



# The HIGHLANDS Current

MARCH 31, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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## Court OKs Hudson Valley Pot Shops

*Reverses ban triggered by  
lawsuit over rules*

By Leonard Sparks

New York State can now issue licenses to people approved for marijuana retail shops in the Mid-Hudson region after an appeals court reversed a months-old ban by a federal judge.

A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday (March 28) that the Office of Cannabis Management can license dispensaries in Brooklyn, central and western New York and the Mid-Hudson, where both Beacon and Cold Spring have opted to allow shops where people can buy marijuana for recreational use.

The state is now free to award the 34 licenses that will be granted by the Office of Cannabis Management in the Mid-Hudson, which is double what the agency had originally planned. (It increased its allotment from 150 to 300 licenses state-wide.) As of March 2, it had received 900 applications and approved 66 licenses.

Retail applications in the five regions have been in limbo since Nov. 10, when the federal judge issued a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit filed by a company called Variscite NY One. They remain so in the Finger Lakes, but elsewhere in the state, retail operations have been opening, including, most recently, Upstate Canna Co. in Schenectady and William Jane in Ithaca.

Variscite NY One, whose owners are residents of California and Michigan, accuses the state of discriminating against out-of-state applicants because the first licenses prioritize New Yorkers

*(Continued on Page 9)*



John Stowell gathers maple sap near Hubbard Lodge in Philipstown.

Photo by M. Turton

### SPECIAL REPORT

## Dire Warmings

*Mild winter was a sign of trouble  
for Hudson Valley agriculture*

By Brian PJ Cronin

It's the first day of spring at Fishkill Farms, with bluebird skies, sunshine and best of all for farmer Mark Doyle: Cold.

"Nothing to complain about there," he said as we walked toward the orchard. "We have to keep that temperature down."

It has not been a typical winter. The first significant snow did not occur until late February, and that month the highest temperature recorded each day in Poughkeepsie was six degrees warmer on average than usual. In January, it was 8 degrees warmer. More troublesome, the average low temperature in January

was 12 degrees higher than usual.

In this special report, we will look at the effect of mild winters — which scientists attribute to our warming planet — on three local crops. Maple farmers must tap earlier in the season, only to produce less syrup. Corn farmers will likely have to contend with multiple generations of pests who survive the winter with voracious appetites. And the flowering fruit trees tended by Doyle are tricked into setting up buds early, which are more likely to be killed by any late frost.

Asked what else is under threat by mild winters, Doyle replied: "Our sanity, probably."

*Continued on Page 10*

## Is Lawsuit Next Stop for Rail Trail?

*Landowners on former  
Beacon line seek payment*

By Jeff Simms

A Missouri law firm says it represents nearly 200 landowners who are planning to sue the federal government once Metro-North gets the OK to convert the dormant Beacon railroad line into a rail trail.

Metro-North, which purchased the line in 1995, plans to close a 41-mile segment from Beacon to the Connecticut border. In Beacon, it begins near the train station, loops past Dennings Point and Madam Brett Park, and runs parallel with the east end of Main Street before heading toward Hopewell Junction.

Last year, the City Council asked Dutchess County to study creating a 13-mile rail trail from the waterfront to Hopewell. A county spokesperson said this week that the study has not begun; however, if the county were to construct the trail, it could connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail and the 750-mile Empire State Trail.

A freight company, the Housatonic Railroad Co., fought Metro-North's plans but in January filed notice with the federal Surface Transportation Board that it no longer claims a right to use the tracks. In turn, Metro-North has asked the STB to authorize a "notice of interim trail use," which would allow Metro-North to negotiate with agencies in Dutchess or Putnam

*(Continued on Page 7)*



A portion of the abandoned Beacon line snakes through the city.

File photo by J. Simms

## Garrison Parents Lobby for Tax Increase

*Express concern about  
school's long-term finances*

By Joey Asher

The Garrison school district has proposed a 3.3 percent property tax increase for 2023-24, which matches the state cap, but some parents argue that it's fiscally irresponsible — because it's too low.

The district is proposing \$12.45 million

in spending. The budget must be approved by voters in May.

The draft calls for the district to spend nearly \$700,000 of its savings and make \$220,000 in cuts, including changing art teacher Coulter Young from a full-time to part-time employee; eliminating the part-time Committee on Special Education chair and assigning those duties to the school psychologist; and dropping a bus from its contract fleet and adjusting routes to allow for one less

driver, perhaps stopping service for any child who lives within 2 miles of the school.

Garrison's "fiscal stress" has grown over the past two years after falling to zero in 2020, according to the state comptroller, who tracks each district's finances to provide an "early warning" for problems. The formula considers savings, deficits and surpluses, cash and reliance on short-term debt for cash-flow.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: CARMINE GIORDANO

By Marc Ferris

**C**armine “Toot” Giordano, 101, is the last surviving World War II veteran in Beacon, where he has lived nearly his entire life.

## What do you remember about Beacon from your childhood?

There were trolley cars and lots of industry. My father was a jack-of-all-trades who worked in construction and the hat factories. My father and mother also worked in the textile mills over in what they used to call Groveville. My mother made woolens. She must have done so between babies; we were all born about 18 months apart [Giordano had nine siblings who survived into adulthood]. In those days, women worked until they delivered. We lived during the Depression, but we always had a roof over our heads and food to eat. We weren't on welfare, but there was never that extra buck to do anything. I could never play sports because my family had a large piece of property and there were always chores. When I got older, I played golf and got a hole-in-one on my 91st birthday.

## Over the years, have the changes in the city been for the better?

Maybe not better, just different. Things



Photo by Ross Corsair

were nice through the 1980s, when a lot of stores closed on Main Street, but it's good to see the arts and the businesses coming back after Dia turned things around. I drive, I shop, I go to the library. The problem is, you can't find a parking spot.

## What stands out about your World War II experience?

I started out training to be a radio operator on B-25 bombers and went to gunnery school in Wisconsin. They gave you all these aptitude tests and figured out what you would be good at. They told me I had an ear for Morse code. But I got airsick all the time. To keep the pilot from knowing, I threw up into bags and chucked them overboard. As I advanced through the program, I couldn't hide it anymore and they said: “Give it up, son.” So I spent the rest of the war fixing and maintaining communications equipment. I never went overseas. It would have been nice to see the world. But I wasn't looking for a fight. We just did what we were told to do.

## What's your take on computers and cell phones?

People today seem to be more self-centered. It's partly computers and the phones, which have their uses, but tech is a double-edged sword. There's no privacy anymore. In my day, we never had anyone commit suicide because they didn't like what someone said about them. I don't have a computer, but I do have a Tracfone because my grandchildren insisted for emergencies. I hardly use it. I don't even know how to work the remote control for the TV.

## What advice would you give young people facing an uncertain future?

I'm a conservative and I think the country is going down the tubes, but I would say four things: love, compassion, family and forgiveness. If people kept these things in mind, the world would be a better place. It's so much easier to be petty than the other way around. People get too involved. Keep things simple and use more common sense.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What impresses you most: sunset, sunrise or full moon?

“A magical sunrise at Point Reyes, California. It's like the sky's on fire.”



Eric Tipler, Cold Spring

“I love sunset, the changing colors. Sunrise is second.”



Juanita Fryar, Beacon

“A beautiful full moon, both aesthetically and for how it affects me.”



Ron Mikos, Beacon

## HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

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## Garrison School *(from Page 1)*

The district had a stress level of 15 in 2022, up from 6.7 in 2021. A score of 25 or higher raises concern. By comparison, Haldane and Beacon each had zero fiscal stress last year, while Mount Vernon, the most vulnerable district in the state, scored 66.7.

The state also measures “environmental stress,” which consists of factors districts can’t control, such as property tax values and enrollment. In 2022, Garrison had a score of 30, which is the minimum that raises concern. Haldane and Beacon both scored zero.

Several parents at the Wednesday (March 29) meeting of the school board advocated more spending and a larger tax increase. If the district goes over the state tax cap, 60 percent of voters, rather than a simple majority, would need to approve the plan.

Last year, residents voted to override the cap and approved a 6.6 percent tax increase. But that came only after a proposed 9.18 percent increase was defeated.

“We need to ask more of our community,” said Ned Rauch, a former PTA president who has children at the school.

Another parent, Peter Lesser, said that “it’s pretty clear from the numbers that the [financial] future doesn’t look great. We should take action and work for what we know we need, which is continuous, slightly higher, increases than the minimum over the next two years.”

Charity Shumway distributed a flier that said: “We need to put forward and secure

the vote for budgets that override the low percentage increases set by the tax cap.”

On the other hand, Lauren Biniaris said she supported the proposed budget because “it’s unrealistic to think that we can get ourselves out of this relatively quickly by asking our community to say over and over and over again, ‘Yes, I’ll pay more taxes.’ They’ve proven that they won’t do that.”

She added, however, that it was clear the district will need overrides. “Our tax rate is way too low to be sustainable,” she said.

**“We should take action and work for what we know we need, which is continuous, slightly higher, increases than the minimum over the next two years.”**

~ **Peter Lesser**, a Garrison parent

Board members said that while another request to voters for an override was likely, getting one passed in May would be difficult. “We essentially communicated a promise or a commitment to the community that we would not seek an override this year,” said Trustee David Gelber.

Trustee Jocelyn Apicello asked whether the proposed budget was fiscally responsible for the long term. She said she would vote to send the budget as presented to voters but would

have preferred to have seen alternatives.

The proposed budget includes spending about a third of the district’s savings, or \$684,570, which would drop reserve funds to \$1.44 million in June 2024. Of that, \$900,000 can only be used for capital expenses and debt service. That would almost certainly mean the district will seek a tax-cap override in 2024-25, said Superintendent Carl Albano.

Albano said the district could get some relief from federal funds for pandemic expenses. It also has asked Assembly Member Dana Levenberg and State Sen. Rob Rolison to lobby for relief.

Under the state’s Foundation Aid formula, Garrison next year will receive an increase of about 3 percent, or \$17,244, said Joe Jimick, the business administrator. By comparison, he said, other Putnam districts expect to receive an average of 23 percent. Garrison receives less state money because of its relatively high property values.

Even with a 3.3 percent increase, the Garrison tax levy will be the lowest in the county, by far, and among the lowest in the state (616th of 678 districts). Its levy is \$9.75 per \$1,000 of full value, meaning a \$500,000 home is assessed \$4,875 in annual taxes.

By comparison, Haldane’s tax rate is \$16.97 per \$1,000 and Carmel’s is \$25.47. In a five-county area, only Pocantico Hills has a lower levy, at \$9.25.

Jimick said the primary factors driving costs are debt service for capital projects (\$119,756), a 5.5 percent increase in employee



## *A daily oasis for National Poetry Month*

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison and *The Highlands Current* are back with another year of *One Poem a Day Won't Kill You!*

Each day in April, a podcast recording will be posted at [bit.ly/hear-poem-2023](http://bit.ly/hear-poem-2023) featuring a community member reading a favorite published poem. The 2020, 2021 and 2022 recordings are also archived at the site.

health-insurance premiums (\$75,422), the electric costs for a new HVAC system (\$69,000), an 8 percent increase in transportation costs (\$58,567) and a 17 percent increase in security software costs (\$25,267). There are details at [gufs.org/business/23-24-budget-updates](http://gufs.org/business/23-24-budget-updates).

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Hamilton Fish

For anyone in the community interested in the discussion underway about the co-founder of the Desmond-Fish Public Library, Hamilton Fish III, and his actions in the years leading up to World War II as the ranking Republican member of the House Foreign Affairs and Rules committees, I encourage you to delve into the resource list of books, dissertations and news articles on the topic available on the library website ("What to Do With Hamilton Fish?" March 24).

Together, these resources create a comprehensive picture of the times and the individuals involved in U.S. foreign policy. The list is titled: "A House Divided: Hamilton Fish and American Isolationism 1933-1941" (desmondfishlibrary.org/a-house-divided). It's long, so we suggest starting with *The New York Times* articles, the dissertation summaries and a *Politico* article by Steve Usdin, "When a Foreign Government Interfered in the U.S. Election — to Re-elect FDR."

Leonard Sparks' article in *The Current* ably conveys some of the challenges in easily labeling Rep. Fish's actions; the subhead ("Garrison library reviewing founder's Nazi sympathies"), unfortunately, does not. Nor does the photo caption, referring to Fish's "return from a visit to Nazi Germany"; his August 1939 trip to Germany was one stop on a multi-nation Inter-Parliamentary Union visit to discuss a peace plan as well as resettlement possibilities for European Jews.

Further, in researching this list of resources we realized that the statement issued by the library in January (and reprinted last week in *The Current*) was not fully supported and it has been removed from our website. Our research and discussions are ongoing. We welcome comments and questions; email Director Dede Fara-

baugh at director@desmondfishlibrary.org and myself at anitaprentice@gmail.com.

Anita Prentice, *Garrison*

*Prentice is the president of the library's board of directors.*

The issue is a bit more complicated than the simplistic reporting done thus far. Hamilton Fish III was a decorated U.S. Army officer in World War I who commanded African American troops of the 369th Infantry in combat, the legendary Harlem Hellfighters, who were among the most decorated U.S. soldiers of the war. It was Fish who called for the desegregation and the integration of the U.S. military decades before it occurred. He was one of the founders of the American Legion.

As a congressman from 1920 to 1945, Fish introduced legislation creating the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and supporting the Balfour Declaration of Britain, one of the earliest international documents calling for a Jewish homeland in what was then called the Palestine Mandate.

Fish helped pass, on more than one occasion, anti-lynching legislation in the House that did not become law due to sectional opposition in the Senate.

While the U.S. military was still segregated in 1940, he amended the military appropriations bill which increased spending in the run-up to World War II and prohibited racial discrimination in the selection and training of military personnel, which is acknowledged as an important step in the desegregation of the U.S. armed forces. He was also among members of Congress who protested the Nazi treatment of the Jewish people.

Fish was a staunch anti-Communist and an isolationist before World War II, in part

because of his World War I experiences, as was a large portion of the U.S. population. He opposed much of the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt, his fellow Hudson River patrician. His pre-war statements evincing sympathy for the Nazis and the involvement of some of his staff with them is deeply troubling.

As with all human beings, Hamilton Fish III was flawed. Yet, how does one judge any flawed human being on one issue? How do you look at, and evaluate, the totality of a person's life? Would any of us wish a scrutiny of every aspect of our lives, public and hidden, especially when we might not be around to say anything in our defense? And, is there anyone here who could completely vouch for their ancestors?

Lou Liotti, *via Facebook*

Hamilton Fish was a part of more than one organization that supported the Jews and the formation of the state of Israel. What to do? Get more information before heating up the tar and loading up the feathers. Whatever happened to doing the research and knowing what you're talking about before self-appointed judgment?

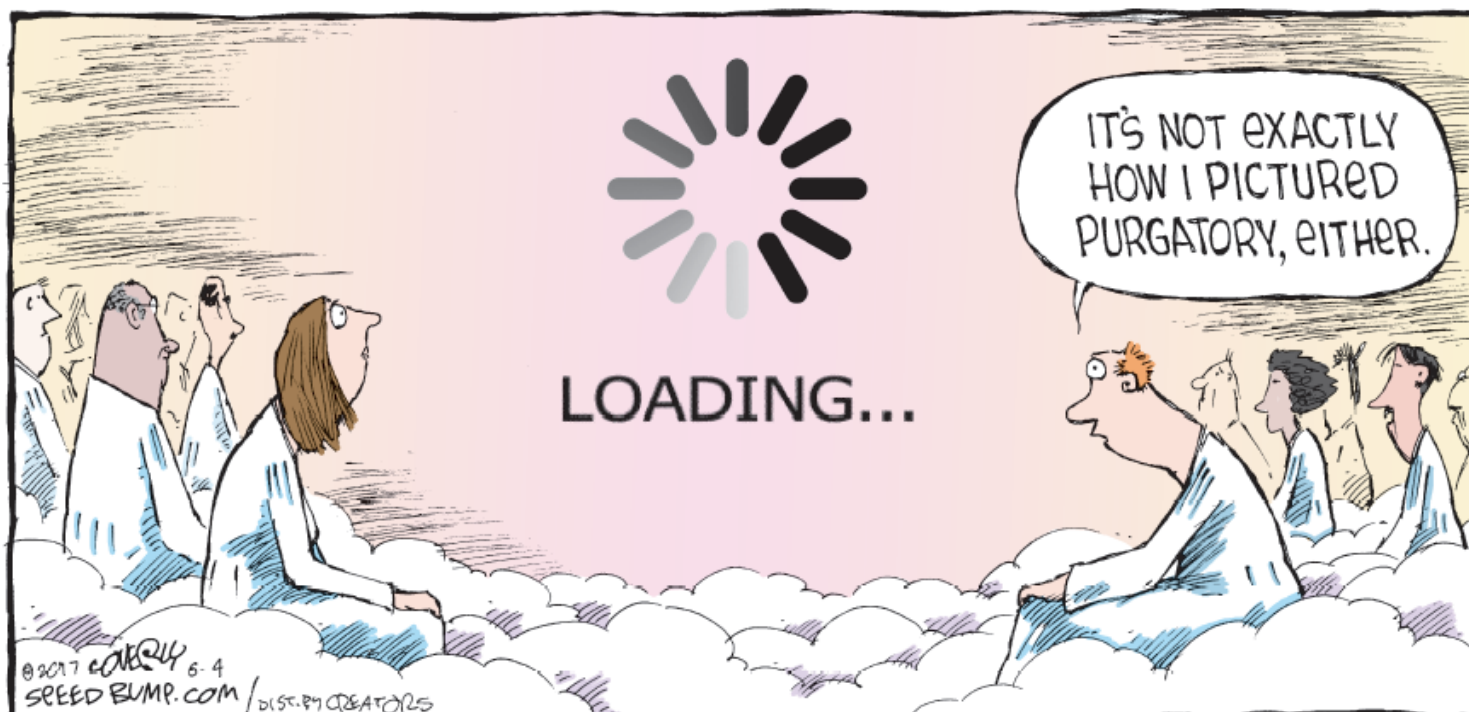
Cassandra Saulter, *via Instagram*

### Constitutional county

There was a time in this nation, not very long ago, when we used the word *statesman*, which characterized a politician who put the well-being of the nation and the rule of law above personal ambition, gain and political partisanship. John F. Kennedy wrote a book about this, *Profiles in Courage*.

Sadly, statesmen are now quite nearly extinct; in fact, one doubts that the likes of Rep. Maxine Waters, Sen. Charles Schumer,

(Continued on Page 5)



## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Gov. Kathy Hochul, former Rep. Liz Cheney and their ilk would be as likely able to define the word as the newest Supreme Court justice was to define the word *woman*. This destructive factionalism has a trickle-down effect that affects most institutions in the nation, from the military to local school systems.

Today, we see one political party marching in lockstep toward an end that is only centered on gaining votes in future elections, with an end toward socialism and personal gain, in total disregard for the founding values and the Constitution of the nation; while the other party is too busy with internecine feuding to see further than personal and factional gains.

As these trends continue and harden to the point that a return to rational politics seems impossible to imagine, one can see the absolute brilliance of Hamilton and Madison in Federalist Numbers 9 and 10, "The Union as a Safeguard Against Domestic Faction and Insurrection." That should be required reading, as all the Federalist Papers should.

In the midst of this muckfest comes a glimmer of local hope in Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne's attempt to bring reason to our county by declaring it a constitutional county. In opposing state and federal laws that stand in clear and direct opposition to our Constitution, and, in the case of Hochul and our perverse state Legislature, defiance of the highest court of the land, Byrne shows that there is still hope for statesmanship, and that political courage is not extinct.

Any citizen who loves this country for which it stands beyond the doublespeak of contemporary politics and perversion, and understands the magnificent uniqueness of our system, should not hesitate to support Byrne's effort.

Steven Sohn, *Cold Spring*

The idea that a county Legislature can determine whether federal, state or municipal laws are "null and void" is itself "repugnant to the Constitution," and dangerously so. We don't need to look as far back as the attempted secession behind America's deadliest war to see just how dangerous this idea can be — in fact, sadly, we don't need to look further than the most recent presidential election.

As the county executive seems to admit, hedging against the language of his own resolution, we have a court system, flawed though it may be, to determine whether laws are constitutional, and county governments can't "simply wash away" laws they don't like. At best, this makes the resolution redundant, and at worst it subverts the document it purports to defend.

Jeff Mikkelsen, *Cold Spring*

## Electric vehicles

Thank you to Leonard Sparks and *The Current* for another excellent article on an important topic ("Owners Get Charge from EVs," March 17).

One fine point: Sparks points out that "the cost of owning an electric vehicle is unaffordable for many drivers." I would narrow that statement. The "initial purchase price" of owning an EV is unaffordable for many, but the "lifecycle cost" of an EV is actu-



**SIGN DAMAGED** — A "We Stand With Ukraine" banner on the lawn of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring was vandalized on March 22 or 23. The banner was a replacement; the original was stolen in November.

Photo provided

ally less than that of comparable gasoline models. That's true for two reasons.

First, EV fuel — electricity — is about 25 percent of the cost of gasoline per mile driven. (My household saved more than \$2,000 fueling two EVs last year.)

Second, maintenance costs are extremely low. EVs have roughly 20 moving parts, compared to 2,000 in gas-powered cars. Moving parts require maintenance, wear out and need repair or replacement. In five years of EV ownership, my only maintenance costs have been wiper blades, windshield washer fluid and new tires.

In short, the lifecycle costs of EVs are lower than that of internal-combustion-engine vehicles. As battery prices continue to fall, and a wider price range of EVs becomes available, their value will become even more apparent. In the meantime, better financial incentives and financing options are essential to increase access across all income levels.

Joseph Montuori, *Mahopac*

Montuori is the executive director of Sustainable Putnam.

## Mirbeau PILOT

On March 22, the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency (DCIDA) gave preliminary approval for a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement for the Mirbeau project at the former Tioronda estate in Beacon ("Craig House Estate Nominated as Historic Site," March 17).

I have been attending DCIDA meetings for more than three years, and its members have approved every project that has come up for a vote, usually unanimously. Every applicant says the project will not proceed without financial assistance from the DCIDA, but of course they would say that — otherwise they won't get assistance. In most cases, they are seeking to maximize their profits at taxpayers' expense.

One thing I noticed when reviewing applications on the DCIDA site is that Mirbeau's is unusual in that figures are

redacted in several places, such as "Investment (Uses and Sources)" and "Sources."

By all accounts, Mirbeau's Rhinebeck spa and hotel is successful, with room prices ranging from \$410 to \$730 a night, and it did not receive DCIDA funding. I believe Mirbeau should pay its full share of taxes. While the DCIDA likes to tout increases in tax revenue from projects, it never says what the revenue would be if applicants were forced to pay their taxes.

As I often state in my public hearing comments on DCIDA projects, applicants seek financial assistance in the form of tax breaks that shift the burden to the remaining base, leading to higher tax bills for all other residents while maximizing profits of the developers. Further, the increase in property tax revenue is based on "current assessed value" and "estimated new assessed value." This fails to take into consideration that applicants often challenge the assessed value after project completion. When that happens, projected tax revenues end up being lower.

It also should be noted that the DCIDA allows public comment in its meetings only when it is required by law, such as during a public hearing.

Doreen Tignanelli, *Poughkeepsie*

## Fjord Trail

Pre-pandemic, it took me two minutes, even on a busy weekend, to get to Foodtown from our house on Fair Street. That route now clocks in at eight minutes. This is due to cars backed up on side streets, waiting to turn onto Main with little visibility around parked cars, and pedestrian traffic, congestion at the stoplight and drivers trying to park and de-park.

I arrive at the Foodtown parking lot, which is busier than usual but with some spaces available.

The trip home takes me an indeterminate amount of time because the most direct routes are excessively congested with both cars and people. A line of northbound traffic on Route 9D snakes around the Butterfield

## Clarification

Our March 24 story on *Hindsight: Untold Stories from 2020*, edited by Steve Fowler, should have mentioned the book is available via [hindsightbook2000.com](http://hindsightbook2000.com).

complex and can extend as far away as Boscobel in leaf season. That means the light at Main Street is to be avoided. Instead, I zigzag the side streets to the east to cross Route 301 farther east and, using cut-throughs, escape down Craigsides Drive to get back onto Route 9D and take Northern Avenue home.

On Sundays, when traffic patterns change because of church and visitor parking, this time increases significantly, which begs the question: What will an influx of traffic mean to this already-congested and circuitous route? What of the parking lot at Foodtown? Will visitors try to park there? Who's to stop them?

I believe a comprehensive, up-to-date and independent traffic and parking study is needed to determine a realistic assessment of what the Fjord Trail will mean for village roads and parking. And I wouldn't stop there. Think of Bear Mountain at peak season, with the traffic circle clogged and employees shooing cars away from closed parking lots. Will the Fjord Trail pick up that overflow as well? Will we?

Susan Peehl, *Cold Spring*

## Holy Week at The Church of the Open Door

First Presbyterian  
Church of Philipstown

Rev. Brian Merritt, Interim Pastor

Sunday, April 2, 10:30 AM  
PALM SUNDAY

The Easter Pageant is joyously performed by all the children, and we celebrate the story of Palm Sunday.

Thursday, April 6, 7:00 PM  
MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

This service is one of the most moving of our church year. As the service proceeds, the sanctuary gradually dims and concludes in total darkness. We then experience the sounds of the nails driven in the cross and leave the church in silence.

Sunday, April 9, 10:30 AM  
EASTER CELEBRATION

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## The Current Welcomes New Board Member

*Will help guide nonprofit paper and website*

The directors of Highlands Current Inc., the publisher of this newspaper, recently approved a new board member.

Fran Reilly, who lives in Beacon, is the principal of Reilly Emerging Media. She was most recently publisher of *City Limits*, the oldest nonprofit investigative news agency in New York City, and formerly a media executive at Time Inc. Ventures and Scholastic.

Reilly, who holds a master of fine arts in creative writing, began her career at *The Atlantic* and *Mother Jones*.

The other members of the board are Damon Banks, Christine Bockelmann, Gwendolyn Bounds, Susan Brune, Natalie Diggins, David Duffy, Kyle Good, Nicholas Groombridge, Todd Haskell, Robert Lanier, Mel Laytner, Bevis Longstreth, Joseph Plummer and Michelle Rivas.



### Editor's Notebook

## The Tricky Origins of the Constitutional County

*The Putnam executive wants a declaration. Where did the idea come from?*

By Chip Rowe

Two months into the job, Kevin Byrne, the new Putnam County executive, proposed that the Legislature declare his domain to be a “constitutional county.”

What does that mean? Are there unconstitutional counties?

Byrne was inspired by (and took language from) a resolution passed in 2021 by lawmakers in Cattaraugus County in western New York. Other counties have made similar declarations, including York in Virginia, Brown in Texas and Lyon in Nevada. Some have rejected the idea, including Mesa in Colorado, Bremer in Iowa and Yates in New York.

In Putnam, Byrne’s proposal has two elements.

First, Putnam legislators would vow “to protect the rights” provided to citi-



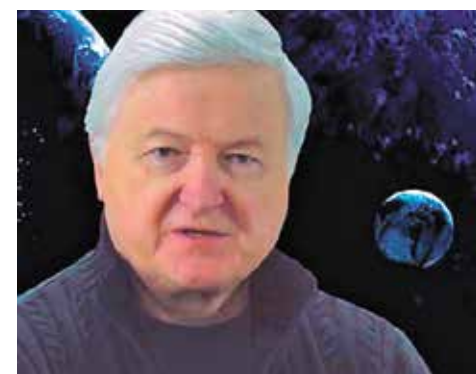
zens by the Constitution — which doesn’t sound any different from the oath of office.

Second, the draft resolution acknowledges that while the Legislature cannot “unilaterally nullify federal or state laws it opposes” (thank goodness), it will oppose “any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights in order to assure that its citizens will be able to keep and bear arms.”

So, it’s about gun control. One amendment.

The difficulty is that, as even a Florida textbook will tell you, our constitutional system is designed so that the courts decide if laws are unconstitutional. That’s how the Founding Fathers set it up: legislative, judicial, executive. Byrne acknowledges this — somewhat — with a disclaimer that no laws will be broken when Putnam legislators interpret the Constitution.

It’s worthwhile to examine the origins of the notion of the constitutional county — or, properly, Constitutional County™, according to a Montana resident named Kirk MacKenzie, who claims he invented the idea and trademarked the name.



Kirk MacKenzie, the intellectual father of the Constitutional County

MacKenzie is an interesting character. According to his blog posts and podcasts, he is still working hard more than two years later to uncover (at the county level) the supposed fraud in 2020 that denied Donald Trump a second term. He is an enthusiastic spreader of nonsense about the COVID-19 vaccines, such as that they are “untested DNA-changing biologic agents” and “bioweapons researched and funded by Dr. Fauci.” He fears “international banking families [read: Jews] and their use of control over monetary systems to control the world.” He created a group called Defend Rural America to battle “environmental terrorism,” “abusive agencies,” the Endangered Species Act, “federal takeover of public lands” and “road closures.”

MacKenzie, who sells a \$25 DVD that outlines the constitutional county concept, asserts that the Constitution is “timeless and cannot be changed by construction” (although it has been, 27 times). At the same time, he says, county elected officials have the right to declare any law they deem “repugnant to the Constitution” as null and void. A dueling fringe group, the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, asserts that county sheriffs have the final say.

In Putnam, Byrne’s goals don’t seem as ambitious; he insists his proposal “is not part of any separate organized effort or movement.” In November 2021, he wrote in an op-ed in *The Examiner News* that he primarily wants a constitutional county declaration to stand up to “radical gun-grabbing special interests.” He added: “It’s not enough to simply raise our right hand and take the oath of office where we swear to uphold the Constitution.” You also need to pass a resolution.

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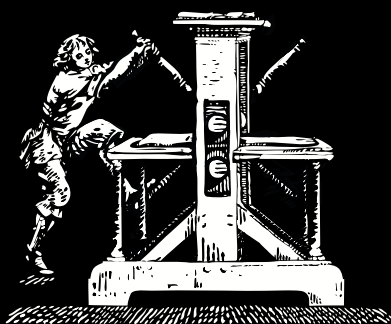


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## Beacon PILOT Updates

*City approves Tompkins Terrace; Mirbeau hearing set*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on March 20 approved a 40-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement, or PILOT, with Related Companies, the owner of the Tompkins Terrace housing complex.

The unanimous vote ensured that the 193 apartments in the complex will remain affordable to low-income renters. Thirty-eight units are restricted to households earning 50 percent or less of the area median income (AMI), which, in Beacon, is equal to a four-person household earning up to \$56,200. The remaining 155 apartments may be rented to households earning 60 percent or less of the AMI (\$67,440 for a household of four).

Instead of paying taxes based on property-value assessments, the agreement allows Related, which is planning a \$14.5 million renovation, to make set payments that will be distributed to the Beacon school district, the city, Dutchess County and the Howland Public Library.

The first payment will be \$310,000; subsequent payments will increase 2.25 percent annually and total \$19.75 million over the 40 years.

Before voting, some council members acknowledged comments made during public hearings regarding tenant evictions, and whether the city should have demanded more money from Related.

"If something like this can lock in some semblance of affordability for decades, then I'm ready to move forward with it, reluctantly, but I look forward to figuring out stronger, equitable solutions," said Justice McCray, the Ward 2 representative.

## Rail Trail *(from Page 1)*

County to operate and maintain a rail trail.

That's where Stewart, Wald & McCulley, a St. Louis-based firm that says it specializes in rails-to-trails litigation, could enter the picture. The firm said this week that it has met with close to 200 landowners in the 41-mile corridor who believe the federal government should pay them for the "taking of land" in conjunction with the project.

According to the firm, the 1963 Trails Act permits the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors into nature and hiking trails but also preserves the rights of way. The practice is known as "railbanking" and creates easements that block landowners from claiming property within the corridor.

Steve Wald, the lead attorney on the project, said on Tuesday (March 28) that his firm does not oppose the rail trail but will go to court as soon as trail usage is authorized for the line.

"There's nothing that Metro-North is doing wrong," Wald said. "They're simply using a federal law to convert the rail line into a trail."

### Mirbeau Inn & Spa

The Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has scheduled a public hearing at 6 p.m. on April 10 at City Hall in Beacon on a request by Mirbeau Inn & Spa for a 15-year PILOT agreement.

Mirbeau received Planning Board approval in December for the first phase of its plans to redevelop the 64-acre Tioronda Estate, which includes the former Craig House psychiatric hospital, with a luxury spa and hotel, among other amenities. The project is expected to cost \$54 million for the first phase; Mirbeau purchased the property a year ago for \$10 million.

Last month, after several contentious meetings, the company agreed to contribute to a "community fund" to offset revenue the Beacon school district could lose if the IDA grants the PILOT, which would take the property off the tax rolls for the duration of the agreement. The City Council in November submitted a letter supporting the PILOT.

If approved, the property would be assessed once construction is complete (it's currently valued at \$3 million) and regularly thereafter. Mirbeau would pay the property tax it was paying before construction, plus 50 percent of the difference between that base and its new assessed value in Year 1. It would then pay an incrementally increasing percentage of the difference each year, peaking at 95 percent in Year 15. After that, the property owner would pay full taxes.

PILOT agreements are often granted to companies that are judged to bring with them significant economic or job growth, or, in the case of Tompkins Terrace, another public benefit, such as affordable housing stock. Proponents say the agreements demonstrate stability to lenders and can help a developer qualify for financing.

The IDA board on March 22 approved a preliminary resolution for Mirbeau's request. The company is scheduled to reappear in front of the board on April 12 for a vote on final approval.

But he said that landowners adjoining the corridor could legally claim swaths of land likely lost in the late 1800s, when railroads and boats were the primary modes of transportation. Wald said that rail companies during the era typically purchased, condemned or acquired easements on the land needed for tracks.

The "predecessors in title" of the landowners he's met with fell into the latter two categories, Wald said, noting that he believes there may be 300 more such property owners in the corridor. They "have the same rights as the original landowners," he said, and, in the event of a conversion, should be given "full possession and control" of land used for the railroad, or be compensated.

Stewart, Wald & McCulley has litigated similar cases nationwide and in New York state, and had been monitoring the Beacon line for abandonment, he said. Nothing in the pending lawsuit would attempt to stop the trail, he added.

The firm said it will hold informational meetings for landowners next week at the Hyatt House off Route 9 in Fishkill. See [bit.ly/rail-trail-landowners](http://bit.ly/rail-trail-landowners).

## Beacon Rental Project Gets \$1.6M Grant

*Among projects funded by Dutchess Housing Trust*

By Jeff Simms

Dutchess County this week awarded \$8.9 million to six affordable rental housing developments, including nearly \$1.6 million for a project at Main and Cross streets in Beacon.

The grants were awarded by the Dutchess Housing Trust Fund with the goal of eventually creating more than 600 affordable units, the county said in a release on Tuesday (March 28). Once constructed, the rental units will be available to households making between 30 percent and 80 percent of the county's median income.

A year ago, a Dutchess housing assessment painted a grim picture: home prices rising faster than inflation; more than half of renters spending more than 30 percent of income on housing; and a growing disparity between what wealthy and low-income households earn.

The study identified renters earning less than \$50,000 annually as facing the greatest crunch, while recommending a "fair share" approach that would require each municipality to add affordable housing on a per-capita basis.

It suggested that Beacon add five new affordable units annually for 20 years.

The Housing Trust grant in Beacon is allocated for 2 Cross St., a development that has undergone various changes since it was conceived and looks to evolve further to comply with trust requirements.

In a proposal submitted to the Planning Board in late 2019, developer Joe Donovan said he wanted to integrate the existing building at 172 Main St., a brick building at 4 Cross St. and an empty lot between the two. After the pandemic shutdown ended, Donovan returned to the Planning Board, proposing a three-story building with street-level retail space and 18 apartments split between market-rate and below-market-rate units for seniors.

The city approved those plans in Octo-

ber, but Donovan said this week that higher interest rates and construction costs have made the 50-50 apartment split unfeasible.

He said that, along with the Housing Trust funds, he will need state money to continue with the project, now envisioned with all 18 apartments being affordable housing. He hopes to bring a revised site plan to the Planning Board soon so that construction can start before year-end.

The revised application will be limited to changes in the configuration and location of parking, he said. Nine of the affordable apartments will be for seniors; the others will meet state and county affordability standards.

City Council Member Wren Longno, who was part of a committee that reviewed the housing needs assessment, said Beacon still needs more affordable units.

"We have a community deeply motivated by human services" such as "supportive housing for special-needs populations like domestic violence survivors and people living with disabilities," she said. Solutions could include "inclusionary zoning" (which could provide incentives for developers), more public housing and using city-owned properties to create units.

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# Catching Up with the Putnam Legislature

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

## Indian Point

Drawing immediate bipartisan criticism, a Putnam County legislative committee last week refused to oppose the planned discharge of radioactive waste from the defunct Indian Point nuclear power plant into the Hudson River and instead asked federal officials to ensure no harm results from the move.

In a resolution approved March 21 and sent to the full Legislature for consideration, the Health-Social-Educational-Environmental Committee declared that federal authorities should exercise oversight because radioactive discharges “must not cause any detrimental environmental impact to the river” and “not compromise the health or safety of those who use the Hudson,” which provides drinking water as well as seafood, recreation and transportation.

The resolution further asks Rep. Michael Lawler and the state’s two U.S. senators “to obtain assurances” from the Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Regulatory Commission that they will prevent the release if any harm would ensue.

Legislator William Gouldman, a Republican who represents most of Putnam Valley, objected that the proposed resolution “does not say anything of any substance” and

“doesn’t go far enough.” The federal government often “gives assurances that turn out to not be true,” he said. “There are alternatives out there” to discharging the water and “I wish we’d do a resolution which says that.”

The proposed resolution “does nothing to prevent the discharge,” said Legislator Nancy Montgomery, the Legislature’s sole Democrat, who represents Philipstown and the remainder of Putnam Valley. “It’s unbearable to see this committee not address this in a meaningful way.”

Montgomery offered an alternate version stating that the Legislature “strongly opposes the plan to release over a million gallons of contaminated water” containing cancer-causing isotopes as well as carcinogenic tritium, and endorsing state legislation that would ban discharges into the Hudson or other state waterways.

Democrats Dana Levenberg, whose Assembly district includes Philipstown, and Pete Harckham, whose Senate district includes eastern Putnam, introduced the measure, which Rob Rolison, a Republican whose Senate district includes Philipstown and Beacon, supports.

Montgomery’s draft also described the Hudson as an economic resource. In her remarks to the committee, she added that by threatening river recreation, the release could

## COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
Primary vaccination:	<b>76.3%</b> Philipstown/CS: <b>88.1%</b> Garrison: <b>82.7%</b>	<b>71.9%</b> Beacon: <b>68.2%</b>
Boosted:	<b>20.7%</b> Philipstown/CS: <b>29.8%</b> Garrison: <b>23.8%</b>	<b>22.9%</b> Beacon: <b>19.0%</b>
Positive tests, 7-day average:	↓ <b>3.1%</b>	↓ <b>4.4%</b>
Number of deaths:	<b>149</b> (+3)	<b>742</b> (+4)
Source: State health department, as of March 28 (vaccine data as of March 24). Boosted is the percentage of people eligible for additional shots who are up to date. Numbers in parentheses are changes since Feb. 22. Note: Because of the small incremental changes to the vaccination numbers, we print this chart in the last issue of each month, although updates are made more frequently online.		

imperil the county’s sales tax revenue.

The three committee members declined to consider her draft. Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac-Carmel, who chairs the committee, said Montgomery’s measure could invite more dangerous solutions to the problem.

“No one wants to release radiation into the environment, especially into a precious resource like the Hudson River,” she said. However, she cautioned, “there are trade-offs” and the committee wants federal officials to follow “best practices.” Given the apparently tiny amounts of radioactive material that would be released annually, she said, “I don’t think we’re talking about poisoning our population.”

## Hotel tax

In taking a new look at occupancy taxes for hotels, motels and short-term rentals, the Legislature’s Economic Development and Energy Committee on March 22 reached beyond its members for input — and got some from Garrison resident Nat Prentice.

The committee had previously toyed with charging sales tax on hotel rooms in February 2020, before the pandemic.

Prentice, president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce and the Putnam County Business Council, pointed to the village’s interest in a room tax. He noted that municipalities can use a system that identifies premises used as STRs so that enforcement of regulations becomes easier.

Bill Nulk, who heads Putnam’s Industrial Development Agency, asked the committee to be cautious about a county tax because Putnam doesn’t have many hotels and it wouldn’t generate much revenue, so it would be “just one more reason not to come to Putnam if you’re looking for a hotel.”

However, Legislator Greg Ellner of Carmel, who chairs the committee, noted that in nearby Danbury, Connecticut, hotel guests pay a 15 percent tax. Most other counties in New York impose a tax of 2 to 4 percent, he said. Considering what Danbury charges, “I don’t see how we’re going to be disincentivizing people from coming here.”

Ellner suggested that the county could charge a set price, such as \$10 to \$15 per room, instead of a tax based on a percentage. Whatever the approach, he said, “hopefully, there will be some revenue stream.”

## Sales tax

Legislators at an Audit Committee meeting on Monday (March 27) heard that sales tax revenue continues to surge, with Putnam receiving \$12.7 million in the first two months of 2023, or \$1.5 million more than in the same period last year.

Sales tax goes first to New York State, which gives some of it back to each county. Most counties, unlike Putnam, return a portion of their allotment to the towns and villages in which it originated. In 2022, after longstanding pleas from local officials, then-County Executive MaryEllen Odell announced intentions to share some sales tax, along with federal pandemic-relief funds.

Her successor, Kevin Byrne, who took office in January, last fall signaled strong disagreement with sales-tax sharing and the county has not revisited the idea.

## Body cameras

On March 22, the Protective Services Committee met in private to review the Sheriff’s Department body-camera policy with Sheriff Kevin McConville. In a March 14 memo, McConville emphasized that the session must occur in secret.

As the three committee members left for the executive session, the chair, Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, explained that they were meeting privately because of “the potential of detail of law enforcement that may have to be discussed, and officer safety.”

When the committee re-emerged, Nacerino assured the audience that “there were no actions taken.”

Nonetheless, Montgomery questioned the decision to retreat, saying the department’s body-camera policies should be public. She noted that the Westchester County police and New York State Police have released their policies.



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# State Releases Final Reports on Climate Funding, Shad

*Beacon among cities classified as 'disadvantaged'*

By Brian PJ Cronin

A year ago, New York State released drafts of two reports. The first dealt with boosting shad populations in the Hudson River and the second with identifying communities that qualify to receive special funding to fight climate change. Now, after considering public comment, the state has finished both.

As part of an ambitious state law enacted in 2019, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, New York is hoping to get 70 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2030 and reach zero-emissions electricity by 2040 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The law also set an "environmental justice" target that 40 percent of state spending on clean energy would accrue in communities defined as disadvantaged.

To select those municipalities, the state considered history (such as past industrial pollution), current challenges (such as high housing costs) and projected conditions.

Communities with low levels of tree

cover, for example, rated highly because of the urban "heat island" effect. Agricultural communities scored higher because of the expected impact of rising temperatures on farming and outdoor laborers.

Under the draft and final criteria, Beacon qualifies as disadvantaged because, among other factors, it has high housing costs, a legacy of industrial pollution, a rising river, diesel fumes from Interstate 84 and lengthy rides to the nearest hospitals.

Because of the designation, Beacon is set up to receive "green" funding that other cities won't. It could come in the form of helping residents make green upgrades to their homes (such as replacing gas appliances and weatherization); subsidies for vehicles such as electric school buses; and investments in renewable energy infrastructure.

No communities in Putnam County qualified, although low-income households anywhere in the state (defined as having an annual income at or below 60 percent of the state median) will qualify for assistance.

Climate change is one of the many factors impacting American Shad in the Hudson River, which led to a population crash around the turn of the millennium. In 2009, the state ended shad fishing, which

led to the cancellation of the many river-town festivals that welcomed spring.

The final Recovery Plan For Hudson River American Shad sets benchmarks for when catch-and-release fishing can be reintroduced. Although 97 percent of shad are thought to survive the ordeal, the population is so low (and slow to recover) that the state isn't ready to give the OK. Research suggests that the shad that survive may be stressed enough to skip spawning.

Once shad recover enough to allow for catch and release, the state said it will consider requiring anglers to use barbless hooks.

A section added to the report lobbies for shad to be considered when ladders, passages and other infrastructure is installed to allow fish to swim upriver to spawn. Unlike most other fish, shad do not die after spawning. Instead, they swim back to the ocean. Because of this, the state said, any interventions in the river must allow for upstream and downstream passage.

To allow the public to monitor shad recovery, the state said it will post metrics at [dec.ny.gov/animals/62510.html](http://dec.ny.gov/animals/62510.html) each year by Aug. 1.

## Retail Pot *(from Page 1)*

with marijuana convictions and a "substantial presence" in the state.

Gov. Kathy Hochul said in a statement on Tuesday that she was pleased with the court's decision. So was Dan Livingston, executive director for the Cannabis Association of New York, which represents dispensary owners and other businesses in the supply chain, although he said it was "unfortunate that the court is allowing this frivolous lawsuit to continue depriving entrepreneurs in the Finger Lakes."

Tahlil McGough, deputy director of legislative affairs for the Office of Cannabis Management, wrote on LinkedIn on Tuesday that the agency has already finished "reviewing and scoring all applications for these newly freed regions." During the injunction, the state's Dormitory Authority also continued to scout for storefronts where applicants can open dispensaries, he said, "so we should not lose any time in getting everything rolling."

In asking the appeals court to lift the injunction, Christopher Alexander, the executive director of the Office of Cannabis Management, denied that the application criteria discriminate against out-of-state applicants. He said that the judge had "ignored un rebutted evidence" that the injunction would harm other license applicants, growers and processors.

He and the state argued that if the stay remained, it should only apply to the Finger Lakes, which Variscite NY One has said is its first choice for a dispensary. Central and western New York, the Mid-Hudson and Brooklyn were the second through fifth choices, according to court filings.

Grant McCabe, who owns Smoker's Mecca and The Leaf in Beacon, has to wait to apply because of the focus on people with mari-

juana convictions. But he is planning to pursue a license for Beacon when the state allows people without convictions to apply.

"I'm stoked that they're actually going to open it up out here — other than just dispensaries in Manhattan and Albany and some of the other big cities," he said.

Under the state's Marijuana and Taxation Act, enacted in 2021, the criteria for the first batch of licenses are designed to benefit communities, primarily Black and Latino, in which justice advocates say residents were disproportionately arrested and prosecuted for marijuana offenses.

Regulations approved in July specify that applicants must have had a marijuana-related conviction before March 31, 2021 (or be a parent, guardian, child, spouse or dependent of someone with a conviction before that date) and have experience owning and operating a business. Certain nonprofits that serve former prisoners can also apply.

Applicants also must demonstrate "a significant presence" in New York, either

by being a resident or incorporating a business in the state, and are awarded points if the owner's address at the time of the conviction was low-income, public housing or in an area with high rates of marijuana arrests and convictions.

Although incorporated in Albany County, Variscite NY One lists its primary address as being in Beverly Hills, California. Its majority owner is Kenneth Gay, a resident of Battle Creek, Michigan, who was convicted of a marijuana crime in that state.

Although Variscite NY One's incorporation in Albany meets the "significant presence" criteria, the company says it believes that the Office of Cannabis Management will "score an applicant higher" if he or she lived in New York state when arrested or convicted, or in a low-income area or one with high rates of marijuana arrests.

In opposing a lifting of the injunction, Variscite NY One claimed, as in its original lawsuit, that the residency requirement violates the Constitution's Commerce Clause.

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# MAPLE SYRUP: *A Sweet or Sour Future?*

By Michael Turton

Thankfully for maple-syrup lovers, global warming will not mean the demise of pancakes as we know them. At least not in the near future.

But variations in the climate are creating challenges for producers of liquid gold. They're being forced to adapt, particularly in the Northeast, where most American maple syrup is produced.

As with most crops, making maple syrup is all about the weather. Changeable, unpredictable, extreme weather is not good for syrup production, whether the temperature is too warm or too cold.

Forty gallons of sap taken from a sugar maple boil down to produce a gallon of maple syrup. John Stowell, director of the Taconic Outdoor Education Center, says a 30-inch-diameter tree produces about 30 gallons of sap per season.

In the past, the optimum conditions for collecting sap traditionally occurred from late winter to early spring, when nighttime temperatures are below freezing and daytime temperatures rose to about 40 degrees.

But that has changed.

Pat Cronin, who owns Cronin's Maple Farm in Hopewell Junction, taps about 4,500 sugar maples and produces up to 1,600 gallons of syrup each year. New York state as a whole produces 845,000 gallons annually.

"We used to tap from around the first week in February to about the first week in March," said Cronin, who has produced syrup for nearly 20 years. This year, he began tapping in January. He said that in Vermont some producers started as early as December.

Cronin said an early start usually signals an equally early finish, but that this season has been long and slow.

"We had three or four 60-degree days in February that slowed things down," he said. "We were still boiling sap on March 26."

Toni Lyn Morelli, a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey who specializes in Northeast climate adaptation, noted that a recent study she contributed to, "Finding the Sweet Spot: Shifting Optimal Climate for Maple Syrup Production in North America," concluded that by the end of the century the sugar maple tapping season will have shifted earlier by a month.

The study also suggested we could see

a 50 percent drop in syrup production in New England, excepting northern Maine, in the same time period, and that the region of maximum sap flow will shift north by 400 miles. That could spell the end of commercial maple syrup operations in the Highlands.

The report also predicts large decreases in yields, a decrease in sugar content and an increase in poor production years in most syrup-producing areas.

Even in Quebec, which produces more than 70 percent of the world's maple syrup, only flat to moderate increases in yield are anticipated, the study found.

"Maple syrup production isn't going to go away in North America," Morelli said. "But it is shifting."

Mark Isselhardt, a maple specialist at the University of Vermont's Proctor Maple Research Center, said farmers will need to be "resilient, adaptable and good forest managers." He said one adaptive strategy is to tap more red maples, one of four North American varieties of maple that can be used to produce syrup. Sugar maple sap has the highest sugar content. Black maple has good sugar content but a considerably smaller range and silver maple has the lowest sugar content.

Red maples, however, can thrive under a wide variety of conditions, making the species more resilient to climate change. Its sugar content is slightly lower, but if vacuum tubing is used, red maples can produce higher volumes of sap than sugar maples.

It takes about 50 gallons of red maple sap to produce a gallon of syrup equal in quality and taste to that produced from sugar maples, said Isselhardt.

Farmers could also tap more trees, he said. "We know there is more sap to be harvested than is being taken." He noted that only five to 10 percent of Vermont's maples are tapped.

But adding trees means more maintenance, making it more difficult for a farmer to keep close tabs on the system and achieve the highest yields, he said. "If they're not able to get out there regularly to make repairs, it slows everything down," he said.

Better leak detection, use of vacuum tubes and reverse osmosis (a process that eliminates water from the sap before it goes into the evaporator for boiling) can also maximize efficiency, Isselhardt said.



Sugar maple buckets near Hubbard Lodge in Philipstown

Photo by M. Turton

# CORN: *Pests that Persist*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Mild winters aren't a problem for everyone. If you're a corn earworm, they are *great*. You get to safely hibernate and dream of the havoc you'll wreak in the spring instead of your usual habit of freezing to death.

Jacob Dayton, a doctoral candidate at Tufts University who is studying the

effects of climate change on insects, said it's hard to predict how every species of bug will adapt to global warming, but "it's a safe bet that today's pest landscape is going to look completely different."

Take that corn earworm. Thirty years ago, when Abby Seaman started working in pest management, it didn't survive Hudson Valley winters. The bug would

(Continued on Page 11)



Underground tubes help regulate temperature in this greenhouse at Glynwood. Photo provided

## Glynwood Tests Climate 'Battery'

*New growing tech responds to changing weather*

By Leonard Sparks

A new structure stretching 23 yards is one response to a changing climate at the Glynwood Center in Philipstown, where crop fields have faced threats from both flooding and drought just within the last 2½ years.

In July, the regional food and farming center's staff began digging 8 feet down, the first phase of creating an innovative greenhouse heated by underground tubes.

Completed last fall and measuring 70 feet long, 30 feet wide and 16 feet high, the structure uses the soil as a "battery." Even in the winter, temperatures can reach 90 degrees inside a greenhouse. That heat, instead of being vented, is pulled underground, where it is stored and used for reheating the greenhouse when temperatures drop overnight.

It's just the second climate-battery

greenhouse in the Hudson Valley, said Jarret Nelson, who manages vegetable operations. He expects it to boost the yields of winter crops like arugula and lettuce and summer crops such as peppers and tomatoes.

"We're getting much less predictable weather with climate change in general, with more extremes," he said. "Having a climate battery helps us mitigate the impact of those extremes in either direction."

When plants are threatened during hotter, drier summers, such as the drought-ridden one in 2022 that triggered water-conservation warnings in the Highlands, the greenhouse fans can draw coolness from the soil, whose temperature usually measures about 50 degrees, even in the summer.

Because fans power the heating and cooling, Glynwood does not need to use propane to keep indoor plants warm, reducing its carbon footprint. "Eventually we might be able to have a solar setup, so then it would be a really renewable system," said Nelson.

(Continued from Page 10)

arrive in the summer, swept north from warmer climates by storms from the south.

"We didn't have to think about it until late in the season," said Seaman, who works for the state's Integrated Pest Management program at Cornell. But now there are some areas where the program's network of observers are seeing the earworm earlier in the season, which means it survived the winter.

One member of the network is ecologist Teresa Dorado at the Hudson Valley Farm Hub, just west of Kingston. Throughout the growing season, Dorado checks pheromone traps for corn earworm, European corn borer and other unwelcome guests.

Meanwhile, Seaman spends the winter checking temperatures to see if corn flea beetles will be a problem in the spring. Warmer winters mean more survivors, and the beetles spread a pathogen known as Stewart's wilt that can kill seedlings and cause stalks to rot.

Because of the warmer temperatures and longer growing seasons, the pests can breed through more generations, attacking the corn at every stage in their life cycle: burrowing into the kernels, through the stems, attacking the silky tassel and upsetting farm customers who see the caterpillars crawling on the ears.

When he visits the Farm Hub, Dayton takes genetic samples of the corn borers. He hopes to figure out how the milder winters, earlier springs and longer falls are affecting the generations as they hatch

through the season.

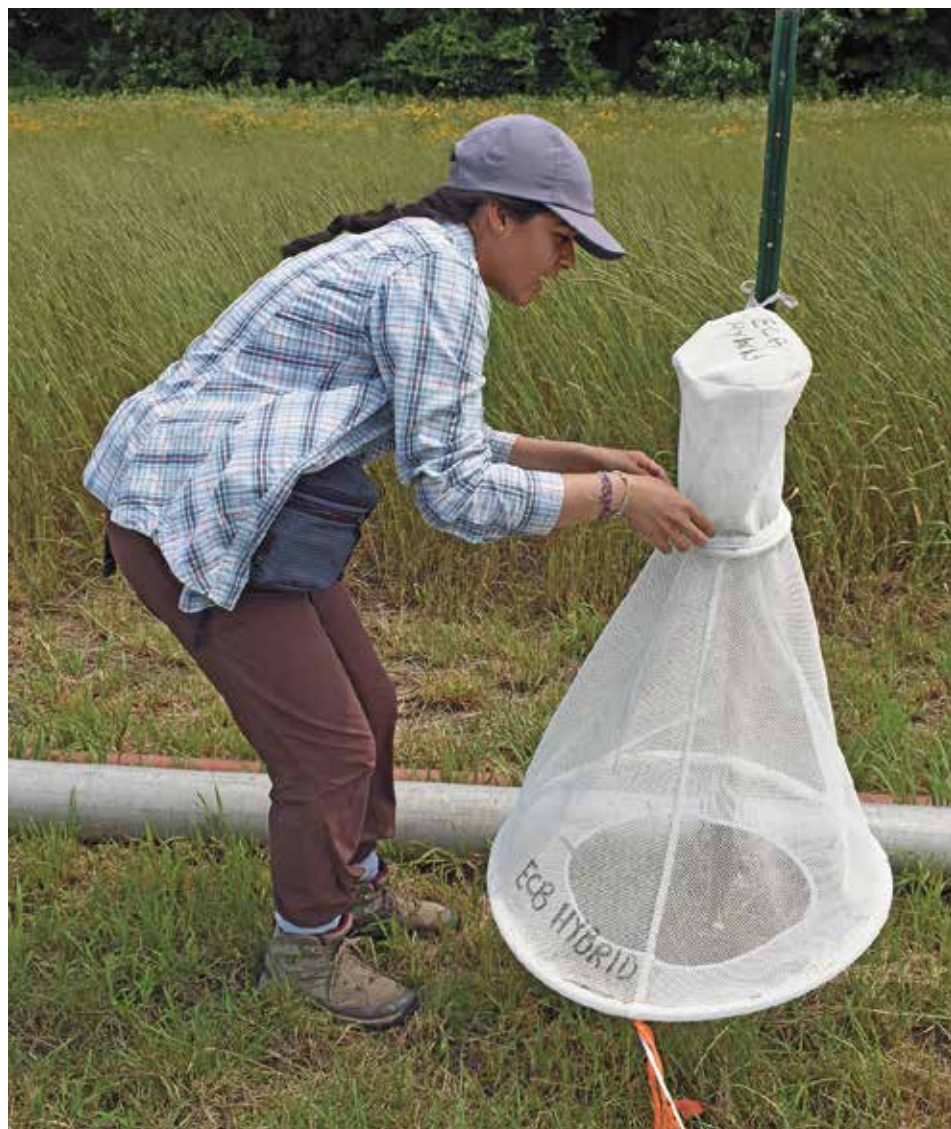
Corn borers and earworms survive cold weather by entering diapause, which is a form of hibernation. Bugs prepare by eating as much as they can in the fall. With the warmer, longer autumns, the bug's metabolism goes into overdrive, and it requires even more energy on top of the amount it's storing for the winter, Dayton said. This could lead to a compounding problem in which there are not only more pests throughout the year because of overwintering and multiple generations, but hungrier ones, as well.

One way to stop the corn borer without spraying is to call in air support: *Trichogrammas*, a species of parasitoid wasps. At the Farm Hub, Dorado deposits their eggs anytime she sees corn borer eggs. The wasps hatch first, then lay new eggs inside the corn borer eggs, which become the newborn's food supply.

There are other control methods, but Dayton said that one of the most successful is probably too expensive for smaller farms: A genetically modified corn known as Bt produces a toxin that kills corn borers.

"The proteins shred the inner lining of their gut," explained Dayton. "In humans it doesn't have the same effect because our stomach acids degrade the proteins."

It's an option for larger farms that plant only corn but harder to afford for smaller farms that plant a variety of crops, he said. "If you can meet the economic thresholds at a small operation through other management practices, it might make sense," he said.



Teresa Dorado conducting sweet corn pest monitoring in 2022 for the Hudson Valley Farm Hub near Kingston

Photo provided

## FRUIT TREES: Waking Too Soon

By Brian PJ Cronin

It wasn't the unusually warm days in the winter that worry fruit tree farmers. It's the unusually warm nights.

Fruit trees enter dormancy in the early part of the winter, typically ending in January. After that, they respond to temperature changes. "It only takes a number of nights over 40 degrees to break dormancy," said Mark Doyle of Fishkill Farms. "And then we're off to the races."

There are two dangers associated with fruit trees waking up prematurely. First, once they get used to breaking dormancy earlier, they lose some of their natural cold hardiness, said Daniel Donahue of the Cornell Cooperative Extension. For instance, apple trees can usually withstand temperatures as low as minus 25 degrees. "The real risk then is wild changes in temperature," he said. "You get a week of 50-degree weather and then one night it drops to 10 degrees; that's dangerous for the tree."

Second, a mild winter can cause a tree to set up its buds and flowers — which ideally produce fruit — too soon. If the weather remains mild, it's not too much of a problem. But the earlier the buds and flowers come, the more time there is for a cold snap that will kill them and cripple production for the year.

That's what happened in 2020, when a mild winter followed by an early May frost destroyed some of Fishkill Farms' peach crop, although Doyle said it could have been worse.

"The guys up around Red Hook had a dramatically decreased crop," he said. "We seem to have our own little microclimate going on down here."

In some cases, a touch of late frost can be helpful, Donahue said. Once the trees fully bloom, farmers will prune many of the flowers. If every bud flowered, and every flower fruited, the resulting fruits would be small. "You only need about 10 percent of those blossoms," he said. "Sometimes Mother Nature takes care of that expense for you."

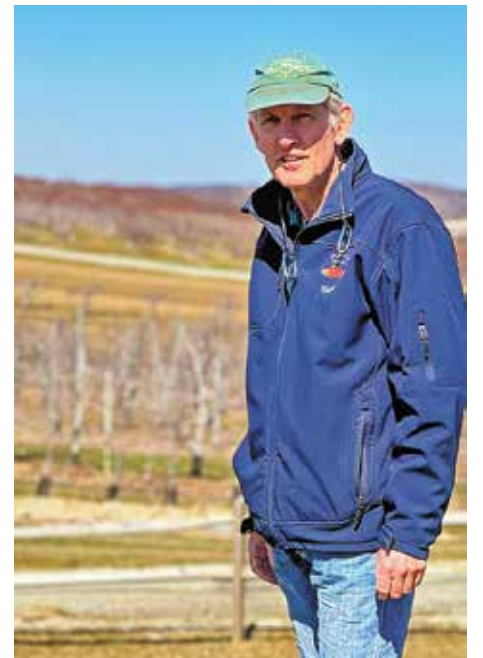
For apples in the Mid-Hudson Valley, the most important day of the year might just be today. When asked for the ideal timing for apples, Donahue said, "green tips on Macintosh in Highlands on March 31." In the past two weeks, the silvertips should have started to emerge. These are silver, velvet tissue that pops out of the tops of the buds as they swell. They're followed by green tips, the stage when just the tips change to a light green color. If the apple trees can hold out until March 31 to reach that stage, or even later, it's a good sign.

Neither the silver nor the green tips were out in Fishkill on March 20, the chilly first day of spring, although the peach trees stuck out at a distance as being noticeably redder than the rest of the trees in the orchard.

"That's fine," said Doyle when asked about the peach trees. "They'll just get progressively more colorful." But the chill on March 20 was helping to keep the rest



Cherry trees at Fishkill Farms setting up buds



Mark Doyle at Fishkill Farms



Peach trees at Fishkill Farms transitioning for spring

Photos by B. Cronin

of the orchard from waking up, which is just how Doyle likes it.

The cold also helps to suppress the plum curculio, a beetle that emerges in early spring to feed on flowering fruit trees and developing fruit. "They overwinter in the soil but also in the surrounding forest," Doyle said. "They'll fly into the orchard and attack the fruit. It's not something we can control particularly well."

If the trees flower too early, and farmers see from the forecast that a 10-degree night is coming, Donahue said there's not much they can do. "You're at the mercy of the weather," he said.

AROUND TOWN



▲ **TOP FIREFIGHTER** – The Cold Spring Fire Co. recently named Will Etta (center), a 2022 Haldane graduate, as Firefighter of the Year. He is shown with fire company president Aaron Leonard and Chief Jeff Phillips Jr.

Photo provided



▲ **PETER AND THE WOLF** – Lauren Wallis Hall and Colin Wright worked the crankie at two performances March 25 of *Peter and the Wolf* at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring. Wallis Hall did the illustrations.

Photo by Ross Corsair



▲ **PASSOVER COOKBOOK** – Cathy Duke and Linda Weinstein show off a book of favorite Passover recipes collected from members of the Philipstown Reform Synagogue. Duke is vice president of the synagogue and Weinstein chaired the cookbook committee. Email [philipstown-reformsynagogue@gmail.com](mailto:philipstown-reformsynagogue@gmail.com) to order for \$9 each.

Photo provided



▲ **PIZZA NIGHT** – The North Highlands Fire Co. in Philipstown held one of its regular pizza nights on March 24 under the direction of Armando Vivencio, a native of Naples who joined the fire company in 2004. He opened Napoli's Pizza in Peekskill in 1974 and has made pizza ever since. The pizza nights were launched in 2010 as fundraisers for the company; the next ones are Friday (April 7) and April 21.

Photo by Ross Corsair



Come worship with us



### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**April 2 – Palm Sunday**  
8:00 am - Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am - Holy Eucharist, Procession of Palms

**April 4 – Compline**  
8:00 pm - Zoom

**April 6 – Maundy Thursday**  
6:00 pm - Agapé Meal, Parish House  
7:00 pm - Holy Eucharist

**April 7 – Good Friday**  
12 noon - Ecumenical Good Friday Service, St. Mary's Church, Cold Spring  
4:00 pm - Children's Service

**April 9 – Easter Sunday**  
8:00 am - Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am - Holy Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard

**ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH**  
IN THE HIGHLANDS  
1101 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524  
845-424-3571 [stphiliphighlands.org](http://stphiliphighlands.org)  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



**Easter Dinner**  
Noon - 8pm  
[Riverdining.com](http://Riverdining.com)  
845 265 4778  
45 FAIR STREET COLD SPRING

## The Calendar

# FIRED UP

*Philipstown artist will share ceramics from his own kiln*

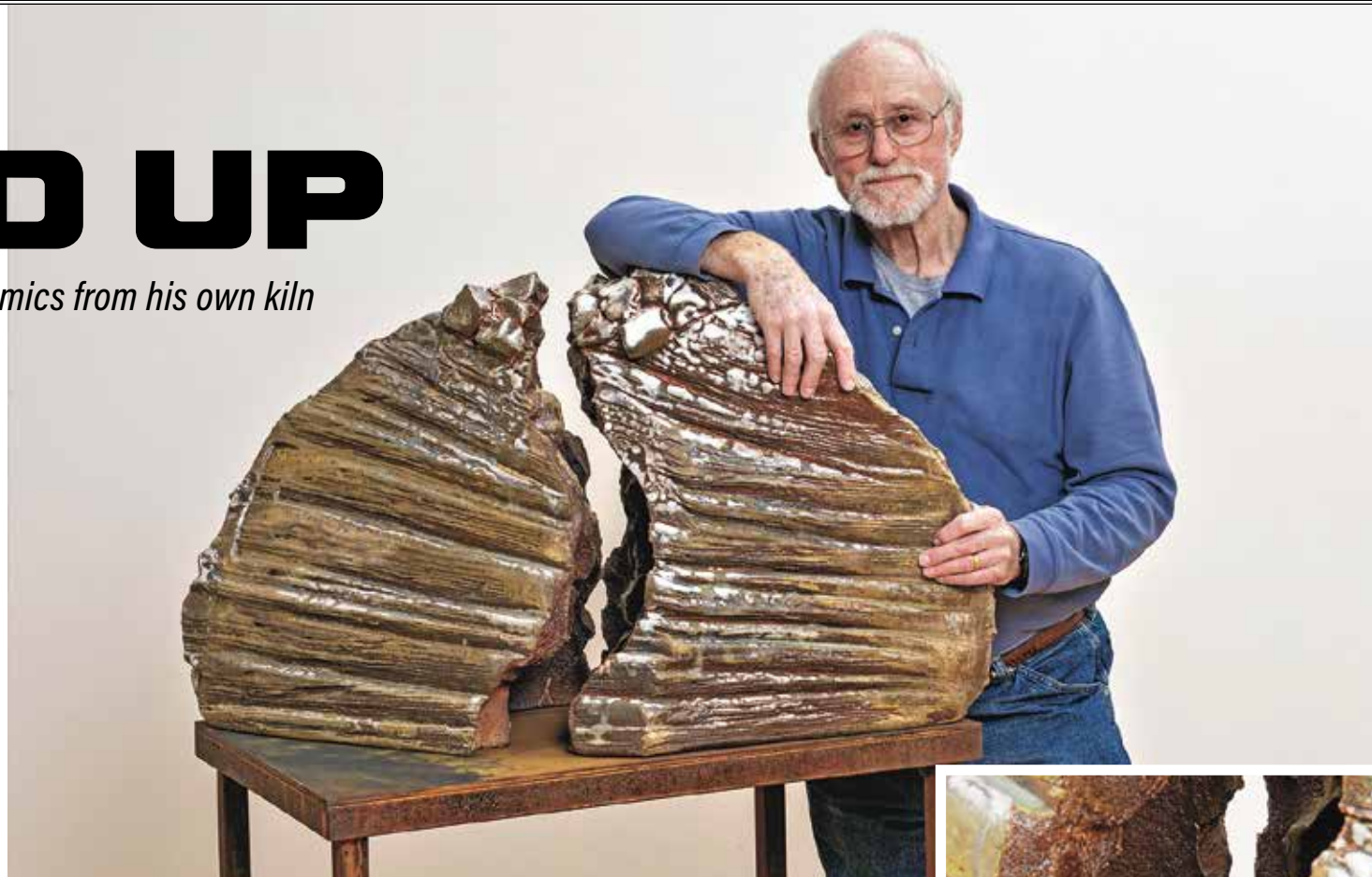
By Alison Rooney

After 25 years as a sculptor, Tony Moore transitioned to painting. But after 15 years behind the easel, the Philipstown resident returned to sculpture because he was “completely taken with the sensual potter’s wheel.”

Moore’s artistry from 2017 to the present will be celebrated in an exhibit, *Tony Moore: Eternal Becoming, Ceramic Sculptures and Fire Paintings*, that opens at the Garrison Art Center on April 8.

Paralleling his shifts in media, Moore changed course geographically over the years, from his native England to Yale University (where he obtained an MFA in sculpture) and New York City, where he lived for 25 years. After being exposed to the Hudson Valley during a Byrdcliffe residency at Woodstock, Moore landed in Philipstown, which he had visited with his then-girlfriend and now wife, Dr. Cynthia Ligenza, “whom the whole village seems to know,” he notes.

“I was living in Flatbush, so to be in the Catskills was cleansing to my soul,” he recalls. “Cynthia would come up every other weekend to visit. I asked her if she’d ever thought of living in the country. This place came up, on top of a mountain, in the



Tony Moore, with "In Memory Of"

woods. We visited, and our jaws dropped. We got married on the property.”

During the years since that move, Moore has continuously created art, much of it fired on his Anagama Noborigama Japanese-style wood-fire kiln. He built the most recent version in 2021. He recalls his first reaction to the kiln when it was being fired by an instructor. “I was just awestruck,” he says, “Fire is so powerful: It gives us the hearth and a way of forging, but it also can be incredibly destructive.”

Moore runs his kiln, which he fires three times a year, as a community resource for ceramists near and far (see [tonymoorekiln.com](http://tonymoorekiln.com)). Often there will be 40 participants at the firings, he says, which last three to four days. The glazing, loading, firing, cooling and unloading takes another three weeks. “It’s a mammoth undertaking, and a shared experience that requires collaboration,” he says.

“My firings are open to anyone to come and experience,” he adds. “We have complete novices to professionals. Some people are romantic about their kiln, giving them names, but not me. My kiln is a tool and, for me, it’s work.”

Knowing what you will pull from the kiln can be difficult, he says, especially with a wood fire. “You go through the process of working the clay when malleable, then drying it out, then low-firing it,” he explains. “At that stage, clay is absorbent. Then you glaze.”

Because of chemical reactions, the color applied to a piece will change while being fired. “Based on prior experience I have a good idea of what the results will be, but it’s just a parameter,” Moore says. “Interactions happen which are unexpected, because art-making is intent, vision and realization.”

The five sculptures to be shown at the art center were created with technique mixed with kismet. Last year, Moore decided to make larger sculptures, similar to those from years ago. But in the process, one cracked in two, revealing the interior of the sculpture, which he found intriguing.

“When I started making more sculptures last year, I chose to crack them in half,” he says. “I dug out from underneath, built scaffolding and used a hydraulic lift, then I kneeled and dug out the interior. I created a narrative within the interior, which has become a cave. There has always been



Detail from "In Memory Of" Photos by Al Nowak

something quite ancient, in terms of time and evolution in my work, so this is a reference to origins of humanity being revealed within this large, topographical form.”

The exhibit will also include examples of Moore’s “Fire Paintings,” which are abstracted figures made from cut twigs impressed into wet clay.

“The figures kept running, fleeing, tumbling, searching, moving away from and toward something else,” he says. “They moved across landscapes, toward glowing edifices and systemized structures, which both beckoned them and somehow dominated them. The figures were present, yet also in spirit form, floating and dissolving in diaphanous light and shimmering waters. They started to become surrogates, taking on personalities.

“Within the context of issues such as migration, the global pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, these abstracted works evoke contemporary anxieties and aspirations toward the future.”

Now 75, Moore says he has realized over his career that “art is like hacking your way through the jungle to lost ruins: You’re finding your way to something pre-existent, you just have to discover it. The challenge is incredibly exciting.”

*The Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Garrison’s Landing. Moore’s show opens with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 8 and continues through May 7. There will be an artist talk at 2 p.m. on April 23. See [tonymooreart.com](http://tonymooreart.com).*



"Blue Guide II" (2020)



"Fire Painting" (2018)



"Children of Light IV" (2017)

# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

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 sessions to make lanterns for an evening procession on Earth Day. Also, SUN 2, WED 5, FRI 7, SAT 8.

SAT 1

### 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 be live music and a “puppy burlesque” show by Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts of Dutchess County. Also SUN 2.

SUN 2

### Pancake Breakfast

BEACON

8 – 11 a.m. Dutchess Junction Fire Co.  
75 Slocum Road

Support the fire company at this annual fundraiser. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 children)*

FRI 7

### H.V. Renegades vs. Greensboro

WAPPINGERS FALLS

6:05 p.m. Heritage Financial Park  
1500 Route 9D | 845-838-0094  
hvrenegades.com

The Yankees minor-league franchise kicks off its season against the Grasshoppers. There will be a glove giveaway and fireworks. Also SAT 8, SUN 9. *Cost: \$8 to \$22*



Easter Egg Hunt, April 1

FRI 7

### Lent Dinner

BEACON

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Elks Lodge  
900 Wolcott Ave. | 845-765-0667

The Elks will be serving fish and chips and New England clam chowder. Eat in or take out. Proceeds to benefit Elks charities. *Cost: \$5 to \$15*

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 1

### Easter Egg Hunt

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Faith Church  
245 Main St. | 845-203-0400  
faithchurch.cc

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

SUN 2

### Egg Stravaganza

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 p.m. McCann Ice Arena  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
mccannicearena.org

An egg hunt on ice will be held during a public skating session for all ages.

MON 3

### Easter Egg Hunt

GARRISON

10:30 a.m. Philipstown Recreation  
107 Glenclyffe | 845-424-4618  
philipstownrecreation.com

This free event is open to children from pre-K through the third grade. Registration required.

TUES 4

### Dino Storytime

BEACON

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

Miss Stephanie will share dinosaur-themed stories with children ages 4 through the second grade.

WED 5

### Harp Craft

BEACON

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

Learn how to make a mini-cardboard harp and pluck it. This event is for children ages 4 through the fifth grade. Registration required.

THURS 6

### Earthworms & Dirt Making

GARRISON

3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 5 and older will learn about worms and make a “dirt” cup snack. Registration required.



SAT 8

### 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. Bring a can of food to donate to the Philipstown Food Pantry. Rescheduled from SAT 1.

## VISUAL ARTS

SAT 1

### Casting the Past: Arte Povera and Classical Sculpture

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

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)*

SAT 8

### Sandy Moore | Tony Moore

GARRISON

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

Sandy's exhibit, *This Happened*, will include a storyboard of paintings exploring racial responsibility. Tony's exhibit, *Eternal Becoming*, has ceramic sculptures and “fire paintings.” See Page 13. Through May 7.

## TALKS & TOURS

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  
19-25 Butterfield Road  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

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

MON 3

### Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

Learn about the difference between the two, risk factors, stages and resources to address symptoms.

THURS 6

### Creative Self-Discovery

BEACON

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

Judith Camparnaro, an arts therapist and expressive arts facilitator, will share exercises to engage your creativity.

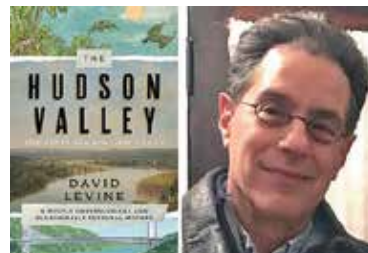
SAT 8

### The Hudson Valley: The First 250 Million Years

GARRISON

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

David Levine will discuss his book of essays that explore the rich history of the area at this event co-hosted with Split Rock Books.



## SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 8

### Scott Daniel Ellison | Susan Keiser

BEACON

4 – 7 pm. Garage Gallery  
17 Church St. | garagegallery.com

*Another Place* draws together Ellison's paintings of scenes and figures that have their own logic and Keiser's photographs manifest the intangible to reveal dreams and desires. Through April 23.

SAT 8

### Mary McFerran | Matthew Gilbert

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. Bau Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

In *Weather Wear*, McFerran's mixed media works address climate change. Gilbert's exhibit, *Soon Enough*, includes sculpture, fiber and performance art to explore being alone. In addition, a group show will include works by Jebah Baum, Daniel Berlin, Robyn Ellenbogen, Alyssa Follansbee, Matthew Gilbert, Linda Lauro-Lazin, Mary McFerran, Eileen Sackman, Ilse Schreiber-Noll, Fruma Shrensel, Pamela Zaremba, Joel Brown and Nataliya Hines. Through May 7.

SAT 8

### Perception

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects  
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com

This group show, with works by Michelle Sliver, Darya Golubina, Allegra Jordan, Elin Lundman, Evan Samuelson, Diana Vidal, Alyssa Follansbee and Yunmee Kyong, will explore the theme of how we perceive the world.

SAT 8

### [In]Action Figures 11

BEACON

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

MUSIC

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



SAT 1  
**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 group. *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)*

THURS 6  
**Jazz Jam**  
BEACON

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

Bryan Kopchak (drums), Sean Morrison (keyboards) and Nate Allen (bass) will host an open jam.

FRI 7  
**Mozart's Requiem**  
COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. United Methodist  
216 Main St. | [highlandschapel.org](http://highlandschapel.org)

The Highlands Choral Society and Highlands Orchestra will perform Mozart's last work. See Page 16. *Free*

FRI 7  
**Spyro Gyra**  
BEACON

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

The contemporary jazz band, which has been touring and recording for four decades, will play recent and older songs. *Cost: \$55 (\$60 door)*

SAT 8  
**Tom Petty Project**  
BEACON

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

The tribute band will recreate Petty's live performances. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

STAGE & SCREEN

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)*

SAT 1  
**Ariane Original One-Act Festival**  
GARRISON

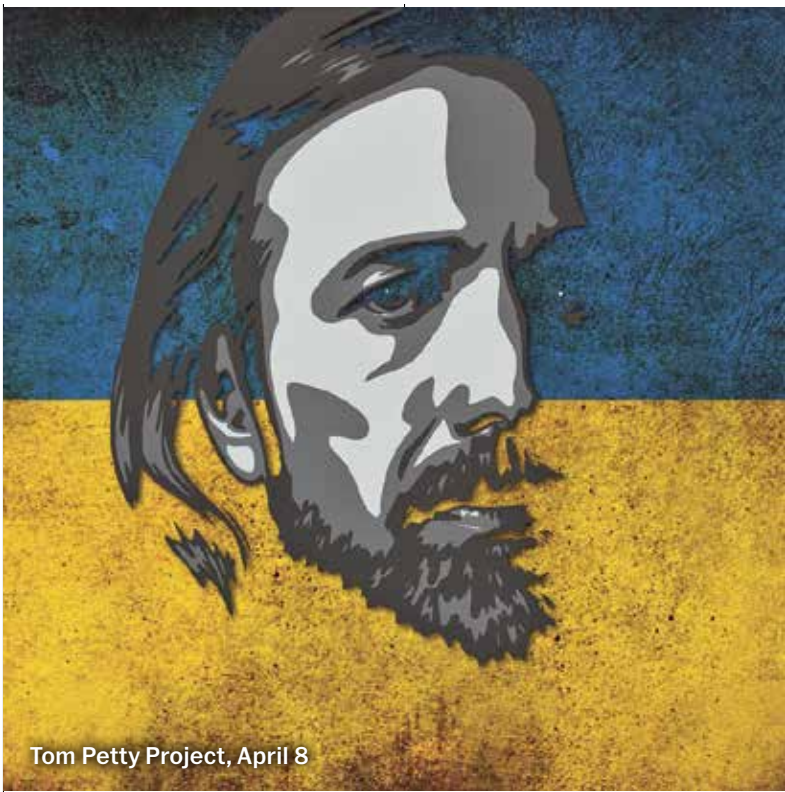
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

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

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*



Tom Petty Project, April 8

WED 5  
**Terese Svoboda and Edwin Torres**  
NEWBURGH

7 p.m. Mama Roux  
96 Broadway | [splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com)

Svoboda will read from her novel, *Dog on Fire*, and Torres from his collection, *Quanundrum: I will be your many angled thing*.

FRI 7  
**Lit Lit**  
BEACON

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

The literary open mic brings writers together for a chance to read work in any genre for 5 minutes. Email [litlitseries@gmail.com](mailto:litlitseries@gmail.com) to sign up.

SAT 8  
**Searching Our Muse**  
BEACON

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

In this evening of dance and poetry, Paul Rabinowitz will read from his collection of "poems, truth, love and the lines in between,"

accompanied by dancer Elaina Stewart and pianist Barry Spatz. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

CIVIC

MON 3  
**City Council**  
BEACON

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

TUES 4  
**Putnam Legislature**  
CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800  
[putnamcountyny.com](http://putnamcountyny.com)

WED 5  
**Village Board**  
COLD SPRING

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

THURS 6  
**Town Board**  
PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.  
845-265-5200 | [philipstown.com](http://philipstown.com)



EASTER SERVICES

FRI 7  
**Good Friday Ecumenical Service**  
COLD SPRING

Noon. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St.  
[stmaryscoldspring.org](http://stmaryscoldspring.org)

SUN 9  
**Our Lady of Loretto**  
COLD SPRING

8:30 a.m. & Noon  
24 Fair St. | 845-265-3718  
[ladyofloretto.org](http://ladyofloretto.org)

**First Presbyterian**  
BEACON

10 a.m. 50 Liberty St.  
[beaconpresbychurch.org](http://beaconpresbychurch.org)

**St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal**  
BEACON

10 a.m. 15 South Ave.  
[beacon-episcopal.org](http://beacon-episcopal.org)

**St. Mary's Episcopal**  
COLD SPRING

10 a.m. 1 Chestnut St.  
845-265-2539  
[stmaryscoldspring.org](http://stmaryscoldspring.org)

**St. Philip's Episcopal**  
GARRISON

10 a.m. 1101 Route 9D  
[stphilipshighlands.org](http://stphilipshighlands.org)  
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

**Tabernacle of Christ**  
BEACON

10 a.m. 483 Main St.  
845-831-4656

**First Presbyterian**  
COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. 10 Academy St.  
845-265-3220  
[presbychurchcoldspring.org](http://presbychurchcoldspring.org)

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing - April 10th, 2023

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 10th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

**Loriann Merrigan, 16 Stephanie Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516 TM#16.20-1-17**  
Applicant is seeking a variance to construct a (40' x 60') 2400 square feet storage garage.

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 Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

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# A Requiem for the Dead — and the Living

Choral society to perform Mozart classic

By Alison Rooney

A requiem may honor the dead, but for Beth Cody Kimmel, the experience of singing one has prompted a renewed embrace of life.

Cody Kimmel is a member of the Highlands Choral Society, which will perform Mozart's *Requiem* — formally, it's his *Requiem in D Minor* — on Good Friday, April 7, at the United Methodist Church in Cold Spring. The performance is being directed by Durward "Woody" Entrekin and will feature soloists Julie Heckert, Holly Mentzer, Paul Phillips and Michael McKee, and the 14-piece Highlands Orchestra.

Mozart wrote the *Requiem* despite his own deteriorating health. He had not completed it by the time of his death, at age 35, on Dec. 5, 1791. The word *requiem* comes from the opening words of the Roman Catholic Mass for the Dead, which is spoken or sung in Latin.

The group last performed the composition in 2016 and its singers are excited, said Entrekin. "Mozart's *Requiem* is a masterpiece of Western art," he said. "It's an incredibly moving work and it will be a privilege to be able to perform it."

As the story goes about its origins, a stranger claiming to represent a man of great importance commissioned the work. Mozart was given half the fee up front, and a deadline of four weeks — although he had to travel during that time to Prague to conduct *Tito*. On Nov. 20, 1791, back home in Vienna, he fell ill. Mozart felt better on Dec. 3 and 4 and worked on the score.

But on the day he died, Mozart reportedly quipped: "Didn't I say before that I was writing this requiem for myself?" According to *The Complete Mozart*, a witness reported that his last breath "was an attempt to express with his mouth the drum passages."

When Mozart died, only the first movement was scored; the remainder were sketched out. They were completed, at the request of Mozart's widow, Constanze, by one of her late husband's pupils, Franz Xaver Süssmayr, who had worked on *Tito*. (This allowed Constanze to collect the second payment.) To the detriment of scholars, Süssmayr rewrote the entire composition by hand, making it hard to distinguish what was Mozart's and what was his.

For Beth Cody Kimmel, a children's book author, the *Requiem* remains a celebration of life. In 2020, two months into the pandemic shut-down, she was diagnosed with



Mozart about 1781, from a portrait by Johann Nepomuk della Croce

an aggressive breast cancer. Although she did not feel like going out into the world, she says the choir gave her a community.

"In our daily lives we might not even meet at all," she says. "The choir is this glue that holds us together."

Of the concert, Cody Kimmel says: "There's a reason live music is always such a draw — it is a direct emotional experience, especially with the *Requiem* — one of the greatest accomplishments of one of the greatest composers in the world. Emotions become more stirred up when you hear the music live; listening becomes three-dimensional. There is no correct or incorrect response to the music, but it isn't complete until it's listened to."

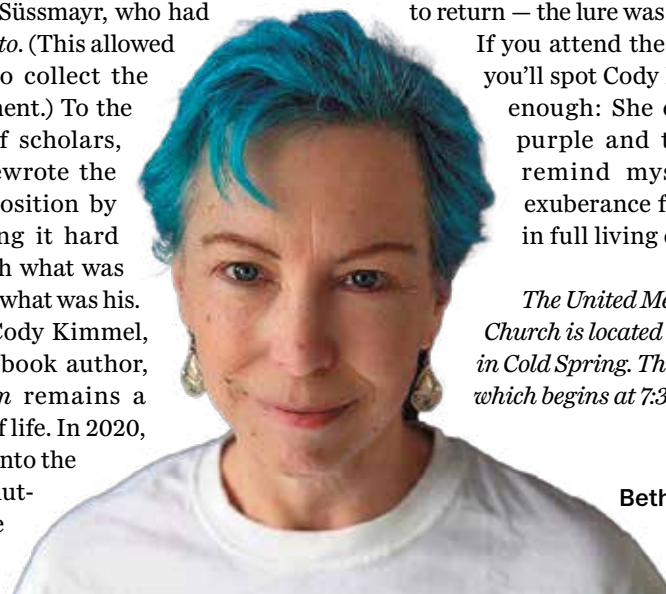
Singing in a chorus is comforting, she adds, because "you stop being your individual self with foibles; everything falls away for the moment you're singing that piece. You allow yourself to trust the group will catch you in a fall."

"I honestly don't know where I'd be now if I hadn't had the choir carrot dangling," she says. "It was one thing in my life strong enough to get me to summon up the courage to return — the lure was so powerful."

If you attend the performance, you'll spot Cody Kimmel easily enough: She dyed her hair purple and then blue "to remind myself that my exuberance for life is back, in full living color."

The United Methodist Church is located at 216 Main St. in Cold Spring. The performance, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is free.

Beth Cody Kimmel  
Photo provided





Olivia Flanagan with one of her paintings from this year's program



Sam Bates with his artwork

Photos provided

# Guided by Experience

## Garrison Art Center hosts annual mentor show

By Clara Tripp

This year, 13 students participated in the annual Garrison Art Center Mentor Program, which pairs professionals with high school artists, including, from Haldane: senior Sam Bates, junior Quin Carmicino, senior Olivia Flanagan, sophomore Charles Rowe and senior Chloe Rowe.

Their pieces are on exhibit at the Garrison Art Center through Sunday (April 2), along with works from students from all grades whose work is part of *You Are Here*, the annual School Invitational Theme Exhibition (SITE).

Bates's mixed-media piece was inspired in part by the sci-fi films *Them!* (1954) and *Alphaville* (1965), Robert Rauschenberg and early 1960s silkscreen. "I want viewers to think about how different aesthetics are not bound to just one art form — just music or visual art or film or literature, and so on," he says. Bates worked with Michael Mueller, who specializes in screen-printing.

He creates primarily using oil paint, charcoal, linoleum printing and silk-screening, sprinkling his pieces with pop-culture iconography and film stills. He cites his influences as Andy Warhol, Cy Twombly, Roy Lichtenstein, Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns, alongside French New Wave cinema.

This is his second year participating in the Mentor Program. "The art center is key for a lot of my projects," he said. Last year, he focused on oil painting.

When conceptualizing a piece, Bates typically begins with a series of thumbnail studies before progressing to sketches closer to the size of his canvas. "I did less of that on this piece than normal and kind of let it all be a bit more winged and improv," Bates says. "But I always start with sketches of the elements."

Three years ago, Flanagan had lost touch with her love for visual art. When



Carmicino with her mentor, Ada Pilar Cruz



Carmicino's sculpture

the pandemic shutdown began, her mother suggested she paint her blank bedroom walls to pass the time. "I realized how much I enjoy making something physically larger than myself," she says.

Flanagan has participated in the Mentor Program three times, working each year with Candace Winter. This year, she created two 4-foot-by-4-foot pieces over the span of three months. The works are composed of acrylic paint, latex acrylic paint and 20 bottles of glitter glue.

"They showcase the duality of the sea and the stars, and highlight the mystical

qualities that have captivated humanity for millennia," she says. "It's all about how ancient people have projected their mythologies onto these aspects of the natural world."

Flanagan, who grew up in Garrison, says she has been influenced by exploring the woods. She describes her works as "abstract, nature-infused narratives."

In the fall, Flanagan plans to enroll at the California College for the Arts to study painting and public art. Last year, she and classmate Celia Drury created a mural for the Philipstown Depot Theatre's 25th anniversary.

Carmicino says she wants her art to elicit complex emotions, because it "represents the experience of being human." Her piece in the show, a high-fire, brown clay sculpture with multicolored glaze, signifies the transition from life to death. It is genderless, with sunken features.

"Humanity always tries to find 'the answer' to what it means to be alive and what happens after death," she says. "The sculpture is meant to be a depiction of someone who knows that answer, and knows peace from suffering."

"The glaze — you can't necessarily control it; it does what it wants," she adds. "But some parts aren't as defined by the glaze, like the spine. You can't see it as clearly, but touching it is a way to understand it."

Carmicino had completed the majority of the sculpting in her rickety basement studio before heading to the art center to hollow out, glaze and fire the work with her mentor, Ada Pilar Cruz.

It's her second year participating in the Mentor Program. Last year, she created a painting-collage. She views art not only as a powerful tool for societal change but a compelling way to capture emotion. "I see the world as a composition, or the possibility for one," she says. By creating art, "I can see the beauty in things more."

*The Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Garrison's Landing. The exhibits will be open Saturday (April 1) from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

## Start Reading Now

### April book club selections

#### Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club

THURS 6, 7 P.M.

*Mrs. Lincoln: A Life*, by Catherine Clinton  
Lincoln Depot Museum,  
10 S. Water St., Peekskill  
Email [LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com](mailto:LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com).

#### Helen Savoit Book Club

TUES 11, 1:30 P.M.

*The Professor and the Mad Man*,  
by Simon Winchester  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

#### Butterfield Book Club

MON 17, 7 P.M.

*May We Be Forgiven*, by A.M. Homes  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

#### Trophy Life Book Club

THURS 20, 6 P.M.

*Sharks in the Time of Saviors*,  
by Kawai Strong Washburn  
Winner of 2021 PEN/Hemingway  
Award for Debut Novels  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

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

TUES 25, 3:15 P.M.

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

#### Reading With Writers

WED 26, 7 P.M.

*Several Short Sentences About Writing*,  
by Verlyn Klinkenborg  
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring  
Register at [splitrockbks.com](http://splitrockbks.com).

#### Beacon Book Club

THURS 27, 7:15 P.M.

*The Talented Mr. Ripley*,  
by Patricia Highsmith  
Location available to members  
[meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub](http://meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub)

## NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, April 10th 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](http://youtube.com), search for Philipstown Zoning Board Meeting April 2023.

## Mouths to Feed

## My Broth's Keeper

By Celia Barbour

It's often said that cooking takes time. It's often said by me, because it's true.



Or is it? Today, as the spring days stretch with daylight, I'm thinking that the phrase warrants a second look. Because it suggests that time is something we possess and can hold on to, and that cooking *takes* it like a thief, depriving us of something that is rightfully ours.

The older I get, the more certain I become that time not only doesn't belong to me, it's not even necessarily on my side, as it once apparently was for Mick Jagger.

Well, then. Perhaps instead I will say that cooking shapes time. It can make an hour — the final hour before dinner guests arrive, say — feel as jagged as a midtown traffic jam. It can spotlight a moment, such as when you glance down at your cutting board and suddenly notice the breathtaking beauty of the apricots or asparagus laid out upon it. And it can elongate a day, bringing to it a patient, productive sense of happy waiting, as when bread dough is rising, or a pot roast is slow-cooking in the oven.

At the moment, I am in the mood for this third type of alliance between cooking and time — for an afternoon accompanied by the gradual unfolding of something delicious. Which is why I'm in the process of making a simple chicken broth, flavored with ramps and ginger, plus a lot of shredded chicken that can go back into it when the broth is done.

Broth is often confused with stock. But here's a nice way to remember the difference: *Stock* comes from an old Germanic word that means tree trunk, and is so named because it has long been considered the essential foundation of all professional cooking, the basis for all great sauces, soups and concentrates. And since *stock* is a homonym



for "stalk" — which is kind of like the trunk of a celery tree — you can think of stock as the stalk that supports the many leaves and branches of fine cuisine. *Broth* also has a Germanic origin, one that gave birth to *brew* and *bouillon*, and, like a brew, broth is something you consume as is, rather than use as the basis for something else.

There are as many recipes for broths as there are culinary traditions. Some people suggest simmering a chicken for three hours and then throwing away the chicken, but I can't bring myself to do that. So instead I poach the chicken for the first 40 minutes of cooking, lift it out and remove most of the meat before returning the skin and meaty bones to the liquid to continue cooking. Chefs, who tend to be quite picky about their methods for making stock, wouldn't approve. But I'm not aiming for Michelin stars, just a satisfying, golden broth to sip or to spoon up if I add some herbs and vegetables to it. With lots left over for another day. Broth and stock may take time, but they also give you time, because they last for months in the freezer.

Many years ago, I arrived at my friend Frances' house on a spring day that had turned suddenly chilly. There was chicken broth on her stove and bread on her table, and when we got hungry we ate bread dipped in broth, and it was perfect; we needed nothing else.

It's a sweet memory, the kind that crystallizes a small bubble in time, a moment I hold on to.

## Simple Chicken Broth Flavored with Ramps and Ginger

**Equipment:** Stockpot, cooking (or candy) thermometer, meat thermometer

1 3½- or 4-pound chicken, cut into pieces

1 bunch ramps, cleaned and trimmed (or substitute scallions)

1 medium carrot, whole, skin on if organic

1 pound chicken wings

6 thin slices fresh ginger root, about ½ ounce total

Salt and pepper to taste

Fresh herbs, cooked greens and lemon or lime to serve (all optional)

Place the chicken pieces and wings in a stockpot and add 8 quarts very cold water. Transfer to stove and heat over medium-high until not quite simmering (about 190 degrees). Lower heat to low. For the next 15 minutes or so, regularly skim off any foam and scum that rises to the surface of the liquid. Watch the temperature of the broth closely; it should stay around 170 degrees. After 40 minutes, remove a chicken breast or thigh and check the internal temperature; the meat is done when it reaches 165 degrees. (Check several pieces; they will cook at different rates.)

Use tongs to remove the legs, thighs and breasts from the liquid; transfer to a cutting board. When cool enough to handle, remove the skin and pull most — but not all — of the meat from the bones. Transfer the meat to the refrigerator. Return the bones and skin to the stockpot. Add the ramps and ginger and continue cooking at 170 to 180 degrees for at least another hour, and up to three hours (you may want to remove the ramps after two hours).

Strain the broth through a fine-mesh strainer lined with cheesecloth; do not press on the solids if you want a clear broth. Refrigerate broth overnight. When cool, remove any fat that has formed on the surface. At this point, you can simmer the broth to concentrate it. Add salt and pepper to taste at the very end.

Serve as is, or poured over the shredded chicken, with herbs, vegetables and a squeeze of citrus if you like.

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## NOTICE

## PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

**Public Hearing - April 10th, 2023**

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 10th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

**Clinton Watts & Emmy Tigerington, 21 Quail Run, Cold Spring, NY 10516 TM#49.-3-22**  
Applicant is seeking a variance to construct a 560 square foot pool pavilion. The application proposes an 18' set back where 30' is required.

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 Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

Dated March 13th, 2023

# BREAKING BEACON

COMMUNITY EDITION



Eight times each year, the members of Kelly Hamburger and Carmen Pagan-Colon's newspaper club at Beacon High School publish *Breaking Beacon*, the first student-run publication at the school in more than 30 years. Here, we share some of their work.



## TEACHER OF THE MONTH: MS. NESHA

BY RUBIO CASTAGNA TORRES

Nesha Prahaladsingh is one of the three chemistry teachers at Beacon High School. She has been teaching at Beacon since 2018.

Mrs. Nesha was born in Trinidad and Tobago, a small country in the south of the Caribbean, where she lived with her mother after her parents divorced. In her teens, she moved to Canada to live with her father and attended the University of Toronto.

She was driven to move to New York after meeting her husband online while playing a video game, and she ended up completing college at Mount Saint Mary College. She was originally a biology ma-

(Continued on Page 20)

## ESPORTS AT BHS

BY BRANDON SORIA

Christina Alvarez is the first esports coach at Beacon High School. The esports team was formed in spring 2022. It competes in three games: *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate*, *Rocket League* and *Madden 23*.

Any student can join. There are 20 spots available on the roster, and 10 players so far. The team competes against other high schools in Dutchess County, such as Arlington, John Jay, Ketcham, Webutuck and Millbrook. Rombout Middle School in Beacon and Orville A. Todd Middle School in Poughkeepsie are also in the league.

There are a lot of New York colleges that have esports management programs and scout senior players.



## VIDEO GAME DESIGN CLASS MAKES DEBUT

BY EVAN LOMBARDO

The video game industry has seen an exponential increase in market size over the past decade, reaching \$107 billion in 2023, according to Statista.

Growth in local schools is also visible, especially at Beacon High School. The 2022-23 school year brought multiple new courses, including a video game design class taught by James Corbett.

The curriculum revolves around the basic ideas and strategies used

in creating a game, as well as history lessons with older gaming systems. The class is hands-on, with students using consoles made by top companies like Microsoft.

When asked about what the class means for the industry as a whole and for students interested in pursuing game design as a career, Corbett said, "It's an incredibly forward-thinking class on the part of Beacon High School. They were smart to invest in it as early as they did."

Another future path aside from game design is esports, which has made its own niche in the gaming industry. Competitive gaming has always been a part of gaming, but now we are seeing it as more of a professional sport than just a fun opportunity for fans.

Last year, an esports team was created at Beacon High School and now is holding its own *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* tournament (see ac-

(Continued on Page 20)

## SUDDEN CHANGE IN DCC POLICY

BY RACHEL THORNE

A sudden change in Dutchess Community College policy earlier this year caught students and parents by surprise.

The long-dreaded update from college officials hit the high school on Jan. 10 with confirmation of a newly implemented charge for students enrolled in DCC classes, beginning in fall 2023.

These fees, while still amounting to only about a third of the price that full-time college students pay for the classes, threaten to serve as a barrier for students interested in taking higher-level courses. The fees amount to about \$70 a credit, or \$210 for a three-credit course such as pre-calculus and \$420 for a six-credit course such as Calculus BC.

Dutchess Community College credits are transferable to a wide range of colleges. Previously, these classes were free for all students, allowing them to graduate high school with almost a full year of college credits.

Almost 46 percent of students are considered economically disadvantaged and this change effectively creates a separation between stu-

(Continued on Page 20)



Some members of the *Breaking Beacon* staff (clockwise from upper left): Skhy Morris, Jacob DiNoble, Rubio Castagna Torres, Rachel Thorne, Jon Echevarria, Mikaela Sanchez and Nadeen Ahmed.

At right, advisers Carmen Pagan-Colon and Kelly Hamburger.



## FRESHMEN VS. SENIORS

BY NADEEN AHMED AND KAYLA SELANDER

Is it harder being a freshman or senior? Some might argue that as a freshman, you have to make all the right choices to build the base for the rest of your high school career: One wrong move can affect your future as a whole. They could also say that seniors can get an early release or late arrival while freshmen don't even get the choice.

Others might say that seniors have to worry about college and SATs and have to take harder classes. Who better to answer this question than freshmen and seniors?

Freshman Samiha Golden said: "Academically, seniors have a harder

(Continued on Page 20)

# BREAKING BEACON

## DCC Policy (from Page 19)

dents able to afford the classes and participate, and those whose families may struggle. This creates a dramatic disconnect and a policy that favors students more economically lucky.

Resistance from the students and community was swift and hopeful. Several members of the school board protested before the Jan. 10 announcement, including student representatives Harsh Gupta and Ari

Carmona, who advocated the reduction or reversal of the policy.

Officials from DCC claim that this act will keep the school in line with state laws. A representative said the change was in response to a new State University of New York mandate, and the change is legal, although not required. Whatever the reasoning, this unwelcome change threatens the fairness of student access to high-level courses and alters the fabric of education at Beacon High School.

## PROJECTED COST PER DCC COURSE

COURSE	GRADE	CREDITS	TERM	COST
ENG 101 (English)	12	3	Half year	\$210
ENG 102 (English)	12	3	Half year	\$210
ECO 105 (Economics)	12	3	Half year	\$210
GOV 121 (Government)	12	3	Half year	\$210
PSY 111 (Psych. Found.)	12	3	Half year	\$210
PSY 203 (Dev. Psych.)	12	3	Half year	\$210
MAT 185 (Pre-Calculus)	11/12	4	Full year	\$280
MAT 221 (Calculus)	12	4	Full year	\$280
MAT 118 (Statistics)	11/12	3	Full year	\$210
SPA 201 (Spanish)	11/12	3	Half year	\$210
SPA 202 (Spanish)	11/12	3	Half year	\$210

## Video Game (from Page 19)

companying story). The winner receives a new controller and a chance at making it on the team. "With the level of talent we have in this school, I'm surprised [a tournament] hasn't happened sooner," Corbett said.

Multiple Beacon High School teachers have signed up for the tournament, including Corbett, who says his students "all want a piece of yours truly ... Being in my position it's just good to set a nice example for something they can achieve — even though they will never beat me."

## Nesha (from Page 19)

for but fell in love with chemistry. Mrs. Nesha has taken almost all the chemistry courses one can take and finds it intriguing and interesting.

Mrs. Nesha shared in an interview that her favorite part about teaching is being able to meet and interact with new students every year.

According to her students, she is al-

ways attentive and ready to answer a question during class time, and eager to chat with students. Her students say that one of her most admirable traits is being able to stay calm and positive, no matter the situation.

Her advice to high school students is that things "won't always go your way. Just keep your goal in mind and keep doing your best because things will be OK, even if your plans fall apart."

## Freshmen (from Page 19)

time because everyone considers them to have it so easy, but that's only in comparison to their junior year. But it's still a lot harder than ninth grade. At the end of the year we have more work and they don't, but still, the overall work is harder. It's also stressful getting a college application."

Senior Lina Ahmed agreed that seniors have it worse. "Most classes you take if you are on the honors course is

going to be a DCC or AP class, so you get more work." In addition, "freshmen don't usually do varsity sports; JV schedules aren't as demanding as varsity schedules are."

But, Lina added, "you're probably asking the wrong person; you have to ask someone who doesn't have a full schedule."

So is it easier being a freshman or senior? According to Samiha and Lina, it is easier being a freshman. What do you think?

## Sports



T.J. and Johnson Wagner when the brothers lived in Garrison Photo provided

## Golf (from Page 24)

amateur, he invented the so-called Wagner Slam by winning, in a single year, the three most important events of the Metropolitan Golf Association, which covers the New York area.

His Osiris buddies came along for the ride. Gatherer and Dwyer both caddied for him in the early days.

Wagner has competed in 362 PGA Tour events with three wins and 23 Top 10 finishes. He has won more than \$12 million during his 17 years on tour.

He also gained a bit of notoriety in 2012 when he grew a Magnum P.I.-style mustache. "My friends back home ripped me about how awful it was," he said at the time. When he shaved it during a slump, his wife was delighted.

With his playing career winding down, Wagner hopes to stay in the game. "I've never had a job outside of golf," he said. In addition to his gig at the Highlands Country Club, he washed golf carts at the Garrison Golf Club and caddied at Hudson National Golf Club in Croton-on-Hudson.



Wagner, with his signature mustache, is now an analyst on the Golf Channel.

Now he works as an analyst on the Golf Channel and was recently an on-course reporter for coverage of the Puerto Rico Open.

He's also brought back his mustache, at the suggestion of his wife. "It's your brand," she told him with a sigh. "You're going to have to grow it back."

# Current Classifieds

## FOR SALE

**DOWNHILL SKIS** — Vintage Salomon neon men's downhill skis with S912 bindings for sale, like new. Asking \$5K. Email [epinter2002@aol.com](mailto:epinter2002@aol.com).

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## NOTICE

### PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

#### Public Hearing - April 10th, 2023

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 10th, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

#### Kenneth McGovern, 518 Sprout Brook Rd, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#83.6-2-6

Applicant is seeking a variance to construct a 945 square foot garage addition with office/storage above and a 144 square foot breezeway connection, totaling 1089 square feet.

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 Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals Dated March 13th, 2023

## Roots and Shoots

## 10 Years Green

By Pamela Doan

After 10 years, what is left to write about gardening?

My first *Roots and Shoots* column, "Soil: It's What's in the Dirt," was published in what is now *The Current* in March 2013. I broke down three bad ideas about soil, which can be summarized as:

- Don't till because it disrupts the soil food web.
- Instead of adding amendments to change the soil, put in plants that will thrive in that environment.
- Add organic matter to build soil health.

My columns have followed my development as a gardener. I realized that if I'm observing something in my yard or trying to solve a certain problem, other people must be, too.

I've learned that everyone loves a list of recommended plants for specific conditions. A trip to a garden center can be a journey of discovery for some gardeners and an overwhelming spin of indecision for others. Like most people, I have brought home plants and then walked through my yard trying to figure out where to put them. Yet I still know that a good plan saves time and money.



## What has changed

Me. As I've evolved as a gardener, researching, attending conferences and classes, reading books and gaining experience, I've had to question my own ideas and practices. My attempts at *hugelkultur* didn't move forward but my "you're-on-your-own" attitude toward plant survival did, and I have loved watching my yard change from year to year.

## The climate

Since 2014, we've experienced the eight hottest years on record for the planet. Local temperatures are rising and the weather, in polite terms, has been wacky for plants. Last season, the precipitation was 50 percent to 60 percent lower than normal in the last half of the year. (I wrote columns about drought conditions in 2015, 2017 and 2022.) I could layer on statistics that go along with "worst" and "record-breaking." Being a gardening columnist in a warming world means there will always be a challenge to write about.

## The landscape

In my yard over the past 10 years, we've lost dozens of trees to storms and pests. Several ash trees succumbed to the emerald ash borer and became so destabilized that they had to be brought down. At this point, my ratio of planting trees to losing trees is unbalanced. This winter, the wetter, heavy snow particularly affected smaller trees with dense branching systems, like our crabapple and black cherry, which both sustained major damage.

I also see more impact from the spread of plant species that aren't native to this ecosys-



The writer's first native-plant garden included bee balm, echinacea, phlox, black-eye Susan and cup plant. (The latter has since been removed for its invasive tendencies.)

Photo by P. Doan

tem, both in my own landscape and open spaces all around. While more gardeners and naturalists are trying to manage barberry, mugwort, phragmites, knotweed and other introduced plants, it's just a really big problem and more are coming. The warming weather is making the Hudson Valley more hospitable for plants like kudzu and pests like pine beetles. Many resources are focused on this.

## Garden practices

Even while the landscape situation can feel dire at times, I see a lot of hopeful signs that people have, well, hope for the future. We're in a critical period for determining the balance of the planet and slowing and halting the forward motion of warming.

As gardeners, we can tap into comprehensive expertise and many programs and groups that can guide sustainable landscapes. Social

media have become ways to reach large audiences to promote programs like the Pollinator Pathway and the Homegrown National Park, for example. Both advocate adding native plants to home landscapes and ending the use of pesticides and herbicides to create conditions that support insects and wildlife.

## What's next

A garden writer's job is never finished, just as the garden is never finished. In spite of crafting 750-word columns two to four times per month for 10 years, I'm not out of content yet. The dynamic nature of gardening and a constant quest to learn more will keep me with a flow of information. While growing plants can be anything from a hobby to a vocation, it survives because of research and science with creativity and curiosity as the momentum behind the data.

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11-6  
**SUN**  
12-4

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, will hold a public hearing on the budget at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M, for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2023-2024 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2022-2023 school year (the Budget), as prepared by the Board of Education, as well as the Exemption Report, listing every type of exemption granted, as provided in Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, may be obtained by any resident of the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, commencing May 2, 2023, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at each of the District's schoolhouses, at the Administrative Offices, and on the District's website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

- A. To elect four (4) members to the Board of Education as follows:
- Three (3) members to the Board of Education for three-year terms (commencing July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2026; and

• One (1) member to the Board of Education for a term commencing May 16, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025.
- B. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the 2023-2024 School Year (the Budget).
- C. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, dated March 20, 2023 authorizing the purchase of school buses at a maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$530,000; authorizing the issuance of \$530,000 bonds of said School District to pay the costs thereof; and that such sum or so much as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law; and providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District shall be issued; determining the period of probable usefulness and maximum maturity thereof to be five years; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?
- D. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, dated March 20, 2023 authorizing the purchase of one electric-powered school bus at an estimated maximum cost of \$466,000, but only in the event the District receives subsidies towards such purchase up to the maximum amount of \$250,000; authorizing the issuance of bonds of said District up to a maximum amount of \$466,000 to pay the costs thereof, and that such sum or so much as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law; and providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District shall be issued; determining the period of probable usefulness and maximum maturity thereof to be five years; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?
- E. Shall the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District be authorized, effective beginning the 2023-2024 school year, to make such annual budgetary appropriations and expenditures as are needed to provide transportation to students in grades K-12 residing within the city limits of the City of Beacon who live more than one (1) mile but no more than fifteen (15) miles from the school which they legally attend?
- F. To vote on any other proposition legally proposed.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that for the purposes of voting, the School District has been divided into two (2) election districts and that an accurate description of the boundaries of these school election districts is on file and may be inspected at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular work hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the 2023 Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held at the following polling places in the School Election Districts hereinafter set forth;

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1

POLLING LOCATION: BEACON HIGH SCHOOL

Description:

First Ward, First and Second District Second Ward, First, Second, and Third Districts

Third Ward, First, Second and Third Districts

Fourth Ward, First and Second Districts

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

POLLING LOCATION: GLENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Description: Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County; south by the common town line of the Towns of Fishkill and Wappinger and west by the Hudson River.

Bounded on the north by the common town line of the of Fishkill and Wappinger, east by Wappinger Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Union Free School District No. 3, Town of Fishkill, south by Beacon City line and west by Hudson River.

Bounded northerly by former Common School District No. 4 in the Town of Fishkill and Wappinger, easterly by Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Dutchess County; southerly by Central School District No. 1 in the Town of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Putnam County and the Town of Fishkill in Dutchess County; westerly by the Hudson River and the City of Beacon being the former Union Free School District No. 3 of the Town of Fishkill.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M. on the 20th day preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Such petitions must be signed by at least one hundred (100) qualified voters of the District, shall state the name and residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. or they can be downloaded from the district website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, has fixed Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York, as the date on which the Board of Registration of said School District will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of preparing the register of the School District for each election district for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, to be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register if known or proven to the satisfaction of the registrars to be then or thereafter entitled to vote. Persons whose registration to vote with the County Board of Elections is current, pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law, shall be qualified to vote without further registering with the School District's Board of Registration, as well as all persons who shall have previously registered for any annual or special district meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special district meeting or election held or conducted at any time during the 2019, 2020, 2021 or 2022 calendar years.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the register of voters so prepared shall be filed in the Office of the District Clerk and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, beginning fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Said register will be open for inspection in each of the polling places during the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk or downloaded from the school district website. The completed application must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the election, and at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed or the day before the election, if the ballot will be picked up at the Office of the District Clerk. The completed application can be sent by email, or delivered by a designated agent. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the said Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a qualified military voter who is not currently registered can obtain a military personal registration form on the District's website, or from the District Clerk between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A registered military voter may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk in the same manner. Additionally, qualified military voters can contact the District Clerk to indicate their preference to receive a military personal registration form, absentee ballot application or absentee ballot via mail, facsimile or electronic mail. Ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the election and vote. Military voter registration and absentee ballots shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of Section 2018-d of the Education Law and Part 122 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

By the Order of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District

Vickie Jackson, School District Clerk

Dated: March 31 2023

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Pot brew

4. Rosary component

8. Tempo

12. Rowing need

13. Scarce

14. *Damn Yankees* vamp

15. Polish composer Chopin

17. Squad

18. Oust from office

19. Not 'neath

21. Show to a seat, slangily

22. Established rule

26. Kick out

29. Cat's coat

30. Ms. Longoria

31. Chaste

32. River blocker

33. Till bills

34. Wyo. neighbor

35. Corral

36. Sanctify

37. — acid

39. Luau bowlful

40. Khan title

41. Blacksmiths' blocks

45. Indolent

48. Curry powder spice

50. Dayton's state

51. "Do — others ..."

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

52. "I love," to Livy

53. Autograph

54. Take five

55. Bottom line

DOWN

1. Bean curd

2. Deserve

3. God of war

4. Chicken serving

5. Third rock from the sun

6. *Exodus* hero

7. Propriety

8. Book jacket write-up

9. Long time

10. "The Greatest"

11. Make lace

16. Wimbledon tie

20. Where Lux. is

23. Actress Russo

24. Currier's partner

25. Mama — Elliot

26. Monumental

27. Dame Dench

28. Part of Q.E.D.

29. Summer cooler

32. Illinois city

33. Martini garnish

35. Glutton

36. Witticism

38. Synthetic fabric

39. Seg-ments

42. Persia, today

43. Rickey flavor

44. Kilt wearer

45. Part of UCLA

46. Sashimi fish

47. Sharp turn

49. French article

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Answers for March 24 Puzzles

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

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

1. LICHEN, 2. LITTLE, 3. JAGGEDNESS, 4. AGENT, 5. GLIDED, 6. SWARMS, 7. SOUND

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 porch pirate's crimes (6)

2 "shiftless" cars (10)

3 perennial sources (5)

4 following relentlessly (7)

5 earnest money payments (8)

6 Shirley Temple's hairstyle (8)

7 one shunned by a clique (8)

SOLUTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

THE	DEP	CS	AUT	LBS
TI	RIN	DER	OSI	OUT
TS	ETS	GI	BU	OMA
DOG	SI	FTS	GL	NG

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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## SPORTS



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# Links to Garrison

*Hamlet was home to two top golfers*

By Joey Asher

When Johnson Wagner was a high school student in Garrison, he would play 36 holes a day in the summer with his buddies, usually at the Osiris Country Club near Newburgh.

They competed for grilled-cheese-and-bacon sandwiches. They would try to make each other slice drives or miss putts with well-timed coughs and sneezes.

Those low-stakes battles in the mid-1990s helped Wagner, who attended O'Neill High School in Highland Falls and Virginia Tech, compete when the stakes were considerably higher on the Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) Tour.

"It molded who I am as a golfer and as a competitor," he said. "We would beat each other's brains in every day. Without that competition, I doubt my career would have gone where it went."

While Wagner, 43, is at the end of his playing career, another former Garrison resident, Cameron Young, is at the beginning. Young, 25, was a student at the Garrison School before moving to the grounds of the Sleepy Hollow Country Club, where his father is the pro. He attended Fordham Prep in the Bronx and Wake Forest University before turning pro in 2019 and now lives in Florida.

Young was named the PGA Tour Rookie of the Year for 2021-22 with 94 percent of the vote, finishing No. 32 in the field and earning more than \$4 million. In May 2022, he tied for third at the PGA Championship.

In 2021, Young married Kelsey Dalition, whom he dated at Wake Forest but had known since his family was living in Garrison. "I played hockey for her dad and with her brother," he told *The Journal News*. "They're not a golf family at all so Kelsey is kind of

still learning the ropes. It's actually great for me, because the last thing I want to do when I get home is answer questions like, 'Why'd you pull a 9-iron on 16?' That would make my head explode, so that's been a blessing."

Wagner turned pro in 2002 and earned his PGA Tour card in 2007 by finishing second on the money list in the 2006 Nationwide Tour. He won his first PGA Tour event, the Shell Houston Open, in 2008, which earned him an invitation to the Masters Tournament, where he tied for 36th place. He later won the Mayakoba Golf Classic in Cancun in a playoff (2011) and the Sony Open in Hawaii (2012).

He has been slowed in recent years by a knee injury. "I'm sick of playing bad golf," he recently told a podcaster. Last year he only competed in one tournament and missed the cut. "The last couple of years have been pretty lean," he said.

Rather than competing in the Masters in Augusta next week, Wagner will be on the 15th green with PGA Tour radio announcer Brian Katrek, learning the ropes for a new

career as a broadcaster.

With his parents, Tommy and Betty Wagner, and older brother, T.J., Wagner moved from Nashville to Avery Road in Garrison in 1994 before his freshman year at O'Neill. His father had been hired to teach computer science at West Point.

Moving to New York worried Wagner, who now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. "I thought it was all going to be concrete," he recalled. "I had no idea that New York was the mecca of American golf."

He felt better after learning he would be within driving distance of some of the top courses in the country, including Winged Foot in Mamaroneck and Shinnecock Hills on Long Island.

Initially, Wagner played mainly at the West Point Golf Course and the Highlands Country Club in Garrison, which was the home course for O'Neill. He worked for a couple of years in the pro shop there and swept the tennis courts.

His life took a turn one day at the Fish-kill Golf Course on Route 9, where he met

Nick Maselli, a standout golfer at John Jay High School in Hopewell Junction. That connection would bring Wagner and his brother into the circle of golf buddies, who included Maselli's teammates Malcolm Gatherer, Brian Schuler, Reggie Bergholz and Kyle Dwyer.

Dwyer was the son of Jimmy Dwyer, the golf pro at Osiris. The teenagers all joined as junior members.

No one would mistake the Osiris for a great American course, "but we thought it was like Augusta," Maselli recalled. "We got dropped off at 8 a.m. and our parents would pick us up at dark."

During the summers, the boys played 18 holes before lunch. They would play another 18 holes, or more, in the afternoon, said Gatherer, who lives in Hopewell Junction. "It was probably the best time of my life," he said.

From the beginning, everyone recognized Wagner's talent. "He wasn't like the rest of us," said Kyle Dwyer, who also lives in Hopewell Junction. "The ball didn't look the same or sound the same compared to the rest of us. He could hit the ball in a way that the rest of us aspired to. He was always the longest hitter."

In addition, says Gatherer, "he could handle the pressure. He always had that knack. In the big events, he had the ability to take it to another level" even when his friends did their best to distract him.

Wagner showed no fear, said Schuler, now a club pro in Boynton Beach, Florida. "He wasn't afraid to be 2 under par. He would stay aggressive and try to get to four or five under. That's rare. Johnson always had that."

At Virginia Tech, Wagner earned a spot in the school's Sports Hall of Fame. As an

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Cameron Young drives from the 18th tee earlier this month during the third round of a tournament in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Photo by David Yeazell/USA Today



Johnson Wagner putts during a tournament playoff in 2015 at the Golf Club of Houston.

Photo by Jerome Miron/USA Today