

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Classic Jag  
Page 14

## Tompkins Terrace Tax Plans Shift

City of Beacon could approve new pact

By Jeff Simms

Related Companies, the owners of the Tompkins Terrace low-income housing complex, has shifted gears and plans to ask the Beacon City Council, rather than Dutchess County, to approve a 40-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement in advance of beginning a \$14.5 million rehabilitation project.

“The most important factor for me is locking in the affordability for 40 years.”

~ City Administrator Chris White

If approved, the deal would allow the company to make annual payments in place of property taxes for the duration of the agreement. The payments would be split among four jurisdictions: the city, the Beacon school district, Dutchess County and the Howland Public Library.

(Continued on Page 9)

## P.V. Fire Dept. Seeks Cleanup Costs

Illegal dumping cost more than \$1.4 million

By Leonard Sparks

The Putnam Valley Volunteer Fire Department spent at least \$1.4 million of taxpayer funds removing contaminated demolition waste at the site for its new firehouse, allegedly dumped there by a contractor at the invitation of a firefighter. More than six years later, with the firehouse under construction following a state-ordered cleanup, the fire department is taking steps to recoup its costs for what it calls “significant environmental damage” from the illegal waste.

Judge Victor Grossman of the Putnam County Supreme Court ordered the contractor, John Adorno of Universal Construction in Yorktown Heights, to appear Feb. 14 to respond to a petition filed by the PVVFD.

(Continued on Page 8)



The site of the Putnam Valley Fire Department's new station had to undergo a costly cleanup because of illegal dumping.

Photo by L. Sparks

## ‘Not a Tourist Attraction’

Committee presents Philipstown path proposal

By Brian PJ Cronin

A standing-room-only crowd packed Philipstown Town Hall on Jan. 18 to hear a presentation by the Philipstown Trails Committee on the proposed walking and biking path that aims to connect the Recreation Center, Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, the Desmond-Fish Public Library and the Garrison School.

During its presentation, the committee differentiated its plans from those of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, a linear park along the Hudson River between Cold Spring and Beacon. The Fjord Trail project has drawn criticism from some residents concerned it will exacerbate overcrowding by visitors to the village.

When Megan Cotter, a member of the Town Board, asked where people would park for a proposed connection point near where Route 9D meets Bank Street in Cold Spring, Marianne Sullivan of the Trails Committee said there would be no parking. People would be expected to walk to the path, rather than drive there.

“You don’t think tourists are going to come in?” Cotter asked.

(Continued on Page 10)

## State Approves Utilities Credits

Central Hudson customers to receive up to \$2,000

By Leonard Sparks

Low-income Central Hudson customers received a lifeline last summer: one-time credits as part of a \$567 million statewide COVID-relief program created to wipe out unpaid bills accumulated before May 1.

Now, the same kind of assistance is on the way for other residents, as well as businesses, with unpaid electric and gas bills before that date. Under a plan approved on Jan. 19 by the Public Service Commission, the state’s utility regulator, more than 500,000 electric and gas customers statewide will receive one-time bill credits totaling \$672 million.

Central Hudson’s credits will top out at \$2,000 for qualifying residences and

\$1,250 for small businesses, according to documents outlining the plan, which was crafted by a working group composed of the major utilities, consumer groups, New York City and the state Office of Disability and Temporary Assistance.

As of September, Central Hudson had 28,124 residential customers with an average of \$1,459 in unpaid arrears from before May 1, and 4,623 small businesses averaging \$1,500, according to the PSC.

Most of the credits, \$571 million, will be paid for by surcharges on electric and gas bills (see chart). The utilities also agreed to forgo recovery of \$101 million of the money they borrowed to cover shortfalls when the state imposed a moratorium on shut-offs as unpaid bills ballooned, said Joseph Jenkins, a representative for Central Hudson.

The spending is expected to wipe out arrears for 75 percent of the more than

(Continued on Page 9)

## What You’ll Pay

To cover the costs of the credits, electric and gas customers will see monthly surcharges. The estimated additions are below.

ELECTRIC	Residential	Small Business	Large Business
Central Hudson	\$ 0.88	\$ 1.23	\$ 10.60
ConEd	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.94	\$ 8.30
Orange & Rockland	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.33	\$ 5.73
NYSEG	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.14	\$ 10.38
GAS	Residential	Residential Heating	Business
Central Hudson	\$ —	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.90
ConEd	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.46	\$ 1.03
Orange & Rockland	\$ 0.57	\$ —	\$ 1.02
NYSEG	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.48

Source: New York Public Service Commission



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: KATHRYN BURKE

By Chip Rowe

**K**athryn Burke, who lives in Newburgh, is director of the nonprofit Historic Bridges of the Hudson Valley (hbhv.org) and the author, most recently, of *Bridges of the Mid-Hudson Valley*.

## When did you become interested in bridges?

I'd always loved the *Images of Modern America* book series and thought I could write one. My husband and I were driving over the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and he said, "Why don't you write about the bridges?" Once I had finished *Hudson River Bridges* [in 2007], the New York State Bridge Authority [which operates the Newburgh-Beacon, Bear Mountain and four other bridges over the Hudson] contacted me about setting up Historic Bridges. When I retired from teaching in 2016, I became its first director.

## Why was the group created?

We educate people about the bridges, but it's also tied to STEM [science, technology, engineering and math]. We host workshops for teachers and students at the bridges. We have a classroom at the Bear Mountain Bridge and a museum created by Richy Vacek, a longtime foreman who died in 2021. We want to make a connection between



STEM lessons and the real world, and the careers that we need people to fill. Skilled labor should be valued more than it is.

## Which bridge was the first of the five?

Bear Mountain, which opened on Thanksgiving Day in 1924. We're going to start our celebration of the centennial in March of this year by burying a time capsule at Bear Mountain. It was the first vehicular crossing over the Hudson

River and, at the time, the longest suspension bridge in the world. The design of the bridge informed other suspension bridges, such as the George Washington [1927] and Golden Gate [1937], although those are full spans, with towers in the water.

Before the Bear Mountain Bridge was built, there was a huge outcry because people said it would destroy the look of the Highlands, but any photo taken at a distance shows how the bridge mimics the lines of the mountains. It's gorgeous. Notably, to create an unobstructed view, the engineers dipped the cables below the roadway. If you drive across the Mid-Hudson Bridge, you can't look down at the river because of the way the "pork chops" for the suspension ropes are positioned. But on the Bear Mountain Bridge, other than the sidewalk railing, you can see right through.

## Peregrine falcons nest on the Bear Mountain Bridge, but the Bridge Authority takes a different attitude toward ospreys. Why is that?

It's not that we don't like them; it's that they're way too big to be on the towers. Their nests — which are made with huge branches, not twigs — slide off. That can be dangerous if they fall onto the roadway. The falcons fly above the bridge but they're not dropping things on cars. Their habitats are below the bridge.

## The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge opened in 1963 as a two-lane span, is that right?

Yes. In all fairness to [Gov. Nelson] Rockefeller [who said two lanes would be sufficient], I think he just didn't want to take federal funds with strings attached. Ironically, when the south span was built in 1980, about 95 percent of it was paid for with federal funds because it was part of an interstate. The Bridge Authority had to receive special permission to charge tolls. You hear people ask: "Why is there even a toll? Hasn't the bridge been paid for?" But if you want a safe bridge, you want it maintained. The Bridge Authority is required by law to use all the toll money on maintenance.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## What's the last thing you binge-watched?

"I don't watch television."



Cindy Cohen, Cold Spring

"Tulsa King with Sylvester Stallone. It reminds me of *The Sopranos*."



Grant McGeary, Beacon

"Seinfeld. It's just mindless and relaxing."



Felicia Leonard, Beacon

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# Cold Spring Prepares for Parking Change

*Residential permits, meters will be implemented this year*

By Michael Turton

The Village of Cold Spring is poised in the spring or early summer to implement its long-awaited parking plan, which will include residential parking permits, along with metered parking on Main Street on weekends and holidays.

At a board workshop on Jan. 18, Mayor Kathleen Foley said the village is also working with state legislators to get approval to expand residential permits beyond the 11 streets east of the Metro-North tracks.

Down the road, the village will inquire about adding metered parking on Main Street east of the traffic light — a state road which would require a special permit — and lower Main Street.

Irene Pieza, who lives on Paulding Avenue, noted that she won't benefit from the residential plan and that, even now, when events are held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, parking is "pushed up" onto her street. She also raised concern over people who "store" their cars on side streets, sometimes for weeks or months.

Trustee Eliza Starbuck encouraged Pieza to submit photos to the village when she sees an uptick in parking in her neighborhood. "It's not complaining, we need that data; it's really helpful," Starbuck said.

Stone Street resident Patti Damato questioned the value of promoting mass transit as a means of getting to Cold Spring, commenting that the Metro-North train platform is already often overcrowded with visitors. Many people arriving by car, she said, are from New Jersey and Connecticut, which offer no public transit to the village. The proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail connecting Cold Spring and Beacon will only increase traffic, she said.

Barbara Taggart, who lives on West Belvedere Street, said on busy weekends both sides of the street are filled with parked cars and she doubted larger emergency vehicles would be able to get through.

Kathy Gardiner, a Fair Street resident,

expressed what she called a "suite of concerns" over the plans for Fair Street.

"It's one of the only streets, in addition, to Main and Route 9D, where you can have two-way traffic" allowing vehicles to get in and out of the village, she said. She also said the number of hikers going to the trails makes the street dangerous and that adding Saturday parking "will make it even worse for residents."

Foley said additional policing during the peak tourism season will be considered in the 2023-24 budget.

The introduction of metered parking, primarily on Main Street, will increase revenue substantially, the board predicted. It also proposes making Fair Street one way on weekends, with metered parking on Saturdays; the tradition of free Sunday parking for churchgoers will continue. Improved enforcement, a proposed village tax on overnight accommodations such as short-term rentals, and an increase in docking fees could also expand revenues.

"This is a major change and it's going to be uncomfortable for a lot of people," Starbuck said. "It will take a lot of patience, and feedback is always welcome."

Foley added: "We will make changes as we need to and will be very transparent about it. It's going to take some experimentation and flexibility."

## Fjord Trail

Foley urged village residents to attend a Fjord Trail open house at the Cold Spring firehouse at 6 p.m. on Thursday (Feb. 2). The session will deal with the HHFT Parking and Shuttle Study and how it relates to the village, including topics such as vehicle and pedestrian congestion, restroom facilities, trash management, parking and a proposed shuttle.

The mayor expressed concern over a recent change in lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review of Phase 1 construction of the trail, the Breakneck Connector, which she said was modified "late in the game" on Dec. 22. Foley said that

(Continued on Page 17)

## The HIGHLANDS Current

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"The Current is well-organized with in-depth articles, and it provides essential community connection in what has become an increasingly divided society."

Paul-Philippe Reyes,  
GARRISON

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## Tell us what you think

**T**he 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

### Columbus Day

Regarding the indecision about changing the name of Columbus Day on the school district calendar ("Beacon Schools Undecided on Columbus Day," Jan. 20): Why engage in endless debates when it involves a brave historical figure who never set foot on an inch of what is now the U.S.?

Herbert Simon, *Beacon*

This woke cancel culture needs to end. Someone will always be offended. We recognize people for the good and evil they bring to the world. We shouldn't dismiss great accomplishments because it hurt feelings or even societies. Should we stop speaking English because the British were so mean they taxed us? Can you find a place on this planet where war never happened or nobody was offended by the actions of another? Please people, grow up! We all hurt people, even the ones we love most.

Do the Indigenous people call themselves that, or do they identify as American Indians? They are recognized as members of Indian Nations by our government.

Steven Foerst, *LaGrange*

### Fjord Trail

People should come to the forum at the Cold Spring firehouse on Thursday (Feb. 2)

to protest plans by the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail to use Dockside Park as the main entry point. Funneling tens of thousands of visitors through the bottleneck that exists getting to Dockside will destroy the village as we know it.

What started out as a project to solve overcrowding at Breakneck Ridge has morphed into something much more grandiose that will draw an entirely new population of visitors to the area, most arriving in cars and wanting to park as close to the trail's starting point as possible. They are not going to read a visitor communication plan or fill in an online application to learn about parking options as was suggested in an HHFT survey, but will drive down Main Street and over the Lunn Terrace bridge as directed by Google Maps.

The same survey declares that HHFT will "operate and maintain the [Dockside] park." At this point, I don't think HHFT or the state parks department care that much about what happens to Cold Spring, nor does their work to date inspire confidence.

Consider the shoreline stabilization project, done by state parks, but clearly (given the large "on-ramp" at the end of the park) planned in cooperation with HHFT. Nearly \$2 million in taxpayer dollars later, most of the landscaping and plantings have been washed into the river. I dread to think what

it will look like if this project goes ahead and they build infrastructure to manage all the anticipated visitors.

Peter Henderson, *Cold Spring*

### Indian Point

Closing a nuclear power plant requires a lot of attention to details ("Rental Needed. Term: 300,000 Years," Dec. 23). In the case of Indian Point, this responsibility rests with the New York State Decommissioning Oversight Board, which considers what the owner (Holtec) may do in regard to public health and safety. The federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission also have roles.

The DOB's next meeting is Thursday (Feb. 2) at 6 p.m. at Cortlandt Town Hall, 1 Heady St. It is possible to attend virtually via bit.ly/indian-point-dob.

Disposal of the tritiated water from the fuel pools is on the agenda. Tritium is a radioactive isotope. Holtec plans to release the water into the Hudson River. Our group, United 4 Clean Energy, instead recommends storage on-site because that will not add to the pollution in the river, even if technically allowed under federal regulations.

At the last meeting of the DOB, Holtec's plan to ship radioactive waste to New Mexico was on the agenda. This is called Consolidated Interim Storage. This is a faulty and dangerous plan, and forcing highly radioactive waste on a community against its will is undemocratic in the extreme.

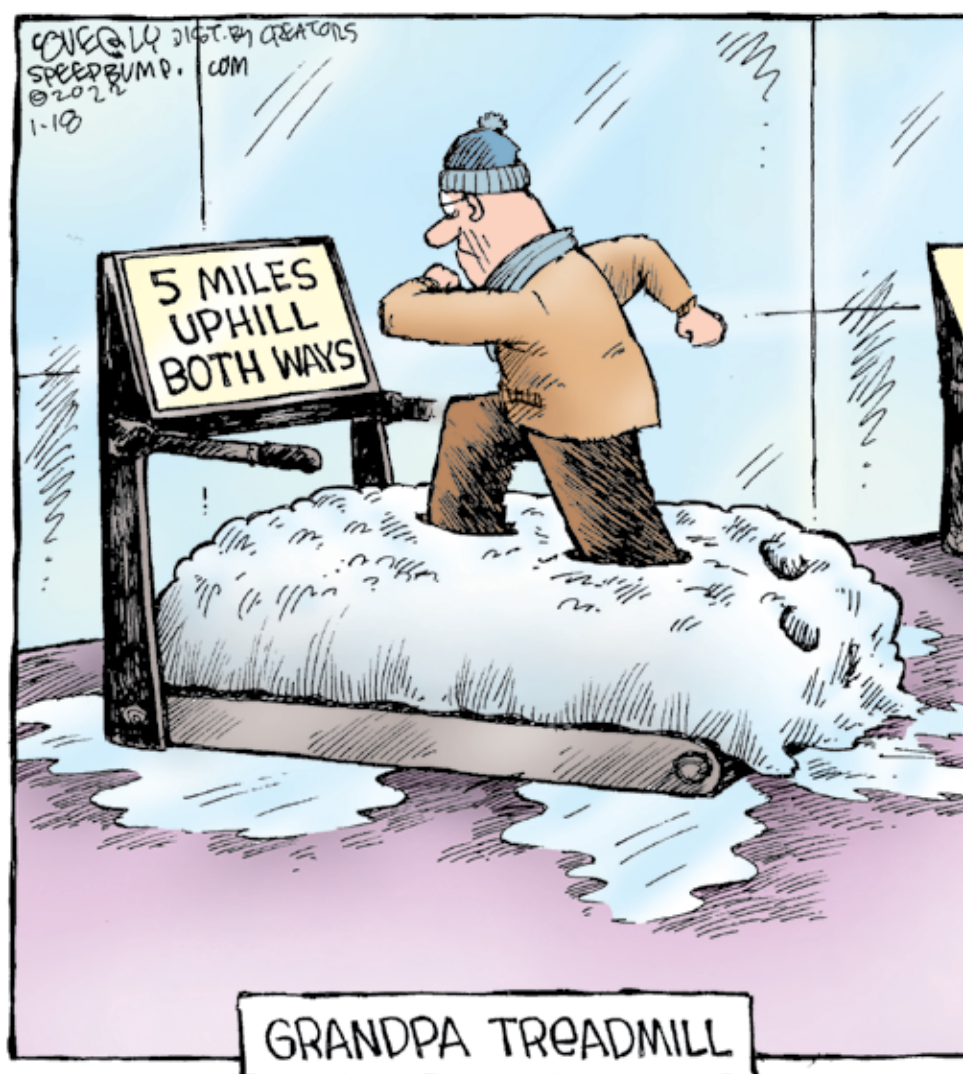
Given the opposition in New Mexico, and delays associated with the legal process, the time frame of 10 years laid out by Holtec for moving the fuel off Indian Point is improbable, at best.

There is no good solution. We are stuck with the least-bad alternative, which means leaving it in place near the reactor where it was generated.

A strong case can be made that those who enjoyed the benefits of the electricity generated at Indian Point, including a significant reduction in property taxes over 40 years, have an obligation to take care of the waste. Those living in the former reactor village of Buchanan may feel that this is not what they bargained for. However, it is the inevitable consequence of nuclear generation. The idea that radioactive waste can go away when there clearly was no place for it to go has always been magical thinking.

Indian Point occupies a large site on the Hudson River that has the potential for various uses once it is certified as a green field. Can that happen if a small part is reserved for the storage of radioactive waste? That is a question that needs to be explored.

Marilyn Elie, *Cortlandt Manor*



(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Central Hudson

We live in Beacon. We're on the budget plan and just received our year-end adjustment for \$1,700. Six of our 12 bills were estimated ("Central Hudson Woes Continue," Jan. 20).  
Zep Thomaselli, *via Facebook*

All of my 2022 bills were estimated and we now owe close to \$3,000.  
Eliza Brown, *via Facebook*

Soon after I paid off a huge bill, I received an email stating I have another bill waiting. I am afraid to open it. Something needs to be done: I can't afford this.  
Terry Greenough, *via Facebook*

I got a year-end budget-plan adjustment for \$1,300. The monthly payment for our house was \$350 in 2022; it will now rise to \$500, or \$6,000 for 2023.  
Deirdre Lukic, *via Facebook*

I hope they make Central Hudson pay everyone back handsomely. How is this even legal?  
Lastar Gorton, *via Facebook*

I just received an invoice for \$0.00 (after receiving a bill, due the same day, for the more-or-less expected amount). Will they take a check?  
Chris Sanders, *via Instagram*

Beacon gas

Appliances are only a small part of the use of gas ("Electric Beacon," Jan. 13). Heating buildings and providing domestic hot water is much more significant. As we move forward, we need to consider that transition. I don't see any real downside in requiring new construction — commercial, mixed-use or residential — to use electric heat. In fact, it is hard to believe that anyone would build a structure with gas- or oil-fired heating. Heat pump systems are cost-effective, deliver heating and cooling and, for apartments, allow the separate billing of utilities for each renter. There are, however, still barriers to tap/shower water being heated by electricity. Ground and air-source electric heat pumps generally don't produce water that is hot enough. The few systems designed to do so lose much of their efficiency. As the state or Beacon starts to dictate the removal and replacement of gas/oil heating systems, structures with existing ductwork should manage the transition without major issues, with subsidies. But historic homes with radiators (steam or hot water) will be costly to convert. One solution would be "mini-split" heat pump systems with units added to most rooms. That means opening up all the walls or running conduits up and across the exterior. That's OK, unless you mind defacing a historic building. Adding large duct systems inside a house not designed that way doesn't usually make sense. Where would they go? In my view, those types of buildings should be exempt until the technology evolves. I hope the city and state will be thoughtful about how to support the necessary transi-

tion away from fossil-fueled heating and hot water. While these investments pay back over time, many can't afford the high upfront cost. Low- or no-interest loans would work. We also would need to incentivize and train the technicians needed to maintain heat-pump technology. There are not enough manufacturer-approved firms to do that work, and warranties require that certification.  
Scott Lerman, *Beacon*

Mirbeau project

Rather than a hotel and spa, would it be better if the Tioronda Estate in Beacon was rezoned as residential and 80 new houses were built there ("Mirbeau's Next Move Unclear," Jan. 13)? That could add 100 students to the school district, push it out of its low-income state-aid bracket and increase taxes by 40 percent.

The owners of the property have paid \$50,000 annually in school taxes for 20 years. Let the developers get their feet underneath them before we start hammering them with \$500,000 bills.

The payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) we should be questioning is for Tompkins Terrace ("Tompkins Terrace to Get Face-lift," Jan. 20). Why does a multibillion-dollar real-estate company need help fixing up its complex? Poor execution of its business plan? That PILOT won't create any permanent jobs and the developer is likely to get most of its money through grants and low-interest federal loans. If I came in asking for millions in tax relief, I wouldn't be wearing \$700 dress shoes and a \$10,000 watch. But it's "for the people," so no one is questioning it.  
Alan Flynn, *via Facebook*

How can a spa resort get tax abatement but I get constant tax increases? How can a private, for-profit company get free taxes but seniors get gentrified out?  
Paul Yeaple, *via Facebook*

Let that old building rot if it has to.  
Michael Casale, *via Facebook*

Just do it! Save this beautiful property while there is still time.  
Geraldine Fuller, *via Facebook*

I'd love to see this project go through; it's an excellent developer. But we need to end these tax breaks to make projects happen. Projects need to be able to happen on their own, and the end users need to pay the taxes the city and county have passed.  
James Petty, *via Instagram*

A developer that can afford to spend \$10 million on a property can certainly be expected to pay its fair share of taxes.  
Joni Sweet, *via Instagram*

I hope the school board stands up in ways other boards have not. There's got to be a better way to develop in Beacon.  
Lesly Canossi, *via Instagram*

Part of the problem is that state tax assessment law and guidelines allow local assessors to maintain their own financial fiefdoms, and lagging assessments

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
Primary vaccination:	76.2% Philipstown/CS: 88.0% Garrison: 82.6%	71.7% Beacon: 68.2%
Boosted:	19.8% Philipstown/CS: 28.8% Garrison: 23.1%	21.9% Beacon: 18.1%
Positive tests, 7-day average:	↓ 9.4%	↑ 14.0%
Number of deaths:	145 (+2)	735 (+4)

Source: Weekly update per state health department, as of Jan. 24 (vaccine data as of Jan. 20). Boosted is the percentage of people eligible for additional shots who are up to date.

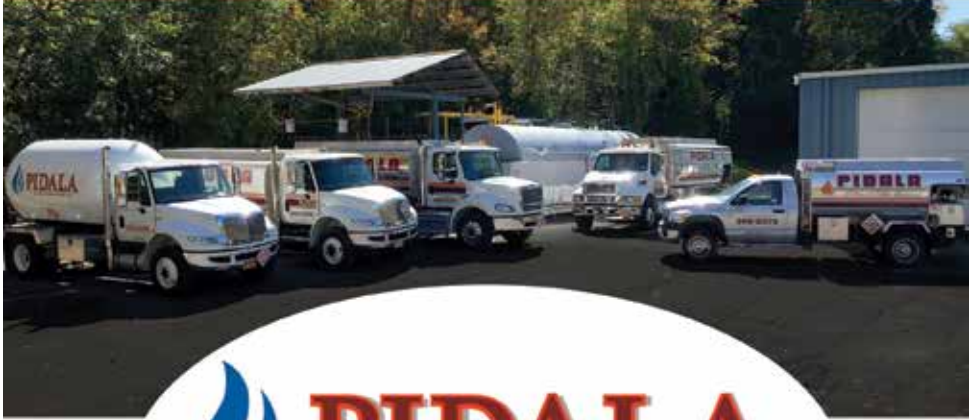
Note: Because of the small incremental changes to vaccination numbers, we will be printing this chart once a month going forward, although updates will continue more frequently online.


favor longtime owners with below-market assessments because their property has not traded and assessments are done every three years. They also disadvantage new entrants (developers or new buyers) who are assessed at full-market value as a result of recorded sale or construction and pay a disproportionately higher tax.

For developers, this is often the point at which a project is no longer financially viable without a PILOT. While industrial development agencies can be inefficient, they are necessary to ensure local government doesn't tax the local economy into ruin. In this case, because the project is not residential, the school district will not receive new students, so the impact should be minimal.

Andrew Schrijver, *via Instagram*

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# Former Newburgh Man Convicted of Seditious Conspiracy

*Federal jury finds him guilty in 2021 attack on Capitol*

By Chip Rowe

**R**oberto Minuta, the former owner of a Newburgh tattoo parlor, was among four members of the Oath Keepers convicted on Monday (Jan. 23) of seditious conspiracy in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Minuta, who lives in Prosper, Texas, formerly owned the Casa Di Dolore on Broadway in Newburgh. He was convicted along with two men from Florida and one from Arizona. The jury deliberated for 12 hours over three days.

A sentencing date has not been set. The judge freed the men to home detention.

Minuta was arrested in Newburgh on

March 8, 2021. An FBI agent testified that Minuta, then 37, was at the Capitol “equipped with military-style attire and gear,” including ballistic goggles, a radio earpiece and radio, hard-knuckle tactical gloves, bear spray and apparel emblazoned with a crest related to the Oath Keepers militia. He “aggressively berated and taunted” police officers before entering the building, the agent said. Minuta was among the men who provided security on Jan. 6 for Roger Stone, an adviser to then-President Donald Trump.

Minuta was charged with 17 other members of the Oath Keepers; their trials were separated due to the number of defendants. He was indicted on five counts: seditious conspiracy; conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding; obstruction of an official proceeding; conspiracy to prevent an officer from discharging any duties; and

tampering with documents or proceedings.

He was convicted on the three conspiracy charges and obstructing an official proceeding but acquitted on the tampering charge.

Among the other nine men from the area arrested following the attack, two from Mahopac and one from Carmel pleaded guilty in 2022 to entering the Capitol. Here is the status of the other prosecutions:

## **Edward “Jake” Lang, Newburgh**

Arrested Jan. 16, 2021;  
remains incarcerated

The FBI said Lang, 26, can be seen in the crowd wearing a green-and-black gas mask and striking officers’ shields with a bat. At a hearing in December 2021, a prosecutor said Lang had turned down a plea deal with a sentence of up to about 6½ years. In the most recent ruling in his case, on Monday (Jan. 23), a judge denied Lang’s motion to have the charges dismissed.

## **William Pepe, Beacon**

Arrested Jan. 12, 2021; released on personal recognizance

Prosecutors allege Pepe, Dominic Pezzola of Rochester and Matthew Greene of Syracuse acted together as members of the far-right Proud Boys by coordinating travel and lodging, using earpieces and radios to communicate, dismantling barriers and breaking windows. Following his arrest, Pepe was fired from his job at Metro-North in Brewster. He was indicted on four counts, including conspiracy; assaulting, resisting or impeding certain officers; and aiding and abetting. His next court date is Feb. 3.

## **Gregory Purdy Jr., Kent**

Arrested Nov. 10, 2021; released on personal recognizance

A 2016 Carmel High School graduate, the 24-year-old was one of six candidates in May 2020 for two seats on the Carmel school board (he finished fifth) and in 2016 managed a campaign by his father, Gregory Purdy-Schwartz, a Republican who hoped to unseat longtime state Assembly Member Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district



**A man identified as Roberto Minuta, who at the time owned a Newburgh tattoo parlor, appears in a photo included in the original criminal complaint.**

included Philipstown and Kent. Purdy Jr. was indicted on nine charges that included assaulting, resisting or impeding police officers and illegal entry. His uncle, Robert Turner, 39, of Poughkeepsie, who traveled with him and faces the same charges, was arrested Nov. 22. Both pleaded not guilty. Purdy’s next court date is Feb. 7.

## **Matthew Purdy, Kent**

Arrested Nov. 10, 2021; released on personal recognizance

Gregory Purdy’s younger brother, 22 and also a Carmel High School grad, was indicted on four counts, including disorderly conduct and illegal entry. He pleaded not guilty. His next court date is Feb. 7.

## **William Vogel, Pawling**

Arrested Jan. 26, 2021; released on personal recognizance

The FBI says Vogel, then 27, recorded himself inside the Capitol and posted the video to Snapchat. He pleaded not guilty to unlawful entry, disorderly conduct and violent entry. On Jan. 16, his public defender informed a judge that his client planned to mount a “public authority” defense (i.e., Trump gave the orders), but a plea hearing is now scheduled for Wednesday (Feb. 1).

## What’s Online at HighlandsCurrent.org

These resources can be accessed through the pulldown menu on the top of each page, under “Resources” and “Reader Guide.”

### **Local Officials**

This is a list of elected and appointed officials at the local, state and federal level and how to contact them with your praise or protests.

### **Local Government Video Guide**

OK, it’s not Netflix, but here’s a list of sites where you can watch videos of local and county public meetings.

### **Storm Updates and Resources**

Storm watcher resources and contacts for when the power goes out.

### **Community Directory**

This is a continually updated guide to local businesses and cultural sites, with addresses, phone numbers and web links.

### **Shop Local Online**

We created this during the pandemic; it’s a list of local retailers that allow you to order online.

### **Community Calendar**

This is the full Monty — we only have room for the highlights in print.

### **Real-Estate Data**

These graphs are created on-the-fly by a firm called Dataherald and include the number of new listings in Putnam and Dutchess counties, the number of home sales and median sales prices.

### **Back Issues**

This is an archive of our past issues, in PDF format, from June 2012 to date, except for the latest issue, which is emailed to *Current* members on Friday morning.

### **Podcast Archives**

Here are links to all the episodes of our podcast, for easy listening. The three most popular downloads so far have been interviews with a barefoot Ironman competitor; Dinky Romilly of Philipstown, who discussed her civil rights work and her famous mother; and the author of a book about stone walls.

### **Job Search**

Provided by Indeed, these are continually updated listings for open positions in the Highlands and surrounding areas.

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# State Objects to Holtec Request

*Firm wants exceptions for Indian Point work*

By Brian PJ Cronin

New York State has formally objected to a series of exemptions that Holtec International, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant near Peekskill, is seeking from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The exemptions concern aspects of the plant's emergency preparedness requirements, including staffing levels, evacuation plans and how interactions with first responders would be handled in the case of an emergency.

Holtec insists that because the decommissioned plant is much less of a risk, in terms of accidents and as a terrorist target, the NRC's requirements are too stringent. "Off-site emergency plans are not necessary for permanently defueled nuclear power plants," it states in its request, explaining that Holtec staff can handle any situations that would be most likely to occur.

Holtec said its exemption requests are similar to those requested at other facilities being decommissioned, especially given that the NRC has not updated regulations to take into account the ways in which a decommissioned plant is different from an active one.

"We're not doing anything different from what any other nuclear plant in this country is doing," said Rich Burroni, a Holtec executive, during a meeting last year of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board.

New York State is requesting that the NRC not allow the exemptions because of recent mishaps at a nuclear plant that Holtec is decommissioning in New Jersey. The "high number of recent safety violations" at Oyster Creek "raise questions about whether this facility and this owner in particular warrant this exemption," said the state's appeal. "While similar exemptions have been granted at other facilities, it is not clear that this workforce is as experienced as that of other nationwide facilities not operating under this contract-worker."

The state also noted the characteristics

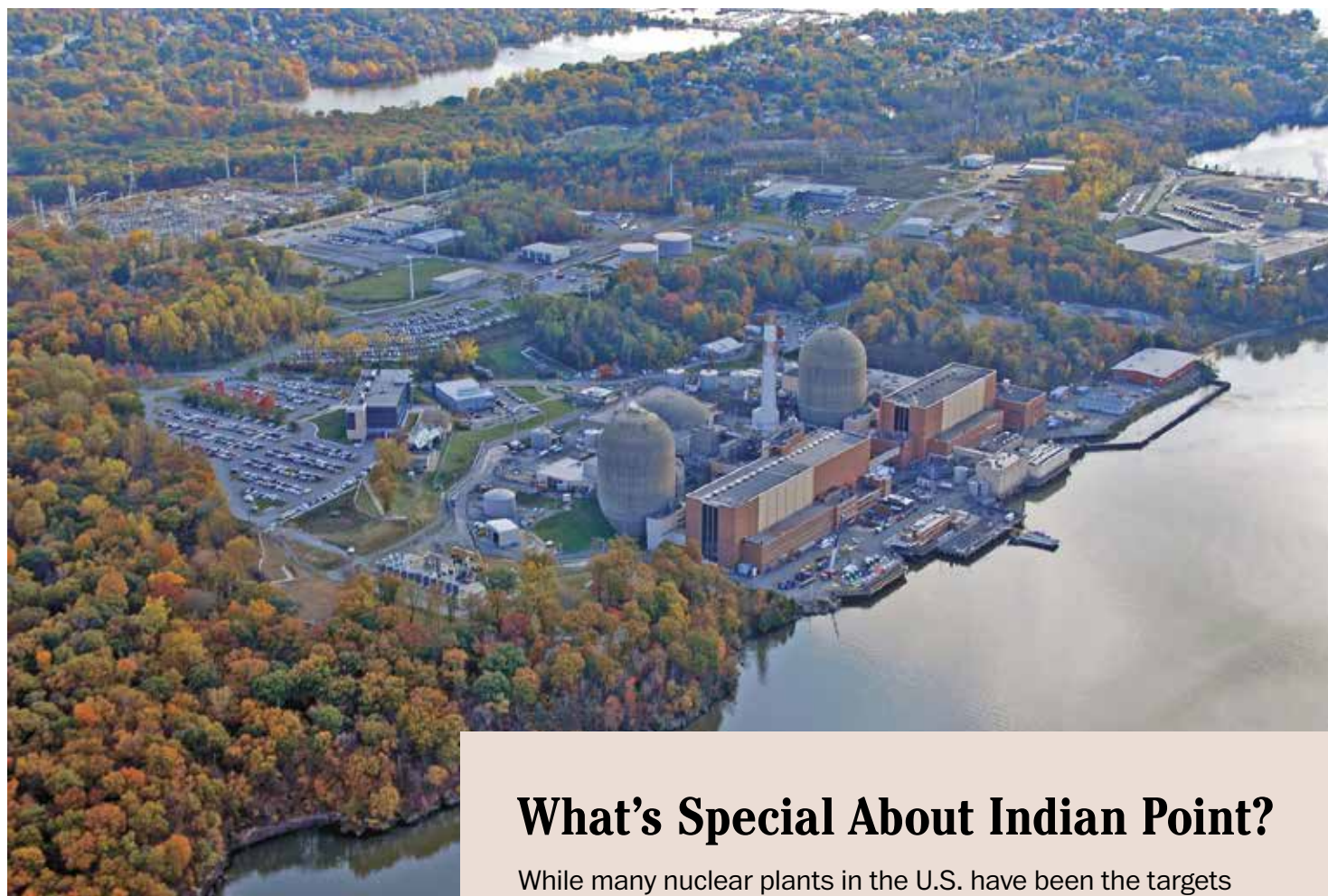


Photo by Jeff Anzevino/Scenic Hudson

of Indian Point that make it a particular risk. (See sidebar.)

If the NRC allows the exemptions, the state asked that they be delayed until Holtec has finished emptying the pools of spent nuclear fuel, a process that is scheduled to be completed by November. "Investing in emergency preparedness for the final 10 months until all spent fuel is in dry cask storage is well worth the modest expense," the state said.

In a separate letter, Tom Congdon of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board asked the NRC to hold a public forum before making a decision. "I know the voices and opinions of the community will serve as valuable inputs into NRC's deliberations," he wrote.

A representative for the NRC says there is no timetable for a decision on Holtec's request. The next meeting of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday (Feb. 2) at Cortlandt Town Hall.

## What's Special About Indian Point?

While many nuclear plants in the U.S. have been the targets of criticism and concern, the risk of a radioactive release from Indian Point is heightened in several ways:

### Dense population

While most nuclear plants are located in rural areas with few people, Indian Point is 24 miles from the largest city in the country. About 17 million people live within a 50-mile radius of the plant. "NRC should not overlook the common-sense point that a credible accident affecting a hyper-urbanized area with 2,000 people per square mile plainly will have greater public health and other consequences than a comparable accident affecting a rural area with only 300 or 800 people per square mile," the state wrote in its objection.

### Drinking water

Indian Point's spent fuel pools are 6 miles west of the New Croton Reservoir, which is part of the system that provides drinking water to New York City. The plant also sits on the Hudson River, which provides drinking water to seven communities (not including Beacon, Cold Spring or Garrison).

### Wind tunnels

Indian Point sits in a relatively low point of the Hudson Valley, with the mountains of the Highlands to the north and the cliffs of the Palisades to the south. Studies conducted by a former plant owner found that the mountains and cliffs funnel wind up and downriver, which could mean

that radiation released from Indian Point would be directed toward New York City or West Point, Philipstown, Newburgh and Beacon.

### Fault line

According to the NRC, the U.S. nuclear plant most at-risk of being damaged by an earthquake isn't in California or the Pacific Northwest: It's Indian Point, which was built near the intersection of two active seismic zones, containing small, intertwined fault lines. "We need to step backward from the simple old model, where you worry about one large, obvious fault, like they do in California," wrote a scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in 2008. The probability of a major quake "is not zero, and the damage could be great," he said. "It could be like something out of a Greek myth."

While the threat of an earthquake was known when the plant was built in the early 1960s, subsequent research such as the 2008 report found it to be much higher than what the plant and its spent fuel facilities were built to withstand. Scientists found evidence of a fault line that runs at least 25 miles from Stamford, Connecticut, to Peekskill, passing less than a mile north of Indian Point, that might be able to produce a magnitude 6 quake or greater.

## BIRDING THE LOWER HUDSON

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# Beacon Police Identify Body

*Man died after an apparent fall*

By Jeff Simms

**B**eacon police on Thursday (Jan. 26) identified the man whose body was found on Jan. 1 as 58-year-old Walter Miranda.

Miranda, who lived at 916 Wolcott Ave., was discovered around 11:45 a.m. in a stream located in a wooded area just off Teller Avenue, near its intersection with Henry Street. Someone who was with Miranda's family alerted police to the body, the department said in a news release.

After emergency workers confirmed that

Miranda was dead, police contacted the Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office, which, along with the Beacon police, launched an investigation.

An autopsy was conducted on Jan. 3. Although the Medical Examiner's Office is still awaiting toxicology results, the evidence points to Miranda's death being caused by a head injury sustained in an accidental fall, the police said. There were no signs of a struggle or other injuries indicating an assault.

Beacon detectives spent nearly a month examining security footage from nearby



Miranda

cameras and interviewing Miranda's associates and family members. The department was able to gather information regarding his social interactions, habits and any chemical dependencies, it said.

Police Chief Sands Frost said in a statement that he understands when "community members get frustrated when something like this occurs and not much information is available right away," but investigators "owe it to the victim and the victim's family and friends to be as thorough as possible investigating any death that may seem suspicious."

Miranda was a construction worker, born in El Salvador, who grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut, according to an obituary. He is survived by three daughters and six grandchildren. A memorial service was held Jan. 21.

## Cleanup Costs *(from Page 1)*

The department, in a Jan. 18 filing, asked the judge to compel Adorno to identify the owners of the sites where the waste originated, the contractors involved in the demolition and excavation, who arranged to have the material dumped at the Putnam Valley property on Oscawana Lake Road, and who drove it there.

The waste — at least 10,000 cubic yards of asphalt, bricks, concrete and lumber — was dumped on property the fire department shares with the Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Testing of the material found 11 semi-volatile organic compounds, seven metal compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and materials containing asbestos, according to HDR Engineering, which was hired to clean the site.

HDR said it removed 4,235 tons of fill and 83 tons of asbestos. The work delayed construction of the firehouse, which grew costlier to build, according to the PVVFD. In August 2021 the department closed on an \$11 million loan to build and equip the facility.

Neither Adorno nor the PVVFD responded to requests for comment, but a field report from an official with the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), who visited the property in August 2016 after complaints about the dumping, named a firefighter, Charlie Milo, whom it said had given the contractor permission to dump the waste.

According to court documents, Adorno told the DEC during its investigation that most of the waste came from Metro Green, a facility in Mount Vernon that recycles construction and excavation material. He said the rest came from a demolition project on Water Street in the Bronx, according to documents.

The DEC eventually determined that the fire department was operating a solid-waste management facility without a permit. Under a consent decree with the agency in January 2019, the PVVFD paid a \$5,000 fine and for the remediation, which began in 2020 and was completed in 2021.

This is the second court case related to contamination at a PVVFD property.

The Putnam Valley Central School District filed a lawsuit on Dec. 21 against nearly two dozen companies over the contamination of the well that supplies drinking water to students, faculty and staff at its elementary school.

The companies manufactured products containing polyfluoroalkyl substances, a class of chemicals used in nonstick and stain- and water-resistant coatings and in foams used by firefighters to suppress blazes caused by liquids such as jet fuel.

Their use has been linked to illnesses such as kidney and testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis and high cholesterol.

The lawsuit says the source of the contamination is the use of firefighting foams at the department's firehouses on Canopus Hollow and Peekskill Hollow roads.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

## AROUND THE REGION

### Croton: No More Hydrilla

**T**he state Department of Environmental Conservation recently announced that it has eradicated the invasive hydrilla plant from the Croton River.

Hydrilla verticillata was discovered in the river, which is a tributary to the Hudson, in 2013. The \$3.5 million project that began in 2017 was the first large-scale effort to control an aquatic invasive plant managed by the DEC, the agency said.

Hydrilla spreads rapidly and forms dense mats of vegetation. Its decomposition can also pollute drinking water.

The DEC used herbicide to treat hydrilla, which was found at 190 of 446 survey points in the Croton River. In 2022, no hydrilla was found at any of the points, or in the Hudson River. The DEC will continue to monitor the Croton River until 2026.

### Newburgh: Sewer Tunneling to Begin

**O**n Jan. 12, microtunneling began in the City of Newburgh as part of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure upgrades.

The \$6.1 million project is the first clean-water infrastructure construction project in the state to receive funding from a federal infrastructure law. In addition, the state is providing \$21 million in grants and interest-free loans for the construction of larger sewer pipes and other upgrades to prevent high-water problems and reduce pollution in the Hudson River.

A boring machine was delivered to the city earlier this month; it will allow remote-operated trench digging and pipe-laying through bedrock. The project will include the installation of 8,700 linear feet of sewer piping, and microtunneling is needed for a 2,000-foot-long portion.

### Orange: Polio Virus Found

**A** new test of wastewater in Orange County turned up two samples that were positive for the polio virus, one in Harriman and one in Middletown, according to the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.

The strains were linked genetically to the case of a 20-year-old Rockland man



A boring machine arrived recently in Newburgh for a sewer project.

City of Newburgh

whose legs were permanently paralyzed by the disease. He had not been vaccinated, officials said. Weekly tests in other nearby counties have not found any of the virus.

The polio vaccination rates for children at age 2 are 60 percent in Rockland and 59 percent in Orange, according to state data. The rate is 78 percent in Putnam and 76 percent in Dutchess.

### Red Hook: First Ticket from Bus Camera

**T**he Red Hook Police Department issued its first ticket using a camera installed on the stop arm of a school bus when it recorded a driver passing illegally, according to *The Daily Catch*.

The system captured the license plate of a 42-year-old woman who passed the bus while its stopping arm was extended and its lights flashing. The cameras were installed on district buses in April.

### Mahopac: Schools to Drop Indian Mascot

**U**nder pressure from the state Education Department to retire its Native American mascot, the Mahopac school district said on Jan. 17 it would drop its Indian, *The Journal News* reported. Students will vote in May on a replacement.

The Education Department told districts last year, including Wappingers Central, that they needed to have a plan to retire

their Native American mascots by July or face cuts in state aid.

The Wappingers district said it is waiting for proposed regulations on Native American mascots to be approved in April before it decides what to do with the Indians of Ketcham High School.

At the same time, the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department unveiled an updated logo for its fire-rescue unit that one Native American scholar called "a disgusting and inaccurate way to portray Indigenous peoples."



The Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department recently unveiled its new logo.

### Mohegan Lake: Movie Theater to Close

**R**egal's United Artists Theatre at Cortlandt Town Center will be closing.

Regal is the second-largest movie-theater chain in the country. Its parent, Cineworld, filed for bankruptcy in September. According to *Variety*, the company said it could save \$22 million annually by not renewing leases at 39 complexes, including in Mohegan Lake. The first leases renew on Feb. 15.

Other theaters on the list are located in Buffalo, Ithaca, Union Square in New York City, Rochester and Williamsville in Erie County. About 500 remain nationwide.



## Tompkins *(from Page 1)*

The company will still ask the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) for sales tax exemptions for equipment and materials used in the rehab and for tax-free bonds, which are needed to secure state tax credits for below-market-rate housing.

Related said it plans to spend more than \$75,000 per apartment to upgrade the 193 units with new doors, painting and kitchen and bathroom improvements. HVAC equipment will be replaced and community upgrades, such as a computer lab, free Wi-Fi in all units, new playgrounds and new water heaters will also be installed, it said.

The company hopes to begin construction in mid-2023, with a target completion date of July 31, 2024. Related will pay to place residents in hotels while their apartments are renovated.

Bypassing the IDA would allow the city

to write provisions into the PILOT agreement guaranteeing that tenants cannot be forced out and that Tompkins Terrace remains below market rate, City Administrator Chris White told the council during its meeting on Monday (Jan. 23).

“The most important factor for me is locking in the affordability for 40 years,” White said on Tuesday.

The complex has an existing PILOT agreement that was approved in 1976 by the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal; it would be replaced by a deal with the city.

If the PILOT is approved by the council, five of the seven property-tax-abatement agreements in Beacon would be administered by the city. It oversees agreements with the Beacon Housing Authority, West End Lofts and the Meadow Ridge II and Highland Meadows senior developments — all below-market-rate housing complexes or, in the case of the Housing Authority, agen-

cies that manage affordable housing sites.

The two other PILOTs in Beacon — for 23-28 Creek Drive and the Davies South Terrace low-income development — were approved by the Dutchess IDA.

Under the existing Tompkins Terrace agreement, Related’s annual payment is 10 percent of the rent collected by the development in the previous year, or about \$284,000 for 2022. Related has proposed starting a new PILOT with a Year 1 payment of \$310,000. The payment would increase 2¼ percent each year, peaking at \$738,297 in Year 40 — for a total of \$19.75 million over four decades.

Justin Glanda, a Related representative, said working with the city “simplifies the process and allows us to move faster to make capital upgrades and extend the affordability protections at the property.”

However, the proposal puts the City Council in the position of approving a contract that involves the Beacon school district, as

well as the county and the Howland library.

The annual payment from Tompkins Terrace is distributed to the four taxing entities based on their tax rates. For 2022, that meant the school district received 56 percent of the money, while the city got 34 percent, the county 8 percent and the library 2 percent.

Because Related is seeking a long-term PILOT, the IDA would have required the company to ask the Beacon school board (and the city) for letters of support.

Meredith Heuer, the president of the school board, said on Wednesday that “this is the first I’ve heard” of the pivot from the IDA. Before she could comment on the change, Heuer said she would “have to take this to the rest of the board, because that’s our process.”

City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said on Monday that the next step is for him to bring a draft agreement to a City Council workshop for it to review.

## Utility Credit *(from Page 1)*

478,000 households and 56,000 small businesses in New York state that are estimated to be eligible, according to the PSC.

Because the credits are automatic, customers are not required to take action. But Central Hudson will notify ratepayers before the payments are issued, said Jenkins.

“Central Hudson is already working to implement the programming needed to administer these credits,” he said. “Our goal is to issue them as quickly as possible.”

The program also gives residents who had their service terminated in 2022 because of

unpaid bills the opportunity to have service restored if they act before June 30. The utilities also will suspend, until March 1, residential cutoffs while the credits are being applied.

As it did when the program for low-income residents was approved, the PSC highlighted the surge in unpaid bills triggered by the pandemic, which led to mass layoffs when many businesses closed to prevent the spread of infections and spending declined as people sheltered at home.

People with the lowest incomes were not the only ones feeling the crunch. The number of other residents and small businesses with unpaid bills older than 60 days

grew from 665,000 before the pandemic to nearly 951,000 by April 2022, according to the working group. Their arrears also spiked, from \$794 million to over \$2.4 billion by May.

Without assistance for customers, between 40 percent and 60 percent of the arrears would go unpaid, according to the working group’s analysis.

“Hundreds of thousands of fixed- and moderate-income ratepayers also needed help with their electric and gas bills,” said Laurie Wheelock, executive director and counsel for the Public Utility Law Project in Albany. “Inaction was simply not an option.”

The same imperatives drove the program

for low-income ratepayers. That initiative, hammered out by the working group and approved by New York’s Public Service Commission in June, targeted more than 320,000 residents enrolled in the utility companies’ Energy Affordability Programs.

State funding covered \$250 million of that program, with \$181 million funded by surcharges on ratepayers’ bills and \$36 million paid by Central Hudson and the state’s other electric and gas companies.

According to the PSC, that program has assisted nearly 311,000 residential Energy Affordability Program customers with one-time credits totaling \$464 million.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Telecom Firms to Pay for Outages

*State requires credits for storm-related service losses*

Optimum and other cable and telephone companies must issue credits when storms or power outages interrupt service to 100 or more customers for over 24 hours, the state’s Public Service Commission said on Jan. 19.

Affected customers will have to be credited 1/30th of their monthly rate for each day beyond the first 24 hours, said the PSC, which regulates the state’s gas, utility, water and telecommunications companies.

The action is a response to the widespread outages in August 2020 following Tropical Storm Isaias. Altice USA, which provides cable and internet services under the Optimum brand, reached a \$72 million settlement with the state over its performance during the storm, when 400,000 of its customers lost service, some for as long as two weeks.

### DEC to Hold Pipeline Hearing

*Upgrade proposed in eastern Dutchess*

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will hold a public

hearing on Tuesday (Jan. 31) to address a proposed series of upgrades to the 414-mile Iroquois pipeline that carries natural gas from Canada to New York City and passes through eastern Dutchess County.

Iroquois Gas Transmission System LP hopes to upgrade two compression stations in New York, at Dover Plains and at Athens, in Greene County. The upgrades would increase the amount of natural gas that can travel through the pipeline by an additional 125 million cubic feet per day.

Compression stations are points in the line where excess pressure is let off to prevent fires and explosions. These “blow-downs” release pollutants into the air.

In order to have the upgrades approved, the DEC is asking Iroquois to explain how the plan would be in compliance with New York’s climate goals of getting 70 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2030, and reaching zero-emissions electricity by 2040.

To view the hearing, visit [tinyurl.com/DoverHearing](https://tinyurl.com/DoverHearing). For more information, see [dec.ny.gov/enb/126855.html](https://dec.ny.gov/enb/126855.html).

### Rolison Opposes Gas Ban

*Highlands senator launches petition drive*

Rob Rolison, who represents Beacon and Philipstown in the state Senate, has

launched a petition against proposals to ban the use of fossil fuels in new buildings starting in 2025 and the sale of fossil fuel-powered heating systems by 2030.

Gov. Kathy Hochul unveiled the proposals in her State of the State address on Jan. 10. The Beacon City Council is considering its own ban on the use of natural gas and heating oil in new buildings.

Rolison, a Republican who won the 39th District state Senate seat in November, said the ban would have an “adverse impact” on families and businesses.

“We can all agree that protecting the environment should be a nonpartisan issue,” he said. “But preventing middle-class homeowners and small business proprietors, such as restaurant owners, from efficiently cooking in and heating their homes in a cost-effective way is a recipe for disaster.”

### Haldane Foundation Announces Grants

*Distributes \$45,000 from fundraisers*

The Haldane School Foundation has awarded 18 grants worth \$45,000 with money raised during fundraisers and its annual appeal.

The grants included \$8,300 for a field trip for juniors to Washington, D.C.; \$5,000 for a field trip for the eighth grade to Frost Valley;

\$4,900 for a middle-school robotics club; \$3,800 for calming spaces in the elementary school; \$3,000 for a trip for sixth graders to the Metropolitan Museum of Art; \$3,000 for a community speaker on digital safety; \$2,500 for a high school world-language immersion program; \$2,300 for an innovative greenhouse initiative for sixth graders; and \$2,300 for a science field trip for fifth graders to Lake Compounce.

The other grants were \$2,600 for a visiting poet for eighth graders; \$2,000 for a pit to play gaga ball for grades K-8; \$2,000 for an anti-bullying program and \$1,500 for an anxiety relief speaker for grades 6-12; \$1,300 for chess club members to attend the state championship; \$1,100 for art therapy for Grade 4; \$1,100 for wheel-throwing ceramics; \$900 for an elementary science assembly; and \$500 for the high school journalism class to work with *The Current*.

### Looking for Graduates

*Beacon Class of 1973 plans reunion*

The Class of 1973 of Beacon High School is planning its 50th reunion for Sept. 22 to 24.

Organizers have located about 150 of the 200 or so graduates. If you have not been contacted, email GERALYN CAROLA ARNO at [gryhdgirl@aol.com](mailto:gryhdgirl@aol.com).



# Trail Committee *(from Page 1)*

“The plan is to build it around the needs of the residents, who would be moving through the community where they live in order to get to a community resource,” Sullivan said.

The Trails Committee was created five years ago after a survey by the Philipstown Community Congress found that residents believed the biggest need in the community was more walking and bike paths (clean water was second).

At Town Hall, the committee presented the results of research it has conducted. It said that, on average, about 32 crashes a year take place on Route 9D, with 71 percent attributed to driver error and the remainder to factors such as deer or debris. In a survey, 87 percent of parents said they do not let their children ride their bikes along or near Route 9D, although 67 percent said they would consider it along a safe path.

The results were not a surprise to residents at the meeting, who described Philipstown as generally unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists. “It’s terrifying to walk in this town” because drivers speed and ignore crosswalks, said a Cold Spring resident who lives at the intersection of Route 9D and Route 301. Town Supervisor John Van Tassel said the crossing guard at the Garrison School has been hit “several times” despite the presence of a traffic light and crosswalk.

“What we’re trying to address is serving the local population, not making it a tourist attraction, and not bringing in more people. This is so your child can get on a bike and ride from Haldane to the Rec Center.”

~ Town Supervisor John Van Tassel

The trail is still at least five years off, the committee said, and would be built in stages. Funding must be secured for its construction and ongoing maintenance, and the route is not finalized, said Dan Biggs, a landscape architect with Weston & Sampson who is working with the committee to identify routes.

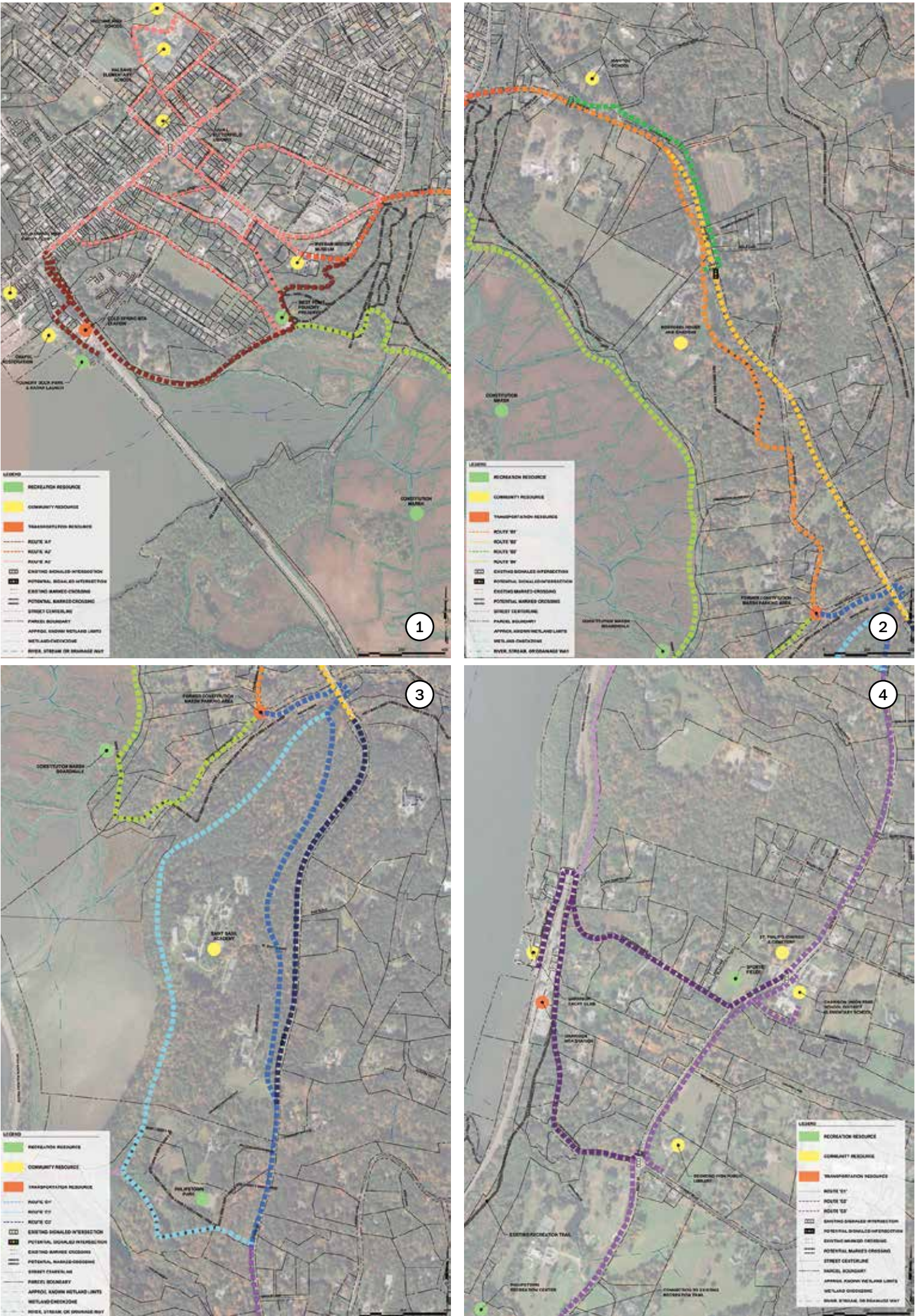
The committee is leaning against routes along the river because, in addition to having to maneuver around private land and eagle nesting habitats, Biggs said, making the route too scenic might attract tourists.

Van Tassel agreed with that tactic. “What we’re trying to address is serving the local population, not making it a tourist attraction, and not bringing in more people,” he said. “This is so your child can get on a bike and ride from Haldane to the Rec Center.”

One “favored route” would wind down Indian Brook Road, the residents of which recently rallied to have the town close a parking area used to access the short trail to Indian Brook Falls and the road to the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center.

The state parks department restricted access to the falls after the trail washed out, but the parking lot remains closed, effectively preventing the public from accessing the marsh unless they hike in or live nearby.

The Philipstown path could restore public



**BLAZING TRAILS** — In its draft feasibility study, the Philipstown Trails Committee divides the potential routes for a community walking and bike path into four areas — (1) Cold Spring, (2) Route 9D North, (3) Route 9D South and (4) Garrison — showing possible pathways with broken lines and listing the pros and cons of each. The draft can be downloaded at [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

access to the marsh, but several residents of Indian Brook Road said that there was no room for the public to walk down the dirt road, which is reduced to a single lane at some points, and that routing the path there would cause crowds to return. They also said

that the residents of Indian Brook Road were not being heard, and that every resident on the road would be against the path.

“We do listen to the residents of Indian Brook Road,” said Van Tassel, pointing out that the town closed the parking area. “But

at this point, everything is an option. And it’s still a town road. It’s not private.”

The committee plans to present its final draft plan in the spring. The Jan. 18 presentation can be downloaded at [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

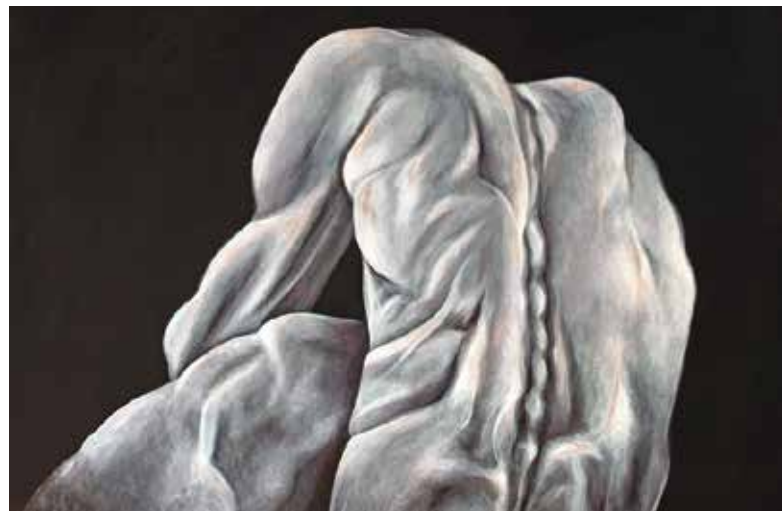




"Swathe"



"Shred"



"Arch"

## The Calendar

# Body of Work

*In departure, guest artist will exhibit at Buster Levi*

By Alison Rooney

The linear space at the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will soon be divided by six 3-feet-by-4-feet panels, adjacent to each other and meeting in a corner, as part of a show by painter Liz Foulks that opens Feb. 4.

"It helps with the depth," she explains. "These panels will be a large and prominent part of the exhibition, plus there will be vertical, narrow paintings. There will also be a few small pieces, providing contrast, particularly in color."

The exhibit will open at the Main Street gallery with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m.



"Banquet"



Liz Foulks, pictured with some of her commissioned portrait work

Photo provided

and continue through Feb. 26.

Foulks considers the panel paintings a "new investigation" into a theme she explored in an earlier show at the Ildiko Butler Gallery in Manhattan when she shared a series of charcoal drawings based on variations of the human figure, "mostly sourced from classical sculptures and the emotional tenor of Romanticism," she says.

At Ildiko Butler, the panels were assembled into a work measuring 2½ feet by 20 feet. Foulks decided to return to the fundamental concept at Buster Levi while working in acrylic paint, which she finds "more nuanced than charcoal. These paintings use a dark ground made by applying multiple layers of black gesso and then bringing the highlights out of the shadows."

Another difference between the two exhibits, says Foulks, is the amount of exaggeration in the figures, which she hopes creates "a disorienting experience" by "shifting familiar sights into otherworldly contexts using the most familiar and personal of forms — the human body — as a source of manipulation." She plays with the viewer's vision through "surprising transformations of arms, legs, fingers and other bodily forms: calves morph into collarbones, elbows into knees, thighs into forearms."

The show is a departure for the collective, which usually features the work of its members. Foulks, who lives in New York City, proposed the idea of exhibiting as a guest artist to Bill Kooistra, and he and the other members gave it the green light.

Foulks, who works as a creative direc-

tor at an advertising tech firm, says she is excited to return to a concept she calls "corporeal landscape." It involves mixing "anchors of realism" with anatomically fictionalized parts. "That's what makes the pictures powerful," she says. "I love painting body parts — there's so much detail and structure and contrast in the ligaments."

Foulks, who grew up in Mahwah, New Jersey, says she knew early in life she would be an artist. "I found a lot of passion in it," she says. At Fordham University, where she studied visual arts, she took drawing classes and "explored the body a lot, evolving into more of an abstract take on it. It has led to skills that have flourished over time."

“ The graphic design [at her day job] lets me tap into a different way of thinking, while painting pushes me to put physical energy into the work, so I can pour myself into it.

She has a side gig creating custom portraits of people and pets. After a break from painting, she says she began painting animals on commissions as a way to re-introduce herself to the art. "The graphic design [at her day job] lets me tap into a different way of thinking, while painting pushes me to put physical energy into the work, so I can pour myself into it," she says.

*The Buster Levi Gallery, at 127 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. See [busterlevigallery.com](https://busterlevigallery.com) and [lizfoulks.com](https://lizfoulks.com).*



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



EagleFest, Feb. 4

## COMMUNITY

MON 30

### Blood Drive

BEACON

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

Make an appointment online or walk in. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 445.

TUES 31

### Community Power Info Session

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall  
85 Main St.

hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com

Residents are invited to a presentation by Hudson Valley Community Power as Cold Spring and Philipstown explore whether to join a program to negotiate more favorable terms on the purchase of electricity.

THURS 2

### Earring Workshop

GARRISON

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

Joan Lloyd will demonstrate how to make beaded earrings. Make a pair to take home and a pair to donate. Registration required.

THURS 2

### Parking & Shuttle Open House

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Firehouse  
154 Main St. | hhft.org

Representatives of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will answer

questions and hear feedback from residents about its parking study findings and plans.

FRI 3

### Senior Community Conversations

COLD SPRING

10:15 a.m. Friendship Center  
1756 Route 9D | philipstownhub.org

At this weekly meeting, residents ages 60 and older are invited to share their thoughts and ideas for services and programs.

FRI 3

### Blood Drive

BEACON

11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Beacon Recreation Center  
23 W. Center St. | redcrossblood.org

Make an appointment online or walk in.

FRI 3

### '80s Dance Party

COLD SPRING

8 – 11 p.m. Move Cold Spring  
37 Chestnut St. | bit.ly/haa-80s

This Haldane Arts Alliance fundraiser will feature dance hits from the 1980s. *Cost: \$50*

SAT 4

### EagleFest

CROTON

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Croton Point Park  
1 Croton Point Ave. | teatown.org

The annual event will include scopes and guides for spotting eagles, shows with birds of prey, bird walks, crafts and games. The snow date is SUN 5. *Cost: \$30 (\$17 ages 3 to 11; \$35/\$18 door)*

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 28

### Winter Birding in the Lower Hudson

GARRISON

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

Anne Swaim, the director of Saw Mill River Audubon, will share what birds to look for in the winter, their habits and sounds, and changes that will come as spring approaches.

TUES 31

### Historic Gardens in Your Own Backyard

GARRISON

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

John Forti, author of *The Heirloom Gardener: Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World*, will discuss how to bring historical perspective to plant choice and garden design. Co-sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors, free for members)*



SAT 4

### Sons of Liberty

GARRISON

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

Matthew Speiser, a Garrison resident, will read from his debut novel.

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 28

### Read, Walk & Create

COLD SPRING

Noon. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D | butterfieldlibrary.org

Butterfield librarians will lead a walk to find natural items to make crafts and then enjoy a book. Suitable for ages 5 to 10. Registration required.

SAT 28

### Film Fest Kick-Off

BEACON

1 – 3 p.m. Dia:Beacon  
3 Beekman St.  
foundationforbeaconschools.org

The Foundation for Beacon Schools will screen films submitted for the 2022 student film festival and discuss what's coming in 2023.

SAT 28

### Student Open Mic

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D | littlestonypoint.org

Student writers, poets and storytellers from Beacon and Haldane high schools will share their work, and there will be readings and discussion with Crystal Castro and Evan Dekens. The snow date is SUN 29. *Free*

THURS 2

### The Cool Code

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Split Rock Books  
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080  
splitrockbks.com

Deirdre Langeland will read from and talk about her graphic novel for middle-school readers about a girl who creates an app to help her make friends.

## VISUAL ARTS

SAT 28

### Member Show

GARRISON

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

Works by artist members will be on view in this 59th annual exhibit. Through Feb. 12.

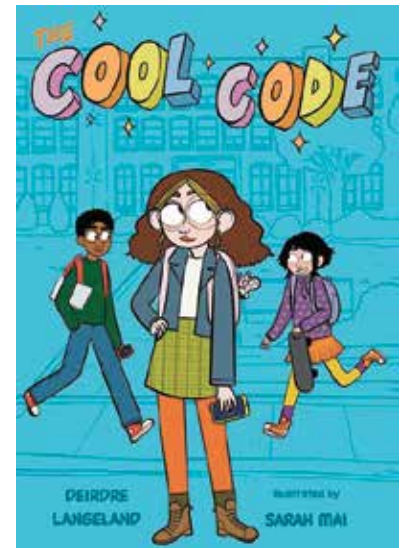
FRI 3

### Open House

GARRISON

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Tour the art-making studios, learn about classes and see work created by members. The snow date is Feb. 10.



Deirdre Langeland, Feb. 2

## STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 3

### Lit Lit

BEACON

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

Email litlitseries@gmail.com to read at this monthly literary open mic.

FRI 3

### It's Only a Play

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
countypayers.org

Kit Colburn will direct the staging of the Terrence McNally comedy about a Broadway opening-night party. Weekends through Feb. 18. *Cost: \$22 (\$20 seniors/military/children)*

SUN 5

### The Ivy League of Comedy

BEACON

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

Liz Miele, Al Lubel and Shaun Eli will perform stand-up. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

## MUSIC

SAT 28

### American Influences

WEST POINT

2 p.m. Ike Hall  
655 Pitcher Road | 845-938-4159  
ikehall.com

This concert by the West Point Band will include works by composers who influenced, defined and interpreted the nation through song. *Free*



SAT 28

Darren Lyons

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar  
173 Main St. | [reservabeacon.com](http://reservabeacon.com)

The Fusion drummer and his group will play a set filled with swinging, straight-ahead jazz.

SAT 28

Gratefully Yours

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The Grateful Dead tribute band will take dream-set lists from the audience. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 29

Zhu Wang

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-765-3012  
[howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org)

The pianist, appearing as part of the Howland Chamber Music Circle series, will perform works by Bach, Beethoven, Marc-André Hamelin, Chou Wen Chung and Brahms. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students ages 25 and younger)*

FRI 3

Flamenco

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar  
173 Main St. | [reservabeacon.com](http://reservabeacon.com)

Various musicians will perform flamenco-style music.



It's Only a Play, Feb. 3

FRI 3

Jeffrey Gaines

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The soulful singer, songwriter and guitarist will play music from his decades-long career and latest release, *Alright*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



SAT 4

Sankofa

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

The African drum-and-dance ensemble, based in Nashville, will perform. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 4

American Pink Floyd

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

Prognosis will recreate the experience of a Pink Floyd show. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 4

Setting Sun

BEACON

8 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St. | [dogwoodbeacon.com](http://dogwoodbeacon.com)

MON 6

Mark Dziuba

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's  
330 Main St. | [quinnsinbeacon.com](http://quinnsinbeacon.com)

Dziuba will perform as part of Quinn's weekly jazz session.

CIVIC

MON 30

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

WED 1

Village Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall  
85 Main St. | 845-265-3611  
[coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)

WED 1

Community Conversation

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | [beaconk12.org](http://beaconk12.org)

Superintendent Matt Landahl will discuss the district's strategic planning process and the capital and budget processes. A conversation will also be held at 7 p.m. on THURS 2 at Rombout Middle School.

WED 1

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School  
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689  
[gufs.org](http://gufs.org)

Superintendent Carl Albano and board members will be available at 6 p.m. for discussion or to answer questions.

THURS 2

Town Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.  
845-265-5200 | [philipstown.com](http://philipstown.com)



JAYMARK  
JEWELERS



[jaymarkjewelers.com](http://jaymarkjewelers.com)

3612 Rt 9  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
845-265-9246

It 's our owner, James', 35th Birthday!  
Enter his Birthday Raffle for a chance to win  
a \$1,000 Jaymark Gift Card

Text  
"Happy Birthday"  
to Jaymark at 845-265-9246

Raffle drawing will be held on his birthday  
on February 7

ALSO  
Enjoy 35% off select items  
during his birthday week  
from Feb 7 - 11





Photo provided

## Classic Wheels

# 1960 Jaguar XK150 Drophead Coupe

By Michael Turton

Bob Jacobson first laid eyes on a 1960 Jaguar XK150 Drophead Coupe when he was 18.

"I absolutely lusted after it," recalls the Garrison resident. "But I was going off to college. It was not a car I could afford."

In 2002 he spotted an XK150 in a showroom in New Jersey and couldn't resist taking it for a spin. Six months later, he was shocked when he opened his garage door to find the car with his grandson sitting behind the wheel. It was a gift from his family for his 60th birthday.

More than 20 years later, he's still lovesick.

"What I like best is that I have to do everything; there's nothing automatic about this car," Jacobson says. "It has a four-speed stick shift that I have to double clutch; I have roll up windows!"

The car has "rudimentary power brakes" and no power steering. "Parallel parking in a tight spot is a lot of work," he said.

When *Motor Magazine* tested the XK150 during its production years in England, it was capable of speeds just over 130 mph. Jacobson was asked to race at Connecticut's Lime Rock Park but declined. He's had the car up to 70 mph but feels he doesn't want to press his luck with a 63-year-old vehicle.

"I drive around here," he said. "The top is down; my hair is flowing. I absolutely love it."

One of his favorite jaunts is a Sunday morning drive on the Goat Trail, the winding road between the Bear Mountain Bridge and Peekskill. "You have to do some work there,"

## The Specs

<b>Model</b>	1960 Jaguar XK150 Drophead Coupe
<b>Manufactured</b>	Coventry, England
<b>Number built (1957-60)</b>	2,672
<b>Engine</b>	3442cc straight six
<b>Horsepower</b>	250
<b>Transmission</b>	4-speed manual
<b>Gas mileage</b>	22 mpg*
<b>Top speed</b>	132 mph
<b>Original price</b>	£2,110 (\$5,908)

\*Jacobson says he gets 14-15 mpg

## Want your car, truck or motorcycle featured here?

It must be at least 50 years old. Email [classicwheels@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:classicwheels@highlandscurrent.org).

he says. "I want to see what the car can do, and what I can do. I'm still pretty crisp!"

Jacobson doesn't know a lot of his Jaguar's history, other than it "grew up in California." Restoration has been an ongoing process, from fixing a steering column that broke the first time he drove the car to redoing the badly worn interior.

"I've always been crazy about cars," he says. "I can name almost every car from the 1950s on."



## Living Green

# Can We Save Winter?

By Krystal Ford

I used to fall into the "hate-winter" camp. It meant gray days, long nights, shoveling and having to slow down and put things on hold when the roads were impassable. It was a forced time-out between the more fun and busy seasons.

All that changed during the pandemic shutdown. For my own sanity, I forced myself to go outside in all types of weather. Winter took on new meaning: It was an evening bundled up and gathered around a bonfire on New Year's Eve in 2020 with friends. It was a sledding party for my daughter's seventh birthday in February. It was ice skating on a pond and walking in the woods when all was quiet. And it became a reassurance, every time it snowed, that it was not too late for the planet. We still had snow!

For those in the "love-winter" camp (my husband, a skier, celebrates snowfall), there is growing awareness that the cold and snow is time-sensitive, that it may not be here for much longer. Over Christmas break into early January, European ski resorts were forced to close. Much of Europe, but especially France, Italy and Switzerland, has been experiencing record-high temperatures and rain.

Green Christmases are increasingly common in the Alps. I can't remember the last white Christmas I had in Garrison. Was it 2015?

This year, the Victor Constant Ski Area at West Point still hasn't opened; when I called to ask if they had a date in mind, they said the end of January, maybe.

The 2030 host city for the Winter Olympics hasn't been named yet because it may be cold enough in only a handful of places.

My family and I recently moved from Garrison to Lake Placid, in the Adirondacks.

Here, winter is not just a season, it's an identity. When I talk to people, everyone has a winter sport. Lake Placid was the location of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics and recently hosted the FISU World University Winter Games with athletes in 12 sports from 600 universities and 48 countries. Part of the preparations was a serious upgrade in snowmaking capabilities, because we can no longer count on getting snow consistently. Or when we do, it may not stay.

We also experience the drastic swing of very cold to very warm in December, from a 4-degree Christmas Eve to 47 degrees four days later. The ice on Mirror Lake went from 8 inches to 4 inches in a week.

Of course, we shouldn't be surprised. Scientists have been telling us for decades that this would happen because we continue to burn fossil fuels and haven't slowed deforestation, industrial agriculture or unfettered consumerism nearly enough. (OK, scientists haven't addressed unfettered consumerism, that's me.)

To its credit, the World University Games put together a Lake Placid Save Winter Team that created a sustainability plan for its event. It included hosting a three-day conference on the intersection of climate change and winter sports; using an electric bus to move athletes; planting 1,500 tree seedlings; using electric batteries instead of diesel generators and using the first combustion-free torch and cauldron.

It also included composting food waste; setting up a food-recovery system; discouraging single-use plastic water bottles; sourcing uniforms from sustainable vendors; and recycling banners.

Talking about climate change and incorporating solutions should become second nature to every business and organization, because global warming is touching everything we love in this world. If you hate change, you're really going to hate climate change.

You may not love winter, but you will miss the snow.



# Facebook Friends — in 3D

*Beacon woman organizes “middle-aged” meet-ups*

By Alison Rooney

This past September, Alexandra Florio, a recent, middle-aged, Brooklyn-to-Beacon transplant, was feeling a touch isolated.

The daunting process of making friends, together with several career shifts, left her with what felt like an abundance of time on her hands. Born and raised in Manhattan, with an affection for big-city anonymity, Florio prides herself on not being self-conscious — “If I want to walk around in my pajamas, cool — I’m not embarrassed” — which she decided to put into action.

On the spur of the moment, while browsing the Beacon, NY group on Facebook, she posted this message to its 14,500 members:

Hello.. need middle aged women to drink with sometimes somewhere on Main Street in Beacon. Ideally ones that are slightly grouchy and exhausted.

The post quickly had 529 likes. That inspired Florio to post again, this time with details:

Ok then my grouchy middle aged female friends.. let's try this..Bank Sq Coffee House TONIGHT ( Wednesday) at 7:00. Not enough alcohol there really. Only beer. But convenient for me and large enough. I'll wear a red shirt of some kind and we plan.

Months later, Florio is still surprised at the resounding response she received to these initial posts and more recent invitations to meet at the Roosevelt Bar in the Hudson Valley Food Hall.

She thinks it's “because I was asking about single-sex companionship and that got attention in a way that a co-ed suggestion would not. With a same-sex [straight] environment, there's no potential for some kind of sexual or romantic interaction. I like men plenty, but I have a boyfriend and I'm not looking for that kind of interaction.

“Also, men sometimes dominate the social navigation and it becomes a complicated environment,” she says. “Sometimes men tell a lot of stories, and women are just listening. It's not a secret that many men like women's positive attention very much, and men aren't necessarily trying to be

obnoxious, but it can be an impediment to getting to know each other.”

Along with the droves of women, there were also some, from Florio's perspective, “weirdly negative” responses from men. “Teasing, lightweight, with the point of view of ‘I'm going to show up and tell you that men are OK.’ They could only conceive of all women as talking smack at men.”

Florio is candid about the posts being self-serving. “I moved to Beacon, unexpectedly in March,” she says. “I didn't know anybody, had no connections and couldn't drive, so I needed ‘them’ to come to me. People suggested making a club, but that's not what I'm looking for. I post spontaneously, when I'm free, hoping to reach whoever's around.

“Honestly, everyone I've met through this thing has been surprisingly terrific,” she adds. “I wonder why, at times, and think it may be because it eliminates women who spend energy pandering to men, and also women who only light up in the presence of men.”

The largest gathering so far has been eight women, although typically 100 to 200 respond — but they keep returning, and friendships have been forged. Off-shoot groups have formed, too. Florio says she finds it compelling that many women are looking for close female friendships, not just a roster of casual connections.

“I'm not someone who has had a lot of acquaintances,” she says. “Maybe it's because I haven't had a sister, but that female best friend who knows you so intimately they could write your biography is what I want. I guess what came as a surprise to me were there were so many women who responded saying they were seeking more than just acquaintances.

“The beauty of starting things is that you control the emotional tone. The women I have had the pleasure to meet through this have been great. In fact, I'm suspicious of women who can't get behind the idea of hanging out with only other women sometimes.”

She says many women who show up are not Americans. “In other countries, it's more common for women to hang out together,” she says, attributing this to “America's puritanical background. Frontier cultures aren't best for bonding.”

Raised by a single mom, Florio graduated from the all-female Wellesley College. (She is now a single mom herself, of two young adults.) She sold real estate for more than 10 years, and recently wrote a reference guide to navigating the New York City market. She also does writing and creative consulting.

Florio promises to post more notices in the Beacon, NY group for spontaneous meet-ups, when she finds herself free. “I don't actually do a lot of talking while we meet,” she says. “I'm just interested in the women who are there, and I'm delighted when people like each other.”



Florio

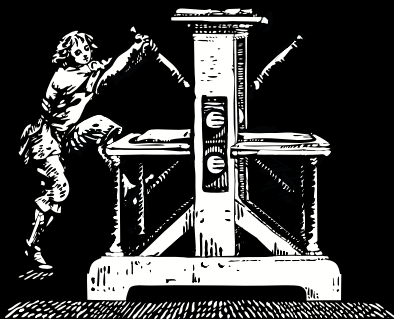


## Baby & Dog



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? Lily Rubino and Rob Vigar, formerly of Cold Spring and now living in the U.K., shared this shot of their daughter, Amaryllis, with Alice. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org).

## HIGHLAND STUDIO



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# Current Classifieds

## SERVICES

**SENIOR CARE CONCIERGE** — Looking to provide support to the seniors in our community that might require a little help in order to stay in their homes. Whether it is help with your shopping, attending doctors' appointments, a trip to your local pharmacy, a little cleaning, food prep or help with any daily chore please feel free to reach out to me at any time at 845-245-5976. I charge by the hour and hope to be of help at any time. ~Sandi

**FULL-SERVICE PRINTING** — Are you overpaying for print? Does the opportunity to increase the impact of your marketing appeal to you? 1st Stop Print delivers exceptional quality printing and high impact marketing to meet the needs of your business without breaking the bank. Business Cards, Brochures, Menus, Folders, Flyers, Stickers, Signage & More. Ask us about our wholesale pricing, daily deals, and free printing opportunities! Call/text for a quote: 646-450-0513 | Email: [jacksonpedone@1ststopprint.com](mailto:jacksonpedone@1ststopprint.com) | Online: [1ststopprint.com](http://1ststopprint.com)

**SKILLS BOOST** — Pro for writing, study and test-taking skills boost. In-school or home-schooled, students at all levels can benefit from the simple and effective 3-step system offered by an expert writing and study-skills coach. Local professional, in-person or remote. For free evaluation, contact [MrsGtutor888@gmail.com](mailto:MrsGtutor888@gmail.com).

## FREE STUFF

### HOME GYM & OUTDOOR TABLE SET

— Free for the taking! Hoist Home Gym. Designed for chest presses, lat pull-downs, flies, curls and many more exercises. Disassemble and remove it, and it's yours. Photos available. Also free: Outdoor table and chair set. Iron table with glass top, 7 feet x 3 feet, four inches plus six iron chairs with high mesh backs. Remove the set and enjoy it this summer. Photos available. Call and leave a message: 845-736-4029.

## FOR RENT

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**Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club**

THURS 2, 7 P.M.

*And There Was Light*, by Jon Meacham  
 Lincoln Depot Museum  
 10 S. Water St., Peekskill  
 Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

**Harry Potter Book Club (Grades 4+)**

FRI 3, 3:15 P.M.

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*,  
 by J.K. Rowling  
 Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
 Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

**Reading With Writers**

WED 8, 7 P.M.

*On Writing Well*, by William Zinsser  
 Split Rock Books, Cold Spring  
 Register at [splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com).

**Butterfield Book Club**

MON 13, 7 P.M.

*Kindred*, by Octavia E. Butler  
 Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
 Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

**Helen Savoit Book Club**

TUES 14, 1:30 P.M.

*The Time Traveler's Wife*,  
 by Audrey Niffenegger  
 Howland Public Library, Beacon  
 Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

**Percy Jackson Book Club (Grades 5+)**

TUES 14, 3:15 P.M.

*The Mark of Athena*, by Rick Riordan  
 Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
 Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

**Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)**

TUES 21, 3:15 P.M.

*Dragons in a Bag*, by Zetta Elliott  
*Born on the Water*, by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson  
*Stuntboy in the Meantime*,  
 by Jason Reynolds  
 Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
 Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

**Tween Book Club (Grades 6-8)**

WED 22, 3:30 P.M.

*The Crossover*, by Kwame Alexander  
 Howland Public Library, Beacon  
 Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

**Teen Scream Book Club (Grades 9-12)**

THURS 23, 6 P.M.

*White Smoke*, by Tiffany Jackson  
 Howland Public Library, Beacon  
 Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

**Trophy Life Book Club**

THURS 23, 6 P.M.

*Piranesi*, by Susanna Clarke  
 Winner of 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction  
 Howland Public Library, Beacon  
 Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

**History Book Club**

THURS 23, 7 P.M.

*The Wolf Age: The Vikings, the Anglo-Saxons and the Battle for the North Sea*, by Tore Skeie  
 Split Rock Books, Cold Spring  
 Register at [splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com).

**Beacon Book Club**

THURS 23, 7:15 P.M.

*The Diamond Age: Or, a Young Lady's Illustrated Primer*, by Neal Stephenson  
 Orange Hill, 82 Route 17K, Newburgh  
 Register at [meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub](http://meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub).

**Pride Corner (Ages 10+)**

TUES 28, 4 P.M.

*The Insiders*, by Mark Oshiro  
 Split Rock Books, Cold Spring  
 Register at [splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com).

# About Those Books You Want to Unload

*Beacon fitness center will pick them up*

By Michael Turton

Although Keith Laug has been helping people get fit for more than 20 years, he never imagined picking up bags of books as part of his personal fitness routine.

Laug got into the fitness business in 2002, doing personal training in people's homes. Six years later, he opened a studio, ZONED Fitness, in Beacon.

But when the pandemic hit in 2020, his business took a hit, too.

"We were shut down completely by the state from mid-March to Labor Day weekend," Laug recalls. "I couldn't open my doors."

As restrictions were loosened, he was able to reopen, but at only a third of capacity. On top of that, people were reluctant to work out in groups.

In 2021 he downsized, moving ZONED Fitness to 278 Main St. He had gone from training groups of up to 12 people, including children, to working with one person at a time. "That had an impact on the revenue I could generate in a day," Laug says.

Restaurants had found ways to bring in revenue during the pandemic by adding outdoor dining, increasing takeout and home delivery. Laug needed a new revenue stream.

In September, a childhood friend told him about a sideline business he had started in Connecticut, collecting unwanted books for resale.

Laug thought the idea had merit. In October, he established Kejola Books.

"People have an emotional attachment to their books; they don't want to just trash or recycle them," Laug said. "They want to know they can be put back into circulation and that someone will read them again."

Laug accepts all manner of books in good condition at his studio; he also offers pickup in much of the Hudson Valley. He has traveled as far north as Poughkeepsie and as far south as Cortlandt, with stops along the way in Fort Montgomery, Highland, Garrison and other communities.

Laug sells the books on eBay, Facebook and other sites, and to bulk buyers. Those he can't sell are donated to nursing homes and other organizations that accept books. Recycling is a last resort, and only for books in poor condition.

Laug has been surprised by which books do best in the resale market, with nonfiction easily outperforming fiction.

"Textbooks, manuals, art and photography books do well," he said. "I recently had an obscure mechanical manual that sold right away, as did a book on how to crochet." A book by Frank Lloyd Wright was another instant seller.

In fiction, anything by Stephen King sells easily, Laug said. Last weekend he was surprised to receive a book club first



Keith Laug

Photo by M. Turton

edition of *Dune*. "I put it on the market and someone grabbed it right away," Laug said.

He's also working on two potential acquisitions, a set of early 20th-century editions of works by Mark Twain and a collection of books by Charles Dickens printed in the 1930s.

Laug feels there is a pent-up demand among people who have books they want to give away, and that it is growing. One client gave him 500 books. "They tell me they've been looking for this service for years," but that in the past no one accepted donated books on a regular basis.

Kejola Books "is now at a point where it is becoming profitable," Laug said, a welcome development since his fitness studio is still recovering.

## Where to Donate

Here are places to donate books that allow for a tax deduction.

Encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines and damaged books are not accepted.

**Desmond-Fish Public Library** (Garrison)

Donations are accepted only shortly before its annual summer sale. See [desmondfishlibrary.org/friends](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/friends).

**Beacon Reads** (309 Main St.)

The bookstore benefits the Howland Public Library. Due to lack of space, no donations will be accepted until Feb. 1. See [friendsofhl.wordpress.com/beacon-reads-books](http://friendsofhl.wordpress.com/beacon-reads-books). The store is open daily except Monday and Tuesday.

**Field Library** (Peekskill)

The library bookstore at 934 South St. is open daily except Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See [peekskill.org/library-bookstore](http://peekskill.org/library-bookstore).

**Poughkeepsie Library**

Drop books in the donation pod at the rear of the building or in the white library van in the parking lot. See [poklib.org/donations](http://poklib.org/donations). The store at 114 Boardman Road is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.



# A Life in Service

*Former Beacon council member becomes a pastor*

By Jonathan Perry

John Rembert grew up in Beacon, attending the Star of Bethlehem Church, which was then on Main Street. After graduating from Beacon High School in 1983, he joined the U.S. Army, rising over 27 years to the rank of first sergeant. In 2018, he was elected to the Beacon City Council.

"I don't ever want to stop serving — serving the Lord, serving the community, serving the people," says Rembert, 57.

His most recent service is not to the residents of Beacon, or to the military. He is retired from the Army and he didn't seek re-election in 2020 to the council. Instead, he's the new minister at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Stormville, near the Green Haven prison and the hamlet's former airport.

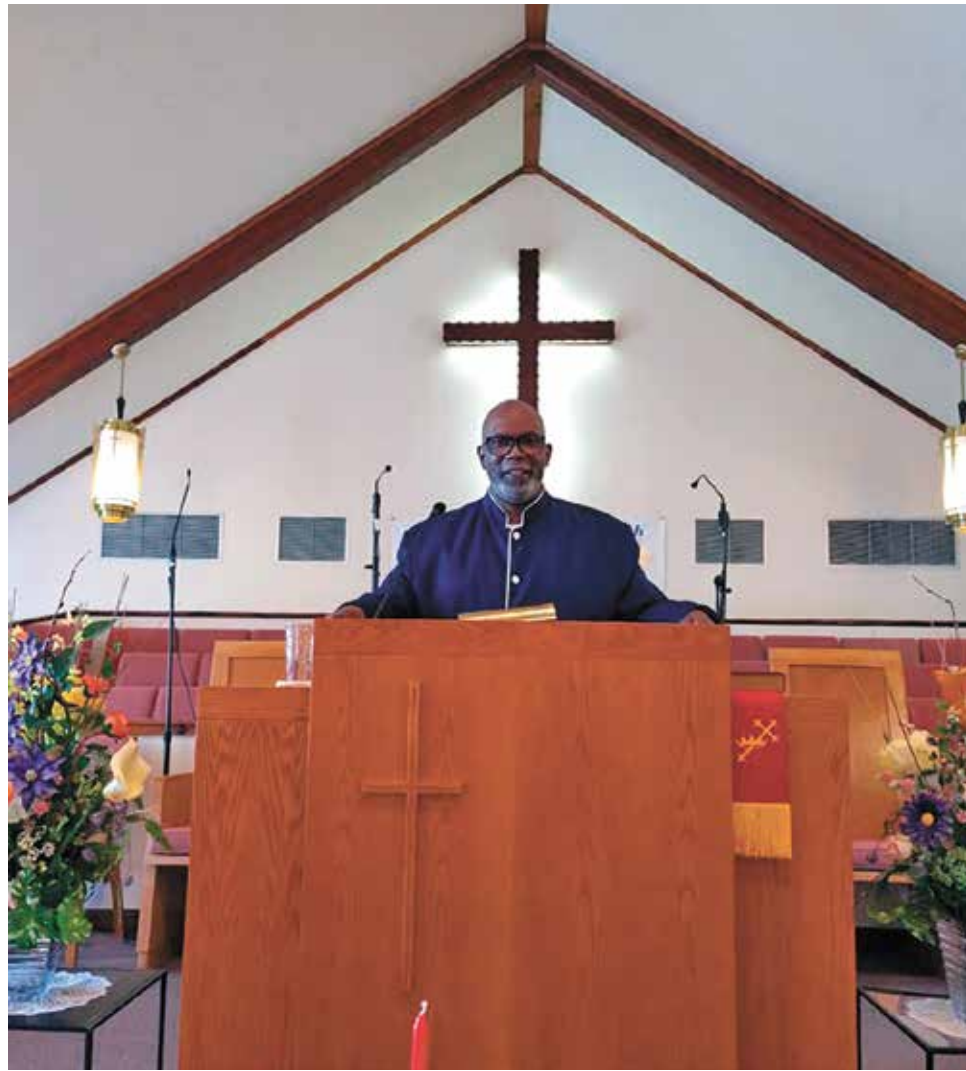
"People left. COVID happened. They were without a pastor," says Rembert, who was ordained in 2016 and is pursuing a master's degree in biblical studies at the New York Theological Seminary in New York City.

It will be a challenge for the church to grow. Nearly all of its 60 members are middle-aged or seniors. But Rembert has faced bigger challenges.

In 2003, he was sent to Iraq. "We took off from New Jersey and, before we landed in Baghdad, they were already shooting at our plane," he recalls. "The plane was maneuvering, soldiers were throwing up. When we finally landed, there was fighting on the ground."

Stepping off the plane, he found himself in fierce combat with enemy fighters. "The medics bandaged some people up; some of them died," he says. "That was my first day."

After his tour in the Middle East, Rembert



John Rembert behind the pulpit at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Stormville (above) and when he served on the Beacon City Council (above right)

was posted in Korea, Germany and throughout the U.S. When his mother became ill with dementia, he petitioned for a station closer to Beacon and was assigned to Stewart Air National Guard Base in New Windsor.

By the time he retired in 2010, Beacon had changed. Gentrification was setting in. The transition to civilian life was not easy.

"The military only has to give you four hours of sleep," he says. "The rest of the time you're awake, moving. So sometimes my patience with civilians was not the best."

Back home, he had time to think — about Iraq and, then, about God. "In the military,

I began to feel his presence," Rembert says. "Later I began to ask myself, 'Why did God allow me to live, but not others?'"

He reconnected with Star of Bethlehem, and with Shari Bugg, a childhood friend. The couple married in 2013.

The year before, when a new pastor, the Rev. Frederick Mills, came to Star of Bethlehem from Buffalo, his presence and sermons inspired Rembert to become a deacon. By 2014, he felt his own call to preach.

"I fought that for a while," Rembert says. "I did not need to be a preacher. But I heard his voice."



The morning Rembert gave his first sermon, still as a deacon, the church was packed and Rembert's stomach was in knots. He relied on Numbers 22:21-39 — the story of Balaam and the talking donkey.

"This donkey tells Balaam to stop because he has seen the Angel of the Lord," Rembert recounts. "Balaam ignores the donkey, so the donkey stops walking. Balaam starts beating the donkey. Balaam says, 'What's the matter with you?' Now Balaam is talking to the donkey!"

Rembert laughs as he remembers the sermon. "The donkey says, 'Haven't I always been a good ass to you? Haven't I treated you right?' And sure enough, Balaam finally sees the Angel of the Lord. And the Lord chastises Balaam for not seeing, for not listening to his donkey, who had revealed the Lord to him."

Encouraged by the response, Rembert began working to fill the pews. His pitch went something like: "I don't care who you are. It doesn't matter if you are young, old, rich, poor, Black, white — you can have a great heart and be a bad dresser. God ain't looking at what you wear."

About a year after he was ordained, Rembert attended a workshop at Beahive Beacon, the shared workspace. There, some older residents complained that they had been neglected in the city's revitalization efforts.

"I felt that they needed proper attention," Rembert recalls. "It so happened there was an opening on the City Council, so I stuck my name in the hat for Ward 2." He was elected to serve with 81 percent of the vote.

## Cold Spring Board *(from Page 3)*

was the first time the village had received "proper notification" that lead agency status had shifted from the Town of Fishkill to the New York state parks department.

"I'm hoping we'll see greater transparency, greater clarity about the village and public engagement with the Fjord Trail and state parks," she said, adding there is a need for better understanding of the distinction in roles and accountability for HHFT, a nonprofit organization, and New York state parks, in the planning and construction of the trail.

A number of Fjord Trail documents are available on the village website at [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov), including information on a proposed bridge which will connect Little Stony Point to the trail.

### In other business ...

■ The board, at its Wednesday (Jan. 25)

meeting, authorized Foley to sign a \$373,365 contract for an emergency connection of 150 feet of 6-inch pipe to the Catskill Aqueduct where the pipeline passes under Fishkill Road and Route 301 in Nelsonville. The connection will provide Cold Spring with water during repairs to the village reservoir dams. An emergency connection made in 1996 has not functioned for some time. The village negotiated with New York City Department of Environmental Protection for more than 15 years to re-establish it.

■ The board approved a \$25,300 agreement with Tectonic Engineering for the dam project that encompasses safety inspections, consulting, presentations and securing easements for heavy equipment. "That's two big moves forward," Foley said of the contracts. The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has suggested that Cold Spring consider a well field on the Clove Creek aquifer to replace its reservoir system. But Foley commented that "when you have surface water, you protect

it, you don't get rid of it. We see California trying to put small dams in place wherever they can to capture stormwater; we have surface water that we need to protect."

■ A joint session of the Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown boards is scheduled for Feb. 22 at Town Hall to discuss and hear comment on a state report about Central Hudson's operations, including rate increases and billing problems.

■ Ted Fink, a planning consultant for the ongoing update of the village code, briefed the board on issues to be resolved before public hearings can be held. An ad hoc committee consisting of Foley, Trustee Laura Bozzi, Paul Henderson (a former member of the Code Update Committee), Donald MacDonald (former member of the committee and the Zoning Board of Appeals), Eric Worth (the ZBA chair, and Jesse St. Charles (a ZBA member) has been meeting to get the document ready by the end of June, as required by the state. Chap-

ter 134, Zoning, is one of the major updates to be completed. Once updated, the code will qualify the village to complete its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and qualify for certain state and federal funding. The LWRP has been on hold since 2013.

■ Foley said Hahn Engineering will make recommendations to the board on three priority infrastructure projects: a culvert on Fair Street, part of a storm drain that directs water past Mayor's Park into a county-owned wetland; a culvert subject to storm washouts on private property between Grandview and Fair streets but managed by the village through an easement; and drainage issues at the intersection of Mountain and Fishkill avenues.

■ The board placed a moratorium on applications for large, ticketed events such as beer, wine and food festivals in village parks through the end of May. It is reassessing event policies as part of 2023-24 budget planning.



## Out There

## Thunderstruck

By Brian PJ Cronin

We've all been using the word *thunderous* wrong.

Go ahead, use it in a sentence.

Did you use it as a synonym for *loud*? If so, you'll be in good company with the folks at Merriam-Webster, who write of thunderous applause, as well as the thunder of big guns and horses that thundered down the road.



Now, recall what thunder sounds like.

Sure, it's loud — at first. But then it pulses and washes over the landscape, fading and echoing, depending on what physical forms it encounters as it recedes. Thunder heard from inside your living room sounds different from thunder rippling through a canyon, or slamming into a mountain summit, or blanketing you alone and isolated in a tent.

There's the way distant thunder can sound threatening when it's a storm arriving, soothing when it's a storm leaving and unnerving when you hear it in January, as many of us in the Highlands did last week. Distant thunder never gets described as "thunderous."

The British nature writer Robert Macfarlane has noted that once you learn that there's an obscure word from Sussex to describe the gap in the base of a hedge or thicket of reeds made by the repeated passage of a small animal — a *smeuse* — you notice them everywhere. Then you start to think about what animal is doing all that smeusing, about where it came from and where it's going. But the point is, another hidden dimension of the landscape has been revealed.

What hidden lands are we closing ourselves off from when we reduce the volumes of information conveyed in thunder into "loud"?

OK, this is nitpicky. But since it's my job to choose the right words, I lose sleep thinking about if there's a connection between imprecise language to describe the natural world and the general mess we've been making of it. I suppose it comes down to a lack of attention, and respect. If there's no



Can you spot the smeuse? Photo by B. Cronin

difference between a creek and a brook, who cares what gets dumped into it?

I've been slowly making my way through *Syntax of the River*, a newly released interview with nature writer Barry Lopez that took place in 2010 by the side of a river. In her introduction, Julia Martin writes that "whenever anyone came by — six female mergansers flying upriver into the sun, a

great blue heron hunting — Barry would follow the thread of their presence for as long as it took, and he'd tell their stories."

You probably did not expect *anyone* to refer to birds. If you find your garden dug up and the strawberries missing, you wouldn't suspect "someone." But what happens to our view of the world when animals are always "something"?

Many years ago I went with a friend to visit his family farm. Each year, they would raise a small herd of cattle, a portion of which would end up in the chest freezer. To help differentiate them, the family would pick a theme. That year it was King Arthur's Court.

"So who was this?" my friend asked at the dinner table. "Lancelot," his father said, sliding the philandering knight's loins onto our plates.

The table was animated by a deep and lively gratitude for someone they knew that made the sacrifice of dying so that we may be sustained. There was no denying the shock of the food chain.

I am not advocating you name your burgers. But it's worth considering if being more careful with language can make you more careful in how you treat the world around you. The right word can create a connection that ripples and reverberates outward in a way that you might call, well, thunderous.

“OK, this is nitpicky. But since it's my job to choose the right words, I lose sleep thinking about if there's a connection between imprecise language to describe the natural world and the general mess we've been making of it.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Choir voice

5. Right angle

8. Dallas team, to fans

12. Check

13. Sheep call

14. Out of the storm

15. Rub with an emery board, perhaps

17. Speck

18. Author Fleming

19. T-shirt fabric

21. Primitive

24. Spartan queen

25. Hamilton-Burr showdown

26. Criticize again and again

30. Nabokov novel

31. Two-tone cookies

32. Ms. Thurman

33. Road marker

35. Help a crook

36. Temporary calm

37. Steinway product

38. "With any luck"

41. Fragrant tree

42. 2004 on a cornerstone

43. Color akin to turquoise

48. French river

49. Wildebeest

50. Cold War initials

12. Check

13. Sheep call

14. Out of the storm

15. Rub with an emery board, perhaps

17. Speck

18. Author Fleming

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38. "With any luck"

41. Fragrant tree

42. 2004 on a cornerstone

43. Color akin to turquoise

48. French river

49. Wildebeest

50. Cold War initials

51. Getz of jazz

52. Kenny G's instrument

53. Litigates

9. Oodles

10. Presidential power

11. Penn or Astin

16. Calendar box

20. Praiseful pieces

21. Dutch cheese

22. German car name

23. Authentic

24. The Sound of Music teenager

26. Drags out

27. Hefty horn

28. Portent

29. Peacekeeping org.

31. Piece of work

34. Football team

35. Boeing rival

37. Chart format

38. Med. plan options

39. Skip

40. Tower city

41. Change

44. — pickle

45. Baton Rouge sch.

46. Exploit

47. Hosp. parts

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 strolling (7)

2 in an unambiguous way (10)

3 group of camels (7)

4 self-ish (11)

5 freeing from duty (9)

6 Marty McFly's scooter (10)

7 short cessation of activity (8)

SOLUTIONS

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AMB

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CAR

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EGOT

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BOA

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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OMITPHONES  
EFFETE ROO  
DIGISLEOFMAN  
ADAE L ISE OBI  
MOBSASSY MEX

628973154

135264987

497815236

853697412

962431875

714528369

289356741

541789623

376142598

1. ONESIE, 2. SUCKED, 3. PODIUM, 4. KAUAI, 5. REGIS, 6. FOUNTAIN, 7. ABATING

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see [highlandscurrent.org/puzzles](http://highlandscurrent.org/puzzles).



## SPORTS



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# VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

## WINTER TRACK

At the U.S. Army Officials Hall of Fame Invitational at The Armory in New York City Jan. 21, sophomore Jake Thomas of Haldane broke the school record for the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.0 seconds, beating the previous record of 7.06 seconds set by Corbett Francis in 2016. Thomas finished 18th in a field of 108 runners.

Other top finishers were sophomore Milo Pearsall, who finished 10th of 151 runners in a 55-meter dash in 7.22 seconds; ninth grader Samantha Thomas, who was fourth of 97 runners in a 55-meter event in 8.09 seconds; and ninth grader Anna Nelson, who finished 11th in the same race in 8.31.

Haldane returns to The Armory today (Jan. 27) for the Section I Northern/Rockland County championships.

Beacon was at the Section IX divisionals at West Point on Jan. 21, where the Bulldogs had two triple-winners on the boys' side: junior Henry Reinke won the 1,000 meters and 300 meters, and junior Damani Deloatch took top honors in the long jump and triple jump. Both were also part of the winning 4x400 relay team with Andre Alzate and Jonah Mensch.

In other events, junior Rachel Thorne finished third in the 1,500 meters in 5:53.75; junior Rubio Castagna-Torres was fourth in the high jump at 5-0; and senior Tommy Rapp was fifth in the shotput at 32-03.5 and fifth in the long jump at 14-06.25.

"We don't have much depth on either the

boys' or girls' team this season, so it was gratifying to see the boys finish ahead of Port Jervis and Monticello," said Coach Jim Henry. "I knew Henry and Damani would capture the bulk of our points, and there were a couple of surprise contributors, including Tommy and Rubio."

Beacon is headed to the Section IX Last Chance Meet on Sunday (Jan. 29) at The Armory.

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

Beacon picked up a 60-47 win on Tuesday (Jan. 24) over visiting Cornwall behind 22 points from Joe Battle. Dylan Howard added nine and Danny Mercado had eight.

"Battle had his most dominant performance of the year," said Coach Patrick Schetter. "They couldn't stop him inside. And it was a great defensive effort. Dylan, Javan Verdile and Wilson Ciccone all gave us a great effort."

On Jan. 19, the Bulldogs also won at Cornwall, 61-53, behind 21 points from Darien Gillins, 14 from Battle and 10 from Adrian Beato.

"That was Gillins' best game, by far," Schetter said. "He was also good on defense. And Battle led us in the second half."

The Bulldogs trailed by six at halftime before coming back in the second half.

Beacon (10-3, 5-1 league) is scheduled to visit Haldane tonight (Jan. 27) for the fourth annual Battle of the Tunnel game. Beacon won the first game in 2020 but lost the most recent two.

"We've been locked into our league matchups lately," Schetter said. "But this game means a lot to the community, and we want to be energized. There's a bit of a rivalry developing, and the fact that we lost the last two does not sit well."

Haldane picked up a 70-56 home win on Jan. 20 over North Salem. Matteo Cervone and Matt Nachamkin



"Macho" Joe Battle led Beacon with 22 points in a win Tuesday over Cornwall. The Bulldogs face Haldane today (Jan. 27) in the Battle of the Tunnel. *File photo by S. Pearlman*

each had 17 points, followed by Ryan Eng-Wong with 13 and Ben Bozsik with 11.

A 10-0 run before halftime gave Haldane a 40-21 lead. "We came out hard, and shared the ball well," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "Ryan gave us some good defensive intensity, and made some nice passes," he added. "Nachamkin has been dunking and shooting 3-pointers. Will Bradley came back [from a foot injury] and played well, and Evan Giachinta and Julian Ambrose were phenomenal off the bench."

Virgadamo said his team (10-4, 5-0 league) is excited about hosting Beacon. "It's a nice event, and the community is excited, so the kids are excited," he said. "Beacon has a good team this year, they're playing well and so are we. I would be surprised if it's not a four-quarters battle. But we want bragging rights."

The doors at Haldane open at 5:15 p.m. for the 6:15 p.m. tip. The game will be streamed at [haldaneschool.org/athletics/blue-devils-live-stream](http://haldaneschool.org/athletics/blue-devils-live-stream).

The Beacon junior varsity team defeated Cornwall, 63-44, on Tuesday (Jan. 24) to improve to 10-0, led by Ryan Landisi with 17 points. It will travel to play Haldane at 10 a.m. on Saturday (Jan. 28).

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon defeated host Goshen, 49-32, on Tuesday (Jan. 24), with Reilly Landisi leading the Bulldogs with 19 points. Lila Burke added 10 and Daveya Rodriguez and Devyn Kelly each had seven.

"We came out mentally tough and executed our game plan," said Coach Christina Dahl. "We kept our composure, caused havoc on defense and handled their pressure well. Earning a win on the road at

Goshen is never easy, so we're proud of the girls for getting a big league victory."

On Jan. 19 at home, Beacon topped Port Jervis, 58-27, behind 13 points from Rodriguez, 10 from Rayana Taylor and nine from Landisi.

"We moved and shared the ball extremely well, with nine of our 10 players scoring," said Dahl. "Daveya was aggressive, Rayana and Reilly helped us take control early on and Erin Cleary, Shy'Anne Kush and Kiarra Rodriguez each had six points and gave us great minutes."

Beacon (11-4) hosted Haldane on Thursday (Jan. 26) in the annual Battle of the Tunnel game, winning 44-27, and will face Goshen at home at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday (Feb. 1).

Haldane lost at North Salem, 42-29, on Jan. 20 before falling to Beacon. The Blue Devils (3-11) will host Rye Neck at 4:30 p.m. on Monday (Jan. 30) and Croton-Harmon at 6:15 p.m. on Feb. 3.

## WRESTLING

Beacon picked up a 48-23 victory on Tuesday (Jan. 24) at Lourdes High School, with four Bulldogs earning pins.

Alex Khalil won by pin at 189 pounds, Jayden Calloway at 215 pounds (upping his season mark to 27-2) and Brody Timm at 160 pounds (improving to 19-2). Avery Davis also won by pin at 172 pounds, improving to 15-8.

"The guys wrestled well," said Coach Ron Tompkins. "Khalil looked good; he beat one of their best kids. Callaway and Timm both continue to improve and Davis has also been working hard."

The Bulldogs are scheduled to host Wallkill at 5 p.m. on Monday (Jan. 30).

## BOYS' SWIMMING

Beacon fell to New Paltz, 109-59, in its final meet of the season on Jan. 18 to finish 3-7. The Bulldogs won two events: Carlos Lazo was first in the 50-meter freestyle in 25 seconds and Bryce Manning took the 500 freestyle in 6:06.46.

Next up are the divisional championships at Newburgh Free Academy on Feb. 3. The Bulldogs will compete in Division 2 against 12 other teams.

## BOWLING

The Beacon boys' team defeated Marlboro, 5-0, on Jan. 19 to improve to 5-4. The Bulldogs were led by James Bouchard with a 678 series and Will Hockler with a 571 series.

The girls fell to Marlboro, 4-1, on Jan. 19 to drop to 3-5. The Bulldogs were led by Keira Istvan (392 series), Vanessa Campanella (401) and Cadence Heeter (400).

Both teams will face Monroe-Woodbury, Saugerties and Kingston next week.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

BATTLES OF THE TUNNEL			
BOYS		GIRLS	
2020 @HALDANE	BEACON 60	2021 @HALDANE	BEACON 47
	HALDANE 57		HALDANE 30
2021 @HALDANE	HALDANE 70	2021 @HALDANE	BEACON 44
	BEACON 55		HALDANE 36
2022 @BEACON	HALDANE 53	2022 @BEACON	HALDANE 36
	BEACON 39		BEACON 35
2023 @HALDANE	BEACON ?	2023 @BEACON	BEACON 44
	HALDANE ?		HALDANE 27