

The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 2, 2022



Midsummer Night's Dream
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Beacon Developer Asks for Tax Break

Craig House owners want reduction for 15 years

By Jeff Simms

Mirbeau Inn & Spa Beacon, which owns and plans to redevelop the historic estate on Route 9D that includes the former Craig House psychiatric facility, has asked the city and the Beacon school district to support a plan that would substantially reduce the property taxes on the 64-acre property over 15 years.

The developers would benefit from an agreement known as payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT, a tool used to promote job creation and economic development. The Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) would determine if the project provides enough benefit to qualify.

While the IDA will approve or deny Mirbeau's request, the city and school district can influence the decision, said Sarah Lee, the executive director of the agency.

"It will give the [IDA] board some pause if one or more affected taxing jurisdictions does not put forth its support," Lee said. "However, the board also considers other factors, such as the direct, indirect and

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A BIRD IN NEED — On a Friday afternoon last month, Vickie Raabin was walking along west Main Street in Beacon, when a Cooper's hawk flew into a plate-glass window at the Lucky Thirty One boutique. The bird appeared to be injured, and Raabin carefully wrapped it in her coat. A passerby, Jeff Toland, called police. Soon, Joe Steinfeld of the nonprofit Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center, a nonprofit based in Hunter, arrived to take the hawk to the group's rehab center. Two weeks later, on Nov. 22, Raabin and Toland met at the riverfront at Seeger Park to watch Steinfeld release the hawk. "I was so pleased to be able to help," Raabin said, "and to see the bird go back to the wild, where it belongs." Photo by Chris Crocco

Cold Spring Committee Presents STR Report

Calls for fewer permits, tougher enforcement

By Michael Turton

A committee advising the Cold Spring Village Board on short-term rental regulations made its first recommendations on Wednesday (Nov. 30), laying out how a recently enacted law governing accommodations booked through Airbnb and similar sites could be revised.

The existing law, which is Chapter 100 of the village code, was adopted in July 2021 by the previous administration. It has been criticized for being complicated and difficult to enforce.

The committee's major recommendations include:

- Require short-term rental (STR) owners to live on-site. The existing law allows some STRs to operate when the owner lives elsewhere. One-time permits of up to 14 consecutive days would still be issued for events such as West Point graduation and family vacations.
- Reduce the number of STRs that can

(Continued on Page 6)

Local Moms Push Back

Group mobilizes for LGBTQ, diversity

By Leonard Sparks

Karen Finnegan stood first to address the Arlington school board on Nov. 8. One agenda item concerned a donation of pocket-size U.S. Constitutions. It was the name of the donor — Moms for Liberty — that drew Finnegan and a group of supporters to the meeting on a Tuesday evening.

Founded in Brevard County, Florida, in 2020, Moms for Liberty has grown to include chapters across the country whose members have turned typically prosaic school board meetings in Dutchess and Putnam counties and other areas into battlegrounds over what they characterize as "parents' rights."

The group's members, many of them

outspoken against masking mandates and COVID-19 vaccines, have demanded districts remove books from their libraries, nearly all of which have Black and LGBTQ authors and characters. They also have falsely claimed that "critical race theory," a framework for viewing racism in the U.S., is being taught in public schools, often conflating CRT with lessons about diversity and inclusion.

So Finnegan, a Fishkill resident who has a son and two stepchildren who identify as queer, and Laura Leigh Abby, who lives in East Fishkill and owns a Beacon fitness studio with her wife, grew alarmed in March when candidates endorsed by Moms for Liberty, one of whom included "Christ is King" on his campaign signs, ran for positions on the Wappingers Central School District board.

That same month, following a campaign by the Dutchess chapter of Moms for

(Continued on Page 8)



Members of Defense of Democracy, which formed in response to the conservative group Moms for Liberty, march in this year's Spirit of Beacon Day parade. Photo provided

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: DAN BIGGS

By Michael Turton

Dan Biggs, a landscape architect with Weston & Sampson, is working with the Philipstown Trails Committee to create a path linking Cold Spring and Garrison.

We have many trails. Why do we need another?

At the Philipstown Community Congress held in 2017, the topic of highest interest among residents was to improve walking and biking conditions. That led to the formation of the Trails Committee, which envisions achieving that goal primarily by establishing this pathway. It would be a functional facility for residents, connecting them to community resources. It might provide a safe walk to school, or a stop off for a bite to eat while on a bike ride home, simply popping by the library or creating a circuit of your own.

Is it possible to create a trail for residents without attracting more visitors?

The goal is a corridor from Cold Spring to Garrison. But I think success — and the starting point — will be implementing shorter connecting points, or smaller segments that are usable from the get-go. A segment might be from the Garrison library



to the town park, or from Boscobel to Cold Spring. That will be much less appealing to visitors who come here for hiking trails, scenic mountaintops or biking.

How big a challenge will it be to include Route 9D?

It will be a challenge, but if it were an easy project, it would probably have been done by now. Traffic is heavy and may only get worse. But connecting the trail to community resources along 9D is important, as is working with the New York Department of

Transportation to ensure safety. It's had its own plans to improve the 9D corridor and would have to review anything proposed, but says there is no budget for improvements. Also, the right-of-way varies in width — another challenge in locating the route. I think a combination of paths connecting resources within the corridor makes sense; it can be a key local resource but less of a destination for visitors.

“The goal is a corridor from Cold Spring to Garrison. But I think success — and the starting point — will be implementing shorter connecting points.”

How will you handle crossing private property?

As the Trail Committee identifies which segments should be created first, it will reach out to each property owner. Whether it's an institution or a private landowner, one-on-one meetings will be necessary to convey the intent of the project. If a right-of-way is not available, it will be an opportunity to work with landowners about accommodating a path adjacent to 9D, including possible land swaps, property purchases, etc. That takes time. Being honest and clear as to expectations and desires, on both sides, is a process we'll have to work through.

Is there a typical timeline for this type of project?

A project of this size takes a lot of energy and effort. Many would like to see it happen soon. It's going to come down to the community's willingness to endure it, to help move it forward on all the properties it will have to go through. Whether it's working with landowners to accommodate their needs, developing funding strategies or finding grants — unless there's a dedicated funding source that can help it progress — it will take a number of years, for sure. But I think it's feasible.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Do you like the idea of exploring old, abandoned buildings?

“Absolutely — if you enter with respect and a sense of appreciation for who was once there.”



Caroline Hawking, Cold Spring

“Never done it, but I can understand the sense of adventure.”



George Wyand, Cold Spring

“I love it, although probably not after dark. Dawn would be perfect.”



Michele Murillo, Beacon



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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

Food composting

Thank you for the informative article about the food scraps recycling programs in Philipstown and Beacon ("Food Composting Projects Extended," Nov. 25). It is such a smart idea, and a great way to reduce the methane-gas emissions produced by landfills that contribute to global warming. It is also great to not smell rotting food in your garbage bin.

Unlike some food-composting programs, the one in Philipstown allows you to compost meat, fish, bones and leftover cooked food, which means basically all food items can be composted.

I was among the first people to pick up my tools — food scrap bins and rolls of compostable liner bags — when the program started earlier this year. The small bin stays in our kitchen, then full bags are moved to a larger bin which we keep in our garage. When the larger bin is full (for us, that happens every two to three weeks), we drop off our bags at the Philipstown Recycling Center (on Lane Gate Road near Route 9), which is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It's easy-peasy — although it would be wonderful if something could be worked out for those without cars or who need to haul their scraps midweek. Meantime, I encourage those who do have cars, who

are not already backyard composting, to participate and help their car-less neighbors by offering to transport their bags. Together, we can make a difference.

Leslie Nowinski, *Cold Spring*

Gas-free Beacon

In response to Charlie Symon's letter in the Nov. 25 issue, when a home has a direct gas hookup, that becomes the only source of heat unless it's retrofitted with an electric heat source. This means Beacon residents with gas hookups are reliant on gas and price swings. Natural gas prices, particularly in the winter, are much more expensive than other forms of energy.

In all-electric homes, you get all of your electricity from the grid, which is determined by energy markets. These energy markets work like other markets, with utility companies as the buyers and sellers of types of fuel generation sources (gas, nuclear, hydro, wind, solar, etc.). The utility purchases the cheapest generation available, whether that comes from gas power plants, hydropower, nuclear or wind/solar — they're all putting electricity on the grid at different price points. The utility will always buy the cheapest available and pass that cost off to you.

However, if you have a direct gas line

coming into your home, you are stuck getting your heat from gas even if it is the most expensive fuel source. As more renewables come online with more battery storage, these electricity prices will drop lower and hopefully reduce our bills.

All this doesn't matter much for those of us who already have a home in Beacon, because the proposed law would just affect new construction.

Peter Bailey, *Beacon*

Central Hudson

In "Cold Spring to Reconsider Electricity Options" (Nov. 18), you reported that Jessica Stromback, the CEO of Joule Community Power, told the Cold Spring Village Board that Central Hudson is "misbilling everyone who isn't in their standard program, all the solar developers and everyone in a CCA."

That is inaccurate. Following the launch of Central Hudson's new customer information system last year, issues were experienced that resulted in billing delays for some customers and the need to issue revised bills to certain customers, in a number of cases multiple times. Central Hudson acknowledges that these billing issues have caused stress and inconvenience for impacted customers and for that, we are deeply apologetic. We have devoted significant resources to resolving all technical issues associated with the new billing system.

On very short notice, we were directed to transfer Columbia Utilities' 23,000 customers to Central Hudson, and we have successfully done so for nearly all of those customers — those returned customers have already received updated bills. We expect to complete this process for the remaining few within the coming days. With Columbia customers returned, all of Central Hudson's customers, including solar developers and CCA customers, are being currently and accurately billed.

If you believe you have received an inaccurate bill, please call 845-452-2700 so that we can discuss it, investigate and, if it is inaccurate, correct it.

Anthony Campagiorni, *Poughkeepsie*
Campagiorni is the senior vice president of customer services and gas operations at Central Hudson.

Triple threat

The story in the Nov. 25 issue, "Officials Warn of Triple Threat," referring to RSV, COVID-19 and flu, was timely as we enter the heart of the holiday season with an abundance of indoor gatherings.

As nurse Kathleen Percacciolo noted: "The good news is that there are a number of things we can do to protect ourselves and our families." The standout protection is the

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

flu vaccine and the bivalent COVID booster. (There is no RSV vaccine.) It takes only about two weeks for both to take full effect. Even if you are vaccinated, you can become infected, but both vaccines are incredibly good in preventing more serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and death.

Unfortunately, many people in Putnam and Dutchess counties believe they are protected from COVID because they are “fully” vaccinated. But that just means you have received the two primary doses. Most of your protection no longer exists because you probably had those shots in 2021 and the immune response is mostly gone within six months.

You may be “fully vaccinated” but not “up-to-date.” This misleading terminology should be eliminated. The main thing that counts for COVID protection is being up to date, i.e., primary doses plus the most current booster. That means getting a bivalent booster that targets the earlier strains of the virus and the more recent Omicron.

In Putnam, 76 percent of the population is fully vaccinated but only 15.8 percent of those eligible for boosters are up-to-date, and in Dutchess, 71.5 percent are fully vaccinated and only 17.5 percent of those eligible are up-to-date.

Clearly, we are in a better place than we were last year at this time as COVID hospitalizations and deaths have leveled considerably. But 300 to 400 Americans still die

from COVID every day.

Alan Brownstein, *Cold Spring*

DCC classes

As you reported, Dutchess Community College has decided to end a decades-long policy of offering dual enrollment courses at no cost to high school students in Dutchess County (“DCC Plans to Charge Fees at High Schools,” Nov. 25). This sudden decision will have a severe impact on our students, nearly 50 percent of whom qualify as economically disadvantaged.

Dual-enrollment courses offer students the opportunity to take college-level classes and earn free college credits during high school. These courses are an essential way for students to grow their experience, helping them to see college as more accessible and a place that they belong.

DCC’s decision comes at a time when college is more expensive than ever and students are still recovering from two years of interrupted learning. The equity gap between students with and without means is expanding. We fear that economically disadvantaged students, as well as students who are ambivalent about attending college, will no longer consider college an option if they don’t have the opportunity to experience a college class at no cost and in the comfort of their high school.

In its 2019 guidance on Equitable Course Access, the New York State Education Department emphasized that educational

equity “includes a focus on increasing students’ access to rigorous learning opportunities” and that districts should ensure that “no single measure excludes participation” in advanced coursework. DCC’s decision could make cost the single measure that excludes the participation of many students.

As Betty Rosa, the chancellor of the state Board of Regents, put it: “If we want to create a truly equitable education system, we must ensure that every child, regardless of their race or socioeconomic status, has access to the same coursework as their peers.”

If students have to choose classes with cost in mind, many will make the difficult decision to go with other courses that may not challenge them or strengthen their resume to the same extent. This would create a two-tiered system within our high school, in complete opposition to our goal of providing equitable opportunities for all students.

The district would face prohibitively high costs to offer free, comparable alternatives for students who could not afford dual enrollment tuition. We estimate the cost to students would be more than \$140,000 per year. Because of the laws around gifts of public funds, we wouldn’t be able to absorb this burden into our budget, even if we wanted to.

The district currently offers these dual enrollment courses to students at minimal cost to DCC. Our district and/or students pay for the materials, books, faculty, utilities and space provided to teach these

classes in our building. Our teachers qualify to teach these courses through our own resources and are in no way compensated by DCC directly for their work.

We hope that legislators, state education officials and community members will join us in urging DCC leadership and its board of trustees to consider an option that does not exclude our students — the future professionals, leaders and citizens of our community — from the educational opportunities that they deserve.

Meredith Heuer, *Beacon*

Heuer is president of the Beacon school board.

E-bikes

Stowe Boyd says bicycle riders should be ticketed if they use sidewalks (“Wide Angle: E-bike Encounters,” Nov. 11). Technically, that’s how the law reads. But since there are no bike lanes in Beacon, what’s the alternative? More fatalities? I use uncrowded roads when I can, but sometimes that’s not an option, and if the street feels too congested, I use the sidewalk.

Yvonne Caruthers, *via Instagram*

It’s a problem when bicyclists ride between cars, pass cars or run red lights on Main Street. It’s not safe for pedestrians, other cyclists, people getting out of cars or drivers. I don’t think Boyd’s column was an attack on e-bikes; it was pointing out problems that need to be addressed.

Tom Cerchiara, *via Instagram*



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Nonna's Drops Suit Against Homestyle

Owner of shuttered pizzeria sought \$800,000

By Leonard Sparks

A lawsuit filed in September by the owner of the shuttered Nonna's Pizza Express in Nelsonville against his landlord and Homestyle Creamery has been dropped.

A "stipulation of discontinuance" signed by Nonna's attorney, Andrea Catalina, was filed in state court in Carmel on Monday (Nov. 28). Laura Timmons, who owns Homestyle, said her attorney told her Nonna's had dropped the case.

Michael Kabashi, who owns the pizzeria,

sued Timmons, along with Renate and Richard Frost, who own the building at 349 Main St. that Homestyle shared with Nonna's, asking for more than \$800,000 in damages. The lawsuit escalated a conflict that became public in August when a message appeared on Nonna's Facebook page filled with wild accusations against the Frosts and Timmons.

"I'm just happy that it's over because they had no case," said Timmons on Wednesday (Nov. 30). "It affected me a lot. I live here and my kids go to school here. We don't just have a business here, we care about the community."

Kabashi filed the lawsuit on Sept. 22, alleging that Timmons "hired" a friend, Gjevat Kastrati, to attack him, and that the Homestyle owner "generated" complaints that led to

an unannounced inspection of his restaurant by the Putnam County Health Department.

The lawsuit, filed by former Peekskill mayor and attorney Frank Catalina, also claimed Kabashi was accused of "being a member of the mafia," not paying his taxes and "otherwise engaging in criminal conduct." Further, it said, Homestyle customers used tables and chairs that belonged to Nonna's.

The Frosts, for their part, "failed, refused and neglected to intervene" and, with Timmons, "engaged in a pattern of conduct designed to damage the plaintiff's business and reputation," according to the lawsuit.

Kabashi asked the court to void a 10-year lease he signed in May and order the Frosts to return a \$3,200 security deposit and \$19,200 in rent payments, plus more than \$150,000 he says he spent to open the restaurant, including \$35,000 used to purchase appliances and

equipment that was already in the space. He was also seeking compensation from Timmons — \$250,000 in damages for the alleged assault, \$90,000 for the alleged false reports to the Health Department, \$200,000 for a harassment charge he says was filed against him — and \$120,000 in legal fees.

In their initial response to the lawsuit, the Frosts accused Kabashi of making claims that were "knowingly false" and "attempting to use the courts to strong-arm and intimidate" them. They in turn sought a dismissal of the lawsuit and \$1 million in damages.

Timmons said she was also preparing to sue Kabashi for defamation. "You play dirty like that, it just hurts you in the end," she said. "To this day, I don't know what their problem was."

Frank Catalina did not respond to a request for comment.

STR Law (from Page 1)

legally operate in the village from 49 to 40 but allow unlimited rentals. Also, add a waiting list for permits. The current law limits the number of operating days.

- Streamline the requirements for obtaining a permit, including doing away with the lottery system.
- Create clear operating rules, including one rental party at a time, greeted by the host, and occupancy of no more than two people per bedroom and eight total.
- Create a position for enforcement and purchase monitoring and compliance software. The current law states the police are responsible for citing violations, which are punishable with fines.

The committee also considered the potential impact of recent federal court rulings on Cold Spring's ability to limit STR operations to an owner's primary residence. Because it's not clear how New York state courts might rule, Jennifer Zwarich, who chairs the STR committee, said the village attorney recommended a policy that would allow any owner to apply for a permit "if they designate a host who has been a primary resident of the property for at least three years before the permit application."

Along with Zwarich, the committee, appointed in June, consists of Branis

Buslovich, Tom O'Quinn, Marianne Remy, Lara Demberg Voloto, Megan Shea and Travis Fyfe. All are full-time village residents. Five of the seven operate or until recently operated STRs.

The exceptions are Fyfe and Zwarich, who said she initially opposed appointing STR operators, fearing their financial interests could interfere with their ability to act in the public interest.

"My fears were not borne out," she said this week. Although there were disagreements, "everyone on the committee worked in good faith toward a common objective."

Zwarich said the existing local legislation is "a good law" that needs refinement to overcome obstacles that prevent it from being effective. The key obstacles, she said, include the staff time required to administer the lottery permit system and the need for enforcement through means other than the police.

Both Mayor Kathleen Foley and Larry Burke, officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, have said law enforcement shouldn't be responsible for compliance because STR regulations are a civil, not criminal, matter.

Zwarich said the committee still has work to do including refining its draft recommendations, determining application procedures, and adding language that takes a new occupancy tax into account. She also pointed out that Chapter 134 of the Village Code, which deals with zoning,

must be updated before the Village Board can adopt revisions to the STR law.

Parking plan

The board continued its review of a proposed parking plan that will include residential permits in the area east of the Metro-North tracks and metered parking on weekends and holidays on Main Street, and possibly Fair Street.

Foley said the board will conduct one more detailed review before hosting a public meeting on the plan early next year. She noted that while the village had

believed that residential permits could not be issued on Main Street because it is zoned for business, state law does not forbid it. During times when metered parking is in force, Main Street residents will have to pay or park on side streets.

While no decisions were made, the board seemed to be leaning toward a number of specifics, including rates of \$4 per hour on Main and Fair streets on weekends and holidays. The annual permit fee for residents with driveways would be \$50; for those without driveways, it would be \$35 for the first permit and \$50 for a second.

| COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS | | |
|---|---|------------------------|
| | PUTNAM | DUTCHESS |
| Primary vaccination: | 76.0% Philipstown/CS: 87.5% Garrison: 82.4% | 71.5% Beacon: 67.8% |
| Boostered: | 15.8% Philipstown/CS: 23.9% Garrison: 19.0% | 17.5% Beacon: 14.1% |
| Positive tests, 7-day average: | 8.0% | 10.3% |
| Number hospitalized: | 3 | 17 |
| Number of deaths: | 138 ⁽⁰⁾ | 713 ⁽⁺³⁾ |
| Source: County and state health departments, as of Nov. 30. | | |



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What's That Smell?

Public marijuana use rises with legalization

By Leonard Sparks

For years, Cecile Weiland has commuted from Garrison to her office at Union Square in New York City.

One of the recent changes that has stood out, she said, is the smell of marijuana, seemingly at every corner.

Although Weiland said she supported legalization, she said “it’s a little bit disturbing [to smell it] when I leave the office around 3 p.m. and all the kids are getting out of school.

“I guess it’s making everyone super-mellow,” she said. “Taking the edge off New Yorkers.”

Savored by some and hated by others, the smell of marijuana is in the air more often since New York legalized possession and use by adults over 21 years old in March 2021. With marijuana smoking essentially allowed anywhere tobacco smoking is OK, many local residents say they have noticed more public toking.

“I can personally attest that I smell it being burnt pretty regularly,” said Lt. Tom Figlia of the Beacon Police Department.

Since the law took effect, Beacon’s Police



Department has received three calls about marijuana smoking. Each concerned a juvenile, Figlia said — two callers reported underage smokers in public and one said a minor had edibles.

In addition to those reports, the department has fielded general inquiries about the legality of smoking in public.

“We are not receiving complaints pertaining to marijuana that we would be able to take any enforcement action on,” Figlia said, adding that complaints are better directed to a regulatory agency than a municipal police department.

The Marijuana Regulation and Taxation

Act legalizes, for anyone age 21 or older, the possession of up to 3 ounces of marijuana and up to 24 grams (0.8 ounces) of concentrated cannabis, and the right to use, smoke, ingest or consume either.

Smoking marijuana is prohibited in many places, such as schools, bars and mass transit, punishable as a civil (not criminal) violation with a fine of up to \$25 and 24 hours of community service.

Police officers who smell marijuana can no longer use that as “probable cause” that a crime has been committed, except when people are driving high. Unlike statutes regulating alcohol, the law does not explic-

itly state that having or smoking marijuana by adults younger than 21 is illegal, Figlia said.

“I think an officer would be on dubious legal grounds attempting to take enforcement action on something that is not specifically defined as illegal,” he said.

Last week the state’s Cannabis Control Board approved the first 36 licenses for dispensaries, the retail shops where people will be able to purchase marijuana. The state plans to approve 175 licenses for companies and nonprofits, including 17 in the Mid-Hudson region.

“I guess it’s making everyone super-mellow. Taking the edge off New Yorkers.

~ Cecile Weiland

The Beacon City Council and Cold Spring voters (in a referendum in November 2021) opted to allow marijuana dispensaries, but a federal judge has temporarily barred the state from issuing licenses in the Mid-Hudson and four other regions because of a lawsuit filed by an out-of-state applicant.

New York also authorized the licensing of “consumption” lounges, where people can smoke marijuana indoors. Beacon will allow lounges, but Cold Spring’s voters rejected them in a separate referendum on the 2021 general-election ballot.

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Defense of Democracy

(from Page 1)

Liberty, the Wappingers board voted to remove *Gender Queer: A Memoir*, a 2019 graphic novel that includes sexual images, from the library at John Jay High School. (Faced with the same protests, the boards in two other districts — Carmel and Arlington — voted to keep the book available.)

"I was shocked to see Moms for Liberty up here," said Finnegan. "We decided to mobilize the community."

What began with Abby and Finnegan's campaign to rally voters in the Wappingers district (which includes parts of Fishkill and East Fishkill) — including signs proclaiming "Teachers Shouldn't Be Preachers" — is now, eight months later, an organization called Defense of Democracy.

Wearing matching T-shirts imprinted with the organization's name, members have become the anti-Moms for Liberty, showing up at board meetings to advocate cultural, gender, racial and religious inclusion.

Defense of Democracy has grown to include 150 volunteers in the Hudson Valley — both Democrats and Republicans, Finnegan said. In addition, it has inspired the creation of chapters in eight other states. "It's been nonstop, but we have put together a really effective plan for fighting Christian nationalists," she said.

Moms for Liberty, which says it is "fighting for the survival of America," has chapters in Dutchess and Putnam counties with private Facebook groups that have 75 and 514 members.

Sarah Hanganu, the chair of the Dutchess County chapter, said that the organization welcomes everyone, "regardless of race, religion, sex, orientation, age, disability, political affiliation, thought or any other characteristic."

"We are united in our love for our children, our communities and our desire for a better future," she said by email on Wednesday (Nov. 30). "We believe the best way to achieve this objective is to encourage parents and community members to educate themselves on issues that are important to them and engage all levels of government to advocate for their ideas."

Part of the group's strategy, both nationwide and locally, is to get candidates who endorse its beliefs elected to school boards.

But candidates supported locally by Moms for Liberty did not fare well in May, when Defense of Democracy began mobilizing.

The three candidates that Hanganu's chapter supported for the Wappingers board, including an incumbent, lost to candidates endorsed by the teachers' union and Defense of Democracy. Candidates in Putnam Valley and Yorktown endorsed by Moms for Liberty also lost.

"We won the battle, not the war, but it felt really good to know that we can make a difference with just a few of us," Abby said.

Propelled by the election results, Abby and Finnegan incorporated Defense of Democracy in October. Last month, members convinced the Arlington school board to reject the Constitutions offered by Moms for Liberty, saying it had circulated a petition and collected 300 signatures objecting to the donation.

After the board voted not to accept the gift, the Dutchess chapter of Moms for Liberty protested that "it says a lot when a group that claims to be in defense of democracy is so opposed to young people getting a copy of the foundational document that is the blueprint for how our democracy functions."

"We realize that some may not agree with our approach," said Hanganu. "They may prefer that everyone share the same ideas and beliefs, including by compulsion if necessary, or they may prefer to silence voices they disagree with rather than engage and persuade."

Abby has a different view.

She believes that Moms for Liberty is "co-opting patriotism and love of America as if the rest of us aren't patriotic and don't love this country," she said. "It is important for us to know that we're allowed to use that language and that we're here to defend this country that we love against that behavior — against that racist, anti-queer bigotry."

Moms for Liberty's chapter in Orange County celebrated last month when the Florida, New York, school district accepted the abrupt resignation of Larry Leaven, its openly gay superintendent, whom Moms for Liberty had accused of bias against white Christians, among other alleged transgressions.

Following Leaven's resignation, Moms for Liberty of Orange County posted on Facebook: "Take your pornographic indoctrination back where you came from. This is what happens when you mess with our children."

Florida had its own *Gender Queer* battle; the district moved the book to an area where students must request it from a librarian. Defense of Democracy accused the board of allowing Leaven to be "relentlessly harassed" by Moms of Liberty.

Hired in 2021, Leaven had most recently been founding director of the Dalton School in Hong Kong, and served two years as the principal of the Beijing International Bilingual Academy in China. He told the *Warwick Advertiser* that his departure was amicable but that "the community changed" during his short tenure.

"My goal, the teachers' goal, and the principals' goal, is to continue to support and serve the students," he said. "But when there's constant noise in the community ... well, it's a distraction. The last thing I want to be is an ongoing distraction."

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO



A rendering from 2020 shows the developer's vision for the former Craig House.

Craig House *(from Page 1)*

induced benefits to the county.”

Mirbeau, a chain with luxury hotels and spas in Rhinebeck, Albany and Skaneateles (in Onondaga County), bought the property in February for \$10 million. It has said it expects to spend another \$45 million on the project.

The Beacon Planning Board has nearly completed its review of the first phase of the firm’s plans to restore the parcel with a 75-room inn and spa, a 110-seat restaurant, elaborate gardens and cottage rentals. Future development phases are expected to include resort cottages, a micro-farm and the restoration of the former Tioronda School building.

Under a typical PILOT agreement, which usually lasts 10 years, a company makes an annual payment to a municipality or school district instead of paying property taxes. There are two PILOTs in effect in Beacon: a 10-year agreement for 23-28 Creek Drive, which will be the U.S. headquarters for Docuware, a German document management firm, and a 30-year agreement for the Davies South Terrace affordable housing complex.

Mirbeau is seeking an “enhanced” PILOT, which is more complex. If its request is approved, the property would be assessed once construction is complete (it’s currently assessed at \$3 million) and regularly thereafter, like other residential and commercial parcels in Beacon. Mirbeau would pay the property tax it was paying before construction, plus 50 percent of the difference between that initial, or base, assessment and its new assessed value in Year 1.

It would then pay an incrementally increasing percentage of the difference, peaking at 95 percent in Year 15.

City Administrator Chris White and the

City Council, including Mayor Lee Kyriacou, discussed Mirbeau’s request for a letter of support during a closed session following the council’s Nov. 14 meeting. There were no objections, and the city has drafted the letter, White said.

“The deal is really good from a financial perspective for the city, school district and county,” he said, noting that Mirbeau’s proposed terms “far exceed what we get today” in property taxes from the site, which has been vacant since the hospital closed in 1999.

Once Mirbeau is up and running, White predicted that weddings at the Roundhouse, for example, would generate a steady stream of rentals at the inn while providing “a shot in the arm for the businesses on Main Street.”

The city administrator also mentioned job creation and other public benefits involved with the project as factors in the city’s support. For instance, Mirbeau has agreed to construct a sidewalk on nearby Grandview Avenue and build a pedestrian crosswalk at the entrance to the University Settlement Camp on Route 9D.

The Beacon school board considered the request for more than an hour at its Nov. 21 meeting but reached no decision. The discussion will continue on Dec. 12.

Hotels are generally considered risky investments by lenders, and PILOTs are often used to help projects qualify for financing, Lee said.

“In most cases, if it wasn’t for a PILOT, the project would not be able to go forward,” she said. The intent behind property tax abatement “is to allow businesses to ramp up their customer base to be able to eventually make the full tax payment.”



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AROUND TOWN



SENIOR MEALS — The Cornell Cooperative Extension last week kicked off Bountiful Meals, a pilot program that offers free take-out through freezers installed at the county senior centers in Cold Spring and Putnam Valley. Local farms provide produce and Second Chance Foods prepares the meals.

Photo by Ruby Koch-Fienberg



GIVING BACK — Community volunteers — including James Thomashower and Penny Brickman, shown here — prepared 200 meals on Thanksgiving Day that were distributed from St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring to recipients in Philipstown.

Photo by Vinny Tamagna



LET THERE BE LIGHTS — Chase Pultz, 8, of Beacon, shown here with his mother, Jeannine Geiser, was selected by the Westchester Parks Foundation to help light the tree on Nov. 25 to open the Winter Wonderland Drive-Through Holiday Light Extravaganza in Valhalla. Chase, a third grader at Sargent Elementary, spent a month at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, also in Valhalla, with a brain infection but has recovered.

Photo provided

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Lucius Bell as Puck



Lucas Vladimiroff as Nick Bottom

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

The Calendar

Haldane Drama Tackles the Bard

Fall play is *Midsummer Night's Dream*

By Alison Rooney

Like the most popular kid at the prom, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* never fails to crack the top-10 list of the most-produced high school plays each year — the only play by Shakespeare to do so.

"The course of true love never did run smooth," its best-known line, will be heard at the Haldane auditorium from Dec. 9 to 11 when the space is transformed into a sylvan forest populated by fairies, a quartet of bickering and fickle young lovers and a bumbling troupe of wannabe thespians, with plenty of shenanigans, spells, potions and wiles.

Martha Mechalakos, the director of Haldane Drama, believes the most obvious reason for *Dream's* popularity is its accessibility.

"It has a large cast of many types of interesting characters in clearly defined groups," she says. "It's one of Shakespeare's best, coming from one of his most productive periods of writing, and it is genuinely funny. It is solidly constructed, and lean — it is one of his shortest plays — without a lot of what I lovingly refer to as 'gnarly speeches.' It works extremely well and is a fantastic way to introduce young people to Shakespeare.

But the best reason to do *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is fairies: no rules."

Percy Parker, who plays "bellows mender" and amateur actor Francis Flute, says it's easy to get caught up in the unfamiliar language, "overthinking every word and convincing yourself that it's too 'smart' to mean anything to our modern lives. But once you get past that, as we all have had to do as actors, you find this funny, emotional play that resonates with all of us as teenagers.

"You have this blend of desire and love and strength from the lovers, combined with the sheer absurdity and earnestness and stupidity from the mechanicals [the laborers who double as amateur actors], all held together by the calculated, beautiful madness of the fairies.

"For us, as teenagers trying to find a sense of self, it is the perfect show that mixes a million different types of selves and throws them all into the woods together

one night just to see what will happen."

Maya Gelber, who plays Helena, says many cast members put aside initial misgivings about the choice. "At first many of us were frustrated that we were doing Shakespeare because of how notoriously hard it is to understand Shakespeare's text," she says. "But I've found a lot of joy in understanding what every character is saying. Shakespeare's writing is so full of depth and nuance that becoming familiar with the text is both intimidating and satisfying."

It helps to have such saucy and silly language to work with. A few cast members shared the favorite lines they speak:

Lucius Bell (Puck): "Then slip I from her Bum, down topples she and 'Tailor!'"

Bell adds: "A victory is when you learn your lines, you have the ability to make them yours, to play with them and see what fits and what doesn't."

Molly Bernstein (First Fairy): "My favorite is when she leads a lullaby for Titania, the Fairy Queen, singing hauntingly to warn the forest creatures that the fairies will keep them away using powerful energy. She says things like 'You spotted snakes with double tongue,' and 'Worm nor snail do no offense.' The eloquent language all flows together in a beautiful rhyme which is enchanting."

Lucas Vladimiroff (Nick Bottom): "'And I am such a tender ass, if my hair do but tickle me, I must scratch.' He is making a pun, but you just think: What on earth? He is probably one of the few Shakespearean characters that — to an audience member who struggles discerning the complex meaning of many of the Bard's sonnets — makes the most sense, mainly because he doesn't."

***A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed at the Haldane auditorium, at 15 Craigside Drive in Cold Spring, on Dec. 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 (\$5 for students and seniors) at showtix4u.com/event-details/69192 or at the door for \$15 (\$8 for students and seniors).**



Maya Gelber as Helena



Molly Bernstein as First Fairy



Percy Parker as Francis Flute

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SUN 4

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 to 12; free children under 7; \$5 seniors, military, students with ID)*

FRI 9

Cold Spring Aglow

COLD SPRING

5 – 8 p.m. Main Street
coldspringnychamber.com

See performances by the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band at 5 p.m., the Philipstown Depot Theatre at 6 p.m. and the Highlands Choral Society at 6:45 p.m. while strolling Main Street lit by luminaria. Businesses will have extended hours and events. Luminaria kits to remember a loved one are available for a donation to benefit the Cold Spring Fire Co.

SAT 10

Army vs. Navy Watch Party

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. American Legion | 10 Cedar St.
The football game begins at 3 p.m. Includes food and a drink. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 11

Tacos & Tequila

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave.
845-265-3040 | bit.ly/JBLTacos

This benefit for the Friends of the Butterfield Library will include food from Juanita's Kitchen plus a tequila tasting and live music. *Cost: \$45*

KRIS KRINGLE

SAT 3

Visit Santa

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

Meet Santa in the Winter Garden and take photos. Also SAT 10. Timed tickets required. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors, \$4 ages 4 to 18; free for children younger than 4, health care workers and members)*

SAT 3

Pet Photos with Santa

BEACON

Noon – 3 p.m. Happy Valley
296 Main St. | arfbeacon.org

Proceeds will benefit the Animal Rescue Foundation, a no-kill shelter in Beacon run by volunteers. *Cost: \$10*



Mount Gulian Holiday Tours, Dec. 10

SAT 3

Visit Santa

COLD SPRING

2 – 4 p.m. Drug World
55 Chestnut St. | drugworld.com

Take photos and bring letters for Santa. The drugstore will have treats, raffles and prizes.

SAT 3

Santa Visit and Tree Lighting

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Bandstand

Santa will arrive on a fire truck for everyone to say hello. The Girl Scouts will lead caroling and Hudson House will offer refreshments.

SAT 10

Pet Pictures with Santa

MAHOPAC

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Feed Barn
166 Route 6 | 845-225-7777
puthumane.org

Bring your pet and a camera to get a photo with Santa in this benefit for the Putnam County Humane Society. *Cost: \$10*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10

Light

BEACON

2 – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

The Beacon Thursday Painters, a group of senior artists led by Jan Dolan, will display work with their interpretation of the theme. Through Jan. 15.

SAT 10

Holiday Exhibition

BEACON

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

Works by multiple artists in all media will be on view. Through Jan. 29.

SAT 10

Ilse Schreiber-Noll | Small Works

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.org

In *Rose, Oh Pure Contradiction...* Schreiber-Noll will display woodcuts, paintings and artist books based on the writing of Bertolt Brecht and Rainer Maria Rilke. A group show of small works will be on view in Gallery 2.



SAT 10

Vanessa Di Tullio | Gift Wrapped

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 139 Main St.
212-255-2505 | clutter.co

The gallery's holiday show will be on view, along with Di Tullio's designer toys.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 3

Tinkergarten Lantern Walk

GARRISON

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

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

THURS 8

Hygge Party

COLD SPRING

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

Children ages 2 to 10 are invited to celebrate the Danish tradition of being cozy and comfortable at the holiday party. Drink hot chocolate, play games and decorate cookies. Registration required.

FRI 9

Young Writers Workshop

COLD SPRING

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

Students in grades 5 and up can work on writing in progress or get help with a new project.

FRI 9

Holiday Craft Party

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grade 5 and up can make a craft to keep or give as a gift. Registration required.

FRI 9

Sensory-Friendly Performance: The Nutcracker

POUGHKEEPSIE

6 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St. | 845-473-2072
dutchessny.gov/nutcracker

The New Paltz Ballet will stage a free performance hosted by Dutchess County for people of all abilities. Registration required.

SAT 10

Kids Craft Connection

GARRISON

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

Children and families will take a flashlight tour of the mansion and make candle and pomander crafts. *Cost: \$24 (\$13 for children)*

SAT 10

Studio on the Farm

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10:30 a.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | diaart.org

A practicing artist will lead an outdoor workshop for all ages. Organized by Dia:Beacon. *Free*

SAT 10

Fiesta with Flor

GARRISON

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

The Peruvian singer Flor Bromley will lead songs, dance and storytelling. Registration requested.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 3

Entrelacé Art and Poetry Talk

GARRISON

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

Poet Joan Turner and artist Anita

Jacobson will share their collaborative work. Registration required.



SAT 3

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 period music. Also FRI 9, SAT 10. *Cost: \$29 (\$24 seniors, \$17 ages 4 to 18, free ages 4 and younger)*

SAT 3

Wreath-Making Workshop

GARRISON

5:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

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

TUES 6

Heath Nero

GARRISON

2 p.m. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org

In this Pathways to Planetary Health forum, the leader of the Wyss Foundation's effort to conserve 30 percent of the planet's land and oceans by 2030 will talk about biodiversity with Jonathan F.P. Rose, the Garrison Institute co-founder.

WED 7

Fa-la-la-la...Yikes!

BEACON

1:30 p.m. Via Zoom | beaconlibrary.org

Ehris Urban and Velya Jancz-Urba of the Grounded Goodwife will talk about Victorian-era Christmas traditions that are funny and shocking in this presentation hosted by the Howland Public Library. Register online.



Fiesta with Flor, Dec. 10

THURS 8
Let it Snow-Globes

BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Make a glitter globe to take home. Registration required.

FRI 9
Family Night Hike

WAPPINGERS FALLS
6 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org
Bring flashlights and be on the lookout for owls during this hike around Muller Pond. *Cost: \$5*

SAT 10
Holiday Tours

BEACON
Noon & 1 & 2 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | 845-831-8172
mountgulian.org/holiday-tour
The Dutch colonial home of the Verplanck family will be decorated in Victorian holiday style. Also SUN 11. Reservations required. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 6 to 18, free children 5 and younger, members)*

SUN 11
Candlelight House Tour

NEWBURGH
Noon – 5 p.m. Various | 845-561-2585
newburghhistoricalsociety.com

The Newburgh Historical Society will offer tours of more than a dozen historic homes and buildings lit for the holiday season, beginning at the Captain David Crawford House. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 3
CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #2

WAPPINGERS FALLS
2 & 8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countyplayers.org

The festival will include alternating readings of two plays, *George Washington's Teeth*, by Mark St. Germain, and *Gently Down the Stream*, by Martin Sherman. Also SUN 4. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 for both)*

SAT 3
Stories from a Life in Show Biz

PUTNAM VALLEY
4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow 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 the Big

Horizon Fund. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

TUES 6
The Territory

BEACON
7 p.m. Story Screen
445 Main St. | beaconfilmsociety.org
The Beacon Film Society will screen this 2022 documentary about an Indigenous people's fight against deforestation by farmers and illegal settlers in the Brazilian Amazon. Film editor Carlos Felice will answer questions following the viewing. *Cost: \$12*



FRI 9
A Midsummer Night's Dream

COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium
15 Craigsides Drive | haldaneschool.org
Haldane Drama will perform Shakespeare's fantastical play about couples in love and fairies in a wood. Also SAT 10, SUN 11. See Page 11. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors)*

SAT 10
Charlotte's Web

GARRISON

2 & 4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The Depot Kids will stage the classic story about a pig and a spider on a farm in an interpretation by Fay Gerbes Pacht. Also SUN 11. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 10
The Nutcracker

POUGHKEEPSIE
2 & 7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
The New Paltz Ballet Theatre will perform its 23rd annual staging about a battle between toy soldiers and mice and a journey through the Land of Snow to the Kingdom of Sweets. Also SUN 11. *Cost: \$36 (\$30 children)*

SUN 11
Holiday Ice Show

POUGHKEEPSIE
1 p.m. McCann Ice Arena
14 Civic Center Plaza
mccannicearena.org
Local figure skaters will perform, followed by a family open skate. For admission, bring a new unwrapped toy to donate.

HOLIDAY SALES

SAT 3
Christmas Fair

BEACON
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Joachim's
51 Leonard St.
Find food, jewelry and holiday décor at this annual fundraiser in the school gym. Also SUN 4.

SAT 3
Winter Craft Fair

POUGHKEEPSIE
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Browse handmade gifts and crafts.

SAT 3
Dutchess Handmade

POUGHKEEPSIE
10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Trolley Barn
489 Main St. | 845-454-3222
artsmidhudson.org
Local artists' work in all mediums will be available for sale at this pop-up shop. Also SUN 4.

SAT 3
Gift Show & Sale

BEACON
Noon – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
Browse local crafts, jewelry, art, ceramics and household goods at this annual shopping event. Weekends through Dec. 23.

SAT 3
Cookie Sale

COLD SPRING
1 – 3 p.m. Cold Spring Fire Co.
154 Main St. | haldanepta.org
The Haldane PTA will be selling trays of holiday cookies, hot cocoa and cider, with proceeds funding activities for the eighth grade.

SAT 3
Modern Makers Mart

GARRISON
3 – 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 benefit Graymoor. *Cost: \$5 (children free)*

THURS 8
Hop and Shop

BEACON
hopandshopbeacon.com
See website for discounts and a map of participating shops. Also FRI 9.

FRI 9
Pop-Up Art and Fashion Sale

COLD SPRING
Noon – 5:30 p.m. River Architects
178 Main St.
Cassandra Saulter and Donna DeMari will have works for sale, including art, fashion, accessories and photographs. Also SAT 10, SUN 11.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 10
smallWORKS | Inner Vision

GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org
This juried show will feature multimedia works. Susan Lisbin's painting and sculpture also will be on view. Through Jan. 15.



The Nutcracker, Dec. 10

MUSIC

SAT 3
Tara O'Grady & Her Black Velvet Band

BEACON
7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar
173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com
The eclectic singer and songwriter will perform jazz, swing and blues.

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
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 and 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
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)*

MON 5
Robert Kopec Birthday Celebration

BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon
Various musicians will perform as

part of Quinn's weekly jazz series.

TUES 6
Counterpoint

POTNAM VALLEY
7 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The a capella women's singing group will perform holiday classics.

FRI 9
Lovehoney

PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The blues-rock band led by Tommy White (of Garrison) will perform. The openers are the Bluechips, No Grudges and Platinum Moon. *Cost: \$17*

FRI 9
James Keepnews and Billy Stein

BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The duo will perform their new project, music for improvised guitar duos. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 9
The Flurries

BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The blues and rockabilly-style band will play music from its latest release, *Tail of the Comet*. Dave “Doc” French will open. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SAT 10
O Night Divine

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

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert at Aquinas Hall will include dancers performing scenes from *The Nutcracker* and other holiday favorites. *Cost: \$25 to \$50*

SAT 10
SongSmiths

BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Carla Springer, Susan Wright
(Continued on Page 14)

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)

and Rick Aparicio will perform in a benefit for the cultural center. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 10

K104.7 Not So Silent Night

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. MJN Center

14 Civic Center Plaza | 845-454-5800
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The performers will include Nicky Youre, Armani White, Gayle, charlieonnafriday and Lauren Spencer-Smith. *Cost: \$22 (\$57 VIP)*

SAT 10

Half Step

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley

1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039

paramounthudsonvalley.com

The tribute band will create a Grateful Dead concert experience. *Cost: \$22 to \$42*

SAT 10

Natalie Forteza

COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Chapel Restoration

45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

The candlelight holiday concert will include Akie Bermiss (piano, vocals), Anthony Candullo (bass) and Erik Perez (drums). *Cost: \$25*

SAT 10

The Mighty Sloan Wainwright Band

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The singer and songwriter will be joined by the Sloan Flakes for her 22nd annual holiday concert. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 11

Holidays Near and Far

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

howlandculturalcenter.org

Performing in Dickensian attire, the Brasiles Ensemble will perform rare carols a cappella in several languages, as well as contemporary pieces. It will be accompanied by pianist Alexandra Beliakovich. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

CIVIC

MON 5

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza

845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov



Lovehoney, Dec. 9

TUES 6

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Auditorium | 15 Craigside Drive

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 6

Putnam Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse

44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800

putnamcountyny.com

TUES 6

Fjord Trail Parking & Shuttle Study

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will present the findings and recommendations. Register at hhft.org or by email at info@hhft.org.

WED 7

Village Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 7

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D

845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 8

Dutchess Legislature

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Legislative Chambers

22 Market St. | 845-486-2100

dutchessny.gov

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Tix: Howlandculturalcenter.org/tix



AND MORE

Dec 9 - James Keepnews & Bill Stein

Dec 10 - BEACON SONGSMITH

Benefit Concert for HCC

Dec 11 - HOLIDAYS - NEAR & FAR

with The Brasiles Ensemble

Dec 17 - DICKENS - THE CHRISTMAS CAROL

Dec 18 - HOLIDAY HOOT - Goldee Green & Friends

Follow our social media for more info and events

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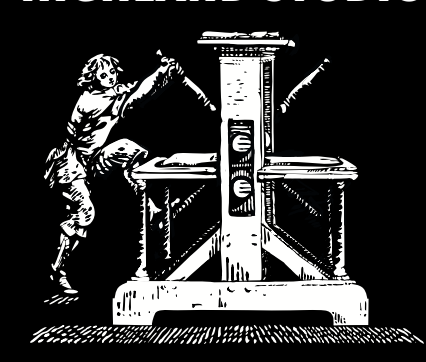
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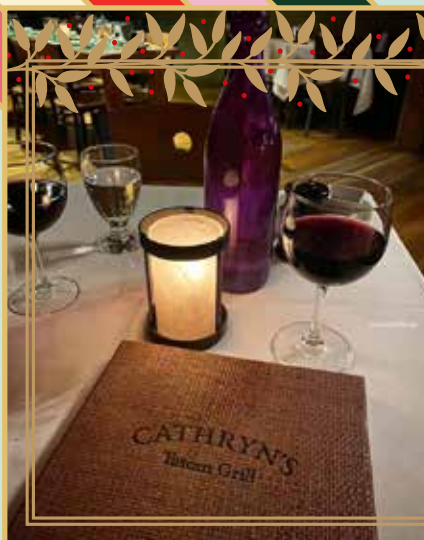
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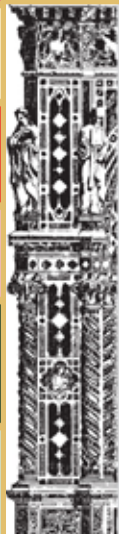
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Something You Don't Know About Me

Scott Tillitt

By Alison Rooney

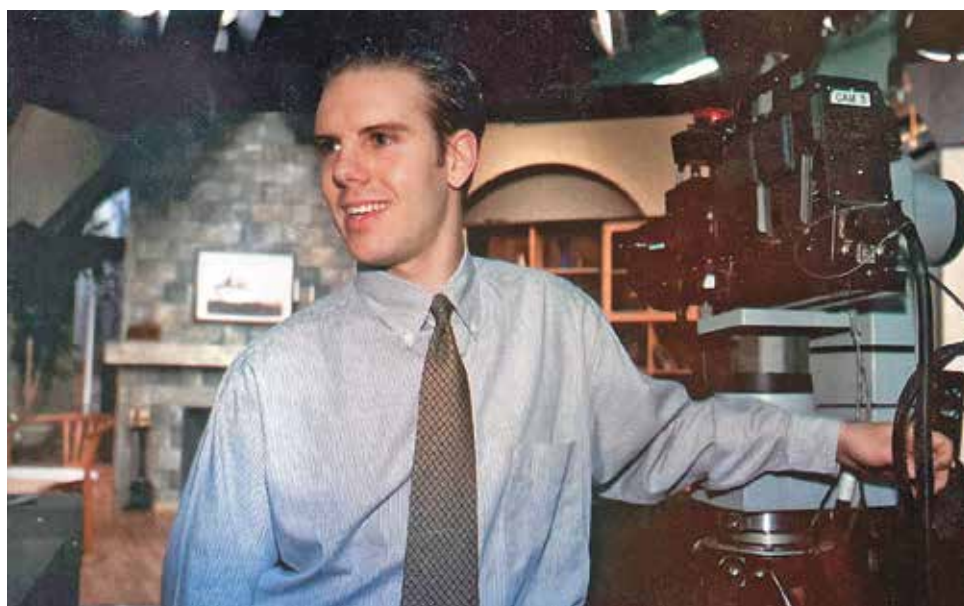
Because his childhood was divided between small-town Kentucky and very small-town Missouri, Scott Tillitt — the founder of Beahive, a co-working space with locations in Beacon, Cold Spring, Newburgh and Albany — says he has always been drawn to “culture.” He thinks it might be that “immigrants often have a sharper awareness of the places they wind up in.”

He began his career pursuing fashion, studying apparel merchandising and marketing at the University of Missouri. “That somewhat explains how I ended up on live TV in London selling amber jewelry and eel-skin purses to European consumers,” he says.

He sketches the trajectory. One summer, he took part in a management leadership program at Gap Inc. headquarters in Northbrook, Illinois. He then landed a job in western Pennsylvania with the QVC home shopping network, which at that time only had a few vendors who sold their goods directly.

Honolulu Puka Shell Exchange became one of them. The retailer was expanding nationally and adding eel-skin wallets to its brand.

“I wanted to update the brand and so I worked with QVC to redesign it, with new packaging,” Tillitt recalls. “I brought an



Tillitt on set at QVC

Photo provided

outsider’s perspective.”

QVC partnered with a British telecommunications company, and that’s how Tillitt was beamed into the U.K.

“I had Armani frames with non-corrective lenses and thought I was so cool,” he says. “It was quite an experience for a small-town boy. But at some point, I tapped out on what I could do. I set my eyes on bigger things.”

Tillitt moved to New York City, portfolio in hand, and landed a job at the Television Bureau of Advertising, a trade association, followed by two positions in public relations. He lost his job during the dot.com recession, but after he wrote an essay about his experience for *Photo District News* the

magazine hired him as a writer.

In the late 1990s, Tillitt began exploring what he calls “consciousness culture” and founded a meditation practice. He wanted to do something more meaningful.

A turning point came in 2003, when the Dalai Lama visited New York City.

“I read in Stuart Elliott’s advertising column in *The New York Times* about an ad campaign associated with the visit being run by Josh Baran,” Tillitt recalls. “There was something about the Dalai Lama’s image — robes and flip-flops against a plain background — that got me.”

Tillitt offered to provide free public relations services and ended up working closely with



Scott Tillitt Photo by David McIntyre

Baran and the Dalai Lama. “I handled 500 media requests just for that week, plus a news conference at the Guggenheim and a Lincoln Center concert,” he says. “Then 60,000 people came to see him in Central Park — huge.”

“That was my foray into doing progressive stuff. I subsequently worked on dozens of projects over the years with Josh. He was well known in the progressive PR world for leveraging culture to bring in issues. I worked on documentaries and books, as well. It was a link between my prior corporate career and my social-impact work.”

In 2004, Tillitt founded Antidote Collective, a consulting firm that focused on “vision plus mission.” Two years later, he moved to Beacon, which his then-wife had discovered.

“I was becoming a little antsy and slightly disillusioned with the progressive world, and with my results,” he says. “I was getting people to buy books, etc., but wasn’t certain what the message was. Nothing stopped the world, even if it changed a few minds. I wanted something more engaged. Beahive was meant to be a platform for community engagement.”

The Beacon location was the first to open, in 2009. It was followed soon after by Kingston (since closed), Albany in 2012 and Newburgh in 2021. A Cold Spring annex with private offices opened this year.

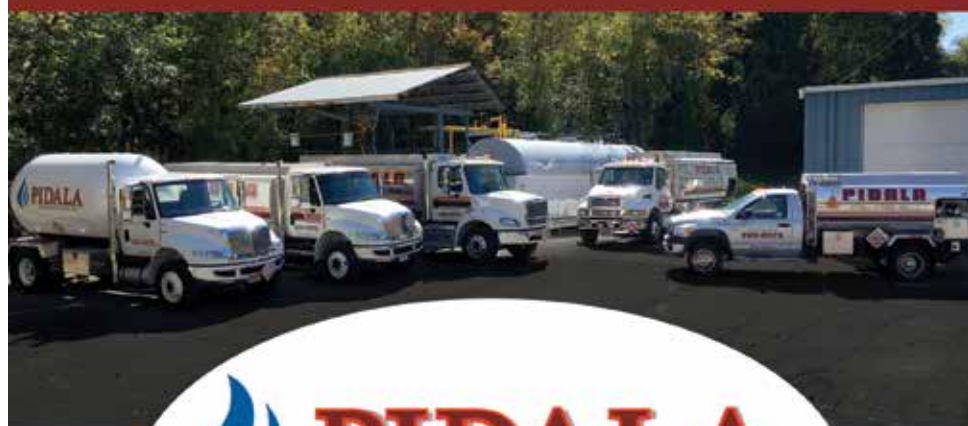
“Co-working used to be a movement, now it’s a sector,” he says. “It started as a way for people who generally worked freelance or independently to come together. But the pandemic made this crystal clear: Co-working’s most important benefit became more than productivity. Loneliness is an epidemic. It affects people, work, everything about society, particularly in Western spaces.”

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, December 15th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

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

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Living Green

The Wonders of Heat Pumps

By Krystal Ford

A month ago I was at a friend's newly built home. It's under 1,000 square feet and well-insulated — yay! But I noticed it was heated with propane.

For the life of me, I couldn't understand why they didn't put in a heat pump. I felt a little deflated. Why are people still defaulting to fossil fuels when, for the same price as the propane heater, they could have installed a heat pump that is more energy-efficient, costs less money to operate, provides better indoor air and is better for the climate?

By contrast, notes Laura Bozzi, director of programs for the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health and a Village of Cold Spring trustee, "oil burners are like little power plants in our basements, creating pollution outside."

Last month, I wrote about a campaign by Beacon Climate Action Now to get the City Council to pass legislation that would ban gas or oil in new construction. Some of the readers who responded asked how electric could be cheaper than gas, and whether there are realistic alternatives to fossil fuels. I realized there is still much work to be done to explain the benefits of heat pumps.

There are two types: air source and ground source (aka geothermal).

Air-source heat pumps have an external compressor. You can have the heat and AC distributed by ductwork or mount individual wall units, which are known as ductless heat pumps or mini-splits. These pumps extract heat from the air outside and distribute it inside. In the warmer months, the process is reversed — they pull hot air out of your home.

When we installed air-source heat pumps in our 2,700-square-foot home in Garrison, we put two downstairs and one in each of the three upstairs bedrooms. Most of the time in the winter we only used the downstairs heat pumps, waiting until about an hour before bedtime to turn on those upstairs.

Ground-source heat pumps extract heat from the ground. In most cases that means digging a well to put in the piping that connects to the pump. When you dig deep

enough, the ground temperature is always steady. So in the winter your system extracts heat from the ground and in the summer the process is reversed.

Either type of heat pump consumes far less energy than electric resistance, propane or oil heating systems. And you have none of the carbon monoxide and air quality problems associated with burning fossil fuels.

I'd like to put to rest the argument against anything electric, i.e.: "What is the point of switching to electric if the grid is still powered by fossil fuels?" Even if the grid is currently powered by fossil fuels — eventually it won't be — electricity is still more efficient.

“Oil burners are like little power plants in our basements, creating pollution outside.”

~ Laura Bozzi

Director of programs for the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health

You also hear the fallacy that heat pumps don't work in a northern climate. There are cold-climate heat pumps that operate in temperatures lower than 5 degrees, although any heat pump works best if a house is insulated and sealed up.

Finally, even with fluctuating electricity rates, a heat pump will save money compared to fossil fuels. We used to pay \$2,500 to \$3,000 over the winter to heat our home with oil. After switching to heat pumps, our annual electricity cost dropped to about \$2,600; that included powering our home, heating, cooling and charging an electric car.

In October, Cold Spring launched a clean heating and cooling campaign. Bozzi noted that if the village can document five or more installations of heat pumps, energy audits or electric hot water heater installations, it can qualify for a \$5,000 grant from the state Clean Energy Community program. There's more information for Cold Spring residents at cleanheatingand-cooling.energy. Or you can email Bozzi at trustee.bozzi@coldspringny.gov.

PHILIPSTOWN DEMOCRATS

As 2023 draws to a close,
THANK YOU from
the **PHILIPSTOWN DEMOCRATS**
to all of the volunteers who helped
Democrats win in New York State.

Congratulations to our first
elected female Governor, Kathy Hochul,
and to Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado,
Attorney General Letitia James and
Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.
Congratulations to Majority Leader
of the United States Senate –
Senator Chuck Schumer.

We extend a special thank you to
Sean Patrick Maloney for his 10 years
of highly effective service to the
Hudson Valley and for his success helping
hard working Democrats win election across
the nation as Chair of the DCCC!

Congratulations to Dana Levenberg,
our new State Assembly member,
and to Adam Hotaling,
Philipstown's new Highway Supervisor.
Thank you Julie Shiroishi for a well fought
State Senatorial campaign.

Finally, we encourage you to get involved
in our community in 2023.

Volunteer, run for office or join our
Philipstown Democratic Committee.

www.philipstowndemocrats.org



Breakfast Clown (Toast), 2017



Holiday Clown, 2021

Bring on the Clown

For the past 12 years — with the exception of 2020, during the pandemic shutdown — Todd Haskell, a Beacon resident and member of the board that publishes this newspaper, has performed as a clown in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.



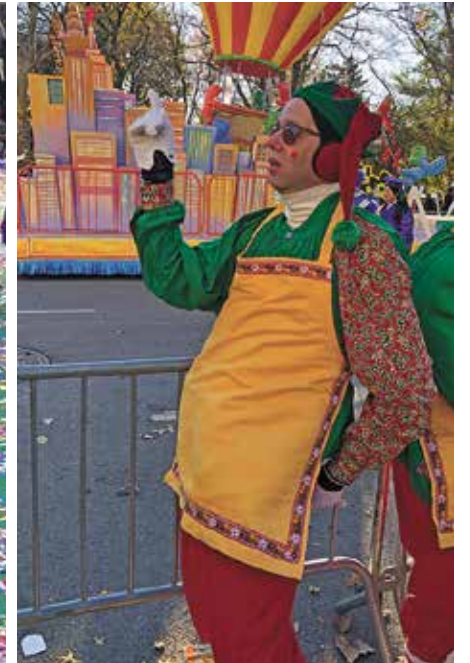
Silly Seaside Clown, 2015



NYC Tourist Clown, 2016



Malt Shop Clown, 2022



Santa's Workshop Clown, 2018

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Out There

Season of Sanctuary

By Brian PJ Cronin

Late fall is the best time of year to hike Sugarloaf Mountain — the one just north of Breakneck — especially as the afternoon gives way to evening. With the trees bare, views open. As the sun dips across the river alongside Storm King, all that was brown and dull becomes illuminated in a canyon of burnished gold.



However, my favorite view on the hike isn't from Sugarloaf. It's staring up at the summit of Sugarloaf while the sun sinks behind Newburgh and the peak fades to purple. (The summit itself has been closed since a wildfire burned 50 acres in 2019.) Once the summit is shrouded in darkness, I switch on my headlamp and walk down.

Over the summer, when I was working on the *Trails (Too) Well Traveled* series, I asked each person I interviewed: How can we balance the need to increase access to the outdoors, especially for those who have been historically denied access, while



The summit at Sugarloaf has been closed since 2019 because of damage from a wildfire.

Photo by B. Cronin

protecting the places we love?

Chris Morris of the state parks department said that one strategy is to ask, each time access is increased in a location, if there are nearby sensitive areas where access can be decreased.

The Sugarloaf fire became an example of that approach. It had two positive impacts. First, the pitch pines on the summit need fire in order to reproduce. (The fire enriches the soil and clears away underbrush that would block sunlight from seedlings.) Second, once the trail was closed for restoration work, it gave the parks department a chance to reassess access. Foot traffic had taken a toll on the summit, in the form of erosion and invasive species.

With the newly forged Ninham trail at Breakneck, which allowed people to see a similar view as from Sugarloaf, why not close the summit indefinitely? If that happens, Morris said, the presence of humans will “phase out of memory.”

This month, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will release digital updates of its East Hudson map set, the first since the fire, and the first to show that the summit is off-limits. (Paper versions are expected in the spring.) The kiosks at the trailhead have already been updated.

The crew that rerouted the trail away from the summit did a remarkable job; Unless you know exactly where to look, you'll never notice the remnants of the former trail as you circle the summit and head into the interior of Breakneck Valley.

The exception would be if you're following a phone app such as All Trails, which maps via GPS where people walk. This is one of the many reasons the app is the scourge of outdoor management professionals: All it takes is one hiker getting lost, or intentionally going off trail into an ecologically sensitive area, and soon dozens of other hikers are following the GPS breadcrumbs and compounding the problem.

The app and others like it are one of the reasons the Ninham trail had to be created: One or two hikers attempted to bail out at Breakneck and blundered in retreat

through the woods and rocky cliffs, only to be followed by hordes of digital lemmings who didn't know they were tracing the footsteps of a mistake.

This is also the time of year that Dennings Point in Beacon is closed — from Dec. 15 until about mid-March — to give the bald eagles the solitude they need to nest. And yet several times every winter, when I run past, I spot footprints in the snow on the other side of the barrier.

Look, I get it. Dennings Point and the Sugarloaf summit are special places that for many people hold decades of memories. But are they backdrops for our personal adventures and dramas, or landscapes that have provided something larger? What happens when these landscapes need something from us in return?

That is why I don't feel sadness while watching the night fall over Sugarloaf, or when I see places I used to walk become covered in stillness and disappear. What I feel instead is the sense that an extraordinary favor is being repaid.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Current Classifieds

NOTICES

POP-UP ART SHOW — Hosted by River Architects, 178 Main St., Cold Spring on Dec. 9, 10 and 11. Art/ photography/ slow fashion / accessories. With works by Cassandra Saulter (@cassandrasaulterstudio / flippingfur.com) and Donna DeMari (@donnademariphotography and @donnademarihorses)

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Why is Everything Called Sugarloaf?

The early colonists were many things, but creative namers isn't one of them. The Highlands has two mountains within a few miles named Sugarloaf (to differentiate, the one in Putnam is often referred to as Sugarloaf Hill.) Cross the river to Orange County and there's another Sugarloaf Mountain, and another in the Catskills, and on and on across the country. There are at least 33 in the U.S. with that moniker, and that's before you get into the four Sugarloaves in the U.K., seven in Australia and Cerro Pan de Azúcar in Uruguay.

What is a sugarloaf? In the days before granulated sugar and sugar cubes, the last step of the refining process involved pouring the sugar into an inverted, cone-shaped mold with a hole in the bottom. Over a few days, any molasses or impurities would drip from the hole, leaving a rock hard cone of pure sugar. Shoppers would use a sharp clamp, known as a sugar nip, to cut off as much of the cone as they wanted to buy.

It's not clear why this would not be a sugar cone, rather than a loaf, although at least this meant that the former phrase was available when ice cream became popular.

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AROUND TOWN



NUTCRACKER — As part of a national tour, dancers from World Ballet performed the holiday classic at the Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill on Nov. 26. The show includes 50 dancers and 150 hand-sewn costumes.

Photo by Ross Corsair



TREE LIGHTING — The Beacon Elks, City of Beacon, Tompkins Hose Co. and Boy and Girl Scouts hosted the fifth annual Beacon holiday tree lighting on Nov. 26, with hot chocolate, cookies, gifts bags, raffles and carolers.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Keep Cats Indoors

Domestic cats make wonderful companions and pets, but when allowed to roam outside, they are the greatest human-caused source of mortality to birds.

Cats now function as introduced predators in many different habitats across the world. When outside, cats are invasive species that kill birds, reptiles, and other wildlife. Because most cats—whether feral or owned by humans—receive food from people, they also exist in much higher concentrations than wild felines do. But despite being fed, they kill wild birds and other animals by instinct.

There are now over 100 million free-roaming cats in the United States; they kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year in the U.S. alone, making them the single greatest source of human-caused mortality for birds.

Free-roaming cats also spread diseases such as Rabies, Toxoplasmosis, and Feline Leukemia Virus, and face many more threats like vehicles and predators. Living outdoors shortens a cat's lifespan to just 2-5 years, whereas indoor cats can live to be 17 and beyond.

The easiest way you can help prevent needless bird deaths and keep you and your pet safe is by keeping your cat indoors.

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Got An Idea? Beacon Has \$10,000

City Council, students launch 'participatory budgeting'

By Jeff Simms

City of Beacon officials have been visiting Erin Haddeland's Participation in Government class at Beacon High School for years.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou spoke to students about civics when he was a City Council member. Police officers came to discuss criminal justice. But since the pandemic, Haddeland said it's been a challenge to reconnect her students with what's happening locally.

That may change by giving them a little money to spend.

In 2019, the City Council allocated \$5,000 in the following year's budget for what it called "participatory budgeting," but COVID nixed the idea. The council allotted the same amount for 2021 but, without a framework for the project, the money went unspent. The 2022 budget again includes \$5,000.

Combine that money with 2021's (the \$5,000 allocated for 2020 was returned to the city's fund balance), and you have \$10,000 waiting for the right proposal.

On Dec. 12, a group of Beacon High School seniors will make presentations to the council on "how to improve Beacon." A week later, council members will vote on how to spend the \$10,000.

"Every year I ask my class, 'What's one thing you would change in school or the city?' " Haddeland said. "Now it's, 'What's one thing you would change? And if you keep it under \$10,000, you might actually be able to do it.'"

The exercise, the first of its kind in Beacon, will provide a bridge connecting the concepts students study in class and real-world application.

"For 16- and 17-year-olds, this is the age when they are about to be able to vote, to be able to run for office themselves if they want to," noted City Council Member Paloma Wake, who, with City Administrator Chris White, spoke to seniors at the high school in October. "They have been directly impacted by the choices that government and adults are making for them all their lives, and now they're starting to exercise their power to make choices for themselves, which is thrilling for anyone who believes in direct democracy."

It was tough getting the students to open up at first, Wake said, "but once someone hit on the right issue — traffic along Matteawan Road, lack of resources

for unhoused people within the city, lack of performance and social gathering spaces for young people, lack of respect for Beacon's Black historical figures, lack of affordable food even on a crowded Main Street — the students had a lot to say."

Of the 200 or so members of the Class of 2023, about half shared viable suggestions when Wake and White spoke about municipal budgeting, Haddeland said. After narrowing those down, students were grouped to flesh out the best proposals.

About a half-dozen students will make presentations to the City Council. The proposals include upgrades to the basketball courts at Memorial Park, repairs to the municipal swimming pool and installing refillable water stations in city parks.

Mark Price, the city's recreation director, who spoke at the high school last month, advised students to develop their proposals by researching the pricing and availability of nets and backboards, for example, that they'd like to see if the basketball courts are improved.

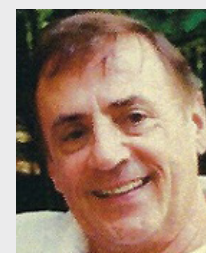
The council again included \$10,000 in the city budget for 2023 for the program, and Haddeland is hopeful that participation will grow.

"Once the students see their ideas as a finished product, we'll be able to build on that," she said.

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 (Baricevic) 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 to 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 Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018 along with the members of the 1963 championship baseball team he coached.

Franks community and civic interests where many, he was a lifelong parishioner of Our Lady of Loretto 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 Milkovich of Glenham, NY 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, brother-in-law Leonard 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 Frank Milkovich Scholarship Fund, at www.coldspringlions.org.

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

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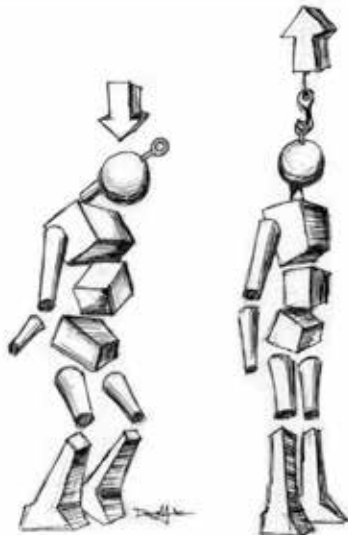
The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board Meeting December 2022.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will not meet in December 2022. The next meeting will be on January 9th, 2023.

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SPORTS

AROUND THE HORN

Tyler Adams, a Wappingers Falls native who turned professional at age 16 while attending Ketcham High School, is the captain of the U.S. men's soccer team that advanced this week to the knock-out rounds of the World Cup in Qatar. The Americans will face the Netherlands on Saturday (Dec. 3). The midfielder plays for Leeds United in England...

Dayion Thompson, who transferred from Beacon High School to Kimball Union Academy in 2019 after leading Dutchess County in scoring, needed only one basketball game as a freshman at Utica University to be named on Nov. 21 as the Empire 8 Conference Rookie of the Week. The guard scored nine points in 18 minutes in a 94-81 win over SUNY Morrisville. Thompson had 18 points against SUNY Poly and 13 against Cazenovia... **Noriana Radwan**, a 2014 Beacon graduate who lost her scholarship on the University of Connecticut soccer team after she flipped off an ESPN television camera during a victory celebration, had her lawsuit against the university reinstated by a federal appeals

court. Radwan argues she received a harsher punishment than given to male athletes for misconduct, and that her gesture was protected speech. She later transferred to Hofstra... Beacon High School announced its 2022 class for the Eric J. Romanino Athletic Hall of Fame: the 1973-74 boys' basketball team; the 2016 boys' indoor track-and-field team; **Rayvon Grey**, **Terrel Davis** and **David Adams** (2016) for track and field; **Lauren Schetter** (2017) for basketball and volleyball; and **Gabby Lucas** (2017) for soccer. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 6... Three 2022 Beacon graduates recently completed their first college soccer seasons:

Alex Wyant played in every game for SUNY New Paltz, recording two assists; **Dillon Kelly** played in 12 games for SUNY Oneonta and had an assist; and **Tommy Franks** appeared in a game for Manhattanville College... **Soren Holmbo**, a 2022 Haldane grad who plays basketball for SUNY Purchase, hit a three-pointer at Ramapo College on Nov. 19 for his first collegiate basket.



Tyler Adams leaps to reach the ball during the U.S. victory on Nov. 29 over Iran.

Photo by Yukihiro Taguchi/USA Today



Haldane High boys' soccer Coach Ahmed Dwidar, who recently led the Blue Devils to the program's first state championship, was named Section 1 small-schools Coach of the Year. "It means a lot," Dwidar said. "My players and assistant coaches are the reason I won this award, and it's special because this was the best year I've ever had coaching. The best thing is that we are Class C state champions." Photo provided

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Asian desert

5. Weep loudly

9. Swiss peak

12. Mideast gulf

13. *Night* author
Wiesel

14. Life story

15. Pantheon
members

16. Quest

17. Director Howard

18. Region

19. Texter's "Wow!"

20. Full house, e.g.

21. Dolphins' org.

23. Here (Fr.)

25. Used a hoe

28. Put a price on

32. Dole out

33. Stage

34. Show bad posture

36. Creatures

37. Your

38. Ornate vase

39. Corn castoffs

42. Tavern

44. Party pooper

48. Small battery

49. Ireland

50. Theater box

51. Norm (Abbr.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33

34 35 36

37 38

39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47

48 49 50

51 52 53

54 55 56

52. Swampy terrain

53. Portent

54. That lady

55. River to the Baltic

56. Get one's feet
wet?

DOWN

1. Quite enthusiastic

2. Bloodhound's clue

3. Eliot's *Adam* —

4. Important details

5. Observe

6. Grad

7. Improvise

8. Allow

9. Start of a spell

10. King of the jungle

11. Frogs' hangout

20. Everywhere

22. Command to Fido

24. Prank

25. "Now, where — I?"

26. Right angle

27. "Xanadu" band

29. Cooking fuel

30. Ballpark fig.

31. — Moines

35. Cross

36. Stovetop feature

39. Mama — Elliot

40. Swearword

41. Commanded

43. Suffix for billion

45. "Arrivederci —"

46. On in years

47. Actor Hackman

49. Punk-rock sub
genre

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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 slight pang (6)

2 teaches a lesson (8)

3 Babar, Dumbo and Horton (9)

4 cocoa-like (9)

5 sounded like an old hinge (7)

6 sloth's state (9)

7 oil unit (6)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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

1. SPOILS, 2. THRILLER, 3. DOLLS, 4. BERTHED, 5. TOWNSHIP, 6. BUILDER, 7. OBLATE

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

SPORTS



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Haldane will chase its first sectional title since 2016.



Darien Gillins, shown in a playoff game, is expected to be a key scorer for the Bulldogs.

PREVIEW: BOYS' BASKETBALL

By Skip Pearlman

HALDANE

The day before the Blue Devils' season-opening, 71-38 win on Thursday (Dec. 1) at Marlboro, Coach Joe Virgadamo called his team — which includes seven seniors — a “special group.”

Haldane last won a Section I, Class C title in 2016, meaning no current player has been able to hold up the award — on the basketball court, anyway.

Two returning players — Ryan Eng-Wong and Matt Nachamkin — last month won a state title with the boys' soccer team, and the buzz from that achievement continues to light up the campus.

“We have two state champs on the team,” said Virgadamo, who is in his 17th season. “We’re hoping that’s contagious.”

The heart of the 2022-23 team is 6'5" senior Matteo Cervone, a fourth-year player. As Cervone goes, the Blue Devils will almost certainly go.

Cervone showed what he can do last season, earning All-Section honors. But the Blue Devils, who had lost only two games all season, fell in a heartbreaker, 53-51, to Hamilton in the sectional title game. (The other Class C teams in the section are Tuckahoe and Leffell.)

“I’m coming in with a bit of a chip on my shoulder,” Cervone said. “I feel like last year I could have done more to win sectionals, and I’m excited about making that happen with my best friends, guys I’ve been playing with since we were 8. We really want to do something memorable.”

“Matteo has put the work in and helped build the program to where it is now,” Virgadamo said. “Matt Nachamkin has put a ton of time into his game, Will Bradley is back, and Julian Ambrose will also be a key. These guys haven’t missed an open gym. They’re leading our program. And our bench will be big — Evan Giachinta, Michael Murray, Ryan Van Tassel. We’re a deep team.”

Haldane’s home opener, against Blind Brook, is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Monday (Dec. 5). The team will travel to Tuckahoe on Wednesday and host Valhalla at 6:15 p.m. on Dec. 9.



Matteo Cervone goes to the rim during the sectional title game in March.

BEACON

Beacon enters the season with a new coach — former assistant Patrick Schetter, who succeeds Scott Timpano — and aspirations to surpass last season’s sectional quarterfinal finish.

The Bulldogs, who finished 12-9, closed the season with a loss to Washingtonville in the Section IX, Class A playoffs.

Schetter, a 2014 Beacon grad and three-sport athlete, was the varsity assistant last season and coached the junior varsity for two seasons before that. He won a Division III national championship in his freshman year playing baseball at SUNY Cortland

but said he’s always loved hoops. “I’m excited to be back here, where so many people helped me,” he said.

The Bulldogs are led this year by nine seniors: Darien Gillins, Jack Philipbar, Joe Battle, Adrian Beato, Dylan Howard, Danny Mercado, Liam Rumnit, Wilson Ciccone and Javan Verdile.

“We’re athletic, with a lot of size and a lot of speed,” Schetter said. “Everyone can handle the ball and shoot. We’re going to play with a lot of energy and a fast pace. These guys play their best when we’re moving the basketball well.”

Defense will spark the offense, he said. “We know we’ll have to make adjustments on the fly, but right now we have a defensive-minded team.”

Beacon is scheduled to open its season today (Dec. 2) at Chester



Beacon, which enters the season with a new coach, hopes to improve on last year’s 12-win winter.

Photos by S. Pearlman