Is Share the Growth Dead on Vine?

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In July, when the Putnam County Legislature voted unanimously to share $5 million in sales-tax revenue with towns and villages, its resolution referred to the money as an “advance” on a program that would distribute sales tax to towns and villages.

Now, it seems that the “advance” may be the only payout.

Kevin Byrne, the incoming Putnam County executive, has indicated to local officials that he opposes sharing sales tax. Unlike most counties in the state, Putnam does not distribute the sales tax to the places where it is generated.

MaryEllen Odell, the departing county executive who could not run because of term limits, long resisted sales-tax sharing, and the county says it uses the money to provide services instead. But in March, she recommended sharing, after hearing details of a proposal drafted by Philipstown Councilor Jason Angell and Cold Spring Trustee Eliza Starbuck in which the county would only distribute sales tax revenue that was in excess of the previous year’s revenues. For instance, in 2021, the county received $75 million in sales tax, or $11.3 million more than in 2020.

Byrne, a state Assembly member, ran unopposed to succeed Odell, a fellow Republican. He has been meeting with local officials before stepping into his new duties on Jan. 1.

“Byrne does not intend to share any tax with municipalities,” said Mayor Chris Winward at the Monday (Nov. 21) meeting of the Beacon City Council on Monday. (Nov. 21) unanimously approved the city’s 2023 budget, which includes a modest property tax increase for homeowners and a tax break for commercial property owners.

The $33.7 million spending plan includes a tax-rate decrease of 11 percent for residential properties. But because assessed residential values are up 16 percent, the average home (assessed at $400,000) will see a 2.9 percent tax bill increase, or about $80 annually.

The $12.5 million tax levy — the total amount of property taxes the city will collect — is about $400,000 less than what a state tax cap allows.

The city will benefit in 2023 from the addition of $26 million in new or improved properties on the tax rolls, as well as a sales tax-sharing agreement negotiated with Dutchess County that should bring in more than $1 million in added revenue.

For commercial properties, the tax rate will drop 10 percent; the city estimates that those tax bills will decrease next year by nearly $600, on average.

As always, the budget is broken up into

**Putnam Sales Tax Collections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<td>$78,052,738</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$67,200,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>$74,750,000**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figures not adjusted for inflation. **Projected

(Continued on Page 7)

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**HOLIDAY TRIMMINGS** — Members of The Tioronda Garden Club — including Helen Lang and Justine Bienkowski (left) — prepared wreaths this week for installation along Main Street in Beacon. Members of the Highway Department, including Chris Egitto at right, shown outside the Howland Public Library on Tuesday (Nov. 22), did the heavy lifting. The garden club and city share the costs of maintaining the decorations.

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**Beacon Adopts 2023 Budget**

**Plan includes tax bump for homeowners**

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on Monday (Nov. 21) unanimously approved the city’s 2023 budget, which includes a modest property tax increase for homeowners and a tax break for commercial property owners.

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**Officials Warn of Triple Threat**

**COVID rates steady but flu and RSV on rise**

By Leonard Sparks

Local and state health officials are warning residents to protect themselves from a trio of respiratory illnesses as the cold weather forces people indoors and families and friends prepare to gather in groups during the holidays. As of Tuesday (Nov. 22), new reported cases of COVID-19 remained relatively flat. Health officials and hospitals are instead confronting the seasonal rise in infections from the flu and a surge in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases. The latter typically emerges in the fall and winter to cause a cold-like illness, but it arrived earlier this year and with a greater spread, especially among children.

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)

Doctors began reporting increased infections from RSV in the summer, according to state data. Symptoms include a runny nose and cough, and infants born prematurely and older adults with weakened immune systems can become seriously ill.

Across New York state, the five-week average of RSV cases was 615 as of Nov. 19, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — or (Continued on Page 6)
Carole Penner leads a monthly workshop, Aging Gracefully, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. The next session is at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday (Nov. 29).

Why do you feel there is a need for this workshop?

When I turned 75 at the end of August, I decided I didn’t want to think about age as a number anymore. I’d been in therapy, and took antidepressants on and off, and tried an herbal tincture, but I still found myself worrying about things which I had no control over, like the future and family. It occurred to me that there were probably a lot of people like me. A lot of my friends are younger; many are in families, and we just don’t talk about that side of aging, I thought about the benefits of having a place where we could all talk about virtually anything, not to solve big problems. It is a way of approaching problem-solving that is not from a punitive standpoint. Its base is “repairing the harm.” Say an incident happens at a school — a big fight. Rather than suspend and alienate the people who may have been harmed. These could be students, classmates, teachers or parents. A circle is formed where all the stakeholders meet, and a series of questions, from a card, are asked. The result is, hopefully, some remorse, something this student can do to work on restoring the harm. The same can happen in a community. Restorative practice in this setting is an opportunity to share, speak and be heard, as members of a community. We’re here to support each other as a community, not to solve big problems.

What is “restorative practice?”

It is a way of approaching problem-solving that is not from a punitive standpoint. Its base is “repairing the harm.” Say an incident happens at a school — a big fight. Rather than suspend and alienate the participants, restorative practice gathers the participants, restorative practice gathers the participants, restorative practice gathers the participants, restorative practice gathers the participants, restorative practice gathers.

What is a favorite childhood memory?

I pitched the idea to Gabrielle Esposito (head of adult services at the library) by designing a poster. She set it up quickly and six women and one guy showed up to the first session. He told us he was there for his wife, but that he’d come again next time. The age range was 50s to 75 — the 75 was me, which made me the oldest! Gabrielle sat in and reinforced that younger people are welcome, too, that you don’t have to be retired. It’s open to anyone who has concerns about an aging family member.

At the initial session, we broke the ice through answering intro questions. One was “What is a favorite childhood memory?” and the other “If you could pick one age to stay at, what would it be, and why?” It was surprising to me that nobody wanted to be in their 30s again; instead, most answered “around 50, because my kids were grown by then.” Their comments sparked more questions from me.

Were there common concerns?

A common theme of the issues raised was feeling forgetful, and worrying that this was an early sign of dementia. Also, how family members were responding to this. Worries like, “My daughter keeps telling me I’m repeating myself, and didn’t I know?” I made a graphic on cardstock and used sticky notes to mark things they have control over in the center of it, using the outer areas for things they don’t. We reinforced that forgetting things doesn’t mean we have dementia. A lot of people don’t want to burden their kids about all the changes they might be experiencing.

We talked about not having control over how people see them, including physical changes, meaning they are not able to do as much — even things such as balancing to change a lightbulb, or a ladder. A lot had concerns about their adult children’s reaction to them — that their children were too consumed by their own lives.

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What’s up next?

Our next topic has to do with our legacy. People are concerned with what they’ll leave behind to be remembered by. In the end, I thanked them all for their honesty; trust takes more than one session. I was pleasantly surprised at how much they opened up about concerns that they don’t necessarily talk about. We also shared information on gyms and exercise classes. It was all friendly, comfortable and joyous. One woman said, “I don’t have people to talk to; this is wonderful.”
Land Trust Adds 43 Acres
Expands Putnam Valley preserve

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust said on Nov. 17 it had purchased a 43-acre property adjoining the Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam Valley. The land contains wetlands, a portion of Oscawana Brook, vernal pools and intermittent streams, said HHLT. It also sits in an aquifer protection zone.

HHLT opened the Granite Mountain Preserve in 2017 after buying three parcels with 358 acres. It expanded the preserve to 400 acres in 2018.

Boscobel Launches Tree Project
Will plant along Route 9D in Cold Spring

Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison on Nov. 18 launched an initiative to plant two dozen trees along Route 9D in Cold Spring.

The Boscobel Community Tree Initiative is a collaboration between Boscobel, the Village of Cold Spring’s Tree Advisory Board, the Town of Philipstown, property owners and three landscape firms. The first tree was planted on Nov. 18 at The Nest Childcare Center; others will follow at Haldane school, M&T Bank, the Butterfield development and the Manitou School. The project was supported by an anonymous donation to the Boscobel Tree Fund.

Bridge Pathway Open 24/7
Bikes, pedestrians can cross Beacon bridge anytime

The pedestrian and bicycling pathway on the Newburgh-Beacon bridge is now open at all times, the New York State Bridge Authority announced on Nov. 17. Hours had been limited to dawn to dusk and remain so on the other bridges over-seen by the authority. The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge has lighting and on-site and remote security, it said.

Ambulance Corp Supplies Narcan
Hopes to prevent overdose fatalities

The Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps on Nov. 10 launched a program in which its emergency medical technicians leave “overdose rescue kits” behind when they respond to opioid-abuse emergencies. The kit contains Narcan, an antidote for opioid overdoses. It is left with a family member or in the house in the hope it will reduce fatalities. The program began in 2019 in New York state and was recently launched in Putnam County.

State: Drop Mascots or No Funding
Targets schools with Native American team names

The New York State Education Department said Nov. 17 that schools which continue using Native American mascots after the 2022-23 academic year without approval from a tribe risk losing state aid.

In the Hudson Valley, only Mahopac High School and Ketcham High School in Wappingers continue to use the name Indians. Facing criticism, the Mahopac district announced in 2019 that it had no plans to change the name, saying the town historian had concluded “that the descendants of the Algonquin people in fact appreciated and took great pride in the district using the nickname.”

Many schools across the state that used Indians have recently changed their mascots. In Westchester, John Jay-Cross River became the Wolves, Ossining became The Pride and Roosevelt High School became the Sharks. In Rockland, Nyack became the RedHawks.
**Ukraine update**

I’m writing to offer some hopeful news in response to Michael Turton’s excellent profile of Cold Spring resident Natasha Shaginian and her connections to Russia and Ukraine (“‘I Can’t Stand What’s Happening,’” Nov. 4). Shaginian told how her Ukrainian niece’s dreams had been crushed when her top school choice, Kharkiv Karazin University, was destroyed by Russian bombs. Although, early in Russia’s full-scale invasion, reports circulated on social media about the destruction of Karazin University’s campus, as a trustee of the Kharkiv Karazin University Foundation, I can report that the university’s main campus building and its amazing community are still very much with us.

Notwithstanding daily shelling and the loss of 25 percent of its physical infrastructure to Russian missile attacks, Karazin University has not ceased instruction from the first day of the full-scale war. Faculty and staff welcomed a new incoming class in September, and in November, Karazin University was named Ukraine’s top university by the country’s Ministry of Education. With 24 institutions of higher education and 520 schools in and around Kharkiv destroyed by Russian bombs and missiles, Karazin University will have an important role to play in the reconstruction of Ukraine after victory.

Jessica Pisano, Philipstown

**Correction**

The recipe for the Bay-Juniper Crème Brûlée in the Nov. 18 issue left out the oven temperature in Step 3. It should read: “Set pan on the center rack of oven and bake at 325 degrees until just set, 30 to 35 minutes.”

Charlie Symon, Beacon

**Gas-free Beacon**

How would being 100 percent dependent on electric be cheaper than natural gas or propane (“Gas-free Beacon?” Nov. 18)? Because Central Hudson’s rate increases are partially due to the politicians closing gas, nuclear and coal-fired power plants and supposedly replacing them with unreliable high-cost wind and solar, my electric rate is almost three times higher than in 2018. Can anyone explain how banning gas and propane will decrease electric rates and reduce our monthly energy costs?

Charlie Symon, Beacon

**E-bikes**

Forty thousand Americans are killed every year in car crashes, and 3 million are injured — that’s the real safety menace we should be talking about (“Wide Angle: E-bike Encounters,” Nov. 11). If we want to reduce bike/pedestrian conflicts, we need to create dedicated space for biking in Beacon, where we currently have zero.

Hayley Richardson, via Instagram

The affordability and access afforded by e-bikes for the less advantaged should not be discounted, overlooked or sabotaged. Think of the proverbial story of the person who walks miles to/from work daily until someone gives them a car. For every one of those stories, there are thousands who don’t have or can’t get a free car.

Lloyd DesBrisay, via Instagram
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- NewsMatch, a national collaborative campaign supporting nonprofit journalism whose contributors include The Knight Foundation and The Democracy Fund.
- A community member who believes strongly in the value of independent, public-service journalism.

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MEMBERSHIPS TOTALING $50,000 = $100,000 FOR NEWS
Covid Cases Per 100K

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<th>2022</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DUTCHESS</td>
<td>PUTNAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>79.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
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<td>50.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>9.0</td>
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<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>26.5</td>
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Source: New York State Department of Health, seven-day averages

Flu Cases

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<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2022*</td>
<td>112</td>
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Source: New York State Department of Health
*Through Nov. 12

RSV Positive Tests (New York State)

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<td>3.2%</td>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>17%</td>
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Source: CDC, three-week average

Flu Cases

- The state reported 64 flu cases in Dutchess County for the week ending Nov. 12, more than triple the number for the seven-day period ending Oct. 29, according to the state Department of Health. Cases in Putnam County rose to 50 from 17 for the same weeks, and even higher, to 98, for the week ending Nov. 19, according to the county Health Department.
- Local health departments are only required to report flu deaths of children and teens younger than 18 and none have been reported this season. People hospitalized with the illness rose to 621 as of Nov. 12, compared to 71 on Oct. 15.

Prevention

The Putnam County Health Department said Nov. 18 that vaccines remain the best prevention for COVID and the flu. There is no authorized vaccine for RSV, but health officials recommend prevention strategies, such as hand-washing, cleaning surfaces, staying home if sick and wearing masks.

“Three-week-old infants are coming in with positive RSV,” he said. “We never used to see that.”

The symptoms are also worse, especially in young children. “Even up to two months, kids are still coughing, but they’re not sick anymore,” he said.

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“The good news is that there are a million home-test results showed that their positivity rates largely mirrored the rates reported by laboratories. But the tests it studied “likely reflect a small fraction of the number of self-tests used,” said the agency.

Because more people are using home kits, and places offering rapid tests only have to report positive results, New York considers cases per 100,000 residents to be a more reliable data point for measuring trends with COVID.

The seven-day average for cases per 100,000 statewide stood at 18.9 on Monday (Nov. 21), below the 20 reported on Sept. 1. On the first day of fall, Dutchess County’s seven-day average hit 26.1 but had fallen to 13.7 on Monday. Data show the same trend in Putnam County, where the seven-day average on Monday stood at 20.7.

Despite the falling case levels, both Dutchess and Putnam counties still had the highest positivity rates (the percentage of tests that are positive) among the seven counties in the Mid-Hudson Region. Deaths have also slowed because of vaccinations, immunity from infection and better treatments, but COVID remains the third-leading cause of death in the U.S, according to the CDC. In New York, people 60 and older represented nearly 87 percent of the state’s 59,299 deaths from COVID as of Tuesday.
DCC Plans to Charge Fees at High Schools

Community college had offered free ‘dual enrollment’
By Jeff Simms

Thousands of high school students, including those in Beacon and at Haldane in Cold Spring, will have to pay college-level courses next fall if a new Dutchess Community College policy stands.

For decades, juniors and seniors at the schools and 20 others in Dutchess and Putnam counties have been able to take college-level math, economics, psychology, foreign language and English courses for free through a partnership with DCC. The courses are taught at the high schools by teachers certified through the college.

In many cases, especially within the SUNY system, credits earned through DCC can be transferred upon graduation, giving students a head start in college. Haldane also cooperates with another SUNY school, the University at Albany, but students must pay $160 per course (or $80 for low income) to receive college credits.

DCC President Peter Jordan notified superintendents this fall that the college plans to begin charging $64 per credit hour, or a third of its standard tuition rate for state residents. Typically, DCC classes taught in high schools earn three credits, so the cost for each would be $192.

The change was scheduled to take effect in the spring of 2023 but the superintendents were able to persuade DCC to wait until the fall.

The program serves more than 3,000 students each year, according to the college. Beacon High School students occupy about 330 seats in the courses for this academic year, although many students take more than one class. Students from Arlington, the largest district in Dutchess County, occupy about 1,600 seats.

During the Beacon school board meeting on Monday (Nov. 21), Ari Carmona, one of the board’s student advisers, said that she’s earning 13 DCC credits this year. Given the cost of traveling to visit colleges, plus application fees, Carmona predicted a “huge uproar” among students if they also have to pay DCC tuition next year, even at the reduced rate.

If you were running a community college, you’d be looking at your budget and figuring out what kind of plugs can I find for the holes.

— Craig Wolf, Beacon school board member

“It will affect students’ motivation to continue moving up in their academic careers,” she said.

The Beacon district cannot pay the tuition, which would be around $140,000 during 2023-24, because it would be an unfair use of taxpayer funds, said Superintendent Matt Landahl.

During the meeting, Landahl said DCC justified the change by saying it would keep the school compliant with state law, a claim disputed by the school board’s attorneys.

Landahl said that while it’s legal for DCC to charge tuition for its high school classes, the law does not require it. A DCC representative called it a SUNY mandate.

From 2011 to 2021, SUNY college and university enrollment fell by more than 92,000 students, or nearly 20 percent. At SUNY community colleges, the plunge was more dramatic, at 34 percent.

“If you were running a community college, you’d be looking at your budget and figuring out what kind of plugs can I find for the holes.”

— Craig Wolf, Beacon school board member

Tax Revenue (from Page 1)

The Nelsonville Village Board. “He has made it quite clear to every municipal leader he has met with on this side of the county. We all, of course, explained how important that tax base is to us. And he is not interested.”

Similarly, Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel told the Town Board on Nov. 3 that “it seems Byrne is not going to share” sales tax.

“I still think [sharing] is a great idea that he would, or should and could” support, Van Tassel said. If Byrne wants “to say ‘we’re going to give you services instead,’ I want to see real services come to town.

If Byrne wants “to say ‘we’re going to give you services instead,’ I want to see real services come to town.

— John Van Tassel, Philipstown Supervisor

Of that total, Philipstown would get $306,070; Cold Spring, $101,671; and Nelsonville, $31,945. The Legislature also unanimously approved a distribution of federal pandemic relief funds, in comparable amounts. According to the resolution, the $5 million must be spent by June 30, 2026, “with a focus on infrastructure, mental health, substance abuse, food insecurity, clean water, roads, bridges and buildings to aid in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

As Byrne noted in an email to The Current, while the resolution alluded to a plan to share sales taxes, it did not create one.

He described the $5 million allocation as a “one-shot, with no language committing to a ‘share-the-growth’ plan.” Moreover, he said, “no such plan or commitment to ‘share’, ‘divert’ or ‘pass along’ sales-tax revenue to other government entities was ever codified or voted on by the county Legislature.

Still, the Legislature seemed to be on board with something similar. Supervisor Sulli- van of Carmel-Mahopac, who chairs the nine-member Legislature, said July 5 that “we should continue to share sales tax today and going into the future, because we’re over our estimated budgeted amount. If we can share, we should.”

We predict that there’s “desperation for some of the new commercial development projects recently opened, we will continue to see increased sales tax. I look forward to being able to share it with our local taxpayers.”

Legislator Carl Alban of Carmel pointed out that when Putnam shares sales tax, “there’s a negative effect” on county finances, and that the county aids municipalities in various ways, such as covering community college fees. Nonetheless, he said he supported sharing some sales tax. “This is going in the right direction and these are the right things to do, and I’m all in favor.”

The county does appear ready to distrib-ute the promised advance. On Tuesday, (Nov. 22), Winward said Putnam had sent Nelsonville an intermunicipal agreement on handling sales-tax money and pandemic relief funds.

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Beacon Budget (from Page 1)
three funds: a $24.6 million general oper-ating fund, a $4 million water fund and a $5.1 million sewer fund. The newly approved plan includes 3 percent increases in water and sewer fees to cover inflation and ongoing infrastructure investments.

The budget adds two full-time positions to the workforce—a firefighter and a water/ sewer maintenance helper—as well as a part-time civilian dispatcher in the Police Depart-ment. It also finds a full-time mental health case manager in the Police Department, ambulance service, park bathroom clean-ing, the nascent municipal compost program and expanded public swimming pool hours.

It’s an opportunity for us to make that program whatever we want it to look like, and it can look just like Beacon.

— Kenya Gadsden, Police Advisory Committee member

Earlier this month, Council Member Justice McCray questioned the inclusion of $4,000 in the budget for the Youth Police Academy, a free, weeklong summer program for students entering grades 9 through 12 that provides an introduction to careers in law enforce-ment. During a public hearing on Monday, several community members, including members of the city’s Police Advisory Committee, spoke in favor of the program.

After the council’s vote, Kenya Gadsden, a member of the advisory committee, noted that a police officer sworn in earlier that evening had attended the youth academy. Its sustained funding will allow the city to continue growing your program,” Gadsden said.

“It’s an opportunity for us to make that program whatever we want it to look like, and it can look just like Beacon,” she said.
GERMAN VISITORS — Beacon High School recently welcomed a group of German students as part of a two-week exchange program sponsored by the PTSO; a group of BHS sophomores will visit Germany in June. The 18 students, accompanied by two teachers, arrived Oct. 23. They stayed with host families and attended classes. Among other activities, they were welcomed at a City Council meeting and carved pumpkins and donned costumes for Halloween. Photos provided

LUNCH FOR SENIORS — The Philipstown Recreation Department on Nov. 16 hosted its first senior luncheon since 2019. It was catered by B&L Deli and served by volunteers.
Beacon composer reworks an old standard
By Alison Rooney

There’s a ready-set-go logic to producing an original cast album of a musical. The score is written, the show opens, with the music typically unfamiliar to the audience. If there’s any indication the show will be popular, the score is recorded. Will Reynolds has pursued a far less typical model. The composer, who is based in Beacon, recorded the album, then pitched a production.

His newly released cast album, *The Violet Hour*, is a musical he composed in collaboration with Eric Price, who wrote the book and lyrics, based on a Richard Greenberg play that ran on Broadway in 2003. Greenberg is the author of *Take Me Out*, which was revived on Broadway earlier this year and has most recently reopened for a limited run.

*The Violet Hour*, mostly set in New York City in 1919, has a Jazz Age score sung by Santino Fontana (*Tootsie, My Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*); Erika Henningsen (*Mean Girls*); Jeremy Jordan (*Newsies*); Solea Pfeiffer (*Almost Famous*); and Brandon Uranowitz (*Falsettos, Leopoldstadt*).

When pitching the musical to producers, Reynolds said, “we thought it was key for them to get what we are up to, beyond the script and a demo. With a small cast and one set being so [fiscally] appealing to producers, hopefully they’ll take a bite.”

*The Violet Hour* caught Price’s attention when he saw the 2003 Steppenwolf Broadway production. Before securing the rights, Price and Reynolds composed a title song as well as one for each of the five characters. Then they contacted Greenberg. “Take a run with it and see what you make,” he replied.

The cast recording, which can be streamed at major services or purchased at thevioletourmusical.com, has 26 songs with orchestration by Grammy-winner Charlie Rosen and music supervision by Andy Einhorn, who conducted the revival of *Hello, Dolly!* Much of the production was done digitally via long distance. “Give us reliable internet, an instrument and paper, and we can do it,” Reynolds says.

The album was recorded at Power Station Studios in Manhattan. “The vocal sessions happened in some of the darkest days of the pandemic and the industry shut-down on Broadway,” recalls Reynolds. “It had been nearly a year since our cast had been able to do what they were born to do, and you can hear a yearning in their performances.”

Rosen then wrote orchestrations for the recorded vocals. After the recording by the orchestra, “the work was in the mixing with our engineers to make everyone sound like they were making music in the same room at the same time,” said Reynolds.

Some of Reynolds and Price’s other collaborations include a musical about Marie and Pierre Curie called *Radioactive*, and a musical for children, *Around the World*. They are also songwriters on the AppleTV+ animated series *Central Park*. In 2018, the pair received the annual Fred Ebb Award for musical theater writing. They also teach musical theater songwriting at This MT Space (thismtspace.com).
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

---

**COMMUNITY**

**SAT 26**

**15th Annual Alumni Game**

**COLD SPRING**

4 p.m. Haldane Gym | 15 Craigside Drive

Members of past boys’ and girls’ basketball teams will compete, with a halftime knockout game for children. Cost: $5 (82 students)

---

**SAT 26**

**Tree Lighting**

**BEACON**

4 p.m. Pothill Park

At the 6th annual traditional tree-lighting, children will receive an ornament kit to take home, musicians will lead caroling and there will be raffles for prizes donated by businesses and for 12 trees. Each tree winner can take it home or have it planted in a park of choice.

---

**SUN 27**

**Holiday Kickoff**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Walkway Over the Hudson Parker Ave. | walkway.org

Meet Santa Claus at the East Gate Plaza and take photos at this annual event.

---

**MON 28**

**Blood Drive**

**BEACON**

2:30 – 7 p.m. St. John’s Church 35 Willow St. | nycbc.org

Register in advance or walk in. Organized by the Knights of Columbus Council 445.

---

**FRI 2**

**Holiday Tree Lighting**

**NELSONVILLE**

6 p.m. Village Green Park nelsonvilleny.gov

Join your neighbors for carols, cocoa and cookies.

---

**SAT 26**

**Holiday Cookie Sale**

**COLD SPRING**

1 – 3 p.m. Cold Spring Fire Co. 154 Main St. | halfanotea.org

The Haldane PTA will be selling trays of holiday cookies, hot cocoa and cider, with proceeds funding activities for the eighth grade.

---

**SAT 26**

**Reptile Expo**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center 14 Civic Center Plaza reptileexpo.com

See snakes, iguanas, spiders and other cold-blooded creatures. Cost: $10 ($5 children 7-12; free children under 7; $5 seniors, military, students with ID)

---

**HOLIDAY SALES**

**SAT 26**

**Pottery Show & Sale**

**GARRISON**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960 garrisonartcenter.org

The show will include ceramic works by more than 30 artists. Also SUN 27.

---

**SAT 26**

**Hollywood Market**

**COLD SPRING**

10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | butterfieldlibrary.org

Find homemade goods and crafts for all ages. Also SUN 27.

---

**SAT 26**

**Winter Craft Fair**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Convention Center 14 Civic Center Plaza midhudsoniviccenter.org

Browse handmade gifts and crafts.

---

**SUN 1**

**Talks & Tours**

**SAT 26**

**Twilight Tour**

**GARRISON**

4 – 7 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org

The historic mansion will be lit by candlelight and decorated for the holidays with live music. Continues Friday and Saturday through Dec. 10. Cost: $29 ($24 seniors, $17 ages 4 to 18, free ages 4 and younger)

---

**THUR 1**

**Estate Planning Seminar**

**BEACON**

5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St. | 845-631-1134 beaconlibrary.org

Learn about wills and probate, and how to plan for the distribution of assets.

---

**THUR 1**

**Suicide Intervention**

**GARRISON**

6 p.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org

Prominent mental health professionals will share ways to support and get help for someone who has suicidal thoughts.

---

**THUR 1**

**Lost Amusement Parks of the Hudson Valley**

**COLD SPRING**

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

In this talk sponsored by the Butterfield Library, Westley and Barbara Gottlock will discuss the Indian Point Amusement Park and others that faded into history. Registration required. See Page 20.

---

**THUR 1**

**Rescuing the Planet**

**MILLBROOK**

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

In this discussion hosted by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Tony Hiss will discuss his book about the climate crisis and his proposal to conserve biodiversity by setting aside half the land on the planet to heal the Earth.

---

**THUR 1**

**Dutchess Handmade**

**GARRISON**

8 p.m. Trolley Barn 489 Main St. | 845-454-3222 arts@dutchess.org

Local artists’ work in all mediums will be available for sale at this pop-up shop. Also FRI 2, SAT 3.

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**THUR 1**

**Modern Makers Market**

**GARRISON**

8 p.m. Graymoor 1350 Route 9 | hopsonthehudson.com

Browse gift items from 42 local artisans and artists. There will also be food trucks and raffles. Admission fees will benefit Graymoor. Also FRI 2 and SAT 3. Cost: $5 (children free)

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**FRI 2**

**Christmas Fair**

**BEACON**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Joachim’s 51 Leonard St. | 845-831-1134 stjoachims.org

Find food, jewelry and holiday décor at this annual fundraiser in the school gym. Also SUN 4.

---

**FRI 2**

**Lit Lit**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

Maria Teresa Hart, author of Doll, part of the Object Lessons series, will be the featured reader at this monthly gathering. Email litlitseries@gmail.com to read during the open mic.

---

**SAT 3**

**Entrelacé Art and Poetry Talk**

**GARRISON**

2 p.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org 472 Route 403 | 845-423-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

Poet Joan Turner and Artist Anita Jacobson will share their collaborative work. Registration required.

---

**SAT 3**

**Wreath-Making Workshop**

**GARRISON**

5:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org

The Parcel Flower Co. team will teach participants how to make a grapevine wreath to take home. Cost: $80

---

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**WED 30**

**Decorated Bookends**

**GARRISON**

3:30 p.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 5 and older are invited to create book organizers. Registration required.

---

**THUR 1**

**Poetry Club**

**COLD SPRING**

2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 and up can work on poems in progress or use prompts to get started. Registration required.

---

**SAT 3**

**Tinkergarten Lantern Walk**

**GARRISON**

4 p.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org 472 Route 403 | 845-423-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

Celebrate the change of season with songs and a lantern-lit walk around the library grounds. Registration required.

---

**STAGE & SCREEN**

**SAT 26**

**The Nutcracker**

**PEEKSILL**

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

Dancers from the World Ballet Series will perform the holiday classic with Tchaikovsky’s score. Cost: $33 to $175

---

**FRI 2**

**CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #2**

**WAPPINGERS FALLS**

8 p.m. County Players Theater 2881 W. Main St. | 845-299-1491 countyplayers.org

The festival will include alternating readings of two plays, George Washington’s Teeth, by Mark St. Germain, and Gently Down the
SAT 3
*Stories from a Life in Show Biz*
**PUTNAM VALLEY**
4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peeks Constructors Road
Tompkinscorners.org

Jim Dale will discuss his life and career, which includes narrating all seven books in the Harry Potter series and creating over 200 character voices, winning him Grammy awards, seven Grammy nominations, four Narrator of the Year awards and 10 Audie awards, as well as two Guinness world records. Cost: $20

SUN 4
*A Christmas Memory*
**BEACON**
6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

In this annual tradition, Scott Ramsey will read Truman Capote’s story in a benefit for Big Horizon Fund. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

MUSIC
SAT 26
*Start Making Sense*
**PEEKSKILL**
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

A band alternately portraying the legendary groups will “compete” for the audience. Cost: $30 to $60

SAT 3
*Adam Ezra Group*
**PEEKSKILL**
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Ezra, along with bandmates Corinna Smith (fiddle), Alex Martin (drums) and Poche Ponce (bass), will play songs from the Album Project series, Devil’s Kiss. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SAT 3
*Beatles vs. Stones*
**PEEKSKILL**
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

A band alternately portraying the legendary groups will “compete” for the audience. Cost: $30 to $60

SAT 3
*Ava Mendoza / Susan Alcorn*
**POUGHKEEPSIE**
8 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
9 Vassar St. | avasusan.bpt.me

Mendoza and Alcorn will perform as a duo for the first time with Mendoza on guitar and Alcorn on pedal steel guitar. Cost: $20 ($30 door)

SUN 4
*Music Cottage Holiday Showcase*
**BEACON**
1 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Young musicians from the Brewster school will perform. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

CIVIC
MON 28
*City Council*
**BEACON**
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 29
*Dutchess Budget Town Hall*
**HOPEWELL JUNCTION**
6 p.m. Fishkill Town Hall
330 Route 376 | dutchessny.gov

THURS 1
*Town Board*
**PHILIPSTOWN**
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

VISUAL ART
SAT 3
*Wadada Leo Smith*
**BEACON**
2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

The trumpeter and composer will interpret Jack Whitten’s Greek Alphabet paintings through music. Included with museum admission. Cost: $20 ($18 seniors; $12 students, disabled; $5 ages 5-11; free under 5, members)

The Wizards of Winter, Dec. 2

**MON 28**
*Joseph Vincent Tranchina*
**BEACON**
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnsbeacon

Tranchina will perform as part of Quinn’s weekly jazz series.

**FRI 2**
*Aztec Two Step 2.0*
**BEACON**
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Rex Fowler, Dodie Pettit and their five-piece band will perform to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the group’s founding. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

**FRI 2**
*The Wizards of Winter*
**PEEKSKILL**
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The 11-member ensemble, including former members of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Def Leppard and Blue Oyster Cult, will perform music from a holiday rock opera called The Christmas Dream. Cost: $45 to $69

**SAT 3**
*Beatles vs. Stones*
**PEEKSKILL**
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

A band alternately portraying the legendary groups will “compete” for the audience. Cost: $30 to $60

**SAT 3**
*Ava Mendoza / Susan Alcorn*
**POUGHKEEPSIE**
8 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
9 Vassar St. | avasusan.bpt.me

Mendoza and Alcorn will perform as a duo for the first time with Mendoza on guitar and Alcorn on pedal steel guitar. Cost: $20 ($30 door)

**SAT 3**
*Adam Ezra Group*
**BEACON**
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Ezra, along with bandmates Corinna Smith (fiddle), Alex Martin (drums) and Poche Ponce (bass), will play songs from the Album Project series, Devil’s Kiss. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

**SAT 3**
*Welcome Bach*
**BREWSTER**
3 p.m. First United Methodist
83 Main St. | 845-520-7574
putnamchorale.org

The Putnam Chorale, comprised of 40 singers directed by Douglas Anderson, will perform an all-Bach program of cantatas No. 4, 6 and 140, accompanied by soloists and a chamber orchestra. Cost: $25 ($20 seniors, veterans; free ages 12 and younger)

**VISUAL ART**
**SAT 3**
*Wadada Leo Smith*
**BEACON**
2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

The trumpeter and composer will interpret Jack Whitten’s Greek Alphabet paintings through music. Included with museum admission. Cost: $20 ($18 seniors; $12 students, disabled; $5 ages 5-11; free under 5, members)
Mouths to Feed

Discomfort Food

By Celia Barbour

A n English friend moved from London to Manhattan in the 1990s and rented a gorgeous, tiny apartment on Bank Street, in the West Village. Every Sunday for three years, she would go to the Waverly Inn for dinner. And every Sunday for three years, she would order the exact same thing: Turkey with stuffing, cranberry jelly and mashed potatoes, all drenched with gluey, beige gravy.

The kitchen was not well run in those days; the food had all the vitality of a TV dinner. I used to chide her for her dreary habit.

She replied that she liked knowing what I suppose the meal’s very familiarity was a kind of deliciousness to her during those early years in an unfamiliar city.

Most people I know wouldn’t choose to sit down to turkey with stuffing and gravy once a month, let alone once a week, even if the dinner were made by a brilliant chef. Yet most of us would also probably agree with my English friend’s logic that the very monotony of the Thanksgiving feast is part of what makes it so appealing. The whole point of comfort food is that it offers surprise-free re assurance, after all. And late November, as daylight shutters toward darkness and the cold seeps through the floorboards, is a time when we need such consolations dearly.

And yet for me, like for a lot of people I know, the Thanksgiving feast can feel like an island of comfort amid a small sea of discomforts. Among them are the familiar ache of eating beyond my stomach’s natural capacity, and the ensuing pinch of the waistband; the subsequent days when I go on eating as if I am actually proud of my inability to learn from experience; and the Jenga-like challenge of slotting leftover containers in and out of a precarious fridge. Then there are the days leading up to Thanksgiving with their planning, shopping, cooking and house-cleaning; the last-minute, emoji-festooned texts from relatives (“The pie shop was closed. I’ll be bringing Chex mix instead. Hope you don’t mind!”); and the relatives themselves — God bless them, every one.

Finally, there’s the distress of acknowledging that most of our Thanksgiving stories are, at best, sanitized versions of an altogether more complex reality, and, at worst, myths that we perpetuate at the often-brutal expense of their protagonists.

Yet it would be disingenuous of me to suggest that these vexations are why I crave the opposite of comfort foods in the days immediately surrounding Thanksgiving. My palate is not especially smart, after all, and it is certainly not versed in history or family psychology. It simply knows what it wants, like a child. And what it wants at the moment are bold, sharp flavors, whether tart, spicy, bitter, salty or bracing.

Which is why, the other day, I reached for the cookbook where I long ago came across inspiration for this week’s recipe. I tossed the salad together quickly, ignoring quantities, and served it with leftover parsnips and potatoes. It was perfect. Two days later, I had the same salad alongside roast squash, and later still with turkey sandwiches. In the past, I served it as an “amuse” with a small glass of sherry; it’s a great aperitif.

To me, a salad like this reflects and celebrates the sharp complexities of our days, rather than swaddling them in a warm gravy blanket. How wonderful that taste can do both, and so much more. It’s something I’ll go on being thankful for in the year ahead.

Parsley Salad with Parmesan Crisps

Adapted from Roast Chicken and Other Stories, by Simon Hopkinson

FOR THE PARSLEY SALAD

2 ounces parsley leaves, from about 2 bunches
1 ounce black olives, coarsely chopped
¼ cup best-quality olive oil, or to taste
1 ounce Parmesan, grated with a microplane

FOR THE PARMESAN CRISPS

2 ounces red onion, very thinly sliced
1 small garlic clove, minced
2 tablespoons vinegar
½ teaspoon sugar
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons brined capers
Oil for frying capers

In a small bowl, combine the onion and garlic, the vinegar, sugar and a generous pinch of salt, plus enough water to cover. Set aside. Drain the capers and spread on a paper towel to dry thoroughly. Put enough olive oil in a small frying pan to cover the bottom by about ¼ inch. Heat over medium-high until shimmering. Transfer the capers to the pan and fry until they start to darken, pop and “blossom,” 2 to 3 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on a paper-towel-lined plate. Set aside.

Drain the onion-garlic mixture. Toss together with the parsley, olives, black pepper and enough olive oil to coat. Combine the anchovy, lemon zest and lemon juice, and add to the parsley mixture. Toss everything, taste and drizzle with more olive oil or lemon juice if needed. Serve topped with fried capers, with parmesan crisps on the side.

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Dec 3, 10, 18

Wreath Workshop
Dec 3

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Holiday Tea
Dec 18

Tickets + Info at Boscobel.org
Food Composting Projects Extended

Beacon, Philipstown find early success in pilots
By Marc Ferris

Residential composting pilot programs introduced in Beacon and Philipstown in the spring have been so successful that organizers plan to extend them at least through the end of 2023.

“Every municipality should be doing this, but it does take a cultural and behavioral shift,” said Jason Angell, a Philipstown Town Board member.

In addition to reducing methane gas emissions, which contribute to global warming, composting turns food scraps and yard trimmings into a potent, marketable soil additive that removes organic waste from incinerators and landfills.

The effort in Beacon was spurred by a City Council advisory committee that made composting a routine for 450 households.

“Right place, right people, right time,” said Sergey Krasikov, the chair of the city’s Conservation Advisory Committee. “The steady pace of adoption was amazing. At first, the bins [at three drop-off spots] were a quarter full, then half, and the way the levels kept rising every week speaks to the untapped potential.”

Volunteers baked cookies to express their gratitude to city employees who helped with signage and installed fencing at the sites.

So far, the Beacon project has removed 30,000 pounds from an annual waste stream of about 3,500 tons, not counting recyclables. The advisory committee would like to expand the program to include schools, businesses, and restaurants, and the city is negotiating with the carting company which hauls away the scraps to add another drop-off spot.

“The dream would be curbside pickup,” said Krasikov. “People are ready to compost, especially if we make it convenient.”

Beacon’s achievement, along with composting experiments in Rhinebeck and Red Hook, attracted the attention of the Dutchess County chapter of Mothers Out Front, a national organization that lobbies legislatures to fast-track composting when formulating solid waste plans for the next decade.

In October, the Beacon City Council passed a resolution calling on the county Legislature to study the feasibility of a composting facility for county-wide use. At the moment, Dutchess officials lean toward skipping a feasibility study and instead adopting a decentralized system, said Kerry Russell, the county’s deputy director of solid waste. A decision is expected next year.

Elsewhere in the state, Greene County recently bought a $600,000 machine that produces a compost-like product in 24 hours. Columbia County plans to do the same, and also has installed nine drop-off spots. In Ulster County, a public facility has been composting since 2012; it costs taxpayers nothing and won a national award in 2021.

The Putnam County Health Department has aided composting by offering $70 bins to backyard practitioners. Filling a void in Philipstown, volunteers and town workers implemented a residential composting project in early 2022.

“The people wanted it, the politicians said ‘OK,’ and everyone got behind this,” said Karen Ertl, who lives in Garrison and was among the organizers. “Without that buy-in, it would’ve been just a nice idea.”

Large back deck and yard with raccoons, a woodchuck, a skunk, and millions of squirrels. Ample street parking. $1,250 monthly including utilities and Internet, $760 deposit, no lease. Email casey@cuddy.org.

For more classifieds, visit highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.
Thank You, to the Plants

By Pamela Doan

Here in my yard, I want to take a moment to share an appreciation for all the hardworking and beautiful flora that keep things running. This system exists and inadvertently support or destroy by my choices and actions. Life is much bigger than the world we pass by in our cars, the buildings and the busyness that fills our days.

Starting with the area around the house, thank you to the sugar maples, witchhazel, redbud, shadbush, winterberry, red twig dogwood, pussy willow, crabapple, hemlocks and spruce. These trees and shrubs create a network of shelter and food for birds and insects.

The pussy willow (Salix discolor) is one of the key trees supporting more than 450 types of butterflies and moths that use its leaves for food and laying eggs. Many birds survive on and feed their young with a caterpillar-based diet. I should plant another 10. It’s a bonus that the glowing catkins are simple and lovely in the spring. The bark brightens in the winter landscape. They thrive in wetter soil and are easy to grow in a rain garden or near a stream or lake.

Sugar maples, the dominant species in the woods where I live, are impressive supporters of insects, too. Nearly 300 types of moths and butterflies use their foliage and flowers while they make nesting sites for birds and other animals.

Having a shade tree near a house can lower the temperature and reduce cooling costs. These maples lower the temperature by up to 6 degrees in summer and the costs. These maples lower the temperature and reduce cooling costs. These maples lower the temperature by up to 6 degrees in summer and the costs. These maples lower the temperature by up to 6 degrees in summer and the costs. These maples lower the temperature by up to 6 degrees in summer and the costs.

In the kitchen-door gardens, a native honeysuckle vine still has a few tubular blooms shooting off the top of the trellis. Although I don’t put up a hummingbird feeder (to avoid attracting bears), I visit the honeysuckle, bee balm and flower blooms shooting off the top of the trellis that might otherwise be an uninhabited driveway.

Mountain mint (Pycnanthemum muticum) wins for best pollinator attractor here. A study by Penn State researchers counted visitors to more than 80 species of native, pollinator-friendly plants over three years and mountain mint came in first as the most visited and also attracted the most diverse pollinators. For human visitors, the blooms are long lasting — six weeks or so in the summer — and the flowers can be used for mojitos or mint tea.

Further up the hill are two red oaks, their marscensent leaves still flipping in the breeze. After reading The Nature of Oaks, entomologist and ecologist Douglas Tallamy’s month-by-month observations of a tree in his yard, I’ve entered a new relationship with these trees. I already knew that oaks had the highest impact in ecosystems, but now I’m able to understand them better.

For instance, I recently found an oak leaf on the ground with a gall on it. I’d just read Tallamy’s chapter about the brief window in the spring when wasps can lay eggs on a budding leaf that will grow around the egg and become a protective shell for the larva of insect eggs that won’t emerge until spring. My daughter and I gently broke this one open and peeked at the chamber where an insect had lived.

Oaks host 70 species of native, pollinator-friendly plants over three years and mountain mint came in first as the most visited and also attracted the most diverse pollinators. For human visitors, the blooms are long lasting — six weeks or so in the summer — and the flowers can be used for mojitos or mint tea.

And bees in the woods where I live, are impressive supporters of insects, too. Nearly 300 types of moths and butterflies use their foliage and flowers while they make nesting sites for birds and other animals.

Sugar maples, the dominant species in the woods where I live, are impressive supporters of insects, too. Nearly 300 types of moths and butterflies use their foliage and flowers while they make nesting sites for birds and other animals.

Having a shade tree near a house can lower the temperature and reduce cooling costs. These maples lower the temperature by up to 6 degrees in summer and the costs. These maples lower the temperature by up to 6 degrees in summer and the costs. These maples lower the temperature by up to 6 degrees in summer and the costs. These maples lower the temperature by up to 6 degrees in summer and the costs.
Amusement (from Page 20)

Major League Baseball teams held tryouts and played exhibition games.

“Woodcliff closed without much notice in 1941,” Wesley said, following a racial incident. When as many as 5,000, mostly Black, residents of the west side of Manhattan arrived by day liner, there was a confrontation with 1,000 members of a local Polish club that had reserved part of the park. Some of the New York City visitors were refused service in a restaurant and barred from the pool and police had to quell the riot that ensued.

“People were smashing things, throwing garbage and breaking glass,” Wesley said. “The park never opened again after that day.”

Electric Park

Electric Park on Kinderhook Lake in Columbia County, which operated from about 1900 to 1921, was named for the trolleys that shuttled patrons to and from the site. It developed into the largest amusement park between New York City and Montreal, a year-round destination that attracted 1 million visitors annually. Its attractions and activities included a teepee village, aquarium, animal acts, rowboats, swimming, fishing, dance hall, bowling, vaudeville music and slapstick comedy, penny arcade, high-diving acts, flume ride, roller coaster and a Ferris wheel, as well as gardens, picnic areas and restaurants.

One of its most popular attractions, indicative of the era, was an ornate carousel located on a small island and accessible by a foot bridge. The park itself was dry, but entrepreneurs sold alcohol just across the small lake. When the Gottlocks visited each park location while researching their book, they found barely a trace of the once-thriving venues.

At Indian Point, only remnants of the swimming pool and ballfields remain. Orange Lake still has a small beach, but it’s surrounded by a housing development. Marist College has replaced Woodcliff Park.

On Kinderhook Lake, the only hint of the park’s bustling past is a sign for Electric Park Road and an entrance archway; the iconic carousel ended up in Columbus, Ohio, where it became part of the state fair.

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Suzanne Willis (1940-2022)

Suzanne Willis of Garrison, previously of Scarsdale and Irvington, NY, died on November 17.

Suzanne was born on February 24, 1940, to Barbara Phillips and Arthur H. Willis. She was the oldest of four children (Pamela, Claire and John). She is predeceased by her second husband Edmund J. Drake, and is survived by her first husband Daniel Sheehy, her sons David A. Sheehy (Elisabeth Sachs) and Peter P. Sheehy (Janice Min) and her grandchildren Jack Sachs Sheehy, Liza Sachs Sheehy, Parker Willis Sheehy, Tate Phillips Sheehy, and Lila Beatrice Sheehy. Her family also included her beloved dog Herbie and two lovely rescue cats, Molly and Red.

Suzanne was very active in her community, volunteering with a number of non-profits and giving tirelessly of her time. She was a member of the Harrisdale Kiwanis Club for more than 30 years, Cold Spring Lions Club, and served for a number of years on the CoveCare Center board (formerly Putnam Family and Community Services) where she also served on their fundraising committee. She was also active with the United Way Westchester/Putnam, Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program, and was a founding member of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, which provides local access to mental health and addiction resources.

Suzanne graduated with a master’s degree from Teachers College, Columbia University and taught and worked in the Greenburgh Central School District #7 for more than 20 years. She also was a photographer and columnist for the Greenburgh and Scarsdale Inquirer newspapers as well as the Cleveland Van West Real Estate office in Scarsdale.

Suzanne was loved by all who knew her. She will be remembered for her thoughtfulness, her generosity toward so many people in her community, her plain-spoken, forthright and unassuming style, her deep sensitivity to the needs of others and her love and passion for animals.

A celebration of Suzanne’s life will be held at a date to be determined in 2023.

Contributions in her memory may be sent to the HUB, 5 Stone Street, Box 317, Cold Spring, NY 10516, an organization she co-founded, or to CoveCare Center at 1808 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512.

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

PAID NOTICE

Richard F. (Dick) Polich (1932-2022)

On Sunday, November 13, 2022, Richard F. (Dick) Polich passed away peacefully in hospice. He was 90.

Polich made an enormous contribution to art, design, and architecture over the past 50 years through his art foundries: Tallix, Tallica, and TallicX. Under his leadership, the foundries employed ancient techniques and cutting-edge technology to realize the creative visions of artists from around the world.

Polich’s foundries became extensions of the artists’ studios, and the foundry’s team of skilled craftspeople have cast and fabricated thousands of exceptional sculptures, monuments, and design objects. Their bronze casts can be found in public spaces like Louise Bourgeois’s 32-foot-tall spider Maman in Columbus Park, New York, and the Maman playground in Hamad Airport, Qatar, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Some of the most iconic artworks of the 20th century, like Jeff Koons’ stainless steel Rabbit, were cast and mirror polished on the Tallix foundry floor. And since 2016, the fabled gold-plated Oscar statuettes have been made at Polich Tallix from all new molds. All thanks to a man from humble origins who lived a life in pursuit of adventure, community, and excellence.

Born in 1932 to Croatian immigrant parents in Lyons, a working-class town on the west side of Chicago, Polich became a star football scholar athlete in Morton High School. Recruited by Yale University, he became a standout two-way player. Graduating in 1954 with a degree in economics, he took a job in industrial manufacturing at American Brake Shoe Company. He then served for three years as a fighter pilot in the Navy.

After a brief enrollment at the Harvard School of Design, he reconnected with his former mentor at American Brake Shoe, Merton Flemings, who now taught metallurgy at MIT and ran its experimental foundry. There, Polich found his calling and graduated with a master’s degree from MIT in 1964, but it wasn’t until the end of the decade that Polich took the leap and moved to the Hudson Valley with his partner, artist Toni Putnam, to start a foundry for artists, Tallix, in Cold Spring, New York.

The timing was perfect and the expanding foundry which combined fine art skills, engineering innovation, and customer service, met the demand of figurative sculptors and conceptual artists, like Nancy Graves who crafted sculptures from finds on the foundry floor, direct casting of plants and fabricated bones, and Joel Shapiro who wanted to make six equally-sized cubes of different metals. The foundry moved several times to accommodate the growing needs of artists, first to Peekskill in 1970, the Peekskill waterfront in 1976, then in 1986 to an industrial site in Beacon consisting of three buildings on eight acres.

“This is a gigantic change and even the boldest of us feel twinges of anxiety,” Polich wrote announcing the move. The foundry became a local institution, seeding the art movement in Beacon.

Riding the decade’s frothy art market, Tallix merged with an English company and Polich became president of the newly named Tallix Morris Singer. After reaching its peak of nearly 190 employees and popular attention thanks to taking on the quixotic challenge of casting a modern sculpture based on Leonardo da Vinci’s plans for an equestrian monument, Tallix floundered in the early 1990s recession, and Polich lost control of his company.

He left in 1995, and partnered with artist Frank Stella, who invited Polich to establish a new foundry, Polich Art Works, across the Hudson in Rock Tavern. Their first collaboration was Stella’s 30-ton stainless steel abstract sculpture Amabel, in 1996, commissioned by a corporation in Seoul, South Korea.

Over the next decade Polich’s new foundry gained strength while he found himself in the strange position of competing against Tallix. Eventually the two foundries merged around 2007, under the name Polich Tallix, and Polich secured his position as the preeminent art foundryman of his generation. By the time Polich entered his 80s, the art world began to pay more attention to the many hands involved in the creation of complex works of art.


His generous spirit helped to develop the communities in which his foundries operated. In Beacon, Tallix became a local institution and creative hub. Fostering a collaborative work environment of high standards, Polich organized staff lectures, exhibitions, celebrations, and other activities. Later, when he opened Polich Art Works across the river, he put his efforts into nurturing artist life in Newburgh through his gallery Yellow Bird.

“We are craftsmen making the art which artists have created,” he wrote in an essay on art and craft in 2014. “We are bright, daring, and bold and we do the best work in the world for many of the best and brightest artists in the world.”

Polich married longtime partner Cathy Kuttner in 1941. Several previous marriages ended in divorce. In addition to Kuttner, survivors include children, stepchildren, nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in Spring 2023 at UAP Polich Tallix. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dick Polich Youth Internship Fund to provide foundry experience for at-risk youth. Checks can be made payable to COFS – Dick Polich Youth Internship Fund and sent to the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan 30 Scott’s Corners, Suite 203 Montgomery, NY 12549 or made online at https://cfosny.org/dick-

PAID NOTICE

Frank Milkovich (1934-2022)

Franklin “Frank” P. Milkovich, of Cold Spring, NY, entered into rest, Tuesday, November 15, 2022. He was 88 years old. Born in Kingston, NY, January 30, 1934 he was the son of the late Stephen and Mildred (Barcivecz) Milkovich.

Frank spent his early years growing up in Kingston before the family relocated to Cold Spring after the death of his father. He attended Haldane High School where he excelled both academically and athletically. He completed his undergraduate work at Ohio Wesleyan University in chemistry. After serving his country in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957 he returned to school where he earned his Master’s degree from Union College.

Frank went on the teach chemistry at Haldane to countless students over the years. During this time, he earned a second Master’s degree in school administration from New York University. Franks’ long career with the Haldane School District culminated with him becoming the School Principal and Assistant Superintendent. He also found time to coach the varsity baseball and football teams.

In 2017 Frank was inducted into the first class of the Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame for being a phenomenal athlete in baseball, basketball and football. He was also inducted into the Haldane High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018 along with the members of the 1963 championship baseball team he coached.

Franks community and civic interests were many, he was a lifelong parishioner of Our Lady of Loreto Church, life member of the Cold Spring Lion’s Club where he served as president, he was named Lion of the year in 2006 and was instrumental with the club’s scholarship fund which is now named after him. He helped form the Cold Spring Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees.

During this period, they started the first Fourth of July Community Day on the riverfront with its legendary fireworks display. Frank’s dedication to the Haldane School District and his community were exemplary.

Frank is survived by his loving wife of 63 years Jean (Celeste) Milkovich, son David (Annette) Milkovich of Delray Beach, FL and daughter Lisa (Eric) Lange of Mandeville, LA; granddaughter Kasey (Ryan) Smith of New Orleans, LA; brother Steven (Annette) Milkovich of Delray Beach, FL and sister Stephanie Procker of San Jose, CA. Many nieces and nephews also survive.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brothers John Milkovich, Michael Milkovich, brothers-in-law Leonard and Procker and mother and father-in-law Louis and Evelyn Celeste.

At the request of the family cremation and services will be private. Donations in Frank’s name may be made to Cold Spring Lions Club, the Franklin P. Milkovich Scholarship Fund, at www.coldspringlions.org.

Funeral arrangements are in the care of White, Venuzzo & Morrill, FCS, Newburgh, NY.
Puzzles

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. Venus, to Serena
4. Sad
8. Padlocked fastener
12. E.T.’s craft
13. Slithery
14. New York canal
15. Sobriquet
17. Karate level
18. Poolroom prop
19. Livid
20. Fury
22. Coal source
24. Loathe
25. The — Papers
(Dickens novel)
29. Bird (Pref.)
30. Hay bundles
31. — chi
32. Fined for
34. Shopper’s aid
35. Geese formations
36. Selects from a
group
37. Everglades wader
40. Delhi dress
41. Hip
42. Popular
playground game
46. Corridor
47. Adhesive
48. Born abroad?

SOLUTIONS
8. Semitic language
9. Region
10. Sediment
11. Seeger or
Sampas
12. E.T.’s craft
13. Slithery
14. New York canal
15. Sobriquet
16. Winslet of Titanic
17. Karate level
18. Poolroom prop
19. Livid
20. Fury
22. Coal source
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37. Everglades wader
40. Delhi dress
41. Hip
42. Popular
playground game
46. Corridor
47. Adhesive
48. Born abroad?

DOWN
1. Day light?
2. “— Had a Hammer”
3. Relating to Plato’s
teacher
4. Dugout seating
5. Plumbing woe
6. Einstein’s birthplace
7. CBS logo
49. Rhyming tributes
50. Hotel furniture
51. Boston team,
for short

SOLUTIONS
1. Day light?
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7. CBS logo
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7 LittleWords

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. overindulges (6)
2. action-packed read (8)
3. Barbies, perhaps (5)
4. tied up like a boat (7)
5. county subdivision (8)
6. “home maker” (7)
7. flat at the poles (6)

SudokuCurrent

Answers for Nov. 18 Puzzles

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

A bygone era of roller coasters, Ferris wheels and carousels

By Michael Turton

Many people love amusement parks, but Wesley and Barbara Gottlock have a thing for amusement parks that no longer exist.

The New Windsor couple, retired educators turned authors, had written regional histories about Bannerman Castle, Palisades Interstate Park and “lost” towns of the Hudson Valley when a friend mentioned Woodcliff Pleasure Park in Poughkeepsie, which they had never heard of.

“We might want to look into that,” Wesley recalls saying. And with that, they began a yearlong journey to explore, research and write The Lost Amusement Parks of the Hudson Valley.

The couple will speak about their book via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday (Dec. 1) in a program sponsored by the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring. Register at tinyurl.com/lostparks121.

Along with Woodcliff, the Gottlocks unearthed the history of Electric Park on Kinderhook Lake in Columbia County; Orange Lake Park in Newburgh; Indian Point in Buchanan; and a handful of smaller parks.

Their research revealed an era of obsession with amusement parks in the U.S. During this “golden age,” from the late 19th century through World War I, there were about 1,500 pleasure parks, as they were often called, east of the Mississippi.

Such parks flourished thanks to the industrial revolution, which provided working people with time for recreation.

However, by the early 1930s, the number of eastern parks had fallen to 500. “A lot of that had to do with the arrival of the automobile,” which provided a way to travel anywhere, Wesley said. Most people were able to visit the parks because they could be reached by day liners, trains or trolleys.

A few amusement parks held on until the mid-1950s, when modern theme parks such as Disneyland put them to rest.

Indian Point

Indian Point opened in 1923. The 320-acre, European-style pleasure park had restaurants, terraced lawns, wooded walking paths, a beach, swimming pool, picnic areas and ballfields. Its bathhouse had 1,500 lockers.

In its early years, the park’s dance pavilion was a major attraction. “A full orchestra would come up from New York City on a day liner,” Barbara said. They’d play all day, then entertain passengers on the return trip to the city.

In 1949, the park was sold, and the new owners transformed it with a roller-skating rink, miniature golf, midway and golf driving range. Along with kiddie rides, there were speedboats on the river, a carousel, the Double Looper, Caterpillar and Jumping Jack, as well as regular fireworks.

Weekend attendance peaked at 15,000, and in 1952 and 1953, Indian Point hosted a revived Westchester County Fair. Its last big event was the Cristiani Circus in 1956. The park closed later that year and became the site of a nuclear power plant.

Orange Lake

Orange Lake Park, located 6 miles west of Newburgh and accessible by trolley, operated from 1906 to 1941.

“It was known mainly for its water sports,” Barbara said. “It had boat rides, rowboat and canoe rentals, fishing, swimming and a lakeside restaurant.”

One ride, Ye Olde Mill, placed passengers in track-mounted boats that sailed through dark, water-filled tunnels. Other rides included a roller coaster, Ferris wheel and circle swings.

Woodcliff

Poughkeepsie’s 27-acre Woodcliff Park, built in 1927, was located on the shore of the river and known for having the country’s tallest, fastest roller coaster, the Blue Streak, and a swimming pool that could accommodate as many as 3,000 bathers.

“Blue Streak ran at 65 miles an hour and was about 140 feet high, a record that stood until the 1970s,” Wesley said.

The park was also renowned for its variety of attractions, everything from boat rides, a giant airplane swing, roller-skating and arcades to its Ferris wheel, bumper cars, caterpillar ride and shooting galleries.

It also had a golf course, hosted a circus, and held boxing and wrestling matches.

(Continued on Page 17)