

# The HIGHLANDS Current



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## Beacon Makes Electric History

*Council passes fossil-fuel ban on new construction*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon on Monday (March 20) banned the use of fossil fuels in all new construction and major renovation projects, a move that the City Council hopes will lead New York State and other municipalities to follow suit.

The law, which was adopted unanimously, goes into effect Jan. 1 and will prohibit the use of fossil fuels such as natural gas and heating oil. Renovations of

buildings that involve more than 75 percent of the heated floor area and the replacement or installation of a heating or hot water system must also use electric equipment, but all other existing structures will not be affected.

With the move, Beacon became the third municipality in New York state to limit greenhouse-gas emissions in buildings.

A New York City law adopted in 2021 limits the emissions allowed in newly constructed buildings, with exceptions for hospitals, laundromats and crematoriums, but is not an outright fossil-fuel ban. Also

(Continued on Page 8)



Members of Beacon Climate Action Now and Food & Water Watch rallied at Polhill Park on Monday (March 20) before the City Council vote. Photo by Valerie Shively



**GREEN-COLORED GLASSES** — Olga Diaz got into the spirit during a St. Patrick's Day celebration for seniors on March 16 at the Salvation Army in Beacon. The seniors meet weekly; for St. Paddy's, the group sang and read poems and Irish sayings. They also enjoyed lunch from the Yankee Clipper Diner and apple pie for dessert. One participant decorated a table with her collection of Irish knickknacks. Photo by Ross Corsair

## What to Do With Hamilton Fish?

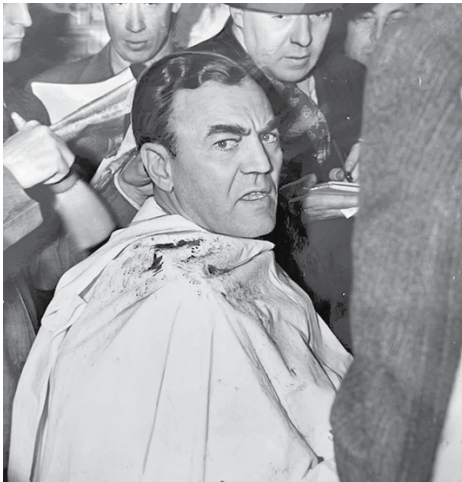
*Garrison library reviewing founder's Nazi sympathies*

By Leonard Sparks

A nita Prentice, board chair of the Desmond-Fish Public Library, and Dede Farabaugh, its director, stopped at a table displaying a new collection.

Arranged in a semicircle, the book covers blared ominous titles: *Black Mail*, a history of franking, the system that allows elected officials to send free mail; *Hitler's American Friends: The Third Reich's Supporters in the United States*; and *George Sylvester Viereck: German-American Propagandist*.

The books, along with two dissertations, represent the first step in what may be a long process for the Garrison library: deciding how to respond to pro-Nazi sentiments attributed to Hamilton Fish III, the late U.S. House member who in 1980 founded the library with his third wife,



Rep. Hamilton Fish III being interviewed in a barbershop in 1939, soon after he returned from a visit to Nazi Germany. Acme Photo, via MSNBC

Alice Curtis Desmond.

In October, Rachel Maddow devoted

(Continued on Page 9)

## A New Home for Veterinarian — His Garage

*Seeks permit to operate in North Highlands*

By Michael Turton

Dr. Peter Bach and his Animal Hospital of Cold Spring are in transition, moving from its longstanding village location to the North Highlands.

After receiving pets for nearly 18 years at his offices between Drug World and Yannitelli's Fine Wine and Spirits at 55 Chestnut St., Bach closed the office on Dec.

31. He has since asked the Philipstown Planning Board for a special permit to operate in a 400-square-foot space that had been a garage at his home on Fishkill Road, near the intersection with Lake Surprise Road.

Bach's most recent lease agreement, which expired Oct. 31, was not renewed. The building is owned by Andon Associates, and Donnie Yannitelli said he and the other owners of the firm did not want to comment on plans for the space.

In January, Bach began renovating the

(Continued on Page 8)



Dr. Peter Bach stands in what he hopes will be his new office space. Photo by M. Turton



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: CONNIE MAYER-BAKALL

By Alison Rooney

After 14 years as chair of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, Connie Mayer-Bakall is handing the reins to Sean Camilliere. She was honored on March 18 at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center in Philipstown.

## Did our nearly snow-free winter cause measurable behavioral changes in birds?

Not just birds. Most animals could see their food, which they're not used to this time of the year. And some plants and small mammals depend on the snow cover for protection. I'm sure that will have quite an impact, because you have all those animals that normally eat other animals. Pull one string, you start harming the tapestry.

We'll have to see what happens during the breeding season. There have been a lot of stress points for birds, including too many people, on trails. When birds find a place where they can raise their young, they keep coming back if the food source is there. Insects hibernate under the bark, so things were still open for birds to forage, and I'm sure they did.

## Did birding benefit from the pandemic?

Yes. When people were home, they started looking up. Birding is the most popular recre-



ational activity in the country. Audubon has 93,000 members, with 27 affiliated chapters in New York state. You can bird anywhere, anytime and you don't need paraphernalia, because most birding is learning the calls and the songs, and going out on a walk. People found it was peaceful, and could be done with kids. I started to get more "I saw this little yellow and black bird, what was it?" calls. Once they start, people stay with it.

The next stage is that people begin to care for birds' needs. They get to thinking about their habitat, and plant native bushes. Soon you have backyard birding. You begin to understand the mechanism of how nature works and the amazing coordination through millennia.

## Was your childhood spent in the woods?

No, I grew up in the city, but the city and I weren't compatible. I came to this area and stayed here. Though actually, it all began for me in Central Park, with a statue of a malamute. His name was Balto, and he had saved young children in Alaska. I saw the statue, then read all the stories about him. That led to an interest in wolves, and I wound up working with them my whole life. Wolves have no interest in harming humans. In fact, they'll go out of their way not to hurt people. They're only interested in surviving.

## You spent 17 years on the staff at Constitution Marsh. How would you make the site more accessible with the limited parking nearby?

You're up against the topography of the marsh and the fact that you have homes right there. New York state parks opened up the waterfront area, so it became a recreational destination. That's when it became a problem. It becomes an awful issue if you're living right there. Eventually, it got shut down, then the marsh lost its parking. There's no other place at the marsh you can put parking; you'd be destroying the marsh to do it.

I don't have a solution. You can't come in canoes and kayaks, because people go off into the side channels, and that's where birds are breeding. We've talked about satellite parking and bike racks, but everything is problematic. You don't want it over-run. You have to plan ahead. It's not going to be any easier.

You can bird anywhere, anytime and you don't need paraphernalia, because most birding is learning the calls and the songs, and going out on a walk.

## What's your favorite regional bird?

Cedar Wax Wings! When I worked at the marsh, I had a large ash tree which was in the process of dying at my home. The birds would come in a flock, the same time, every night. Such beautiful, medium-sized birds. When the setting sun hits them, they're gorgeous.

They're fruit-eaters and I started thinking, "What can I have for them? Dogwood? Berries?" They disperse the seeds they eat. Eventually the tree failed, and they left. It was the perfect spot, and when it was gone, they were gone. None of the birds came back; they found another spot they preferred, which shows how attached they are to a certain tree. Eagles do it, too. Sometimes you're trying to save one tree to save an eagle's nest.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

How many houses, apartments, etc., have you lived in?

Ten, in two countries. Everyone deserves a roof over their head.



kk naimool, Beacon

Nine, starting in Virginia. Also County Cavan, Ireland and six in New York.



Joe Sheerin, Philipstown

Thirteen. The coolest was an apartment in Prague.



Marissa Miller, Cold Spring

## HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Fri. Mar 24 - 7-10 PM  
OPEN MIC NIGHT

Lottery begins at 6:45 - Performers start at 7  
Doors open at 6:15 - Donations suggested

Sat. Mar 25 - 1-5 PM + Artist Talk at 2 PM  
Uncontaminated Sound: Reflections

Photo journey through the NYC Indie scene + beyond  
Robert Lundberg will dive deep into the process and stories that accompany his 70+ images on exhibit



Sun. Mar 26 - 4 PM

Kenneth Overton - Baritone  
Walker Jermaine Jackson, piano  
Howland Chamber Music Circle  
Pay-What-You-Wish! Tix: howlandmusic.org

Fri. Apr 7 - 7 PM

LIT LIT, hosted by DONNA MINKOWITZ  
Signup @ donnaminkowitz.com/lit-lit - Donations suggested

Sat. Apr 8 - 8 PM

SEARCHING OUR MUZE - Evening of Dance & Poetry  
Tix: \$20 adv / \$25 door: howlandculturalcenter.org

Sat. Apr 15 - 1-5 PM + Opening Reception  
Imagination & THE MACHINE

Exhibit of never-before-seen sculptures that blur the line between real and imaginary objects

Wed. Apr 19 - 7-9 PM

6 AWARD-WINNING HUDSON VALLEY POETS  
Tix: \$10 online + door: howlandculturalcenter.org

SAVE THE DATE June 17+18

Beacon LitFest - Inaugural Literary Festival  
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With special guest New York Times and NPR puzzlemaster Will Shortz

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# EPA Seeks Lower Limit On 'Forever Chemicals'

*Beacon currently below proposed new standard*

By Leonard Sparks

The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing its first-ever enforceable standards for a class of toxic chemicals that closed drinking water sources in Newburgh and Putnam Valley and are present in Beacon's system.

The proposal requires that municipalities notify the public and take steps to lower concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) exceeding 4 parts per trillion — significantly lower than the EPA's existing advisory guideline of 70 ppt and New York state's maximum of 10 ppt.

“These new federal standards will mean many more water systems will require treatment, and many more of our neighbors will be protected from exposure to these risky forever chemicals.”

~ Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper

Both are the most widespread polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a large group of chemicals used since the 1940s in products ranging from nonstick and stain- and water-resistant coatings to foams used by firefighters to suppress blazes caused by highly flammable liquids like jet fuel.

Researchers have linked PFAS, which are called “forever chemicals” because they do not easily degrade, to a range of health problems, including kidney and testicular cancers, developmental delays in children, high blood pressure in pregnant women and increased cholesterol.

The levels of PFOS in Beacon's water supply ranged between 1.31 and 3.33 ppt, and PFOA levels were measured as high as 1.96 ppt in 2021, according to the city's water-quality report for that year, which is the most current available.

The most recent water-quality report posted on Cold Spring's website is from 2017, three years before the state adopted its standards for PFOA and PFOS and required that

## Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Limits

	EPA	NYS	EPA PROPOSED	BEACON(1)	P.V. SCHOOL (2)	NEWBURGH (3)
PFOA		10 ppt	4 ppt	1.96 ppt	23.3 ppt	
Combined	70 ppt					140-170 ppt
PFOS		10 ppt	4 ppt	1.31-3.33 ppt	38.3 ppt	

PPT = Parts per trillion (1) 2021 testing (2) December 2020 test (3) Washington Lake, 2016  
Cold Spring numbers were not immediately available.

Riverkeeper predicted that the proposed standards, which also require that public water systems be monitored for mixtures containing one or more of four other PFAS chemicals, will spur cleanups.

“Once in force, these new federal standards will mean many more water systems will require treatment, and many more of our neighbors will be protected from exposure to these risky forever chemicals,” said Dan Shapley, the organization's co-director of science and patrol.

One such exposure took place in the Putnam Valley Central School District, which is suing nearly two dozen companies that manufactured products containing PFAS, including 3M and DuPont, over the contamination of the well that supplies drinking water to students, faculty and staff at its elementary school.

School officials discovered the contamination in December 2020, when quarterly

trations as high as 23.3 ppt for PFOA and 38.3 ppt for PFOS, well above the state's drinking-water limits.

At the time of the results, students and staff were using bottled water instead of fountains because of the pandemic. Putnam Valley's high school and middle school are on municipal water systems and unaffected by the contamination.

The district traces the source of the contamination to the use of firefighting foams at Putnam Valley Fire Department firehouses — one 4,600 feet from the school's property on Oscawana Lake Road and the other 4.6 miles away.

The lawsuit is seeking punitive damages and compensation for the costs of installing a granular-activated-carbon filtration system, one of the proven methods for removing PFAS. School officials said in January that “recent test results have found no measurable amounts of PFOA or PFOS in our drinking water.”

Firefighting foams have also been implicated in the high PFAS levels that forced the closure of the City of Newburgh's primary water supply, Washington Lake, in 2016 after sampling showed concentrations between 140 and 170 ppt.

State investigators traced the contamination to the use of the foams at Stewart Air National Guard Base.

In addition to closing the lake, the state Department of Health launched a testing program for Newburgh residents. Results for the first 370 people tested showed a middle level of 16 parts per billion, three times higher than the national figure of 5.2. For current residents of Newburgh the average was even higher, about 20 parts per billion.

New York also funded the installation of a new water-filtration system, but Newburgh officials decided to continue drawing water from New York City's Catskill Aqueduct. A five-year national study of the health effects of PFAS chemicals is underway, and includes residents from Newburgh.

Newburgh and Putnam Valley are not the only victims. The chemicals also contaminated a well at Hudson Valley Regional Airport in Wappingers Falls, triggering a lawsuit by Dutchess County against manufacturers. They have also been found in the system supplying water to the middle and high schools in Dover.

In March 2022 the state Department of Environmental Conservation announced the start of an investigation into pollution from the chemicals at Dutchess County's fire training facility in Hyde Park.



DEPOT DOCS PRESENTS:

## The Janes

March 24 at 7:30pm

## “Just Jim Dale”

A one man show about his life performed by Harry Potter narrator and the voice of Pete the Dragon!

March 25 at 7pm

## Ariane One Act Play Festival

March 31-April 2

[www.philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://www.philipstowndepottheatre.org)

The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**

## Welcome to New Members and Thank You to More

The Current is pleased to add these members who joined in the last few days:

PARTNERS (\$120-\$599)

David Elzer Peter Endler

And we appreciate the generosity of these members, whose names were inadvertently left off our membership list published last week:

ALSO PARTNERS

Rob Abbot and Claire Cifaloglio  
Jacqueline Azria  
Marilyn Minter

Sherrie and Nikolai Nachamkin  
David and Ann Provan  
Alexandra and Duncan Regan

Membership is very important to our nonprofit news organization, accounting for 70% of our revenue. To join, please go to:

[highlandscurrent.org/join](https://highlandscurrent.org/join)

For questions, email:

[membership@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:membership@highlandscurrent.org)



**Wednesday, March 29th, 3:00 - 5:30 pm**

Come to Garrison Art Center to learn about our Summer Programs Including Summer Arts Institute for High School students.

Bring a friend, have a slice from **COLD SPRING PIZZA**, hang out and make some art.

Garrison Art Center

23 Garrison's Landing  
Garrison, NY 10524  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org) 845-424-3960





# The HIGHLANDS Current

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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

### Electric rides

I have been an electric-vehicle owner since 2018 and am so happy to see adoption increasing ("Owners Get Charge From EVs," March 17). I would love to see more DC fast chargers instead of the slow Level 2 chargers. DC fast chargers can charge in 10 to 20 minutes while the Level 2 chargers at the DMV parking lot could take four to six hours. When we consistently block the chargers with the Beacon Farmers Market or close the fire station lot, it leaves EV owners out dry. It's like closing all the gas stations in town every Sunday.

Tom Cerchiara, *Beacon*

### Fjord Trail

Re: "Grassroots Group Wants Shorter Fjord Trail" (March 10), how is it better that village locals will need to get in their cars and drive to access the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail? People will continue to walk unsafely down Fair Street and Route 9D and there will be no access for children and senior residents to enjoy this beautiful linear park. If the Cold Spring Metro-North station was being proposed today, the same pitchfork mob would be out predicting the demise of our village without offering any solutions.

Tom O'Quinn, *Cold Spring*

I find it alarming that Fjord Trail staff

say "it's a state parks project," and the state parks staff say "it's the Fjord Trail's project."

Who's in control? Who's going to pay? The best public-private partnerships clearly and openly delineate roles and responsibilities. But we have not seen any memorandum of understanding or contract between the state and the HHFT.

Further, we have seen no estimated construction and operating budgets. Pilings in the river and a 12-foot-wide elevated boardwalk can be pricy. And ongoing maintenance, security, liability, administration and repairs will add up quickly. The only significant asset will be Dockside Park. Think Bryant Park in a densely commercial area, but now in a rural residential area. Restaurants, bars, ice skating rinks, holiday gift booths, bumper cars, film festivals, concerts — all to pay for an attraction that they claim will transform the region. Is that what Cold Spring needs or wants?

Gretchen Dykstra, *Cold Spring*

A method of eliminating parking along Route 9D could be for the state to make all 9D parking illegal, raze the old Breakneck Lodge and build a five-story parking structure with a ground-level lot for oversize vehicles such as pickup trucks and passenger vans.

The state could collect a daily parking fee and use that money to offset the cost of

running a free shuttle bus loop to all of the trailheads from the parking site.

Charles Park Jr., *Cortlandt Manor*

The HHFT traffic consultant noted that only 2 percent of hikers access Breakneck from the Cold Spring Metro-North station and Fair Street. The fantasy that a Dockside trailhead would somehow eradicate pedestrian congestion in the village is only in service of (at most) this 2 percent, who may not utilize a prospective Dockside trailhead.

The NIMBYs of Fair Street are the biggest local proponents of the trailhead not because they value the plan but because they speculate they would see less people in their neighborhood. Those hikers would merely crowd other access points.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

### Constitutional County

Should the resolution requested by County Executive Kevin Byrne be adopted, Putnam would apparently be stating its intent to violate any law some of its citizens do not care for ("Byrne Wants to Make Putnam 'Constitutional County,'" March 17).

The remedy for complaints an individual may have is to run for public office, vote at every opportunity and continue to monitor the official and unofficial activities of elected officials. We the people have voted for our representatives and officials to support the Constitution. We have not authorized any of them to decide that we, the citizenry, have a right to disregard enforcement of any law we do not care for.

Camilla Von Bergen, *Beacon*

### Route 9 Warehouse

I'm all for solving traffic problems but honestly I don't get how this warehouse project has anything to do with Philipstown, as Diana Hird argued in a letter in the March 17 issue ("Dutchess Mall Plan Approved," March 10).

A quick glance at Google Maps shows this project is a good 2-plus miles from the county line, so I wouldn't say it's "on the border with Fishkill." I don't think anyone from Philipstown has any claim to influence this project, and we need the jobs around the area and to get rid of the mess that has been rotting there for 20 years.

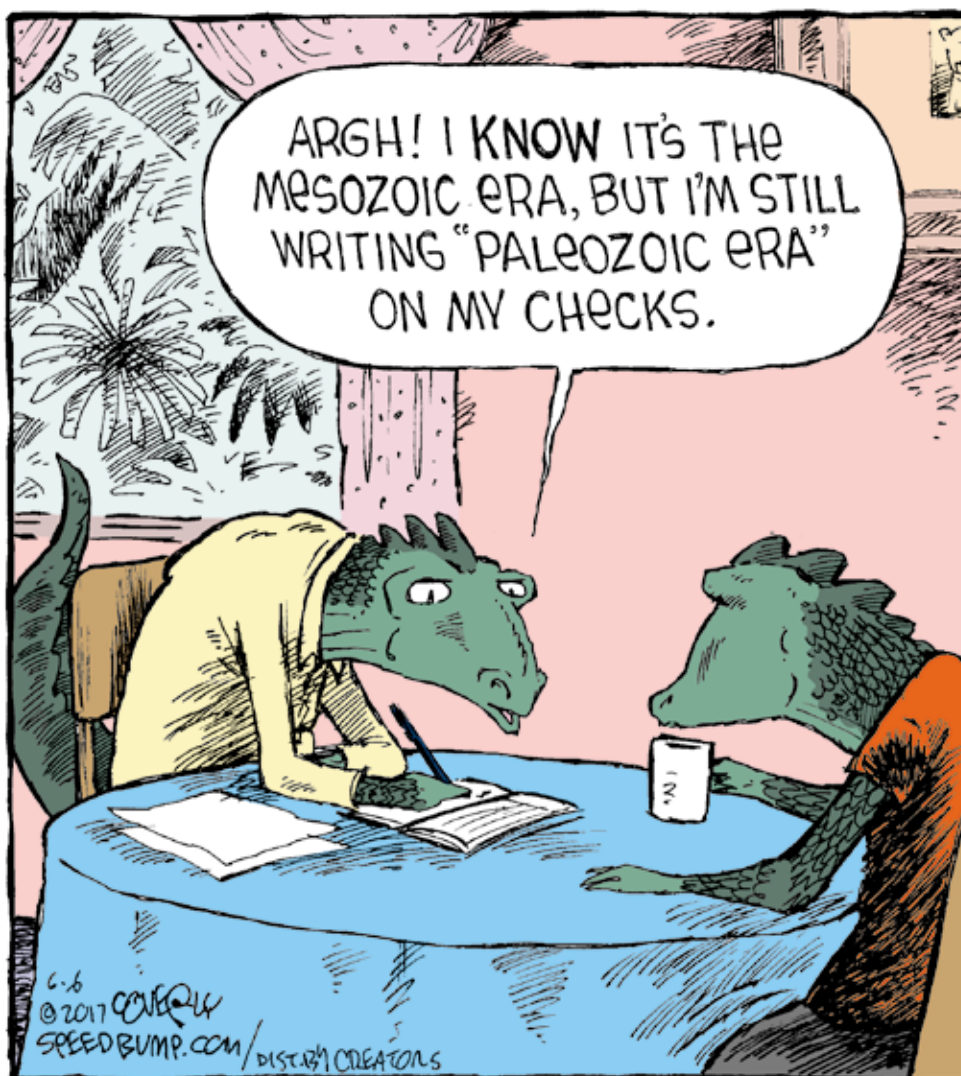
Tad Lacey, *Beacon*

### Beacon CCA

I'm not sure I follow why Beacon won't join the community choice aggregation (CCA) program this time around ("Energy Collective to Relaunch, Without Beacon," March 17).

*The Current* reported that the city administrator "received many complaints from residents upset that the city had joined the CCA on their behalf." I'm curi-

(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

ous: How many complaints were received? Might there be a similar amount of residents who support this?

Brian DiFeo, *via Facebook*

## Celebrating wins

Why do we all need to suffer from excessive noise when a team at Haldane wins a game? It's too late at 11 p.m. to run fire-trucks and police cars up and down Main Street. Every time a team wins, my kids need to be awoken in the middle of the night? Plus, how many tax dollars are wasted on gas and wages for this nonsense?

Sean Hackett, *Cold Spring*

*Editor's note: Haldane varsity teams traditionally "scoop the loop" accompanied by first responders when they arrive home after winning state tournament titles.*

## Housing crisis

Developers build what makes a profit. New construction for "low- to moderate-income people" doesn't often pencil out without government (or philanthropic) intervention ("Wide Angle: Priced Out, Part III," March 10).

James Petty, *via Instagram*

Beacon built one kind of property: luxury. We begged City Council Member George Mansfield, we begged Mayor Lee Kyriacou and we begged previous mayors and previous council members to build reasonably priced properties for families. They did not listen. Beacon needs a new set of legislators. When do we hold them responsible for this overpriced, overtaxed, poorly developed city?

Paul Yeaple, *via Instagram*

## Glass blower

This woman is very special ("5 Questions: Kathleen Andersen," March 10). She is exceptionally kind and totally brilliant. Don't let her humble nature mask any of that! She has made glassblowing experts of me and my children for years and years.

Louise Darhansoff, *via Instagram*

## Corrections

An article in the March 17 issue about King + Curated stated that the jeweler only sells lab diamonds. In fact, it offers both lab diamonds and those that are mined.

In the March 17 issue, *The Current* reported that, based on information posted by the state Board of Elections, Beacon City Council Member Molly Rhodes is running for the county Legislature. In fact, say the Beacon Democrats, the BOE site is in error and Rhodes is campaigning to retain her City Council seat.

In a story in the March 17 issue, we reported that York County, West Virginia, had declared itself to be a "constitutional county." In fact, it was York County, Virginia.

## Living Green

## Follow the Money

By Krystal Ford

Let's face it, fossil-fuel companies are incapable of reining themselves in; they have no intention of switching their business practices. They will frack, blow up mountains, drill and destroy a beautiful, pristine, arctic wilderness, home to wildlife and Indigenous people, until the last drop of gas, coal or oil is extracted and our world is a wasteland.

They've known, for a very long time, the consequences of their products and they do not care. But they have not acted alone. The government gives them access to public land and subsidies, and banks are all too eager to lend them money. What's in your wallet may be another tool to fight for a livable world.

According to *Banking on Climate Chaos*, an annual report issued by the Rainforest Action Network ([bankingonclimatechaos.org](http://bankingonclimatechaos.org)), the top four banks financing the fossil-fuel sector since the Paris Agreement in 2016 are (drumroll, please): JP Morgan Chase (\$382 billion), Citibank (\$285 billion), Wells Fargo (\$272 billion) and Bank of America (\$232 billion).

Without banks lending money and without insurance companies' underwriting, the fossil-fuel industry wouldn't be able to expand extraction. Even though most major U.S. banks have agreed, in principle, to align their business practices with the emissions-reduction timeline in the Paris Agreement, the reality is another story.

Locally, Janet Apuzzo is one of many activists who have been targeting banks with equal parts protest (to get banks to cut their funding to fossil fuels) and public education (to get people to move their money if the banks won't listen). Apuzzo, who lives in Wallkill, in Ulster County, is part of a group called Extinction Rebellion Mid-Hudson ([facebook.com/xrnphv](https://facebook.com/xrnphv)). They call themselves "the roving rebels," and they show up outside a new bank every other Thursday.

Earlier this month, the group did an action at the Chase Bank in Fishkill. Seven people turned out, holding signs and singing. The police met them there, which Apuzzo said she found exciting.

"I guess we are on their radar," she told me. "They don't want us going in and telling the truth that people should divest their money from Chase. We're just here to raise consciousness and educate people, get them to move their money to a local bank and get people to tell their friends."

She said that Chase in 2021 invested \$61.7 billion in the fossil-fuel industry, far surpassing its competitors.

There are a number of resources with information about how to individually divest, such as Rivers and Mountains



Activists from the Rainforest Action Network protested against Chase in Manhattan in December 2018.

Photo by Michael Nigro/RFN

Greenfaith ([rivers-mountains-greenfaith.org](http://rivers-mountains-greenfaith.org)) and Stop the Money Pipeline ([stopthemoneypipeline.com](http://stopthemoneypipeline.com)).

Many investment funds also support the fossil-fuel industry. Public pension funds for teachers, public employees and firefighters, for example, are some of the biggest investors in the country and are often overseen by elected officials, who must answer to voters. For your own investments, asset managers pool money from a variety of sources, such as pension funds, individual retirement accounts and endowments, and invest for their clients.

That means companies such as BlackRock, Vanguard and State Street own significant shares of banks and fossil-fuel companies. Keep an eye on shareholder season between April and June, when publicly traded companies hold their annual meetings — shareholders can vote on resolutions that provide direction for how a company does business, including climate.

It will take time to transition away from fossil fuels, but for banks to keep funding new exploration makes them culpable in the climate emergency. It's time to hold them accountable, too.



**2023**

# SUMMER CAMP

*Guide*

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NEWS BRIEFS

Putnam Opens Veterans Court

Prioritizes treatment for former military members

A new specialized treatment court for military veterans is now open in Putnam County, Administrative Judge Anne E. Minihan of the 9th Judicial District announced on Tuesday (March 21).

Putnam County Judge Joseph Spofford will preside over the court, which will be available to veterans charged with felonies or misdemeanors who have problems with addiction, mental health or combat-related issues.

To be eligible for the court, a veteran cannot be considered a public-safety risk and must agree to conditions, including counseling. Those who complete the program can have their charges dismissed or reduced.

Spofford also presides over the county Drug Treatment Court.

Buffalo opened the country’s first Veterans Treatment Court in 2008 and there are now 37 in 26 counties. Beacon City Judge Greg Johnston presides over Dutchess’ Veterans Treatment Court for misdemeanor cases, and County Judge Jessica Segal supervises veterans charged with felonies.

State Bill Would Expand Permit Parking

Legislation would add 20 streets in Cold Spring

State Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown, has introduced legislation that would add 20 streets to the list where Cold Spring can institute a residential parking permit system.

Levenberg said the village’s plan to place meters on Main Street and the opening of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will push more visitors to side streets.

Under state law, Cold Spring could only issue residential permits on Main, New, West, Fish and Market streets; Northern and Railroad avenues; Kemble Avenue from Main Street to Wall Street; and Church, Cross, Furnace, Garden, Haldane, High, Rock and Stone streets.

Levenberg’s bill would add Main Street from the Metro-North tracks to Parsonage Street; Benedict Road, Fishkill Avenue and Grandview Terrace; and Academy, B, Cherry, and East and West Belvedere streets.

It would also add Locust Ridge, Maple Terrace and Whitehall Place; Marion, Mountain and Paulding avenues; and Hamilton, Orchard, Parrott, Parsonage and Pine streets.

Dutchess Sheriff Rolls Out Cameras

Designed to ‘provide greater transparency’

Dutchess County Sheriff’s deputies began wearing body cameras on March 18.

The cameras have been given to deputies “to provide greater transparency, build community trust, and further honor the commitment to our Police Reform and Modernization Plan,” the Sheriff’s Department said in a statement.

The cameras, made by Axon, will be in use when deputies “respond to incidents or take official action, including but not limited to using force and making arrests,” it said. “The cameras are expected to be of significant overall benefit to both the deputies and the public that they serve as we move forward and get better together.”

Two Nelsonville Board Members Elected

Incumbent and newcomer run unopposed

Maria Zhynovitch was elected to a second term on the Nelsonville Village Board and Travis Biro to his first during voting on Tuesday (March 21).

Both ran unopposed and will serve a 2-year term on the five-member board. Biro, who works for IBM, succeeds Kathleen Maloney, who did not run for a second term. Biro received 45 votes and Zhynovitch received 44, representing a turnout of 9.7 percent of registered voters. Alan Potts and Michael Jones each received a write-in vote.

The other members of the board are Mayor Chris Winward and Trustees Thomas



Biro

Real Estate Market Report

February	BEACON		PHILIPSTOWN	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
New Listings	7	8	9	6
Closed Sales	3	5	6	5
Days on Market	80	108	66	94
Median Price	\$510,000	\$620,000	\$595,000	\$760,000
% List Received	93.3	91.9	99.8	93.1
Inventory	19	19	24	22

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



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Campanile and David Moroney, whose seats will be on the ballot next year.

Dutchess County Seeks Committee Members

Deadline March 31 for Human Rights commission

The Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights is seeking candidates for four vacancies on its 14-member volunteer board.

The commission, which meets monthly, works to advance human rights and ensure the county is “an inclusive and respectful community for all.” Each member serves a three-year term. See dutchessny.gov/human-rights. The deadline is March 31.

Comptroller Details Relief Spending

Dutchess has spent \$19.6 million

The Dutchess County Comptroller’s Office on March 13 released a report on spending of federal pandemic relief funding during the last three months of 2022.

The county received \$57.1 million in funding through the American Rescue Plan, of

which it spent \$3.27 million during the fourth quarter. That brought its total spent to \$19.6 million. The money must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

The largest expenditures during the fourth quarter, according to the comptroller, were \$817,356 for demolition and design of a new community center in Poughkeepsie; \$425,366 to Family Services Inc. for a facilities renewal project; \$394,697 for county payroll and benefits; \$392,991 for a splash pad at Wilcox Park in Stanfordville; and \$222,554 for design services for Dutchess Stadium (whose name is changing to Heritage Financial Park).

New Area Code Takes Effect

329 now available in Putnam, Dutchess

Beginning today (March 24), residential, business and mobile phone customers in the 845 area code service area who request service or an additional line may be assigned a number with a 329 area code, the state announced.

The Public Service Commission approved the 329 code in 2022. The numbers will not be assigned until the remaining 845 numbers are exhausted. The 845 code covers Putnam, Dutchess and eight other counties.



Albany: Bill Proposes Renaming Trump State Park

Dana Levenberg, whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown, reintroduced a bill that would require the parks department to determine if it can legally change the name of the 436-acre Donald J. Trump State Park, which straddles Putnam and Westchester counties. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, who represents part of Manhattan,

introduced the measure in the Senate.

“I have received many unprompted messages from constituents who are dismayed at driving past signs for Donald J. Trump State Park,” Levenberg said in a statement. “Frankly, it is triggering for many people to have a daily reminder of the hatred and vitriol Donald Trump unleashed in our nation’s politics.”

The bill was first introduced in the 2015-16 session. It passed the Senate in 2021.

Wappingers Falls: Stadium Gets New Name

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the minor-league baseball team associated with the New York Yankees, announced on Tuesday (March 21) that Dutchess Stadium will be renamed as Heritage Financial Park

after the team sold the naming rights to Heritage Financial Credit Union.

The company’s logo will also be added to the team’s uniforms. The deal lasts for 10 years. The cost was not revealed but the team’s general manager said it was in the seven figures.

“‘Heritage Financial Park’ has a nice ring to it,” said Dutchess County Executive William X.F. O’Neil at a press conference. “It sounds like the name of a big-league stadium.”

Peekskill: FBI Arrests Alleged Hacker

FBI agents arrested a Peekskill man on March 15 for allegedly stealing personal data online.

Conor Brian Fitzpatrick, a 2021 Peek-

skill High School graduate, appeared in court in White Plains and was released on a \$300,000 bond signed by his parents, according to the *Peekskill Herald*. He was scheduled to appear today (March 24) in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia.

The FBI agent who made the arrest stated in a court document that Fitzpatrick admitted he was known online as Pompompurin and that he owned a forum for exchanging stolen data called BreachForums.

Brian Krebs, of *Krebs on Security*, a security news site, told the *Herald* that BreachForums “has been the source of many high-profile data breaches involving major corporations for the past year.” He added: “It’s hard to say what finally brought the feds to his door,” although he suspected it might have been data stolen from DC Health Link, a health insurance exchange in Washington.



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A view of the Bach home from Fishkill Road

Google Maps

### Veterinarian *(from Page 1)*

garage, which is accessed by a driveway off Fishkill Road. However, Philipstown issued a stop-work order because he had not obtained the needed building permits or the special permit required to operate a veterinary hospital in a rural residential zone. The town also identified a number of code violations.

“We were doing emergency care and urgent care for a while until the town issued the stop-work order,” said Bach, who has been a veterinarian for 36 years. In the meantime, he is making house calls and meeting with pet owners over Zoom.

In a report to the Planning Board, consultant Ron Gainer said the renovation would be considered a “minor project,” which means that a public hearing is optional. Board members made a site visit on March 5 and are scheduled to discuss on Thursday (March 30) whether to hold a hearing. Bach’s application

also could be referred to other town, county and state agencies for comment.

If approved, the project will have to meet criteria such as providing adequate parking, limited signage and no exterior storage of materials unless hidden by screens. The exterior of the residence also cannot take on the “appearance of a business” or alter neighborhood character.

To bolster their application, Bach and his wife, Andrea, have solicited letters of support from clients and community members. Andrea Bach, who works at the practice with her husband, described the response as “heartwarming” and said they have received more than 30 letters to date, with others sent directly to the town.

“I’m hoping we don’t lose too many clients; some have had to go elsewhere,” Peter Bach said. “I’m a Philipstown resident; I’ve practiced here for many years, and I think I have contributed a lot to the community.”

### Electric *(from Page 1)*

in 2021, Ithaca passed a measure requiring new and existing buildings to be electrified by 2030, the same year the city has pledged to become carbon-neutral.

It took the Beacon council less than five months to adopt its regulations after Dan Aymar-Blair, the Ward 4 representative, and Paloma Wake, an at-large member, announced the proposal during a climate rally in October. On Monday evening, during a pre-vote rally, Council Member George Mansfield thanked the activist groups Beacon Climate Action Now and Food & Water Watch for pushing the council to take up the legislation.

“In my 14 years on the council, this is one of the more significant votes that I’ve had the opportunity to participate in,” Mansfield said. “Let’s hope that we can lead by example.”

That could soon come to be, as state legislators and Gov. Kathy Hochul have signaled their support for what would be the country’s first statewide all-electric building law, although they differ on the details.

Earlier this month, state Senate members released a set of 2023-24 budget resolutions that include a proposal to require new buildings of six stories or less to be all-electric by Jan. 1, 2025. Taller buildings would be held to the standard by July 2028.

The Assembly’s plan calls for new buildings of six stories or less to go electric by 2026, and 2029 for taller buildings. It also directs the Department of Public Service to



Veekas Ashoka of Beacon Climate Action Now speaks at a rally at Polhill Park on Monday (March 20) before the council vote.

Photo by Valerie Shively

determine electricity capacity for particular regions and projects.

Hochul has proposed prohibiting the use of fossil fuels in new construction of single-family homes or apartment buildings of three stories or less by Jan. 1, 2026; other buildings would follow three years later.

With both houses of the Legislature and the governor more or less on the same page, it’s possible a statewide law could be approved as part of the 2023-24 budget, which is due for passage by April 1.

If that happens, the impact could be substantial. According to the state Climate Action Council, which was appointed in 2020 to create a roadmap for achieving New York’s climate goals, buildings account for 32 percent of the state’s greenhouse-gas emissions, the most of any sector. By one estimate, a statewide ban on fossil fuels in new construction would be equivalent to keeping 870,000 cars off the road for a year.

If a state law isn’t adopted this year, Beacon’s legislation was written so it could easily be replicated by other municipalities. For example, it includes a handful of exemptions — some of which, such as laboratories or hospitals, are unlikely to apply to Beacon — that state energy officials have said would likely be included in a state law.

The city based its law on concepts already studied by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, including the exemptions, Beacon City Administrator Chris White explained. “This is a groundbreaking law in its simplicity and in its modeling,” he said. “We’re just accelerating the timeline for implementation.”

During the rally before Monday’s vote, Aymar-Blair noted that, with the law’s passage, Beacon has likely reached its peak for greenhouse-gas emissions. “The only way we can go is down from there,” he said. “We should all be proud of the moment we turned the ship.”

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## Hamilton Fish (from Page 1)

a segment of her MSNBC podcast series *Ultra* to Fish's statements in support of the Nazis and the use of his franking privileges as a congressman to disseminate anti-war materials provided by Viereck, a U.S.-based Nazi propagandist seeking to keep the U.S. out of World War II.

This year, a subcommittee created by the 26-member Desmond-Fish board (which includes Hamilton Fish V, a grandson of Hamilton Fish III) has not only been researching the history of Fish's relationship with Nazi Germany and generating ideas for public programs, but taking up the question of whether the library should be renamed.

"We don't know what the end result will be, but it is something that has to be addressed," said Farabaugh.

Both Farabaugh and Prentice said they were aware of Fish's opposition to U.S. involvement in World War II but were surprised when some patrons alerted them to the content of Maddow's podcast ([msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-presents-ultra](https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-presents-ultra)).

Fish is the focus of the fifth part of the eight-part series, which is described by MSNBC as "the all-but-forgotten true story of good, old-fashioned American extremism getting supercharged by proximity to power."

The library issued a statement that condemned "all anti-Jewish actions, statements and beliefs." To investigate, at the board's meeting in January trustees approved a resolution forming a subgroup of its Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee. The subgroup includes board members, staff and residents.

Hamilton Fish V said that his grandfather's experiences leading an all-Black regiment into combat during World War I influenced his opposition to U.S. involvement in World War II, and he denounced Maddow's reporting.

"When you pick out one or two highlights, there's a huge potential for getting it wrong," he said. "For all of his extreme



The Desmond-Fish library has assembled a collection of books and dissertations related to Hamilton Fish III and his views on World War II and the Nazis. Photo by L. Sparks

politics and behavior and his associations throughout his life, setting him up as a poster child for an antisemitic sympathetic Nazi is just not accurate."

While Maddow's podcast focused on Fish's statements supporting Hitler's regime and the franking scandal involving Viereck, the library found two dissertations devoted to his isolationist views that noted some of his contradictions.

For instance, while Fish in 1938 addressed a group of German Americans during a German Day rally at Madison Square Garden, in 1939 he spoke on behalf of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League and sponsored legislation banning Nazi-organized associations, clubs and military organizations.

He denounced Germany's persecution of Jews, but once said that he preferred "the Hitler regime to any form of Bolshevism, with its class and religious hatred and avowal of world revolution."

Fish faced allegations that he was antisemitic, a charge he always denied, and associated with people like Father Charles Coughlin, a Catholic priest who used his national radio show to make anti-Jewish statements. A group that supported U.S. intervention in World War II claimed in 1941 that Fish allowed his franking privileges to be used to mail antisemitic literature.

"We've heard from people who feel hurt and don't want to come to the library if it has the name Hamilton Fish on it, and we've

heard from people who feel differently," said Prentice. "So, we need to have a process that can enable all those voices to be heard."

At the forefront of that process is the subcommittee. In addition to researching Fish's history, its members have been generating ideas for programming and reviewing policies that other institutions, including colleges and museums, have for renaming buildings.

"Inevitably, there's going to be people who are unhappy with the result whatever it is," said Farabaugh. "But if we have a good process that is transparent and accessible, hopefully you can't fault the outcome, even if you don't agree."

In the meantime, the library has postponed an exhibit it had planned at the Putnam History Museum about Nicholas Fish, Hamilton Fish III's great-grandfather. Instead, it selected *Jews Don't Count*, by David Baddiel, for a "community read" scheduled for April 18.

The Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee is contemplating other programs, including additional readings and panel discussions. Hamilton Fish V said he has stepped down as the committee's co-chair.

"I've tried to pretty much stay on the sidelines and not make it any more awkward than it already is for the people in the institution who work every day there, and also for the board members, all of whom contribute immensely," he said.

### Library Statement

## Hamilton Fish III and the Desmond-Fish Library

The Desmond-Fish Public Library was founded in 1980 by Hamilton Fish III [1888-1991] and his wife, Alice Curtis Desmond. Fish represented the Hudson Valley in Congress from 1920 to 1945.

Recent episodes of the podcast *Ultra*, hosted by Rachel Maddow, reported actions and statements in the late 1930s by Hamilton Fish III that were in support of Hitler and his regime. Fish's congressional office distributed harmful antisemitic propaganda, and he made racist remarks against Jews. Fish spoke at a Nazi rally in New York where he strongly opposed U.S. involvement in World War II. The Wikipedia entry for Congressman Fish provides further detail on this chapter of his long life and political career.

The morning after Pearl Harbor, Congressman Fish denounced the attack and expressed his support for Roosevelt's Declaration of War. He also later signed a

House resolution condemning Germany's abhorrent treatment of Jews. Fish was defeated for re-election in 1944 and never held elected office again.

As individuals and as an institution, all of us associated with the Desmond-Fish Public Library, including descendants of Hamilton Fish III, strongly condemn all anti-Jewish actions, statements and beliefs. As citizens of our community and stewards of the library, we are dedicated to working actively against racism, bias and discrimination in all forms.

We are committed to learning about and growing from our history alongside the community. Questions and comments are welcome at all times. Those wishing to discuss this matter are invited to contact Library Director Dede Farabaugh at [director@desmondfishlibrary.org](mailto:director@desmondfishlibrary.org) or Board President Anita Prentice at [anitaprentice@gmail.com](mailto:anitaprentice@gmail.com).

## Hamilton Fish: A Guide

### Hamilton Fish (1808-1893)

Fish served in the U.S. House from 1843-1845, as New York's lieutenant governor in 1848, as governor in 1849-1850, in the U.S. Senate from 1851-1857 and as secretary of state under President Ulysses S. Grant from 1869-1877. He died in Garrison at age 85 and is buried at St. Philip's Church.



### Hamilton Fish II (1849-1936)

Fish was born in Albany while his father was governor of New York. He attended Columbia University and Columbia Law School and was elected to 12 terms in the state Assembly representing Putnam County. He was the assistant treasurer of the U.S. from 1903-1908 before serving in the U.S. House for a single term. He lived in Garrison and is buried at St. Philip's Church.



### Hamilton Fish III (1888-1991)

Born in Garrison, Fish graduated in 1910 from Harvard, where he was an All-American football player. He served in the state Assembly from 1914-1916 representing Putnam County, and during World War I commanded a troop of Black enlisted men who became known as the Harlem Hellfighters. A Republican, Fish served in the U.S. House from 1920-1945. He lived to be 102 and is buried at St. Philip's Church.



### Hamilton Fish IV (1926-1996)

Fish, a Republican, represented parts of the Hudson Valley for 13 terms in the U.S. House between 1969 and 1995. He graduated from Harvard in 1949 and attended the New York University School of Law. In 1974, as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, he voted in favor of the first two impeachment articles against President Richard Nixon. Fish was born and died in Washington, D.C.



### Hamilton Fish V (b. 1951)

Fish, who serves on the Desmond-Fish library board, is a Harvard graduate, former publisher of *The Nation* and *The New Republic*, and two-time Democratic candidate for Congress. He is currently editor and publisher of *The Washington Spectator*.



## What to Do With Audubon?

Three board members for the National Audubon Society quit after the organization voted this month to keep the name of John James Audubon (1785-1851), who enslaved people and held racist views. The vote capped a process that took more than a year and involved research on Audubon and survey responses from more than 2,300 people, according to the organization. The society outlines its namesake's sins at [audubon.org/content/john-james-audubon](https://audubon.org/content/john-james-audubon).



# Philipstown Asks State to Assist With Housing, Not Impose Rules

Nelsonville mayor also expresses misgivings

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Town of Philipstown on Wednesday (March 22) officially lent its voice to the outcry against a proposal by Gov. Kathy Hochul to force municipalities to increase housing stocks, an idea that critics regard as an attack on local autonomy.

At a workshop session, Board Members Robert Flaherty, Judy Farrell and Jason Angell voted unanimously for a resolution that urges the state to preserve local authority while pursuing solutions to housing shortages. Supervisor John Van Tassel and Councilor Megan Cotter missed the meeting.

Hochul wants to increase housing across the state by 800,000 units in 10 years and to require communities served by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, including the Metro-North train system, to increase housing by 3 percent in the

first three years of the program, which has multiple 3-year cycles.

Her proposal also would allow affordable-housing developers to bypass local zoning laws if the community fails to meet quotas and ease environmental reviews for developments around transit stations. Communities beyond the MTA's reach would be required to increase housing stocks by 1 percent every three years.

The initiative has drawn bipartisan criticism.

The Philipstown resolution acknowledges the need for housing but says the state should cooperate with municipalities and help them address the costs of the increased water and sewer infrastructure, schools and services that additional housing and larger populations would require. It also declares that many communities, including Philipstown, have policies that promote affordable housing.

As examples, it cites a 2006 Philipstown law encouraging the creation of accessory units —

apartments or cottages on lots occupied by a main house — that can supply housing while avoiding the environmental impact of new developments. The town's 2021 comprehensive plan also refers to a "chronic need" for a wide range of housing so that people who work in Philipstown can also live there. That helps enhance Philipstown's "small-town character," according to the plan.

"Regulating residential housing falls squarely under the purview of municipal home rule," the resolution asserts, asking the state to "uphold local authority" in any housing programs it creates.

Philipstown officials aren't the only ones in the Highlands skeptical of the governor's proposal. Mayor Lee Kyriacou of Beacon recently said Albany should "leave enough local control for the local governments," while Mayor Kathleen Foley of Cold Spring, calling the idea "overreach," urged Albany to "give us parameters and goals" and, above all, resources, but to not completely override local review.

Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward joined the chorus on Monday (March 20). At a Village Board meeting, she said that it's "not that affordable housing, or any kind of additional housing, is not extremely important. Lord knows there are people who live in our community, grew up here, who want to be able to stay. And we don't have enough housing" for that.

But the state plan, as drafted, could undermine local zoning and planning laws, she said, and "I don't think losing our independence to developers, etc., is worth it."

“Regulating residential housing falls squarely under the purview of municipal home rule.”

~ Philipstown resolution

## 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? Jody and Ben Loving of Beacon shared this shot of their daughter, Camille, with Gus. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org).



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- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| MARCH 12 | Elizabeth Cody Kimmel, <i>Author</i><br>"The Destination of Community" |
| MARCH 19 | Rev. William Weisenbach<br><i>Communion Service</i>                    |
| MARCH 26 | Bryan Dunlap, <i>Historian</i><br>"Dean Swift and Father Hopkins"      |

### ALL ARE WELCOME

The Highlands Choral Society is a nonprofit organization offering nondenominational services, Sunday school, youth choir, and community outreach.

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[HighlandsChapel.org](http://HighlandsChapel.org)



## Community Nursery School and Learning Center Seeking Candidates for Director

The Community Nursery School and Learning Center, operating out of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, Cold Spring, NY, is seeking candidates for the Director position beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. CNS has enjoyed a 54 year-long legacy of commitment to Cold Spring and neighboring towns, offering a morning program 5 days a week during the school year for children ages 3 to 5 years old. With the help of an advisory committee, the Director will foster a learning and caring environment that will continue to meet the preschool needs of local families. The school serves approximately 25 children each school year. Job qualifications include (in accordance with New York State licensed daycare requirements):

- A Bachelor's degree, including or in addition to 12 credits in Early Childhood, Child Development, or a related field
- One year of full-time teaching experience in a childcare center, family or group family daycare or other early childhood program
- One year of experience supervising staff in a childcare program or a related field of work

The successful candidate will be expected to ensure that CNS is operating in accordance with NY State Daycare Regulations including mandates relating to fire safety, health department requirements, child-to-teacher ratios, etc. The Director will also be responsible to teach in one of the classrooms, supervise 3 teacher/assistants, and be dedicated to supporting the long-held mission of the school: teaching kindness, respect, and empathy while preparing students academically for kindergarten. Interested parties are asked to send a resume and cover letter to [1presbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:1presbyterian@gmail.com).





# State Denies Nelsonville Plea to Cut Speed Limit

*Also, village moves ahead on sewer research*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

New York State last week turned down a plea from Nelsonville to reduce the 40 mph speed limit on state Route 301 at the eastern edge of the village, citing research revealing that no crashes occurred in that stretch in a six-year period.

Mayor Chris Winward announced the Department of Transportation's decision at the Village Board meeting on Monday (March 20). Last summer, village officials asked the state to review the speed limit, after years of concern about traffic-related dangers to pedestrians and bicyclists on Main Street as it snakes through the village.

In a letter addressed to the mayor, the DOT said that a study it conducted found

"no identified pattern of crashes" on the relevant stretch and that data showed "the existing road conditions along this segment of Route 301 do not support a lower speed limit."

The agency said it based its conclusion "on the necessary criteria used in determining a lower speed limit," but did not define the criteria. The letter was not signed by anyone at DOT and contained only an email address for an internal unit.

*The Current* asked DOT to define the criteria it cited; a DOT representative said on Thursday that it included "speed and crash data and roadway geometry."

The mayor noted at Monday's meeting that the speed limit remains 55 mph on Route 301 coming west from Route 9. It then becomes 40 mph, even after it crosses the village border. Farther into the village, it drops to 30 mph.

"There's no reason to go 55 mph" west of Route 9, Winward said. "Home rule doesn't apply because it's a state road?" asked Trustee Thomas Campanile. "It's crazy."

In November, the Town of Philipstown passed a resolution supporting Nelsonville's request but also asking DOT to reduce the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph on Route 301 between the Route 9 intersection and Jaycox Road.

Although it declined to reduce the speed limit, DOT did fulfill another Nelsonville request: It repainted the crosswalks on Route 301/Main Street. Next, Winward said, Nelsonville plans to apply for devices with flashing lights and a nob for pedestrian use at crosswalks, as well as roadside radar signs informing drivers of their speed. It also wants continued, active patrolling by the Putnam County Sheriff's deputies, who recently began writing more tickets.

## Sewer study

The board voted 5-0 to spend \$26,000 in American Rescue Plan federal grant money to hire consultants to study the feasibility of installing sewers in the central portion of the village, where historic houses, shops and other buildings stand closely together. Newer homes in the outlying mountain-residential zoning district usually sit on larger lots.

Unlike Cold Spring, Nelsonville has no sewer system, although it gets drinking water from Cold Spring's water system.

According to the mayor, residents from Nelsonville families extending back generations, as well as newcomers, have increasingly asked about sewers. "It's an issue that cuts across everybody," she said.

Winward said that typically properties, at best, have a septic system that doesn't function well or, at worst, a cesspool — a pit dug in prior centuries to collect sewage and wastewater piped from homes and other buildings. "People are actually falling into these old cesspools in our backyards all the time," she said.

# Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ At the Wednesday (March 22) workshop of the Cold Spring Village Board, a representative from Joule Community Power provided an update on the status of reviving the community choice aggregation program that enables municipalities to collectively purchase electrical power for residents and small businesses.

Cold Spring, Beacon and Philipstown were among 10 Hudson Valley municipalities that participated in 2021 and 2022 before the electricity supplier, Columbia Utilities, backed out of a three-year contract. To that point, the 80 percent of Cold Spring residents who participated in the program had collectively saved \$216,000 on their bills, according to Joule.

Beacon has opted not to rejoin. Glenn Weinberg of Joule said the firm has received "several strong bids" for supplying the electricity to the CCA "from very established, large energy companies with good track records."

The bids were shared with 13 municipalities, including Cold Spring, by Zoom earlier on Wednesday but details are not yet available to the public. Pricing will be included in a presentation at the Wednesday (March 29) village meeting.

The mayor and trustees must then decide if Cold Spring will rejoin the CCA. If it does, the board must choose between purchasing electricity at fixed or variable rates and select electrical power generated using fossil fuels, a blend of electrical sources that includes 50 percent renewable energy or 100 percent renewable energy.

All residents would be enrolled in the board's default choice. Those who disagree with the choice can switch to one of the other options. Residents also will be able to opt out of the program altogether at any time.

After his remarks to the Cold Spring board, Weinberg addressed the Philipstown Town Board. Nelsonville scheduled a CCA discussion for Thursday (March 23).

■ The board continued deliberations on the 2023-24 budget, focusing on proposed spending and revenue for the water and wastewater department. The first draft of the complete budget is expected by April 5.

■ A discussion of options for replacing the lighting on the village dock was delayed

until next week, pending further bid information. The lights have been inoperable due to vandalism.

■ The board accepted bids for a variety of expenditures, including \$13,125 to resurface the basketball court at Mayor's Park; \$11,632 to replace the computer

server at Village Hall; \$11,632 to replace the Police Department's server; \$6,126 to replace three desktop computers and add a workstation at Village Hall; and \$4,417 for signage as part of the village parking plan. A change order for \$4,000 requested by Taconic Engineering related to inspection of the village dams was also approved.

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

**UNA NOTTE  
A MAGAZZINO**

Magazzino Italian Art's first ever museum after hours event.

Friday, March 24, 2023, 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
Docent tours at 6:15, 7:15 and 8:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or at the door and free for Amici di Magazzino members. Get your tickets at [www.magazzino.art](https://www.magazzino.art)

Drinks by Newburgh Brewing Company and Industrial Arts Brewing Company  
Food by Juanita's Kitchen

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[www.hudsonbeachglass.com](https://www.hudsonbeachglass.com)



## AROUND TOWN



▲ **DIRECT FROM SCOTLAND** — Heron Valley, whose members hail from different corners of the Scottish Isles (Oban, Lewis, Cowal, Glasgow and Stirling) performed at the Tompkins Corner Cultural Center in Putnam Valley on Sunday (March 19). Abigail Pryde plays the fiddle and sings.

Photo by Ross Corsair



▲ **LIFE TRAINING** — Sandy Bohl (center), a captain with the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co., led a CPR certification class on March 16 at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring.

Photo by Ross Corsair



▲ **STATE VISIT** — Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado visited Cold Spring on March 10 to discuss infrastructure needs, the governor's proposed housing compact plan and state assistance with tourism management. From left are Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward, Cold Spring Fire Co. president Aaron Leonard, Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley, Delgado and Fire Chief Jeff Phillips Jr.

Photo provided



▲ **START HERE** — Edward Bauer, an aspiring Eagle Scout, rehabilitated the trail kiosk at the Pearl Street entrance of the Nelsonville Woods by replacing its roof; cleaning up the map and Plexiglass; and adding mulch.

Photo provided

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# The Calendar

## WOMEN FINDING BALANCE

*CoMFY art exhibit returns to Beacon library*

By Alison Rooney

Back for a seventh go-round, the members of CoMFY, the Beacon-based collective of women artists, are climbing the walls at their annual Howland Public Library exhibit. Their artwork is, too, inspired by this year's theme, "balance."

The notion of balance was one of the founding principles of the group, which was created by Kat Stoutenborough and Jennifer Blakeslee in 2011. Its initial discussions focused on how women could balance jobs, parenting and family with being an artist.

"Women came together to share strategies, bounce ideas and encourage each other," the women recalled in a written history of the group. One informal rule was that the participants could only talk about non-art priorities in the context of how they impacted their art.

Michelle Rivas, the community engagement librarian at Howland (and a member of the board of Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper), says that when CoMFY members began dropping off their work for the exhibit "they all seemed so excited about the prospect of being in the same room together after so much time" because of the pandemic shutdown.

For the March 2020 show, "we thought we would just reschedule the opening or have a closing party, not knowing there would soon be a stay-at-home order," Rivas recalls. "The group hung its 10th anniversary exhibit in 2021 but was again unable to gather."

That exhibit stayed on the library walls for two years, "like a time capsule," Rivas says.

The opening reception for the 2023 exhibit, held on March 11, drew a sizable crowd, prompting Rivas to extend the show a month, through April 28. The exhibit was curated by the library, with installation assistance from CoMFY members Jan Dolan and Anna West.

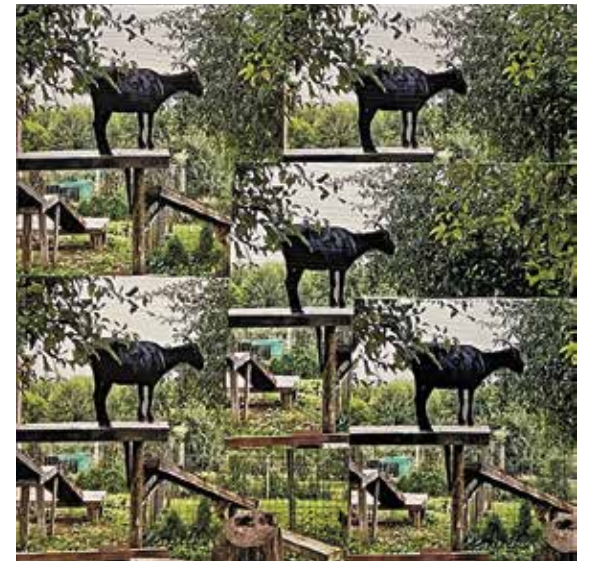
*The Howland Public Library, at 313 Main St., in Beacon, is open daily. The CoMFY exhibit is installed in the Community Room, which is sometimes in use for events. See [beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org) or call 845-831-1134.*



"Child's Play," by Regina Williams



"Unbalanced," by Jan Dolan



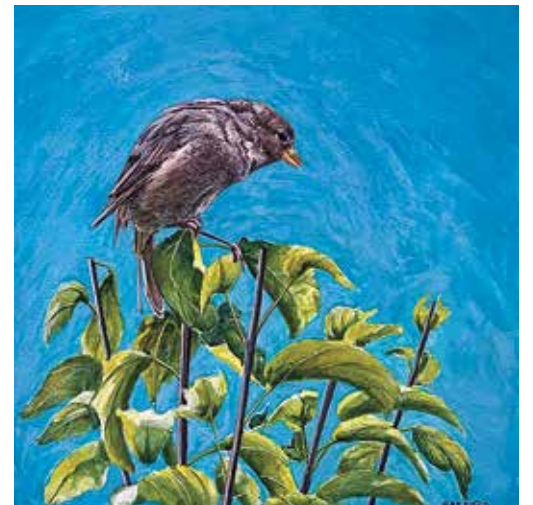
"Goats," by Cindy Gould



"Squatter," by Theresa Gooby



"Unbalance," by Jean Noack



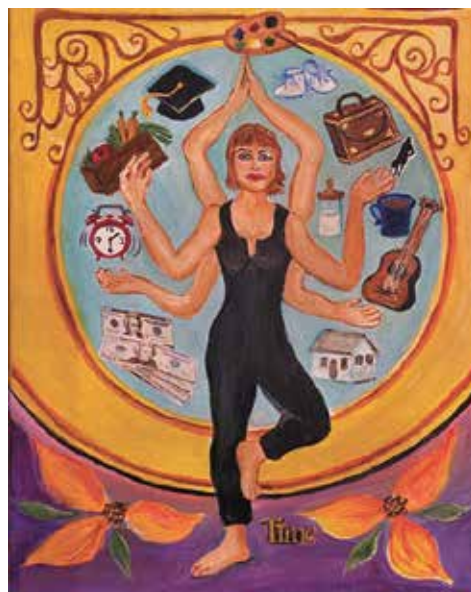
"A Delicate Balance," by Pamela Garfield



"Darkness/Light," by Jennifer Blakeslee



"El Circo," by Tena Cohen



"The Plight of Women," by Stephanie Fogarty



"Release," by Kat Stoutenborough



"Squirrel's Nest," by Anna West



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 25

### White Elephant Sale

GARRISON

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. Philip's Church  
1101 Route 9D

The church's nursery school will hold its annual fundraiser in the parish house.

SAT 25

### Rabies Clinic

CARMEL

10 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Park  
201 Gipsy Trail  
845-808-1390 ext. 43160  
putnamcountyny.com/health

Putnam County residents can bring a dog, cat or ferret for a free vaccination. Proof of prior vaccination and residency required.

SAT 25

### Veterans Stand Down Event

BEACON

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. VFW Post | 413 Main St.

This event will include assistance with disability services, housing, food and clothing, mental health, education and employment. Presented by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging and Mental Health America.

SAT 25

### Newburgh is a Broadcast

NEWBURGH

1 – 6 p.m. 162 Broadway

Following lunch, Johanna Porr will present “Newburgh is a History” at 2 p.m., followed by a community conversation with Dale Velazquez at 3 p.m. and a music artist showcase with Angel Lau, Kelly Quigley and Nicole Davis at 4 p.m. At 11 a.m. on SUN 26, there will be a children's story time and an all-ages experimental music performance with Nicole Lattuca and Matt Mottel.



Highland Lights, April 1

SAT 25

### Karaoke Night

COLD SPRING

8 – 11 p.m. Move Cold Spring  
37 Chestnut St. | haldanearts.org

Take the mic and interpret a favorite song at this benefit for the Haldane Arts Alliance. *Cost: \$50*

SUN 26

### Reptile Expo

POUGHKEEPSIE

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org

More than 150 vendors will be on-site with reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 ages 7 to 12, free for ages 6 and younger)*

SUN 26

### Maple Syrup Day

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D  
facebook.com/littlestonypoint

Enjoy pancakes with local maple syrup and live music at this annual event.

SUN 26

### Soup4Greens

BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Beacon Farmer's Market | 233 Main St.  
beaconfarmersmarket.org

This annual fundraiser offers soup and handmade bowls for sale, with proceeds benefiting Greens4Greens, a food-access program.

FRI 31

### Tattoo Convention

POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon – 7 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org

More than 200 artists and vendors will showcase their designs and work. There will also be live music and a “puppy burlesque” show by Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts of Dutchess County. Also SAT 1, SUN 2.

SAT 1

### Highland Lights

GARRISON

Noon – 6 p.m.  
Hudson Valley Shakespeare  
2015 Route 9 | hvshakespeare.org

For the second year, the HVSF and Processional Arts Workshop will lead a workshop to make lanterns for an evening procession on Earth Day. Also SUN 2 and various days through April 16.

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 25

### The Eyes of History

BEACON

1 – 4 p.m. Beacon Historical Society  
61 Leonard St. | beaconhistorical.org

This exhibit highlights the work of Harry Van Tine, a Beacon native who was the president of the White House News Photographers Association. See Page 17. Diane Lapis, the special projects manager for BHS, will speak about Van Tine's life and career at 7 p.m. on TUES 28 at the St. Joachim School Hall, 51

Leonard St., in a program that will also be available via Zoom.

SAT 25

### Planting for Birds and Pollinators

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange  
128 Mill St. | putnamvalleygrange.org

Catherine Serreau-Thompson will lead a presentation about how to provide food and habitat in your yard and create a supportive ecosystem. *Cost: \$10 per family (\$15 door, members free)*

SUN 26

### The Gardens of Paris

GARRISON

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

CeCe Haydock, a garden historian and landscape architect, will talk about the memorable parks and gardens in Paris throughout history. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors)*

WED 29

### Frida Kahlo

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Make flower headbands and paint a self portrait while learning about the Mexican artist as part of Women's History Month.

THURS 30

### The Clean Water Act at 50

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom | beaconsloopclub.org

In this panel organized by the Beacon Sloop Club, environmental activists will discuss the impact of the 1983 legislation and where we are today protecting and conserving waterways.

FRI 31

### Black Earth Wisdom

GARRISON

2 p.m. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org

During this Pathways to Planetary Health Forum organized by the Garrison Institute, Leah Penniman, co-founder of Soul Fire Farm and author of *Farming While Black* and *Black Earth Wisdom*, will talk about nature as a guide and creating racial and environmental justice.



FRI 31

### Beaverland

MILLBROOK

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

Leila Philip will discuss her book about how “one weird rodent” shapes ecosystems and its role in history, culture and the environment. Hosted by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.



SAT 1

### The Warner Sisters and Constitution Island

GARRISON

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

Ronnie Clark Coffey, a former executive director of the island, will discuss its role in history and the sisters who lived there in the 19th century.

SUN 2

### The Wappinger of the Hudson Highlands

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Butterfield Complex  
10 Julia Lane  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Following the annual meeting of the Putnam History Museum in the recreation room, Evan Pritchard will share new research about the Wappinger tribe.

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 25

### Studio on the Farm

WAPPINGERS FALLS

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

Join an artist outdoors in this program organized by Dia. For children ages 5 and older. Registration required. The rain date is SUN 26. *Free*

SAT 25

### Spring Egg Hunt

COLD SPRING

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

Meet in the Reading Garden and bring a basket. The rain date is THURS 30.

TUES 28

### Spy Science

GARRISON

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

Family science night this month will reveal the secrets behind detection and misdirection. Registration required.



Studio on the Farm, March 25



THURS 30  
**Seussical Kids**

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Elementary  
15 Craigside Drive | [haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

Fourth- and fifth-grade students will perform a musical based on the characters and lands created by Dr. Seuss. *Cost: \$5*

SAT 1  
**Easter Egg Hunt**

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Tots Park | 832 Route 9D

The Knights of Columbus will host their annual adventure for children ages 8 and younger. The rain date is April 8. Bring a can of food to donate to the Philipstown Food Pantry.

SAT 1  
**Easter Egg Hunt**

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Faith Church  
245 Main St. | 845-203-0400  
[faithchurch.cc](http://faithchurch.cc)

There will be face painting and a petting zoo, along with an egg hunt at noon.

**VISUAL ARTS**

SAT 25  
**High School Mentor Exhibition**

GARRISON

1 – 3 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

See work created by local students through the School Invitational Theme Exhibition art mentorship program. Through April 2.

SAT 25  
**Robert Lundberg**

BEACON

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

The photographer will talk about his exhibit, *Uncontaminated Sound: Reflections*, which continues through April 9.

SUN 26  
**Ireland On Location**

PUTNAM VALLEY

4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

Paintings and sketches by Jacqueline O'Malley-Satz will be on view through April 16.

SAT 1  
**Casting the Past: Arte Povera and Classical Sculpture**

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | [magazzino.art/visit](http://magazzino.art/visit)

Roberta Minnucci, the scholar-in-residence, will present her work on classical statuary focusing on Jannis Kounellis, Giulio Paolini and Michelangelo Pistoletto. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 residents and seniors, free for students)*

**MUSIC**

SAT 25  
**Elliott Sharp & Donald Sturge Anthony McKenzie II**

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center  
9 Vassar St. | [sharpdon.bpt.me](http://sharpdon.bpt.me)

The multi-instrumentalist Sharp will collaborate with McKenzie, a percussionist and composer. Presented by Elysium Furnace Works. *Cost: \$20 (\$30 door)*

SAT 25  
**Daisy Jopling Band**

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The classical/rock violinist will recreate *Irradiance*, a show she staged at an Egyptian pyramid, with local musicians and performers from her mentorship program. *Cost: \$25 to \$50*

SAT 25  
**Modern Times**

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

This new world and improvisational project features Omar Hakim, Mino Cinelu, Rachel Hakim, Scott Petito and JC Maillard. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 26  
**Kenneth Overton and Walker Jermaine Jackson**

BEACON

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

The baritone and pianist's program, *I, Too, Sing America*, will include spirituals, classical art songs and pieces from the Great American Songbook. *Cost: Pay what you can*

SUN 26  
**Annalyse & Ryan**

BEACON

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

The Americana duo will perform with Rachael Sage and Noga Cabo. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

TUES 28  
**Killer Queen**

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
[midhudsonciviccenter.org](http://midhudsonciviccenter.org)

Patrick Myers, portraying Freddie Mercury, will lead this tribute band's performance of Queen's hits. *Cost: \$43*

THURS 30  
**Postmodern Jukebox**

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

Led by pianist Scott Bradlee, the show will include a full cast of dancers, vocalists and musicians performing hits from 20th-century musical genres. *Cost: \$49*

FRI 31  
**Denise Reis**

BEACON

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

The Brazilian guitarist and vocalist will share songs from her recordings.

FRI 31  
**Andrew Mercer**

BEACON

8 p.m. Two Way Brewing Co.  
18 W. Main St. | [twowaybrewing.com](http://twowaybrewing.com)

In this solo acoustic show, Mercer will play popular covers of '90s bands.

FRI 31  
**The Big Takeover**

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

Nee Nee Rushie will lead a seven-piece band through genres and rhythms of Jamaican pop and global fusion. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 1  
**Samoa Wilson**

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

The singer will perform



Falstaff, April 1

traditional and classic blues, jazz and folk music. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 1  
**The Best of The Eagles**

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The tribute band will play hits from the classic rock band. *Cost: \$29 to \$45*

SAT 1  
**Stella Blues Band**

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

Experience a recreation of a Grateful Dead show. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**STAGE & SCREEN**

SAT 25  
**Poetry Reading**

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

This Women's History Month presentation will include Rain Lee, Irene O'Garden, Raphael Kosek, Sandra Proto, Mary Newell, Lucia Cherciu, Judith Saunders and Catherine Gonick.

SAT 25  
**Just Jim Dale**

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

In this one-man show, the voice behind the Harry Potter audiobooks will talk about his life and career. *Cost: \$20*

WED 29  
**Velvet Underground**

BEACON

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

The show, hosted by Ame, will feature Beacon Burlesque dancers Champagne Vixen, Elle Di Michele and Meowie Wowie. *Cost: \$40*

THURS 30  
**Jim Breuer**

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The former *Saturday Night Live* cast member will perform stand-up. *Cost: \$42 to \$65*

FRI 31  
**Ariane Original One-Act Festival**

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

Debbie Broshi, Nick DeSimone, Neil Friedland, Patrick J. Lennon and Evelyn Mertens will present new work during the 11th annual festival. Also SAT 1, SUN 2. *Cost: \$23*

SAT 1  
**Falstaff**

POUGHKEEPSIE

12:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

Watch a livestream of the Metropolitan Opera's production of Verdi's Shakespearean comedy, with sopranos Ailyn Pérez, Hera Hyesang Park and Jennifer Johnson Cano, and baritone Michael Volle. *Cost: \$29 (\$22 children, \$27 members)*

SUN 2  
**Matthew Spireng**

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

The poet will read from his latest collection, *Good Work*, as well as other poems, followed by an open mic. *Cost: \$10*

**CIVIC**

SAT 25  
**Budget Presentation**

GARRISON

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

MON 27  
**City Council**

BEACON

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

MON 27  
**School Board**

BEACON

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

WED 29  
**School Board**

GARRISON

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



Big Takeover, March 31



# LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

## 150 Years Ago (March 1873)

According to *The Newburgh Telegraph*, "the good people of Fishkill Landing are horrified at the fact that one of their most honored citizens has taken unto himself the wife of another man and left for parts unknown."

Augustus Mosier caught a fox at Verplanks dock after it was driven into a crevice by a dog.

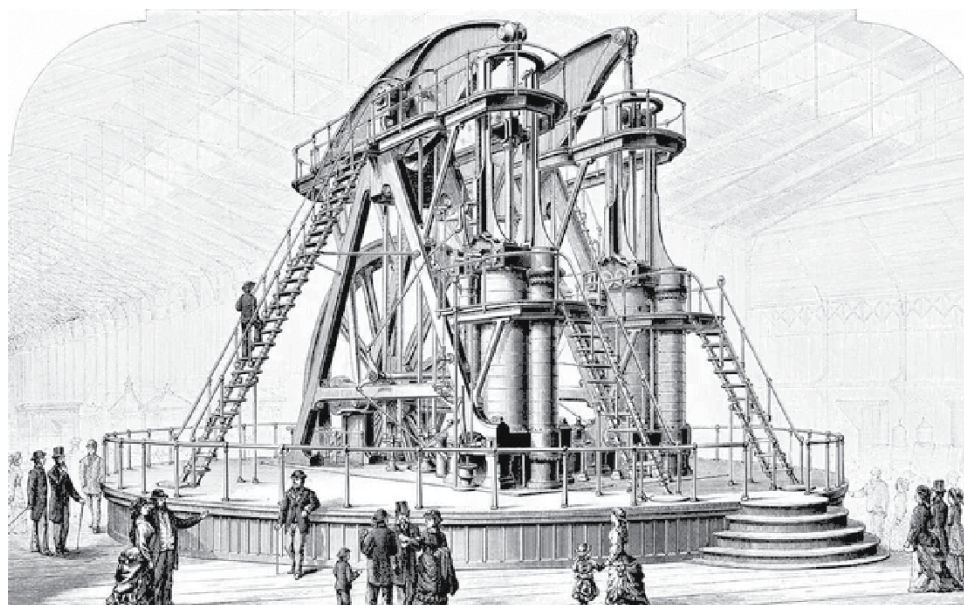
David Forshay, 18, of Matteawan, was sentenced to three years in the Albany penitentiary for stealing and general vagrancy.

The coroner reported that, over six years, there had been five people found dead who were never identified. Each was buried in a corner of the Methodist Episcopal cemetery reserved for paupers.

Martin Hines was injured on the job at J&W Rothery in Matteawan. He would fasten a file on a stick and, grasping an end in each hand, press it against a grindstone. When a stick broke, Hines fell flat against the grindstone, which threw him over the guard.

W.R. Edmond of Matteawan owned a 2-year-old Durham heifer that weighed 955 pounds.

William Vanderwerker, a former justice



The Fishkill Landing Machine Works built several Corliss steam engines, which were a hit at the 1873 Vienna Exposition.

of the peace, was charged with bigamy. His wife, Rebecca, went to court when she learned he had married Minnie Lowe in Buffalo on Jan. 22.

The men at the Fishkill Landing Machine Works were building two upright engines of 100 horsepower each for the Hudson River Iron Works at Poughkeepsie.

The ferry track between Newburgh and Fishkill Landing was resumed by cutting a channel through 15 inches of ice.

Smith Van Buren of Fishkill Landing died at Brighton, England, where he had traveled the previous fall with his invalid son.

After two years of legal battles, John Leverich of Fishkill Landing recovered \$33,000 from the New York City government for his contract to clean Broadway.

Forty street lamps were erected in Matteawan, powered by gas mains.

After an oyster supper at the Methodist Episcopal Church of Matteawan, the congregation presented the Rev. Thomas Lodge with \$150 [\$3,800 today].

Two brothers, the sons of Jesse Mead of Fishkill, died at Dutchess Junction when they jumped from the Cincinnati Express.

## 125 Years Ago (March 1898)

Benjamin Talbot, of Fishkill Landing, bought 30 acres of wooded land on the old post road between Fishkill and Cold Spring to build a hotel.

The *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* noted that a notary public from Matteawan charged \$1.27 [\$32] each time he signed his name but that it was probably justified because his name was Wladyslaw Jacob Pralatowski.

John Place, treasurer of the Mechanics' Savings Bank in Fishkill Landing, had years earlier lost six \$5 bills issued by the National Bank of Fishkill. A laborer who had an account at Mechanics, having overheard a conversation about lost money, told Place that he once found six \$5 bills from the Fishkill bank. He said they must have been the same and, handing Place his deposit book, told him to deduct the amount. Place declined, so the laborer did some work for him and refused payment.

The *Cold Spring Recorder* updated a report that J. Hervey Cook of Fishkill Landing had suffered a stroke. In fact, it said, it was acute indigestion.

The Mechanics' Saving Bank foreclosed on the Rothery property, including the old

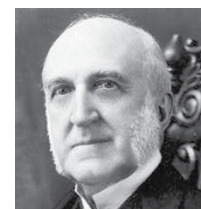
grist mill, silk factory, file shop, mill house, water power and adjacent land extending to the rubber shop line. Sold in two parts, on either side of Mill Street, it realized \$15,662 [\$568,000].

A Brooklyn judge committed Anna Braun to the Matteawan Hospital for Insane Criminals. She had been acquitted by reason of insanity of killing her 7-year-old son by giving him Paris Green [insecticide] in soda water at a drugstore. Braun, who suffered from acute melancholia, was to remain at Matteawan until she recovered.

According to *The Fishkill Herald*, six young men in Matteawan challenged each other to an oyster-eating contest. Each team of three could have their oysters cooked in any fashion as long as their mouths were constantly full. After two hours at the King of Pythias Hall, only the team captains remained. When John Mase passed out while raising a stewed oyster to his lips, W.B. Hinman downed a raw oyster to win.

Edward Dugan died at the General Hospital a few days after being injured while jumping from the trolley car near the Glenham switch. He was one of 50 graduates of the DeGarmo Institute after its move to Fishkill Landing.

Chauncey Depew, a Peekskill native who would be elected in 1899 to the U.S. Senate, sent a representative to Matteawan for the sale of relics of Robert Johnston, his great-grandfather on his mother's side. Johnston was a linen merchant who emigrated from Ireland in 1760.



Chauncey Depew

The Matteawan-Fishkill Landing correspondent for the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* noted: "The two great needs of our twin villages are sewers and unity."

"Aunt" Sally Dickson of Fishkill Landing died after her clothing caught on fire while she was burning weeds. She had rushed into her house and neighbors could not save her because her Newfoundland dog kept them at bay for 15 minutes.

Sisters Louisa and Mariana Collins

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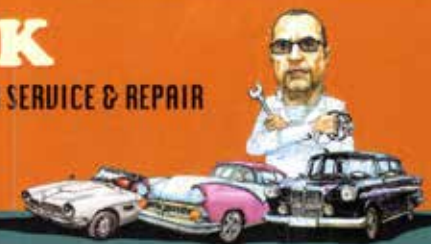


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An illustration from an 1897 book shows one of George Appo's innovations.

completed their 47th year working together at a Fishkill Landing factory. They had missed only five or six days.

At the Matteawan Hospital for Insane Criminals, Dr. H.E. Allison, the superintendent, asked George Appo, a notorious pickpocket, about his craft. Appo smiled and explained his method. When he was finished, he handed Allison the roll of bills that had been in the doctor's vest pocket.

#### 100 Years Ago (March 1923)

Emilie Van Rensselaer prepared to leave for Syria so she could be closer to the Holy Land for the end of the world. She planned to join a mission there led by Bishop Ryan, an evangelist she heard at the Free Reading Room in Beacon.

Robert Kent Jr., a farmer from Glenham, was charged with assault for punching and choking the attorney of a man suing Kent over a debt. The Beacon lawyer said he was questioning Kent about his finances when the farmer said that "you won't get a damn cent" and punched him in the jaw, then choked him on the floor until another lawyer intervened.

The construction of the Chelsea Hospital, which was expected to use 100,000 gallons of water a day, compelled the city to consider a referendum for a \$190,000 bond [\$3.3 million] to build a dam and filtration plant.

Engineers completed plans for a concrete highway between Beacon and Cold Spring. The original drawings called for a 16-foot-wide surface but the planners lobbied for another \$10,500 [\$185,000] to expand to 18 feet because of the expected traffic.

A site at Main Street and Teller Avenue was selected for the veterans memorial building, which was expected to cost \$60,000 [\$1.1 million]. The lot was purchased by the city for \$5,000 [\$88,000].

Nancy Glacea, 18, of Beacon, and Anna Rossi, 20, of Millbrook, who became friends while they shared a room at Bowne Memorial Hospital in Wappingers Falls, died within a few hours of each other after lengthy illnesses.

Police were investigating the fifth burglary in two weeks. They suspected a gang of teenagers, since the thieves often took small change.

A gale blew down the brick walls of a building being constructed at the corner of Main Street and Fishkill Avenue.

In a joint statement, the mayor and police chief claimed that they had driven every narcotics dealer out of the city. However,

the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* noted they drug sales seemed to be humming along at the Dutchess Junction brickyards.

#### 75 Years Ago (March 1948)

The landlord of the city's Main Street offices informed the council he planned to raise the rent by 100 percent, to \$150 per month [about \$1,900]. The city instead moved its offices to 453 Main St. for \$125 per month.

Beacon schools faced a teacher shortage because of a surge of kindergarten and first-grade students.

A Union Street resident told police that someone hit his car at Wolcott and Teller and drove off. After canvassing the area, officers found a vehicle with fresh damage parked outside a diner and arrested the 20-year-old owner, who was eating lunch.

A reappraisal of properties in Beacon at 100 percent of market value raised the total assessed value from \$11 million to \$17 million, costing the school district about \$41,000 [\$512,000] in state aid.

Burglars stole \$1,000 worth of fountain pens and pencils from R.T. Van Tine's stationery store at 177 Main St.

A 28-year-old Beacon man who had convictions for assaulting women in 1940 and 1947 was arrested in connection with an attack in Poughkeepsie.

Police searched a wooded area east of Route 9D for a man accused of stabbing a woman inside a Marlboro tavern the day before. He had been aboard a train to New York City; when police stopped it at Beacon to arrest him, he jumped and fled into the freight yard.

A 31-year-old Beacon woman was arrested after she allegedly bit the ear of another woman during a fight. The wound required seven stitches.

#### 50 Years Ago (March 1973)

The Beacon High School boys' basketball team finished 21-1 (losing only to Poughkeepsie) and won the Section I, Class B title. The team members were Dave Lucas, Armie Hicks, Rodney Paulin, George Hughes, Tom Powers, Joe Powell, Mark DiRocco, Lewis Brown, Steve Armstrong, Tony DeGelormo, Dan Lucas and Joe Simmons.

The Republican Committee considered six candidates for mayor before selecting Francis Moore, a member of the Dutchess Legislature. The Democrats endorsed incumbent Robert Cahill.

Developers asked the Planning Board to approve a 52-unit condo development at Sargent Avenue and Wodenethe Street. The board chair noted it had heard four proposals for the site over 10 years but none had panned out.

Two hundred firefighters from eight companies fought a blaze for 11 hours that destroyed three buildings in the urban renewal area. The former Inflated Rubber Products factory and two houses on River Street slated for demolition were destroyed. Hundreds of spectators watched from higher ground.

#### 25 Years Ago (March 1998)

Carl Lindquist opened Carl's Beacon Market at 400 Fishkill Ave., in the former 17,600-square-foot A&P supermarket.

A 32-year-old Newburgh man jumped to his death from a girder on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge on a Monday evening after talking with police negotiators for eight hours. Two of the three westbound lanes of Interstate 84 were closed during the ordeal, creating a three-hour wait for drivers crossing from Beacon.

For the first time, a Beacon High School production included movable sets, for *Hello, Dolly!* It was only the second musical performed by students. Pat DeLeo, the director, said they had already done five Shakespeare comedies "and I didn't think the tragedies would attract an audience."

A state review found the Beacon school district had made academic progress in the lower grades but was still lagging at the high school. Only 26 percent of the Class of 1997 graduated with Regents' diplomas, compared to 46 percent of students in similar schools, and 23 percent had been suspended at some time during the previous year for disciplinary reasons.

Martina Heath of Beacon High School finished third in the high jump at the New York State Championships.

The state opened a dedicated E-Z Pass lane on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge after complaints from drivers who said they were repeatedly stuck behind drivers who didn't have exact change or used commuter toll booklets.

Once a week, employees of the Dutchess County Health Department visited Beacon to stop teens and young adults on the street and offer pamphlets about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, condoms and instructions on how to sterilize needles.

The City Council approved a special-use permit for Doug Berlin, who planned to demolish three buildings at 446-452 Main St. to construct a restaurant, storefront and four apartments. "It's amazing how fluid this process is," Berlin said.

Department of Public Works employees made a gruesome discovery on a Wednesday afternoon at Riverfront Park: five decapitated pit bulls. Police said they had no leads.

Beacon had spent \$4 million of \$8 million budgeted to repair the worst 75 of its 220 streets. The city asked homeowners to pay half the cost of repairing sidewalks in front of their properties.

Teachers and students at Glenham Elementary School organized a Pounds of Pennies fundraiser to help fix the roof at the Howland Cultural Center. One pound equals 160 pennies; the school had collected 1,340 pounds.



Harry Van Tine (left) with a colleague, Joe Johnson, in Washington in 1924

## A Beacon Native at the White House

As part of the centennial celebration of the White House News Photographers Association, the Beacon Historical Society will host an exhibit on one of its founding members, Harry Van Tine (1885-1968), a native of Fishkill Landing (now Beacon). *The Eyes of History* opens from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday (March 25) and continues through May 6.

"Harry developed a keen interest in the nascent field of photography at the turn of the 20th century," said Diane Lapis, the special projects manager for the BHS. "His early photographs were printed on hundreds of souvenir postcards and sold by the thousands at the Van Tine stationery store, creating a visual history of the Hudson Valley."

While working as a photojournalist for Hearst in New York City, Van Tine was sent in 1915 to open a bureau in Washington, D.C. The WHNPA was founded in 1921 to get photographers better access to the White House.

Van Tine spent more than 50 years photographing presidents and other leaders, historical figures and world events. He also served as a manager for the International News Photo agency.

*The Eyes of History* includes seldom-seen photos from the WHNPA archives. Along with 12 panels recounting 100 years of White House and presidential history, the BHS exhibit documents Van Tine's life.

The Beacon Historical Society, at 61 Leonard St., is open from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays and from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. See [beaconhistorical.org](http://beaconhistorical.org). Lapis will speak about Van Tine at 7 p.m. Tuesday (March 28) at St. Joachim's School Hall, 51 Leonard St. The event will also be accessible via Zoom.





Steve Fowler

Photos provided

# Pandemic Stories

*Beacon author compiles  
recollections of 2020*

By Alison Rooney

In the 10th-grade English classes he teaches, Steve Fowler tries to emphasize empathy. With the world thrown into a seesaw of fear and inertia during the pandemic, Fowler, like many people, sought connections.

He channeled his desire into a book, *Hindsight: Untold Stories from 2020*, which contains 32 stories, written by people from around the world, about the strange days that began in March 2020. Collectively, the stories synchronize with each other.

Fowler says he hoped to capture the pandemic from the perspective of the everyday. “How often does everyone on the planet experience the same thing?” he asks. “How often is there any phenomenon that transcends geographical, cultural, political and social boundaries? For a time in 2020, everyone on Earth faced the same threat, the same dilemma, the same fear.”

In an explanatory note, Fowler writes: “What I set out to do was to put together a history book — a record of important events told from the perspective of the average person. What I ended up with was a human book — a collection of critical days

in people’s lives during a time unlike any other in the last century.”

Fowler, who has lived with his wife in Beacon for six years, came up with the idea for the book in August 2020, soon after making a decision to shift careers. He left a job as a writing coordinator at Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh to earn a master’s degree so that he could teach. When he began the book, he also left his position as the food and drink editor at *Hudson Valley Magazine*.

While embarking on his master’s program, and the chaos of doing his own student teaching amid constant format changes during the pandemic, Fowler built a project website and developed a social-media plan.

On Jan. 1, 2021, he began soliciting stories, setting a 2,000-word limit. “In my experience reading personal essays, after that point a lot of stories bring in information that’s not needed,” he says. The stories also had to be unpublished and factual.

Soon, unexpectedly, Fowler had received hundreds of submissions from writers in 28 countries. “Everyone had a story to share,” Fowler says. “The outreach was a bear, but it was also so exciting, because you never knew what would come up.” The 32 stories he selected include seven by writers from outside the U.S.

One group he didn’t hear from initially were first responders. “How do you have



Lenka Varekova, a nurse whose story is included in *Hindsight*

this book without the voices of front-line workers?” he says. “They were living it.” He reached out to a nurses’ union, which solicited members in its newsletter.

Story by story, the book began to take shape. “What it came down to, I was in a way putting the book together for me,” Fowler says. “There was no particular wish list of topics.”

Despite the number of submissions, there were aspects of life in 2020 that don’t make an appearance, such as the Black Lives Matter movement and the presidential election. Fowler said he would have liked to include both, but “ultimately [activism and politics] wasn’t the angle the book was winding toward.”

Instead, the stories include those by a Czech nurse in New York City; an Australian woman who watches her favorite hiking preserve consumed by wildfires; a Texas man who wonders what will happen to his boomtown after the price of oil plummets; a British father who works to help his mentally ill son during lockdowns; and an Alabama woman selected for one of the first vaccine trials.

The overwhelming response Fowler says he has received from the writers is gratitude for being included.



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## ART BRIEF

### Dutchess County Names Poet Laureate

*Will promote poetry in county*

The Dutchess executive last week appointed Stephanie JT Russell as the county’s 2023 poet laureate.

Russell, who lives in Poughkeepsie, said in a statement that she stays grounded in poetry that underscores our common humanity and offers a lifeline to empathy.

Her most recent creative nonfiction book, *One Flash of Lightning*, is a poetic treatment of the classical Samurai code, and last year she was the overall winner of the Wirral Poetry Festival in the U.K.

The poet laureate program was launched in 2016 by then-County Executive Marc Molinaro, and is an unpaid, one-year role. Arts Mid-Hudson manages the nomination process.



Mushroom: Orange Peel (*Aleuria aurantia*) Photo by Holger Krisp

Wildflower: Asiatic Dayflower



Wildflower: Snowball Sand-Verbena

Photo by Amy Washut

## Out There

# Guidebooks for a Warming Planet

By Brian PJ Cronin

When the National Audubon Society published its first field guide to mushrooms in 1981, fungi weren't even considered a separate kingdom — they were essentially thought of as plants. Climate change wasn't on most people's radar, either.

But a lot has changed in 42 years, and to reflect those changes the Audubon Society is rolling out an updated series of guides that demonstrate how our knowledge of the natural world has evolved over the past four decades, and how the climate crisis demands that we reconsider our own role in nature.

In 2021, the society published new versions of its iconic field guides to the trees and birds of North America. On April 11, new guides to mushrooms and wildflowers will follow.

"With the recent proliferation of interest in mushrooms and fungi, and in light of the overarching surge in interest in nature and the natural sciences, we felt it was imperative to create a new, wholly



updated guide as part of the larger reimagined Audubon series," said Shyla Stewart, president and CEO of Fieldstone Publishing.

The hefty tomes — these are backpack guides, not pocket guides — feature all the usual things you'd want in a guidebook: multiple photos of each flower and fungi at different angles and stages in its life cycle, maps of their known growing ranges, details as to which 'shrooms will thrill you and which ones will kill you. There's also a surprising amount of information about DNA sequencing, something that most of us aren't thinking about when we're in a meadow.

Well, not *yet*, anyway.

Roo Vandergrift, a mycologist who wrote several of the introductory essays in the mushroom guide, predicted that at some point in our lifetimes we'll be carrying pocket-sized DNA sequencers into the field with us.

"We're in an exciting era for DNA sequencing," he said. "It didn't become accessible on an academic scale until the '90s." When we spoke over the phone, Vandergrift was in Miami,

serving as the plant pathologist at the federal plant inspection station there.

The proliferation of DNA sequencing has led to a surge in how much we know about

the kingdom of fungi, but also a humbling realization of how much we still don't know. The golden chanterelles of the Mediterranean and the identical-looking golden chanterelles of the Pacific Northwest, for example, were assumed to be the same fungus, until DNA sequencing revealed them to be two species. That led to further examination and the discovery that they interact with their environments in different ways.

"What enzymes are they producing?" asked Vandergrift. "How are they interacting with their host trees? What are the host trees that they're interacting with? Those things that are fundamental to their ecological function in the systems that they're embedded in — those things turned out to be completely different. There are doors being opened with DNA sequencing and I don't think we really know what's on the other side."

A greater understanding of how individual fungus species interact with their environment could unlock access to new tools for dealing with climate change. It wouldn't be the first time fungi have changed Earth's atmosphere. Around 300 million years ago, in what's known as the Carboniferous Period, an explosive increase in the amount of plant life on Earth led to a global cooling period, as the flourishing tree populations sucked more and more carbon out of the atmosphere. Fungi responded by evolving the ability to more efficiently break down dead trees, returning the carbon that the trees had captured back into the atmosphere, "fixing" the global temperature.

With global temperatures increasing as a result of human activities instead of vigorous plant growth, there are theories and hopes that more robust fungal networks could boost trees' ability to suck carbon out of the atmosphere. As tantalizing as the prospect is, Vandergrift offered an important caveat: Any carbon that trees sequester is only temporary. When the trees die and are broken down by fungi, that carbon returns to the atmo-

sphere. Vandergrift said it's therefore more important to focus on keeping the carbon that's permanently sequestered underground in the form of fossil fuels right where they are, instead of inserting them into plant and atmospheric cycles.

Recasting fungi and wildflowers as organisms that dynamically affect their environments as opposed to just scenery is one of the emphases of the new books. Vandergrift said that the editors urged the contributors to think of the fungi and flowers as wildlife, a term that's usually reserved for the animal kingdom. "They're not passive things in your environment," said Vandergrift. "They're active participants in the ecosystem

around you, in which you are also an active participant. That increasing emphasis on citizen science came not just from the publisher but also from the scientists that they solicited."

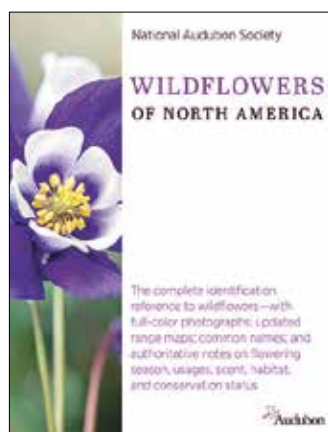
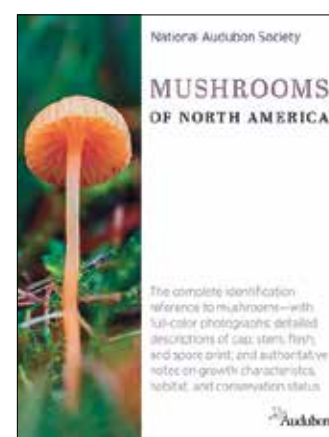
It's estimated that less than 10 percent of fungi species have been identified and cataloged, and as the new guides make clear, that number isn't going to increase much unless the public gets involved. The guides

help readers see themselves less as consumers of nature than stewards of it whose help is desperately needed to protect it and further our understanding of it.

"There is an economic incentive to not having strong conservation initiatives that come from a few people," said Vandergrift. "The way to combat that is not with a few people with specialized knowledge, trying to fight the few

people with power. It's with the vast collective that is humanity, coming together and saying: 'We will not tolerate such destruction, because we know that conserving this is important to not only us, but to all other life out there that we have responsibility for, because of our actions.'"

Stewart added: "The better we understand the plants, animals and fungi that co-inhabit this planet with us, the far greater likelihood we will find a sustainable, or even regenerative, path forward."



**“The better we understand the plants, animals and fungi that co-inhabit this planet with us, the far greater likelihood we will find a sustainable, or even regenerative, path forward.”**

~ Shyla Stewart

President and CEO of Fieldstone Publishing

Mushroom: Witch's Hat (*Hygrocybe conica*)

Photo by Dan Molter



OBITUARIES



John F. Gilsenan (1934-2023)

John F. Gilsenan of Garrison passed away peacefully with his family by his side on March 19, 2023, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. He was 88.

He was born on September 28, 1934, in New York City to the late Phillip and Elizabeth Pratt Gilsenan.

John enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving his country during the Korean War.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Loretto Council, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 18, Peekskill and the American Legion Post 275, Cold Spring.

John was a retired corrections sergeant for the New York State Department of Corrections at the Fishkill Correctional Facility until his retirement in 1996. After retirement he worked for the Garrison school district as a school bus driver as well as a bus driver for the Philipstown Seniors.

John will be remembered as a kind-hearted man who enjoyed a parade a good pastry and his family. His favorite holiday was St. Patrick's Day, which he celebrated for the entire month of March.

John is survived by his loving children: Jeanne Klein and her husband Fred, John "Shawn" Gilsenan and his wife Maureen, and Christina "Crissy" O'Neill and her partner Jack Ward; his cherished grandchildren: Daniel Gilsenan and his wife Danielle, Brandon Gilsenan and his wife Emily, Jennifer Farrington and her husband Logan, Tyler Klein and his wife Taylor, Dylan Gilsenan, Devon O'Neill, Thomas O'Neill, and Shane Gilsenan; and his dear great-grandchildren: Ava, Owen, Teddy, Parker and Woodson.

He also is survived by his loving brother, Philip Gilsenan, and loving sister, Rose Bastedo, along with numerous nieces and nephews; and his brothers- and sisters-in-law, Jimmy Padilla, and his wife Christina, Rollo Padilla and his wife Loretto, William Padilla and his wife Karen and her sister-in-law Rosie Padilla.

John was predeceased by his beloved wife Christina "Tina" Gilsenan in September 2022.

Friends may call on Saturday, March 25, 2023, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations to be made in John's name to the Hudson Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, 2900 Westchester Ave No. 306, Purchase, NY 10577.

Sarah Ghent (1941-2023)

Sarah Virginia Ghent, 81, a lifelong resident of the area, died March 11, surrounded by family members.

She was born in Fishkill on Dec. 29, 1941, the daughter of Willie and Eliza Ann (Hill) Woodward. Her husband, Major Ghent Sr., died in 1984.

Sarah worked for 20 years at the Castle Point VA Medical Center. After her retirement in 1985, she spent many years with her granddaughters and her daughter, Leona.

She enjoyed reading and listening to oldies music, walking the Beacon High School track with her granddaughters and classic TV shows. Her favorite times were family gatherings, whether birthday parties or picnics — anywhere that the family gathered.

Sarah also played an instrumental role in the lives of many children of her family and friends, who sometimes needed a little help along the way, her family said.

She is survived by her children: Leona Ghent of Kingston; Major Ghent Jr. (Rosie) of Pleasant Valley and Derek Ghent (Deborah) of Beacon; her granddaughters, Isabella Ghent and Gabriella Ghent, both of Beacon; and her sister, Madeline (Mattie) Woodward of Glenham. Her family gathered for a graveside service at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.



Elida Villa Peña (1955-2023)

Elida "Kathy" Villa Peña, 67, of Beacon died March 7 in Poughkeepsie.

She was born May 16, 1955, in the Dominican Republic, the daughter of Jacinto Villa and Antonia Peña, and came to the U.S. in her early 20s.

A strong, determined, and passionate woman, she pushed herself to learn English and was employed for many years at the Marriott at IBM, working her way up from a frontline worker to a bilingual supervisor. She was also an entrepreneur and established great friendships within the community, her family said.

Elida was independent and hardworking. She enjoyed being sole proprietor of a retail fashion store, 3 Bs (Bueno, Bonito y Barato), that she opened in 1996. She also opened a store on Main Street in Beacon known as Casa de Jonsi.

She is survived by her children, Awilda Mendez, Stephanie Leticia Hudson and Tillman (Timmy) Hudson Jr. (Marlena Scroggins); and her grandchildren, Jessica Gutierrez, Emily Mendez, Nathaniel Mendez DeVanté Wright, Sonjai Hudson-Pollock, Elidonya Hudson, Romel N. Hudson and Zoë Hudson.

She is also survived by her siblings, Lydia Villa Peña, Heroino Peña Mercado, Mirella Villa, Gladys Villa Peña and Maria Villa Peña.

A service was held March 13 at Doyle Funeral Home in Poughkeepsie.



Other Recent Deaths

Beacon

Gregory Bentley Sr., 65	Anthony Musacchio, 88
Elinor Coleman, 90	Carolann Pumphrey, 76
John DeSouter, 74	Barbara Richards
William Fuller, 83	Jay Stecher, 67
John Komornik Sr., 58	Judy Vassallo, 94
Ed Malouf, 88	Kimberly Wyatt, 58

For obituaries, see [highlandscurrent.org/obits](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

ACROSS

1. Blunder

5. Sir's partner

9. Witty one

12. Massage target

13. Lamb alias

14. "Evil Woman" gp.

15. Dairy aisle purchase

17. Zodiac feline

18. Indiana city

19. TV's DeGeneres

21. Rejection

22. — buddy

24. Bears' hands

27. Candy-heart word

28. Ashen

31. "— Believer"

32. Epoch

33. Actress Ruby

34. Attire

36. The whole enchilada

37. Barking mammal

38. Dark and gloomy

40. "I see"

41. *Shrek* princess

43. Scents

47. Adj. modifier

48. Canning jar feature

51. King, in Cannes

52. Tale teller

53. "Woe —!"

54. World Cup cheer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18								19	20			
			21			22	23					
24	25	26			27				28		29	30
31					32				33			
34			35		36				37			
		38		39				40				
41	42						43			44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

55. China (Pref.)

56. Legendary loch

11. Thug

16. Punk-rock subgenre

20. Prune

22. Strapping

23. Track shape

24. Pot-bellied pet

25. Docs' bloc

26. *Dunkirk* or *Platoon*, e.g.

27. Faucet problem

29. Meadow

30. Snaky fish

35. Chignon

37. Sure winner

39. "Lady Love" singer Lou

40. Branch

41. Gambling game

42. Pedestal occupant

43. Sleek, in car lingo

44. Inspiration

45. \$ dispensers

46. Females

49. Sundial numeral

50. Author Brown

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Answers for March 17 Puzzles

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

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

1. DOMES, 2. CRUDDY, 3. ICKIEST, 4. BOWLS, 5. ABRASIONS, 6. TAJIKISTAN, 7. PHYSICIST

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

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 hardy plantlike organisms (6)

2 E.B. White's mouse Stuart (6)

3 Alanis' little pill quality (10)

4 007, for one (5)

5 soared (6)

6 moves in great numbers (6)

7 audible wave (5)

SOLUTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

LI	AG	LE	EN	GG
TT	ID	ND	ENT	RMS
GL	SWA	NE	JA	LI
ED	SOU	CH	ED	SS

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SUDOCURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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TITLE GAME (from Page 24)

After Randolph went up four points again, Eng-Wong scored once more with 33 seconds left to make it 57-55.

After the Cardinals came up empty at the foul line, Haldane had the ball, with a chance to tie or go ahead with 26 seconds left, but an ill-timed turnover gave the ball back to Randolph. Haldane fouled with 16 seconds left, and Randolph hit one free throw to put the team up by the final margin.

Eng-Wong — who was a member of Haldane’s state championship boys’ soccer team last fall (along with Nachamkin) — finished with 12 points, including nine in the fourth, and senior Will Bradley and Nachamkin each finished with eight points.

“Everyone is just heartbroken — we’re shocked,” Eng-Wong said afterward. “We fought so hard, that’s why it hurts. We got so close.”

Of his fourth-quarter hot hand, Eng-Wong said: “I always try to come through when the game’s on the line. The whole team does. Whenever adversity hits, we always rise. I’m so proud of everyone here.”

The loss was a bittersweet ending for the Haldane seniors, including Cervone, who finished his four-year varsity career with 1,222 points and was named on Monday (March 20) to the All-Section team. “It sucks,” said the forward, who will play next winter for Bowdoin College in Maine. “We almost had it, but hopefully the guys get it done next year for us.

“They shot threes pretty well, and we didn’t adjust,” he added. “That happens in basketball. This season has been the most fun I’ve had playing basketball. I love my teammates and my coaches, and I’m just thankful for the opportunity to play together.”

Haldane finished the season 21-5. Coach Joe Virgadamo, who was making his second trip to the title game (the Blue Devils were also runners-up in 2016), said that while his team had chances at the end, Randolph’s three-point barrage throughout the game was the difference.

“I feel so bad for these guys,” he said. “They deserved this one, but this wasn’t our night. Randolph shot well, and we have no regrets. We had three shots at the buzzer — that’s why I love this team. I’m going to miss them.

“These guys represented Haldane on and off



Ryan Eng-Wong prepares for a Canton double team.

Photos by Amy Kubik



Ben Bozsik scored six points in overtime to help defeat Canton.

the court, and the ride to get here was amazing. What a great season — second in the state, and to have all these memories forever. That’s what high school sports are all about.”

The Blue Devils had to expend a great deal of energy against Canton on Friday (March 17) to reach the title game, coming back from 10 points down to force overtime,



Matt Nachamkin scored six points in the semifinal against Canton.

then dominating without Cervone (who fouled out with 45 seconds left in regulation) on their way to a 63-54 victory.

Haldane had a strong first quarter, jumping to a 13-6 lead behind hot shooting from Eng-Wong (who hit the game’s first two

2022 CLASS C RUNNER-UP BOYS’ BASKETBALL HALDANE BLUE DEVILS

1	Thomas Rockett	GUARD, SENIOR
2	Ryan Van Tassel	GUARD, JUNIOR
3	Ben Bozsik	GUARD, SENIOR
4	Michael Murray	GUARD, JUNIOR
5	Will Bradley	GUARD, SENIOR
12	Ryan Eng-Wong	GUARD, SENIOR
14	Julian Ambrose	FORWARD, SENIOR
15	Evan Giachinta	FORWARD, JUNIOR
20	Matteo Cervone	FORWARD, SENIOR
21	Jon Bastys	FORWARD, JUNIOR
22	PJ Ruggiero	GUARD, JUNIOR
23	Nate Stickle	FORWARD, SOPHOMORE
24	Matt Nachamkin	FORWARD, JUNIOR
25	Jesse Hagen	FORWARD, SENIOR

Joe Virgadamo	HEAD COACH
Tom Powers	ASSISTANT COACH
Nick Nastasi	ASSISTANT COACH
Joe Kutcha	ASSISTANT COACH
Anthony Virgadamo	ASSISTANT COACH
Jim Duffy	ASSISTANT COACH
Daniel Rotando	ASSISTANT COACH

3-pointers) and Cervone (five points). But the Golden Bears came back with a 13-5 second quarter to take a 19-18 lead at halftime.

Canton continued to roll with a 20-11 third quarter that put the Golden Bears up 39-29 at the end of three. But Cervone and the Blue Devils responded in the fourth, forcing turnovers, not allowing Canton second opportunities and hitting shots to send the game into overtime knotted at 48-48.

In the extra session, the Blue Devils got big contributions from Ben Bozsik, who opened the period with a floater to give Haldane a lead it would not give up. Bozsik finished with 14 points, including six in overtime; Cervone had 21 points, and dominated the fourth with nine; and Eng-Wong finished with 10, including four in overtime. Nachamkin had six points, and Evan Giachinta came up with two key buckets and a block in overtime.

For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing - March 30th, 2023

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 30h, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

**Stepping Stones, 25 Lady Blue Devils Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#16.16-1-20.2 PROJECT:** Major Project: Applicant is proposing to expand an existing daycare facility with the addition of an 1,820 sq. ft. detached building, relocating an existing playground and some additional parking spaces.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall). Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 16th day of February, 2023. Neal Zuckerman, Chair

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube. com, search for Philipstown Conservation Board Meeting April 2023.

NOTICE

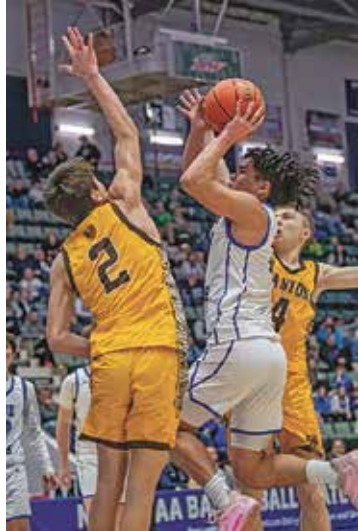
The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 30th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube. com, search for Philipstown Planning Board March 2023.





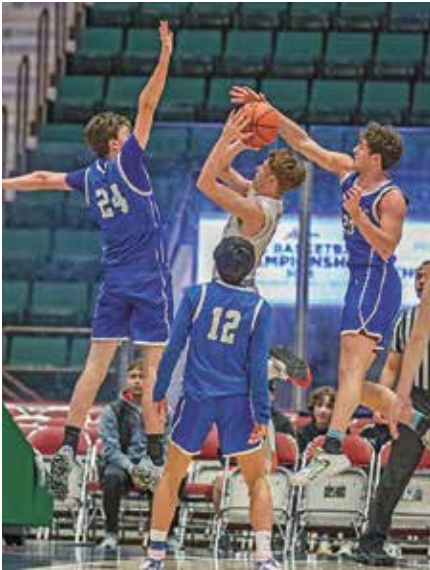
THE  
ROAD TO THE  
FINAL





SPORTS

HALDANE FALLS SHORT IN TITLE GAME



Matt Nachamkin, Ryan Eng-Wong and Cervone surround Drew Hind as he attempts a shot. *Photos by Amy Kubik*



Evan Giachinta boxes out a Randolph player during the title game.



Coach Joe Virgadamo strategizes with his players during a timeout. *Photo by S. Pearlman*

*Despite late comeback, Blue Devils lose by three*

By Skip Pearlman

After winning 16 straight games — including a double-overtime thriller against Hamilton, a grind-it-out sectional championship battle with Tuckahoe and victories over Rhinebeck, Pierson and Canton that put Haldane in the state title game at Cool Insuring Arena in Glens Falls, only one thing was certain: The boys’ basketball Class C final on Saturday (March 18) against Randolph was going to end in elation or heartbreak.

Against Canton in the semifinal, Haldane overcame a 10-point deficit going into the fourth quarter to force overtime. Against Randolph, the deficit was 18 points. This time, a frantic comeback attempt fell one basket short when three long shots by the Blue Devils in the final seconds wouldn’t fall. The final was 58-55.

Randolph burned up the nets behind the three-point line, hitting 15, including eight by Jaiden Huntington, a 6-4 senior who finished with 28 points. Randolph scored all of its points in the first three quarters, except for two baskets, via the three.

The Blue Devils were outscored 20-8 in the third quarter but senior Matteo Cervone gave his team a shot in the arm by scoring Haldane’s first six points of the fourth (he had 10 of his 20 points in the period). The Blue Devils made their biggest push in the final 1:08, when senior Ryan Eng-Wong banked in a three-pointer to make it 55-50. Haldane forced a quick steal, and junior Matt Nachamkin scored to make it a 55-53 game with 49 seconds remaining.

(Continued on Page 22)



Matteo Cervone scored 20 points in his last game for Haldane, ending his career with 1,222 points. *Photo by Amy Kubik*



Coach Virgadamo consoles Will Bradley (center) after he missed a last-second 3-pointer. *Photo by S. Pearlman*



Cervone and Hind of Randolph battle for a loose ball. *Photo by Amy Kubik*

2022

HALDANE BLUE DEVILS  
BOYS' BASKETBALL  
CLASS C RUNNER-UP

THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

REGULAR SEASON

Haldane	71	Marlboro	38
Haldane	61	Blind Brook	57
Haldane	56	Tuckahoe	57
Haldane	52	Valhalla	69
Haldane	46	Byram Hills	50
Haldane	65	Pleasantville	53
Haldane	67	Chester	56
Haldane	59	North Salem	30
Haldane	40	Pearl River	48
Haldane	66	Croton-Harmon	62
Haldane	51	Putnam Valley	44
Haldane	69	Washingtonville	62
Haldane	75	Pawling	34
Haldane	70	North Salem	56
Haldane	77	Beacon	68
Haldane	63	Croton-Harmon	53
Haldane	65	Putnam Valley	61
Haldane	69	Pawling	31

LEAGUE TITLE (8-0)

Haldane	66	Briarcliff	51
Haldane	53	FDR-Hyde Park	46

STATE TOURNAMENT (2 OT)

Haldane	51	Hamilton	46
Haldane	63	Tuckahoe	53

SECTION I TITLE

Haldane	65	Rhinebeck	47
Haldane	57	Pierson	53

SEMIFINAL

HALDANE	CANTON
63	54

FINAL

HALDANE	RANDOLPH
55	58