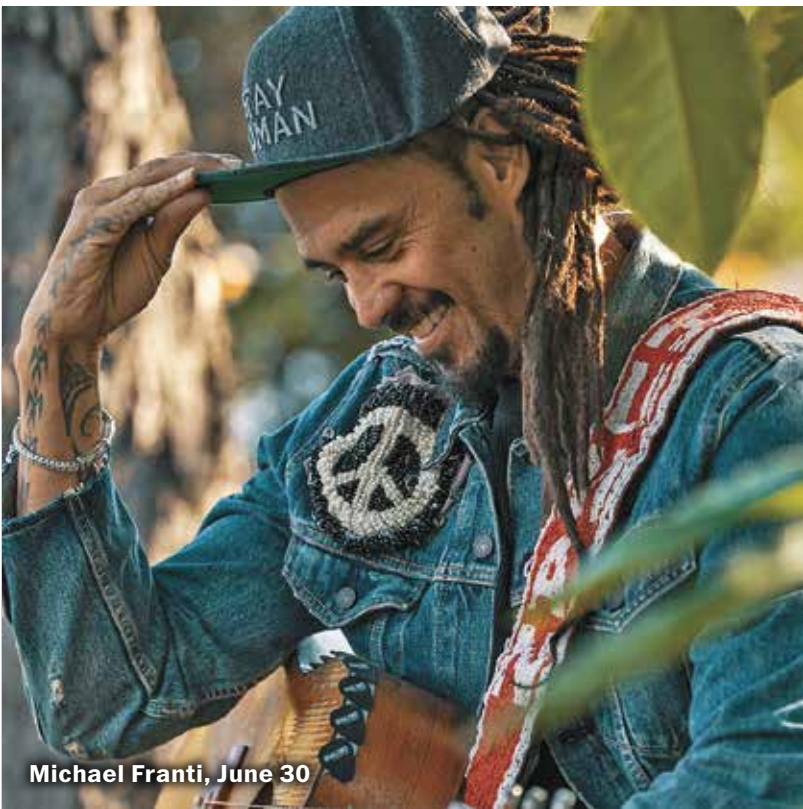
For this third annual event, artists, composers and performers from Beacon and New York City will perform new works, including David Amram’s “Pull my Daisy Reimagined,” Faye-Ellen Silverman’s “Channeling Twain: Advice for Our Time,” Debra Kaye’s “Snow” and Gene Pritsker’s “The Meeting.” *Cost: \$20*

SAT 25
Sloan Wainwright Band
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The songwriter and singer will perform music from her latest release, *Red Maple Tree*. Trae Sheehan will join her. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 26
Bohemian Trio
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
Yosvany Terry (saxophone), Yves Dharamraj (cello) and Orlando Alonso (piano) will perform classical jazz and world music. Donations are welcome. *Free*

SUN 26
Grant Peeples
PUTNAM VALLEY
4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org
Bassist Erik Alvar will join the folk performer and poet. *Cost: \$20*



Michael Franti, June 30

SUN 26
Brasiles Ensemble
BEACON
4:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The octet will perform music from the medieval, Renaissance and baroque periods with a fashion show of period pieces. The singers will be accompanied by Richard Kolb (lute and theorbo), James Fitzwilliam (harpsichord and organ) and Holly Mentzer (recorder, viola da gamba). *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 26
Chris Trapper
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The singer and storyteller will present an acoustic set. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

MON 27
Duoscope
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon
Eric Person and Bob Meyer will perform as part of Quinn’s weekly jazz series. *Cost: \$15*

WED 29
Horszowski Trio
BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
lyramusic.org/festival-events
Jesse Mills (violin), Ole Akahoshi (cello) and Rieko Aizawa (piano) will perform as part of the Lyra Music



Horszowski Trio, June 29

Festival. (See Page 15.) The program will include Smetana, Bernstein and Mendelssohn. Proof of vaccination and masks required. *Cost: \$20 (\$50 series)*

THURS 30
Michael Franti & Spearhead
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. MJN Convention Center
14 Civic Center Plaza | 845-454-5800
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The band will perform music from its latest release, *Follow Your Heart*. Arrested Development will open. *Cost: \$59 to \$129*

FRI 1
Last Minute Soulmates and Company
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Russ St. George, Carla Springer, Ann Byrne, Harry Lawrence, Rik Mercaldi and Paul Byrne will perform acoustic sets, followed by a full band performance with Mitch Florian. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SAT 2
Freedom Concert
GARRISON
4 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform works by Beethoven, Mozart,

Mussorgsky, Strauss, Tchaikovsky and Verdi with views of the West Point fireworks. *Cost: \$55 (\$19 children; members \$44/\$15; free under age 4)*

SAT 2
Chris Smither
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | 845-855-1300
townecrier.com

The blues and folk singer and songwriter will perform an acoustic set with guest Milton. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

CIVIC
SAT 25
Primary Early Voting
PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road
845-808-1300 | putnamboe.com
Also SUN 26.

SAT 25
Primary Early Voting
FISHKILL
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Town Hall | 807 Route 52
elections.dutchessny.gov
Also SUN 26.

TUES 28
Primary Election
GARRISON
6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Firehouse
1616 Route 9 | putnamboe.com
This location replaces the Continental Village clubhouse.

TUES 28
Primary Election
PHILIPSTOWN
6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road | putnamboe.com

TUES 28
Primary Election
FISHKILL
6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Town Hall
807 Route 52 | elections.dutchessny.gov

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BYOC*

***Bring Your Own Containers**

No single-use at this Beacon store; it sells in bulk

By Marc Ferris

There is no magic bullet to reduce the trash produced in the Highlands, but the emergence of bulk-refill stores in the Hudson Valley reflects a wider attempt to pivot from single-use plastic containers and other flotsam of throwaway culture.

Refill REstore, which started as a pop-up last year, has brought the concept to Beacon. Focusing on everyday household items and pet supplies, it requires customers to bring their own packaging for items such as shampoo, hand soap and dishwashing liquid. Liquids are priced by the ounce. A 5-gallon tub of hair conditioner or cleaning solution removes 40 16-ounce plastic vessels from entering the waste stream, says owner Jodianne Lindh.

At REfill REstore, laundry detergent is available as liquid or powder in bulk, as sheets that dissolve during the wash or as a pack of powder encased by a thin film that also disappear in the machine. Mouthwash and toothpaste come in pellets. Compostable products include cleaning cloths, coffee sold in tea bags and makeup removal pads.

If packages are provided, they are typi-

cally made from bamboo, cornstarch or cellulose and are compostable, Lindh says.

Lindh, who co-owns a jerky store, Village Jerk, a few doors down, says she began to research the prevalence of plastic and other substances after she experienced severe reactions to several prescription medications.

It turned out the common denominator were the fillers, such as plastic, wood pulp “and other things that probably shouldn’t be there,” she says. “I began thinking about everything that I’m tossing away and began to change my outlook.”

The Understory Market in Cold Spring, which *The Current* profiled in October, sells similar low-waste and bulk products. At both stores, most dispensers are cleaned, reused and redistributed by the companies that provide them.

Of course it’s easier to implement conscious consuming in relatively affluent municipalities such as those in the Highlands, notes Sergei Krasnikov, chair of Beacon’s Conservation Advisory Committee, whose family shops at REfill REstore.

The upfront prices for some goods are higher at refill stores, although they typically offer savings in the long run. For instance, a 92-ounce plastic jug of Tide laundry liquid that sells for less than \$15 at a chain would cost about twice that at REfill REstore and Understory Market, but the bulk detergent is concentrated and will last longer, says Lindh.

Food Huggers, a reusable pouch made from silicone and touted as a replacement for Tupperware and plastic storage bags, are cheaper over time, and compostable



Jodianne Lindh at her bulk retail shop, REfill REstore, in Beacon

Photo by M. Ferris

dishtowels made from cellulose and cotton fibers can last for months, lessening the need for sponges and paper towels.

Other products at REfill REstore promote cleaner ingredients and small-scale operations, such as Fat and the Moon deodorant cream. Ecoslay hair products come in plastic containers with a notice that they’re homemade and have never see the inside of a lab, factory or warehouse.

Cute items include Friendsheep dryer balls, a replacement for softening sheets that look like animals, and a sprout pencil. When finished, users plant the stub and up comes a daisy, carnation or spruce tree.

If things go according to plan, bulk-refill stores will open soon in Rhinebeck and New Paltz, said Lindh. She knows because the aspiring proprietors have visited her outlet seeking pointers.

To stay ahead of burgeoning competition, Lindh continues to research the market and guard against “greenwashing,” where companies pose as protectors of the environment but fail to live up to their stated ideals.

For the moment, refill stores are niche, in part because consumers are usually bound by habit. “It would be great if bulk items became widely adopted, but a lot of people are brand loyal or they follow trends and marketing,” says Krasnikov. “People are used to having hundreds of products to choose from.”

“All we can do is make one small shift in each household,” says Lindh. “It won’t reach critical mass in my lifetime, but hopefully it will make a difference for my grandchildren.”

Refill REstore, at 480 Main St., in Beacon, is open from noon to 6 p.m. daily except Tuesday and Wednesday.



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Classical Camp Comes to Beacon

Summer program relocates from Massachusetts

By Alison Rooney

Though the description “classical music conservatory” may sound more rigorous than nurturing, that is not the case with the Lyra Music Young Artist Performance Program, a two-week residential summer program that this year relocated from Massachusetts to the Highlands.

Its administrative offices are now in Beacon, and its residential quarters at the Storm King School in Cornwall. Students are returning in-person for the first time since 2019 and, beginning Tuesday (June 28), will perform at venues throughout the area, including the Beacon and Cold Spring farmers’ markets and the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

Lyra Music was founded in 2010 in Vermont to work with students of classical music, many of whom aspire to professional careers. Along with its two-week summer program, it organizes a music festival, master classes, free outdoor performances in public spaces and a competition, which raises money for scholarships.



Sasaki and Odo

Its co-founder and artistic director is pianist Akiko Sasaki, who has lived in Beacon with her family since 2015. She is a faculty member at SUNY New Paltz and last year was named the music director of the Howland Chamber Music Circle.

Most of the musicians who audition for and attend Lyra’s summer program are between 11 and 18. For many, it is their first opportunity to share their talents with



Two student cellists play with a resident counselor (center).

Photos provided



Violinist Kristin Lee works with a Lyra student.

professionals.

Most performances are before an audience, either at ticketed events or free community concerts. The aim is to give each student experience in solo and chamber performance, as well as to constructively critique the work of others.

Sasaki says her goal with Lyra from the start was to create an intensive, performance-focused program. “In bigger programs, you might only get to play for an audience once a week,” she says.

The summer program culminates in a gala on July 9 at the Howland Cultural Center, a venue Lyra’s executive director, Rachel Odo, calls “incredible for music, especially chamber music — the way music sounds in that room, the ability to sit so close. At a place like Lincoln Center, the energy is different. Here, you feel this community.”

Sasaki recognizes that she has competition. “The middle school years are often the most challenging, with kids active in

Lyra Concerts

Proof of vaccination and masks will be required at indoor concerts. For tickets and more information, see lyramusic.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

Staff Performances

11 a.m. Beacon Farmers’ Market

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

Staff and Student Performances

4 p.m. Benmarl Winery, Marlboro

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

Horszowski Trio

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

FRIDAY, JULY 1

Student Performances

6 p.m. Storm King Art Center

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Student Performances

10 a.m. Cold Spring Farmers’ Market

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Student Performances

6 p.m. Storm King School

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

**Estelle Choi (Cello),
Henry Kramer (Piano),
Kristin Lee (Violin)**

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Gala Concert

2 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

other things like sports,” she says. “Things like these summer programs keep the playing going. The experience, the challenge of working up to the final performance, keeps them motivated and practicing through the year.”

Odo concurs: “A beautiful aspect of our program is bringing together diverse people from diverse places and watching them learn how to support each other, rather than compete for one spot. Our counselors are trained to reinforce that.

“The social component takes over, which is actually a positive, because when students have peers it motivates them,” she adds. “There’s an assumption made that children are only interested in certain kinds of music, but we’ve found, when we do our outdoors concerts, younger kids gravitate toward seeing older kids playing classical music. We’re trying to build those audiences. We want to show young aspiring professionals how people enter this field.”

NOTICE

The Village of Nelsonville is seeking volunteers to fill two positions on the Nelsonville Village Planning Board. If you are interested in serving in your community, please send a letter of interest to the Village Board of Trustees at 258 Main Street, Nelsonville, NY 10516.

Email:
villageclerk@nelsonvillenyny.gov



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Roots and Shoots

Praise the Pollinators

By Pamela Doan

Although National Pollinator Week ends on Sunday (June 26), efforts to support and conserve pollinators are a year-round endeavor and anyone with a yard or a patch of land to tend can be an important part of it.



little bit of foresight to put taller plants in the back or something like that. Not super intentional, but it has made an impact.

Tending to all these beds gets easier, though. As the plants grow in and seed themselves and move around, every year the ratio of desired plants to weeds gets lower. If there isn't bare soil, there isn't a place for a weed to move in. I'm also experimenting with cutting instead of pulling weeds.

During a workshop on meadow design last fall, the landscape architect leading it mentioned that he has lived in his home for 30 years and built up the landscape with native plants, shrubs and trees. He cuts the weeds instead of hand-pulling, so now the seedbed is predominantly native plants, not weeds or invasive plants. As we seek to regenerate our landscapes, that method made a lot of sense to me.

We need a national campaign like Pollinator Week to increase awareness of the threats our native pollinators face and how to help them. Eighty percent of plants need pollination and much of our food system relies on pollinators. Those are two big reasons to care. In the U.S., there are 4,000 species of native bees and more than 400 of those are found in New York state. Most people probably wouldn't recognize one, so strong is our lack of insect knowledge. (The honeybee is

When I visit our veterinarian's office, I always appreciate the traffic circle in the parking lot that is bursting with milkweed and other native plants. Someone took care and attention to create that habitat of bee and butterfly goodness and it reflects the values of the business, too.

My recent count is 11 native-plant garden beds in my yard. Most of it has happened through necessity, rather than planning. I removed something without ecological usefulness and had to put something else in its place. While I approach garden planning for other people from a comprehensive perspective, considering all the elements and step-by-step planting with all the details laid out, my own yard is more of an "Oh no! Now I've got to put something there!"

Pull out the forsythia, replace it with any native plant I can get my hands on with a



Gardening success as defined by losing your parsley to hungry swallowtail caterpillars

Photo by P. Doan

European and doesn't count in this survey.)

A pollinator is any insect that moves from flower to flower collecting pollen. For example, a bee stops by the flower on a tomato, and grains of pollen from the flower's anther, or male part, stick to its body. When the bee stops by another tomato flower, the pollen will rub off on the stigma, or female part. Reproduction! Fruit and seeds are conceived.

Bees are the pollinators most commonly considered but butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds and bats are also pollinators. Some plants are wind-pollinated.

Each of these species has special ways to survive, and plants and pollinators depend on each other. Monarchs need milkweed to

lay their eggs. The caterpillars feed on the leaves, then — voila! — metamorphosis and iconic butterflies. Every native plant has an insect that it supports as food or habitat or a pollen source. That is their ecosystem.

The Pollinator Week program recommends community and public activities — great ideas for the Hudson Highlands for 2023 that can be implemented for people of all ages. The Xerces Society, an invertebrate conservation organization that works on policy, public and private programs, recommends three steps that can be effective in any yard:

■ Landscape with native plants that preserve and support those plant/pollinator relationships.

■ Allow space for bare ground for ground nesting bees, brush piles for places to spend the winter, or even put in a mason bee house or something similar.

■ Use pesticides sparingly, if at all. Insecticides won't just kill mosquitoes, they will kill anything that comes in contact with the poisonous chemicals. If pesticides can't be avoided, be sure they are applied according to the label's instructions to minimize consequences.

Xerces also advocates for pollinators and has many useful resources that can be shared through workshops, social media and community groups. Locally, the Pollinator Pathway networks aim to create refugia or linked landscapes that support pollinators. More on those programs to come.

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- Kielbasa & Sauerkraut
- Desserts

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Charles Day checks on a graft.

Photos by M. Turton

Cold Spring’s Novel Tree Experiment

Grafting may help eliminate a problematic tree

By Michael Turton

The adage about making lemonade when life hands you lemons may be one definition of optimism.

But what to do when life gives you pears?

The village-owned portion of Cold Spring’s urban forest, found mostly along its streets and in its parks, has close to 500 trees. They include more than 40 species, including red maple, black locust, zelkova, pin oak, weeping willow and Eastern red cedar. Ten years ago, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Program put their replacement cost at close to \$2 million.

Beyond their monetary value, urban trees provide oxygen, shade, habitat, beauty and even psychological wellness: Street trees have been proven to relieve stress. People love trees, and for good reason.

The Callery pear, however, is a weak link. It accounts for 12 percent of the Cold Spring inventory, including 21 trees along Main Street. Known alternatively as Bradford, Aristocrat and Cleveland Select, *Pyrus calleryana* has white springtime blooms and a deep purple and red fall foliage. It grows fast, thrives in a variety of soil and is resistant to serious disease.

Native to China and Vietnam, the Callery pear was brought to the U.S. in the early 1900s by the fruit industry as part of an attempt to develop a fire- and blight-resistant tree. It was planted in many Hudson Valley communities.

Over the years, its good traits have been eclipsed by its bad, including weak structure (two of the Main Street trees have split

or toppled); susceptibility to storms (six have been removed because of damage); an annual crop of sticky fruit that falls onto parked cars; and, most recently, the spread of invasive, thorny hybrids that have taken over the northern end of the former Marathon Battery property on Kemble Avenue and are expected to advance toward Foundry Dock Park and Foundry Marsh.

Members of Cold Spring’s Tree Advisory Board hope to improve the village-owned tree stock with grafting, which, over time, could essentially convert Callery pears into a more desirable species.

Grafting removes a shoot or “scion” from one species and implants it in another. The scions eventually begin to take over. For the graft to be successful, the tree species must be closely related.

“In April, six Callery pears were grafted with one shoot each from Hawthorn, shadbush, quince or fruiting pear,” said Charles Day, who heads up the experiment. “The trunk will remain a Callery pear, but the shoots from the grafts will eventually become branches.”

That transition could take as long as four years, he said, adding: “Until then, they could look a little strange!”

Day said grafting is commonly used in commercial orchards to change varieties, usually within the same type of fruit. Compatibility is a “tricky thing”; a graft can grow for a year and suddenly die. Day plans to assess the first grafts this winter and hopes to add more to the most promising trees.

Day said residents who have Callery pears should probably just have them removed. “Mature Callery pears need careful pruning to keep them safe, because their branches tend to break off, and the trees at any age are potentially invasive,” he said.



A new branch emerges from a fruiting pear grafted to a Callery pear.

NOTICE

Summer Food Service Program Media Release

The Beacon City SD announces its participation in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Meals will be provided at no charge for all enrolled children in programs scheduled at Beacon High School and Rombout Middle School for the 2022 Summer Schedule. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Persons interested in receiving more information should contact: Beacon City SD, 10 Education Dr., Beacon, NY 12508-3994

Karen Pagano June 15, 2022

X (Signature of Authorized Representative) (Date)

Children participating in the following program(s) will be provided free meals:

Site Name	Rombout High School	Beacon High School
Site Address	84 Matteawan Rd., Beacon, NY 12508-2051	101 Matteawan Rd., Beacon, NY 12508-2099
Begin Date	07/11/22	07/05/22
End Date	08/10/22	08/12/22
PROGRAMS		
Breakfast / Times	8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	7:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Lunch / Times	11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Garrison Woman Sets Two World Records

Guinness approves sword-balancing marks

By Michael Turton

Every one of the more than 53,000 Guinness World Records is unique, and Garrison resident Emily Quant now holds two.

In April, *The Current* reported on Quant's plan to establish a record for balancing swords on her body. She suggested two categories to Guinness, which approved them.

On April 30, in Salem, Massachusetts, her pandemic-shutdown training paid off.

First, she balanced 28 prop swords on her body within a minute, more than doubling the minimum of 12 set by Guinness. It took her a year of training to reach the 21-sword mark. (The swords, though dulled, are still sharp enough to cut skin.)

Next, she Quant balanced 56 swords on her body within three minutes, or 26 more than Guinness required. She had balanced 50 swords only once during training. "It was validation of the massive time, emotional and financial investment I had made," she says. "It was such a huge relief."

On Wednesday (June 22), Quant received two certificates from Guinness, confirming the world records she now holds.

"It was incredibly stressful; I was a nervous wreck," Quant said of her attempts. "I wasn't sleeping. It took over my life."

When verifying records, Guinness, which first published its famous book in 1955, doesn't take people at their word. All of Quant's swords had to fit their specifications, and she had to film each attempt with two cameras — one set at normal speed and the other in slow motion.

She was also required to have two neutral witnesses and two timekeepers who attested to the legitimacy of her record.



Emily Quant en route to setting her second record.

Photo by Chad Bennett

She said setting both records brought some healing. "I've had experiences where I gave my all to something, only to have it not work out," she says. "It was like I had this psychological block, that if I put my whole self into something, it's just going to fail. Now, I know am capable."

Quant performs mainly in the tri-state area, including recently at Kingdom Faire in Yorktown Heights, the summer "pirate show" that attempted to locate at Graymoor in Garrison. Her acts include everything from fire-spinning and stilt-walking, to harp and voice shows, belly dancing — and

now sword balancing.

She is already considering other record attempts, including one that Guinness rejected in her initial proposal: balancing the most swords, with no time limit.

"I've also thought about attempting the largest fireball," she says, although it would require organizing a group of fire spinners, which she compared to herding cats.

She also would like to be recognized in the annual *Guinness Book of World Records*, which includes only select records. "There are about 10,000 records that are not even [recorded] in the online directory," she says.

She is already wondering how long it will be before another sword balancer takes a shot at her marks. "I'm nervous about putting my footage online because it will make it a lot easier for somebody to copy my method, which took a long time to develop," she says. "But that's all in the sport of it."



Quant shows off the Guinness certification for her 60-second record.

Photo provided

“It was incredibly stressful; I was a nervous wreck. I wasn't sleeping. It took over my life.

~ Emily Quant, on preparing for her attempts

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Mouths to Feed

Summer, Unrolling

By Celia Barbour



As a general rule, something can't be both a beginning and a middle at the same time. But the summer solstice ignores this logic, being simultaneously the official first day of summer and the occasion for midsummer — the high point in the year's rhythm of day and night, the tent pole holding up the brightest point of our hemisphere's seasons. And among druids, pagans, fairy queens and Scandinavians like my mother, midsummer is an occasion for great joy.

Thanks to my mom, I grew up attuned to the length of days, and I still love regaling people with curious, planetary-shift facts like this one: As of this writing, Beacon has 5 more minutes of daylight than New York City. Cool, right?

Some years ago, my mother told me about something called Midsummer Madness, an

affliction that supposedly overtakes Finns every June. They stay awake for days on end, reveling in the 24-hour daylight.

Though we clock in at just over 15 hours between sunrise and sunset here in the Highlands, it's still an armload of light. So perhaps midsummer madness is what I was suffering from on the eve of the solstice, when I suddenly thought, Why not make summer rolls? Because I've never really liked them.

Summer rolls always look so fresh and colorful that I take one whenever they're offered at parties and other catered events. A moment later, I find myself with a mouthful of fairly bland flavors and discordant textures, wishing I had my own shot glass of dipping sauce to chase it all down. (To be fair, I'm pretty sure I've never had an authentic one.)

Whenever I simultaneously want and don't want to eat something, I skip past the logical dilemma and think: OK, what about it am I craving? With summer rolls,

that was easy.

Summer rolls are a Vietnamese dish, traditionally made with shrimp and/or pork, basil, mint, cilantro, lettuce, scallions and rice noodles, all wrapped tightly in rice paper and dipped in a potent sauce, often peanut. Apart from the rice paper (which tastes more like paper than rice) these are all flavors that I love.

So I began researching. Two decades ago, chef Alfred Portale developed an "Americanized" summer roll featuring an emulsified lemongrass dressing folded into the fillings, "eliminating the need for dipping altogether," as he wrote in *Alfred Portale's 12 Seasons Cookbook*. The dressing also helps to moisten the ingredients and marry the flavors. Problem was, his dressing was a lot of work for scant payoff.

Elsewhere, in an online comments section for a summer-roll recipe, several people remarked that rolling up the rice paper was

Summer Un-rolls

Eat out of hand as (messy) lettuce cups, or serve as a salad.

- 1 carrot, peeled and julienned
- 1 small cucumber, peeled, seeded and julienned
- ½ cup shredded cabbage
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- ¼ teaspoon sugar
- Salt and white pepper to taste
- 1 pound steamed shrimp, peeled and de-veined
- 1 head Bibb lettuce (see note in text)
- 1 avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced thin
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- ¾ cup each mint, basil and cilantro leaves, sliced into chiffonade
- ½ cup peanuts, chopped, optional
- 1 cup dressing (see recipe at right)

Place the carrot, cucumber and cabbage in a small dish, and sprinkle with 2 teaspoons lime juice, the sugar and a little salt, and allow to sit a few minutes to lightly pickle.

For lettuce cups, slice the shrimp in half lengthwise. For salad, chop the shrimp or leave it whole.

For lettuce cups, lay the lettuce leaves on a platter. Arrange a few slices shrimp, the pickled vegetables, and 1 to 2 avocado slices on each leaf. Top with the sliced scallions and herbs, then sprinkle with peanuts, if using, plus the remaining lime juice and salt and pepper to taste. Add a dollop of dressing to each and serve, with more dressing on the side.

For salad, lay a bed of lettuce in a broad bowl. Toss the remaining ingredients with the dressing and place on top of the lettuce.

Lemongrass-Ginger Mayonnaise

- 1 cup good-quality mayonnaise
- 1 to 2 stalks lemongrass, inner core only, finely minced
- 1 inch-long piece of ginger, grated, or to taste
- 1 clove garlic, crushed to a paste with a little salt
- Zest and juice of one lime
- 1 teaspoon sriracha, or to taste
- 2 teaspoons fish sauce, optional
- Salt and white pepper to taste

In a small bowl, whisk together all ingredients. Taste and adjust for seasoning.

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Living in Putnam

There has never been a large population of Black people in Putnam County — the most recent census counted 3,820 African Americans (3.9 percent of the population), including 255 in Philipstown (2.6 percent).

In 1995 — when there were about 900 Black people in the county, or 1 percent of the population — a reporter for the *Journal News* interviewed three residents about their experiences. Meyrl Southlea was a retired teacher who had lived in Mahopac for 33 years; Harold Gary was the county commissioner of highways and facilities who had lived in Mahopac for 45 years; and James Nixon, an architect, had lived in Brewster for 15 years. Below are some of their observations. Southlea died in 2004 and Gary in 2020. Nixon continues his practice and is president of the Southeast Museum.

Buying a home

GARY: “Back in the 1950s, when I first came to Putnam County, one of the favorite sayings of real estate agents — and they could say it with authority, they didn’t need to be looking over their shoulders — was, ‘I don’t think you’ll be happy here.’ And I’ve heard that so many times. So that’s the reason the population of Blacks never increased in Putnam County. I don’t think a real estate agent would dare say to you today, ‘I don’t think you’ll be happy here.’ The laws have changed more than the people have changed.”

SOUTHLEA: “In the early 1960s, when I arrived, if you were Black, no real estate agent would show you anything that wasn’t swamp or rock. At that time, we had no Human Rights Commission and there were no restraints at all.”

Racism

GARY: “When you’re Black as long as I have been Black, [a racial epithet or cross burning, such as one that took place in Mahopac in 1994] doesn’t bother you. Because you know it’s there. You know it’s always out there. We’re not going to change it in our time. Does it disturb you? Of course it does. Every incident that reflects upon race irritates me. How you deal with it is a different thing.”

SOUTHLEA: “What you want — you want the law observed. At our first meeting [of the Mahopac Anti-Bias Coalition], one of our candidates stood up and said: ‘I don’t know how you change the hearts of people.’ I’m not interested in their hearts being changed. I want them to obey the law. No one has ever said anything [racist] to me. But I know that when I applied to teach here, it took them a long time to make up their minds.”

GARY: “[The racial climate] has changed [since he moved to Putnam]. The attitudes have become



Harold Gary

more acceptable. There has not been a total reversal. But you have to understand something else: It’s what people want to make of it when they come here. Regardless of whether you’re Black or white, your attitude and the way you become a citizen of the community determines how you’re going to be treated, although it may be more harsh if your attitude is negative if you’re Black.”

SOUTHLEA: “I was accepted. I never really ran into anything, except when I went out on a sabbatical in 1969. When I came back, there had been a building boom — I mean, development all over. That year I would say out of 27 children [in her class], 24 had not been in kindergarten in this county. And when those parents brought their children into school, they would walk right past my classroom, look in and keep going. Then they could come back and look in and keep going. Because they had been told there were no Black people in Putnam County. So, it was quite obvious that it was a surprise [to them]. But it was nothing overt, really.”

NIXON: “I never felt any real lack of acceptance when I came here in 1980. I feel generally accepted. I have clients in Putnam. I have more clients in Westchester, but that’s because Westchester is bigger. The one thing I am still aware of is that, to some people at least, James Nixon and Harold Gary are the ‘exceptions,’ so to speak. They may not be thinking that consciously, in exactly those words. But they are. That’s when they say, ‘Well, you’re different.’ ”

Black History (from Page 1)

ways of Beacon High School.

Police Chief Robert Epps — who had been the city’s first Black officer when he was hired in 1953 — said “no one seems to know” the reason for the conflicts. “We’ve asked the kids involved and they don’t even seem to know,” he said.

“Interracial dating between white girls and Black boys is part of it,” said Cahill. “But maybe the more serious problem is that nobody, the Blacks or whites involved, is listening. Where can you go if you can’t talk?”

The conflict capped a years-long period during which race had been a topic of conversation — when Blacks who left Southern states for Beacon to work in the city’s factories and at the Castle Point V.A. hospital in the 1940s and ’50s began demanding, in the 1960s and ’70s, representation in civic life and on city and county workforces.

But the unrest also became a catalyst for unity, spurring a multiracial coalition of community leaders to organize in 1977 the inaugural Spirit of Beacon Day, now in its 45th year. Dorothy Medley, a native of Asheville, North Carolina, who moved to Beacon in 1957, said that Nan Whittingham, then director of Beacon’s Neighborhood Service Organization, asked her and others to help organize a parade.

The event allowed residents to “see that we could live together and it was enough room for us all,” said Medley. “It wasn’t all about the Blacks; it wasn’t all about the whites; it wasn’t all about the Puerto Ricans. Beacon was big enough that we all could come together as a community and strive together.”

Campaigns for change

In 1933, the Rev. Francis Storey, pastor of the Star of Bethlehem Church in Beacon, announced a campaign to raise \$250 — about \$5,600 today — to aid the defense of the Scottsboro boys, nine Black teenagers and young men charged with raping two white women in Alabama. Eight had been convicted and sentenced to death, outraging both Blacks and whites and spurring a campaign to free them.

Two decades later, clergy and members from Beacon churches such as Star of Bethlehem, Springfield Baptist, St. James AME Zion and St. Andrew’s took the lead in demanding equal rights for Black residents. Men and women from their congregations also founded civic groups, such as Les Soeurs Amiables and the Southern Dutchess Coalition.

Pastors would attend City Council meetings and report to their congregations, said Medley, who joined Star of Bethlehem when she moved to Beacon. She later started attending council meetings herself.

“We were able to voice our opinion, but at that time, we didn’t have any representation,” she said.

Mazie Whitener, who had come to Beacon from South Carolina in 1936 with her husband, Henry, also became active. She joined a bus trip organized by St. James AME Zion to the 1963 March on Washington and she was among a group of residents that lobbied the Beacon and Newburgh school districts to hire their first Black teachers.

Blacks also fought for political representation, launching drives to register voters,



The Day They Turned Away Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson, who in 1947 became the first Black player in Major League Baseball, was a serious golfer. In 1966, a decade after he retired, he and a Black banker expressed interest in buying the Putnam Country Club in Mahopac for \$1.4 million.

When the owners immediately took the club off the market, the NAACP filed a complaint with the state’s Commission for Human Rights. It dismissed the action, as well as an appeal, citing a “lack of jurisdiction.”

Back on the market, the course sold for \$1.1 million to Ed Levrey, who owned the Harrison Country Club, and Lou Lubitz of Umberto’s Restaurant in New York City. It went through other owners — and nearly became a housing development — before being purchased by Putnam County in 2004.

especially in Ward 2, where most of them lived. Patricia Lewis, a future school board candidate then representing an organization called the Beacon Central Committee, told the Poughkeepsie Voters’ League in October 1963 that Beacon had more Blacks registered in Ward 2 than there had been three years earlier in the entire city.

Seeking jobs

When Mazie Whitener arrived in Beacon in 1936, she expected to find a job as a teacher. A college graduate, she had taught at one of the more than 450 schools built in South Carolina for Black students



Mazie Whitener in 1936

between the late 19th century through the early 1930s. The schools were named for Julius Rosenwald, the Sears, Roebuck & Co. president who helped fund their construction.

In Beacon, Whitener found the schools were integrated but had no Black teachers or administrators. She instead found work as a domestic for families and at the Holland Hotel.

(Continued on Page 21)

Whitener had encountered one of the ironies of the Jim Crow South: Segregation created jobs for Black educators.

Thomas White was hired as a Beacon teacher in 1954, the year the U.S. Supreme Court struck down racial segregation laws. Lois Hughes was hired to teach at South Avenue Elementary in 1962. By 1985, Les Soeurs Amiables was honoring Hughes, White and 12 other Blacks who taught in the district.

In 1951, five Dutchess County residents passed the civil service examination given to police officer applicants. One was Robert Epps, a resident of Beekman Street in Beacon's West End. He would go on to become the city's first Black officer and, in 1979, its acting police chief.

Blacks interested in becoming firefighters in Beacon also faced barriers. Candidates had to submit a handwritten application with signatures from three current members of the department. At a hearing in 1966 before the state's advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Beacon officials testified that the Public Works Department did have one Black employee.

In 1963, Beacon's City Council approved the creation of a Human Relations Commission. It named Stafford Hanna, a purchasing agent for IBM, as chair. Other members included William Strolis, manager of the state employment office in Beacon; Dr. Leonard Supple; the Rev. Thomas Fenlon from St. John's Church; and the Rev. Henry Hobby of St. James AME Zion Church.

"By this action, we know that you are interested in equal rights for the Negro," said Patricia Lewis, president of the West End Council, a neighborhood organization.

A 'house divided'

Although a 1961 state law barred racial discrimination in apartment houses with at least three units and new homes in developments of at least 10 units, to the residents of Beacon's West End, housing on the East End remained off-limits.

"A lot of my customers would talk about it — that they had a hard time trying to move over on the East side," said Medley, who owned a beauty salon.

In 1967, Mayor Charles Wolf agreed to study an anti-discrimination law proposed by Hildrom Fisher, president of the Beacon-Fishkill chapter of the NAACP, and supported by two prominent pastors: the Rev. Garfield Farley of Star of Bethlehem and the Rev. Henry King of St. James AME Zion. The law was intended to make it illegal for real-estate agents and brokers in Beacon to refuse to show property listings to potential buyers or renters. Violators could have been fined up to \$1,000 or jailed for up to one year.

After the City Council rejected the ordinance, Fisher walked out of the chambers. The city attorney, Anthony Pagones, said a state law already prohibited housing discrimination.

No law prevented urban renewal, which became a form of housing discrimination in the name of reducing "blight." The federally funded initiative erased much of Beacon's West End, where most Black residents lived, and, by 1966, had turned the city into a "house divided," Wolf said at the time.

Beacon's Black Pioneers

1963 School Board Member

William Curry won a one-year term on the school board and ran unopposed for a full term in 1964. (He died in 2004.) In 1964, on Bill of Rights Day, he was a member of a panel organized for teachers: "What Do Minority Groups Wish in Beacon?"

Leon Cochrane, who in 1968 was the second Black person elected to the school board, later became its president. A Beacon High School graduate, he was the fifth Black engineer hired at IBM. (His older brother, Harry Cochrane, was the first.) He died in 2019.



Cochrane

1972 Principal

Arthur "Ted" Brown became the first Black principal in the school district when he took over at Rombout Middle School. After his first year, he was demoted to his former job as assistant principal of Beacon High School, prompting protests. The board president said "no racism was involved" but that the move was based solely on a professional evaluation.

1979 Firefighter

Wilbur Oliver, 45, a school bus driver, was the first Black person to join the Beacon fire department. The department said it had never had a Black member because none had applied. But the Rev. Thomas Moneymaker criticized the application procedure, saying it discouraged minorities because it required the signatures of three current firefighters.

2001 City Council

Eleanor Thompson, 55, was elected as the first Black member of the City Council in November, to represent Ward 2. It was standing-room only at her swearing-in in January 2002, and the other officials sworn in that day, including Council Member-at-Large (and current mayor) Lee Kyriacou, all used the Thompson family bible. **Oteria Goggins** was the first Black woman to run for City Council, in 1989. She was defeated in the Democratic primary, 485-431, by incumbent Edith Krawiec, who in 1985 had been the first woman elected to the council.

2005 County Legislator

The first Black person elected to the Dutchess Legislature from Beacon was **Ronald Ray**, a Democrat. The first Black person elected to the Legislature was **Sherwood Thompson**, who represented part of Poughkeepsie, in 1982. (Clarence McGill, the founder of Dutchess County Community Against Racism, called Thompson "the best thing that has happened to Blacks in Dutchess County in 300 years.") The first Black person to serve on the Legislature was **Robert Vaughn**, a retired fire captain from Poughkeepsie who was appointed in 1977 to fill a vacancy. He lost in the general election.

That division reached a climax in March of that year when Wolf announced that he was bringing Beacon's nascent urban renewal plans "to a grinding halt" until they could be "re-evaluated."

The plan's first phase had called for demolishing a swath of the West End that had been resettled by Blacks migrating from the South, and relocating residents to new housing, including a yet-to-be-built 175-unit development that would be named Forrestal Heights. The relocation director for the Beacon Urban Renewal Agency said at a hearing in April 1966 that 188 of 252 structures in the Phase One area were occu-

pied by residents who were not white, and that 178 of those were to be demolished.

"There will be no acquisition of land, no demolition of properties, no awarding of contracts, nor any other executory acts for several months," said Wolf.

The Rev. Thomas Moneymaker, who was white, had moved to Beacon a year earlier when he was named priest-in-charge at St. Andrew's, a progressive Episcopal church considered the first in Beacon to integrate. Moneymaker, who died in 1998, "spent a lot of time at City Hall trying to get urban renewal to be reasonable," said Sandy Moneymaker, his widow.

He protested a proposal to build a sunken four-lane highway and relocate St. Andrew's from Wolcott Avenue to the ground floor of an apartment building at Bank Square, she said.

"Beacon would not be where it is today if urban renewal had their wishes," said Sandy Moneymaker.

On March 2, 1966, the Rev. Mattie Cooper, the founder of Springfield Baptist, brought urban renewal officials



Mattie Cooper

and residents together for a meeting at the church. The meeting came months before the city's Urban Renewal Agency was to begin construction on Forrestal Heights.

At the meeting, someone described the complex as a "ghetto project for the city's Negroes" and Thomas Moneymaker said Beacon was "easily the most bigoted city I've lived in. It easily could become another Selma, Alabama."

Weeks later, on March 22, a sexton for St. Andrew's discovered a burned cross and a note threatening Moneymaker in the church's parking lot. The note was addressed to "Rev. Money-trouble-maker" and read: "Church will burn next. Then you. We influence White Plains Diocese in New York City."

"The FBI came in and asked questions; they went away and nothing happened," recalled Sandy Moneymaker.

The City Council voted to move forward in 1966 with urban renewal, absent the sunken highway, and the battles over the program shifted to demanding that Blacks be given a share of the jobs it created and that the homeowners and renters whose properties were demolished receive fair subsidies to buy homes or rent apartments.

A complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1973 alleged that 100 families being relocated because of urban renewal were owed \$400,000 in benefits, including 85 who had never been told they were eligible for rental assistance. Beacon's Urban Renewal Agency denied the charges and blamed changes by the federal government for a delay in issuing payments.

One person who benefitted was Sharlene Stout. She never thought she would live on Beacon's East End, but urban renewal "scattered the Black folk all over the place," she recalled in an interview.

She and her husband were renting, for \$95 a month, a five-room apartment inside a house on Ferry Street designated for demolition. They were offered \$100 for each room as compensation to be used for a new apartment, or \$4,000 in matching funds to buy a house, she said.

There were rumors that a local white real estate agent was trying to steer dislocated Blacks away from the East End, but a Black agent suggested the couple buy a house now "because you ain't going to be able to afford it years later," said Stout. So, she and her husband borrowed \$2,000 that, along with the matching funds, allowed them to buy a home on Rector Street for \$26,600.

"He was absolutely right," Stout said of the advice.

(Continued on Page 22)



Genealogist Olivia Dorsey

Photo by Nitashia Johnson

Beacon Roots

Olivia Dorsey, who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, started researching her family tree early — at age 11. She discovered that her great-great-grandmother, Annie Lewis, came to Beacon from Florida; Annie’s daughter, Susie Mae Warren (1915-1998), followed in 1931. Dorsey’s great-grandfather, Steave Green (1900-1959), had arrived in Beacon two years earlier, found jobs at the Dennings Point and Brockway brickyards and joined the Springfield Baptist Church. He met Susie after he moved to a boarding house where she lived with her mother.

Now 30, Dorsey an admitted “tech nerd,” in 2019 created a website called Digital Black History (digitalblackhistory.com) to assist genealogists and historians. She has a sticker on her laptop that reads: “I am my ancestors’ wildest dreams.”

“There is a perseverance and resilience from my ancestors to say that slavery doesn’t define us and what we do,” she told *The New York Times* in March. “All these terrible things have happened, but we’re still going to persevere, we’re still going to succeed, even though we’re starting further back than other people.”

Genealogy for Black Americans has its particular challenges, such as a lack of documentation for enslaved ancestors. At the same time, some white genealogists are disappointed to discover detailed records that establish they are descended from slave owners. That has inspired groups such as Coming to the Table (comingtothetable.org), which was founded in 2006 and has a New York City chapter, in which descendants of enslavers and the enslaved come together for “truth-telling, building relationships, healing” and to fight modern inequities.

Black History (from Page 21)

A new spirit

There were other small victories.

In 1975, the Dutchess County Legislature approved an affirmative-action plan that called for hiring in proportion to the county’s gender and racial makeup. Just two of the 33 legislators voted against the plan, including Glenn Warren, a Republican from Fishkill who argued that the county already had a “a high percentage” of women and minority employees and that “maybe the white male should be opposed to this.” On the other side of the debate, Patricia Lewis, a Beacon activist, suggested the plan be set aside because it lacked a process for enforcement.

In 2001, Eleanor Thompson became the first Black to win a seat on Beacon’s City Council. Flora Jones, who came to Beacon from Alabama in 1937 as a child, said Thomp-

son’s win was also a victory for the city’s Democrats, after a “long battle to include people of color” on the council. (Jones died in February on her 85th birthday.)

Nearly three decades have passed since the 1974 clashes between Black and white young people in Beacon. Three years after that turmoil, in October 1977, a parade traveled east on Main Street from Cross to Eliza Street. It was the centerpiece of that first Spirit of Beacon Day, which included badminton, a concert, kite-flying, a skateboarding contest and tennis.

A multiracial coalition of Beacon residents believed in the event’s potential to unify the city, and the turnout vindicated that belief. It showed that “if we all come together, we’ll be together and we all can work together,” said Dorothy Medley.

“That was just the best thing that could have happened to Beacon,” she said.

This series is funded by a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and contributions to our Special Projects Fund (highlandscurrent.org/donate). The first four installments are available at highlandscurrent.org.

More Black Pioneers

1870 West Point Cadet

In a story with the headline “Colorphobia,” *The Cold Spring Recorder* in May 1870 noted that **James Webster Smith**, the first Black soldier to pass the entrance exam at West Point, had been refused a room at Roe’s Hotel (which was owned by the government and located on Trophy Point) to await the start of classes and had to find housing in Highland Falls.

Following several years of verbal and physical abuse from white cadets — detailed in letters he wrote to the *New National Era and Citizen*, a Black newspaper in Washington, D.C. — Smith was dismissed after allegedly failing a philosophy class. He died of tuberculosis in 1876. In 1997, the academy posthumously awarded him a commission.



Henry Ossian Flipper

The first Black cadet to graduate from West Point, in 1877, was a former slave from Georgia, **Henry Ossian Flipper**, who in 1889 wrote a memoir of his experiences that paid tribute to Smith.

1939 Female Judge

Jane Bolin, a 1924 Poughkeepsie High School graduate (at age 15), was the first Black woman to earn a degree from Yale Law School and the first Black female judge in the U.S. when she was sworn in to the Family Court at age 31 by New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. She would serve three, 10-year terms. In 1944, in an address in Poughkeepsie at its annual American Brotherhood dinner, she noted the city had no Black judges, firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, skilled factory workers or teachers and suggested that textbooks be revised to include the contributions of minorities. Bolin died in 2007.



Jane Bolin

1940 Nurse

The first Black nurse employed by the Dutchess County Health Department was **Hannah Johnson**. The first Black nurse hired at Vassar Brothers Hospital was **Dorothy Edwards**, in 1946.

1945 Bar President

Gaius Bolin Sr. (1845-1946), Jane Bolin’s father, was elected president of the Dutchess County Bar Association. He was also the first Black graduate of Williams College in Massachusetts.



Gaius Bolin Sr.

1987 Agency Head

Folami Gray, 33, of Poughkeepsie, became the first Black head of a Dutchess County agency when she was named director of the Youth Bureau.

1989 Mayor

The first Black mayor in Dutchess County is believed to be **George Carter**, who was elected in Fishkill. He died in 2001.

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. "Dream on!"

5. Clothing protector

8. Greet

12. Well-read folks

14. Celestial bear

15. Beatles drummer before Ringo Starr

16. Algeria's neighbor

17. Occupation, for short

18. Straw hat

20. Young horses

23. Printer's blue

24. New York canal

25. Talkers' marathon

28. Bankroll

29. North African capital

30. Josh

32. Doctor's order

34. Trellis climber

35. Missing

36. Mature, as fruit

37. Small porches

40. Spelldown

41. Ms. Brockovich

42. Oater setting

47. "— Lang Syne"

48. Pokey

49. Disarray

50. Toronto's prov.

51. Artist Bonheur

DOWN

1. Swiss peak

2. "Sprechen — Deutsch?"

3. Addams cousin

4. Weak

5. Folk singer Joan

6. TGIF part

7. Gradually

8. Compassionate

9. "I smell —!"

10. Cruise stop

11. Hideaway

13. Baseball stats

19. Lummoxes

20. Hardly any

21. Verbal

22. Opera set in Egypt

23. Is able to, old-style

25. "Recognize my voice?"

26. Omit

27. Fork prong

29. Sporty car roof

31. Lion's home

33. Light-headed folks?

34. TV audience member

36. Some wines

37. Line of fashion?

38. Verifiable

39. Monet's supply

40. Inky stain

43. Charged bit

44. Id counterpart

45. "Mayday!"

46. Former Delta rival

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Answers for June 17 Puzzles

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

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

1. WILDLIFE, 2. DUNST, 3. FORGES, 4. SUPPOSEDLY, 5. MILIEU, 6. EMOTING, 7. PNEUMATIC

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

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 where a tulip starts (4)

2 inclination (10)

3 person overseeing one's work (7)

4 denoted (9)

5 most Sesame Street denizens (7)

6 Khan el-Khalili, notably (6)

7 horrible tribulations (10)

SOLUTIONS

BU	IED	NCE	PR	NA
RE	TS	ARES	PUP	NIG
PE	AAR	SIG	MA	EFE
GER	HTM	LB	BAZ	NIF

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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SPORTS



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U9 pitcher Leo Virgadamo delivers on Tuesday (June 21) against the Hudson Valley Tigers.



Easton White checks out the situation from first base during the Tuesday game.

Beacon's 15U travel baseball team for players ages 15 and younger, which includes several players from the Beacon High School varsity, is off to a 7-1 start in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League summer season.

Last weekend, the Bulldogs won the nine-team New York Elite Baseball Battle of the Bats tournament in New Windsor, going 4-0. Beacon cruised through its last two games, dominating Crush Plunkett, 7-0, in the semifinals, and the Brewster Crush, 10-0, in the championship.

Beacon's most recent win was Tuesday (June 21) at Robinson Lane in Hopewell Junction, where the Bulldogs picked up a 7-3 victory over the Northeast Pride, a team from Westchester County.

Jackson Atwell picked up the win on the mound for the Bulldogs in relief, going four innings and striking out three. Ronnie Anzovino started and went two-plus innings.

Mercer Jordan drove in two runs and went 3-for-4 with a double. Liam Murphy was 2-for-4 with two RBI, Mikey Fontaine drove in a run and had three stolen bases, and Derrick Heaton doubled and drove in a run.

The team split a doubleheader on June 18, losing at Brewster, 9-6, before defeating the Bears, 6-5, in the nightcap.

"The guys have been coming together; this is a good group that plays unselfish, and works well together," said Coach Bob Atwell.

The Bulldogs' pitching staff is led by Heaton, Fontaine, Austin Jorgenson, Anzovino, Anthony Borromeo, Atwell and Morgan Varricchio.

"All of them can start or relieve," Atwell said. "We're working on pounding the zone, walk-to-strikeout ratio, and throwing secondary pitches for strikes."

The team's offense has been hitting at a .313 clip. "That average might be a little low for this team," the coach said. "I feel like they can hit better."

BASEBALL ROUNDUP



By
Skip Pearlman

Atwell's team won the league title last summer and reached the championship game in the fall. "This is the same team, so I feel like we should be pretty competitive," Atwell said.

The Bulldogs will face Fairfield in a doubleheader on Saturday (June 25) at Beacon High School, with games starting at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Next weekend the team heads to Hershey, Pennsylvania, for a tournament.

Beacon's 12U team, coached by Ryan Coval and Jed Varricchio, won its first two games of the summer season, beating the Putnam County Coyotes (Mahopac), 6-0, on June 12, and Wallkill, 18-1, a day later.

Against the Coyotes, Aidan Heaton and Elijah Epps combined to throw a no-hitter. Heaton started and went five innings, strik-

ing out seven, and Epps threw the final inning.

"To see Aidan come out and put on one of the best performances I've seen was great," said Varricchio. "He made his pitches

and located well. And Epps throws hard for a 12-year-old — he did a great job, as well."

Naim Dika hit a solo home run and drove in two runs, Hudson Fontaine went 2-for-3 with two RBI, Epps had a solo homer, Jayden Lassiter recorded an RBI and Nolan Varricchio went 2-for-3.

"Naim, Parker White and Epps are new to our team, and they've been a really nice addition to our group," Varricchio said. "That was a great job by Dika, Fontaine, Epps and Jayden, and Nolan and Connor Varricchio are both starting to hit the ball well."

The team, which lost 11-2 on June 19 to Marlboro, will play a doubleheader Sunday (June 26) at home against Poughkeepsie at 10 a.m. and noon.

The 9U team is off to a strong start, as well, winning two of its first three games. The Bulldogs came up short in their most recent game, on Tuesday (June 21), losing 11-3 at home to the Mid-Hudson Tigers of Kingston. But they scored earlier wins over Shrub Oak and Patterson.

"We ran into a buzz saw" against the Tigers, Assistant Coach Jed Varricchio said of the Kingston pitcher. "He threw hard, and he threw strikes. A lot of 9-year-olds are still learning to be aggressive at the plate."

Leo Virgadamo, Ryan Spooner and Maxx Digneo handled the pitching for the Bulldogs, and Jack Giametta, AJ Constantino and Digneo each drove in runs. AJ Rhodus and Spooner also had hits for Beacon.

"Our pitchers did a nice job," Varricchio said. "Leo throws strikes and he grinds, he has a great attitude, and gave us some good innings. Spooner is pitching for us for the first time, and Maxx is our hardest thrower. Offensively, we got some good at-bats from Hudson Fontaine and Easton White; they hit the ball hard. But Kingston made some good defensive plays."

Along with Varricchio, Beacon is coached by Tom Virgadamo and assistants Anthony White and John Constantino.

Beacon topped the Shrub Oak Storm, 10-5, on June 17 at Lakeland High School, with Constantino picking up the win, striking out six and allowing just four hits. Digneo and Easton White each pitched one inning.

Digneo drove in three runs at the plate, and Evan Eraca and Grady Barton each knocked in two.

Beacon defeated Patterson, 7-2, in its season opener on June 10. The team is scheduled to host Patterson on Saturday (June 25) at Memorial Park at 4:15 p.m.



Coach Tom Virgadamo (right) and the 9U Bulldogs are off to a 3-2 this summer.

Photos by S. Pearlman