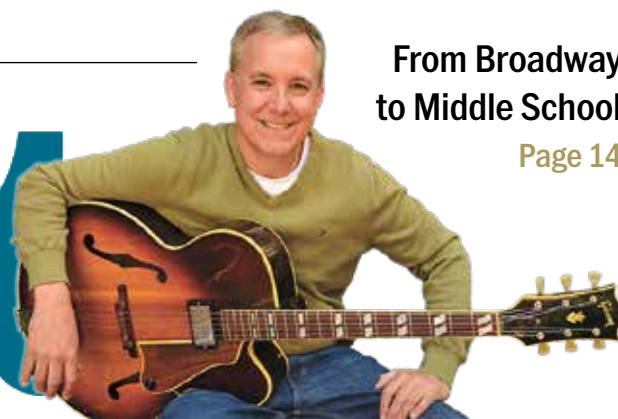


The HIGHLANDS Current



DECEMBER 16, 2022

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

Support our nonprofit: highlandscurrent.org/join



TRAIN SAFETY — Sen. Charles Schumer visited Garrison on Dec. 9 to advocate safer Metro-North crossings. The Manitou stop on the Hudson line is one of five in Putnam and Dutchess counties that will soon be upgraded at a cost of \$4.4 million. The funding will come from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which includes \$9 billion for rail safety. Schumer, who is the Senate majority leader, said he also is pushing for \$45 million to enhance positive train control (PTC) technology to automatically slow engines in emergencies. Schumer was joined at a news conference at the Manitou Station by Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery (right), whose husband, Jim Lovell, was killed in a 2013 crash that might have been prevented with PTC in place. *Photo provided*

Montgomery Blasts Attack on Wrongful- Death Reform

*Putnam legislator cites
personal experience with issue*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown, last week rebuked the majority of her colleagues who oppose a revision of an 1847 state law that limits financial compensation to survivors in the wrongful deaths of loved ones.

She commented in Carmel at the Legislature's Dec. 6 formal monthly meeting in regard to the Grieving Families Act, passed in June by the state Senate and Assembly with bipartisan support. It awaits action by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

Five members of the nine-person Putnam Legislature signed a Nov. 30 letter asking Hochul to veto the legislation, claiming its

(Continued on Page 3)

Fjord Trail Shares Early Parking Report

*Consultants recommend
new lots, shuttle service*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Nearly 500,000 people visit the Hudson Highlands State Park each year, which may feel like a lowball to anyone attempting to drive past or hike Breakneck Ridge on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

Managing and redirecting that sprawl is one of the goals of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail project, a 7.5-mile linear park that will connect Cold Spring to Beacon along the Hudson River. Critics have raised concerns that the project could instead contribute to the problem, although trail officials insist it will alleviate the dangerous weekend glut of vehicles and pedestrians along Route 9D near Breakneck and Little Stony Point.

Construction on the Fjord Trail, which is

(Continued on Page 6)

Dutchess Budget Approved — With \$25M for Stadium

*DCC tuition plan proposed
by Beacon legislator fails*

By Jeff Simms

The Dutchess County Legislature approved the county's 2023 budget by an 18-7 vote on Dec. 8; County Executive Marc Molinaro, who will vacate office next month to represent the 19th District in the U.S. House of Representatives, signed the \$587.7 million spending plan on Wednesday (Dec. 14).

Notably, the budget includes a 12 percent property tax rate decrease — the eighth straight rate reduction — and, at \$99.45 million, the lowest property tax levy in 14 years. It also included a last-minute amendment, a \$25 million allocation to fund continued upgrades at Dutchess Stadium, that rankled Democratic legislators, only one of whom voted for the budget.

In a statement on Thursday, the county executive said he was “disheartened” that seven Democratic legislators, including Yvette Valdes Smith and Nick Page, whose districts include parts of Beacon, voted against “such a beneficial spending plan.”

Molinaro's initial proposal included \$15

million for the stadium, which is the home of the Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees. However, legislators learned early in the week before the Dec. 8 meeting that the item had been pulled from the budget. In its place, Legislator Will Truitt, the Republican majority leader, introduced the \$25 million amendment minutes before legislators were to vote

on the budget, and after two opportunities for public comment had passed.

Valdes Smith, who is the minority leader in the Legislature, called the stadium spending exorbitant. “It speaks volumes that this is something we can just throw money at without doing our due process,” she said this week. “It doesn't seem fair to the taxpayers.”

(Continued on Page 18)



The Renegades play at Dutchess Stadium on Route 9D outside of Beacon.

HVR photo

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: BONNY CARMICINO

By Chip Rowe

Bonny Carmicino, who lives in Cold Spring, is president of the Association of Sewing and Design Professionals.

Did you sew as a child?

I learned when I was 4. I made my first dress when I was in kindergarten from fabric my mom had given to me to make a tablecloth. I grew up on a farm in Walla Walla, Washington; my parents said they would only pay for me to go to a local college, but I wanted out of Dodge. So I told them I wasn't going to college. There was an announcement at school that the local congressman was looking to hire a page, so I applied. It turned out you had to be a rising senior, so I didn't get it, but on the Monday after I graduated, his office called and offered me a job as a staff assistant. So I moved to Washington, D.C., to work for Rep. Tom Foley, who was the majority whip.

How did you end up at MIT?

I was always good at math and science, and a person I worked with in D.C. suggested I apply. Do you know any philosophy on the concept of possible possibilities? Nobody from Walla Walla had ever gone to MIT. I had thrown away the brochure. I got in and I went. After a few years, I was tired of engi-



neering, so I took a year off and worked in the fabric store, then came back and got my degree in philosophy. MIT put together resume books of graduating students organized by major and I had a tab all to myself. Morgan Stanley hired me for a program to train programmers who could communicate with their front-office people. After a while, I felt like I was just helping people make lots of money. I decided I wanted to study legal philosophy, so I went to NYU law. I was disappointed in that legal philosophers seemed to define themselves by being incomprehensible. At the same time, I was taking classes at the Fashion Institute of Technology on nights and weekends. The sewing kept me sane.

So now you've found balance between your left and right brains?

So much of my life has been alternating between them. I knew what I wanted to do with my life when I was 7, and it haunted me when I didn't do it. If you've lost your passion in life, consider what you liked to do when you were 7. My life's work is creating a new method of pattern drafting — to work from body scans to create patterns that fit a particular body, not just the average body. I have a patent on a fit prediction algorithm from my time at Ezsize earlier in my career. Unless you have custom garments, they are not going to fit perfectly — they're not even going to fit great. People minimize the complexity. When

I was working at Ezsize, they were using a German military size chart from World War II. I asked, "What if a woman has a size 8 waist and size 12 hips?" And this bunch of guys said, "Does that happen?"

That's why there are so many returns on mail-order clothes, especially with women's clothes. Men's clothes are designed to hang off the shoulders and the waist and camouflage their shape and there is room for alterations, whereas women's clothes are designed to accentuate their shape. Women have more curves, and distinct curves. Designers are working with body scanners trying to recreate the experience of an experienced tailor taking topical measurements. The system that I'm coming up with embraces the three-dimensionality of the data.

Have you done any unusual sewing projects?

Sure. *Threads* magazine has a challenge each year. I have a bit of a history here, trying to make the strangest possible entries. For instance, for the transformation challenge, I made an outfit that went from hiking to formal wear. The pants became an evening shrug. More recently, you had to upcycle a work outfit, so I put a call out for worn-out socks and sewed them — after washing them with Borax — into a wrap. I think it's fabulous but the judges said they couldn't imagine wearing it to work — fuddy duddies [laughs]. What I love — my specialty — is couture lace work, where you piece it together like a puzzle so you can't see the seams. I like working with guipure lace, which has heavy threads in it.

Should sewing be a required course?

Absolutely. When my boys were in Scouts, I volunteered to help with sewing merit badges. I was surprised to learn there isn't one. It seems to me that the first merit badge you earn should be how to sew on your merit badge. Everyone should know how to sew on a button and hem pants. There has been a renewal of interest in sewing partly because of thrift culture. Younger people are not buying into fast fashion; they are more interested in sustainability and aware that it is much better for the planet.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Will you celebrate the solstice?

"I look forward to increased daylight, but winter isn't as great as summer."



Amy Lahey, Garrison

"It's our favorite holiday because daylight starts to get longer."



Michael Benzer, Beacon

"It's from ancient culture, the transition of the seasons. I'll celebrate!"



Irene Pieza, Cold Spring



GYMKHANA
Cuisine of India

A STAR RESTAURANT IS BORN!

GYMKHANA CUISINE OF INDIA

Opening just a few weeks ago, Gymkhana brings back to the region the highest-quality Indian food, with an amazing menu. Lunch buffet, dinner, and take-out. You'll find Gymkhana at **18 Westage Drive, Fishkill** in the same building as Regal Cinema, but around to the right as you drive.

gymkhanafishkill.com
Phone: (845) 250-1010

BEACON, NEW YORK
artisan wine shop
where food meets its match

www.artisanwineshop.com

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

your source for organic, biodynamic & low-intervention wines, ciders & spirits since 2006

Wrongful Death *(from Page 1)*

enactment could significantly raise medical practitioners' insurance fees, award payments to families for concerns ranging far beyond economic loss, and increase the number of wrongful-death lawsuits because it extends the deadline for bringing them to 3½ years, from 2 years.

"What hubris" her colleagues displayed in assuming that they "are more informed about this issue, its benefits and its potential consequences, than nearly the entire New York State legislative body," Montgomery said at the meeting, noting that Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac, who chairs the Legislature but will leave office Dec. 31 after losing his seat in the November election, asked her to sign the letter "on the eve of the anniversary of my husband's wrongful death."

Montgomery's husband, Jim Lovell, died in the Dec. 1, 2013, derailment of a Metro-North train near New York City. She filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against the Metropolitan Transportation Authority that was settled out of court.

"While this legislation would not help me personally," Montgomery said, she felt "truly traumatized" by Sullivan's move and "equally disheartened" that Legislators Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, Carl Albano of Carmel, Amy Sayegh of Mahopac and Toni Addonizio of Kent, all Republicans like Sullivan, signed the letter.

Montgomery asserted that "the people



Nancy Montgomery with her husband, Jim Lovell, who died in a Metro-North crash in 2013. She settled a wrongful-death lawsuit filed against the MTA.

of Putnam deserve better representation, not someone who is going to advocate for corporate America on the backs of those wrongfully taken from us."

Three other Republicans, William Gouldman of Putnam Valley, Paul Jonke of Southeast and Joseph Castellano of Brewster, did not sign. Montgomery, whose district includes part of Putnam Valley, is the Legislature's lone Democrat.

According to the New York Public Interest Research Group, a public-policy nonprofit, and two organizations of trial lawyers, the 1847 law needs revision because it reflects archaic concepts of a married adult male as a fami-

ly's sole wage-earner, fails to account for the unpaid labor of women in homes and excludes families that consist of domestic-partner couples, grandparents raising children and others in non-traditional arrangements.

The letter to Hochul from the five Putnam legislators says that, along with higher insurance costs, the Grieving Families Act "would have unintended consequences that damage medical care," induce medical practitioners to leave the state, and "increase the financial strain on hospitals and medical practices," likely forcing some to close. Similarly, it argues, the revised legislation would "allow the recovery of emotional damages against

someone found liable for causing a death."

"Well, my God, shouldn't it?" Montgomery asked.

The letter further predicted that the legislation "will open the door to such non-economic damages as grief, sympathy and 'loss of love, society, protection, comfort, companionship and consortium,'" instead of focusing on economics.

Yet these other losses remain real "every moment of every single day," Montgomery said, "and they definitely affect the economic stability of any family." Under the 1847 law, she added, monetary damages "merely pay for the insurance and expenses necessary to keep up with the unresolved consequences of losing a loved one."

None of the five legislators who sent the letter replied to her. The matter was not on the agenda and Montgomery spoke during the period, just before adjournment, reserved for legislators' comments on any subject.

When the bill was approved by the state Assembly in June, 147-2, it received "yes" votes from Sandy Galef and Jonathan Jacobson, Democrats whose districts include Philipstown and Beacon, respectively, as well as Republicans Kevin Byrne, who was elected in November as Putnam County executive, and Mike Lawler, who won election to the new U.S. House district that includes Philipstown.

In the state Senate, which passed the bill 57-6, Sue Serino, a Republican who represents Philipstown and Beacon, voted "yes."



SEAFOOD AND SPECIALTY FOODS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY TABLE

Fresh Fish and Shellfish (Certified Sustainable)

Seafood Platters • Caviar • Shrimp Cocktail

Smoked Fish • Shucked Oysters • Cocktail Crab Cakes

Sushi Platters • Gourmet Specialties • Gift Boxes

coldspringfish.com • 845-499-8696
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring

Riverview
R E S T A U R A N T



Christmas Eve
12 pm - 8 pm

Closed Christmas Day

845-265-4778 Riverdining.com
45 FAIR STREET COLD SPRING

The HIGHLANDS Current

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



Institute for
Nonprofit News

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

December 16, 2022
Volume 11, Issue 50

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819.

Mail delivery \$30 per year.
highlandscurrent.org/delivery
delivery@highlandscurrent.org

Distribution audited by the
Circulation Verification Council
© Highlands Current Inc. 2022

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanical or electronic, without written permission of the publisher.

NYFA* Winner: 97 Better
Newspaper Contest Awards

* New York Press Association, 2013 - 21



NNA* Winner: 93 Better
Newspaper Contest Awards

* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 21



NYNPA* Winner: 22 Awards
for Excellence

* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 21

Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Heat pumps

Over the last two years we did the same as Krystal Ford: installed high-efficiency heat pumps in each room plus a hybrid water heater ("Living Green: The Wonders of Heat Pumps," Dec. 2). After a winter test, this year we went all-in, removing the oil tank, boiler and radiators.

The system has no trouble heating and cooling our 1,300-square-foot house. Each unit has a sensor and adjusts to save energy when the room is empty. It recovers automatically after brief power outages. (The oil system relied on electrical components, too, so also wouldn't have worked during an outage.) The heat pumps are super quiet, indoors and out. We've noticed the air is a bit drier, so we purchased small humidifiers for the bedrooms.

It cost us \$28,000 for five units and the water heater (we used Mitsubishi installed by Rycor), so, even with rebates, this isn't for everyone, yet. It isn't clear that we save money — we have solar, and electric cars, so the costs are muddled up. But I expect electricity to be cheaper than oil in the long run, simply because electricity can be generated with a greater diversity of sources.

I like the extra space in the basement and in each room, and the relative simplicity of the new system. (No leaky pipes! No chimney to clean! No boiler to service!) Most of all, I love that, at least in part, I'm heating my house with the panels on my own roof, instead of with 300 gallons of diesel fuel shipped from far away.

Aaron Freimark, Cold Spring

We converted to heat pumps last year and it was \$20,000 after all the rebates. That's not realistic for many people. Our resources would be better focused toward rebuilding our failed electric co-op and working to address grid renewable energy sources and transmission. Make clean energy cheaper and more avail-

able, and the work will be done for us.

Regarding the Champlain Hudson Power Express ("Work Begins on New Power Line," Dec. 9), there are 2,000- to 5,000-acre solar projects upstate (all of which met huge local resistance), but no way to get that energy to the parts of the state that need it. These transmission lines are incredibly important for the transition to renewable energy.

Tom Cerchiara, via Instagram

Tax break

In response to a letter in the Dec. 9 issue, you wrote that calculating the cost of the proposed payment-in-lieu-of-taxes request from Mirbeau, which is renovating the Craig House property in Beacon, was "not easy." But an analysis included in the agenda packet for the Dec. 5 City Council meeting said the city will collect about \$4.6 million less in property taxes if the PILOT is approved than it would in a non-PILOT/full tax scenario.

Derek Enos, Beacon

The editor replies: The city estimated increasing assessments of the property — peaking at \$25 million — and then used the current commercial tax rate to get numbers for what Mirbeau would normally pay versus the abated numbers if the PILOT is approved. The estimates for the assessments are, obviously, estimates. And the tax rate will undoubtedly change, but there's no way to ballpark that.

The chart shows a gap between what Mirbeau would pay normally and the abated amounts, but then you have the possibility that the project may not proceed without the PILOT, so the "what they would have paid" is sort of a fantasy number.

City Administrator Chris White's observation that "the deal is really good from a financial perspective for the city, school

district and county" is valid ("Beacon Developer Asks for Tax Break," Dec. 2); the plot will bring more economic value and, as a hotel in a supply-strained market, it's likely a luxury property will attract folks who patronize our businesses on Main Street.

Is it the community's "highest and best use"? Likely no. I've run a number of highest-and-best-use studies for developers and run hotel operator selection (though overseas) with a prominent real estate multinational and as a consultant. What I know is that the developer created a financial model before their investment. I'd like to know if (1) the city is able to inspect the financial model, and (2) if metrics of the financial model can be made public or inspected by a committee to learn if the incentive proposed is warranted.

Are we unnecessarily giving up tax revenue considering the already present draw of Main Street and our surrounding attractions?

Brett Miller, via Facebook

Elf on the Shelf

When we got Elf on the Shelf we immediately threw away the accompanying book ("5 Questions: Quinn Chandler," Dec. 9). For us, it's a fun thing to find every morning as he visits. We skip the creepy, Orwellian "he's always watching you to make sure you behave" storyline.

Brian Cookstra, via Instagram

Church project

As I understand it, the proposal for the former Reformed Church at 1113 Wolcott Ave. is for both a hotel and event space to be squeezed into the middle of a quiet residential area, operate 365 days a year late into the night, with limited on-site parking ("Update: Booming Beacon," Dec. 9). We can

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

argue about whether Beacon needs another events space, but there should be no argument that this is the wrong location for it.

Shelley Simmons-Bloom, *via Instagram*

Whatever goes into this building should be family- or youth-focused. Beacon has tons of event spaces already and fun places to go.

Emely Peña, *via Instagram*

The developer proposed the space could be used for art exhibits. There is no money in (most) art, so whenever I see “art” in variances, I am skeptical.

Lesly Canossi, *via Instagram*

A small boutique hotel/cafe with an accessory conference space, and reasonable operating hours, sufficient on-site parking and adequate staffing, would be an acceptable use of this beautiful space. An event venue operating 365 days per year from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. with no way of adequately disbursing crowds is not the right fit.

Betty Wall, *via Instagram*

Why aren't folks more upset at the developers behind River Ridge, West End Lofts, Highland Place and the projects going up near Fishkill Creek? These developments do little for the community other than provide more overpriced and poorly constructed housing for people trying to escape the city. Where is the affordable housing?

A transformed church would not be the next Madison Square Garden. If done right, it could be a great opportunity to bring world-class performers to Beacon. There are few performing arts spaces in Beacon — at least none with a real stage that is suitable for dance or theater.

Unfortunately, it seems the original plan for a performance venue had to be scaled down. The church and cemetery are in disrepair and the city has no plans to restore them, so why not make use of this historic building? There wouldn't be shows every night and there is plenty of parking at the train station and across Route 9D, next to the fire station.

As a performing artist and resident of Beacon, I would welcome the addition.

Emma Myers, *via Instagram*

Corrections

■ In an article in the Dec. 9 issue, we reported that the Champlain Hudson transmission line that will pass the Highlands below the Hudson River is expected to cost \$4.5 billion. In fact, the projected cost is \$6 billion.

■ An article in the Dec. 9 issue stated that a proposal to hang banners honoring veterans from utility poles in Cold Spring “may require approval from the Historical District Review Board and Zoning Board of Appeals before trustees could vote.” However, according to Mayor Kathleen Foley, she would issue the permit and it does not require a vote or review by any boards.

“Although this discretion is mine under the current code, I respect our local land use laws and the due process that the building permit application process allows,” she said. “I would, therefore, take guidance from our land use boards. The process for Ms. [Cindy] Trimble [who made the request for the banners] to follow is to submit a building permit. She has not yet done so, so there is no determination to be made at this stage.

“If an application were to be received, the code enforcement officer would review it for compliance with our zoning code (§ 134-18) and our historic district ordinance (§ 64-11). If the code enforcement officer determined that referrals to those boards were required, I would take guidance from the decisions of those boards before taking any decision. Additionally, Ms. Trimble would need to demonstrate approval from Central Hudson, owner of the poles, as well as the state Department of Transportation, if appropriate.”



Wide Angle

Priced Out

By Stowe Boyd

I moved to Beacon in late 2010, and after renting for a year or so, my wife and I bought a four-bedroom home in the center of town, close to Main Street, at a now-inconceivably reasonable price.



Of course, it was reasonable because, at the time, every third storefront was boarded up. The city was willing to take almost any offer from developers as the region and country slowly climbed out of the Great Recession.

I recently had tea with a friend whose situation brought home just how much the housing market in the Highlands has changed. She lived in Beacon for decades but her home was too large for just one person and she planned to downsize. However, she was unable to find anything affordable to rent or buy, a roadblock many people have encountered.

She looked in Kingston, where the rental market was just as tight but there were options for sale. She was able to find a small house she could afford, although it came with one major downside — it's not in Beacon.

What changed during the decade before my experience and hers?

There is a housing crisis in the U.S., a tangled tale of many parts. At the highest

level, we are short as many as 5 million “units” (i.e., homes, apartments, condos, etc.). This is especially acute at the lower end of the market. It has been caused, principally, by developers following the money — they build newer, larger homes to sell to wealthier and older people. The National Association of Realtors says first-time buyers account for the smallest share of the market in the past 40 years.

As a result, no state, including New York, has enough “affordable” housing, which is defined roughly as costing no more than about a third of a person's income for rent or a mortgage payment. At the same time, restrictive zoning in the most populous and popular regions, such as the New York City metro area, has blocked or slowed the development of lower-priced rentals.

By one estimate, New York state will need 500,000 to 1.2 million housing units over the next 10 years to meet demand. Gov. Kathy Hochul has proposed preserving or building 100,000 units over the next five years at a cost of \$25 billion, which is inadequate by a factor of 10.

The pandemic and its aftereffects have created additional challenges, which you can see firsthand in Beacon and Philipstown. After white-collar workers were forced to work at home, many relocated to the periphery of “superstar cities” like New York, e.g., to the Highlands. The end of the commute doesn't look like a fad: more companies are adjusting their real estate and personnel plans accordingly.

















This influx of wealthier buyers drives prices up and availability down, leading to an outflow of lower-income residents, such as my friend. Hochul and other elected officials will have to shift their attention to this in-migration at the edge of this “donut effect,” as economists call it, with city centers as the hole.

There is a third factor: more older residents live in larger homes, and more of them are living alone. Like my friend, they benefit financially from the strong market, but there's nowhere to go once they sell. Because the margins are lower, developers don't target this demographic or younger couples looking for starter homes.

In my next column, I'll look at some solutions that could be applied locally.

Stowe Boyd is a Beacon resident who specializes in the economics and ecology of work and the “anthropology of the future.” His column focuses on the local impacts of larger trends.

Parking Plan

AREA	PEAK CARS (1)	CAPACITY	PEAK AVAILABLE (1)	PROPOSED
Notch				 80
Dutchess Manor				 180
North of Tunnel, east	128	100	-28	 77
North of Tunnel, west	62	58	-4	 35
South of Tunnel, west	33	27	-6	0
Washburn Trail lot	48	48	0	48
New lot, north (2)				100
Boscobel (2)				100
TOTAL	271	233	-38	620

(1) Observed in July and October / (2) Under construction or discussion Source: Creighton Manning, via HHFT



The state in 2020 added signs near Breakneck asking visitors to park parallel to the road.
File photo by Michael Turton

Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

being funded by New York State and private donations, is scheduled to begin soon for completion by 2028. The first phase includes new parking and a pedestrian bridge over the Metro-North tracks. The project operates under the wing of the nonprofit Scenic Hudson, based in Poughkeepsie.

At a webinar on Dec. 6, consultants hired by the Fjord Trail shared the preliminary findings of a study that examined how the project could relieve congestion.

Dan Berkowsky, a senior transit engineer with Creighton Manning Engineering, said the researchers found that, at peak times, parking was 10 percent to 25 percent above capacity along the state highway near Breakneck.

“People park in very interesting ways — not necessarily safe,” he said. “There’s no one actually enforcing the parking rules, keeping people where they’re supposed to

park. People just park where they can.”

An obvious solution is to increase the number of legal spaces, said Stephen Falbel, president of Steadman Hill Consulting, although “that’s not to say we want to provide a parking space for everyone who might drive there. But we don’t want people cruising around streets and parking and neighborhoods, creating traffic problems and safety problems.

“We want an adequate supply of parking, but we also want a shuttle system that will improve mobility and to encourage people to use the train,” he said. The study found that 66 percent of park visitors arrived in vehicles and 29 percent by train.

The researchers suggested adding 387 spaces, for a capacity of 620. The number could change because it includes 100 spots at Boscobel in Garrison that have not been finalized, but most would be located in new lots at Breakneck, the Notch Trail and Dutchess Manor, which will become the

headquarters for the Fjord Trail.

Some parking would be allowed along Route 9D north of the Breakneck Tunnel, but 46 spots would be removed, to lower capacity to 112, and parking south of the tunnel would be eliminated. The Fjord Trail would like to have the state Department of Transportation lower the speed limit near Breakneck from 55 mph to 40 mph, and the researchers said roadside parking will help justify that change.

The new parking lots would require a fee, although how much it would be and how it would be collected (via an app, kiosk, EZ-Pass or a staffed booth) has not been determined. It’s possible that residents would receive discounts. The challenge, the planners said, is to set a fee that’s just high enough to get people to take the shuttle.

Electric shuttle vans would be either free or next to nothing, although planners are leaning toward the former. “If we want to maximize the number of people taking

transit, charging a fare is not the way to do that,” said Falbel. The vans would be able to carry bikes, and some would accommodate wheelchairs.

The proposed shuttle route would include the Beacon train station, the Notch trailhead just south of Beacon, Dutchess Manor, Breakneck, Little Stony Point and possibly Mount Beacon. The southernmost stop could be the Cold Spring train station or Boscobel. Having a stop in the village would eliminate foot traffic there but would increase parking at the station and traffic if the shuttles stopped on Main Street.

Adding Boscobel would keep vehicles out of the village and make it easier to access the historic estate without a car. However, it would make the route longer, which could make it more difficult to keep the shuttles on schedule.

The Fjord Trail plans to hold a workshop in Cold Spring in January and issue a final parking and shuttle report in February.

NEWS BRIEFS

New Antenna Will Track Birds

Constitution Marsh installs device

The Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Garrison last month installed an antenna to track migratory birds that pass nearby.

The device picks up signals from birds that pass within a few miles of the center and carry a tiny radio tag installed by scientists. The data is then uploaded to motus.org, a global network that helps researchers better understand how and where birds migrate.

New York State funded the receiver, along with three others that will be installed elsewhere in the state, including at the Ramshorn-Livingston Audubon Sanctuary in the Catskills.



The new bird tracking antenna at Constitution Marsh

Beacon Group Gives Educator Grants

Foundation distributes \$7,000

The Foundation for Beacon Schools announced a series of grants to benefit educators in the school district.

The projects funded include a visit to the Norwalk Aquarium by earth science students at Beacon High School; a Creative Strings Little Learners pilot project at J.V. Forrestal Elementary; an engineering program at Legoland and a visit to the Hudson River Museum and Planetarium for Sargent Elementary; and Jump Rope Across America!, seining the Hudson River scientific research and a visit to Common Ground Farm and a classroom chef for South Avenue Elementary.

In addition, the foundation awarded a RoseMarie Mastrocola grant for special education, named for the late grandmother of two Beacon elementary school students who was a special education teacher. The grant will be used to create communication boards, which are tools to help nonverbal and neuro-diverse students to communicate with friends, at all four elementary schools.

Real Estate

Market Report (November)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
New Listings	10	5	5	5
Closed Sales	8	6	9	7
Days on Market	47	55	77	63
Median Price	\$417,500	\$487,500	\$521,000	\$590,000
% List Received	105.3	91.2	96.1	97.6
Inventory	27	19	34	28

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.



SPONSORED BY

ELAINE THOMAS | CENTURY 21 ALLIANCE REALTY
CELL: 845-590-6450 EMAIL: elainethomasrealestate@yahoo.com

Reporter's Notebook

Farewell, Mi Pueblo Acogedor

By Violeta Edwards Salas

The Spanish word *acogedor* means “welcoming,” and can be used to describe an environment that is considered comfortable and warm. That is what Cold Spring is to me. It means safety, both physically and emotionally. There is nothing that can bring me out of a bad or hazy mood more than walking on Main Street.

I was 8 years old when my family came here in 2015 from Santiago, Chile — I am the eldest of three girls. We came for my father to attend college, and for medical treatment for myself. I still remember gripping my bright-pink suitcase with shaking hands after we landed at JFK.

The minute we stepped foot in Cold Spring, we fell in love with it. But it was not an easy transition. At school, I remember being embarrassed because I could only count to nine in English. I had a hard time making friends because of the language barrier.

Moving is always hard, but moving to a different country where you don't speak the language or have the same culture is especially difficult. It turns mundane tasks into challenges that leave you exhausted by the end of the day.

Quickly, I became the best English speaker in the family. This meant that for a

while I was the only one who could represent who we were. There was a responsibility in that I bet all older siblings feel at one point.

One of the first times I could introduce myself to my classmates and the village was at the Haldane Elementary School talent show. I sang a song from *Violetta*, a Hispanic TV show. Although my singing voice is not one of my strengths, I remember that, for weeks following the show, many people came up to me, remembering me as the girl who sang in Spanish. I was so proud of that.

Nothing rivals the feeling when I visited the library and knew enough English to be able to read the titles of the books. I remember reading *The Sisters Grimm* by Michael Buckley in school and falling so deeply in love with books. After that, it was a given that I would spend hours in the library, both Desmond-Fish and Butterfield.

Even though we live in a fairytale village, I don't want to sugarcoat. Being an immigrant can be scary. I felt that fear as an 8-year-old newcomer and still feel it sometimes at age 16. There is so much uncertainty, so much fear that one day someone will knock on your door, telling you that you have to leave because you have lost your visa privileges.

One of the scariest moments occurred in the sixth grade, when newspapers printed headlines like “Immigrant kids in cages!” along with horrible things that people were saying about immigrants. Being so young, I thought they were holding children like me in little dog cages.



Violeta (right) celebrates with her parents, Eduardo and Francisca, and sisters, Cala and Rita, after the family moved to Cold Spring in 2015.

Photo provided

There are countless people in this community who have changed my life, too many to thank. The community has taught me empathy, generosity and courageousness. I will always be fiercely protective of its people for making me feel safe enough that I could be anyone of my liking.

My family is moving back to Chile this month. I am looking forward to seeing

where the world takes me, but I will never forget Cold Spring. It has been a privilege. This is not the last time we see each other so, as of now, farewell.

Edwards Salas, a sophomore at Haldane High School, is a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program and our first correspondent in Santiago.

State Considers Fine for Central Hudson

Report says employees warned of 'major' billing issues

By Leonard Sparks

New York's utility regulator is considering a civil penalty against Central Hudson in the wake of a six-month investigation into an \$88 million upgrade of the company's billing system that caused widespread errors for customers.

In a report released on Thursday (Dec. 15), the Public Service Commission (PSC) said Central Hudson's quest to improve its customer information and billing system to “handle complex billing scenarios” instead caused nightmares for customers and apparent violations of commission orders and state laws.

“Ensuring customer bills are accurate is the singular responsibility of the utility.”

Rory Christian PSC chair

Some employees warned of “deficiencies in testing, training and readiness” for the system but the company pressed them to have it ready to go live on Sept. 1, 2021,

according to the PSC, which is part of the state Department of Public Service.

The problems, including programming errors, caused delays in issuing statements that lasted more than three months for some customers and overcharges that affected more than 8,000 customers, many of whom began filing complaints with the PSC and airing their frustrations on social media and to reporters.

With the system erroneously blocking bills from being sent for prolonged periods, the company began sending out invoices based on estimates, in violation of approved procedures for using them instead of actual meter reads, said the report.

Some of the billing errors were enormous. One customer who typically paid \$500 a month had two bank accounts debited by Central Hudson for \$12,107.52 and \$16,212.74. The company eventually refunded the money. A customer with automatic billing had a bank account debited for \$30,534.27, according to the PSC.

In addition to a civil penalty, the state intends to investigate the propriety of Central Hudson's expenditures for the system, the PSC said on Thursday. A day earlier J.D. Power rated Central Hudson next to last among midsize companies in its annual customer-satisfaction study of utility companies in the East Region.

“Ensuring customer bills are accurate is

the singular responsibility of the utility,” said Rory Christian, the PSC chair. “Given the scope and seriousness of the utility billing problems at Central Hudson, the department will now determine the level of commission action required to address these issues.”

Joe Jenkins, a representative for Central Hudson, said in January that the company had more than doubled its customer service staff and expanded operating hours to reduce the time account holders spent on hold as problems surged.

BEACON FINE ART PRINTING

Specializing in digital fine art, large format and display printing, mounting, scanning, retouching and framing for artists, photographers and all fine art professionals.

BEACONFINEARTPRINTING.COM | 914 522 4736

A HANNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

He said on Thursday that Central Hudson has “fully cooperated” with the PSC and will “continue to dedicate significant resources” to fixing problems.

“Technical challenges associated with the implementation of this system have caused undue stress and confusion to some of our customers,” said Jenkins. “For that, we are deeply apologetic.”

Central Hudson has 30 days to show why the PSC should not penalize the company and investigate its spending on the systems upgrade. The PSC also said it ordered the company to create a plan for eliminating bimonthly billing estimates.



A Christmas Carol Panto

December 16
at 7:00p.m.

Reservations at
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

Three Grads, Three Paths

Schools Unmask

Weatherman
Could Not Have
Predicted This

Electricity, Gas Rates Spike

STAY CURRENT AND CONNECTED

GO TO highlandscurrent.org/JOIN to:

- Sign up as a member.
- Renew as a member.
- Become a monthly member — and get a bonus!
- Become a yearly member to show your commitment to community journalism.
- Check out the member benefits.
- Give a gift membership!

JOIN TODAY AND YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED!

When you join from now through Dec. 31, membership gifts up to \$1,000 will be matched to a total of \$50,000 by a combination of funds from NewsMatch, a national collaborative campaign supporting nonprofit journalism, and from a community member who believes strongly in our public-service journalism. **Membership gifts totaling \$50,000 will mean \$100,000 for our newsroom!**

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE SAYING



"A credible local news source is vital to the health of our community."

EDWARD GRAHAM AND MATT MURPHY, BEACON

HELP US REACH **1,000** MEMBERS BY THE END OF DECEMBER!



Beds Refill at Local Hospitals

COVID, flu spike follows Thanksgiving

By Leonard Sparks

As Thanksgiving approached, health officials warned about the infection risks posed by traveling to gatherings with families and friends.

Three weeks later, medical personnel at area hospitals say they are seeing the impact of those gatherings — a rise in the number of patients sick with COVID-19, most of them elderly, that is again shrinking inpatient capacity as people infected with the flu also compete for beds.

On the day before Thanksgiving, the state Department of Health reported 2,823 people hospitalized with COVID, including 273 patients in intensive care. By Tuesday (Nov. 13), hospitals were treating 3,571 COVID patients, an increase of 26 percent, with 342 in the ICU.

In Newburgh, Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital is averaging seven more COVID inpatients a day this month compared to November and Hudson Valley Hospital, five, according to data that hospitals report to the state.

On an average day this month, Putnam

Hospital Center was caring for more than twice as many COVID patients than in November, and has come close to reaching its limit on staffed beds.

"Last week, we had almost 25 percent of our inpatient-occupied beds filled with COVID-19 patients," said Marcela Rojas, a representative for the hospital. "Most people are coming in with respiratory/flu symptoms and end up having both COVID and flu."

That also has been the case at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital near Peekskill, a representative said. Shortly after Thanksgiving, its emergency department began seeing an increase in people with both COVID and the flu.

The state health department, in its most recent weekly flu update, reported that cases for the week ending Dec. 3 rose 64 percent from the previous week, driving hospitalizations up by 58 percent to 2,465. That total included 584 flu cases in Dutchess County and 393 in Putnam.

Nearly 1,100 people in Dutchess County and just over 700 in Putnam have tested positive for the flu through Dec. 3, which marks the first nine weeks of the season. Both counties are on pace to easily exceed the 2021-22 flu season.

Average Daily COVID Patients

	Montefiore St. Luke's	NYP Hudson Valley	Putnam Hospital
SEPTEMBER	14.5	5.7	2.8
OCTOBER	16.9	10.0	2.2
NOVEMBER	14.9	12.2	3.5
DECEMBER	21.8	17.4	8.0

Percent Staffed Beds Occupied

	70	85	75
JUNE 1	62	78	96
AUG. 1	68	79	67
OCT. 3	84	78	90
DEC. 12			

County health departments are only required to report flu deaths of children and teens younger than 18. Just one child has died this flu season, according to the state data; the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there have been 7,300 flu deaths nationwide so far, including 21 people younger than 18.

"Our message is simple but urgent, especially as we approach the holiday season: Get vaccinated," said Mary Bassett, the state health commissioner.

As during the height of the pandemic, most people who are hospitalized or die from COVID are older. On Monday (Dec. 12), 17 of St. Luke's 22 COVID patients were 65 or older, mirroring the demographics of

patients at Hudson Valley Hospital, Putnam Hospital Center and other facilities.

Deaths from COVID have risen this month in New York and Dutchess County. The state said on Wednesday that 38 people had died from COVID on Tuesday, compared to 26 on Dec. 1.

Six Dutchess County residents have died from COVID in the first 13 days of December, three more than in all of November and one more than October. No one has died in Putnam County since Nov. 22. Three county residents died that month, compared to four in October.

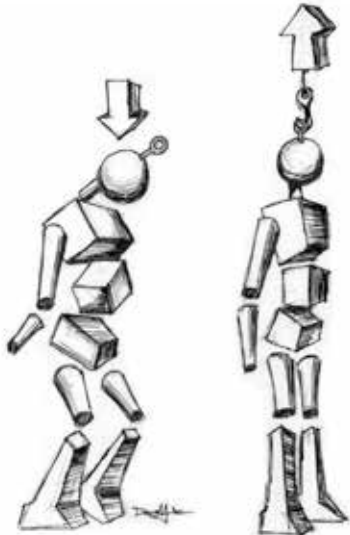
Residents age 60 and older have accounted for 87 percent of the state's 59,867 COVID fatalities, as of Tuesday.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
Primary vaccination:	76.1% Philipstown/CS: 87.6% Garrison: 82.5%	71.5% Beacon: 68.0%
Boostered:	16.8% Philipstown/CS: 25.4% Garrison: 20.0%	18.7% Beacon: 15.1%
Positive tests, 7-day average:	↑ 8.6%	↓ 8.5%
Number hospitalized:	↑ 10	↓ 21
Number of deaths:	138 ⁽⁰⁾	719 ⁽⁺²⁾

Source: County and state health departments as of Dec. 14.

Alexander Technique with Miles Bukiet



Work with alignment, breathing, and movement to establish improved physical, emotional, and mental functioning for health, peak performance, and peace of mind.

Improves, posture, balance, coordination, alertness, focus, mobility, and emotional regulation.

Studio in Cold Spring and NYC
MilesBukiet.com/Alexander-Technique



Animal Hospital
of Cold Spring

Animal Hospital
of Cold Spring
will be moving to
a new location.

We will close on
**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 17TH**
and plan to reopen
beginning of the new year.

Our phone lines will remain
open. We will be available
to dispense medication but
will not be able to access the
prescription foods.

Contact us at:
Ph # (845) 265 - 4366
or # (845) 265 - PETS (7387)
email 265PETS@gmail.com

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Dec 16 thru Dec 23 – most Fri, Sat, Sun
12-5 PM plus each weekday Dec 19 thru Dec 23

Holiday Gift Show & Sale



SHOP THE HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW & SALE

**25% OF EACH PURCHASE HELPS
SUPPORTS THE HOWLAND
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Sat. Dec 17 – 8 pm
CHARLES DICKENS - THE CHRISTMAS CAROL
Staged Reading featuring Dimitri Archip and Friends
Tickets \$20 ADV / \$25 DOS - Door open 7:30 PM

Sun. Dec 18 – 6 pm
HOLIDAY HOOT - Goldee Green & Friends
@ Café Sizzle Variety Show
Tickets \$20 ADV / \$25 DOS / \$10 KIDS - Door open 7:30 PM



Fri. Dec 30 - THOM JOYCE'S OPEN MIC - FINALE
Last Call after 25 Years as Host - Let's Celebrate!
SAVE - THE - DATE

Follow our social media for more info and events
Covid protocol - mask recommended

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
www.howlandculturalcenter.org (845) 831-4988
facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon
howlandculturalcenter.tix.com

AROUND TOWN



◀ **GOT YOUR BACK** — Be A Friend, an anti-bullying organization based in Cold Spring, on Dec. 2 presented Charlotte, a 7-year-old from New York City, with 1,100 letters and gifts at the Topfield Equestrian Center. When a parent or teacher identifies a young person who is being severely bullied, Be A Friend mobilizes a letter-writing campaign to offer encouragement and support. *Photo provided*



◀ **BOTTLING WINTER** — Gabrielle Esposito, a librarian at the Howland Public Library in Beacon, led a workshop on Dec. 8 to make snow globes. Glitter, paint, snowmen, trees, decorations and globes were provided. Here, participants pose with their creations.

▲ **SINGING FLOR** — Originally from Peru, singer Flor Bromley visited the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison on Dec. 10 to perform songs from North, South and Central America.

Photos by Ross Corsair

REAL ESTATE MARKET

HOME SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE LAST 30 DAYS

BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPERTIES	CITY	BEDS	BATHS	SQ FT	SOLD!
14 Heaney Dr.	Beacon	3	1/0	1,226	\$385,000
23 Deerfield Pl.	Beacon	2	1/0	1,425	\$395,000
13 Brookside Rd.	Fishkill	2	2/0	1,248	\$415,000
13 Heather Dr.	Fishkill	4	2/1	1,945	\$450,000
320 River Rd.	WF	4	3/0	2,636	\$460,000
32 Wilkes St.	Beacon	3	2/1	1,568	\$625,000
55 S Brett St.	Beacon	3	2/1	4,400	\$1,250,000

PHILIPSTOWN

PROPERTIES	CITY	BEDS	BATHS	SQ FT	SOLD!
414 Sprout Brook	Philipstown	2	1/0	758	\$435,000

Your favorite neighborhood experts, now empowered by the network and technology of Compass.

Contact us for a free market analysis.



Charlotte Guernsey
Team Leader, Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
845.831.9550 | 490 Main Street, Beacon
📍 @gatehousecompass | gatehousecompass.com

OFFICE LISTINGS



JUST SOLD
55 S. Brett St.
Beacon, NY
3 Bed | 2/1 Bath
4,400 Sq Ft
\$1,250,000



EXCLUSIVE TOWNHOUSES FOR SALE
10 Beekman St.
Beacon, NY
Units 1 to 6
3 Bed | 3/1 Bath
2,060 Sq Ft
Starting at \$859,000



THE
GATE HOUSE
TEAM

COMPASS



"Dancing," a digital drawing by Gigi Grace



"Flame," a digital drawing by Alex Marsh



"Life Hangs On," by Tina Bernstein

The Calendar

WEEKEND SHOWS

LotusWorks, an arts and community center that opened in Beacon two years ago, has launched a weekend Local Artists Series that will continue into February.

The solo exhibitions will spotlight emerging artists working in a range of disciplines, including digital media and installation art, along with painting and photography.

"We selected seven artists — three are from Beacon, while the others are from New Paltz, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Marlboro," says Aaron Loray Sanders, who co-owns the gallery with his wife, Skyla Schreter. In addition to the featured artists, the couple chose works by eight others from the Hudson Valley for two group shows in February.

"We were just so impressed with the abundant talent, and our goal is to be able to uplift and support our creative community as much as we can," Sanders said.

Since it opened in October 2020, the LotusWorks space has also served as a

Beacon gallery schedules seven solos

By Alison Rooney

production studio which offers live performance and production and digital media services under the banner of LW Productions. In addition, it is home to LW at Home, an interior design firm.

Along with the gallery, there is space for artists to work, and for classes.

Since establishing themselves in Beacon, Sanders and Schreter have collaborated with other arts groups. Most recently, they performed an improvisatory "First Date Conversation" as part of the Beacon Bonfire festival, tied to an exhibit then on view in the gallery called *Love is an Action*. For the performance, Schreter danced in front of a large canvas on which Sanders painted.

LotusWorks came out of a lunch break in Beacon during a Hudson Valley road trip. The couple spotted a "For Rent" sign and peered

inside. Within a few weeks, they had signed a lease and Sanders began renovations.

Their Local Artist Series opened last weekend with a video portal by a Beacon artist who uses the moniker Rooster. This weekend, from today (Dec. 16) through Sunday, the painting and digital art of Alex Marsh will be on view. A reception is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Marsh, 23, who lives in New Paltz, works in oil paint, collage and "unconventional elements," focusing on his experiences being disabled and transgender. His solo show, according to the gallery, will include "work that looks at the intersection between the utility of assigned-female-at-birth persons versus their autonomy." The artist said he hopes to "address the uncomfortable conversation surrounding gender identity and how

it relates to fertility or lack thereof."

After the holiday break, the series will continue on the first weekend in January with paintings and digital art from Gigi Grace, a curator and artist based in Beacon who works at Fridman Gallery. Her work uses themes such as folklore and absurdity and involves, LotusWorks says, "overgrowth, nature, vibrancy and melancholy based on romanticism and surrealism." The reception on Jan. 6 will include an ambient dance party.

The program continues each weekend through Feb. 5 with Tina Bernstein (mixed media), Kimberly Devaney (photography), Vernon Byron (digital media) and Javon Turner (painting), followed by the weekend group shows that open Feb. 17 and Feb. 24.

LotusWorks is located at 261 Main St. Its hours this weekend (Dec. 16 to 18) are 4 to 8 p.m. today and 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For specifics, visit lotusworksgallery.com or call 845-583-0400.



"Video Portal," by a Beacon resident, known as Rooster, opened the Local Artist Series from Dec. 9 to 11.



Works by Alex Marsh of New Paltz will be on display at LotusWorks this weekend (Dec. 16 to 18).



Gigi Grace, who is based in Beacon, will display her artwork at LotusWorks from Jan. 6 to 8.



Works by Tina Bernstein, who lives in Beacon, will be shown at LotusWorks from Jan. 13 to 15.

Photos provided

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



SAT 17
Jazz Nativity

COLD SPRING
5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian
10 Academy St.
presbychurchcoldspring.org

SUN 18
Live Nativity

COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Faith Church
245 Main St. | faithchurch.cc

FRI 23
Candlelight Service

COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Faith Church
245 Main St. | faithchurch.cc

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Mass

COLD SPRING
4 p.m. & 8 p.m. Loretto
24 Fair St. | ourladyofloretto.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Mass

BEACON
4 p.m. & Midnight. St. Joachim's
51 Leonard St. | stjochim-stjohn.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Service

GARRISON
4 p.m. Pageant | 10 p.m. Service
St. Philip's | 1101 Route 9D
stphilipshighlands.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Mass

BEACON
4:30 p.m. English | 6 p.m. Spanish
St. John's | 35 Willow St.
stjochim-stjohn.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Service

COLD SPRING
5 p.m. United Methodist
216 Main St.
facebook.com/csshumc

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Service

COLD SPRING
6 p.m. St. Mary's | 1 Chestnut St.
stmaryscoldspring.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Service

COLD SPRING
7 p.m. First Presbyterian
10 Academy St.
presbychurchcoldspring.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass

COLD SPRING
8:30 a.m. & Noon. Loretto
24 Fair St. | 845-265-3718
ourladyofloretto.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass

BEACON
8:30 a.m. St. John's
35 Willow St. | stjochim-stjohn.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass

COLD SPRING
10 a.m. St. Mary's | 1 Chestnut St.
stmaryscoldspring.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass

GARRISON
10 a.m. p.m. St. Philip's
1101 Route 9D
stphilipshighlands.org

SUN 25
Christmas Service

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

SUN 25
Christmas Mass

BEACON
Noon. St. Joachim | 51 Leonard St.
stjochim-stjohn.org

HANUKKAH

TUES 20
Menorah Lighting

COLD SPRING
5 p.m. Main Street
putnamchabad.org

The service will take place near
the visitor's information booth.

COMMUNITY

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.

SUN 18
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. Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors,
\$4 ages 4 to 18; free for children
younger than 4, health care workers
and members)

SUN 18
Santa Run

PHILIPSTOWN
Noon – 3 p.m. Various
highlandscurrent.org/santa-run
Santa will be accompanied by
members of the North Highlands
Engine Co. See the schedule of stops
online.

TALKS & TOURS

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.

SUN 18
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.
Reservations required. Cost: \$12
(\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 6 to 18, free
children 5 and younger, members)



Menorah Lighting, Dec. 20

HOLIDAY SALES

SAT 17
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. Also FRI 23.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 17
Beary Merry
Holiday Party

BEAR MOUNTAIN
10:30 a.m. Trailside Zoo
3006 Seven Lakes Drive
trailsidezoo.org
Make treats for the bears at 10:30
a.m., then watch them explore and
enjoy them at 11 a.m. Parking is \$10.
Cost: \$1



SAT 17
Holiday Storytime

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

SAT 17
Car Seat Safety Check

BEACON
1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Beacon Ambulance
1 Arquilla Dr.
845-831-4540 | beaconvac.org
Stop by to ensure your child's car
safety seat is properly installed.

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

WED 21
Winter Village Craft

BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Decorate a wooden house to
celebrate the first day of winter.
Registration required.

STAGE & SCREEN

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 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.
The snow date is SUN 18. 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 by 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 their annual Christmas show with guests Scott Ramsey, Dimitri Archip and Chihoe Hahn. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

MON 19
Premik Russell Tubbs
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St. | 845-202-7447
facebook.com/QuinnsBeacon
Steve Sandberg and Michael O'Brian will host the weekly jazz session.

CIVIC
MON 19
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 19
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 20
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane High School (Rm 211)
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org
On the agenda: the campus master plan update.

WED 21
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

Gift Certificates available

162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIP'S

Saturday, December 17:
12:00 PM - Wreaths Across America
Please join members of the congregation as well as local veterans for a short ceremony followed by the laying of wreaths on the gravesites of those who served in our nation's Armed Forces.

Sunday, December 18:
4:00 PM - Ecumenical Evensong
A community event featuring the Children's and Adult Choirs, followed by a reception in the parish house.

Wednesday, December 21:
6:00 PM - Longest Night service
A service to mark the longest night of the year, the pain of loss and struggle, and the return of the light and the coming of Christ in our lives.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve:
4:00 PM - Annual Christmas Pageant
Held in the St. Philip's Churchyard, we'll have singing, candles, a star and a stable, and even some live animals!
10:00 PM - Holy Eucharist Rite II with choir and carols

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day:
10:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II with carols

Come worship with us

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

IN THE HIGHLANDS
1101 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
845-424-3571 stphilipshighlands.org
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



Jeff Barone at age 7 with Elvis, and his first guitar

Photo provided

From Broadway to Middle School

Pandemic redirects jazz guitarist to Garrison

By Joey Asher

As with many professional musicians, the pandemic sidelined Jeff Barone. But three years later, the jazz guitarist says he's happy about where he ended up: at the Garrison school district.

His final gig before the shutdown was with the Jeff Barone Trio at The Bar Next Door in New York City, one of many jazz clubs where he performed to packed houses. One of his first at Garrison Middle School will be directing the student band for a performance at 7 p.m. on Wednesday (Dec. 21), its first live holiday concert since 2019.

The Garrison school district hired Barone last year to lead the music and theater department, which includes the band. Before the pandemic, Barone's typical holiday schedule, in addition to performing in all of Manhattan's major jazz clubs, included conducting the Big Apple Circus band at Lincoln Center and playing in orchestras for Broadway shows such as *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Seussical*.

"It's two different worlds," says Barone, who still plays at jazz clubs around the country.

"Both are rewarding, but in different ways."

When he took over as director, he needed musicians. Many students had stopped practicing their instruments during the pandemic. "I went around to all the classrooms and asked, 'Who plays an instrument?'" he recalls.

Barone recruited 15 students but found their skill levels varied so widely, he had to write several versions of each song. For example, for the spring concert in May, students pleaded with him to include "We Don't Talk About Bruno," the hit from the film *Encanto*. But Barone thought it was too hard. "It's Latin," he said. "It's syncopated. They'll never be able to do this."

His students insisted, so Barone wrote a version they would be able to perform. "Duke Ellington wrote for his band," he said. "I write for the kids. I arranged 12 bars and strategically gave certain parts to certain people."

He said he did the same for next week's concert. His students loved the lilting version of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by the Hawaiian musician known as IZ. For the Garrison students, Barone transformed it into reggae.

Once a student masters a version of a song written for him or her, Barone



Barone at the Garrison School

Photo by J. Asher

rewrites it to make it tougher. "I push them to the next level," he says.

Sometimes his students surprise him. Ames Jannetta, 13, plays piano in the band. Barone saw Jannetta playing in a music class and asked him to join the band. "He kind of recruited me," says the teenager.

Barone also learned that Ames wrote songs, including one called "Band Kid Beat." He told Ames: "If you can develop that, maybe we'll do it in the concert." He did, and the students performed the song at the spring concert.

"I've only seen a small handful of music teachers who work this way," said Carl Albano, the Garrison superintendent.

Barone, 52, who lives in Peekskill, grew up in Syracuse. Knowing her 7-year-old son loved Elvis, his mother gave him a guitar for Christmas. He took lessons from his cousin, Joe Stagnitta, who owned a local music store.

By age 13, Barone had a summer job performing three times a day in the Syracuse Parks and Recreation All-Star Band. By 16, he was gigging at taverns and clubs, including the Three Rivers Inn, which attracted the likes of Bobby Darin, Nat King Cole and Tony Bennett. One of Barone's early gigs was with Al Martino, an old-style crooner who portrayed the singer Johnny Fontaine in *The Godfather*.

Barone earned a bachelor's degree in instrumental music education and a master's degree in jazz guitar. He taught a bit but eventually built a career as a jazz guitarist,

appearing in clubs and on Broadway, and touring in the U.S. and Canada with Patti LuPone, Linda Lavin, Bobby Caldwell, Kathleen Turner and other performers.

He recorded two albums, *Crazy Talk* and *Open Up*, and is included in *The Great Jazz Guitarists: The Ultimate Guide*, by Scott Yanow. Barone also has appeared on the cover of *Just Jazz Guitar* magazine.

His reputation brought him many opportunities to perform. "I was on a conveyor belt that was out of control," he says. But the conveyor belt came to a sudden halt when the pandemic hit in early 2020.

To earn a little money, Barone became a substitute teacher at Garrison. But when Albano offered to hire Barone as the music teacher, he hesitated. The students were still learning remotely, and the idea of teaching band that way seemed far-fetched. "I didn't know if I could be effective," Barone said.

But by all accounts, he has been highly effective. The music program at the small school now has 39 students. In fact, about half of the middle school is in the band, said Albano. "I've worked with many music teachers over my 30-year career and he is one of the best I've ever worked with."

Barone still performs in Manhattan and around the country and says he loves both of his jobs. "That feeling I get playing to a packed house in the city is the same feeling I get after a student performance in Garrison," he said. "I'm hoping they're trying their best. And I'm hoping I'm doing my best, as well."



DARMAN

CONSTRUCTION, LLC

General Contracting

(845) 204-5428

Building the future. Restoring the past.

- Additions
- Renovations
- Framing
- Decks
- Siding
- Doors
- Windows and more

Visit us on Facebook, and on the web at
DarmanConstruction.com

SHOP LOCAL



Two private lessons for \$60.

Fred Astaire Cold Spring
3182 Route 9 Cold Spring, NY 10516
(845) 424-6353 | www.fredastaire.com/cold-spring



Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles
for the Whole Family

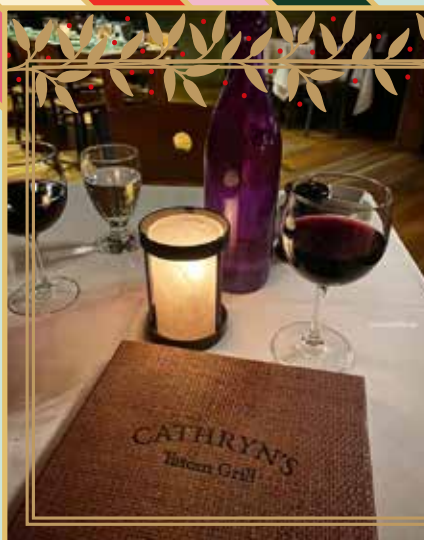
Shop in store or online at www.gifthut.com Instagram [the_gift_hut](https://www.instagram.com/the_gift_hut)
86 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 Facebook [@UniqueFamilyGifts.Toys](https://www.facebook.com/UniqueFamilyGifts.Toys)



Kringle's
Christmas House

Bringing you the finest in
Europe heirloom ornaments

134 Main St Beacon
765-0444



CATHRYN'S
Tuscan Grill

91 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516
845-265-5582
www.TuscanGrill.com

Joseph's Fine Jewelry

BUYING GOLD | Highest price for Gold,
Diamonds, Silver, Coins, etc. We buy to resell,
not to scrap. We specialize in estate jewelry.



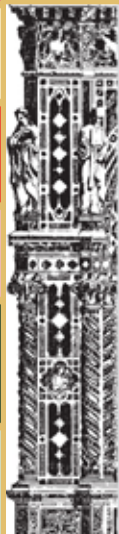
171 Main Street,
Cold Spring, NY 10516
By appointment only.

STORE
845-265-2323
CELL
914-213-8749

Hudson Beach Glass Locally Blown



162 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508 (845) 440-0068
Open daily 12PM - 6PM, Sunday 12PM - 5PM
www.hudsonbeachglass.com



ARCHIPELAGO
AT HOME

Gifts † Wine Charms † Picnic Time † Marble Coasters
† Bath Gels † Table Top † Glass Ware † Wine Glasses
† Champagne Flutes † Martini Sets † Accessories †
Lighting † Candles † Aromatherapy † Furnishings †
Wall Tiles † Mirrors † Clocks † Tapestries † Kitchen
† Table Cloths † Spoon Rests † Pot Racks † Eclectics
† Garden † Torches † Sprinklers † Patio

119 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY
845.265.3992

LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (December 1872)

A Fishkill hack recounted a curious encounter with a young man in a heavy black overcoat and fur cap who hired him at 11 p.m. on a Saturday night. The passenger asked to be taken to Poughkeepsie to catch the train to Montreal, although the same train stopped at Fishkill Landing at 2:18 a.m. The carriage reached Poughkeepsie at 1 a.m. and the man paid the \$13 fare from an immense roll of bills. However, as the puzzled driver looked on, the man jumped aboard a southbound train that arrived at 2:06 a.m.

In his will, Archibald Dunlop of Troy left a bequest for Mary Aiken of Quaker Hill [Pawling] in Dutchess County. He explained: "Many years since, before my acquaintance

with the late Mrs. Dunlop, I was engaged to Miss Aiken, which engagement, for certain reasons, was broken off by me. I have not seen her for over 30 years but know that she is still alive, and now, for partial reparation for the wrong committed, I direct my executive to pay her in three installments the sum of \$10,000" [about \$244,000 today].

After a storm on Dec. 26, more than 700 railroad passengers were snowbound between Poughkeepsie and Peekskill. Southbound service was suspended at noon, and it took a northbound Montreal express nearly 14 hours to reach Poughkeepsie from New York City. Two southbound locomotives left Poughkeepsie at 8 a.m. the next day, hoping to connect in Cold Spring with the stranded Sarasota Special and Cincinnati Express to complete their journeys. At the same time, the Chicago Express, which left New York at 8 a.m., was five hours behind schedule reaching Cold Spring but no one knew its location.

125 Years Ago (December 1897)

The Mechanics' Savings Bank of Fishkill Landing bought \$7,000 worth of bonds issued by the Turners School District in Orange County to build a schoolhouse. The bonds paid 3.75 percent annually.

Although he left a note that read, "I can stand it no longer," it wasn't immediately clear why Charles Hazard, the former editor of the *Elmira Gazette*, had in September drowned himself in the Hudson River at Fishkill Landing. Two days later, a man named Edward Burnett had drowned

himself in the Finger Lakes. Burnett left a note vowing revenge on Hazard, A. DeWitt and Judge Platt, whom he said ruined his life. "I swore to drive Hazard to the end, and I have kept my word," he wrote. By December, the story was still circulating in the papers, with more details revealed. In 1868, Hazard, then 24, had bought an interest in the *Gazette*. Soon after, a woman accused him of fathering her child. Hazard, who was engaged, enlisted a friend, George Hall, to accept paternity, but Hazard's fiancée still broke it off. Ten years later, in 1878, Hazard and DeWitt had compelled Burnett, a schoolteacher in Elmira, to marry a servant girl he had impregnated who worked for the DeWitt family. When Burnett fled the day after the wedding, Hazard attacked him in the *Gazette* until he was arrested and jailed for six months by Judge Platt. Three days before his death, Hazard wrote to Hall: "Someone who hates me and has an old vengeance has found out the story which I thought was only known to you and to me. Have you ever talked?"

Workers tearing down buildings in Farmer's Mills, just over the Putnam County line, where the City of New York was building a reservoir, discovered a cache of buried silver and gold coins. A worker, while excavating, struck a coin with his pick. That set the men to digging furiously and they uncovered more than \$1,000. A bank had formerly sat on the property before it was purchased by Sheriff Barrett, who sold it to the city. According to a contract with the

firm that employed the workers, it owned the buildings being dismantled, but the workmen claimed the money was theirs. It was not clear if the bank would have a claim.

100 Years Ago (December 1922)

It was announced that Beacon would have four political parties competing in the spring elections: Democratic, Republican, Independent and Church, the latter advocating strict enforcement of laws banning liquor and Sunday movies.

Although Beacon High School came back during the fourth quarter against Poughkeepsie to tie their basketball game at 27, Poughkeepsie scored in the last minute to win, 29-27.

A swindler who said his name was William O'Leary came through Beacon and Fishkill, leaving behind a string of bogus checks. The stranger opened an account at the Fishkill National Bank with a \$23,000 check drawn on a Montana bank and immediately began negotiations to buy Hillcrest Farm. To close the deal, he presented a \$4,000 check drawn on his new account, but when the Fishkill bank finally was able to reach the institution that issued O'Leary's \$23,000 check, they were told he had no account there. By that time, O'Leary had hired a Beacon cab to drive him to Albany. The driver later learned that his employers had cashed a \$50 check from O'Leary, which is how he got the cash to pay for the fare and a generous tip.

(Continued on Page 17)

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AUTHORIZING THE USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BOARD MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Haldane Central School District will hold a public hearing on **December 20, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.**, in the Auditorium of the Haldane Central School, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY, for the purpose of discussion of authorizing the use of videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances by Board members for the conduct of Board meetings, and the adoption of written procedures to implement videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances. The proposed written procedures to be considered for adoption by the Board of Education are posted on the District website at www.haldaneschool.org or you may request a copy by contacting the District Clerk at mshields@haldaneschool.org.

Gergely Pediatrics

*Dedicated to keeping your
child healthy & thriving*

Dr. Peter Gergely, MD
Janet Eisig, CFNP
Danielle Chiaravalloti, CFNP

- Collaborative practice for children & adolescents
- Board Certified Pediatricians & Licensed Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Welcomes patients with developmental or behavior issues

Meet with us for a **FREE** first time consultation

34 Route 403, Garrison, N.Y. 10524
tel: (845) 424-4444 fax: (845) 424-4664
gergelypediatrics.com



Now offering NEW Services!

Psychotherapy & Creative Arts Therapies

- Open to All
- With NYS licensed Therapists
- Indoor & Outdoor Sessions
- With or without Horses
- Out-of-network insurance reimbursement possible

Affordable, Facilitated Peer Support Groups for Veterans, people in Recovery, & Kids/Teens



Partnering with Horses to
Empower Humans

www.topfieldcenter.org
845-265-3409

Serving people with
physical, psychological,
and developmental
disabilities since 2010

(Continued from Page 16)

An appeals court upheld a \$1,300 judgment awarded to James Torrey, who sued the Matteawan Hat Manufacturing Co. claiming that the little finger of his right hand had been poisoned by dye. Torrey's job had been to untie the bundles of hats when they came in from the vats; he said a blister became infected.

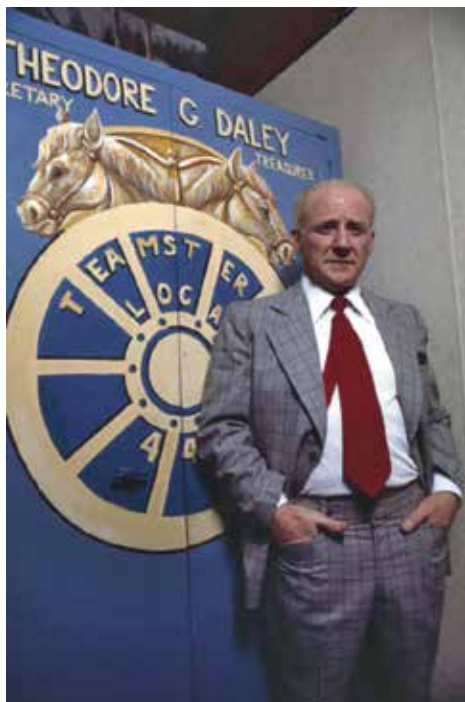
A Hudson Valley council of Improved Order of Red Men chapters was organized in the wigwam of the Mahwenawasigh Tribe in Beacon. W.A. Povole of Newburgh was elected chief of the fraternal order and John Shaw of Beacon named Keeper of Wampum (treasurer).

Taxpayers, for the third time, voted down a proposal to spend \$140,000 to build an addition to the high school with a gymnasium and auditorium. The vote was 245-236. The building was so crowded that students could only attend part-time. The state Education Department, which had ordered Beacon to construct the addition, said it would likely reduce the district's aid by \$10,000 annually to force the issue.

A Poughkeepsie woman who left her pocketbook in the train station restroom lost \$30 in cash and \$400 in government bonds.

50 Years Ago (December 1972)

Theodore Daley, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 445, was re-elected by a wide margin. A Beacon resident, Daley had vowed to investigate mob involvement



Ted Daley of Beacon was a Teamsters leader who in the early 1970s vowed to investigate mob influence in the Hudson Valley. He died in 2021.

in the cigarette vending business, and Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. said he planned to have Daley testify before Congress. Daley received death threats after he provided information to a *Newburgh Evening News* reporter who documented how local dispensers and their stock were controlled by the Columbo crime family.

25 Years Ago (December 1997)

The Beacon City Council said it would move money around to avoid an increase in property taxes, which were \$12.62 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for residential homes and \$20.99 per \$1,000 for businesses. The city administrator said much of the \$200,000 increase in spending in the 1998 budget was because of salary hikes for firefighters and police officers.

A Metro-North police officer came to the rescue with a teddy bear to coax a 2-year-old to unlock the door of the car in which she had accidentally been trapped. The girl's mother was retrieving something from her trunk at the station when she realized she had locked herself out. Fortunately, the toddler knew how to unbuckle her car seat, and mom then used a bear retrieved by the officer from his squad car — it was on hand to calm children involved in traumatic events — to coax her daughter into the driver's seat and to push the button to open the electronic locks. There was a brief delay while the girl played "race car" with the steering wheel.

St. Francis Hospital announced that it planned to expand and build a 160-bed nursing home in Beacon in partnership with the Wingate Development Corp.

Lorraine MacAulay, a member of the Beacon chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, created a gingerbread version of the Madam Brett Homestead with 30 windows made of melted sugar on parchment paper.



Baby & Dog

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Michele Hanna of Cold Spring shared this shot of Bella and her grandson, Brennan, watching big sisters Hayley and Maggie get on the school bus. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ At the Wednesday (Dec. 14) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, a group of residents asked the board for its support for a public education campaign to encourage people to get up to date with their COVID boosters. "People have been lulled into a certain comfort level; they think they

are protected," said one resident, Marianne Sutton. Deputy Mayor Tweeps Phillips Woods, who chaired the meeting, said "we should certainly put out information regarding where people can get vaccinated; as a board we'd be happy to do that." She said adding the village seal to ads and posters could be considered once campaign materials are developed.

■ The board voted to end mandatory water conservation measures after Matt Kroog, the superintendent of water and sewer, reported that recent precipitation has increased village reservoirs to nearly 80 percent of capacity.

■ A report by Hahn Engineering concluded

(Continued on Page 18)

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Lynne Ward, LCSW Licensed Psychotherapist

*Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation
Addiction Counseling*

75 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516

lynneward99@gmail.com
(917) 597-6905

**DEMOLITION
EXPERTS** \$500
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
914-737-0823

HAVE YOUR OWN BUSINESS CARD

You can advertise your
business here starting at \$20.

For more information,
[email ads@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org).

DUMPSTER RENTAL

\$100
PER DAY

914 737-0823

DR. K IMPORTED CAR SERVICE & REPAIR



15 TIORONDA AVE.
BEACON, NY 12508
DrKimportedCar.com

Phone/ 845.838.0717
Fax/ 845.440.7541
E-Mail/ drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com



**ALLENS
DUMPSTER
SERVICE**
LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY

(646) 772-2673

allens-dumpster-service.business.site

Village Board *(from Page 17)*

that a slope between the Highway Department garage and 37 Fair St. does not require a retaining wall as a condition for the village to sell a small piece of property there. The former car dealership site is being converted into an artist's live-work space and gallery.

■ Sean Conway, the vice chair of the Historic District Review Board, reported that it plans to create an inventory of unapproved signs.

■ The Cold Spring Police Department responded to 50 calls for service in November. Officers issued 19 traffic tickets (including seven for speeding) and 65 parking tickets. There were no arrests.

■ The Cold Spring Fire Co. answered six calls last month, including two motor vehicle accidents involving injuries, two mutual aid calls and an investigation of gas odor at a residence.

■ Improvements to the baseball field at Mayor's Park will begin this month, funded by the Haldane school district and private donations.

■ The board authorized the mayor to sell a small piece of village-owned property to the owners of the Riverview Restaurant at 45 Fair St.

■ Two seats on the Recreation Commission are vacant. Residents interested in volunteering should contact the village clerk.

Dutchess Budget *(from Page 1)*

This was hardly the first time the 4,494-seat stadium has been at the center of controversy.

In 2018, the county committed \$2.4 million to improving the stadium, a request that legislators approved but said was hurried. In 2021, Dutchess agreed to spend \$12.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds on additional improvements while announcing a new, 25-year lease with the Renegades, who have played at the park since it opened in 1994.

While announcing the lease, Molinaro said he expected the county to net \$15 million through increased rent and other opportunities over the life of the agreement.

After backlash, Molinaro, a Republican, said earlier this year that the county would redirect \$9.5 million of the ARP funding to address affordable housing and homelessness.

Dutchess Comptroller Robin Lois, a Democrat who has been critical of spending on the stadium, sent an email to the 25 legislators before the Dec. 8 meeting, asking the lawmakers to wait a month before approving the latest expenditure. The \$25 million, which is to come from the county's fund balance, will still be available in January, and the delay would allow for public comment on the proposal, Lois said.

"This last-minute amendment will be perceived poorly as an effort to avoid proper public oversight on an already contentious and controversial project," she wrote. "This is a perception I would like to avoid for our government."

But on Wednesday (Dec. 14), Gregg Pulver, a Republican who is the chair of the Legislature, argued that the project has been discussed since June 2021, when the new agreement with the Renegades was announced. "The merits and functions of the project have been in the public domain for over a year," he said. "The amount, which changed due to inflation and the Renegades contributing \$4 million, was the only piece we needed to re-discuss."

Pulver said that the decision to move the funds into the budget through an amendment, instead of bonding for the initial \$15 million in the 2023 plan, would save taxpayers \$11 million in interest.

Legislators added around a dozen other amendments to the budget using the fund balance. Other than the stadium, the most expensive was \$1 million for nonprofit infrastructure grants.

An amendment proposed by Valdes Smith, for \$517,811 to pay for economically disadvantaged high school students to receive college credit for classes taken through Dutchess Community College (DCC) during the 2023-24 academic year, was voted down by the Legislature along party lines.

Pulver said he believes the amendment didn't make it because DCC has not begun to charge dual enrollment tuition yet. (The plan to charge \$64 per credit hour, or a third of its standard tuition rate for state residents, is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2023.)

"If the college isn't charging students or asking for the money, why would we appro-

priate money to cover this not-existent expense?" Pulver asked. "Further, charging high school students was a policy that every legislator voted in favor of when the Legislature adopted the DCC budget in July. Where were those legislators then to protest this change?"

Valdes Smith's proposal would have covered tuition for students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch — according to the college, about a third of the more than 3,000 students who use the dual enrollment program.

Matt Landahl, the superintendent of the Beacon City School District, said during the school board's meeting on Dec. 12 that he and other area superintendents would reach out again to the Legislature to try to find funding for those students.

"The last thing we want is a student making a decision not to take one of these classes because they feel like they can't afford it," he said.

Current Classifieds

EVENTS

LIVING NATIVITY — Faith Church Cold Spring at 245 Main St. in Cold Spring will be having its annual Christmas Living Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. Join us. We will be singing Christmas chorus and reading the Christmas story. In the end, there will be free hot cocoa and cookies for everyone. Also join us on Friday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m. for our candlelight service. All are welcome. For more information, call Pastor Luis at 845-203-0400.

SERVICES

STUDENTS NEED A CONFIDENCE BOOST?

— Coaching adds zip to writing and study skills. Local expert writing and study-skills coach — NYU MA, editor, writer, educator — offers a simple but effective 3-Step System for School Success. From middle-school through grad school, it works! Remote or in-person, flexible schedule. Email coach10516@gmail.com or call 914-443-4723.


WANTED

LOOM — 24 inches or wider. 4, 8 or 16 cylinders. Prefer table loom, will consider a floor loom. Harris preferred; will consider others. Must be in good working condition. Email Bill.617.899.3443@gmail.com.

CLOCK REPAIR — Seek an experienced clock specialist to repair an early 19th century Silas Hoadley grandfather clock and service three smaller French 18th and 19th century clocks. Email Robert at calderossi@gmail.com or call 917-318-6862.

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

PIDALA OIL CO. IS FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED, SERVICING THE COLD SPRING, GARRISON AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR NEARLY FOUR DECADES.



PIDALA
OIL CO., INC.
OIL HEAT • PROPANE • DIESEL FUEL

3524 ROUTE 9 | PO BOX 249
COLD SPRING, NY

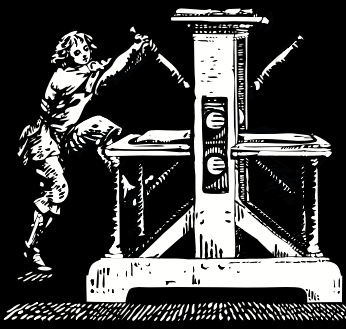
- Automatic Oil & Propane Deliveries
- Budget Plans - Service Contracts
- Furnace / Boiler Installations
- 24-hour Emergency Service
- BBQ tanks filled at our site
- Licensed Technicians

PIDALAOIL.COM | 845.265.2073

Credit and debit cards accepted

PC3348 PC038

HIGHLAND STUDIO



PRINTMAKERS

**FINE ART
PRINTING
SCANNING
LARGE FORMAT**

**HUDSON VALLEY'S
ARCHIVAL PRINTING
SINCE 1997**

**PICTURE FRAMING
print & map gallery**

845-809-5174

**31 STEPHANIE LANE
COLD SPRING, NY
www.thehighlandstudio.com**

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Slightly wet

5. Wild canine

9. Yoga pad

12. Close

13. Actress Perlman

14. Green prefix

15. Requiring low temperatures

17. Moo — pork

18. Boy, in Barcelona

19. Big name in racing

21. Antlered animals

24. Jubilation

25. Billions of years

26. German

30. Aachen article

31. Postpone

32. Wildebeest

33. Romance-free, as a relationship

35. Head, to Henri

36. Sweet wine

37. King of Judea

38. Snapshot

40. Graceful bird

42. Slithery fish

43. Looking good on the tube, say

48. Part of TNT

49. Lettuce unit

50. Turner or Fey

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29

30 31 32

33 34 35

36 37

38 39 40 41

42 43 44 45 46 47

48 49 50

51 52 53

51. Billboards

52. Evergreens

53. Crisp cookie

DOWN

1. Org. for a major party

2. — Lingus

3. Spring month

4. Plug parts

5. Wee songbird

6. "It can't be!"

7. Floral necklace

8. Teaching staff

9. Courier

10. Dull pain

11. Go sightseeing

16. USO patrons

20. Ultramodernist

21. Leak out slowly

22. Work hard

23. Maryland's capital

24. Avocado dip, for short

26. Camp shelter

27. Peyton's brother

28. Grooving on

29. Prompted

31. Girl in *The Wizard of Oz*

34. Nanny's charge

35. Beliefs

37. Crone

38. Anti-fur org.

39. Cattle group

40. Cabbage salad

41. Marries

44. Shoe width

45. Diarist Anais

46. — tizzy

47. Bottle top

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answers for Dec. 9 Puzzles

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

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

1. JACKPOT, 2. PLOTTER, 3. WESTERN, 4. DEMI, 5. FIREBRAND, 6. SUPPLIES, 7. SUMPTUOSITY

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

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 ceremonial retinue (7)

2 made a witty remark (7)

3 wide awake (9)

4 teen years (11)

5 French singer Piaf (5)

6 confidant (7)

7 all over (10)

SOLUTIONS

CO	EDI	SLE	EGE	LESS
PED	VI	LACE	TH	ER
AD	EV	LESC	EP	QUIP
ADO	YP	RT	SOR	ENCE

© 2022 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



The Gift Hut

86 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516

Shop in store or online at www.thegifthut.com

Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles for the Whole Family

SPORTS



Follow us at twitter.com/hcurrentsports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BOWLING

The Beacon boys' and girls' bowling teams are off to a strong start, with each squad winning two of its first three matches.

The boys picked up a 5-0 victory on Tuesday (Dec. 13) over Marlboro in a match played at Fishkill Bowl. Anthony Borromeo led the Bulldogs with a 542 series.

Beacon also won, 5-0, on Dec. 8 over Franklin Roosevelt in a match played at Spins in Poughkeepsie. James Bouchard led the Bulldogs with a 524 series, Ayden Gileo had a 517 and Will Hockler finished with 516.

The boys finished 10-6 last season and qualified for sectionals, where they finished fourth among large schools in Section IX.

The team lost All-Section bowler Dan Gileo to graduation but returns juniors Hockler and Cameron Odell, along with freshmen Bouchard and Gileo. Borromeo, a junior, and freshman Michael Murtaugh join the team.

"The hope is to try to win our league first," said Coach Brian Mahon. "The guys are pretty young — we have no seniors — so we're fairly raw. But we have a lot of talent, and I think we can surprise some teams."

The girls' team also picked up a 5-0 victory on Tuesday over Marlboro, with Keira István, Cadence Heeter, Vanessa Campanelli, Elizabeth Ruffy and Nina Rivers leading the way.

In a loss on Dec. 8 to Franklin Roosevelt, the Bulldogs were led by István (342 series), Ari Carmona (322) and Heeter (282).

The girls finished last season at 7-9. The bulk of the team returned, led by juniors Heeter and Campanelli. Carmona, a senior, also returned, as did juniors István and Ruffy.

"We finished just shy of making the sectional tournament last year, so that's the goal," said Mahon, who coaches the boys and girls. "They can do it. We have a lot of tough matches, but all of the girls are showing improvement."

Both teams are 2-1. They will host Kingston on Monday (Dec. 19) and travel to Highland the following day.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

After opening the season with wins over Marlboro and Blind Brook, Haldane dropped its third straight game on Tuesday (Dec. 13), coming up on the short end of a 50-46 decision at Byram Hills.

The Blue Devils also lost to a talented



Haldane's Matt Nachamkin clears a lane against Valhalla.

Photos by S. Pearlman



Ryan Eng-Wong rises for a shot against Valhalla.

Valhalla team, 69-52, at home on Dec. 9.

Haldane led 13-10 after the first quarter against Byram Hills but managed just five points in the second and trailed 22-18 at halftime. Matteo Cervone led the Blue Devils with 18 points and eight rebounds, Ben Bozsik added 11 points and Will Bradley had eight.

Against Valhalla, the Blue Devils had their

hands full with the bigger and quicker visitors.

The Eagles led 16-10 after one, but Haldane found a way to hang around and trailed by only one point at halftime and three points at the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth, the Eagles' smothering defense resulted in turnovers and easy transition baskets. Valhalla opened with a 12-2 run in the first two minutes that put the Eagles up 54-41, and the lead ballooned to 17 with just under a minute left.

"I take some blame on our fast break," said junior Matt Nachamkin. "I made some turnovers early, and we also struggled a bit on Wednesday [Dec. 7, in a loss to Tucka-hoe]. We've got to take our time; we're rushing things."

"But we're a good team, and a close-knit group," he said. "We showed a lot of moments where we were doing well, pushing up the court, and in our half-court offense. So hopefully we can continue that."

Haldane (2-3) is scheduled to play at Pleasantville on Monday (Dec. 19) and at Chester on Dec. 29.

Beacon (1-0) is scheduled to host Liberty today (Dec. 16) at 5 p.m. and Port Jervis on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. before traveling to Goshen on Thursday.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon picked up a 47-39 victory on Tuesday (Dec. 13) at James O'Neill behind 25 points from Reilly Landisi. Daveya Rodriguez added 10.

"That was a solid road win in an environment that is never easy to play in," said Coach Christina Dahl. "Offensively, we moved the ball well and had good opportunities in transition to score. Reilly did a nice job playing with aggressiveness."

"Defensively, until the fourth, we held them to less than 10 points in each quar-

ter," she said. "We struggled boxing out and gave up more second chances than we would like. But it was nice to get back-to-back wins, and to see the girls playing with more camaraderie."

Beacon also had a win on Dec. 8 in its home opener against Chester, 42-33. Rodriguez had nine points, Rayana Taylor and Landisi each contributed eight and Devyn Kelly scored seven.

"It's good to get that first W under our belt," Dahl said. "Defensively, we played well, with Rory LaDue leading the charge. On offense, we had a balanced attack, with five players scoring six points or more."

Beacon (2-3) is scheduled to visit Newburgh on Monday (Dec. 19) and host Marlboro on Dec. 28.

Haldane picked up a 58-46 win — its first of the season — at Woodlands on Dec. 9, led by Betsy Cates, who had 16 points and 15 rebounds. Kayla Ruggiero added 14 points, Moretta Pezzullo had 10 and Mairead O'Hara scored eight in what Coach Ed Crowe called "a great team effort."

Haldane (1-2) will host Westlake on Wednesday (Dec. 21) at 4:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

Beacon dropped a 37-30 decision to Red Hook on Wednesday (Dec. 14) at home.

Jayden Calloway remains undefeated for the Bulldogs at 13-0, and Avery Davis (172 pounds), Jude Betancourt (138), Ronan Moran (118) and Will Flynn (110) all won by pin.

WINTER TRACK

At the Section IX Kickoff Meet on Dec. 10 at West Point, Beacon's Damani Deloatch won the long jump (20-7) and the triple jump (43-8), while Henry Reinke was first in the 600 in 1:29 and Bella Migliore took fourth in the 600 in 1:51.

"Henry's victorious 600 was a great start to the season coming off his trip to states in cross-country," said Coach Jim Henry. "And I was very happy with Damani's season-opener. He's set up to be the best jumper in the region, and could be one of the top five in the state by the end of his junior season."

FREE-THROW CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus will host its annual free-throw competition for boys and girls ages 9 to 14 on Jan. 14 at the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison.

The Philipstown contest is organized by Loretto Council No. 536. Age eligibility is determined by the entrant's age as of Jan. 1, 2023, and a birth certificate or other proof of age must be provided, along with written parental consent. There is no cost.

An entry form can be downloaded at bit.ly/536-free-throw. For more information, call Dan Dillon at 845-265-3802.