

The HIGHLANDS
Current



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SANTA AND DOG — The Animal Rescue Foundation held a pets-with-Santa fundraiser on Dec. 4 at the Happy Valley Arcade in Beacon. Seventy-five dogs and their owners showed up, as well as a cat and a bunny. For more Santa sightings, see Page 10. Photo by Ross Corsair

Update
Booming Beacon
One public hearing next week, another postponed

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon Planning Board will continue a public hearing on one development proposal next week, while another has been postponed at the applicant's request.

The hearing scheduled for the meeting on Tuesday (Dec. 13) is for a proposal to convert the former Reformed Church of Beacon into a hotel and event space with a restaurant and bar.

The project, at 1113 Wolcott Ave., has been downsized several times since an investment group called Prophecy Theater approached the board nearly 18 months ago with a plan to convert the historic former church into an event venue with seating for 500 people.

The group now proposes a 180-person space that would host art exhibits, workshops and other cultural events, rather than concerts, said Gavin Hecker, one of the

(Continued on Page 8)

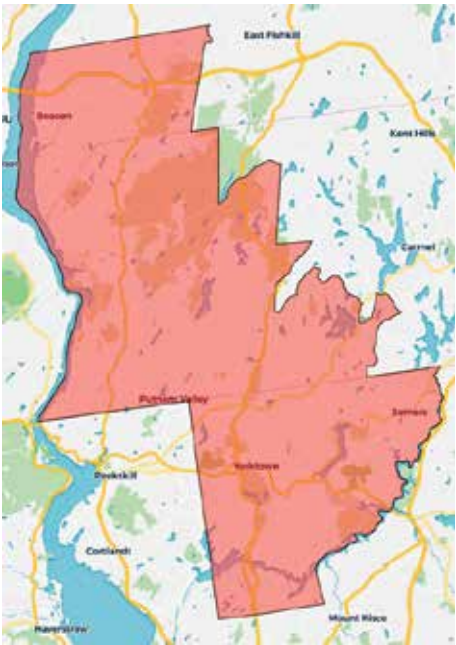
Plan Would Move Highlands to New Assembly District

State proposal released for 2024 election
By Leonard Sparks

Beacon and Philipstown would both move into a new state Assembly district under a proposal drafted to replace the current maps, which were ruled unconstitutional by a New York judge but used for this year's elections.

The proposed maps were released Dec. 1 by the state's Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) for public comment. The boundaries for what would be District 94 extend from just north of Beacon to include Cold Spring, Garrison, Putnam Valley, Mahopac, Yorktown Heights and Somers. It would be bounded on the west by the Hudson River but exclude Peekskill.

Philipstown is now in Assembly District 95 and has been represented for nearly 30 years by Sandy Galef, a Democrat who will retire this month. She will be succeeded by Dana Levenberg, also a Democrat, who won the seat in November. Beacon is part of District 104, which is represented by Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat who ran unopposed this year for a third term.



The proposal for 2024 would place Beacon and Philipstown in Assembly District 94.

The proposed Assembly District 94 would have about 136,000 residents, 75 percent of whom are white, 14 percent Latino, 4.5 percent Black and 3.7 percent Asian. In

(Continued on Page 8)

Metro-North Plans To Resume Fare Hikes

MTA chair says system faces 'existential crisis'
By Leonard Sparks

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority plans to soon resume its schedule of regular fare hikes on Metro-North commuter trains, which had been suspended during the pandemic shutdown.

The fares on other systems run by the MTA — New York City buses and subways, the Long Island Rail Road and seven bridges and tunnels — are also expected to increase. The agency says it hopes to cut into an operating deficit that is projected to reach \$3 billion by 2026.

Janno Lieber, the MTA's chair and CEO, and his staff on Nov. 30 presented the MTA board with a budget for 2023 as well as a four-year financial plan. The latter calls for raising fares and tolls by 5.5 percent in 2023 and 4 percent in 2025.

The agency last raised fares in April 2019. More recently, to entice riders back after ridership plummeted during the pandemic, the MTA has offered discounts.

Ridership is up substantially on Metro-North since it cratered beginning in March

(Continued on Page 3)

REVENUES (IN MILLIONS)	
Taxes	\$7,150
Fares	\$4,647
Tolls	\$2,397
FEMA/ARPA	\$2,035
Other	\$996
Funding agreements	\$825
New federal funding	\$600
State and local subsidies	\$579
EXPENSES (IN MILLIONS)	
Payroll	\$5,934
Non-labor/other expenses	\$4,791
Debt service	\$3,210
Health/welfare	\$2,539
Pensions	\$1,386
Overtime	\$911
Other labor	\$631
Adjustments for expenses	(\$172)

Source: Metropolitan Transportation Authority

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: QUINN CHANDLER

By Michael Turton

Quinn Chandler, of Philipstown, is the co-author of *Elf Off: The Tragic End to an Elf Tradition*, a parody of the holiday tradition.

Who is your book intended for?

It's not suitable for children. It's a dark comedy for adults who have children and who are annoyed by the Elf on the Shelf. It's for them.

How is having an elf any different from having a teddy bear in the house?

The elf is usually gifted to you by someone, like grandma. You get signed up for it — it has a kit and instruction manual. You're supposed to put the elf out every day, starting right after Thanksgiving. He's supposed to be magical, and he watches children to see whether they're good.



Every night, he flies to the North Pole and reports to Santa. To make it appear he has returned, parents have to move him to a new location. It becomes a chore: move the elf. It gets a lot of parents out of bed.

But it's so cute. How could a parent dislike the elf?

Because you get roped in when the kids are little and it becomes part of the holiday tradition. The elf gets packed away with the stockings and the kids expect it the next year. It's another thing you have to do. And like all holiday things — Christmas lights and everything else — parents get competitive. Kids go to school and talk about the elf. When they get home it's like,

"Why does Timmy's elf give him presents every day?" On social media, you see the lengths that parents go to. If you're busy, it's just too much. I can't compete. We don't have the elf in our house.

Are you concerned about backlash?

I expect it — I'm amused by how polarizing the elf is; parents have strong opinions, for and against. Because the Elf on the Shelf is so wildly successful, it can take a little ribbing. I've had a lot of positive responses from family, friends and other people who love me, although some say the book's a little too violent. That was surprising, because I thought we pulled our punches — no gore, nothing too over the edge. There's always a victim in comedy. But you can't make everybody happy.

In creating your elf, Zippy, did you worry about trademark infringement?

We had to make something different from the actual Elf on the Shelf — emulate but not copy. I tried making the elf myself but it was just a disaster. My wife, Shawna, makes costumes for Haldane and is great at painting, so she made it. But I realized I had to be careful and not ruin Zippy while taking photos. So, I started making elf parts, and now I'm a functional seamster — I know what a bobbin is!

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Do you like to grill outdoors during the winter?

I like to use char briquets, maybe for a nice, rare London broil.



Matthew Erenzo, Beacon

Love it. I did lobster tails last week. I just shovel away the snow.



Melanie Taylor, Garrison

I've thought about it a lot — maybe this winter.



Sean Hackett, Cold Spring



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Work Begins On New Power Line

Route passes Highlands under Hudson River

By Leonard Sparks

Construction has begun on the first 17 miles of a 339-mile transmission line that will be buried under the Hudson River as it passes the Highlands and carries hydroelectric power from Canada to New York City.

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Nov. 30 announced the launch of the Champlain Hudson Power Express, a \$4.5 billion project in which Hydro-Quebec will deliver 1,250 megawatts of electricity, enough to power more than 1 million homes.

The state Public Service Commission in October approved construction of the first two segments, a conduit between the towns of Putnam and Whitehall in Washington County.

The U.S. portion of the line begins under Lake Champlain in Clinton County and is brought above ground in Washington County before being submerged again in the Hudson between Columbia and northern Westchester counties. It will pass through 15 counties, 60 towns and 60 school districts, including Beacon's.

New York State considers the transmission line, which is supposed to be finished in 2026, a key component to fulfill the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Passed in 2019, the legislation calls for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions that contribute to climate change by 40 percent and supplying 70 percent of electricity through renewable sources by 2030.

Other sections of the line will be buried on land, but 60 percent of the project will be underwater. Along with Lake Champlain and the Hudson River, sections will run under the Harlem River before the line terminates at a converter station in Astoria, Queens, that will connect to Con Edison's grid.

According to Transmission Developers, the firm that is building the line, the cable under the Hudson will bypass a section where the riverbed is contaminated by pollutants released over decades by



The power line will pass the Highlands underneath the Hudson River. TDI

General Electric that underwent a cleanup overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency. It also will bypass a section of Haverstraw Bay that is a breeding and spawning habitat.

The company says the machine that carves a trench in the riverbed operates without dispersing large amounts of sediment. Seven municipalities, including the City of Poughkeepsie, that draw their drinking water from the river fear that the process will disperse contaminated sediment toward their intakes.

Transmission Developers agreed to spend \$117 million over 35 years on restoration and other environmental projects at Lake Champlain and along the Hudson, Harlem and East rivers. However, the firm, facing local opposition, withdrew a request to Dutchess County for \$105.5 million in property tax breaks over 30 years, plus exemptions for \$13.6 million in sales taxes and \$1.3 million in mortgage taxes.

Fare Hikes (from Page 1)

2020, when all but essential workers largely worked from home, but still below pre-pandemic levels. Metro-North had nearly 192,900 riders on Oct. 11, a Tuesday, but that total was only 74 percent of what the system averaged on weekdays in October before the pandemic. On Monday (Dec. 5), 164,900 people rode Metro-North, about 62 percent of the average for a weekday in December.

The MTA forecasts that ridership will improve to 69 percent of pre-pandemic levels in 2023 and 79 percent by 2026. But annual revenues from fares are projected to average \$2.1 billion less than what was forecast for those years before the pandemic.

Lieber said that the agency, whose budget next year includes \$19.2 billion in spending, is facing an "existential crisis."

"This is a plan that's designed to protect riders," he said. "Our priority is maintaining service and making cuts that do not require job cuts, don't impact on our ability to put on service, and which are moderate in the fare increases."

Raising fares was one of several deficit-reducing measures presented to the board.

The agency's four-year projection apportions \$5.65 billion remaining from \$15 billion in emergency federal funding the authority received in the America Rescue Plan, COVID-relief legislation enacted in March 2021. If not apportioned, the unspent funds would erase the projected deficits for 2023 and 2024, but leave gaps of \$3 billion for the following two years.

The financial plan also envisions shaving \$1.2 billion from expenses over the four years through cost-saving initiatives, and saving \$558 billion in debt service by using federal aid to repay a bond anticipation note.

However, that still leaves \$1.2 billion deficits for 2024 and 2025, growing to \$1.6 billion for 2026, and the 2023 budget is built on the expectation that the federal government will provide an additional \$600 million. That aid is uncertain.

The budget will be submitted to the MTA board for a vote this month. Any fare increase will require public hearings.

Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents Putnam County on the board and chairs its finance committee, said he supported spreading the federal aid over four years.

But he also warned about uncertainties next year, when "our financial performance will change, ridership behavior may not materialize, we don't know what the [state] Legislature's going to do and there are many other factors we can't predict."

"The reality is, we have a structural imbalance," he said.

The MTA is also working on a "congestion-pricing" plan that would raise \$15 billion for capital projects through a toll on vehicles entering a section of Manhattan from 60th Street to the south, excluding FDR Drive and the West Side Highway.

The agency estimates that it would charge drivers with an EZPass between \$9 and \$23 during peak hours, and those billed by mail, \$14 to \$35.

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PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.

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

FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe

editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney

arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

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

STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

Jason Derasmo (Beacon)
Violeta Edwards Salas (Haldane)
Clara Tripp (Fieldston)
Eamon Wall (Haldane)
Lily Zuckerman (Masters)

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

For information on advertising:

845-809-5584

ads@highlandscurrent.org

highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare

membership@highlandscurrent.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Teresa Lagerman

events@highlandscurrent.org



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Tax break

Regarding the request from the Mirbeau Inn & Spa Beacon for a tax break on its project over the next 15 years ("Beacon Developer Asks for Tax Break," Dec. 2): How's the math look with and without? Is it a deal breaker? It sounds like the value in economic benefits outweighs initial public investment within a short enough period. There's precedent.

Brett Miller, *via Facebook*

The editor replies: We plan to address the implications of payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreements, but there are many unknowns at this point, so it's not easy to calculate. The biggest unknown is whether the project would proceed without PILOT benefits. The Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency says that most PILOT proposals would not. If the agreement is approved, other factors, such as future property assessments and the city's commercial tax rate, which could both change every year, will influence how much the developer pays.

Are the two other PILOT tax agreements you mentioned in Beacon equitable for everyone in the city who pays taxes, especially when Docuware isn't a hotel? Maybe when a company gets an abatement, the discount should be distributed to all business and resi-

dents, because business and residents here already give "Main Street a shot in the arm."

Ron Donofrio, *Beacon*

Mirbeau should pay its fair share, just as its neighbors do. The company charges as much as \$640 per night at its Rhinebeck inn and spa. Who do we expect will be staying in the Beacon site?

Denise Loatman-Owens, *via Facebook*

Will they throw a few hundred bucks at the schools and get whatever they want? Can we stop being jerked around, Mr. Mayor?

Sean Breault, *via Instagram*

Why would a luxury spa qualify for the same tax benefits as affordable housing?

Rhonda Donohue, *via Instagram*

DCC charges

Thanks for reporting on the issue of dual enrollment for high school students in college programs ("DCC Plans to Charge Fees at High Schools," Nov. 25).

I'm working with organizations in Massachusetts on the rollout of plans for Early College, which is a close cousin of dual enrollment and represents the most interesting thing happening in American

Correction

A photo caption that appeared in the Dec. 2 issue misidentified a volunteer who prepared meals on Thanksgiving Day in Cold Spring as Penny Brickman. In fact, it was Rose Inman.

education. New York state lags behind Massachusetts and other states in implementing robust and sensible Early College programs, as well as traditional dual-enrollment programs.

I feel awful for Dutchess Community College, parents and school districts that have to fight about something that Albany Democrats should have done years ago, following in the footsteps of work done in New York City and Buffalo for the last 20 years. It's been bipartisan work in red, blue and purple states for the last two decades. It's possible that Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, the new Democratic leader in the U.S. House, will lead a charge to incentivize states that lag behind — his Brooklyn district has one of the best Early College partnerships.

Brian Donnelly, *Beacon*

Donnelly is director of the Early College Initiative at the City University of New York.

Moms push back

Moms of Liberty needs to be stopped ("Local Moms Push Back," Dec. 2). Our public schools must strive to provide an inclusive education for all students in the communities they serve. Federal and New York State laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity) and disability.

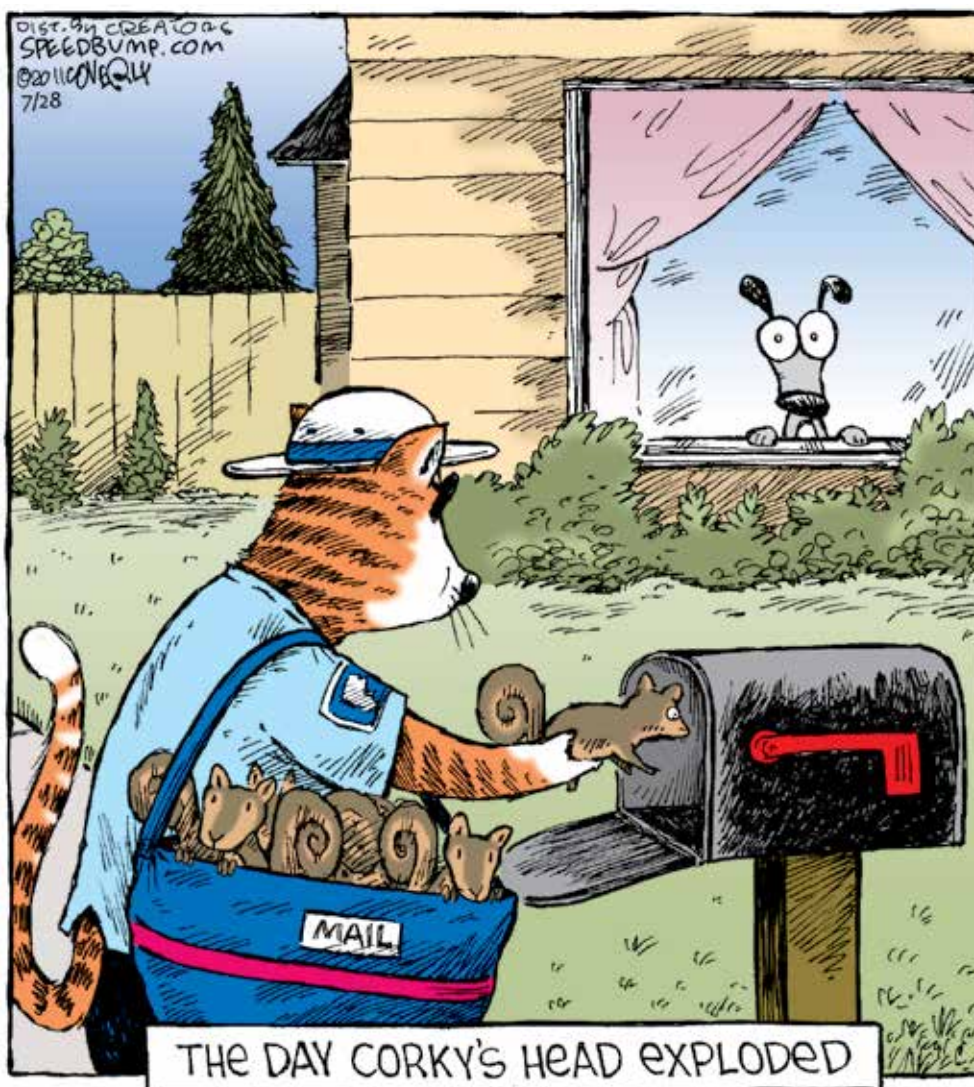
Studies suggest LGBTQ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers. They are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity but rather because of how they are mistreated and stigmatized.

School boards must find the courage to speak out and defend the rights of all students to be included, and to have a curriculum that is both a window to the world and a mirror where they can see themselves and feel affirmed.

Gina Sanchirico, *Putnam Valley*

I loved seeing the photo of Defense of Democracy in the parade on your front page. I would encourage anyone to take with caution what Moms for Liberty says the organization is about. The group attempted to "donate" several anti-LGBTQ books to the Arlington school district at the Board of Education meeting in November that I attended. When the board declined the dona-

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

tion, Moms for Liberty members walked out and then slandered Defense of Democracy, Arlington parents and the board on their Facebook page, calling us “corrupt assholes.”

I’ve been a Dutchess County resident for 14 years now and, as a mom, have to speak up on groups like this seeking to undermine our community. I hope you give them the press they so desperately desire and expose them for who they are as roadblocks to unity in our communities.

Kate Blake, *Lagrangeville*

Go Moms for Liberty! Sanity needs to have a voice these days.

Don Torelli, *via Facebook*

Heat pumps

What Krystal Ford didn’t tell us is how much it cost to remove and recycle her oil heating system and install five heat pumps (“Living Green: The Wonders of Heat Pumps,” Dec. 2). Did she have to convert to electric for hot water? This cost must be added to the overall monthly cost and how long until the payback.

Many people might like to do a similar conversion but find the costs prohibitive. Also, what fuel is used to power the generator and is it large enough? If you have multiple heat pumps, the generator must be large enough to power them — otherwise, no heat. If new homes are to be totally electric, large generators will be required.

Russell Macrini, *via Facebook*

Krystal Ford responds: “We never removed the oil furnace and tanks, we just disconnected them for now. We do have plans to eventually scrap them, we just haven’t looked into it. The total was \$23,500. The cost for the five heat pumps was \$22,000 and our new energy-efficient hot water heater cost \$2,000, minus the \$500 rebate from Central Hudson. My husband installed the hot water heater so there was no installation cost for that. Ten years of oil use would cost us \$30,000 if prices stay the same, and the \$3,000 oil bill I am referencing was now more than three years ago, before prices really started to increase. So, all in all, I would say payback is in less than 10 years. Also, I am not including the furnace maintenance fee we paid that was at least a few hundred dollars a year. The only servicing the heat pumps need, as far as I am aware, is filter changes that you can do yourself. Lastly, I have never had a generator. I have lived through many power outages in Garrison over 13 years. I put a lot of blankets on at night to sleep, use a camp stove to boil water and heat up food or melt snow to flush toilets, light some candles and in a day or two the power comes back on. No big deal.”

If everything is electric or battery and the power goes out, nobody can charge their cars and they can’t go anywhere. The power grid can barely hold up with what we do now. We’re a long way from getting away from fossil fuels.

Charlie Montgomery, *via Facebook*

Budget lessons

This is fabulous (“Got an Idea? Beacon Has \$10,000,” Dec. 2). Hats off to teacher Erin Haddeland. What a wonderful way to instill civic participation into her students’ lives: soliciting ideas for budget priorities, picking and choosing, compromising, researching and soon presenting the final ideas with backup to elected officials.

If only all our teachers were so creative and concerned. May Haddeland’s curriculum spread through all high schools and may some of her students be inspired to enter public service in the future. They’ve already had a taste for its fun and complexities. Bravo.

Gretchen Dykstra, *Cold Spring*

NEWS BRIEFS

Doctor Sued by Local Family Arrested

Teen girl and other former patients allege sexual abuse

The former medical director of a children’s hospital in Virginia who is being sued by a Philipstown teenager and other children over alleged sexual abuse was arrested on Dec. 3.

A grand jury indicted Daniel Davidow on Nov. 21, charging him with two counts of aggravated sexual battery of someone who is incapacitated and two counts of object sexual penetration by force. His accusers are two former patients at Cumberland Hospital for Children and Adolescents in New Kent County.

The Current chronicled the story of the Philipstown teen and her mother in November 2020. Both are among the plaintiffs in a \$127 million class-action lawsuit filed in October 2020 against Davidow, the company that owns Cumberland Hospital for Children and Herschel “Mickey” Harden, a former therapist at the hospital.

Harden committed suicide in February 2021 while being prosecuted for abusing a patient.

Bookkeeper Charged with \$715K Theft

DA says she ripped off auto body shop on Route 52

A Dutchess County woman was charged Wednesday (Dec. 7) with stealing nearly \$715,000 from Fishkill Auto Body on Route 52 while working as a bookkeeper for the company from December 2019 through May.

Suzanne Whitman, 55, of Poughkeepsie, is accused of depositing hundreds of company checks payable to “cash” in two personal bank accounts at Ulster Savings Bank and falsifying entries in the shop’s QuickBooks software to disguise the transactions as payments to vendors.

She is also accused of using Fishkill Auto Body’s credit card terminal to make unauthorized refunds to a card connected to her accounts at Ulster Savings, said William

Grady, Dutchess County’s district attorney.

Whitman was arraigned on one count of second-degree grand larceny, 627 counts of first-degree falsifying business records and 702 counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument, all felonies. She was released to the supervision of the county Probation Department.

Because she has a previous felony conviction, Whitman faces five to 15 years in prison, said Grady.

Dutchess Comptroller Audits Relief Funds

About 40 percent of ARP money spent

The Dutchess comptroller’s office on Dec. 6 released its third-quarter report on how the county is spending its federal COVID relief funding.

The county has received \$57 million in American Rescue Plan funds, with the final installment arriving this past June. As of Sept. 30, about 40 percent of the money had been spent or allocated.

The largest expenditures are the Youth Opportunity Union in the City of Poughkeepsie, of which \$4.9 million of \$10 million allocated has been spent; the Housing Trust Fund, which has not yet spent any of its \$9.3 million; homeless housing and case management (\$2.1 million of \$6.1 million); and an emergency communications system for the Department of Emergency Response (\$3.7 million of \$6 million).

The full report is available at bit.ly/Q3-dutchess-report.

Toys for Tots Underway

Local program in 29th year

Toys for Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps League, is in its 29th year in Philipstown.

New toys may be donated through Dec. 19 in Cold Spring at the Butterfield Library, Downey Energy, Drug World and Foodtown, and in Nelsonville at Deb’s Hair Design.

They will be distributed to Philipstown residents from 10 a.m. to noon on Dec. 20 at the Cold Spring Firehouse.

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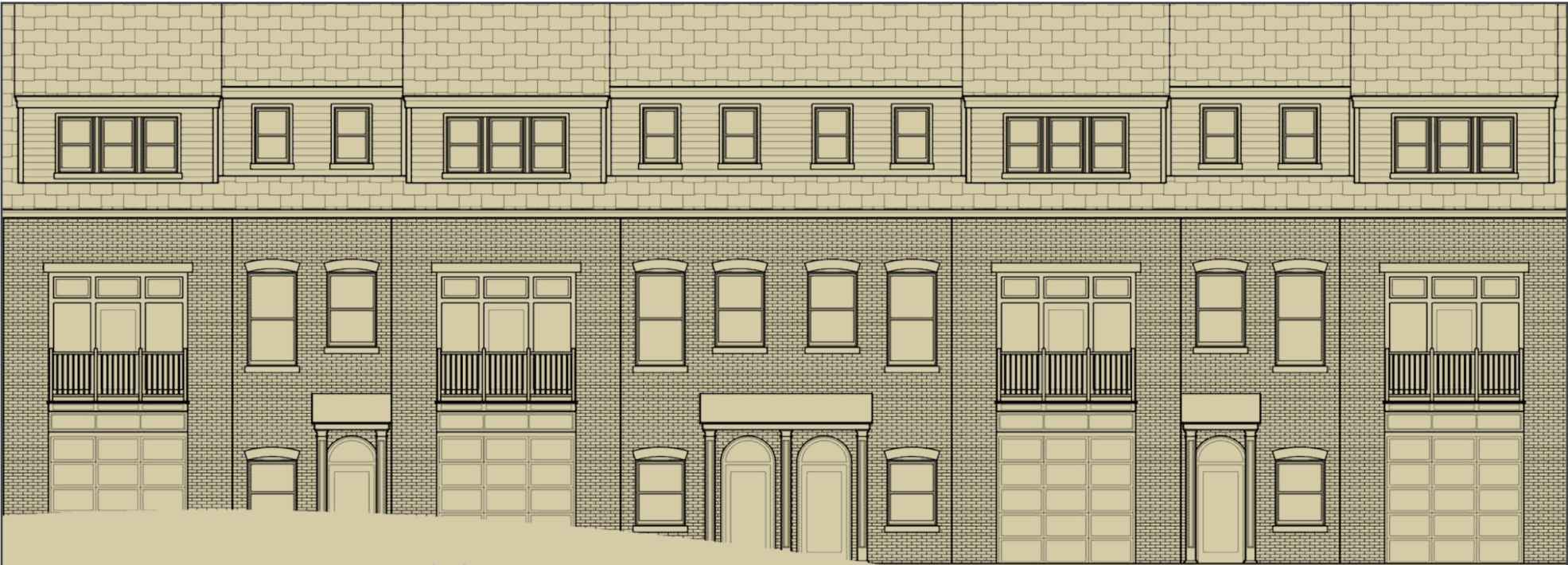
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Philipstown Approves Subdivision Rezoning

Developer agrees to share recreation space with town

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

On a 3-2 vote, the Philipstown Town Board last week rezoned 11 acres at the pending Hudson Highlands Reserve subdivision after the developer said that, without the change, he might allow soil mining.

Ulises Liceaga of Horton Road LLC also promised the town use of space for recreation in a commercial building he owns on Route 9.

The Hudson Highlands Reserve property, about 210 acres, is bordered by Route 9, Horton Road and East Mountain Road North. Liceaga, an architect, bought land along East Mountain Road North more than 20 years ago and built a weekend house. After acquiring more property, in 2014 he proposed Hudson Highlands Reserve, which he envisions as an upscale complex with 24 homes, each on its own 1-acre lot. Without the rezoning of the 11 acres from industrial-manufacturing to rural-residential, he would have been limited to 22 homes.

The Town Board acted at its Dec. 1 formal monthly meeting at Town Hall. Supervisor John Van Tassel and Councilors Robert Flaherty and Judy Farrell voted for the rezoning; Jason Angell and Megan Cotter opposed it.

Despite early and intense public interest in the project, when the Town Board held a public hearing on the rezoning in November, only one person spoke, encouraging the board to be wary. When an earlier owner of the 11 acres proposed soil mining operations there in 2012, neighbors objected.

As the Town Board discussed the rezoning request over the last several months, Van Tassel often cited a need to prevent industrial or mining activity from threatening Clove Creek, which borders the 11-acre tract. Granting the rezoning application “in exchange for taking 11 acres out of industrial-manufacturing and putting it into rural-residential is an opportunity we don’t always get,” he said Dec. 1.

Flaherty noted that, without the rezoning, the project would have 22 houses and that adding two more has “a minuscule impact on the environment.”

Cotter and Farrell asked whether the developer would provide anything tangible for the town in exchange for the rezoning. Farrell said that if Liceaga would “commit to some additional public benefit, that would make it an easier decision.”

Liceaga said the Route 9 commercial building once contained a yoga center that left gear behind and that he is willing to provide it to the town government for recreation or storage needs, and to donate a piece of playground equipment as well.

Town Attorney Stephen Gaba suggested

that the board get that promise in writing, which Liceaga offered to provide.

Van Tassel and Flaherty said they thought the developer’s verbal pledge was sufficient, but Angell said “it would make sense to take a look at that space and hammer out the details” of an agreement before voting on the rezoning request. He also asked whether, should the rezoning not occur, Liceaga might allow soil mining on the

11 acres in question.

“The answer is ‘yes,’ ” Liceaga replied, recalling that the former owner of the parcel referred to its soil as “gray gold” because it contains material in demand for septic systems. “If I can recover some money even before the [22] houses are built, I would consider that.” He later observed that “we are kind of on the clock for this.”

Hudson Highlands Reserve still awaits detailed site-plan scrutiny by the Planning Board and a future conversation with the Town Board over a road-grade concern.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS		
	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
Primary vaccinations:	76.0% Philipstown/CS: 87.5% Garrison: 82.4%	71.5% Beacon: 67.9%
Boosted:	16.3% Philipstown/CS: 24.5% Garrison: 19.4%	18.1% Beacon: 14.5%
Positive tests, 7-day average:	↓ 7.3%	↓ 9.4%
Number hospitalized:	3	↑ 22
Number of deaths:	138 ⁽⁰⁾	717 ⁽⁺⁴⁾
Source: County and state health departments as of Dec. 7.		

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Booming Beacon *(from Page 1)*

property owners, at last month's meeting. The vision has shifted "to provide a multi-purpose room — a blank slate for creative and thought-provoking output," he said.

If approved, the space would be comparable to the Beacon Elks Lodge or St. Rocco's Society, an Italian/American social club on South Chestnut Street, Hecker said.

Parking has been an issue since the project was introduced. A provision of the city's zoning code would allow the facility to rely on a combination of spaces at the nearby Tompkins firehouse and City Hall lots and on-street parking along Beekman Street, behind the venue. The hotel, which would be built as an expansion to the former rectory, will have 31 spaces on-site.

Hecker compared the space to the River Valley Arts Center in Wappingers Falls, which he said relies on off-site parking.

During the hourlong hearing, held Nov. 9, all of the feedback from the public was negative (although some Beacon residents sent written comments favoring the project to the Planning Board). In person, a recurring theme was that the developers are trying to "shoehorn" a project into a space too small to handle it.

Residents also scoffed at a traffic consultant's prediction that cars traveling to the venue would carry four passengers. "When was the last time you went to an evening event with four people in your car?" one person asked.

Others suggested that events catered to teenagers, for example, would create late-night traffic snarls on Wolcott (Route 9D). When it's time to pick up their children, parents will be "sitting there blocking the roads — not in parking lots, not waiting for shuttles, not in remote lots," said Clare Reed, who lives in nearby Hammond Plaza. "They're going to be on 9D or Beekman, and it's not going to be pretty."

Planning Board members questioned the developers' management plan, which the board said was incomplete, lacking informa-



A developer wants to subdivide a 1-acre parcel on Highland Place into five lots.

tion such as detailed hours of operation. An updated plan has been submitted; it shows that "maximum-capacity" events would be restricted to weekends, holidays and holiday eves. Limited capacity and smaller events would be permitted any day of the week.

The plans "completely ignore the residential community and families who live here," wrote the board presidents of Hammond Plaza and the adjacent River Ridge Views and The View complexes in a letter to the Planning Board. This section of Beacon is "the opposite of 'well-suited for commercial development,'" they wrote. "It is almost as if we don't exist."

Highland Place

The second hearing next week was to be on a proposal at 12 Highland Place, where a developer wants to subdivide a 1-acre lot with an existing home into five lots, with four new homes. The plan has angered neighbors, who say that Highland Place — a narrow residential street with five homes and no sidewalks — would never be the same. The hearing has been postponed with no rescheduled date given.

The lot borders Anderson Street on the west and Grove Street to the south, but steep slopes and a block-long retaining wall on Grove make access impossible anywhere but from Highland Place. Plans call for convert-

ing a driveway on Highland into a private road leading to driveways for the new lots.

The lot is within the habitat range of the Indiana bat, a state and federally endangered species.

If the developer is allowed to build a new "mini-community" on Highland, it will "destroy the quality of life" for others on the road, said Jodi McCredo, a neighbor and former City Council member, during the hearing held last month.

A group of neighbors that has collected more than 200 signatures protesting the project has clashed with the board over its review. The neighbors believe the Planning Board should step in before a developer effectively doubles the street's density, while board members have argued that they cannot overstep their charge.

"There's a big difference between what individuals think is appropriate, as far as what happens in their environment, and what we as a board can and cannot do as it relates to the specifics and the law around applications," Chairman John Gunn said during the November meeting.

However, Gunn added that he hoped the developer, who was not in attendance, would pay attention to the neighbors' comments. Speaking to the project engineer, Gunn said: "I implore you to go back to him and share what you've heard tonight."



An investment group would like to transform the former Reformed Church building into a hotel and event space. *File photos*

Gunn directed project officials to meet with the fire chief to determine if the proposed private road would allow sufficient access for emergency vehicles.

Mirbeau Inn & Spa

The board appears close to completing its review of Mirbeau's proposal to redevelop the historic Tioronda Estate on Route 9D, which includes the former Craig House psychiatric hospital.

The public hearings for the project have been completed. The developers appeared at the November meeting, noting that the first phase of the project includes the renovation of Craig House and construction of a spa building, 75 guest rooms and five cottages.

The developers said the site will have a walking trail network for guests and, in a reversal, a publicly accessible segment of the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail on the western edge of the property. Route 9D will also be widened, with a turning lane added.

Fishkill Avenue/Conklin Street

The Planning Board will continue its review of a project introduced last month, a lot merger at 393 and 397 Fishkill Ave. and 7 Conklin St. The project proposes a three-story, mixed-use building with 3,500 square feet of retail space on the ground floor and 12 apartments on the second and third floors.

Redistricting *(from Page 1)*

2020, Joe Biden won 52.9 percent of the presidential vote within the district's boundaries.

The current District 94 is represented by Kevin Byrne, the newly elected county executive for Putnam. Matthew Slater, a Republican and a supervisor for Yorktown, will take over the seat in January after defeating Kathleen Valletta, a Democrat, in November.

The revised Assembly maps represent a do-over for the IRC, whose Democratic and Republican members initially released competing proposals for New York's 26 congressional seats, the state Senate's 63 seats and the 150 seats in the Assembly.

After the deadlock, Democrats in the Legislature took over the process, creating their own version that was signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul. Republicans challenged those maps in court, and Patrick McAllister, a state judge in Steuben County, ruled in May that the Democratic maps violated the state constitution, which prohibits gerrymandering.

In upholding his decision, the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, also concluded that Democrats failed to follow the legal process for approving maps, which required that lawmakers first reject two plans by the commission. Even then, the court said, state lawmakers could only amend the commission's second rejected plan, and any changes could not affect more than 2 percent of the population in any district.

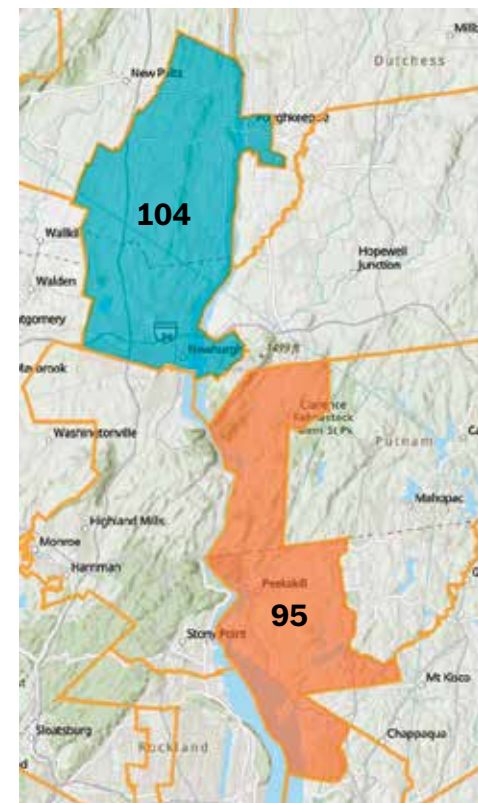
Under McAllister's oversight, a special master redrew New York's congressional and state Senate maps. The Court of Appeals' decision, however, did not cover the Assembly maps, so the state used them for the primaries in June and the general election in November.

Judge Laurence Love of the New York County Supreme Court issued a decision in September allowing the IRC to draft new boundaries for the Assembly, rejecting a request by two Democrats and a Republican, who sued to have the maps redrawn by a special master, such as happened with the congressional and Senate maps.

Love's order, which is being appealed, requires the IRC to hold public hearings in five cities (Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and White Plains); New York City's five boroughs; and Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island. The White Plains hearing is scheduled for Jan. 30; another will be held at Hunter College in New York City on Feb. 7. See nyirc.gov to register.

Once the hearings are complete, the IRC must submit its finalized maps to the Legislature by April 28. If the Legislature fails to approve the plan, or the governor vetoes it, the IRC will have until June 16 to submit a revised proposal. If that also fails, the state Senate and Assembly can make changes.

(right) **Assembly District 104 includes Beacon and is represented by Jonathan Jacobson. District 95 includes Philipstown and is represented by Sandy Galef and, as of Jan. 1, by Dana Levenberg. The proposal would create a new Assembly District 94 that would include both communities.**



Three Grads, Three Paths

Schools Unmask

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Electricity, Gas Rates Spike

New Dutchess Districts Would Flip Beacon Wards

Thames Creek, Thames Falls

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AROUND TOWN



MAKING THE ROUNDS — Santa paid a visit to the Highlands this past weekend as he prepares for the holiday. Clockwise, from left: (1) On the evening of Dec. 4, he made an appearance at the Cold Spring waterfront with Mrs. Claus, accompanied by members of the Cold Spring Fire Co.; (2) on Dec. 3, he was at Boscobel in Garrison, although he had to move inside because of the rain; and (3) on the morning of Dec. 4, he was at the Happy Valley Arcade in Beacon to pose with pets to benefit the Animal Rescue Foundation, which has seven dogs and 18 cats waiting for adoption. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Michael Turton (1) and Ross Corsair (2-3)



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CHRISTMAS CONCERT SERVICE
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DECEMBER 18 AT 11:00 AM
LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 PM
JOINT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH
COLD SPRING/SOUTH HIGHLAND
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 25 AT 11:00 AM
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE



Highlands
Choral Society
AT HIGHLANDS CHAPEL

216 Main Street
(Cold Spring/South Highland
United Methodist Church)

MUSIC • WORSHIP • SUNDAY SCHOOL • COFFEE HOUR

The Calendar

What I Made During the Pandemic



"Covid Cardboard Explorations,"
by Steven Altarescu



A quilt by Kacie Chang



An embroidered photograph
by Caroline Kaye



A hand- and machine-splatter painting
by Aaron Wolfe

Local artists share their isolation works

By Alison Rooney

What captured your attention during the seemingly endless hours of the lockdown?

The 16 friends and neighbors whose work is featured in a show at the Create Community gallery in Nelsonville turned to art. Drena Fagen, who owns the co-working space, was familiar with the challenges and small joys of the period. She closed her business for two years, reflecting an imposed isolation and, later, bringing a particularly rewarding person-to-person reconnection.

In October, four Philipstown neighbors who are professional artists — Richard Bruce, Evelyn Carr-White, Simon Draper and Kathy Feighery — installed an exhibit in the gallery. That inspired Fagen to again organize community exhibits. The *Pandemic Passion Projects* is a group show that included a call for entries. The guidelines were broad: anyone who made art "to stay sane" during the shutdown.

"We accepted everyone and were thrilled by the diversity of styles and the individual stories," says Fagen. "It shaped up to be an interesting, eclectic group of works."

Along with their submissions, artists were asked to submit brief personal stories to be posted with their works, explaining how creating the art boosted them emotionally during the lockdown.

Here is a sampling of those statements, edited for brevity.

Steven Altarescu

Covid Cardboard Explorations

With the enormous amount of cardboard boxes being delivered to our home with supplies during COVID, I saw an opportunity for collage. So many possibilities emerged. Form and folds emerge as scars and experiences each of us has endured and survived through this pandemic.

Kacie Chang

Quilts

When the world is sick. When your foot is broken and you can't stand up, you find you can cut up all your old clothes into perfect little pieces. And sew them back together.

Caroline Kaye

Embroidered photographs

I've been a photographer for years, but during COVID I stopped taking pictures and spent hours scanning old family photos. Embroidery has been a kind of meditation; spending so much time on one photograph feels like an intimate experience with the subjects, allowing me to have conversations with them that have been lost to war.

(Continued on Page 14)



Seniors from the first theatrical group Czajkowski organized in Philadelphia in 2017

Stories from Life

Philipstown seniors invited to create theatrical show

By Alison Rooney

One irony of growing older is that the people who have the best stories to tell are often the most isolated, with few opportunities to share their experiences.

Philipstown Aging at Home, a nonprofit founded in 2020, wants to change that dynamic with a theater piece created under the guidance of Kate Czajkowski, who is an experienced actor and director and a licensed social worker.

Czajkowski hopes to recruit 12 to 15 Philipstown seniors to meet at the Philipstown Recreation Center on Friday afternoons from January through April to create an ensemble around storytelling, movement and play. The working title is *More to Our Story*. There is no cost to participants.

"I use giant Post-Its to record our work on the walls of the space and to remind us of what we've made," explains Czajkowski. "Some themes surface again and again, while other stuff falls away."

Eventually, scenes emerge that reflect the experiences and shared interests of the ensemble, she says. The project will culminate in a performance for an invited audience of friends and family at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison.

Czajkowski will host an open house at the Rec Center from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 16 to answer questions. There's more information at paah.net.

She developed the program after realizing how much, as a teaching artist, she enjoyed directing students when they presented their original works. At the same time, as her parents grew older, she found herself spending a lot of time with members of the generations that preceded hers. In 2017, Czajkowski

pitched the idea of working with older people to the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia, where she had worked as an actor, in partnership with a nearby senior center.

The show that resulted was heavily informed by the #MeToo movement, she says. The positive response led to a second program that focused on resilience and faith.



Kate Czajkowski

Photos provided

"I realized, 'This is what I want to do for my next chapter,'" recalls Czajkowski, who moved to Philipstown with her partner in March 2020, at the onset of the pandemic shutdown.

During the initial sessions, the goal will be to have fun and to create space for everyone to contribute, Czajkowski says. She will pay particular attention to what topics engage the group.

"I don't want to walk into the room with an agenda," she says. "Something happens when you're generating material with other people. You become closer, with theater you build a bond. You develop a curiosity and an interest in everyone."

At a certain point, Czajkowski will meld components, then work with the participants to expand scenes, build transitions and set an order. "Finally, we rehearse what we've made," she says.

(Continued on Page 14)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 10
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. Timed tickets required. Also SUN 18. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors, \$4 ages 4 to 18; free for children younger than 4, health care workers and members)*

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 camera to get a photo with Santa at this benefit for the Putnam County Humane Society. *Cost: \$10*

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*

SAT 10
Holiday Sing

BEACON
5 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660
beaconsloopclub.org
Join the Sloop Club for a festive sing-a-long. Donations are welcome to support Common Ground Farm.

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*



Army vs. Navy Watch Party, Dec. 10

SAT 17
Wreath Laying Ceremony

FISHKILL
2 p.m. Fishkill Rural Cemetery
801 Route 9 | 845-831-0179
During this Wreaths Across America event, volunteers will place 400 wreaths on veterans' graves.

VISUAL ARTS

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
Paintings and photographs by Virginia Donovan and photographs by Mary Ann Glass will be on view. Through Feb. 5.

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.

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.

HOLIDAY SALES

SAT 10
Holiday Craft Fair

CONTINENTAL VILLAGE
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Firehouse
12 Spy Pond Road
Find homemade crafts, art and gifts.

SAT 10
Gift Show & Sale

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

SAT 10
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 SUN 11.

TALKS & TOURS

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, WED 14, THURS 15, FRI 16, SUN 18. Reservations required. *Cost: \$12*

(\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 6 to 18, free children 5 and younger, members)

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

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)*

SUN 11
Winter Tree ID Workshop

PHILIPSTOWN
2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge | 2880 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Lauren Martin will explain how to read bark, branch structure and other characteristics to identify trees. *Cost: \$5*

MON 12
A Look Inside: It's a Wonderful Life

COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
butterfieldlibrary.org
In this presentation sponsored by the Butterfield Library, Brian Rose will discuss how the classic film was made and its history. Register online.



THURS 15
Holiday Centerpiece Workshop

PHILIPSTOWN
6 p.m. Parcel Flower Co.
3052 Route 9 | theparcelflower.co
Make your own table decor to take home and learn the skills to do it again on your own. *Cost: \$95*

THURS 15
Zero Waste Gift Wrapping

GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
At this Sustainable Craft Night, attendees can wrap gifts or make wrapping materials to take home and use. Registration required.

SAT 17
Beacon's Memory Keeper

BEACON
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bob's Corner Store
790 Wolcott Ave. | beaconhistorical.org
Denise Van Buren will be signing and selling copies of an anthology she edited with 38 years of Beacon Historical Society newsletters by the late historian Robert J. Murphy.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 10
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 this outdoor workshop 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.

TUES 13
Holiday Gifts

GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
All ages and skill levels are welcome to use Makerspace tools during this monthly workshop. Children ages 12 and younger should be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

THURS 15
Poetry Club

COLD SPRING
2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Students in grades 5 and up can gather to share their work and develop ideas.

THURS 15
Winter Mugs

BEACON
3:15 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org
Students in grades 6 to 12 are invited to design and paint a mug for a holiday gift. Registration required.

SAT 17
Holiday Storytime

COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Cold Spring Bandstand
butterfieldlibrary.org
Children can join a Butterfield librarian for readings of *The Polar Express* and *Chanukah Lights Everywhere*.

SAT 17
Gingerbread Houses
GARRISON

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

Children ages 3 and older can make a delicious craft to take home.

SAT 17
Family Festival & Youth Theatre
GARRISON

3 – 7 p.m. Philipstown Recreation
107 Glenclyffe Drive | 845-424-4618
philipstownrecreation.com

Watch a performance of *’Twas the Night Before Christmas* at 3 p.m. followed by holiday games, crafts, karaoke and a pasta dinner with dessert. *Cost: \$15 per family*

STAGE & SCREEN

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. See Page 16. *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)*

SAT 10
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 SUN 11. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors)*

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.

WED 14
Sherry Vine’s Holiday Package
BEACON

6 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar
173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com

This “filthy and hilarious” holiday performance will include stories, songs and an appearance by JewLo, a new character. *Cost: \$45*

FRI 16
A Christmas Carol Panto
GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Written and directed by Christine Bokhour, this song and dance show promises to be fun for the entire family. Donations welcome.

SAT 17
A Christmas Carol
BEACON

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

Local performers and singers — Dimitri Archip, Kevin Bohl, Twinkle Burke, Bob and Lynn Costello, Ryan Dunn, Stella Hlad, Annalyse McCoy, Elizabeth Murphy, Gail Wauford and Frits Zernike — will stage Charles Dickens’ classic tale of redemption. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 18
The Nutcracker, Short and Sweet
PEEKSKILL

3:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

This hour-long performance is designed for children ages 3 and older. *Cost: \$20*

MUSIC

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 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*



A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Dec. 10

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
Vivaldi’s Gloria
COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Highlands Chapel
216 Main St. | highlandschapel.org

Join the congregation for a concert, followed by fellowship.

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)*

MON 12
Hannah Marks Quartet
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

Marks, on bass, will be joined by Morgan Guerin (tenor sax), Lex Korten (keyboards) and Connor Parks (drums) as part of Quinn’s weekly jazz series.

WED 14
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis
POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The band will celebrate the 35th anniversary of its first holiday album. *Cost: \$73 to \$113*

FRI 16
Chris Trapper
BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The acoustic troubadour will follow opener Canyon, a singer and songwriter. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 17
Handel’s Messiah
POUGHKEEPSIE

2 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Conductor Christine Howlett will lead the Hudson Valley Philharmonic in its eighth annual performance of the masterwork with soloists Lauren Frey, Allison Gish, Marc Molomot and Shavon Lloyd. *Cost: \$40 to \$60 (\$15 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 17
A Very Merry Country Christmas
PEEKSKILL

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

Jessica Lynn’s annual holiday show will feature dancers, marching bands, choirs and an appearance from Santa Claus. Call for tickets.

SUN 18
Songs of the Season
PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The Putnam Chorale will perform a concert of 18th-century holiday music. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 18
Holiday Hoot at Cafe Sizzle
BEACON

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

Goldee Greene & the Shades will

lead this celebration of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa that will include Cantor Ellen Gersh, the LuvBugs, Kwanzaa poetry, a Hanukkah puppet show, a gospel choir and a sing-a-long. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door; \$10 children)*

SUN 18
The Costellos
BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Lynn and Bob Costello and their band will perform its annual Christmas show with guests Scott Ramsey, Dimitri Archip and Chihoe Hahn. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

CIVIC

MON 12
City Council
BEACON

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

MON 12
School Board
BEACON

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

WED 14
Village Board
COLD SPRING

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

WED 14
Village Board
NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

FRI 16
Farewell Address
POUGHKEEPSIE

11:30 a.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | dutchessny.gov/RSVP

Marc Molinaro, newly elected to Congress, will share final thoughts as Dutchess County executive, followed by an open house at 2 p.m. Registration required by TUES 13.



Holiday Hoot, Dec. 18

Stories *(from Page 11)*

"This isn't a traditional play model with a narrative thread, although there is a structure and emotional flow," she notes. "We start with low stakes, small material-building exercises, like contributing a sentence of a group poem we write or other ways of getting comfortable with making material."

"Perhaps someone uses a gesture as part of telling a story and that gesture is taught to the group and becomes part of our vocabulary," she says. "Maybe these gestures are knit together in a dance to underscore a story, or as visual punctuation. There's a lot of choreography that can be done from a chair."

"There isn't a lead performer, which means that if someone doesn't show up, the work doesn't topple, it just changes. We are building from the materials of their lived experience, so they should be able to opt out of sharing something at the last minute without it being an issue."

Czajkowski says that "trauma comes up in the room, sometimes. But we aren't seeking out the pain points. We are there to share and bear witness to whatever comes up."

That's one of the reasons, she says, she decided to enroll at Hunter College to earn a degree in social work. (She also has an MFA in acting from Temple University.) "I needed to be better equipped to do this," she says.

"This is what I would like to do with my life," she adds. "There's this great untapped resource in our elders."

Creations *(from Page 11)*

Aaron Wolfe

Hand- and machine-splatter paintings

At the beginning of the pandemic I tried to preserve my excitement for leaves. Eventually I settled on making inks or watercolors with leaves by pureeing or cooking them. I also used mushrooms, walnut husks, decaying tree trunks, grass and flower petals. I started testing the inks by painting and then splattering them on watercolor paper. The splatter painting usurped my leaf excitement.

Stormy Gober

Masks: Real Life Super Powers

The pandemic was a weird time. Many of us were forced to confront ourselves and see everything positive and negative come to light among the isolation. We could discover the real-life human characteristics and abilities that inspire the "superhero worlds." These masks are some of those real-life super abilities you can see in everyday people.

Mary Lou Sussmeier

When the pandemic hit in 2020, I was a few years into my watercolor journey, but I had only been painting occasionally. The pandemic gave me the chance to spend a lot of time painting. I grew to love the medium and the process even more. It helped me to think positively in a very uncertain time.



"The Power to Protect," by Stormy Gober

Jill Corson

I'm a photographer. I'm also an avid gardener. I started a series of work in 2021, during the pandemic. I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in March 2021. While I recuperated after surgery, and after my chemotherapy sessions, I made photographs of the flowers in my garden. It was therapy for me to concentrate on beauty instead of how my body felt. This work continued into 2022, as we've transitioned into a new stage of the pandemic, and as I've become steadily healthier.

Nicholas Berger

I have been a working artist all of my adult life. Painting is a love-hate relationship — I'm never quite sure how I feel about any painting. During the pandemic



A basket by Shasta Crombie

I stayed the course and continued painting, at home, in my studio in Garrison. The lockdown gave me a reason to paint some local solitary scenes.

Shasta Crombie

I have been basket-weaving throughout the pandemic. I harvest from the wild, process the bark or inner wood or vine and then weave. Often, the plants I collect are from the yards of my neighbors in Cold Spring. Every plant behaves differently and there are so many types of baskets to make.

Jena Hershkowitz

Learning to knit in 2020 launched my pursuit of traditional skills, heritage crafts and the capacity to create "useful objects," especially by hand. Over the past few years, I am grateful to have found a global community of knitters and textile artists who demonstrate a future for our clothing that is beautiful, and one that isn't driven by petroleum and plastic.


Create Community is located at 11 Peekskill Road in Nelsonville. Pandemic Passion Projects, which continues through Jan. 7, is open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays by appointment (email messages@nycreativetherapists.com at least 24 hours in advance).

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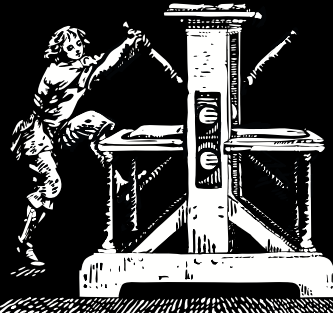
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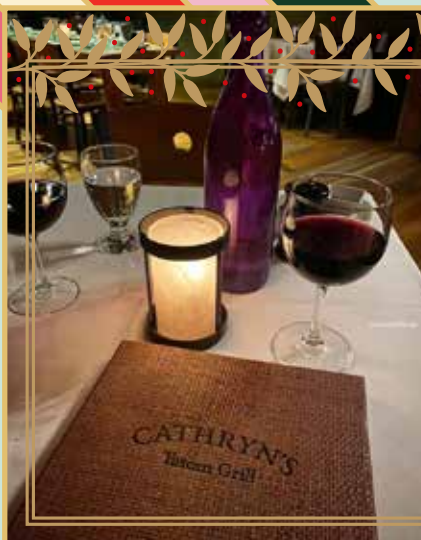
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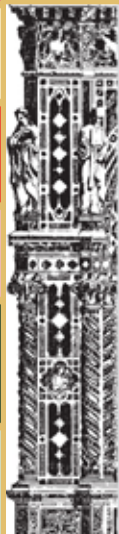
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Kids Set Scene for Depot Show

Production showcases sets by Storm King class

By Eamon Wall

The Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison is buzzing with activity. Several high school students paint sets, and a couple more hang triangle flag banners for a scene at a fair. These students, all in grades 10 to 12, are in Eliza Brown's set-design class at the Storm King School in Cornwall.

In the spring, Amy Dul, the executive director of the Depot Theatre, ran into Brown, who lives in Cold Spring, and asked if her students would like to design a set for Depot Theatre's Youth Players, a program that gives children and teenagers opportunities to work onstage and backstage for theater productions.

"We talked and decided that would be a great vehicle for her students to learn how to design a show and be able to come into a theater and put it up," said Dul.

That conversation became the impetus for a unique partnership. In October, Brown and her students started designing sets for the Youth Players' production of *Charlotte's Web*, which takes place on Saturday (Dec. 10) and Sunday (Dec. 11).

Brown had her students brainstorm ideas for the sets as a group, and in pairs they refined the elements and made models. The students presented the models in mid-November to Fay Pacht, director of the production. She helped fine-tune the designs, and then the students started building the pieces.

Annie Cosgriff, one of Brown's students, designed and created a double-sided fence, painted brown on one side and white on the other "so it flips with a scene change," she explained.

The students faced challenges. They had to create pieces at the right scale for the actors, who are shorter than adults, and avoid props whose size would "steal the spotlight," said Regina Bolanos, one of the students. They also had to consider each



Charlotte's Web cast members rehearse on a set designed by students at the Storm King School.



A student works on a set piece for the Depot Theatre's production of *Charlotte's Web*.



A model of the set for *Charlotte's Web*

Photos by E. Wall

other's ideas — "we had to come to a conclusion on what we all liked," she said.

Yusei Suzuki, a sophomore at Storm King, recalled the difficulty they had designing

the platform on which Charlotte stands. It was originally too small, interrupting the crew and actors as they entered and exited the stage. So, the students added a 2-foot-

by-3-foot section.

In addition to the Storm King School, students from Monroe-Woodbury High School in Central Valley, where Pacht teaches theater classes, made web and egg sac props.

Pacht also faced unique challenges in rewriting the show for the cast, which includes 16 actors from Garrison and Haldane who range in age from 8 to 12 years. To ensure that everyone had a part, she rewrote the script so that the story is told from the viewpoint of baby spiders talking about Charlotte. And because she could not use the music from the original movie, Pacht's husband wrote a score.

The production also relies on the talents of Haldane student Helen Hutchison, the stage manager, and Bryce Edwards, who runs lighting and sound.

The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison's Landing. *Charlotte's Web* will be performed at 2 and 4 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 11. Tickets are \$10 at philipstowndepottheatre.org.

Eamon Wall, a seventh-grader at Haldane, is a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program. Eliza Brown is his mother, and he is assisting with the lighting for the show.

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Roots and Shoots

Holiday Gifts for Gardeners

By Pamela Doan

It's a given that work gloves or a sun hat are stand-by favorites for gardeners. Trust me, I know. If you're looking for ideas to delight someone who has a passion for plants and soil, here are a few alternatives.



If your gardeners have a new patch of pollinator-friendly plants, help them get to know their caterpillars with *The Secret Lives of Backyard Bugs*. (The authors, Judy Burris and Wayne Richards, also wrote *The Life Cycles of Butterflies*.) Insects come with a pollinator garden, hopefully, and it's cool to get to know your visitors. I like the guide because it includes spiders, beetles and bees. The photos show their life cycles and share interesting facts, as well as identifying host plants each insect will need for food, laying eggs or habitat.

Register your yard on the Pollinator Pathway and surprise your family with a yard sign. Organizations such as the Phil-

ipstown Garden Club; Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners; and local libraries, schools and churches have joined forces to track connected landscapes. Make a pledge to forgo pesticides, grow native plants where you can and reconsider that your lawn and lawn care practices. Then, order a sign at pollinator-pathway.org/sign and to indicate your yard is on the pathway to inspire neighbors and visitors to learn more about what you're doing. It will make a nice gift to unwrap as a family. For more info, visit pollinator-pathway.org/towns-1/new-york.

Many of the lectures and classes that took place online during the pandemic shutdown are still there. Help your favorite gardeners grow their mind and skills in the offseason with a gift certificate for a class at the New York Botanical Garden. From the warm comfort of a couch, anyone can join a class covering soil science, garden design, plant propagation and many other useful subjects. See nybg.org/learn/adult-education.



Upgrade their tool sets with pruning shears sized for their hands — left or right — from Felco, a Swiss brand known for its quality. Pruning can be a tiring workout and ergonomics are important. A tool that is sized properly gives you the right amount of leverage and reduces strain. For a really nice gift, include a tool sharpener, oil and a holster. If you've ever tried to find pruning shears in the grass under a pile of forsythia branches, you'll know what I mean when I say a holster would be a genius accompaniment.

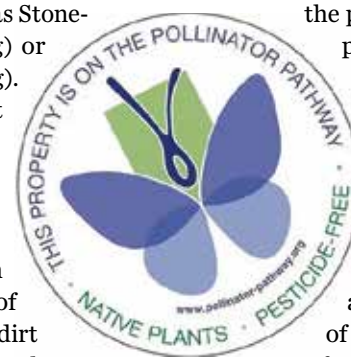
Support a nonprofit while giving a gardener the experience of plants with a membership to a botanical garden or organization that prioritizes horticulture and conservation such as Stonecrop Gardens (stonecrop.org) or Manitoga (visitmanitoga.org). Being able to regularly visit a site and observe changes throughout the season offers invaluable insights into plant communities and cycles.

Aprons are having a fashion moment and made me think of the practical use of wiping the dirt off my hands on something other than my pants when I'm gardening. A quick search

on the marketplace Etsy.com will uncover choices to suit any gardener's style, from prints to utilitarian. Pockets and a sturdy material that will hold up to repeated washings are a must.

For a gardener who is short on yard space and likes unique designs, consider *Hypretufa Containers*, by Lori Chips, which has step-by-step instructions on how to make troughs by combining Portland cement with perlite, peat and water. The porous containers can be formed to a design using shapes in the book as a foundation. *Potted: Make Your Own Stylish Containers*, by Annette Goliti Guterrez and Mary Gray, shares more than 20 designs from easily found materials that are affordable and repurpose other household items. Pair these books with bulbs, seeds or live plants as a special package.

Diana Beresford-Kroeger, known as the "Jane Goodall of trees," has a simple plan, the Global Forest Revival, to reforest the planet by having everyone plant a native tree each year for six years. The biochemist and botanist's book, *To Speak for the Trees: My Life's Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to a Healing Vision of the Forest*, addresses how the future of life on our planet is tied to forests; it is at the top of my winter reading list.



Veterans Banners Proposed for Cold Spring

Support, but also doubts, about initiative

By Michael Turton

Banners honoring U.S. military veterans may appear in several areas of Philipstown next spring if a project proposed by Cold Spring resident Cindy Trimble receives the necessary approvals.

Trimble, who coordinates Philipstown Hometown Heroes, a grassroots organization behind the initiative, appeared before the Cold Spring Village Board at its Wednesday (Dec. 7) meeting.

Trimble advocates placing banners throughout Philipstown, as well as on Route 301 west of Route 9 and along Main Street to the Hudson River.

The banners are 5 feet high and 2½ feet wide, she told the board. Printed on both sides, each could honor two veterans and include their names, photos and military service. They would be in place from before Memorial Day in late May until after Veterans Day on Nov. 11, then stored by each sponsor through the winter. Each banner costs \$250 and would be paid for by a family member, business or local organization.

Similar initiatives have been launched in many parts of the state and country, including Beacon, Kingston, East Fishkill and Wappingers Falls.

Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley told Trimble that she would need to submit an application and formal proposal for the

board to consider the idea.

Foley said the policy recently adopted by the village prohibiting flags and banners other than the U.S., POW/MIA and New York State flags applies only to village-owned properties. The banners would be mounted on poles owned by Central Hudson. However, Foley said the project may require approval from the Historic District Review Board and Zoning Board of Appeals before trustees could vote.

The Village Code prohibits anything that extends more than 12 inches from poles into the right-of-way. For that reason, the 30-inch-wide banners would likely require a zoning variance.

In addition, Main Street in Cold Spring is part of a national historic district.

"That is one of the concerns I have," Foley said, noting that 5-foot-high banners would be "a big visual presence" on Main Street.

"I intend to comply with everything, follow all the rules," Trimble said.

Foley said Trimble's best option may be to only place banners outside village limits, "where you are only dealing with the county or the state rather than the local ordinances."

During the public comment period of the meeting, the reaction was split. Several residents grew emotional in their support for the project, while others questioned the initiative as proposed and whether it is the best way to honor veterans.

Rick Peterson suggested that George Casey, a World War I veteran for whom the American Legion post is named, should be the first person honored.



The Daughters of the American Revolution installs banners in Beacon from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.

Lou Leonardi, who lives in Philipstown, said he "would be insulted if the village does not allow these banners."

Margaret Schatzle added: "This is a way to celebrate, to honor our veterans; we have freedoms because of them. I would hope the village would even waive the zoning requirements."

"I heartily endorse the banners," said Irene Pieza. "The symbolism goes a long way."

Others qualified their support.

"I agree veterans should be honored;

I'm not sure having banners up for seven months is a meaningful way to do that," said Celia Barbour, a Garrison resident, adding that after the banners are up for a while, people pay less attention to them.

Heidi Wendel of Nelsonville said having the banners up from Memorial Day to the Fourth of July would be "fabulous," but that displaying them for extended periods "can give an impression of militarism in our civil society," a view she said is shared by veterans in her family.

Robert Cutler, from Garrison, said he thought the banners were "a terrific idea" but suggested that "less is more," encouraging organizers to have them up only two months during the year.

Garrison resident Carol Marquand questioned the fairness of the proposal because, she said, it limits the veterans honored to those whose families or sponsors can afford the \$250 fee.

In other business, the board ...

■ Authorized using funds from the village's share of the American Rescue Plan Act program to refurbish filters at the water treatment plant on Fishkill Road.

■ Accepted the resignation of John Merante, a longtime member of the Recreation Commission.

■ Rejected a proposal to replace two benches at the 9/11 memorial in the Patriot Garden with those painted to resemble the U.S. flag.

■ Approved a proposal from Boy Scout Troop 437 to decorate Village Hall for the holiday season.



LET EACH CANDLE GLOW IN TRIBUTE



As part of Cold Spring Aglow, which takes place today, Dec. 9, from 5-8pm, residents lit up Main St. with candles and tributes, some of which are shared here.



Jane St. Aubin



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Muriel Stanley



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Anthony Dato



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Stephen Rutkowski



Jim Farnorotto



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continues to
inspire us today!
With affection &
gratitude,
Patty and Phil



A candle for my
sister, Emily, whose
light will shine with
me forever.



Shirley Chisholm



Remembering our
friend, Jerry Kaufer



To all the fire
fighters
keeping us safe
community wide,
we are grateful
for your service.



A light for
refugees
near and far



Mouths to Feed

Carrots, Baby

By Celia Barbour

Ever since we had kids, we’ve had carrots. For the past two decades, I doubt we’ve logged more than a week without carrots in our fridge. These have typically been so-called baby carrots, which (as most everyone knows) are actually adult carrots cut into small pieces, then tumbled smooth like river rocks. Modern life being what it is, you can watch a YouTube video of the entire field-to-bag transformation, including the part where “rough stone rollers” remove the carrots’ peels before they are conveyed to “smooth stone rollers” for polishing.



Baby carrots were invented in 1986 by Mike Yurosek, a California farmer who was fed up with having to throw away all his damaged, misshapen and thus unmarketable carrots — some 400 tons of waste per day. His clever solution to his predicament is the main reason why carrots are now the fourth most widely sold vegetable in the United States, after potatoes, tomatoes and onions.

For several centuries before baby carrots began to be packed into school lunches and piled onto crudité platters at catered events across America, the vegetable was considered a foundation of the great European cuisines. Carrots comprise a third of the onion-carrot-celery flavor base known as *mirepoix* in France and *sofrito* in Italy, and thus these literal roots are at the figurative root of hundreds of sauces, braises, soups and stews. But carrots grow happily in a range of climates, and keep well post-harvest, so they turn up in traditional northern European, Scandinavian,

and Middle Eastern dishes as well.

I haven’t cooked many carrots in my life (apart from the times when I minced them into a mirepoix or sofrito, or simmered them into a soup). I disliked cooked carrots intensely as a kid, perhaps because the ones I was offered were boiled and/or served as part of those packaged peas-and-carrots medleys. No cooked carrot dish subsequently came along to change my mind, until about a decade ago, when I tasted a phenomenal roasted carrot and avocado salad at ABC Kitchen in New York City.

The following summer, a cook at one of the summer-camp kitchens I managed suddenly realized that several dozen more people than he’d planned for would be showing up for dinner. His team had already made several gallons of chili — but it wouldn’t be enough. He needed to bulk up the meal, pronto, and had only a 25-pound bag of carrots on hand. I offered to help. He

asked if I could please boil them up.

“Absolutely not,” I said. Instead, I offered to roast them — over the outdoor fire (which is where all the meals at this particular camp were cooked), in a pan that was the size of a sled and looked like a sooty, banged-up gutter. I got to work, confident that I was channeling the ABC Kitchen recipe perfectly. I later discovered that I was way off. Indeed, I still have no idea where my inspiration for the particular combination of aromatics I used that day came from. What I do know is that the resulting dish was a huge hit. The campers ate every last carrot and pouted when we ran out of seconds.

Citrus makes this a perfect recipe for this time of year, and, because the dish can be eaten warm or at room temperature, it’s a great make-ahead for holiday tables. Regardless of season, I’m happy to have a delicious excuse to keep a supply of carrots in my fridge — even if the roots, like my kids, are no longer babies.

Roast Carrots with Citrus and Coriander



- 1 pound carrots, peeled, cut in half lengthwise if large
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 teaspoon coriander seeds
- ½ teaspoon red chili flakes, or to taste
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 large or 2 small bay leaves
- 2 small oranges, halved
- 2 lemons, halved
- Roasted sunflower and pumpkin seeds for serving, optional
- Crème fraiche for serving, optional

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the carrots and cook about 12 minutes, or until a knife pierces through them fairly easily.

Meanwhile, in a mini food processor, or using an immersion blender and small cup, mash the garlic, coriander, chili, salt and pepper, oil and vinegar to form a rough paste. (Alternatively, you can mince the solid ingredients together on a cutting board, dampened with a little oil, then mix in remaining oil and vinegar.)

When the carrots are done, drain and place in a roasting pan, in a single layer. Rub with the garlic-coriander paste, then tear the bay leaf and add the pieces. Place the citrus, cut side down, on top of the carrots. Transfer to the oven and roast about 35 to 40 minutes, or until the carrots are brown on the bottom.

If you want to serve immediately, use a pair of tongs to squeeze the juice from the citrus halves onto the carrots. Or allow the whole pan to cool to room temperature and squeeze by hand. Serve sprinkled with seeds, topped with a dollop of crème fraiche, if desired.

CUT YOUR OWN TREE

Here is a list of cut-your-own tree farms provided by the Putnam and Dutchess tourism departments. Days and hours vary; call before you go.

PUTNAM COUNTY

Cockburn Farm

1611 Route 9, Garrison

cockburnfarm.com

845-424-3574

Hardwick Tree Farm

213 Wood St., Mahopac

845-528-5814

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Abel's Tree Farm

435 N. Clove Road, Verbank

abelstrees.com

845-677-6395

Battenfield's Christmas Tree Farm

856 Route 199, Red Hook

christmastreefarm.us

845-758-8018

Bilmar Nurseries

26 Bilmar Boulevard,

587 Traver Road, Pleasant Valley

bilmarny.com | 818-968-6602

BJ's Christmas Tree Farm

14 Evergreen Path, Pleasant Valley

bjschristmastrees.com | 845-635-1587

Donald Wachenheimer Farm

291 N. Clove Road, Verbank

845-677-3474

Evergreen Farm

407 North Tower Hill Road, Millbrook

christmastreefarm.biz | 845-677-3785

Fabulous Firs Christmas Tree Farm

683 Van Wagner Road, Poughkeepsie

vanscottfarms.com

Closes for season Dec. 10

Hahn Farm

1697 Salt Point Turnpike, Salt Point

hahnfarm.com | 845-266-3680

Mike's Evergreen Forest

161 Walsh Road, Lagrangeville

facebook.com/Mikesevergreenforest

845-797-2128

Plains View Farm

21 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley

plainsviewtreefarm.com

845-485-4277

Primrose Hill Farm

203 Fiddlers Bridge Road, Staatsburg

primrosehillfarm.com | 717-519-7532

Solvang Christmas Tree Farm

80 Bedell Road, Poughkeepsie

solvangfarm.com

845-473-0224

LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (December 1872)

A group of Cold Spring retailers announced they would start closing two hours earlier, at 8 p.m. except on Mondays [payday] and Saturdays.

A teenager was knocked unconscious when his slide down the Main Street sidewalk ended when his sled hit a tree. Dr. Murdock was summoned and — to make matters worse — the lad needed surgery to repair a ruptured scrotum.

A large group traveling from Cold Spring to the installation of the Rev. J.L. Scott at the Presbyterian Church in Matteawan [Beacon] refused to divide when the sleigh driver insisted he could only accommodate the weight of 16 passengers at a time, so he returned to the stable and the party took the 5:51 a.m. milk train.

While eggs with two yolks were not unusual, one of George Purdy's hens produced an egg encased in a second shell.

A holiday ad from *The Cold Spring Recorder*, December 1897

Purdy also found a bird's nest with a strip of *The Recorder* and a ballot for supervisor woven in its web.

A gale left the Norwich, a steamer that left Catskill towing 30 barges loaded with coal, along the Cold Spring shore with only two still attached. The others sank, grounded on the shore or drifted with the currents, becoming covered in ice from the waves. The loss was estimated at 3,500 tons valued at \$25,000 [about \$610,000 today].

The officers of the Cold Spring Library Association announced they would take

advantage of a new state law that allowed a town or village to collect a library tax of up to \$1 from each voter, and then up to 50 cents annually.

Residents of Cherry Street, west Paulding Avenue and north Chestnut Street complained that, because of the lack of pressure in their neighborhood water pumps, they were forced to walk to Main Street every day.

William Hustis hired a contractor to make about \$1,000 in improvements to his North Highlands home but, *The Recorder* noted, the costs had reached \$2,500 "and the work still goes on."

The Recorder reported that the Friday before Christmas was lively. "Main Street, from the Town Hall to the dock, was filled with sleighs and sleds, while the walks were in constant use by pedestrians. The sleighing was excellent, the temperature moderate and the near approach of Christmas brought hundreds of farmers from a radius of 6 miles to our market."

Gen. Egbert Viele sued Putnam County Sheriff Richard Horton, accusing him of coddling a suspect in the kidnapping of Viele's daughter by his estranged wife. According to news reports, two men involved in the abduction were arrested, and Viele claims Horton told one suspect he could put in a good word for him with the grand jury. [Viele is buried in the pyramid vault in West Point Cemetery.]

Professor Palmer shared his illuminated photographs at Town Hall but the quality of the gas in the lamps "failed to do justice to the views," *The Recorder* said.

A band of swindlers that had recently told an elderly couple in Haverstraw that they were police officers searching for counterfeit money and removed all the cash in the house for "examination" (and left a receipt) showed up in Garrison to run the scam on Erastus Mowatt. However, their target had wisely only recently deposited all his cash in the bank.

125 Years Ago (December 1897)

The insurance agency Wood and Southard distributed its 1898 calendars.

Richard Gregg removed a boulder at the top of a small hill on the Garrison road to make it wider and was considering blasting the rocks at the bend of the road that ran parallel with Indian Brook.

The Haldane Board of Education discussed closing the school early for the holidays because of an outbreak of scarlet fever. The illness was fatal for Samuel Riggs Jr., 7, of Nelsonville.

A burglar broke into the Cold Spring post office overnight and stole \$33 in stamps, although the postmaster noted that \$24 of them could only be used to mail periodicals or to pay postage due.

The next evening, a group of young men, convinced there was a prowler outside Donohue & Crawford's store, organized a posse armed with shotguns, revolvers, axes, crow-bars, picks, shovels and lanterns and searched nearby bushes and barns without success.

Several train cars filled with Christmas trees passed by the Cold Spring station.

James Smith left town to spend the winter in Colorado.

William Brower and Anna Hulse were married at South Highlands Methodist Episcopal Church in Garrison. After a short wedding trip, the couple moved in with the groom's mother.

A meeting was held at Academy Hall to discuss conducting night courses over the winter in mechanical engineering, geometry, grammar and other practical subjects.

Charles Pelham Jr. sold his newsstand at the corner of Main and Garden streets.

The New York Central and Hudson River Railroad ordered station agents to crack down on smoking in the baggage rooms.

The railroad began to settle claims by victims of a wreck in October south of Garrison that killed 19 people. John Ryan of Jersey City, who suffered minor injuries, received \$2,500 [\$90,000], while, *The Recorder* noted, "each dead Chinaman was valued at \$2,000" [\$72,000]. [Eight Chinese workers were among the fatalities.]

William Devos, the superintendent of Craggside [now the Haldane campus], shipped mushrooms grown on the estate to Gen. and Mrs. Butterfield at their winter home in New York City.

Edward Meeks, who had been in London for the previous year as a representative of the Smith Premier Typewriting Co., returned to Cold Spring.

The Nelsonville school added a practical business course to its curriculum, modeled on the methods of the Rochester Business

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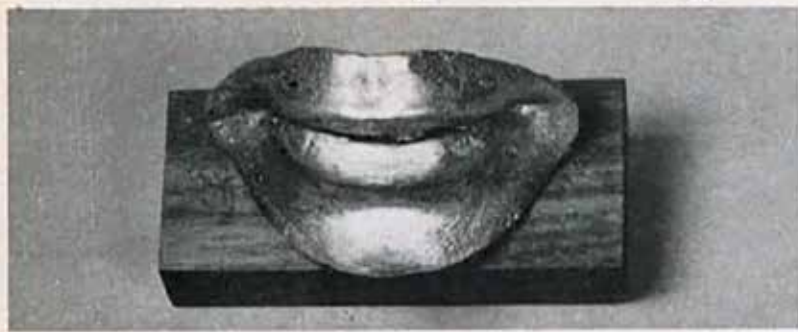
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A 1972 ad for personalized bronzed lips produced on South Mountain Pass in Garrison.

via Delia Freeman via Philipstown Neighbors via #GotWeird

University.

Following the opening of a new section of the village, lots were sold on Mountain Avenue, Orchard Street, Locust Ridge and Cedar Street. The purchasers were all locals except for a lawyer from New York City who bought three parcels.

A troupe of Black performers, including May Webber, age 9, presented *Uncle Tom's Cabin* at Town Hall. "There is a good company of colored dancers, cake walkers and singers," reported *The Recorder*.

After missing school for a year, Jimmie Mosher was deposited by the truant officer with Miss Rosell, the teacher at Davenport's Corners in North Highlands.

The Recorder began publishing with a Potter drum cylinder press, driven by a two-horsepower kerosene engine. It had a capacity of 1,800 impressions per hour.

As a Christmas present, the employees of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad presented Samuel Sloan with a gold tea set valued at \$16,500 [\$600,000]. Sloan, who had a summer home in Garrison, had been president of the railroad for 30 years.

Henry "Buttons" Madison, a well-known

vagabond who wandered the shores of the Hudson River, when in Philipstown would share breakfast with Capt. Metcalfe, lunch with Charles de Rham and supper with Mrs. Fairfield Osborn before retiring to the stables of her estate.

100 Years Ago (December 1922)

The Men's Club of the Presbyterian Church held an evening of readings from the works of Sir Walter Scott (below).



A burning cross appeared on Table Rock on Bull Hill late on a Sunday evening. *The Recorder* surmised it was "the work of the ridiculous Ku Klux Klan or of the more familiar but ill-advised clan of practical jokers."

The *Recorder* noted that the Philipstown settlement in Daytona Beach, Florida, was

growing each winter.

The last water line connection was made to supply the fire hydrants in Nelsonville.

The Cold Spring Village Board asked residents to separate and tie the loose paper in their trash because it was blowing all over the garbage dump at Sandy Land.

50 Years Ago (December 1972)

A firm on "South Mountain Passage" in Garrison was advertising personalized bronze lips by mail order as Christmas gifts. "No other girl has ever given him this, no other ever can." The kits were \$21.75 each, or \$23.75 with a walnut base.

Several Philipstown residents honored Alexander Saunders for his work with Scenic Hudson by presenting the Butterfield Library with a collection of more than 100 books on conservation and ecology.

James Carter, the principal at Haldane, announced that, going forward, school closings due to bad weather would be announced on local radio stations rather than by sounding the whistle at the Cold Spring Fire Co.

The Nelsonville Village Board voted to adopt a zoning ordinance. It was the last municipality in Putnam County not to have one.

The Cold Spring Village Board discussed a proposed local law to limit public demonstrations to 100 people.

After receiving a \$12,850 bid to repair the main water storage tanks in Continental Village, water district personnel and local workers did the job for \$3,900.

The Haldane school board accepted the resignation of a longtime member who had been asked to step down because he had attended only one meeting in four months.

25 Years Ago (December 1997)

The Cold Spring/Garrison Chamber of Commerce opened a 700-square-foot office at 1 Railroad Ave. It noted that it might create a weekend information booth staffed by seniors.

The Philipstown Town Board announced

that Joseph Percacciolo would retire as highway superintendent as of Dec. 12 and appointed an interim to serve out the final two years of his four-year term. The superintendent had said in February that he planned to leave. However, critics noted his resignation letter was dated Nov. 12, just after the election, which kept the position off the ballot.

Bell Atlantic Mobile sued Philipstown, the Town Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals in federal court over a newly enacted moratorium on the construction of cell towers. Bell Atlantic wanted to build towers on Albany Post Road in Garrison and at the intersection of Routes 9 and 301 in the North Highlands.

Cold Spring hired Conservation Technologies to "walk" the 15 miles of village water pipes with electronic microphones to find leaks.

Although the Philipstown Recreation Department had denied an application from the newly formed Cold Spring Antique Dealers Association to hold two outdoor shows at Mayor's Park that it expected would attract up to 2,000 people each, the Village Board said it would consider the request.

After nearly 10 years as principal and superintendent at the Garrison School, Craig Onofry took a position as superintendent of the Scottsville district near Rochester.

The Cold Spring/Garrison Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of its Merchant Window and Home Holiday Decorating Contest: 55 Parrott St. was most traditional; 34 Garden St. was most angelic; and 78 Highview Terrace and 31 Post Road tied for most creative. Among businesses, The Everlasting Shop on Route 9 was most traditional; The Foundry Cafe was most angelic; and Houlihan Lawrence was the most creative.

Danny Knitzer, a 1994 Haldane grad, finished his second season as a wide receiver with the Orange County Bulldogs, a semi-professional football team based in Middletown. The team finished 15-0 and won the United Football League title.

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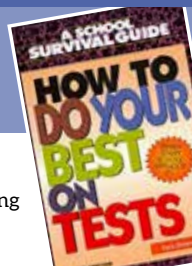
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SPORTS

VARSITY SCOREBOARD

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Saugerties	53
Beacon	44
Monroe-Woodbury	34
Beacon	24
Wallkill	58
Beacon	32
Beacon	42
Chester	33
Brewster	53
Haldane	27
Bronxville	31
Haldane	24

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Haldane	71
Marlboro	38
Cervone (19), Murray (10)	
Haldane	61
Blind Brook	57
Nachamkin (19), Bradley (19)	
Tuckahoe	57
Haldane	56
Cervone (17), Nachamkin (13)	
Beacon	67
Chester	60
Philipbar (18), Beato (16)	

BOYS' BOWLING

Middletown	5
Beacon	0
Beacon	5
Roosevelt	0

GIRLS' BOWLING

Beacon	5
Middletown	0
Roosevelt	5
Beacon	0

BOYS' SWIMMING

Warwick	96
Beacon	71
Beacon	86
Marlboro	74

OBITUARIES

Spiros Angelopoulos (1963-2022)

Spiros Peter Angelopoulos, 59, of Garrison died Nov. 13 of pancreatic cancer.



He was born Aug. 1, 1963, in Montreal, the only child of Peter and Helen Angelopoulos. The family lived in Canada and the Bronx before settling in Ossining, where Spiros was raised. He was working as a stockbroker on the New York Stock Exchange during 9/11 before transitioning to other businesses, most recently working as a commercial real estate agent for CR Properties in Poughkeepsie.

Spiros married Anita Hall in 1995 and the family settled in Garrison, what he liked to call “a little piece of heaven” — the river, the woods, a place where friends become your family.

Spiros was always available when anyone called. He loved cars, hockey, airplanes, tennis, fishing, good food and wine, and, of course, his family and friends.

Along with his wife and mother, of Tarsina, Corinth, Greece, Spiros is survived by his children, 2nd Lt. (U.S. Army) Alexandra Angelopoulos of Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Peter Angelopoulos of Garrison; his in-laws, Nancy and Warren Hall of Poughkeepsie; and a sister, Allison Miller (O’Neal) of Deerfield, Illinois.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Dec. 16 at Saint Basil Academy, 79 St. Basil’s Road, in Garrison. Memorial donations may be made to Saint Basil Academy (sbagoa.org) or the gastroenterology department of NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital (nyp.org).

Brian Morse (1962-2022)

Brian R. Morse, 60, died Nov. 11 at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence in Newburgh.



He was born in Beacon on Nov. 2, 1962, the son of Richard and Doris (Robinson) Morse. He worked for IBM and GlobalFoundries in East Fishkill. He enjoyed rooting for Florida State University and had a passion for history, especially the

Civil War. He loved to bowl and golf. Along with his parents and stepmother, Helen Morse, he is survived by his siblings, Sherry Gillen (David), Darlene Fantini (Steve), Keith Morse (Lorraine), Stacey Craig (Jeremy), Kim Morse (Ian Gross) and Jay Hutson (Jackie). A graveside service was held Nov. 15 at St. Joachim Cemetery.

Barbara Penzetta (1941-2022)

Barbara Penzetta, 81, a longtime resident of Beacon, died Nov. 16 at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence in Newburgh.



She was born Jan. 3, 1941, in Poughkeepsie, the daughter of Raymond and Mary (Klim) Smith. On Feb. 14, 1960, she married Anthony “Tony” Penzetta.

Barbara worked for the Beacon City School District and retired as a secretary for the Board of Education.

In addition to her husband, Barbara is survived by her children, Tracey Yeaple (Chris) and Nick Penzetta (Marjorie); her grandchildren, Gabriela Penzetta, Olivia Yeaple, Jessica Penzetta and Emma Yeaple; and her brother, Raymond Smith (Barbara).

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 19 at St. John the Evangelist in Beacon, followed by interment at St. Joachim Cemetery.

Other Recent Deaths

PHILIPSTOWN

Barbara	Mark Pidala, 58
Cardaropoli, 81	Dick Polich, 90
Leo Denault, 95	Richard Scully, 98
Frank Milkovich, 88	Sue Tudor, 82
Rosina Parcesepe, 104	Suzanne Willis, 82

BEACON

Joseph Ahlbeck, 79	Bill Inness, 75
Anife Capollari, 70	Brian Morse, 60
David Christian, 53	Brenda Opie, 65
Bill DiCastro, 78	Barbara Penzetta, 81
Joan Greco, 81	Christina Robb, 48
Bob Hansen, 74	Carmen Rodriguez, 63

For more obituaries, see [highlandscurrent.org/obits](#).

Current Classifieds

FOR RENT

GARRISON — Looking for retired female senior in Garrison as roommate. Private room and bath, TV and computer. Very reasonable. Rent in exchange for help with errands and minimal help around the house. I love movies, art, music and cooking. I have a very friendly German Shepherd. References required. In the ground swimming pool to enjoy spring and summer. Call 845-630-7924.

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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)

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](#).

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Singer Lovett

5. *Ben-Hur* studio

8. Beanies

12. *Madam Secretary* actress

14. Opposite of “sans”

15. Very hungry

16. Gambling city

17. Coq au —

18. Painter Georges

20. Watched surreptitiously

23. Pot covers

24. Any time now

25. Stuffed Italian pasta

28. Boy king

29. Doctrine

30. NYPD alert

32. Gulches

34. Potter’s medium

35. New newts

36. Tint

37. Import duty

40. JFK info

41. Portent

42. Enraptured

47. Theater award

48. Eternally

49. Variety

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15									16			
			17				18	19				
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	32		33						34			
			35					36				
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43			44	45	46	
47					48							
49					50				51			

50. Still, in verse

51. Playwright

9. Say it’s so

10. Elizabeth of *Jacob’s Ladder*

11. Highlander

13. Oklahoma city

19. Redact

20. Retired jet

21. Serve coffee

22. Greek vowel

23. Highway divisions

25. Cheap way to live

26. Chorus syllables

27. Apple tablet

29. Squabble

31. “See ya!”

33. Like marble

34. Great divides

36. Commotion

37. Grabbed

38. Both (Pref.)

39. Check

40. Divisible by two

43. St. crosser

44. Weed whacker

45. Notable time

46. Lair

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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 bonanza (7)

2 one conspiring on a plan (7)

3 “spaghetti” movie (7)

4 Rumer and Tallulah’s mom (4)

5 fierce agitator (9)

6 provisions (8)

7 luxuriousness (11)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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

1. TWINGE, 2. EDUCATES, 3. ELEPHANTS, 4. CHOCOLATY, 5. CREAKED, 6. TORPIDITY, 7. BARREL

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

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Coach Christina Dahl has her entire roster returning from last year.



Haldane lost three starters but has seven seniors.

Photos by S. Pearlman

BEACON

PREVIEW: GIRLS' BASKETBALL

HALDANE

By Skip Pearlman

The Bulldogs return with last year's lineup intact — Beacon didn't lose any players to graduation. But the team remains young, without a senior on the roster.

Leading the squad will be captains Daveya Rodriguez (sophomore), Reilly Landisi (sophomore) and Devyn Kelly (junior). Sophomores Lila Burke and Rory LaDue, and junior Shadaya Fryar also saw time in the starting lineup last season.

"Reilly is a great ball handler, and one of our better shooters," said Coach Christina Dahl. "Daveya is tall, and causes problems with her arm span. She's great on defense and rebounding, and her confidence is growing. Rory and Lila have also been working hard on their defense. The other girls — Shy'Anne Kush, Kiarra Rodriguez, Rayana Taylor and Alex McCollum — have all been working hard."

Dahl said she will be looking for the team to make steady improvement.

"We always have high expectations, and we feel lucky to be returning our whole team," she said. "And we're adding a freshman [Erin Cleary] into the mix. The girls have been together since seventh grade and have gained a lot of experience in the last year."

The team had a rough start, losing its first three games, which were all on the road. The Bulldogs opened with a 53-44 loss at Saugerties on Dec. 1, with Landisi's 11 points leading the team. Kelly added 10 and Fryar had nine.

After being down 15 points at halftime, "we made some good adjustments to come within two points," Dahl said. "We showed a lot of intensity, but fell short in the last couple of minutes."

Two days later, Beacon fell, 34-24, to Monroe-Woodbury. Landisi led Beacon with seven points, and LaDue and Kelly each added five. On Tuesday (Dec. 6), Beacon dropped a 58-32 decision at Wallkill. Rodriguez scored 11 points and Landisi had 10.

"That was a tough game against a quality opponent," Dahl said. "We lacked intensity on both ends of the court, and Wallkill took advantage. We're looking for the girls to start playing with more cohesion."

Beacon opened its home schedule on Thursday (Dec. 8) with a 42-33 win over Chester and will travel to O'Neill on Tuesday (Dec. 13).



Reilly Landisi is a captain for the Bulldogs, along with Daveya Rodriguez and Devyn Kelly.

Coming off an 8-13 season that ended in the Section I, Class C playoff semi-finals with a loss to Yonkers Montessori Academy, the Blue Devils enter the season with experienced players and a new coach.

The squad lost starters Marissa Scanga, Maddie Chiera and Molly Seigel to graduation but returns senior Mairead O'Hara and junior Camilla McDaniel.

O'Hara, along with seniors Amanda Johanson and Betsy Cates, who also return from last year, will be captains. Senior Moretta Pezzullo and junior Ruby Poses also return. Joining the team are seniors Carmella Cofini, Chloe Rowe and Maddy Gardephe and ninth-graders Marisa Peters



Mairead O'Hara and Amanda Johanson are the Blue Devil captains, along with Betsy Cates.

and Kayla Ruggiero. Coach Ed Crowe, who succeeds Jessica Perrone, believes the Blue Devils can continue improving without skipping a beat. "We play a very tough schedule, but these girls are prepared, and they'll be ready to go. I think we can win the sectional championship."

"Mairead, Betsy and Amanda can all shoot well, they rebound the ball at a good clip and they're good finishers," Crowe added. "They play good defense, which is what our team will be modeled around — 32 minutes of good defense, being able to switch defenses, switch presses. Our offense will come from our defense, so we'll look to push in transition, and get up and down the court."

Crowe coached junior varsity basketball at O'Neill High School, but this will be his first stint as a varsity basketball head coach. He's coached the boys' lacrosse team at Haldane for eight years and returned as coach of the girls' soccer team this past fall.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be here," Crowe said. "I love this group of kids. They're hardworking, and I enjoy coming to practice every single day. They're just a fun group to work with."

Haldane opened its season Nov. 30 with a 53-27 loss at home to Brewster. O'Hara and Cates each scored six points and Ruggiero added five.

"Brewster is a Class A school, and much bigger," Crowe said. "We had a hard time converting on the offensive end and breaking their press."

The Blue Devils fell at Bronxville on Wednesday (Dec. 7), 31-24. They travel to Woodlands today (Dec. 9) and will host Clarkstown South at 6 p.m. on Tuesday (Dec. 13).