

The HIGHLANDS Current



Glassy
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Hot, Dry Summer

'Severe' drought hits Highlands

By Leonard Sparks

Joshua Laird, executive director of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, stood outside its headquarters at Bear Mountain on Monday (Aug. 8) and watched a rising plume of smoke.

By Wednesday, after burning through 5 acres, the fire had been contained but not extinguished as rangers continued to douse the area with water and watch for flare-ups, said Laird. They were battling not just the flames, but an abundance of fuel left by this summer's dry weather.

"Even the smallest spark, whether it was somebody's cigarette, or the sun bouncing off a mirror, could have started it in these types of conditions," he said. "It's a pretty scary sight."

What last summer gave in abundance, this one taketh away.

The Highlands in 2021 had its rainiest July, August and September in three years, keeping lawns and hillsides green well into the fall. But this summer is a brownout, the product of a combination of drought and the third-warmest July on record.

Rainfall in Beacon and Cold Spring, which had their last big storm on July 19, is 6 to 8 inches below normal for the year, according to the National Weather Service.

(Continued on Page 8)



A brush fire damaged 5 acres at Bear Mountain, where a lack of rainfall has left dry conditions. Fort Montgomery Fire District

WORD PLAY — A team of students at a summer academy held at Rombout Middle School in Beacon conferred on Wednesday (Aug. 10) when asked to identify the adjectives in a sentence. How did they do? See Page 18. Photo by Valerie Shively

Maloney Faces Primary Challenge

State senator takes on House incumbent

By Chip Rowe and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Early voting starts Saturday (Aug. 13) for the Aug. 23 primary for congressional seats and the state Senate. It will be the second primary of the summer following one in June for the state Assembly.

Because of redistricting based on 2020 census data, Beacon residents will no longer share a member of Congress with Philipstown. Instead, Beacon will be part of District 18 and Philipstown will shift to District 17. (The Highlands will remain in the same state Senate district.)

Those new boundaries caused sparring between Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Philipstown resident whose district now includes the Highlands, and Alessandra Biaggi, a state senator elected in 2018 to represent a district that includes lower Westchester County and part of New York City. They will square off on Aug. 23 for the Democratic line on the November ballot.

Biaggi felt Maloney should have run in the



Maloney

Biaggi

new District 18, which is more competitive, and left District 17 for another candidate, especially given his role as head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Maloney, first elected in 2012, chose to run in District 17, where he lives, although there is no residency requirement for House seats.

On the Republican side, five candidates will appear on the Aug. 23 ballot (Shoshana David, Charles Falciglia, William Faulkner, Michael Lawler and Jack Schrepel), as well as two on the Conservative Party ballot (Faulkner and Lawler).

In District 18, which will include Beacon, there are three Democratic congressional

(Continued on Page 6)

MTA Finances Worsen

Ridership projections revised downward

By Leonard Sparks

New York officials lobbied Congress and the Biden administration to include a \$15 billion bailout of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion pandemic spending bill enacted in March 2021.

But the transportation agency's situation has worsened since then.

Ridership on the MTA's buses and subways, and its Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North commuter trains, will rebound at a lower level than previously predicted, according to updated projections through 2026 presented to the MTA board when it met on July 27.

Metro-North, which set a ridership record in 2019, on Tuesday (Aug. 9) drew

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5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: KIM RUSSELL

By Mike Turton

Kim Russell, who lives in Cold Spring, has been an oncology nurse at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie for 20 years.

This was your first job after you studied nursing at Dutchess Community College. What stands out from that time?

I remember how scary it was, the fear of not making it. And how hard it was, how stressful, having three kids, going through a divorce and working full time while going to school. But I remember seeing the nurses working and thinking, "I can't wait to be able to do that." At the end of the DCC program, I did a six-week preceptorship in the oncology care unit. I loved it. I had thought about working in the operating room because I had worked in the OR at Butterfield Hospital [in Cold Spring] in housekeeping. I was absent the day graduates chose what floor they wanted to work on, so I was assigned to oncology. I felt it was meant to be.

Do you remember your first cancer patient?

It was a young girl with cervical cancer. She passed away on the last day of my preceptorship, graduation day. It was

the first time I experienced the death of a patient. I was so upset I left my stethoscope behind. I went to graduation and then the candlelight ceremony, attended only by nurses. A nurse I worked with that day brought me my stethoscope. We've been friends ever since.

What motivates you?

Almost every family says they don't know how we do this work. It's hard to explain, but it is so rewarding. I'm open with my patients; I have a cancer history and I'll discuss what I went through. When patients are at their most vulnerable, weakest point, and their families are in the same boat, we can give them strength. We can talk to doctors for them, stand up for them. We can answer questions; we can teach them, support them. That's what's so great about this job.

What was it like to work through the pandemic?

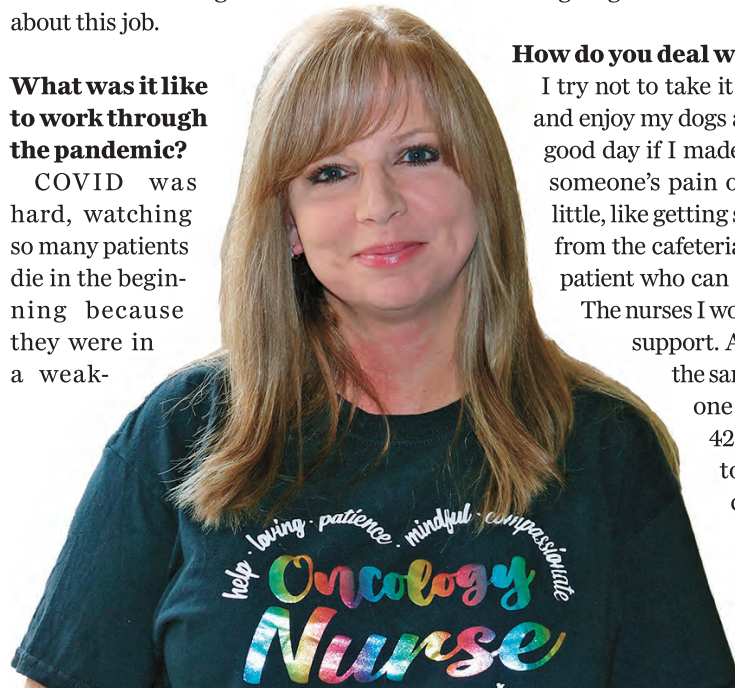
COVID was hard, watching so many patients die in the beginning because they were in a weak-

ened state. When it first hit, we knew nothing. One day we were talking about it; the next day it was here. Initially, I was one of those who thought it was being exaggerated, that it wasn't going to be what they were saying. Later, I lost friends on Facebook who thought it was a hoax. I wished I could have shown them what I saw. The number of COVID patients basically shut our hospital down. After being sent to work in the COVID unit, we did an eight-hour class to learn about the ventilators. One intensive-care nurse would oversee three of us. There were not many good outcomes. Everyone was so sick. It was just watching suffering, watching death. It was devastating, to go to work crying every day, come home crying every day, to stand outside my house in the cold and rain, take my hospital clothes off and go right into the shower. It was awful.

How do you deal with the stress?

I try not to take it home with me; I relax and enjoy my dogs and my kids. It's been a good day if I made someone smile, eased someone's pain or even did something little, like getting someone a cup of coffee from the cafeteria, or an Italian ice for a patient who can only have clear liquids.

The nurses I work with are a wonderful support. A lot of us have been on the same floor for many years; one nurse just celebrated 42 years. We decompress together. We also have chaplains who come to meet with us. My work has made me appreciate so much of my life. I don't let the little things bother me.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Have you ever gone to a psychic?

“Yes, but not a good one, although I do believe in psychic ability.”



Ellyce Salinas, Beacon

“No. I don't necessarily believe in it; if I did, I'm not sure I'd want to know my future.”



Daniel Boyer, Beacon

“Many. Sometimes you hear what you want to hear; even legit psychics can't always be right.”



Christine Marcucci Ashburn, Cold Spring



GUN LAW — Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whose district includes the Highlands, on Tuesday (Aug. 9) held a news conference at the Cold Spring waterfront to praise a new federal law that, among other provisions, expands background checks to 10 days for gun purchases by anyone ages 18 to 21; adds domestic violence abusers who were dating their victims to the criminal background check system; and provides funding for school mental health services. Maloney was joined by local elected officials and his great-niece, Lexi Crawford, who a year ago was shot eight times in a drive-by shooting in Oklahoma two days after her high school graduation. “Gun violence doesn’t end after the shooting,” she said. “I still experience complications.” *Photo by Michael Turton*

NEWS BRIEFS

Local Land Trusts Receive Grants

Awards support Highlands, Dutchess conservation

The Dutchess Land Conservancy and Hudson Highlands Land Trust were among 13 land trusts around the state that recently received \$25,000 grants to support conservation projects.

The Nature Conservancy in New York on Aug. 2 announced the awards for its Resilient and Connected Network program, which distributed \$325,000 this year and \$300,000 in 2021. The Hudson Highlands Land Trust also received a grant from the program last year.

Librarian Departs After 25 Years

Relocates to Minnesota from Garrison

Karen Thompson, who during her 25 years at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison did everything from organizing the Garri*con comic book celebration to bringing authors, musicians and poets for visits (in person or virtually), recently left her position to be closer to her family in Minnesota.

“I will miss Cold Spring and Garrison, and my beloved Lake Valhalla; I have lived there longer than I have lived anywhere,” Thompson said. “Thanks to the magic of Facebook and Philipstown Locals, I feel like I am still there.”

Anita Prentice, president of the library’s

board, called Thompson “a remarkably flexible and creative staff member” who will be greatly missed.

Update: Route 9 Bridge

Two lanes expected to return by Aug. 26

The state Department of Transportation, which is replacing the bridge over Clove Creek where it crosses Route 9 in Philipstown near the Countryside Motel, hopes to have two lanes open by Aug. 26, according to the town.

With only one lane open, vehicles now must wait at a traffic light. Crews poured the concrete for the bridge deck on Aug. 2 and expected to complete the approach slabs on Aug. 8.

Philipstown Begins E-Waste Trial

Recycling Center open on Saturdays

Philipstown will launch a six-month pilot program beginning Saturday (Aug. 13) at its Recycling Center on Lane Gate Road to collect e-waste.

The Recycling Center is open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Until February, it will accept computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, scanners, keyboards and mice, stereos, speakers, VCR and DVD players, televisions, microwaves, air conditioners, humidifiers and dehumidifiers, space heaters, copiers, cell phones, cameras, e-book readers, MP3 players, modems and UPS/battery backups, among other items with a plug or battery.

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PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.

142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819
291 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508-2899

FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe

editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney

arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong
Celia Barbour • Brian PJ Cronin
Joe Dizney • Pamela Doan
Deb Lucke • Skip Pearlman
Michael Turton

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

For information on advertising:

845-809-5584

ads@highlandscurrent.org

highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare

membership@highlandscurrent.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Teresa Lagerman

community@highlandscurrent.org



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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Transmission line

Your article on the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) transmission line stated it will be built, although this is not certain ("Dutchess Opposes Tax Breaks for Power Line," July 22). The word *will* should be replaced with *would*.

More than 100 miles of CHPE would be buried in two shallow trenches under the Hudson River and another 10 miles laid on the riverbed under cement covers. Dredging the river would release buried poisons.

If constructed, CHPE would bring up to 1.25 billion watts of Canadian electricity through eastern New York to New York City. Most of the power would come from hydro stations in Quebec and Labrador. Many of the power stations are located at dams that create giant reservoirs (some larger than upstate counties), drowning entire river valleys and destroying formerly spectacular rivers. Immense regions of habitat would be severely altered, wreaking havoc on animal and plant life.

Dams and reservoirs negatively impact climate: Rotting vegetation cannot remove carbon from the atmosphere and instead release carbon and methane into the water and air. Constructing CHPE might encourage Hydro-Québec to dam additional rivers.

We do not need CHPE. Hopefully, we are

smart enough to meet our energy needs with conservation and efficiency, and appropriately sited and scaled solar and wind power.

Tom Ellis, *Albany*

Indian Point

Like other federal agencies, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must follow a clearly defined process when developing regulations ("Holtec: We Do Not Dump Into the River," Aug. 5). This includes providing ample opportunity for public comment, the publication of notices in the *Federal Register* and other steps.

As a result, this process typically takes several years. In the case of the NRC's development of regulations on the decommissioning of nuclear plants, the agency over the years had to address other pressing issues, including changes to security following the 9/11 attacks and safety requirement revisions after the Fukushima disaster, that took on a higher priority. However, we are now moving toward finalizing the revisions to our decommissioning requirements.

With respect to releases of low-level radioactive water, Indian Point — like other nuclear plants across the country — has been permitted to discharge such effluents to the Hudson River since the time that it began operations. But it's important to note

those releases must be carefully controlled and within both NRC and Environmental Protection Agency safety limits.

The discharges are done in batches, and only after the water has been filtered and treated and its radioactive contents have been quantified. The NRC on a regular basis inspects the processes used for these releases. In addition, plant owners are required to submit an annual report to the NRC on all effluent releases from the facility, as well as a report on the plant's program to monitor the effects of all discharges from the site on the environment. Those reports are available at bit.ly/nrc-reports.

Neil Sheehan, *Philadelphia*

Sheehan is the NRC public affairs officer for Region I, which includes New York.

The same company, Holtec, is planning to dump (sorry — discharge) radioactive water into Plymouth Harbor here in Massachusetts. Why are town halls fighting this, instead of Congress?

Gael Williams, *Watertown, Massachusetts*

Whether "dumping" or "discharging," either way, it's bubbling.

Theresa Kraft, *via Instagram*

I don't know why the Indian Point Decommissioning Task Force is taking what Holtec says at face value. We need a watchdog, not a lapdog.

Courtney Williams, *via Instagram*

Boat Club

Recently, the movie *Do the Right Thing* played at Dockside Park, thanks to the Cold Spring Film Society, and the message couldn't be clearer.

In March, I asked the Cold Spring Village Board to enforce its November 2021 lease with the Boat Club, regarding benefits for village residents. Each time I asked, the mayor repeated that the board intended to invite the Boat Club to discuss it. Finally, at the end of July, the Boat Club members showed up and laughed when asked about putting up a "clear, prominent and permanent sign at the entrance," as required in the lease, that would include "the hours of operation, rules and regulations regarding access," as well as the hours for free boat-launching by residents.

The board members responded by wondering aloud if they would enforce the lease. They seemed pensive about securing residents' rights guaranteed in the lease.

Derelection of duty is the term I would use for a board that chooses to not enforce a lease secured by a former mayor in a sweetheart deal to benefit the seven to 10 village residents who actually belong to the club and now control a large part of our waterfront.

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

This seems odd given how quickly the board responded to a non-issue over flying a flag.

Do the right thing! Stop giving away our waterfront, especially when it prioritizes people who don't live here.

Richard Dorritie, *Cold Spring*

Philipstown rentals

My family has lived on Nelson Lane for 10 years. Our property borders 26 Nelson Lane, and we deal with the noise and occasional nuisances that come with being adjacent to a rental property ("Philipstown Agrees to Look at Airbnb Regulation," July 29).

In principle, we have no issues with the house being rented out. People should be able to earn income by making their homes available on Airbnb if they so desire.

But it seems reckless for Philipstown to allow such a practice with zero regulation. The town must consider the well-being of all the Philipstown residents who live on our many tiny lanes zoned for residential, not to mention the safety of the guests staying at the rental properties.

Yes, regulations are sometimes challenging to enforce, but that's not a reason to have zero regulation. We have speed limits on our roads; not everyone obeys the limit but I think most people will agree it's better to have a limit even if it can't be enforced 100 percent of the time.

The same goes for short-term rentals; let's put in some regulations. Let's enforce

what we can and, as a town, go on the record stating what is acceptable. There are communities all over the country dealing with this issue, including many in the Hudson Valley, and I am sure we can use some of their work as a model.

David Minkin, *Garrison*

Storage plans

It's a ridiculous idea to create yet another storage facility in the area ("Residents Oppose Warehouse on Route 9D," Aug. 5). Have we forgotten about the one nearly completed on Route 52? Say no to another monstrosity that will lower the quality of life, safety and property values of nearby residents.

Don't bother with the argument that the building will help with our taxes. Taxes are forever increasing, despite all the development in southern Dutchess.

Joseph Rutz, *Fishkill*

Who wouldn't be unhappy with this idea? This could be something that would benefit the community, instead of leading to more storage of pointless stuff. There could be a connection through to the old cemetery next to the high school that would get bicyclists safely to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. You could cut around the Van Ness neighborhood and connect that path.

There are plenty of storage units on Route 9. What is the need?

Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*


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Here Are Your Primary Choices

Candidates who will appear on the ballot for the upcoming primary are listed in alphabetical order. Unlike in the general election, you must be a registered member of the party to cast a ballot.

The polls will be open Aug. 23 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. There are two polling place changes in Philipstown for the primary: If you usually vote at the Continental Village clubhouse, you will vote at the Garrison Firehouse at 1616 Route 9. If you usually vote at the North Highlands Firehouse, you will vote at the Methodist Church at 216 Main St. in Cold Spring. See below for early voting hours and locations.



FOR PHILIPSTOWN

17TH CONGRESSIONAL

Democratic

Alessandra Biaggi
Sean Patrick Maloney

Republican

Shoshana David
Charles Falciglia
William Faulkner
Michael Lawler
Jack Schrepel

Conservative

William Faulkner
Michael Lawler

FOR BEACON

18TH CONGRESSIONAL

Democratic

Aisha Mills
Moses Mugulusi
Pat Ryan

How to register

The deadline to register to vote in the Aug. 23 primary has passed. If you are not sure of your status, visit voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

Early voting

The polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from Aug. 13 to Aug. 21, except Aug. 16 and 18, when they will be open from noon to 8 p.m. Philipstown residents can vote at the North Highlands Firehouse, 504 Fishkill Road, and Beacon residents at Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52.

Primary Vote *(from Page 1)*

candidates: Aisha Mills, Moses Mugulusi and Pat Ryan, the Ulster County executive. The Republican candidate will be Colin Schmitt, who represents parts of Orange and Rockland counties in the state Assembly.

There is no primary for the state Senate seat that will represent the Highlands. The Democratic and Working Families candidate is Julie Shiroishi, a Beacon resident who is the former chief of staff for Jonathan Jacobson, whose Assembly district includes Beacon. The Republican candidate is Rob Rolison, the mayor of Poughkeepsie.

The primary for the state Assembly was held in June. Dana Levenberg won the Democratic line for the district that includes Philipstown and is represented by Sandy Galef, who will retire. The Republican candidate is Stacy Halper. Vanessa Agudelo ran unopposed for the Working Families line but the party has now endorsed Levenberg. Jacobson is running unopposed.

Biaggi and Maloney took part in a virtual forum on Aug. 1 sponsored by the League of Women Voters; some of their responses are excerpted below with editing for clarity. (The forum can be viewed at bit.ly/17-Democrat.) Four of the Republican candidates (excluding David) met in a League forum on July 28; their responses are excerpted at highlandscurrent.org and will appear in print next week.

Because they have not met for a forum, *The Current* plans to ask the three Democratic candidates in District 18 to respond to questions by email.

Abortion / Supreme Court

BIAGGI: It is incredibly important that we [Democrats] use our power to do things, not just passing bills, but to really think about how we can use the levers of power that exist. How can we make sure we are doing everything in our power to elect champions of reproductive justice? One of the most important things we can do, not just as legislators but as American citizens, is reform the Supreme Court. That means we take this radical Supreme Court and expand it. Congress can pass ethics reform. We can also hold accountable justices who have perjured themselves as well as not recusing themselves from important cases where they have clear conflicts of interest.

MALONEY: This is an out-of-control, run-away, MAGA Republican [pro-Trump] Supreme Court. It won't stop. And families like mine aren't going to fit in, in this world, where they rip away 50 years of substantive, constitutional, due-process rights. [Maloney, who is gay, has three adopted children with his long-time partner.] One thing more: It's time to end the filibuster, so we can move legislation in the Senate. For too long, anti-democratic procedures in the Senate — they aren't in the Constitution — have stopped all progress, on everything from reproductive freedom to marriage equality to gun safety, climate legislation and so much more.

Farming

MALONEY: I've been on the House Agricul-

ture Committee for 10 years and I love the work. In my district, we've got some of the best farmland in America. We have small family farms, usually under 200 acres. I rewrote the crop insurance requirements so they'd have their losses covered. I have a whole program on beginning farmers. We've also got to keep the cost of farmland low. You do that by conserving the land. This is such a win-win, with the land trusts and conservation efforts like those I've led on the Agriculture Committee. You do that by allowing people to put land into conservation more easily; we've written new rules so people can do that. That gives you open space, cleaner drinking water, cheaper farmland. And you can protect the new generation of farmers.

BIAGGI: In the state Senate, I've also served on the Agriculture Committee. I understand that the industry of agriculture is changing. We have to be thinking how we can invest in alternative farming, like hydroponic farming in urban and more city environments. There are many high schools in the state Senate district I represent where we have provided funding to make sure that kids in inner-city schools can also understand and have the skills of how to farm and then take those skills to farms upstate. It allows these young kids to have an opportunity outside of their community but also gives them a tool to be able to succeed when it comes to choosing a career. One of the most important things we can do is protect talent. I was a co-sponsor of a bill that made it possible for farmworkers to be treated with dignity, be paid a living wage and take a day off, because without the talent these farms cannot function.

Climate

MALONEY: The Inflation Reduction Act [which cleared the Senate on Aug. 7 and is expected to be re-ratified by the House today, Aug. 12] is the most important legislation ever passed in Washington: a package of \$369 billion to reduce carbon 40 percent over the next eight years. That's huge. It's not the whole thing, but it's a big thing. I'm an original co-sponsor of the Green New Deal bill. If you can find another Democrat in a Trump district [President Trump won District 18 in 2016 and 2020] who supports the Green New Deal, let me know. I've written legislation that would put a tax on carbon; I did that long before anybody used the phrase 'Green New Deal.' I believe the market can properly price the dirty effects of fossil fuels and speed development of renewables. These are the key things, together with infrastructure legislation, investment in electrification, building hundreds of charging stations: We can electrify our transportation system.

BIAGGI: One of the most important topics I've championed in the state Senate is the climate threat. In the first few months we were able to pass historic climate legislation. In Congress, we can stop taking money from the fossil fuel industry, as Democrats, to prove we actually care about this issue. We can reverse climate change by putting an intense amount of money into electrifying everything, building zero-carbon electricity grids, exploring direct carbon-capture, not having gas hook-

ups for buildings. We can also do things like adapt to the climate crisis and make sure we are fighting to reverse it by weatherizing our homes, building coastal infrastructure. My opponent supported the Danskammer plant in Newburgh and has taken thousands of dollars from big oil and gas and voted with Republicans for the Keystone pipeline.

MALONEY: I took on the oil companies and banned oil barges on the Hudson River. They are some of the most powerful interests in Washington. I would also take 50 percent of oil company profits and give it back to you; I have a bill to do that.

Gun violence

MALONEY: We've got to do more. It can happen anywhere. And we know this. That's why I'm so proud that we passed, for the first time in decades, out of the House of Representatives, a ban on new sales of assault weapons. We also have passed in the House and Senate historic gun legislation, signed by the president, the first in 28 years. It's not enough, but it's a good step forward. Now we've got to get the assault weapons ban enacted. By the way, the [presumed] Republican [candidate] running for this seat, Michael Lawler, is in the pocket of the big gun companies. We'd better have a Democrat who can beat Republicans and hold this seat, so we have a pro-gun safety congressperson in Washington.

BIAGGI: One of the most important issues I ran on in 2018 and will continue to run on — it will be the issue of our lifetimes, until we get this right — is gun safety. In Congress, one of the most important things we can do is continue to fund violence-interruption programs, because we can pass all the bills we want, but we have to prevent the gun from going off in the first place. There is the People's Response Act by Rep. Cori Bush (D-Missouri) that I would support as a member of Congress. [Among other things, the bill aims to "reduce criminal-justice contact while expanding opportunity, including a particular focus on groups that have been disproportionately harmed by the criminal justice system."] Lastly, we have to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms law to make sure gun manufacturers do not have legal immunity.

MALONEY: My opponent was the lead advocate in the state Senate for defunding the police. That's a very dangerous idea, a terrible idea. Body cameras, better training, better accountability, databases, de-escalation — those are the kinds of good reforms we can do.

Health care

BIAGGI: One of the most important things we can do in our lifetime is to make sure every single person has access to health care. I'm a co-sponsor of the New York Health Act, which is the equivalent of a single-payer system. I favor making sure people have access to health care by supporting policies that are able to actually bring these kinds of things forward. Medicare for all is certainly one of them. We know it's going to cost a lot. We know we can't do it overnight, so being able to phase it in, in a way to provide these kinds of services [is an option].

(Continued from Page 6)

MALONEY: Health care is a right, not a privilege. Every American needs access to affordable and quality health care. I don't support Medicare for all. It's prohibitively expensive, and it's huge tax increases. Worse, there's no provision for what's going to happen to the VA [Veterans Affairs] health system after the first decade. And 25 percent of the people I represent are from military families. So before we screw around with their health care, we should know what we're doing. In addition, my opponent's plan would take away your private insurance coverage. That's a terrible idea. A better thing to do is finish the job of the Affordable Care Act [initiated by President Obama]. We can allow everybody who hasn't been allowed to access Medicaid, in all those Republican states that still haven't done it, to buy into the federal program. That would get you to universal care. We've got to avoid pie-in-the-sky stuff and just get results for people.

BIAGGI: Medicare for all could fit right into what the soul of this party represents. We can pay for it by transitioning from outrageously high employer-side health care spending to payroll taxes and other financial means. My opponent has taken over \$650,000 from the health care industry and big pharma, then voted with Republicans against parts of the Affordable Care Act six times. So I'm not surprised he doesn't support Medicare for all.

Policy Limits Official Flag Displays

Also: Cold Spring board rejects earlier cruises by Seastreak boats

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board on Wednesday (Aug. 10) approved a policy that limits the display of flags on village-owned properties to the U.S., New York State and POW/MIA flags, ending, for now at least, a months-long debate.

The vote was 4-0, with Trustee Tweeps Phillips Woods absent.

On June 1, the board voted unanimously to stop accepting requests to display flags on village-owned sites, after earlier in the year approving the temporary display on village property of Ukrainian and LGBTQ+ Pride flags, including at Village Hall.

"We didn't think through the Pandora's box that was being opened," Mayor Kathleen Foley said at the time. "You get into that sticky area where you are acting as arbitrator of free speech."

The Ukrainian flag was removed voluntarily from Village Hall. Pride flags flew at village-owned locations through June, which is LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Village Attorney John Furst recommended the board no longer accept flag requests from groups and organizations.

During Wednesday's public comment period, resident Gaston Alonso said there was no justice in the policy.

"You let it be known that the Village of Cold Spring will now give aid and comfort to all those who want gay people to disappear and just go back in the closet," he said. "You voted to reject an international symbol of civil rights flown across the state, the country and the world; it is a shameful night in this village."

Sean Conway said he felt the policy was adopted specifically to prevent the Pride flag from being displayed. "This sprang into action after we made a request to hang the Pride flag," he said.

Foley responded that in four public sessions at which the issue was discussed, "it has been made clear by this board that this is not targeting the Pride flag."

She said the board also received a request to hang the Thin Blue Line flag often displayed by police departments.

"This is not an arena in which the Village Board desires to be engaged," Foley said.

Conway countered that the board was elected to make difficult decisions and described the flag vote as "insulting."

"It is insulting to us to be framed as people who are anti-Pride," Foley responded. "That's very insulting to me personally."

She added that no individual's free speech is impacted by the policy, which applies only to village-owned properties,

and that the Pride flag can be flown on every porch and front lawn in the village.

The policy "is a decision grounded in fear," Conway continued.

"It is not grounded in fear," Foley answered. "You perceive it is grounded in fear," she said, adding that the board has essential work to do that does not include mediating flag requests.

In other business...

■ The board turned down a proposal from Seastreak to dock its boats beginning Aug. 26 and over Labor Day weekend. The cruises, which Seastreak began in 2012, have traditionally started in late September. The board, which meets on Aug. 31, must still consider a proposed schedule for cruises from Sept. 9 to Nov. 13.

■ Matt Kroog, the superintendent of water and sewer, asked residents to begin conservation measures. The village reservoirs in North Highlands are at less than 70 percent capacity, compared to 91 percent at this time last year, he said.

■ After a July 14 public hearing, the Planning Board approved a change of use at 37 Chestnut St., the former home of Grey Printing, as a fitness and dance studio. However, the applicant made further changes and a second hearing is scheduled for Aug. 25.

For more from the Aug. 10 meeting, see highlandscurrent.org.

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Dry Summer (from Page 1)

Both Dutchess and Putnam counties were downgraded last week by the National Integrated Drought Information System from “abnormally dry” to experiencing “moderate drought.”

On Thursday (Aug. 10), the agency upgraded conditions for the Highlands from moderate to severe drought.

The NIDIS, which updates conditions for states and localities each Thursday, said a severe drought affects the yields and sizes of fruit crops, and means farmers may have to start feeding cattle and governments may have to issue warnings about burning outdoors.

In addition, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said on Monday that temperatures nationally averaged 76.4 degrees last month, 2.8 degrees above normal and only cooler than two other Julys, 1936 and 2012.

“We had a lot of concern about the fire jumping whatever lines we were setting.

~ Joshua Laird, executive director, Palisades Interstate Park Commission

While Kingston declared a drought emergency on Aug. 2 and instituted mandatory restrictions to conserve water, Beacon’s

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

PUTNAM COUNTY			
Number of cases:	Positive Tests, 7-day average:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
27,613 (+175)	10.2% (-1.2)	83.5	128 (+1)
		Cold Spring: 95.7 / Garrison: 88.2	
DUTCHESS COUNTY			
Number of cases:	Positive Tests, 7-day average:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
74,261 (+518)	13.1% (+0.1)	77.9	682 (+4)
		Beacon: 73.4	
Source: State and county health departments, as of Aug. 10, 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.			

supply remains “pretty good,” said city Administrator Chris White. The reservoir at Mount Beacon is currently offline because Pocket Dam is undergoing repairs but the city also has two major wells.

The parchedness is causing a small change at the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming in Philipstown, said Laura Lengnick, its director of agriculture.

An irrigation system and soils primed to capture and store the scant amount of rain that has fallen have protected the vegetable harvest, she said. The livestock are also doing well, but hay must be used to compensate for the reduced growth in the pastures where the cattle and sheep usually graze.

“We are also preparing to take them out of the pastures completely to give the grass more time to grow in hopes that we will be

able to graze again in the fall,” she said.

Irrigation also feeds the plants at Hudson River Hemp in Hopewell Junction, one of hundreds of hemp farms awarded the first licenses to grow recreational marijuana for the state’s legal market. The company is preparing to harvest its first plants on Saturday (Aug. 13).

Hudson River Hemp, which has a second location in Wappingers Falls, pulls water from an irrigation pond fed by springs and a nearby stream, said Ryan McGrath, the company’s managing member. But the dry weather is better in general for marijuana plants because it’s easier to feed them extra water than to combat the root and bud rot, mold and other conditions caused by an overabundance of rain.

“The hot and humid conditions are more

worrisome,” he said.

Conditions were exactly that on Monday, when temperature reached 96 degrees as rangers with Bear Mountain State Park and the state Department of Environmental Conservation responded to the brush fire, along with firefighters from Fort Montgomery.

As of Wednesday, Perkins Memorial Drive and surrounding hiking trails were closed. A second fire that broke out Monday near the Jackie Jones firetower in Harri-man State Park burned about 3 acres before being contained, said Laird.

At Bear Mountain, the rapid response from Fort Montgomery and the rangers kept the fire from doing more damage, he said.

“We had a lot of concern about the fire jumping whatever lines we were setting,” he said. “It grew, but they did manage to contain it.”

Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub Presents

The Hub

5K

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MTA *(from Page 1)*

just 58 percent of the riders it would have averaged on a similar day before the pandemic. The Hudson Line, which includes stops at Garrison, Cold Spring and Beacon, as well as Breakneck, has seen an increase of 83 percent this year over the first six months of last year, from about 2.4 million to 4.4 million riders, although that is still far lower than the 8.5 million year riders in the first six months of 2019.

One of the chief factors continuing to depress ridership has been the transition to remote work that began when then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered businesses to close their offices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the beginning of the pandemic, said Kevin Willens, chief financial officer for the MTA.

The MTA said that a survey of 160 employers in May showed just 8 percent of workers have returned to offices in Manhattan five days a week; that 28 percent are still working remotely full-time; and that 78 percent of workplaces allow employees to split their time between the office and home.

Not only are people commuting less, but they are taking fewer non-work-related rides on public transportation and continue to have concerns about infection risks and crime, said the MTA.

The MTA has been using the “midpoint” of three scenarios for ridership provided by a consultant, McKinsey & Company.

MTA Ridership Projections

% of pre-pandemic riders expected

	Original	Revised
2023	86	69
2024	86	74
2025	87	77
2026	87	79

Source: Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Under those projections, systemwide ridership was expected this year to reach 77 percent of pre-pandemic levels. Instead, it stands at 61 percent, said Willens. Ridership increased for most of 2021 but plummeted when the highly infectious Omicron variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 emerged in December, fueling record highs in cases.

“I don’t know if we’re going to get to even the numbers in McKinsey’s revised [ridership] assessment because most of the things are not in our control,” said Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents Putnam County on the board and is chair of its finance committee.

Despite low ridership, buses and subways are running at 100 percent of pre-pandemic schedules; the Long Island Rail Road at 88 percent; and Metro-North at 89

percent, according to the MTA.

In terms of expenses, the MTA has a structural problem, said Zuckerman. Its costs are largely fixed, even when service was cut during the early months of the pandemic and revenues fell, he said.

“Ultimately we have a question,” he said. “If the service stays where it is, who’s going to pay?”

Along with ridership figures, McKinsey lowered its projected revenue for the MTA from fares between 2023 and 2026, further widening deficits that had been projected to range from \$1.4 billion to \$2.2 billion annually through 2026. They are now expected to be at least \$2.5 billion annually.

The federal bailout, which the MTA is using to eliminate deficits that begin in 2020, will be largely exhausted after 2024 instead of 2025, Willens said.

The MTA is working on a “congestion pricing” plan that would raise \$15 billion for capital projects by charging a toll to vehicles entering a section of Manhattan from 60th Street to the south, excluding FDR Drive and the West Side Highway. The agency estimates that it would charge drivers with an EZPass between \$9 and \$23 during peak hours, and those billed by mail, \$14 to \$35.

“New dedicated funding is necessary under all the scenarios to avoid the alternatives we don’t want, which would be large fare increases, service cuts and layoffs,” said Willens.

Putnam Reports First Case of Monkeypox

County: Risk to general public low

The Putnam Health Department on Thursday (Aug. 11) confirmed the first case in the county of monkeypox.

“The risk of contracting the disease for the general public remains low,” said Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, the health commissioner.

Monkeypox is similar to smallpox, but milder and rarely fatal. Symptoms include a rash that can look like pimples or blisters and appears inside the mouth or on the face, hands, feet, chest, genitals or anus. There have been 2,132 cases reported in New York state as of Aug. 10, although all but about 70 were in New York City and Long Island. The virus is spread through close, physical contact.

Putnam has not been allocated any vaccine by the state, Nesheiwat said, but residents who are considered at-risk can receive it in Westchester County. Call 845-808-1390 for information.

Dutchess County reported its first case on July 21 and had five as of Aug. 3; Westchester had 41; Orange had four and Rockland had four.

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AROUND TOWN



◀ **MUSICAL STEW** — Gina Samardge of Compass Arts is leading songs, rhymes and activities at 10:30 a.m. each Monday in August at the Howland Public Library in Beacon for children from 6 months to 4 years old.

▲ **GATHERING OF NATIONS** — Performing groups from Native American tribes, including some from Central America, South America and the Caribbean, gathered in Stony Point on Aug. 6 and 7 for the 20th annual Bear Mountain Pow Wow. Here a participant honors her Aztec ancestors. The event was hosted by the Redhawk Native American Arts Council.

Photos by Ross Corsair

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Garrison Art Center

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Glassworks by Pierre Bowring

Photos by Autumn Jordan

◀ Bowring with his daughter, Lucille Photo provided

The Calendar

Beacon Glassblower Finds Work “Magical”

Will be among artists at annual Garrison craft fair

By Alison Rooney

If Pierre Bowring’s handcrafted glassware appeals to you, the best chance of obtaining it might be by visiting the Garrison Art Center’s annual Craft Fair on Aug. 20 and Aug. 21, where his work will be featured, along with that of more than 50 other vendors.

If you’re fancying a custom design, perhaps inspired by Bowring’s thriving Instagram following, you will have to wait. His business, Bow Glass Works in Beacon, has taken off in the past year and he has a four-month lead time. “That’s insane,” he says, “but I appreciate it.”

Bowring grew up in a household where art was a central force. “My mom is a painter, and her friends are all artists,” he says. “From an early age, I was always

around it and loved doing it.”

He studied painting at Virginia Commonwealth, where a faculty member was impressed enough that he gave Bowring his credit card so he could buy paint. By his senior year, he was selling his work and had a show at a local coffee shop.

As he prepared to graduate by putting together a portfolio, he happened into the VCU glass studio. He says his immediate response was, “I want the glass.” Despite having “pretty severe” attention-deficit disorder, he found it disappeared in the shop. “It immediately gave me a lightning focus,” he says. “It gave me a place where I could pay attention to detail.”

Two decades later, little has changed. “It’s surreal at moments,” he says. “I’m in a garage studio surrounded by hundreds of pieces of glass; none are the same.

“Someone asked me how I come up with my designs, and the wonderful thing about glass is the color component is so uncontrollable. I can control the form but not the ‘colorway,’ and that’s magical. I’m making functional things — things to put flowers into, to drink from — it’s about sharing with other people.”

In the beginning, he was frustrated by his inexperience. “I was terrible at it, really bad,” Bowring recalls. “At a certain point, when I felt I wasn’t going to get better, I became a short-order cook. I moved to Washington, D.C., determined to be a chef. That’s when I met my wife. She was a printmaker and she got me into glass again.

“This time I was ready to learn. I got into Penland [a renowned craft school in North Carolina], where I wound up blowing glass 10 hours a day.”

At that juncture, Bowring, who, despite his first name, is not French (his mother was a Francophile), was hired as the head of production at Niche Lighting in Beacon. He left that job six months ago to launch his own studio (bowglass.com). His sales are mostly through wholesalers, although he sells directly through Instagram and at craft fairs. His work is also available at Berte in Beacon and Second Home in Woodstock.

His wife, Jennaway Pearson, is co-director of a Poughkeepsie nonprofit; they’ve been busy lately keeping the glassware out of the clutches of their toddler, Lucille.

Bowring says the perception is that glass-

ware is a luxury item, but people often overlook the cost of the raw material and that each piece is handmade. “I’ve been working with glass long enough to be able to make something quickly and efficiently, which is a big part of my business structure,” he says. “My aim is to provide conversation pieces, which are often fun and distinct.

“The other day, my parents came to visit. I grabbed glasses to pour them seltzer, and a pitcher to serve them still water, and a glass bowl for food; my dad was hungry. Later, in other glasses, we all had wine and beer.

“It was wonderful: perfect and nice. This is why I love doing this. It’s about how people can make their lives a little better. This piece of glass will make your life better. That might seem silly, but I don’t think that’s the case.”



Garrison Craft will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 20 and 21, rain or shine, at 23 Garrison’s Landing. Parking is available at the Metro-North station. Tickets are \$13 and can be purchased at the gate or at garrisonartcenter.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 13

Modern Makers Market

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthudson.com

Browse the work of more than 50 New York artisans and vendors. Donations benefit the church. Parking available at Haldane High School.

SAT 13

Shopping for a Cause

POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon – 5 p.m. Dress for Success
2572-B South Road
845-452-5104 Ext 144

dutchesscounty.dressforsuccess.org
Women's clothing and accessories will be on sale for \$5 and \$10 to benefit the Dutchess County Dress for Success program. Also FRI 19, SAT 20.

SUN 14

Corn Festival

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
beaconsloopclub.org

At this annual event, Beacon Sloop Club volunteers will offer corn, watermelon and lemonade. Watch live music at two stages or take a sail on the Sloop Woody Guthrie, weather permitting.

MON 15

Haldane Blue Devils Golf Tournament

MAHOPAC

8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill St. | 845-808-1880
putnamcountygolfcourse.com

Email CoachMcConville@gmail.com to register a foursome to benefit the football program. *Cost: \$150 per golfer*

WED 17

Farm Dinner

PHILIPSTOWN

6:30 p.m. Glynwood
362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338
glynwood.org

Chef Freddie Bitsoie will prepare a pre-colonial meal and highlight the work of the Lenape Center. *Cost: \$200 to \$350*

SAT 20

Annual Book & Media Sale

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Find gently used books and media at this sale organized by the Friends of the Library to support library programs. Become a Friend and shop early on THURS 18 and FRI 19. Through Aug. 29.

SAT 20

Garrison Craft

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
garrisonartcenter.org

More than 50 artisans and craftspeople will show their furniture, art, jewelry, textiles and ceramics at this annual juried event. Also SUN 21. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 20

Mid-Hudson Comic Con

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The convention will include collectibles, cosplay, panel discussions and appearances by celebrities, artists and wrestlers. Also SUN 21. *Cost: \$23 (\$15 students, seniors, and military, free ages 6 and younger)*

SUN 21

Toy & Comic Book Show

BEACON

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. VFW Hall
413 Main St. | facebook.com/beacon-toyandcomicshow

Find comics and collectibles from dozens of vendors. *Cost: \$2 (free ages 16 and younger)*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 13

Johan Ayoob

BEACON

4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346
bannermancastle.org

The artist's drawings, paintings and mixed media works will be on display through Sept. 25, with proceeds benefiting Bannerman Island.



SAT 13

Gary Zack

BEACON

5 – 8 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068
hudsonbeachglass.com

The gallery will share works by the Saratoga Springs-based painter.

SAT 13

Ignite

BEACON

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

This annual juried exhibition was curated by Daniel Aycock and Kathleen Vance.

SAT 13

Dok A

BEACON

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

SAT 13

Beacon Beckons

BEACON

7 – 9 p.m. Big Mouth Coffee
387 Main St. | bigmouth.coffee

This group show curated by Tom Kenny will include works by Anna West, Jan Dolan, Jean Noack, M.S. Eberhart and Timothy Delaney.



Ordinary Wonders, Aug. 20

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 13

Kids Craft Connection

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

Children ages 5 and older can take a flashlight tour of the mansion, make a craft and learn about life in the past. *Cost: \$24 (\$13 children, discount for members)*

SUN 14

Bicycle Safety Rodeo

BEACON

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Rombout Middle School
84 Matteawan Road
facebook.com/beaconrec

Children ages 5 to 12 will complete a skills course, get helmet fittings and learn about safety at this event hosted by the Beacon Recreation Department, the Beacon Police Department and Nuvance Health. *Free*

MON 15

Musical Stew

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Howland Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

The founder of Compass Arts, Gina Samardge, will lead music, rhymes and activities for children ages 6 months to 4 years. Register online. Continues weekly through August.

NATURE

SAT 13

Butterflies & Blooms

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

This weeklong festival concludes with hay rides, activity tents and a concert by The Big Band Sound. The rain date is SUN 14.

SAT 13

Ecoprint Workshop

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10 a.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
commongroundfarm.org

Learn how to harvest plants to make patterned textiles. *Cost: Sliding scale up to \$45*

SUN 14

Botanical Art

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

Reserve tickets for a morning or afternoon session and view botanical art by Susan Sapanara in the Bothy. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 seniors, children, teens; ages 3 and younger free)*

VISUAL ART

SAT 13

Haile Binns | Randy Gibson

GARRISON

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

For *Living in Transcendence*, Binns painted on recycled objects she found to create map-like compositions. Gibson's *Infinite Structures* will include a performance, objects and installation. Through Sept. 11.

SAT 20

Blinky Palermo

BEACON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org

The artists' series made from 1974 to 1976, *Times of the Day*, will return for viewing. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and visitors with disabilities, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free under age 5)*

SAT 20

Ordinary Wonders

PUTNAM VALLEY

1 – 3 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompskinscorners.org

Doreen Battles, winner of the center's *Love* art exhibit, will have her first solo photography show. Through Oct. 1.

SAT 20

Otherness

NEWBURGH

5 – 7 p.m. Holland Tunnel
46 Chambers St.
hollandtunnelgallery.com

Work by Chantelle Norton, Carl Van Brunt (below) and Joseph Ayers exploring the relation of the self



Mid-Hudson Comic Con, Aug. 20

to others will be on view through Sept. 25.



STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 13
Where We Belong

GARRISON
7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

In this limited-engagement, one-woman show, Madeline Sayet will explore Shakespeare and colonialism through self-discovery. Continues through MON 22. *Cost: \$10 to \$95*

SUN 14
Ken Holland
PUTNAM VALLEY
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

The three-time Pushcart Prize nominee will read from his poetry collections, followed by an open mic.

WED 17
Maidan
BEACON
7 p.m. Story Screen
445 Main St. | storyscreenbeacon.com/special-screenings

The 2014 documentary follows the movement that led to the overthrow of pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich. Proceeds from the screening will benefit the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. A discussion will follow with Andriy Dobriansky from the UCCA. *Cost: \$15*

FRI 19
Madame X
BEACON
6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

In this 1966 film, which will be screened on Bannerman Island, Lana Turner plays a woman who is forced to disappear to save her family's reputation. *Cost: \$40*



Maidan, Aug. 17

SAT 20
The Talented Mr. Ripley
COLD SPRING
8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org

Based on Patricia Highsmith's novel, the 1999 thriller film stars Jude Law, Matt Damon and Gwyneth Paltrow. Hosted by the Cold Spring Film Society. *Free*

MUSIC
SAT 13
Mike LaRocco Trio
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar
173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com
Art Labriola (piano) and Lou Pappas (bass) will join LaRocco on drums to perform a diverse range of jazz.

SAT 13
Sing-Along Family Movie Favorites
WEST POINT
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com
The Benny Havens Band will perform classics from Disney and others. *Free*

SAT 13
Frank Carillo & the Bandoleros
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Americana and roots band will perform music from its four albums. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 14
Maeve Gilchrist
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

The Celtic harpist will perform selections from her latest recording, *The Harpweaver*, inspired by Edna St. Vincent Millay's poem, "The Ballad of the Harp-Weaver." Donations welcome. *Free*

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

FRI 19
Gavon Mitchell & Patrick Collins
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Cold Spring Coffeehouse
92 Main St.
The duo will perform as part of the weekly music series. *Free*

FRI 19
Gumbo, Grits & Gravy
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Bruce Molsky, Walter Parks and Guy Davis will perform Southern-style blues. Corey Harris and Cedric Watson will open. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



SAT 20
At the Point
WEST POINT
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com

The West Point Band will perform a range of classics including military marches, Broadway hits and masterworks from its repertoire. *Free*

SAT 20
Rory Block & Cindy Cashdollar
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Known as the Sisters of Slide, the duo will perform Delta blues and other genres. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 21
Tony DePaolo
BEACON
11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
The guitarist will perform original music while visitors take self-guided tours of Bannerman Island. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 children)*

SUN 21
Linda and Robin Williams
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The country music duo has reunited after 25 years as bandleaders. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

HOWLAND 150
SAT 13
Keeping the Books Open
BEACON
Noon – 3 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St.
This exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the library will include photos and ephemera from scrapbooks compiled from the 1870s to the 1970s.

SAT 13
People Make It Happen
BEACON
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St.
Donna Mikkelsen will discuss her historical pictographs.

SAT 20
People Make It Happen
BEACON
1 – 2:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St.

Jean-Marc Superville Sovak will discuss his work in the art exhibit and Myra Beth Young Armstead will talk about her book, *Freedom's Gardener: James F. Brown, Horticulture, and the Hudson Valley in Antebellum America*.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 20
Optimize Your Phone
PHILIPSTOWN
10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Stonecrop
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

Don Dempsey will lead a workshop on how to take great flower photographs using a smartphone, including apps for post-production. *Cost: \$30*

CIVIC
SAT 13
Early Voting
PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road | putnamboe.com

Philipstown voters who are registered with the Democratic, Republican or Conservative parties can cast ballots in congressional primaries for District 17. Continues daily through SUN 21.

SAT 13
Early Voting
FISHKILL
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fishkill Town Hall
807 Route 52 | elections.dutchessny.gov

Beacon voters who are registered Democrats can cast ballots in the congressional primary for District 18. Continues daily through SUN 21.

MON 15
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 15
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

MON 15
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

WED 17
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov



Sisters of Slide, Aug. 20



David
Dickinson
(1921-2022)

David W. Dickinson, 74, died July 28, 2022 in Cold Spring, NY.

David was born and raised in Prairie du Chien, WI, the son of Wayne and Mildred Dickinson. He attended University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse and graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a liberal arts degree. He began his early career as a teacher, a family tradition, and enjoyed his experience teaching in Sydney, Australia. He became a successful manager of B. Dalton stores in Milwaukee, Chicago Flagship, San Jose, and Capitola, California.

Dave had an expansive intellect and loved books and the arts. He had a quest for philosophy, politics, and the spiritual. Each book customer was important to Dave; he often suggested titles, special ordered, looked out for his regulars, many of whom became friends over the years.

He relocated to Cold Spring, NY and became office manager for the Dow Corporation for 15 years. He grew to love the area, particularly New York City and its culture.

David was predeceased by his parents, Wayne and Mildred Dickinson, and his partner of 52 years, William Whipp. He is survived by his brother, Ray Dickinson, and spouse Kathleen O’Boyle of Factoryville, PA; his sister, Nancy Dickinson and spouse Patrick Traut of Sioux Falls, SD; as well as his many friends in Cold Spring and all his various residences. He will be missed.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home-Cold Spring.



A still from a documentary by Ophir Ariel, now in production, about a conceptual artist known as Capitalistman



Shooting the web comedy series *Trillo & Suede*

Photos provided

What’s Funny About Parenting?

Filmmaker, new to Beacon, plans ‘mockumentary’

By Alison Rooney

If you made a comedy about parenting, what scenes would you include?

That’s the challenge facing Ophir Ariel, a recent transplant from New York City to Beacon, in an independent “mockumentary” he hopes to begin shooting in October.

Ariel is a writer, director, line producer and comedian and, perhaps most important for this project, the father of three daughters, ages 3, 6 and 9.

When he first immigrated to the U.S. from Israel, he worked in real estate, but

was always sizing up the properties he showed as potential shooting locations. He began working on commercial productions, then writing and directing on his own as Blend Pictures (ophirariel.com).

“I needed to move on from the real estate,” he says.

He became a line producer, the person “who makes everything happen,” including securing the cast and crew and “taking responsibility that the vision of the director is being executed. Doing all the smaller parts of production helped me build a knowledge of bigger-scale film projects.”

Recently, Ariel and his wife decided on a lifestyle change. “Funnily enough, the first place I ever went to in this country was Cold Spring,”

he says. “I participated in a program where they send post-military service Israeli youth to the U.S. to work in summer camps.

“I was sent to Surprise Lake Camp. As someone who had always lived in a city, I thought the area was beautiful,” he says. “At the same time, I began discovering Manhattan, and I loved that, too. I moved there a few years later. All the time, I wanted to make films.”



Ariel

The move to Beacon happened rapidly about three months ago. “I felt like my family could actually create more here,” he says. “This community is so welcoming and there are so many talented people here. Film is a collaborative medium; I can’t do everything by myself. At a certain point, there may no longer be a need to bring people up from the city.”

He is working on other projects, including a documentary about a conceptual artist known as Capitalistman and a comedy, *Dudu*, in which he also stars as a clueless newcomer to New York City. But he has been thinking about the mockumentary for some time and has secured a location in Beacon.

“Although it’s mostly scripted, we are going to improvise, so we’re looking for comedic actors, along with background people from Beacon to fill the scenes,” he says.

He invites anyone of interest to email a photo and resume or expression of interest to blendpictures@gmail.com. If there’s anyone who wants to contribute in other ways, he’s open to that, as well. “I’m looking to get the community involved — maybe in surprising ways,” he says.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION

SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 4th day of August, 2022, the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, duly adopted a Resolution approving grant of title to and a temporary work easement on certain real property owned by the Town located on Sprout Brook Road to the County of Putnam, an abstract of which follows, which Resolution was adopted subject to permissive referendum pursuant to New York State of Town Law §64(2) and §91.

Abstract: The purpose and effect of the said Resolution is to approve grant of approximately 296 square feet of real property and a temporary work easement of approximately 171 square feet over a certain lot owned by the Town of Philipstown located on Sprout Brook Road in the Town of Philipstown, New York identified on the Tax Map as Section 83.17, Block 1, Lot 62. The purpose of the proposed conveyance is to allow the County to undertake repair and reconstruction work on the existing bridge on Sprout Brook Road over the Canopus Creek.

Pursuant to Town Law §91, said resolutions shall not take effect until at least thirty (30) days after their adoption; nor until approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the Town voting on a proposition for its approval if within thirty (30) days after adoption of the said resolutions there be filed with the Town Clerk a petition signed, and acknowledged or proved, or authenticated by electors of the Town qualified to vote, in number equal to at least five per centum of the total vote cast for governor in the Town at the last general election held for the election of state officers, but which shall not be less than one hundred in a town of the first class nor less than twenty-five in a town of the second class, protesting against the said resolutions and requesting that the proposed sale of the said real property be submitted to the qualified electors of the Town for their approval or disapproval.

Copies of the Resolutions are available for public inspection on the Town’s website and at the Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 during normal business hours.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
TARA K. PERCACCILO, TOWN CLERK

Dated: August 8, 2022

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Merritt Janson as Marge Simpson



Emily Ota, Luis Quintero and Lauren Karaman

Photos by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF (3)



Sean McNall as Gibson

‘Pushing a Sitcom Past the Apocalypse’

Finding meaning in a post-Simpsons universe

By Joe Dizney

Zeitgeisty, if that’s a word, would be one way to define *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play*, in performance at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival through Sept. 17.

Written by Anne Washburn, with music by Michael Friedman, lyrics by Washburn and direction by Davis McCallum, *Mr. Burns* is the darkest of dark comedies and unlike anything that HVSF has staged in its 35 years.

Set in a post-nuclear future, it appropriates the nation’s longest-running TV series, *The Simpsons*, which debuted in 1989, two years after HVSF.

“I had this idea of pushing a sitcom past the apocalypse and seeing what would happen,” Washburn said in an interview that included McCallum, who is HVSF’s artistic director. “It took me a long time to work out which sitcom I wanted it to be.”

With the title *Mr. Burns* in mind — a reference to the nuclear power plant owner who is the Simpsons’ chief nemesis — the playwright assigned the actors in a New York City troupe, The Civilians, to piece together, from memory, a transcript of scenes from the series, improvising when their recollections were hazy.

Her play opens in a wooded clearing after a nuclear disaster has destroyed the power grid and much of the population. Survivors huddle around a campfire re-enacting as best they can the “Cape Feare” episode of *The Simp-*

sons — as much for comfort and connection as entertainment. When a stranger stumbles into the clearing, firearms are drawn, but an uneasy camaraderie is reached.

“I always sort of feel like it’s a 9/11 play,” Washburn said. “There was this ambient threat, and we’re still processing 9/11, the Iraq War...”

Act 2 is set seven years later. An obliquely McLuhanesque performance economy is apparently thriving; wandering troupes stage threadbare but heartfelt recreations of “Feare” and other episodes, competing for audience share. Diet Coke is the foundation of a barter system. A market for “authentic” line readings is cutthroat, but there is as much focus on set-piece “commercial” breaks.

“I feel like Act 2 is powered by what they

don’t say and can’t talk about,” said Washburn. “In small ways, it’s where they’re starting to be able to talk about what’s happening now, in ways I don’t know to what degree they’re conscious of.”

“Seven years in the future, they still have one foot back in the lost world,” added McCallum. “Part of what they’re selling is a nostalgia for that world. The second act scared me when we started working on it, because I thought: ‘What precisely is the story that’s going on?’ In the ‘Chart Hits’ section, they dance as a denial of the many wolves at their door.”

“We look for the things that bind us together,” said Washburn.

In the third act, set another 75 years in the future, Sideshow Bob — the psychopathic clown from the TV series featured in Act 2, has metastasized into the gleefully evil Mr. Burns,



Washburn

also out to dispatch Bart, and everyone else.

The performance becomes a spectacle, with costumes that are an exaggerated mashup of high and low culture.

McCallum recalled how costume designers would ask Terry O’Brien, the founding artistic director of HVSF, when he wanted to set each Shakespearean play, e.g., in the 19th century or the 1950s? “He would say, ‘I think it’s 1,500 years in the future, after the grid falls — that’s when we’re going to set it.’”

As a result, the costumes on those productions “ended up looking like something from the Middle Ages with a bizarre, futuristic twist” — an apt description of the Act 3 pageantry of *Mr. Burns*.

Although it’s difficult to provide a summary of the plot without spoilers, there’s a contentious interchange in the second act between a couple of the players that reflects its character:

Maria: “Are we just entertaining them? We have an opportunity here to provide ... meaning.”

Quincy: “Meaning is everywhere. We get meaning for free, whether we like it or not. Meaningless entertainment, on the other hand, is actually really hard.”

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is located at 2015 Route 9 in Garrison. Tickets for Mr. Burns, which resumes on Aug. 26, are \$10 to \$95 each at hvshakespeare.org.



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Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (August 1872)

At 10 p.m. on a Monday night, at the estate of James Haldane, three maids doing the laundry told the coachman they had heard strange noises. The four went to investigate and found the library door was being held fast from the inside. The coachman went outside and entered through a window, where he found three men with their faces blackened by burnt cork making off with boxes of cigars. A struggle ensued, but the maids began screaming and the men fled. At the insistence of Mrs. Haldane, the coachman and maids searched the house; as he opened a closet, a man leaped out, fought with the coachman and escaped through the kitchen. An hour later, when the coachman went to the carriage house, he encountered another of the men. He hit him with a shovel he had brought for protection and was kicked in the abdomen in return. Authorities surmised the intruders meant to lock the maids in the ground floors while they ransacked upstairs but had not anticipated the coachman. They may have blackened their faces believing someone in the house would recognize them, suggesting an inside job.

The steamers Herald and Cayuga arrived near West Point when the wind blew their tows completely around, blocking the river and delaying the Albany night boats by nearly two hours.

James Cunningham, who was employed on the Peekskill gravel train, was accused of assault with intent to rape. He said he would marry the woman but the judge held him for further action.

St. Joseph's Church in Garrison was formally dedicated. The steamer West Point brought a large number of people from Cold Spring for the service, which was conducted by the vicar general to Bishop John McClosky.



St. Joseph's Church in Garrison

From *The Cold Spring Recorder*: "John Robinson's alligator, which escaped from the circus and was supposed to be in the Hudson, has been captured."

Charley Doyle Jr. fell about 20 feet from a scaffold at a building site, breaking two planks on the way down. He was able to walk home. "Severe internal injuries are probable," reported *The Recorder*, "but at the time of this writing none are reported." [Doyle survived; see next section.]

A sailboat carrying Gen. William Morris, of Undercliff, and two companions capsized near West Point when a schooner ran its bowsprit into the sail. The younger men climbed aboard the schooner by its chains but Morris seated himself on the overturned boat as it floated away. He was rescued by another schooner and the boat was recovered near the Garrison tunnel, complete with two coats with pocket watches that had been laid in the bow just before the crash.



Gen. William Morris, of Cold Spring, took a ride on the Hudson on an overturned sailboat in 1872.

Putnam History Museum

After the departure of a young man named Johnson who accompanied Mr. Norris from New York City for a Sunday visit on Rock Street, the Norris ladies noticed a scarf, necktie, gold pin, \$1 note and gold watch and chain missing. A telegraph alerted the police and the visitor was arrested on the arrival of the Mary Powell with a carpet bag containing the stolen items. Johnson was returned to Cold Spring but begged so persistently for mercy that Mrs. Norris declined to prosecute.

125 Years Ago (August 1897)

While working in the hayfield at Cragside [now the Haldane campus], Samuel Cronk stuck the tine of a pitchfork into his calf.

The Haldane school board voted to exempt the J.B. & J.M. Cornell firm, which had revived the West Point Foundry by moving its factory there from New York City, from paying property taxes. However, the New York Department of Public Instruction said private businesses could only be exempted by the state Legislature.

Stuyvesant Fish, president of the Illinois Central Railroad, purchased Glencliff, the Garrison residence of his father, the late Hon. Hamilton Fish.

Charley Doyle Jr. was mugged at gunpoint on Market Street at midnight. One bandit held the revolver while the other rifled through Doyle's pockets. When they found only 10 cents, they demanded his clothing. He was removing his coat when footsteps were heard and the men fled.

A Newburgh newspaper reported that Henry Moody of Cold Spring had been released by a sympathetic magistrate following his arrest for public drunkenness because he was a veteran of the Battle of Balaklava in 1854, where he was wounded in the leg. In fact, *The Cold Spring Recorder* noted, Moody had been shot by a farmer in Middle Hope, where he was a berry picker.

William Hoss went to New York City to retrieve his nephew, James Mosher, 14, after the Gerry Society [the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, founded by Elbridge Gerry] contacted Officer McCaffrey to say the boy had been arrested for vagrancy.

Thomas Edison, having completed a \$2 million iron ore factory in Ogden, New Jersey, started work on a second plant in West Portal, New Jersey. A third plant was planned for the Sunk Mine in Putnam Valley, where five years earlier Edison had taken a long-term lease at \$10,000 per year.

The Recorder noted that Hamilton Mable, associate editor of *The Outlook*, a popular weekly newsmagazine, was a native of Cold Spring.

John Gilmore, 56, a former resident of Philipstown who organized the National Biscuit Co. [a consolidation of baking companies known as the "biscuit trust"], was organizing a similar trust to control the milk business in New York City.

The Rev. A.T. Dickson, a "colored divine" [Black evangelist] from Troy, stayed at the Garrison Hotel while leasing a hall in Highlands Falls for lectures.

100 Years Ago (August 1922)

Surprise Lake Camp unveiled a sun dial named for the late Leon Katzentin, who had been the summer camp's administrator from 1912 to 1919.

A rally was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall by striking railroad men.

The cornerstone was laid for an addition to the Our Lady of Loretto School.

The Chautauqua Association hosted an open-air screening of the 1916, six-reel Douglas Fairbanks film, *The Americano*, on Sandy Land lot. There was also an educational short called *A Trip to the Moon*.



The Americano, with Douglas Fairbanks, was screened in Cold Spring in 1922.

Fred Butler, formerly with the Alice Neilson Opera Co. and now "the world's greatest interpreter of religious music," led a service at the Methodist Church.

A baseball team of aqueduct workers from Cold Spring defeated a team of aqueduct workers from Peekskill, 5-0.

An employee at the estate of J. Richmond in the North Highlands was badly bitten on the nose by a dog.

Patrick Sheridan, proprietor of the Hudson View Hotel, purchased the Kelley House on the north side of Main Street east of his hotel.

The cemetery bridge in Nelsonville

collapsed while being inspected for damage by Mr. Logan, who fell 10 feet into the creek bed.

Three one-act plays — "The Slave with Two Faces," "The Florist Shop" and "Suppressed Desires" — were presented at a benefit for the Parish House in Garrison, which was shared by all denominations.

J.P. Donohue offered four houses for sale at the Garrison station, including two with water service.

A new lodge of the Sons of Italy was organized in Cold Spring with 62 members. Following the installation of officers, the group adjourned to the Bella Vista hotel on the waterfront for a banquet.

Francis Early's parents said he had not been home in three weeks and asked anyone who had seen him to contact them.

Five canal boats loaded with grain en route to New York City from Buffalo docked at the Main Street wharf. The captain said because he was short of coal, it was more economical to wait two or three hours than to fight the tide.

75 Years Ago (August 1947)

James Reidy, 55, an employee of the Harbor Hill Inn, died while taking a walk on Paulding Avenue. He was a retired member of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

Merton Akers, a United Press executive, was said to have a collection of old Hudson River prints that rivaled one owned by a former *Peekskill Star* reporter. Akers began his hobby after he bought a Cold Spring farm and realized the Currier & Ives print hanging in his study showed the view of West Point from his new house.

Robert Patterson, who resigned in July as secretary of war and returned to his 90-acre farm near Cold Spring, was asked in an interview for his thoughts on the disposal of the \$100 billion worth of supplies procured for World War II. "Anything I would have to say on that would be of no value," he replied. He also declined comment on a Senate investigation of \$40 million Howard Hughes had received in wartime contracts to build transport planes.

50 Years Ago (August 1972)

Two men wearing ski masks and carrying a sawed-off shotgun and revolvers robbed the Bird and Bottle Inn in Garrison at 10:15 on a Sunday night. After entering through the rear kitchen door, they herded 20 customers and employees into the kitchen and ordered them to the floor. The thieves emptied the cash register of \$1,200 and took a checkbook, wristwatch and stopwatch from three customers. A 28-year-old employee from Putnam Valley who tried to flee was shot in the buttocks. The men escaped in a dark, late-model Cadillac Eldorado.

The Philipstown Jaycees sponsored two performances by the three-ring Sells & Gray Circus on Fair Street. According to a published schedule, the circus arrived at 6 a.m. from Newtown, Connecticut, raised the big top at 9 a.m., fed the elephants and jungle animals at noon and performed at 4 and 8 p.m. before departing at midnight for Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

The Haldane school board approved a noncommercial radio station to be operated by students using donated equipment,

(Continued on Page 17)

Memories of Continental Village

For 10 years beginning in 1947, when he was 8, Gene Palmer lived with his family at 253 Sprout Brook Road in Continental Village, after moving from West 157th Street in Manhattan.



Gene Palmer at age 11

In June, Palmer began posting recollections of that time and place at cortlandtchronicle.blogspot.com. Below are a few excerpts:

- “In 1947, the owners of the Saltbox House [No. 249] were movie actors, three middle-aged midgets, unemployed at the time we arrived. My brother John and I got a tour of the house after we introduced ourselves. The actors told us that they played in the famous *Wizard of Oz* movie. Less than a year later, they sold the house to the Boyd family and moved back to New York City.”
- “In 1957 my friend Billy Wert introduced me to George Perry, [a young adult] who was working on an old Model T Ford. He had the hood up, and he said he was setting the time on the ignition. After a short chat, he gave me a disconnected spark plug wire to hold to test the spark between the cable and the spark plug. I had never done this before. I knew nothing about car engines. When he started the engine, I got a shock that made me drop the wire and fall backward. Either the insulation on that wire was inadequate or I was a superconductor. He and Billy were laughing. I found out Billy had qualified as a member of George’s ‘spark squad’



The Palmer home at No. 253 Sprout Brook Road in 1950, with a new white picket fence. The coupe in the driveway was a 1936 Ford.

Photos provided

a few weeks before. Apparently this was George’s electrifying way of saying howdy.”

- “My mother, Eustelle Palmer, was an excellent cook and there was always a strong demand in our house for her baked goods. However, she was not the only reputable cook in Continental Village. Mrs. Monowitz, Mrs. Lazar and Rose Cillis baked Jewish specialties. Gertrude Kutty baked Hungarian and Norwegian specialties. Mrs. Esposito baked Italian specialties. Mrs. Zeliph baked Dutch specialties. After the volunteer fire department was organized and money was needed, the wives of the firemen sold cakes, cookies, pies, etc.”
- “My friend, Paul Kutty, had a subscription to *Fur-Fish-Game*. In one issue he found a recipe for a raccoon bait. I remember wading in the knee-deep water of Sprout Brook, collecting freshwater mussels to incorporate as part of the recipe. The place where we waded was also the place, many years ago, smallpox-inoculated Joseph Plumb

Martin waded with other Continental soldiers when spearing suckers in the summer of 1777. I don’t recall the other ingredients of the recipe, but I remember the awful stink of it, and how we threw it away after failing to attract animals to our traps. Too stinky for them, too.”

- “During his lifetime, Al Zeliph Sr. was a farmer, carpenter, plumber, dude ranch hired hand, bricklayer, well-digger and a custodian of the clubhouse and water works for the developers of Continental Village. He was about 5’8”, lean and strong, and a man who had a complete country lexicon of words. His family was the first to have a black-and-white TV. During the winter of 1947-48, he often invited his nephew, Cliff Holmes, and me to watch his favorite program, professional wrestling. Al Zeliph used to get feisty during the bouts, shouting at the screen, waving his arms from the edge of his seat. ‘Kick him! Pin him!’ ”

(Continued from Page 16)

pending Federal Communications Commission approval.

Nat Anthony, president of the Cold Spring Fire Co., died unexpectedly at age 48. A World War II veteran, he also was past president of the Lions Club.

George & Dees edged Ron’s Esso, 7-6, in extra innings to win the 1972 Philipstown Softball League crown. Both teams had 14-4 records, and the crowd of 200 spectators was thought to be the largest in league history.

25 Years Ago (August 1997)

After Garrison School district voters, for the third time, rejected its proposed spending plan, the Board of Education adopted an austerity budget. The \$4.34 million proposal was defeated by 89 votes, although a second proposition to spend \$52,250 on sports and extracurriculars passed, 323-306. John Cronin, vice president of the school board, said that he felt the budget was defeated “due to the continued community dissatisfaction with salaries and the lack of trust in the board because of inaccurate numbers

provided by the school administration” concerning high school tuition.

Cashin Associates, which had supervised the capping and closure of the Philipstown landfill, asked the Town Board to pay an additional \$56,000 because another contractor, Servidone, took 56 extra days to finish the job. Servidone said the town caused the delay when it decided to switch to alternate grading material (AGM) to save money.

A 32-year-old Garrison man who was pulled over on Route 9 for having a cracked windshield refused to roll down his window because he said he suspected the Putnam County sheriff’s deputy was a fake police officer. The deputy called for backup and the driver was removed without further dispute.

The Cold Spring Village Board accepted a low bid of \$165,000 from National Metering Services to supply and install 934 water meters in the village following the completion of a \$3 million filtration plant on Fishkill Road. The plant was designed to reduce turbidity, or the amount of particulate matter. The problem was addressed by adding alum, which causes the particulate to clump so it would be filtered.

Heather McGuire, a third grader from Cold Spring, waited three hours to hear her favorite country singer, LeAnn Rimes, at the Orange County Fair. When two DJs for the sponsoring radio station, WRWD, realized how long she had been there, they arranged for her to watch the show from the stage and to meet Rimes.

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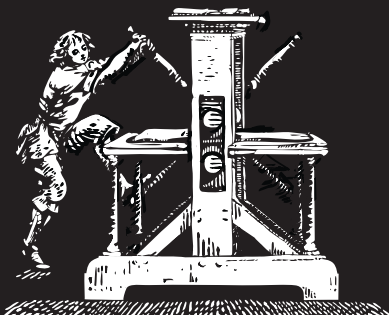
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LEARNING NEVER STOPS

The Beacon school district hosted a four-week summer academy at Rombout Middle School that ended Thursday (Aug. 11). Directed by Catie Biordi, an assistant principal at Rombout who last month was named principal at Sargent Elementary, the program was funded with federal pandemic relief money and included math, science, language arts, Spanish and physical education classes. “It was designed to give students extra support where they were affected negatively by the shutdown and to offer experiences they missed out on, like field trips and hands-on projects and activities,” said Biordi. “We also wanted to provide space for students to build deeper connections with their peers and teachers” following two years of isolation. About 325 students attended.

Photos by Valerie Shively



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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Mimics

5. Satchel

8. Blue hue

12. Tibetan monk

13. Crew tool

14. Galoots

15. Spring flower

17. Marathon fraction

18. Vagrant

19. Nearsighted

21. Pie-in-the-face sound

24. Blueprint

25. San — Obispo, CA

26. Lose weight

30. Web address

31. April forecasts

32. Pi follower

33. Pained expressions

35. Egyptian deity

36. 911 responders

37. Garden statuette

38. Shrimp recipe

41. Gloomy guy

42. Horseback game

43. Record holder?

48. Sharif of *Funny Girl*

49. Melody

50. Long tale

51. Theater award

12

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52. Texter's chuckle

53. Yon folks

DOWN

1. Jungfrau, for one

2. Standard

3. Brit. record label

4. Brazilian dances

5. Prosperous period

6. Small batteries

7. Glitch makers

8. Candy bar nut

9. Witticism

10. Wrinkled fruit

11. In — (shortly)

16. Trench

20. Orange veggies

21. Punch

22. Kitten's sound

23. Leslie Caron film

24. Snoops

26. Strategic

27. Guesser's words

28. Caprice

29. Proboscis

31. Wheelchair access

34. *Cats* showstopper

35. Demand

37. Wrigley product

38. Espy

39. Lake of Lombardy

40. Arkin or Alda

41. Lass

44. 2016 Olympics city

45. "Unh-unh"

46. Census stat

47. Non-clerical

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 without NaCl (8)

2 alluded to (10)

3 art of diplomacy (10)

4 lack of inventory (8)

5 broad city avenue (9)

6 smartphone "key," often (10)

7 hang around (4)

SOLUTIONS

UNSA

BOU

STA

INS

RAFT

ATED

TH

ZE

LEVA

RINT

RD

BP

RTA

TEC

INU

SHO

LA

LTED

UM

GE

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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E	R	R		O	U	T	R	E		E	L	I
B	I	R	D	B	R	A	I	N		T	O	N
			Y	E	A		S	I	F	T	E	D
F	I	B	E	R	S		M	O	L	Y		
E	P	I		T	I	C		R	E	B	U	S
T	A	L	L		A	H	A		D	O	R	A
A	D	L	A	I		A	R	M		O	A	F
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R	O	B	B	E	R		I	S	O			
I	S	U		B	E	A	C	H	B	A	L	L
P	H	D		A	N	G	L	E		X	I	I
S	A	D		G	A	T	E	S		E	E	L

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

1. EPHEMERAL, 2. ZEPPELIN, 3. MICHIGAN, 4. SUCCINCT, 5. CANADA, 6. FUSSILY, 7. MUNDANE

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



A tree-lined street in Newburgh



The site of a once and future tree

Photos by B. Cronin

Out There

Seeing the City for the Trees

By Brian PJ Cronin



Chuck Thomas can tell you, with a few taps of his phone, that the tree we're sitting under at Tyrone Crabb Memorial Park in Newburgh is a littleleaf linden.

Nothing unusual there. Many smartphone apps such as iNaturalist can identify flora and fauna. But with a few more taps, Thomas can tell you that the littleleaf linden is sequestering over 24 pounds of greenhouse gases every year and retaining 114 gallons of water.

On a sweltering day like today, the 5.72 kilowatt-hours in energy savings can also be felt to those of us sitting under the tree's shade. "Seven degrees cooler here than over there," says Thomas, pointing to the broiling, tree-less section of South Street.

All in all, this little tree is saving the city of Newburgh \$47.38 a year in "eco benefits," according to a map at newburghny.treekeepersoftware.com created by the Davey Resource Group as part of a joint project with the Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy, Outdoor Promise and the Newburgh Conservation Advisory Council, which Thomas chairs.

The groups are working together to replace the 4,000 street trees that Newburgh has lost over the years to neglect, disease or being improperly planted. At the same time, it hopes to protect 3,757 other trees that are saving city residents an estimated \$482,000 in energy costs.

"We used to be a well-canopied city," says Kathy Lawrence of the Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy. "Now we're not."

She pointed out that as the planet continues to warm due to climate change, green infrastructure such as trees and parks have become vital components for the future of cities because of the way they cool the air temperature, fight pollution and prevent flooding.

"People don't get that," Lawrence says. "We're using the inventory to say: 'This is the economic benefit, this is the public health benefit, this is the cooling benefit.'"

Still, for all the quantifiable benefits of

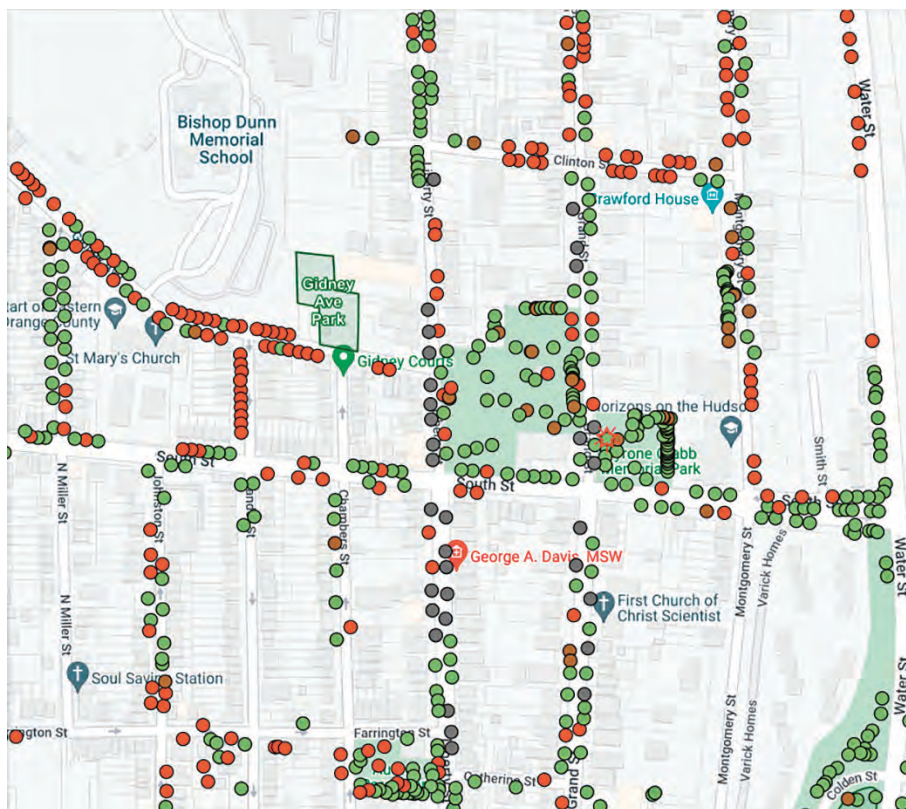
trees, Thomas is drawn to their ineffable qualities. "What a difference!" he says after we leave the park and journey from a block without trees to one with an established canopy. "It just doesn't have that hardscrabble look to it."

In addition to pointing out where Newburgh's trees are, the map notes where trees used to be. "I love that missing trees are marked in red,"

says Lawrence. "That's heat."

The streets lined with red dots also indicate where replanting efforts should be focused, she says. Outdoor Promise went from door to door in those neighborhoods to ask residents if they would be willing to help care for trees, as plantings require up to 40 gallons of water a week from May through October.

Not everyone was willing: Some residents



A click on any of these dots on Newburgh's tree inventory map will reveal information about the tree, including, in some cases, a photo.

worried about branches falling on their cars, or if they would be responsible if the trees' roots broke up the sidewalks.

"Some landlords don't want trees because they want to keep things looking scrappy," Thomas says. "I'll leave it at that."

Residents who had been interested in planting street trees on their own ended up discouraged. "It says in the code that you have to get a permit," says Lawrence. "If you ask for a permit to plant a tree, you're handed a 13-page building permit that mentions trees exactly zero times."

The city hadn't had much luck on its own, either; it would sometimes plant trees on streets with power lines, only to have to cut the trees down as they grew. A few years ago, the city planted ash trees along Water Street, not realizing that they would soon be felled by the invasive emerald ash borer.

Through a series of grants and funding from the city, the three nonprofit groups are working to plant 40 trees a year, spread out among Newburgh's four wards. After compiling a list of hardy trees that won't get destroyed by disease or grow too tall, they're identifying where exactly they should go.

On a block of Upper Broadway lined with red dots on the map, Thomas points out the empty planters at the curb where trees used to be. One of them sits in front of Rhinebeck Bank, the only bank left in the city. Thomas has convinced the bank manager to water the forthcoming tree every day, even if it involves making several trips back and forth from the bathroom sink with a bucket. He points to a banner in front of the bank that says "Rhinebeck Bank Believes in Newburgh." "We're holding them to that," he says with a laugh.

In the end, the map may help to grow more than trees. "Grow a tree, grow a community" to care for them, says Thomas, as he waves to someone on the other side of the street. "When I moved here, I didn't know my neighbors. And now, last year, that guy got married in my living room."