

The HIGHLANDS Current

MAY 19, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Military Service Banners Coming to Philipstown

Debut follows months of discussion

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Banners honoring military personnel are expected to hang along state roads in Philipstown by Memorial Day (May 29), following months of discussion by elected officials and residents and a proliferation of similar signs in nearby communities, including Beacon.

"They're everywhere, and we didn't have a program," Cindy Trimble, who coordinated the Philipstown banners project, said on Wednesday (May 17). The banners will stay up until shortly after Veterans Day (Nov. 11), she said.

Trimble's group, Philipstown Hometown Heroes Military Tribute Banners, plans to launch its project on May 27 at the American Legion in Cold Spring with remarks by elected officials.

The banners cost \$250 each, which is paid by families or others interested in honoring "veterans, active-duty, reserve and National Guard members," according to the Philipstown group. (Continued on Page 3)

Putnam Executive Fills Ethics Vacancies

Montgomery raises questions about appointee

By Chip Rowe

A Putnam County legislative committee on Tuesday (May 16) approved the appointments of five members to the county Ethics Board, although Legislator Nancy Montgomery raised questions about a former political opponent.

The nominations, made by County Executive Kevin Byrne, now go to the full Legislature for consideration.

In a letter to the clerk of the Legislature, Byrne wrote that he learned after taking office in January that two members of the five-member board "had effectively resigned" (Continued on Page 22)

Asylum-Seekers Enter Divided Country

Court bars more migrants at Newburgh hotels

By Leonard Sparks

Rahim Lebrami relaxed on Tuesday (May 16) at a small table on an expanse of grass at the Crossroads Hotel in the Town of Newburgh.

Other immigrants seeking asylum in the U.S. filled the remaining chairs, or stood. A second group rested in a seating area near the hotel entrance.

More than a month ago, Lebrami left his

native Mauritania in northwest Africa for Turkey, the first stop in a continent-hopping journey that took 25 days by plane, boat, car and on foot, he said. The journey from his resource-rich but impoverished homeland went through Spain and El Salvador, and then Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico, he said.

"It was a hard journey," said Lebrami. He thought of giving up, but dreamed of reaching a "country of law ... a country of values and traditions and a country of freedom of speech in which I can speak my mind

(Continued on Page 20)



Rahim Lebrami and Isselko Sidi both fled Mauritania and are staying at the Crossroads Hotel in the Town of Newburgh.

Photo by L. Sparks



The NUTmobile has visited 48 states over the past year.

Photo by Ross Corsair

No Nuts in Nelsonville

Mayor sends Mr. Peanut packing

By Chip Rowe

The NUTmobile, sponsored by Planters Peanuts, made an abbreviated stop in Nelsonville on Saturday (May 13) before being asked to move along.

The 26-foot vehicle was scheduled to rendezvous with a New York City hiking group at the Nelsonville trailhead. But

one of its three drivers, Grace Tessitore, said they were told they could not park there. Instead, they met the hikers on Main Street, where the parked NUTmobile turned far more heads.

One resident took a photo with his phone and it rapidly received more than 100 "likes" on the Philipstown Locals Facebook group. A mailman stopped by and was given bags of nuts to distribute to co-workers. And the spectacle may have contributed to a fender-bender near Village Hall

(Continued on Page 7)

Leaf Blowers Create a Stir

Beacon council unsure how to proceed

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council has failed to reach consensus on how, or if, the city should regulate leaf blowers, and a discussion on Monday (May 15) did little to break the logjam.

The council began considering the issue last year, initially, it seemed, as a companion to the city's ban on fossil-fuel hookups in new construction, which was approved in March and takes effect Jan. 1. In November, the city's Conservation Advisory Committee advocated restricting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers as a first phase for retiring lawn equipment powered by fossil fuels, with machinery such as gas lawnmowers to be addressed in later phases.

Because municipalities are preempted by the federal government from restricting emissions that are generated by engines, the council cannot, for example, single out gas-powered leaf blowers and regulate them to reduce greenhouse gases.

In March, city attorneys wrote a draft law that would ban any leaf blowers — gas- or electric-powered — from May 15 through the end of September. From Oct. 1 to mid-May, they would be permitted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and holidays, and for only two hours, from noon to 2 p.m., on Sundays.

The proposed law would not apply to municipal employees, who often use leaf

(Continued on Page 22)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: SINAN HANNA

By Joey Asher

Sinan Hanna is chief administrator of St. George's Episcopal Church in Baghdad and a project manager for Stand with Iraqi Christians. He and the Rev. Faiz Jerjes will speak at 7 p.m. on Wednesday (May 24) at St. Philip's Church in Garrison.

What is the history of Christians in Iraq?

Iraq was originally a Christian country. In the first century, St. Thomas, one of Jesus' apostles, came to the area to evangelize before he went to India. Christians began sharing the country with Islam in the seventh century. In the 1980s, we had 2.5 million Christians. By 2003, when the U.S. invaded Iraq, we had 1.5 million Christians. Today we have fewer than 150,000. Many are in the Nineveh Plains, northwest of Baghdad. In the Old Testament, God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh and call on people to repent.

Why did so many Christians leave after the U.S. invasion?

The invasion left the country in chaos. It's not that the dictatorship was good, but what we have now is much worse. Christi-



anity cannot survive in a place where there is no law. The government is not protecting all people. Christians are leaving because they can't survive here. We're not harassed — we're ignored.

How are they ignored?

We're second-class citizens. We can't get jobs in the government. Even if a Christian is the most qualified, he doesn't get the job, so many emigrate to the West. There also is a law requiring Islamization of minors. If a parent converts to Islam, the government will convert the children to Islam. It's unjust. We have approached the parliament many times trying to amend this law, but no one responds.

How did the 2014 invasion of northern Iraq by ISIS impact Christians?

At the time, in that area, there were around 100,000 Christians. ISIS [the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria] forced Christians to leave their houses, their belongings, everything. It said either you will be killed or you will leave. There were checkpoints to see if you had money or gold. Many Christians stayed as refugees until the area was liberated in 2017. I went there shortly after ISIS was defeated. The majority of our houses were burned. All our businesses were damaged. On the farms, the wells were poisoned. It was like a war zone. About 50 percent of the Christian community returned but many had already emigrated to the West.

What is the mission of Stand with Iraqi Christians?

We are working to rebuild businesses and develop the economy. We have a saying in Iraq: "A man follows his job." So we help them raise money and rebuild. Let me tell you about a bakery project that started in November in Erbil, about five hours north of Baghdad. This woman was from Nineveh. Before the ISIS invasion, she was a homemaker. After her husband died, she wanted to start a bakery selling bread and cookies, but she didn't know how to get the capital to buy the ovens and mixers. We did a feasibility study. Projects like this typically cost \$2,000 to \$9,000. She contributed as well. We don't give money to people unless they share the responsibility. Her business is doing very well.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's your favorite pasta dish?

Fettuccini with white wine sauce and garlic, served with steamed lobster tails.



Damary Kiefer, Beacon

Spaghetti with garlic, olive oil and little peperoncino on top.



Mike Procopio, Cold Spring

Zoodles with pesto and a glass of pink rosé.



Kim Chase, Cold Spring

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Military (from Page 1)

stown Hometown Heroes website.

"It's a wonderful program," said Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel when Trimble brought the idea to the Town Board last year. "I can't wait to get one for my father."

Trimble said that 75 banners will be installed on utility poles along stretches of Route 9 and Route 9D. The group prefers state roads, she said, because "there's more exposure and visibility." Because the banners will hang on state roads and outside the boundaries of Cold Spring and Nelsonville, the group also did not need village or town permits.

Under a New York State Department of Transportation policy, banners can be placed on a state highway with a permit issued to a municipality or nonprofit organization.

In this case, because Philipstown Hometown Heroes is a private business, Putnam County is the official sponsor and the licensee in an agreement with Central Hudson and Verizon, which own the poles, said Christopher Formisano, the communications director for the county executive. Workers from the county Highways and Facilities Department will install the banners, he said.

The Philipstown Hometown Heroes banners cost twice as much as those in Beacon, where the nonprofit Daughters of the American Revolution oversees the program. When Trimble spoke to the Cold Spring Village Board in December, Mayor Kathleen Foley questioned the difference. Trimble said prices vary based on size and pledged that any profits would be donated to local veterans' groups.

At the meeting, a Garrison resident also voiced concern that only those with \$250 to spare could participate in the banner program.

Two months later, more questions



A banner from the project overseen by the Daughters of the American Revolution chapter in Beacon

surfaced at the Philipstown Town Board. Eliza Starbuck, a Village Board member, noted that, without a contract between a local government and the private Philipstown Hometown Heroes, there would be no oversight of the finances.

Other questions arose about how long the banners would fly. The Philipstown Town Board said it didn't think the banners should fly year-round, and a petition that circulated in Philipstown last summer urged limiting the exhibition to two weeks.

"Displaying banners with images of local veterans would be a poignant way of show-

“It's a wonderful program. I can't wait to get one for my father.

~ Philipstown Supervisor
John Van Tassel

ing our community's deep appreciation for their service," it said. "However, displaying such banners continuously for months would have the opposite effect," ceasing to generate interest, while the banners get "noticeably degraded" by weather. It also questioned the price of the banners.

In remarks to the Town Board in February, Starbuck cited Philipstown's restrictions on flag-flying on town property and suggested banners required comparable treatment.

She said that those wishing to honor service members "have every right to purchase their private banners and fly them on their front porches or in their front yards. But I don't know that it's the most appropriate thing for private individuals to pick and choose who should be honored on poles along our roadways."

Yet, Starbuck also emphasized, that "first and foremost," even among skeptics, "there have been no disagreements regarding the position that veterans and military service people deserve our support, our respect and our gratitude."

On Wednesday, Trimble said that "everybody's been tremendously supportive" of the project. Further, she said, being able to hang 75 banners seems "amazingly impressive" for a first year. "I'm really happy with the results."

She said the elected officials from the county scheduled to participate in the May 27 kick-off include Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne, District Attorney Bob Tendy, Clerk Michael Bartolotti and Sheriff Kevin McConville, along with Van Tassel; Rep. Mike Lawler, whose U.S. House district includes Philipstown; and state Sen. Rob Rolison and state Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, whose districts include Philipstown.

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Board of Education, Haldane Central School District
Cold Spring, New York 10516
By: Catherine Platt, School Business Manager

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

May 19, 2023
Volume 11, Issue 20

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

Distribution audited by the
Circulation Verification Council

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Fjord Trail

I was deeply frustrated that almost no words of support were given during public comments during the meeting on May 8 about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail ("15 Questions," May 12). It appears that Protect the Highlands did a good job at packing the front of the lineup.

Protect the Highlands does not represent the entire community. I am a lifelong village resident and I strongly support the Fjord Trail project. To significantly scale back this project — or worse, stop it altogether — would be an affront to future generations.

I strongly empathize with the instinct to resist development along the riverfront, especially considering the environmental history of our region. But this project is not building infrastructure to accommodate private condos and high-rises; it is building infrastructure to democratize access to Hudson Highlands State Park. To echo an earlier point by Richard Shea, the former Philipstown supervisor who sits on the HHFT board, the Highlands do not belong to any one municipality or generation, they belong to the people of the state of New York.

Of course, as locals, we are on the front lines of stewardship. The Fjord Trail will

increase awareness and appreciation for one of our state's most splendid natural wonders and inspire people, who wouldn't have had the chance otherwise, to become stewards themselves.

I know that may sound somewhat "groovy" to some readers, but there are unquantifiable benefits to democratizing access to nature. Pete Seeger knew this and fought for this. Additionally, increasing access to nature for youth, the elderly and people who are mobility-impaired reflects well on us as a civilization. I envision a day when the Fjord Trail is the pride of our community — for the good it will do for us and the people who visit our cherished home.

Malachy Labrie-Cleary, Cold Spring

Very few of the 15 questions posed by the community about the Fjord Trail were answered with actual answers, but attendees were rather inundated with slide decks and graphics.

A traffic study, which should have been priority and action item No. 1, is instead an afterthought. Any such data gathered over this summer will not be accurate because the Breakneck trailhead remains closed. And what about those proposed roundabouts? Imagine the traffic jams stretching

from Little Stony Point north to Breakneck Tunnel and south past Boscobel — it's not about the red light, it's about the sheer numbers.

It was amazing to see such an incredible turnout. Excitement is tempered, however, when I think that it took a citizen organization (Protect the Highlands) to exert the pressure on local representatives to bring it about. Again, transparency should be a given on a public project this size, and our elected officials should be leading the way, not reacting to external calls for meetings. I hope this is the first in a series of public forums on the subject.

Pete Seeger fought to save the Hudson from folly projects that destroyed habitat and encroached upon sensitive environmental areas. I guarantee Pete would be on the side of Protect the Highlands once he read the environmental impact statement, and he wouldn't be bought off by big foundations as so many have been.

Michael Bowman, Nelsonville

Amy Kacala, executive director of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, said at the meeting: "You're the daily users. You're not the weekend people. This is really mostly going to be used by locals." In response, there was widespread laughter from the many "locals" in attendance. Scenic Hudson, HHFT's parent, has characterized the trail as becoming "the epicenter for regional tourism." The HHFT describes it as "regionally transforming."

Its own projections, prepared by their own consultants and presented at the Feb. 2 meeting at the Cold Spring firehouse, project in excess of 1 million people using it by 2028. Are they all "mostly" coming from Philipstown? This hugely expensive project is mostly for us? Does anyone seriously believe or trust what the Fjord Trail people say anymore?

Andrew Hall, Cold Spring

The editor responds: We asked HHFT about a board displayed at the Feb. 2 meeting that projected 83,359 monthly visitors. It said: "The number referenced is from high peak season; in this case, October 2021 was used for the visitor count. Attributing that volume over 12 months [to reach 1 million annual visitors] is not reasonable, as we all know fall is the most popular hiking season and counts decline dramatically December through March." The figure was also a projection of visitors to the entire Hudson Highlands State Park, not just the Fjord Trail.

At the meeting, HHFT "clarified" its plans for the boardwalk between Little Stony Point and Breakneck. Yes, all those

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

“dying” trees will be removed along the northern stretch. Goodbye, shade and raptors. Yes, it plans to build heavily in the river, though it said it wouldn’t, and it plans to use even more fill. Yes, the boardwalk, replete with 8-foot-tall chain-link fence, will be for long stretches 20 feet from barreling Amtrak trains.

Finally, yes, the boardwalk will be 10 feet wide for much of this area, negating its use as a safe bike trail with accessibility for children and the less mobile, particularly since it is being built as an attraction, not a solution.

I urge HHFT to revisit the original plans for a trail and leave this ill-considered plan on paper.

Grace Kennedy, *Garrison*

Democracy has its most significant expression at the local level; we, the citizens, can drive robust and influential voices within our communities and have the closest access to our elected representatives.

Whether you are against or for the Fjord Trail, the meeting at Haldane, reflecting the intensity of the participants, was productive and informative. Such was possible because of its planning and format. I thank our town supervisor and the leadership of the various boards who oversaw the session.

Carlos Salcedo, *Philipstown*

The only question at the meeting that was answered with an almost clear answer was what would be done with the dramatically increased traffic at the intersection of Routes 301 and 9D. We were told that the likely solution would be a roundabout. What would that mean?

According to the state highway department, roundabouts on 30 mph roads need a diameter of 150 feet. Say goodbye to J. Murphy’s (the historic former Hotel Manteo), the Sunoco gas station, the corner of the St. Mary’s lawn (move that memorial to our war dead) and the historic house on the corner of Main. People can use words to confuse, spin, obfuscate and misdirect, but you cannot argue with geometry or physics.

We need fewer verbal roundabouts from the Fjord Trail team that misdirect, and we certainly do not need a real roundabout. Maybe there is a highway engineer that can explain to this engineer how to squeeze a roundabout into the existing intersection and how pedestrians will safely cross without a traffic light.

George Eisenbach, *Nelsonville*

The May 8 meeting is the first time I have seen state parks and HHFT leadership sit and face the music. For the most part, they didn’t seem to like it, and they gave every appearance of planning to go back to their own private golden drawing boards rather than soliciting a lot more local and expert input.

Yes, they did offer to fund local steering committees, with consultants whom they would hire. But I don’t see them offering to spend a weekend, let alone a month, living

in Cold Spring and witnessing the crowds, traffic and mess firsthand, or talking one-on-one to ordinary people, not just elected or appointed officials. I understand that to date they have shut local governments out instead of partnering with them. How wise and just is that?

David Limburg, *Nelsonville*

Saying that the majority of locals don’t want the Fjord Trail, as some opponents claim, is false and screams entitlement. Philipstown consists of nearly 10,000 people, and a vocal minority are spreading fear and misinformation before much of the actual impact studies have even been completed. Supporting the Fjord Trail and being concerned about how it will change our community do not have to be mutually exclusive.

Thomas O’Quinn, *Cold Spring*

Without a traffic study, everyone, HHFT included, is stating opinions reflecting desired outcomes without having the benefit of data or specific proposals based on that data. A traffic study also needs to be done concerning usage of the trail, not just how it affects vehicular traffic.

That was the reason I questioned the width of the trail and shared cycle and hiking traffic. I have the same concerns about too many visitors swamping Cold Spring. The reality is they are here already with or without HHFT. The proposed trail, stripped of the bells and whistles and add-ons, is an infrastructure investment to divert foot traffic from swarming through residential streets en route to the trails and divert hikers and cyclists from the overloaded and dangerous Route 9D corridor. If it is designed properly and can accomplish those objectives, that would be a significant improvement over what is occurring now.

John Schieneman, *Philipstown*

Like almost everyone I know in and around Philipstown, I have been frustrated by the decades of neglect as Breakneck became the most popular hiking trail in the country and the impacts on the surrounding community went unaddressed. I supported previous efforts to do something, such as the trail stewards program instituted by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, which, although successful in reducing the burden on our volunteer first responders, was just a bandage that left the bigger problem unaddressed. I became involved in the Fjord Trail (I am now on the board) because it was clear to me that it presented the only prospect of something actually being done.

Of course it’s not just a solution to the Breakneck problem — it will create an entirely new opportunity for people of all ages and abilities, residents and visitors alike, to encounter the river and spectacular North Highlands. Connecting people to the river is vital to carrying forward our culture of environmental stewardship to the next generation.

Are people right to worry that, while solving the Breakneck problem, the Fjord Trail might result in other impacts, fore-

seen and unforeseen, on the surrounding area? Of course. Those of us on the board and staff, and the broad group represented on the steering committee, have been asking tough questions about this risk from the beginning. We have demanded that our designers and consultants come up with solutions that reduce that risk (e.g., multiple entrances, parking and attractions away from the village, etc.). And, just as importantly, we are requiring options that can be deployed if the visitor numbers turn out to be higher than expected (these include timed ticketing, dynamic pricing of parking, social media campaigns, and other tools proven effective at other parks around the country). As part of the State Environmental Quality Review Act process, all the projected impacts and solutions will be closely reviewed.

The trail will be opened in phases and we will have lots of opportunities to monitor and respond to actual visitation trends and patterns as they develop over the years. And what assurance do we have that any future surprises or problems will be dealt with? Because, for the first time ever, we will have a well-funded community-based organization devoted exclusively to that cause.

Fred Rich, *Garrison*

Route 9 plans

My family and I live on Carol Lane in Fishkill, on the private road that serves the Companion Pet Hospital. I was grateful to read Dr. Hope Jankunas’ clarification in the April 28 issue about the pet hospital expansion (“Route 9 Projects Rile Residents,” April 14). My family and our neighbors support Companion Pet Hospital and understand its need to expand its hospital building to support increased business.

To clarify some of the confusion about the understanding of this project: At the June 6 meeting of the Fishkill Planning Board, a representative of the architecture firm Hudson Design stated that the dispatch center would “provide somebody on-site as an emergency tech that can take the vehicle out 24/7.” It is a relief to learn that the plans for the dispatch center have been dropped.

The real concern with this expansion is the animal-behavior and dog-training facility. In our neighborhood we have small children, neighbors with varied abilities and elderly residents. We view the addition of a large facility that will serve “aggressive, anxious, fearful” and otherwise unpredictable dogs as an unnecessary danger and hazard to the residents in our neighborhood, specifically to the most vulnerable groups. The consideration of safety for my family and neighbors should be as much of a priority as it would be near a school or hospital, or any home.

Other points of contention are the noise disruptions that will inevitably be created with this additional facility and the increased level of traffic that would affect our children’s safety while playing, bike riding and getting on and off the bus and

home safely. It also limits how we exit and enter our road safely and with ease.

It is important to reiterate the ongoing level of destruction of nature that I have watched around me. I have witnessed the removal of hundreds of mature trees and the destruction of natural habitats for threatened species. I am saddened that these projects continue to be approved to destroy the natural and serene beauty of this area. It gives the message that, because we are a small, out-of-the-way neighborhood, we are able to be overlooked. We care about our neighbors and children. We have pride in and care for our homes, and we respect and value the nature around us.

Michael Beglan, *Fishkill*

Misinformation at school

Misinformation consumers, conspiracy theorists and book-banners are infecting school boards across the country (“Special Report: Confusion in the Classroom,” May 12). Let’s hope Beacon stays vigilant.

Mickey Dwyer, *via Instagram*

I agree that teachers should keep their views private, but how ironic would it be if this teacher actually knew something that most of society doesn’t know? What if this teacher was using her critical-thinking skills and actually questioned the status quo? What if this teacher actually knew the truth?

Barbara Towe, *via Instagram*

My older kids had Laurie Malin as a teacher when she was great and now she needs to go because she’s broken with reality. Tenure shouldn’t mean you can leave children ill-prepared for more advanced science.

Marisa Brink, *via Instagram*

What can a school district do? The same thing a newspaper can do: fact-check. Printing outdated bromides issued by compromised officials as if such bromides were true; then, allowing said bromides to stand in for some sort of unalloyed facts with which to damn an unbeliever? You get a failing grade for such a submission.

Gregg Zuman, *via Instagram*

Both of my kids have gotten a great education in the Beacon City School District and thankfully did not have this teacher. Teaching misinformation in public school is unacceptable and she should be removed.

Sarah Uzelac, *via Instagram*

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Correction

A story in the May 12 issue about a public forum on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail did not fully identify one of the state representatives who responded to questions: Linda Cooper, the Taconic Region director for state parks.

Wide Angle

The Trouble With Toilets

By Stowe Boyd

When I was serving as chair of the City of Beacon's Main Street Access Committee, one of the longest discussions we had — after issues related to pedestrian safety, parking and dangerous intersections — was the problem of public toilets.

We heard complaints from homeowners that visitors used their backyards and public spaces to pee. We'd also heard from Main Street businesses about visitors demanding to use employee restrooms, despite posted policies.

The Main Street Committee looked into public-restroom solutions such as the Portland Loo, a single-user toilet pod designed to be vandal-proof. However, the expense can be considerable: single units cost nearly \$200,000 each, and they must be connected to electric and water lines, which costs a great deal more.

The problems are not limited to Beacon.



Take a walk down any Main Street USA and you will likely see “No Public Restroom” or “Restrooms for Customers Only” signs in many storefronts. Aside from being inhospitable, the policies behind these signs, at least in New York state, appear to be illegal.

The New York State Plumbing Code, Section 403.3, appears to my reading fairly clear about access to restrooms in buildings open to the public, such as stores and restaurants. It reads:

“Customers, patrons and visitors shall

be provided with public toilet facilities in structures and tenant spaces intended for public utilization.”

You might think that a regulation like that would keep merchants from putting signs in the window. But it does not, in large part because the state cedes regulation to municipalities.

In Beacon and Cold Spring, clearly, the interpretation has been that non-customers can be shut out.

New York isn't the only state with limited public toilets. Elizabeth Yuko, a Bloomberg reporter, investigated in 2021, and noted that 10 years earlier, the United Nations had appointed a “special rapporteur” to access the “human right of clean drinking water and sanitation” in the U.S. She reported being shocked by the lack of public toilets in one of the richest economies in the world.

Compared to Europe and Asia, there aren't many government-funded public restrooms. According to a report issued three years ago by a U.K. bathroom supply

company and the online toilet-finding tool PeePlace, the U.S. has eight toilets per 100,000 people — on par with Botswana. (Iceland was No. 1, with 56 per 100,000.)

Tied with Botswana in 2021, and I bet it hasn't gotten much better.

The Highlands are extremely short on public restrooms, aside from those that should be provided by merchants. There are no public toilets in the area listed at PeePlace. While there has been City Council discussion about the lack of public toilets in parks, and various announcements about improvements and increased hours, there does not seem to be any information on the city website that someone might use to find a public restroom or portable toilet.

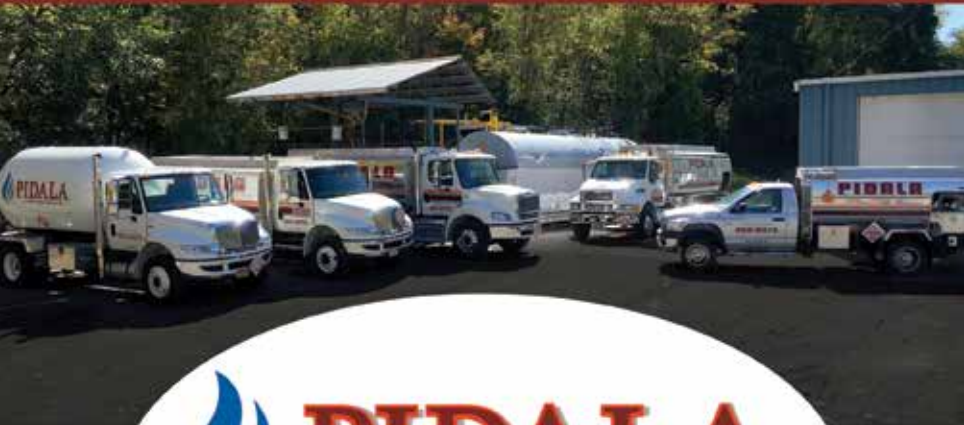
I grew up in Boston, and as a child I had access to coin-operated public restrooms. By one report, there were more than 50,000 of them across the U.S. in 1970. Some viewed charging someone when nature calls as unjust and by 1980 there were next to none. But cities and towns did not pick up the slack.


If our cities and town can't afford to build public restrooms, and the coin-operated model can't be resurrected, elected officials should pass ordinances requiring that the state regulations be enforced as written. Many restaurants, bars and groceries already provide customer access; it is built into their business model to maintain them and clean them. Similarly, other businesses provide employees with access.

While mandating that all businesses provide visitor access to restrooms will be a break with convention, there is a public interest in stricter interpretation of the state code. Local governments should do so, perhaps giving businesses a few months to prepare.

Stowe Boyd, who lives in Beacon, specializes in the economics and ecology of work and the “anthropology of the future.” This column focuses on the local impacts of larger trends.

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Real Estate



Market Report (April)

	BEACON		PHILIPSTOWN	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
New Listings	10	18	16	2
Closed Sales	5	2	6	7
Days on Market	18	10	144	79
Median Price	\$452,000	\$623,708	\$444,000	\$550,000
% List Received	108.2	112.6	89.8	94.5
Inventory	18	18	30	15

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



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NEWS BRIEFS

Former Beacon Student Killed

19-year-old shot in Poughkeepsie

The victim of a fatal shooting on May 13 in Poughkeepsie attended Beacon High School from 2018 to 2022, according to the district.

Police said Thomas Galimore Rhodes, 19, was found just after 2 a.m. near the intersection of Market and Montgomery streets with multiple gunshot wounds. He died in surgery at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. The shooting is being investigated by the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department.

Haldane Locked Down

Popping sound turns out to be fireworks

Haldane locked down its campus in Cold Spring just after noon on Monday (May 15) after a sheriff's deputy heard what sounded like gunfire near campus.

The noise, which frightened elementary students on the playground, turned out to be firecrackers set off in the yard of a nearby home.

In an email to parents, Superintendent Philip Benante said a lockdown began at 12:15 p.m. while police investigated. The campus reopened at 1:35 p.m.

"A number of students and staff were outside and had to quickly return to the building or other safe area to seek shelter," he wrote. "While any student may need support in processing today's event, these students may have experienced an increased sense of vulnerability and anxiety."

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department and Cold Spring Police Department did not respond to emails seeking details.

More Pot Licenses in Mid-Hudson

Bridges retail total to 16 in region

The state Cannabis Control Board on May 11 issued 11 licenses for retail marijuana shops to operate in the Mid-Hudson region.

There are now 16 licensees in the region who can open retail shops. The first five licenses were issued in April. The most recent went to ones based in Poughkeepsie, Mount Kisco, South Fallsburg, Middletown, Ossining, Port Jervis, Nyack and Mount Vernon.

Beacon Council to Vote on Firehouse Contractors

Also expected to set hearing on temporary road change

The Beacon City Council is expected on Monday (May 22) to approve awarding more than \$12 million in contracts to the firms that will oversee the electric, geothermal, fire sprinklers, plumbing and mechanical aspects and general construction of the city's centralized fire station on South

Avenue.

The council will likely also set a public hearing for a temporary measure that would make South Avenue from Main to Beacon streets one-way (heading south) for the duration of construction, which is expected to begin in June and take 14 months. The \$14.7 million project will consolidate Beacon's three fire stations into a single modernized, energy-efficient facility that the city expects to last into the next century.

Orange County Man Sues Over Beacon Mailbox

Says installation created conditions for fall

An Orange County man who says he tripped and fell while walking by a mailbox outside 240 Main St. in Beacon is suing the U.S. Postal Service in federal court.

Michael Regan said he fell on July 31, 2021, after stepping onto a sidewalk and an area where pavement bricks were removed to install the mailbox, according to a lawsuit filed May 5 in White Plains.

Regan said in court papers that the USPS has not responded to a claim he filed in October 2021. The lawsuit seeks compensation "in an amount commensurate with plaintiff's injuries and damages."

EPA to Discuss Hudson PCB Probe

GE will investigate contamination from chemicals

Officials with the federal Environmental Protection Agency will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday (May 24) to discuss the agency's upcoming investigation into the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the lower Hudson River.

General Electric reached an agreement in September with the EPA to investigate contamination from the chemicals in the river between the Troy Dam and New York City's harbor by sampling fish, sediment and water.

Under a 2006 order, the company spent \$1.7 billion dredging north of Albany in what the EPA said was the most polluted 40-mile stretch of the Hudson.

The meeting is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. and participants will be given time to ask questions. Register at bit.ly/pcb-forum.

Text-to-911 Begins in Putnam

Service available to wireless customers

The Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services on May 1 began accepting 911 emergency calls via text.

The county said that while voice calls are still the fastest way to contact 911, texting services are now available to individuals who may be deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech-impaired. Additionally, texting may be necessary when speaking could put a caller in danger.

No Nuts

(from Page 1)

by distracting a driver. After hearing the crash, Michael Bowman, the former mayor, offered his driveway to the NUTmobile, but soon Mayor Chris Winward arrived and said the vehicle needed a permit.

"If the truck had requested a permit we would have worked with the sheriff's office to find a safe place for them to park, rather than so close to the intersection," Winward said on Wednesday.

"The peanut truck was also part of an unauthorized trail-running event that set up at the Nelsonville Woods trailhead," she said. "Another vendor, Salomon sporting goods, set up a pop-up tent on village property in front of the emergency access gate.

They worked together with a nonprofit hiking group from the city."

Winward said that Nelsonville requires that organizers of any event held on its property temporarily add the village to its insurance but, in this case, "they did not ask for permission. I believe this entrance to the trail was chosen because the Break-neck trailhead is closed. To my knowledge, we've never had a corporate-sponsored event happen there before."

Tessitore said she and her two companion "Peanuters" have been traveling in the NUTmobile for nearly a year through 48 states but had never been asked to leave. "Although we had to shorten our visit, we enjoyed the brief time we had meeting some people in Nelsonville!" she wrote in an email.

Ross Corsair contributed reporting.

William Sadler (1940-2023)

William Rutherford "Bill" Sadler, 82, passed away peacefully at the University of North Carolina Hospice Home, Pittsboro, on April 12, 2023, after a brief battle with cancer. A longtime resident of New York City and Garrison, New York, he had been a resident in recent years of Galloway Ridge near Chapel Hill. His family was by his side.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 9, 1940, Bill was educated in the wonderful public schools of his native city before moving on to Davidson College in North Carolina. After serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Germany, Bill continued his formal education as a Woodrow Wilson Scholar at Cornell University, after which he earned an MBA at Columbia University. A long career in investment research and management followed, beginning at Smith Barney & Co. His investment work carried him to Irving Trust Company, NSR Asset Management, which became Pine Tree Capital where he was president, and finally Lord Abnett & Co.

On a trip to Puerto Rico in 1968, Bill met his lifelong partner and later husband, William "Bill" Hicks, a pioneering New York theatrical and political fundraiser. They soon became known as "The Bills" and for their irrepressible, often devilish humor as well as active civic engagement. Both were devoted to their Black Labradors, Lola, Olive and Velma, affectionally called "The Girls."

Bill Sadler's mischievous smile and laughter at his own foibles will long be remembered. He often cited Hicks's chiding him on lengthy correspondence. "What are you doing, writing another War and Peace?" Recipients relished the sequels. As they did the playful and occasionally acerbic wit that enlivened his commentary on the passing scene. He loved travel, which stimulated his curiosity and added to the considerable depth of his understanding of and thoughtful insights into history and politics. He was an unabashed Anglophile, who also loved his gardens.

After buying a home in Garrison in 1995, The Bills helped establish an endowment for supporting gymnastics at the



U.S. Military Academy at West Point, across the Hudson River, that today totals millions. Bill Sadler was also an active board member of the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, where he chaired the Nominating Committee for several years. A longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, he served on the Session and as president of the Board of Trustees and chair of the Investment Committee.

The Bills moved to the retirement community of Galloway Ridge in 2016. Bill Sadler soon became chairman of its Employee Scholarship Fund Committee, raising funds for employees to pursue higher education. In short order, the funds quadrupled. He was also active in the Chatham County Democratic Party, was a dedicated fundraiser for state offices, and was co-chair of the Galloway Ridge Villa Democrats, spearheading the group's get-out-the-vote initiatives and happily achieving a turnout rate of 100 percent in his neighborhood.

Bill is survived by his nephew, Alfred G. Duncan III of Los Angeles, and his niece, Darrielle Duncan of Jacksonville, Florida. He was preceded in death by his beloved husband, his parents, Gladys McClain Sadler and William Harold Sadler, and his sister, Marilyn Sadler Duncan. At his express request, there will be no service.

The family requests that any memorial donations be made to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, 611 Granite Springs Road, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598 (800-942-0149) or to the Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (984-215-2675).

Bill cherished this life and he wishes all a joyous life in their own days ahead.

15 Questions

Fjord Trail and state park officials respond

By Michael Turton

On May 8, officials from the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail and the state parks department responded to questions from Philipstown residents in a forum at the Haldane school auditorium.

The meeting was hosted by the elected boards of Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville, which in recent weeks received 210 questions about the 7.5-mile “linear park” intended to connect Cold Spring and Beacon.

Residents were asked to rank the questions they would like answered, and the people who submitted the 15 with the highest scores (or a proxy) went to the microphone to read each for the audience and Fjord Trail and state parks officials, who were given 10 minutes to respond. Two hours later, this was followed by 30 minutes of open questions.

Last week we published the first eight of the 15 questions posed, along with summaries of the responses. This week we share the remaining seven questions and responses from Amy Kacala, executive director of Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc., which is a project of the nonprofit environmental group Scenic Hudson, and Linda Cooper, the Taconic Region director of the state parks department. All 15 questions and responses are posted at highlandscurrent.org.

9 The Fjord Trail will have a big impact, but we have no data on what this impact (social, environmental, economic) will look like. Where are the studies that typically accompany projects of this large scale? Can we expect to see such analyses so we can have a fact-based debate?

David Duffy, Garrison

COOPER: That’s exactly what all the consultants have been hired to do. Collectively, the project is in the process of gathering a lot of environmental data for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, projected to come out in January 2024. Data will also address community attributes and character, open space, traffic, transportation, parking, safety issues, emergency services. There will be a public hearing, probably in February or March, after months of getting your comments and going back and forth to figure out what works and doesn’t work. It’s a process that is very publicly engaged, and we want your input. But we also need your patience because it’s not here today. We’re doing information-gathering and getting your ideas. It is my hope, my passion, that we collectively come up with a way to make an amazing, publicly accessible trail that works for visitors and communities.

10 If the environmental review reveals that there will be significant impacts to species such as the New England cottontail, cerulean warblers and submerged vegetation will the



The Cold Spring, Philipstown and Nelsonville boards held a joint hearing on May 8 in the Haldane school auditorium to discuss the proposed Fjord Trail. Photo by Ross Corsair

project be canceled? Lauren Martin, Philipstown

COOPER: We are state parks; we care deeply about habitat. We have a process. You inventory first. For any endangered or threatened natural resource, we seek to avoid their habitats, plan around it and where we can’t avoid, we mitigate.

11 I watched the waterfront development at the Beacon station for seven years, from the start. We know that much of the river shoreline has been disturbed for over a hundred years. The restoration brought back wildlife and habitat, including pollinators and native plants. What kind of plans are there to restore the natural habitat that existed pre-Industrial Revolution and how will the restoration help mitigate the rising water levels caused by climate change?

Adam Osterfeld, Philipstown

KACALA: This is a highly disturbed shoreline, with significant amounts of fill, the railroad and old quarries. There are many invasive species. At Breakneck, for example, restoration will include 5.4 acres of native plantings, 430 native trees, over 2,000 native shrubs and perennials. There will be wildlife crossings. We’ll improve stormwater drainage and create a garden that would be wet seasonally or when there’s a storm event.

12 Given the concerns about 600,000 visitors using the Fjord Trail and potentially swamping

the tiny Cold Spring village on weekends, is it possible to have the Dutchess Manor site be promoted from the outset as the focal point/centerpiece for Fjord Trail visitors, particularly those coming by car? This central point would have trail info, food, tons of parking and be the designated starting point for trail access. All trail guide brochures, advertising and other marketing information would direct visitors to this central point, noting that other trail access points may be available. Surely some will still come by train to the Cold Spring, Beacon and Breakneck stations, and others drive and park at other areas along the trail, but having the focus on this mid-trail site should cause less stress on Cold Spring resources and residents.

Cathy Carnevale, Cold Spring

KACALA: The plan has six entries to the park: the Beacon train station/Long Dock Park; Notch Trailhead/Dutchess Junction Park; Dutchess Manor Visitor Center; Breakneck train station; Washburn Trailhead and Cold Spring train station. We’re never going to be saying “Go park in Cold Spring.” When Breakneck and the visitor center at Dutchess Manor open, we want people to go there, to get used to that behavior. The shuttle will be up and running from there. In the future, the visitor center could have a cafe. So, if you’re at Breakneck and need something to eat, it’s another option. We’re changing options and the behavior with these little moves.

13 Seven significant ecological communities, identified by the New York Natural Heritage Program, as well as endangered and threatened species exist in the trail corridor. A far more modest Fjord Trail proposal was given a positive declaration in 2015. What has changed to make these habitats and species less vulnerable now? Susan Peehl, Cold Spring

COOPER: Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, that positive declaration is what allows us to do an environmental impact statement, to do studies, to engage in public comment. The positive declaration is what we are operating under right now, for the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement. Nothing has changed regarding those seven ecological communities.

14 How will Fjord Trail Inc. support the Village of Cold Spring to handle the increased strain in its infrastructure that the trail will bring? This is not a bathroom question – the village as it is can barely keep up with sidewalk repairs, garbage pickup, maintenance of the water treatment plant, etc.

Teresa Lagerman, Cold Spring

KACALA: We’re already at the table with the village. We’ll talk about which issue areas HHFT can help with or identify resources for. Issues include the Department of Transportation Route 9D intersection, sidewalk improvements from the train station, Fair Street sidewalks and other pedestrian improvements. Also, possible garbage emptying on the waterfront if we go the Dockside route. We’ll retain village events like fireworks and movies there. We’ll also help identify possible funding opportunities and possibly help the village with grant writing. If we go the Dockside route, we’d provide the infrastructure to help manage visitation, maintaining the park area at our cost.

15 A trail between Cold Spring and Beacon is a great idea. But the “add-ons” will totally change the character of the area the Fjord Trail claims to celebrate. Why must we accept the add-ons along with the trail? Ned Rauch, Garrison

KACALA: We had visitor orientation, wayfinding and signage in the last iteration. Add-ons include bathrooms; garbage bins; and HHFT staff to maintain the trail, help with rescues and manage parking, including at Dutchess Manor, the main entry to the visitor center, staff offices and accessible rest stops. An amphitheater was scaled back to be just an outdoor classroom.

We’re strategically drawing people away from Cold Spring as part of visitation management. Dutchess Manor could have things like snacks. Something could be created at the old Dutchess Junction Park, which still has a driveway down to it and playground equipment. And could we put something there? And since you’re in the forest, why not maybe make it an education experience to teach about forest ecosystems?

We just started a new series of walks where we look at one little part of the project area and talk about what’s planned there and get input. They will happen monthly on every second Saturday. We want input. So, get involved. Stay involved.

School Budgets Pass Easily

More than 75 percent of voters approve

By Chip Rowe

The 2023-24 budgets proposed by the Haldane, Garrison and Beacon districts passed easily on Tuesday (May 16). Other spending propositions were also approved, and Garrison and Beacon each welcomed two new board members.

HALDANE

By a vote of 449-67, or 87 percent approval, Haldane district residents passed a budget of \$28,234,681, which will increase the tax levy by 1.96 percent, or the amount allowed by Haldane's state-mandated tax cap. A home with a market value of \$500,000 will see an annual tax increase of \$138, according to the district. The turnout was 12 percent.

The budget includes funding for a class of up to eight students in kindergarten through the second grade with autism or similar needs (\$166,000); a new special education teacher at the secondary level (\$91,000); a French teacher (\$91,000); and equipment to teach coding, robotics, design and engineering (\$13,500).

A second proposition on the ballot, which passed 440-75, will allow the district to spend \$183,000 to replace a school bus and

purchase a tractor and Ford pickup truck for maintenance.

There was one open seat on the five-member board, and one candidate, Peggy Clements, who received 456 votes to win her fourth 3-year term. The other members of the board are Sean McNall (whose term ends in 2025), John Hedlund (2024), Maggie Valentine (2024) and Ezra Clementson (2025).

GARRISON

By a vote of 281-94, or 75 percent approval, Garrison district residents passed a budget of \$12,564,788, which will increase the tax levy by 3.29 percent, or the amount allowed by Garrison's state-mandated tax cap. A home with a market value of \$500,000 will see an annual tax increase of \$151, according to the district. The turnout was 17 percent.

To balance the budget, the district will spend nearly \$700,000 of its savings and make \$220,000 in cuts, including changing the art teacher from full-time to part-time; 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.

There were two other propositions on the ballot: (1) to take \$45,000 from a capi-

tal reserve fund to replace the district's oil-based water heaters with electric units, which passed 334-41, and (2) to allow the district to contract for two to five years (rather than one) to allow students to attend Putnam Valley High School, which passed 290-85. (Garrison goes through eighth grade; students can then choose Haldane, O'Neill or Putnam Valley high schools.)

There are three open seats on the seven-member board, and three candidates were elected: Jocelyn Apicello, who won her second 3-year term with 275 votes, and newcomers Jennifer Harriton-Wilson (268) and Dan Jasnow (285).

The other members of the board are Sarah Tormey (whose term ends in 2025), Courtney McCarthy (2024), David Gelber (2024) and Kent Schacht (2025). Madeline Julian resigned in March and Matthew Speiser did not seek re-election.

BEACON

By a vote of 666-196, or 77 percent approval, Beacon City School District voters passed a budget of \$81,340,700, which will increase the tax levy by 3.64 percent, the amount permitted by Beacon's state-mandated tax cap. The turnout was 5 percent.

The budget includes four new positions at Rombout Middle School — a social worker, a world language (Italian) teacher, a reading teacher to support students not meeting grade-level standards and a part-time music teacher. In addition, funding for an additional preschool teacher will allow

the district to expand its pre-K program to each of its four elementary schools.


The district estimates that property taxes will increase \$135 per year for a home valued at \$300,000 in Beacon; \$168 per year for a home in Fishkill; and \$199 per year for a home in Wappingers Falls.

There were three other propositions on the ballot, to allow the district to: (1) spend up to \$530,000 to purchase three 72-passenger buses and a van, which passed 644-220; (2) spend up to \$466,000 on an electric school bus, as long as it receives grants of up to \$250,000, which passed 570-295; and (3) provide transportation to students who live more than a mile from their school (the current limit is 1.5 miles), at a cost of about \$10,000, which passed 684-177.

There were four open seats on the nine-member school board, and four candidates: Anthony White and Kristan Flynn, who were seeking their fourth and third terms, respectively, and newcomers Semra Ercin and Eric Schetter. Craig Wolf did not seek re-election to a third term.


The three candidates who received the most votes, Schetter (696), Flynn (678) and White (639), will each serve a 3-year term. Ercin (607) will complete the final two years of the term of Antony Tseng, who resigned in March.

The other members of the board are Meredith Heuer (whose term ends in 2025), Flora Stadler (2024), Alena Kush (2025), John Galloway Jr. (2024) and Yunice Heath (2024).



Hudson Valley Community Power

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<i>Town of Rhinebeck</i>	<i>Town of Philipstown</i>	<i>Town of Red Hook</i>	<i>Village of Nelsonville</i>
<i>Village of New Paltz</i>	<i>Village of Cold Spring</i>	<i>Village of Saugerties</i>	<i>Town of Saugerties</i>

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Wednesday, May 24th at 7 pm in Philipstown Town Hall

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AROUND TOWN



▲ **SPRING FLOWERS** — Students from Haldane Middle School performed *Alice in Wonderland* on May 12 and 13. In this scene, the flowers try to figure out what kind of flower Alice is. When she says she's not a flower, they declare her a weed and chase her away. See more photos at highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair



▲ **NEW HOOPS** — During a “participatory budgeting” exercise in December, Beacon High School student Dylan Howard (third from left) proposed new basketball rims and backboards for the court at Memorial Park. He is shown with Beacon High School Principal Corey Dwyer, teacher Erin Haddeland, Mayor Lee Kyriacou and Sean DeToro and Dave Way, who installed the equipment.

Photo provided



▲ **NEW HOME** — The Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County celebrated the opening on May 11 of a development center at 31 Eliza St., in Beacon. The center offers services such as benefit assessments; family development support; food, prescription and emergency financial assistance; weatherization services; and tax preparation.

Photo provided

▼ **SHARING MEMORIES** — A group of older adults performed an original play at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on May 13 and 14. Sponsored by Philipstown Aging at Home and directed by Kate Czajkowski, *More to Our Story* featured John Allen, Sarah Banker, Martha Callaway, Gail Duggan, Gordon Duggan, Ruth Eisenhower, Mary Ann Fallon, Susan Freeman, Martee Levi, Claudio Marzollo, Karen Rattazzi-Stein, Sheila Rauch and Sara Yano. See more photos at highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair



The Calendar

Sharing Space

Shakespeare Festival prepares for second season at new home

By Alison Rooney

With fewer vestiges of the pandemic inertia that lingered into 2022, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is preparing for an energy-infused season this summer.

“We can’t wait to welcome audiences,” said Davis McCallum, its artistic director. “It’s been such a long time since people came together to truly celebrate.”

To that end, he says, the festival chose for 2023 plays that provide “an experience that you share. This summer people can have confidence in the open air. The performances are safe and remind us of the importance of sharing space, and having third spaces, which are not home, not work, but a place for connection.”

HVSF this year will bring back “the picnic aspect of the experience. We have a great new menu of local food,” he says.

McCallum says that 2022 was “a pilot season” at the festival’s new location at the former Garrison Golf Course, after moving from the Boscobel site that had been its home for more than 30 years.

Each night, HVSF will host a guided walk around its property and “share the design for the new open-air theater we’re planning” to replace its tent, he says. “The bar will be open after the show on weekends and, if it is similar to last year, it will turn into a place to chat post-show with some of the actors.”

Of course, as always, the plays are at the center of it all. This season will feature two by Shakespeare, *Henry V* and *Love’s Labor’s Lost*, and a contemporary, musical retelling of *The Odyssey*, which reimagines it from the point of view of Penelope, Odysseus’ left-behind wife. Fittingly, her name is the title of the play.

HVSF has only performed *Henry V* once before, in 2002. Although categorized by scholars as one of Shakespeare’s “history” plays, McCallum notes it is equal parts comedy and romance, “with room for clowning and physicality. It celebrates playmaking and acting.”

It will be performed in the round. “There will be a character called ‘the chorus’ who acts as a go-between, inviting the audience to participate in co-creating with the actors,” McCallum says. “He’ll be played



Emily Ota, seen in the 2022 production of *Romeo and Juliet*, will portray King Henry this summer.

Photo by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF



HVSF this year hopes to encourage more picnicking before the shows.

by Sean McNall [HVSF’s associate artistic director] as an 11-year-old, and he’s infused with the transformation.” Emily Ota, who appeared in 2022 in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Mr. Burns*, will play the title role.

“The Henriad [history plays] traces Henry’s adolescent evolution to adulthood to kingship,” says McCallum. “This play completes that journey.”

Love’s Labor’s Lost has been performed frequently by the festival, with good reason, according to McCallum, who says it’s “hugely entertaining and easy to understand — there’s that experience of falling in love we can all relate to.”

It will be directed by Amanda Dehnert, who directed *Pride and Prejudice* in 2017. Its pop-rock score is by Dehnert and Andre Pleuss.

The plays appear quite different but both are about growing up, McCallum says. “They seem like they’re going to deliver one thing, then the fifth act surprises you — they both have a great twist. And there are wonderful parts for the whole company

in those plays.”

That company includes mainstays Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson, as well as festival veterans Carl Howell, Luis Quintero, Antoinette Robinson and Stephen Michael Spencer.

New to the festival is Tatiana Wechsler, who will perform solo in *Penelope*, a world premiere that will close the season. McCallum heard the score at a Manhattan music club. “It started as a concept album by Alex Bechtel, written during the pandemic when he was separated from his family,” he says. “It sits between genres and is just compelling.” It will be directed by Eva Steinmetz.

McCallum says of the troupe: “The legacy of this company is we’re not apologizing for being American actors in the here and now. They bring their full experience into these plays, in surprising ways. They have an instinct for the truth of a moment.”

The schedule will look different this season: It begins with previews of *Henry V* on May 31 and adds *Love’s Labor’s Lost* six weeks later, with previews beginning



Top: Tatiana Wechsler will play the title role in *Penelope*. Bottom: Davis McCallum is HVSF’s artistic director.

Photos provided

July 12. Both plays continue in repertory until late August, ending a week apart, before *Penelope* begins its two-week run on Sept. 2.

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is located at 2015 Route 9 in Garrison. Tickets range from \$10 for obstructed views to \$100 for center front on weekends. See hvshakespeare.org/tickets-events.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 20

Community Safety & Wellness Day

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave.

The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps will offer blood-pressure screenings, car seat checks, activities and a chance for children to meet firefighters and rangers.

SAT 20

Mother's Day Tea

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. United Methodist Church
216 Main St. | 845-265-3365

Leave a phone message for reservations. *Cost: \$15*

SUN 21

ARF Annual 5K Run/Walk

BEACON

10 a.m. Memorial Park
events.elitefeats.com/23arf

This annual fundraiser will benefit the Animal Rescue Foundation. Leashed dogs and strollers are welcome. Rain or shine. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 on race day; children ages 10 and younger free)*

TUES 23

CCA Info Session

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Hall
845-859-9099 x2
hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com

Representatives from Hudson Valley Community Power will

explain Community Choice Aggregation, in which residents will be opted in to a program to purchase electricity. Sessions will also be held at the Philipstown Town Hall at 7 p.m. on WED 24 and by Zoom at 1 p.m. on SAT 27 (see tinyurl.com/HVCPMay27).

WED 24

Hudson River PCBs

ALBANY

6 p.m. Via Zoom
epalowerhudsonriver.eventbrite.com

The Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting about the presence of highly toxic chemicals known as PCBs that pollute the lower Hudson River. It's an opportunity to ask questions.

WED 24

Fjord Trail Info Session

BEACON

7 p.m. Recreation Center
23 W. Center St.
hhft.org

City Council members Dan Aymar-Blair and Justice McCray will host this session with representatives from the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, who will discuss what the project means for Beacon and answer questions.

SAT 27

Community Plant Swap

COLD SPRING

2 – 3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Bring seeds or vegetable plants to trade.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 20

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

WAPPINGERS FALLS

2 & 8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countypayers.org

The Sondheim musical set in Rome follows a servant trying to make his way to freedom. Also SUN 21. *Cost: \$26 (\$23 seniors, military, ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 20

What's Your Story

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Storytellers will share their true tales about journeys. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 21

Charles Coe

PUTNAM VALLEY

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

The poet will read work from his collections, including *Picnic on the Moon* and *Purgatory Road*. An open mic will follow. *Cost: \$10*



ARF Annual 5K Run/Walk, May 21

MON 22

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

BEACON

8 p.m. Draught Industries
396 Main St. | storyscreenpresents.com

Play movie bingo (cards are \$5 or 3 for \$10) and watch a screening of the 2008 film, the fourth installment of the series. Presented by StoryScreen.

VISUAL ARTS



The Sun and the Moon

SAT 20

Ugo Rondine | RA Walden | Beatriz Cortez

NEW WINDSOR

10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Storm King
1 Museum Road | 845-534-3115
stormking.org

Storm King opens three exhibits: "The Sun" (2018) and "The Moon" (2021) by Rondine are formed with cast-bronze tree branches; "Access points // or // Alternative States of Matter(ing)," by Walden, depicts the electron configurations of the six most common elements on Earth; and *The Volcano That Left*, by Cortez, brings together her recent sculptures.

SAT 20

Beacon's Great Estates

BEACON

1 – 3 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
61 Leonard St. | beaconhistorical.org

The scenic location of Beacon attracted many wealthy families; this exhibit documents more than a dozen historic homes. Through July 1.

SAT 20

Beacon Schools Art Exhibit

BEACON

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Artwork by students from kindergarten through the 12th grade will be on view during this reception. Through June 4.

SAT 20

Susan Stillman | Chris Randolph

GARRISON

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

In *Peripheral Visions*, Stillman's small-work paintings capture moments without figures. In *Tales of the Psyche*, Randolph's paintings, drawings and sculpture explore inner struggles. Through June 18.

SAT 27

NBNY Art Seen: Art Walk

NEWBURGH

1 – 5 p.m. Various
newburghart.org/nbny-artseen

The Newburgh Arts & Cultural Commission sponsors this walk on the last Saturday of each month through October. See the website for a map with participating galleries.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 20

Calligraphy and Origami Workshop

GARRISON

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

Members of the Mid-Hudson Japanese Community Association will explain how to fold paper to make sculptures and to shape letters in calligraphy. For ages 6 and older. *Registration required.*



Beacon Schools Art Exhibit, May 20

SAT 20

Create a Small-Space Kitchen Garden

BREWSTER

2 p.m. Sedge Garden
1 Geneva Road | putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Learn in this workshop by the Cornell Cooperative Extension how to use companion planting and square-foot gardening techniques.
Cost: \$10

TUES 23

Writer’s Workshop

BEACON

1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Novelist Angela Reich, author of *Shipwreck of Hopes*, will lead a discussion for writers of fiction, poetry, memoir and children’s books about expanding stories and publishing. Bring a work in progress if you have one.

WED 24

Life in Iraq

GARRISON

7 p.m. St. Philip’s Church
1101 Route 9D | stphilipshighlands.org

The Rev. Faiz Jerjes and Sinan Hanna of St. George’s Episcopal Church in Baghdad will discuss conditions in the country since the U.S.-led invasion two decades ago and the state of its Christian communities. See Page 2.

THURS 25

Shipwreck of Hopes

BEACON

7 p.m. St. Joachim’s Hall
51 Leonard St. | beaconhistorical.org

Angela Reich, author of this novel about the journalist Margaret Fuller, will talk about Fuller’s time in what is now Beacon, when she wrote a feminist book, *Woman in the 19th Century*. Sponsored by the Beacon Historical Society.

KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 21

Girls Who Code

GARRISON

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

This workshop will teach girls in the third and fourth grades how to use Scratch and the basics of programming languages.
Registration required.

WED 24

Mini Painted Birdhouse

GARRISON

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

Children are invited to decorate and take home a small birdhouse.



Margaret Fuller, May 25

SUN 28

An Invitation for Next Time

NEW WINDSOR

Noon – 3 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road | 845-534-3115
stormking.org

Children are invited to make a craft to take home and invite someone to join them on their next visit.

MUSIC

SAT 20

Song Circle

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Foundry Rose
55 Main St. | 845-809-5480
thefoundryrose.com

This musical collaboration will be hosted by Brian Grahn and Mike Casale.

SAT 20

The Planets

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

The Hudson Valley Philharmonic will perform a program inspired by astrology and astronomy, including works by Holst, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky. *Cost: \$40 to \$60 (\$15 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 20

Hot Wrk Ensemble

BEACON

8 p.m. St. Andrew’s Church
15 South Ave. | hotwrk.bpt.me

J. Brooks Marcus (percussion), Lois Hicks-Wozniak (saxophone) and Brad Hubbard (baritone saxophone, woodwinds) will perform original chamber music. *Cost: \$20 (\$30 door)*

SAT 20

Willie Nile Band

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The rock singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 21

Michael Davidman

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
35 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

The pianist’s program will include works by Chopin and Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 21

Old Blind Dogs

BEACON

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

The Scottish folk band, which uses traditional instruments, will play music from northeast Scotland. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

THURS 25

Stephen Clair

BEACON

8 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com

Clair will play music from his



Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, May 22

album, *To The Trees*. *Free*

FRI 26

Aztec Two-Step 2.0

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Dodie Pettit and her husband Rex Fowler will play energetic folk music, including some of the band’s older material. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 27

Judith Tulloch

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Reserva
173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com

Tulloch and her band play pop, rock and world music. *Free*

SAT 27

Black Magic

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Santana tribute band will recreate a live concert experience. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 28

Bob Dylan Birthday Bash

BEACON

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

A tribute band, Old Bob, will play classics and newer songs from the singer and songwriter’s expansive repertoire. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

CIVIC

MON 22

City Council

BEACON

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

WED 24

Village Board

COLD SPRING

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



Old Blind Dogs, May 21

The HIGHLANDS

Current

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As your independent nonprofit news source for Philipstown and Beacon, *The Highlands Current* relies on you, our readers, to help support quality coverage of all that matters to you.

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Living Green

What's Your Future? (II)

By Krystal Ford



In my April column I shared my vision for our world in 2050. This month, as promised, I will share visions from members of the community, which were a combination of innovation, restoration, community, health and ecosystems. They represent a change in our attitudes toward and relationships with nature, justice and making the streets safe for all.

If we all start to think about what we want to see by 2050, instead of fearing what will happen, I think we can collectively make it come to fruition.

James Hartford, River Architects

It is 2050, and I am so proud of our achievements. We managed to rein in emissions to keep the rise in global warming below the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold and through innovation drew enough carbon dioxide from the air to give us a buffer. Breakthroughs in thought and engineering gave us safer and universally avail-

able renewable fuels, carbon-sink concrete and mineralized carbon unlocking, and unimagined capabilities.

Reforestation was the biggest success, not only strengthening the natural carbon cycle but stabilizing and sometimes reversing habitat loss and improving biodiversity. Getting businesses and industry to accept their responsibility was the greatest tool in addressing the worst of climate change, but we need to stay vigilant. My hope is that the same can-do attitude that prevented the worst-case predictions can be focused on getting plastics out of the environment. It is a big task but we are up to it. I am amazed at what we were able to do in just 27 years.

Erik Brown, Philipstown Climate Smart Task Force member

My hope is that by 2050, society will be mostly on the same page and we will have moved away from spending energy on raising awareness and community outreach. I hope that environmental recovery and restoration will be the focus, and that viewing our natural world chiefly as a separate place from which we extract resources (sustainably or not) will seem antiquated.

Jade Silverstein, food systems consultant

By 2050 I hope we are using the creative potential of the digital industrial revolution for innovations that prioritize healthy ecosystems and healthy people. I hope that our approach has shifted from telling our children that the world is burning to one where we take the responsibility to change, and the kids have an opportunity to create a world that is full of all the good they could dream of.

I hope that the future is something so good that it's beyond my capacity to imagine it. Call me naive but I think that we (and the kids!) have a chance at a positive, healthy future.

Rebecca Ramirez, co-chair, Philipstown Trails Committee

It is 2050 and we finally see Complete Streets all over, not just in our greatest cities but even in the rural parts of the U.S. and beyond. For centuries, our streets were designed for cars and people were walking and biking them knowing that they might be sacrificing their lives. Pedestri-



ans demanded a change in our transportation alternatives and elected officials and agencies worked closely with residents to answer the call of leadership.

We have finally made streets for all and children are riding their bikes to school, parents are driving less and the roads are full of life and people, instead of single drivers.

Dar Williams, singer-songwriter

I can't help it. This is what I see in 2050: a sustainable, just, inclusive, diverse and biodiverse planet.

Whole living systems are more sustainable. Urban planners used to make decisions from the sky. They'd go up in a plane and create blueprints for cities. For decades

now, planners have been observing the way people actually move around, and in my travels I have seen cities become more walkable, bikeable, green and livable.

In step with greener, more breathable cities, we have sustainable systems of self-governance that are coming online. We've gone from alternative economies of sprawling communes to a looser, broader, better-organized exploration of the commons, where we seek the higher standard of living that comes from participating in the give-and-take of community life.

However, this future will only happen if we follow this mantra: Keep going. Our role as translators is to live in a way that we think will be sustainable and just in 2050. We will get funny looks; we will be told that our ideas are problematic, unpatriotic, "unscalable," too little, too late, too useless.

If we can deal with the incredulity and mockery we get as first adopters of renewable technologies, and when we are experiencing the joys of "making a living not a killing" (as Utah Phillips used to say), participating in the growth of a strong commons where there is an ethos and understanding toward the collective good, then by 2050 I predict that we will have balanced all the atmospheric gasses, cleaned the air, water and Earth, and protected enough habitat to protect and coexist within healthy, biodiverse ecosystems.

And then, with more planetary health, renewable resources and the expanding circles of social trust, we will have a much better foundation on which to continue our reckoning with injustice and violence.



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Two New Beacon Cafes

*Salads and smoothies
on the menu*

By Kat Merry

Butterhead Salad Company

Sabena Branche, the owner of the newly opened Butterhead Salad Company at 280 Main St. in Beacon, isn't the person you might expect behind the counter.

For 20 years, she sold real estate. "I loved every minute of my job as a broker," she says, but was ready for something new.

It was during her nightly ritual of making creative salads for dinner that Branche had an epiphany. She thought customizing a house search might be similar to customizing a salad bowl. "You want to make sure the customer is getting exactly what they want," she says.

She also was motivated by helping her sister, Cicely Prevost, who owned an eclectic boutique in Beacon, Ella and the Earth. Branche began creating recipes and, last spring, looked for a storefront.

This past fall, a space became available across the street from Ella and the Earth, and the sisters persuaded the landlord to let them split the storefront. Ella became House of Maxx and Branche gave notice at her job.

"Signing that lease and leaving the comfort of my 9-to-5 was both terrifying and exhilarating," she recalls.

In her half of the space, she added rattan light fixtures and a wall of wallpaper covered in peacocks, her "spirit animal." She took a maximalist approach to her menu. "I ordered top-of-the-line equipment to bake, fry and cook everything in-house." There was a learning curve in a commercial kitchen. "It was intimidating," she admits, "but I'm getting the hang of it."

In addition to a packed salad bar, Butterhead has options for children, such as bento boxes and yogurt parfaits, as well as heartier meals for adults. "My partner is a meat-and-potatoes guy, so I also wanted to make sure we offer plenty of filling protein," Branche says.

Butterhead Salad Company is open from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; and 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. See butterheadsaladcompany.com or call 845-440-6222. Salads and rice bowls start at \$12 and quinoa bowls at \$13.

Healthy in Color

Katrina Alvez and Angel Rodriguez met at Cascarino's, a pizzeria in Montgomery where they both worked. "We developed a friendship first and then as we got closer, we realized that we shared the same dream — to own our own restaurant one day," Alvez says. That dream is Healthy in Color, at 259 Main St.

Alvez, an Orange County native, has worked in food service since she was 16, working her way up to become the manager at Cascarino's. Rodriguez, a native of the



Branche speaks to customers while spreading her message of peace, love and salad.

Photos by K. Merry

Dominican Republic, was hired as head chef in 2017.

Rodriguez says he learned to cook by watching his mother as a boy, then honed his skills at culinary schools, restaurants and cruise ships, although the latter made him realize he wanted a career on land.

Some of the menu items at Healthy in Color, particularly the smoothies, are inspired by the tastes of his childhood. "Bananas and mangos were always key ingredients where I grew up," he says. "When I was little, I would blend them up daily and share them with my friends."

The menu is a far cry from Cascarino's. "Working in a pizzeria is a fast-paced and demanding environment," Rodriguez says. "We would eat all that unhealthy food and it weighed on our physical and mental health."

In 2020, the couple decided it was time to change their diets. "We made trips to the grocery store together on breaks and cooked up healthier meals in the pizza kitchen," says Rodriguez.

In early 2021, he began making his own line of organic juices. By late 2022, they were ready to open their own space. Alvez and Rodriguez spent their early mornings, late nights and days off from the pizzeria at 259 Main, experimenting.

Whittling the smoothie menu down from about 50 to 14 options was a delicious challenge. In addition, Rodriguez says, "I am always experimenting with new produce and whole grains. I feel like I can let my



Left: Sabena Branche owns Butterhead Salad Company. Right: Angel Rodriguez and Katrina Alvez show off two of their dishes outside Healthy In Color.

imagination run wild."

The cafe opened in March. Alvez continues to work at Cascarino's as the business gets going; Rodriguez recently gave his notice.

When it comes to love and business, Alvez and Rodriguez believe they have found a balance. "We both have our strengths and we have learned to lean on each other," she says. "It's been a natural progression in our relationship and careers to start this business together."

One long-term goal is to sell their juices to warehouse workers on overnight shifts as an alternative to fast food. "Discovering the benefits of healthy food was a life-changer for us," says Alvez, "and we want to share that with as many people as possible, especially those who don't have easy access."

Healthy in Color is open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. See healthyincolor.com or call 845-440-6221. Breakfast starts at \$8 and lunch salads at \$11. Smoothies are \$8 and energy juices are \$6.

Classic Wheels

1966 Land Rover Series IIA

By Michael Turton

Many vintage vehicle owners love their classic cars for their beautiful lines. Think the 1937 Lincoln Zephyr, 1956 Corvette or 1966 Jaguar XKE.

But Alex Wilcox Cheek of Cold Spring appreciates his 1966 Land Rover Series IIA for a very different reason.

"As a designer, I think people assume I'd like a more stylized car," Cheek says. "The iconic Rovers are the opposite of that. There are no curves at all — form and function are entirely one."

Driving the Rover, he says, requires undivided attention. "You can't be on your phone or have any distractions. My Volvo practically drives itself; driving the Rover is a focused and engaging experience."

While a 1966 Jaguar owner would probably prefer a spin on the thruway, Cheek finds the Rover is more at home on a dirt road. "There's no power anything, just lights, signals and a horn," he says. "The air conditioning is two flaps below the windscreen that you prop open." The flaps at least have bug screens.



Cheek says the Rover's 2.25-liter, 4-cylinder engine and 4-speed manual transmission leave it underpowered. "Overdrive didn't appear for another couple of years, so once I'm in fourth gear, that's it," he says.

In 1966, the vehicle could achieve 70 mph, but Cheek has not pushed his past 50. "I can't imagine 70 being possible," he says.

The odometer reads 13,500 miles but has turned over at least once. The paint is the original pastel green, the same used on the first Land Rovers produced 75 years ago. "I always kept my eye out for this very specific model, an 88-inch wheelbase in this color," Cheek recalls. "I took the roof off and added the canvas top."

The Rover was in rough shape when he bought it during the pandemic for \$17,000; it came with a box of the parts that had fallen

off over the years. But, he says, it was not hard to work on.

"Everything is easily accessible; if you need to get under the car without crawling under it, you just pull out the seat and open the panels," he says, adding that the Rover has always started with a key but he can use a crank if necessary.

He has been restoring the vehicle himself but hired a mechanic for the brakes, brake lines and steering.

Finding replacement parts can be a challenge for many vintage vehicles, but not so the Rover. One of North America's largest Rover parts suppliers is in Vermont, and the design changed little between 1948 and 1985.

When Cheek drives it in the village, the Rover gets noticed. "Once I received a formal British Army salute from a guy on the side-

THE SPECS

MODEL: 1966 Land Rover Series IIA**MANUFACTURED:** Solihull, England**NUMBER BUILT:** 17,300**YEARS BUILT:** 1948-85**ENGINE:** 2.25-liter straight 4-cylinder**TRANSMISSION:** 4-speed manual**ORIGINAL PRICE:** \$2,775

walk as I rattled my way up Main Street," he recalls.

He is now looking for another Rover, one from the 1990s. Deciding to sell his 1966 model has proven serendipitous.

Cheek's Rover came with documentation. It was purchased new by Jonathan Bulkley in New England and earned a mention in his 2019 obituary: "In August 1968, with his wife and 3-month-old son plus two cats, he drove an old-style Land Rover to Ann Arbor, Michigan." Bulkley owned the vehicle for 47 years.

After listing the vehicle for sale online, Cheek received an email from Ryan Reidy, a prospective buyer in St. Louis. Bulkley was his wife's great-uncle and Reidy says when he saw the ad, he thought, "Oh my God, that's the same car!" Reidy and his wife had visited Bulkley in Ann Arbor and ridden in the Rover.

A deal was quickly struck. Reidy will pick up the Rover later this month.

"Sending the Rover back to the family of the man who loved it so much seems like the perfect ending for me," Cheek says. "I was just a temporary caretaker in the car's long story."

Plant Sale Sunday

Philipstown Rec. Center, Rte 9D, Garrison

MAY 21, 2023

10 AM - 2 PM RAIN or SHINE

Native Plants
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Member Plants
Vegetables & Herbs
Hanging Baskets

Kids welcome to gardening

philipstowngardenclubny.org

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Fri. May 19 – 8 PM
The {Vagina} Monologues - Encore!
Performed Reading
Tix: \$20 adv / \$25 door: howlandculturalcenter.org

Sat. May 20 – 1-5 PM (closed Sun)
Two Exhibits in One equals Family Fun
Imagination & THE MACHINE
Sculptures that blur the line between real & imaginary
PLUS - A Storywalk Alongside Frog And Weasel!

Fri. May 26 – 7-10 PM
OPEN MIC NIGHT
Lottery begins at 6:45 - Performers start at 7
Doors open at 6:15 - Donations suggested

Sat. June 10 – 6:30 PM
Mystery at the Library
A Gilded Age Whodunit Dinner Theatre
Tix: \$75 advance tickets only: howlandculturalcenter.org

Sat & Sun June 17+18
Beacon LitFest - Program and Workshops
With special guest New York Times and NPR puzzlemaster Will Shortz
Get your tickets TODAY! Seats are limited
Tix: howlandculturalcenter.org

Coming Soon
HCC + Upstate Arts Weekend - July 21, 22, 23, 24
MIND READER - Vinny DePonto - July 22
PINOT & AUGUSTINE Show for Kids + Families - July 23
DAVID AMRAM & FRIENDS - Aug 12
Check our website + media for more info and events

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

DEPOT THEATRE

Luck be the Depot Spring Benefit
May 21 at 4:45

DEPOT DOCS: Of Medicine and Miracles
June 9 at 7:30
Followed by Reception at Dolly's

Daniel Kelly Trio
Featuring Sophia Kelly
June 10

Glass Ceiling Breakers
One Acts and Short Films Festival
June 16-18

All tickets available at
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

Out There

Liberating the Outdoors

By Brian PJ Cronin

The outdoors isn't always welcoming. Not so much because of ticks, bears or poison ivy, but because of the people who disapprove if you don't fit their idea of what an "outdoorsy" person looks like.



Megan McGuinness, who lives in Beacon, says she encountered this on group hikes in the Highlands. She feared being judged as not fast enough or strong enough. "That comes from a lot of lived experience," she says. "There's not a lot of spaces for people in larger bodies to just be — just to move, just to be in community."

On Instagram, she stumbled across the Body Liberation Outdoor Club, a group dedicated to creating that community. Then came another revelation, she says: "This is in my area."

BLOC has 17 chapters across North America and Mexico, with 30 more launching this summer, but the first was the Hudson Valley chapter (it's online at bodyliberationoutdoorclub.org/hudsonvalley). It was founded a few years ago by Alexa Rosales, a Newburgh resident who had encountered the same challenges as McGuinness. She found that group hikes were too competitive: Go fast, lose weight, reach that distant summit. There wasn't space for people who looked like her, who wanted to move at their own pace and enjoy being outside. And even when she did complete the group goal, she was showered with back-handed compliments.

"People would say, 'You did a great job.' But it came across as patronizing," she recalls. "Just because I live in a larger body doesn't mean I'm not a strong person. I'm able to move and be healthy in my larger body. A lot of 'norms' that people preach



Alexa Rosales (foreground), the founder of the Body Liberation Outdoor Club, leads a hike on Storm King.

Photo provided

are just discrimination."

Rosales started to explore what it would feel like to go on a group hike in which everyone had larger bodies. She launched a Facebook group — the first Body Liberation Outdoor Club hike was Rosales and a friend at Black Rock Forest. But word spread and, for a hike at Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, people showed up whom she hadn't met. She remembers that day as being "easy," not in terms of the hike but the lack of anxiety.

"It was special to see people realize they didn't have to prove themselves," she recalls. "Folks in bigger bodies are not used to that."

McGuinness had a similar experience when she connected with the group in January for a hike at Mills Mansion in Staatsburg. "It was super-liberating being on that hike," she says. "It healed a lot for me — just getting to enjoy nature is not something that lots of people in marginalized bodies have access to."

Rosales says the hikers don't discuss exercise or diet culture. Instead, they focus on "joyful movement," as opposed to viewing the outdoors as nothing more than a gym. "As someone in a bigger body, we're subject to a lot of ridicule, a lot of judgment

and expectation," she says. "Being outside shuts all of that off."

Rosales will lead a hike at 9 a.m. on Saturday (May 20) to Arden Point and Glyn-clyffe, in Garrison. On May 28, she'll lead a sunrise hike across the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, and on Juneteenth (June 19), a hike on city streets in Newburgh.

"Walking on pavement and having accessibility to sidewalks is important to people with disabilities," she explains. "But also, Newburgh is special and gets shunned a little bit. I'm from here, and I want to give a tour of this beautiful, historic place."

HELP WANTED

FARM STORE ASSISTANT — Glynwood seeks a farm store assistant to staff the Glynwood Farm Store on weekends from June 3 to Aug. 27. Responsibilities includes setting up and restocking inventory, assisting customers, making sales of Glynwood meat, produce and third-party products, and helping facilitate CSA pickup and customers in the pick-your-own field. For a full job description visit glynwood.org/about/job-opportunities.html. To apply, send your resume and cover letter to jobs@glynwood.org.

LIFEGUARDS/POOL MANAGER — River Pool at Beacon seeking lifeguards and pool manager for upcoming season. Good pay, easy work. Riverpool is a small floating pool in the Hudson River in Beacon. Email nrosa9@aol.com.

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LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (May 1873)

Two teenage girls were walking on Elm Street in Fishkill Landing when they were attacked by a mad dog, which they held off with an open umbrella. When the dog grabbed the umbrella and began to chew on it, the girls escaped.

Fishkill Landing residents presented the Board of Trustees with a petition with 34 signatures asking that it convert the street lights from kerosene to gas.

A coroner's jury investigating the unexpected death of Sarah Thorns of Glenham heard from a chemist who testified he found nothing suspicious in her stomach that might have caused her fatal convulsions.

Henry Alden of Fishkill Landing was granted a patent for a billiard cushion.



George "the Mad Bomber" Matesky at a Connecticut police station following his arrest in 1957; he was later sent to the Matteawan asylum in Beacon. *Library of Congress*

125 Years Ago (May 1898)

A Poughkeepsie woman was sent to the Matteawan Asylum for Insane Criminals after being accused of stabbing her two young children to death. Her husband had died a month earlier; the Odd Fellows Lodge, where he had been a member, had attempted to get her committed but said neighbors intervened.

C.W. Stanley (alias Tanner), who had been arrested in Port Jervis and charged with swindles in Matteawan, was sentenced to a year in Sing Sing.

The *Newburgh Telegram* reported that a young woman employed at a Matteawan hat factory enjoyed responding to personal ads in New York City newspapers. She arranged with a young man to come up on the train and meet at the ferry house at Fishkill Landing. He said he would be wearing a tan suit, a pearl gray fedora with a black band and a flag on the lapel of his coat. At the appointed hour, a young man approached her and tipped his hat — he was Black! She ran up Beekman Street in a panic and her co-workers had "great sport" teasing her.

A New York City dentist who set fire to his office while high on cocaine spent 18 months in the Matteawan asylum before being cured and released.

100 Years Ago (May 1923)

While sliding into second base during a steal attempt in a Factory League baseball game, Ignatius Mulla, 26, of Glenham, was hit in the side of the head by a low throw from pitcher Ted Lewis. Mullen complained of pain behind his ear but was able to walk off the field. Dr. Charles Dugan accompanied him home but Mulla died a half-hour later. An autopsy revealed a fractured skull and blood clot.

William Romaine (aka William Bastels), who had lived quietly in Beacon for 11 years, was arrested and taken to Newburgh, where he was accused of abandoning his wife and three children more than a decade earlier. A Newburgh detective and Beacon patrol officer tracked down Romaine by showing around a tintype photo taken in 1905. One of his sons had passed Romaine on the street in Beacon and told his mother he had seen a man who looked like his father, and she alerted police.

The 190-acre Whitfield Seegur farm was purchased by New York State for \$20,000 [\$355,000] to expand the Matteawan State Hospital.

Voters approved a \$40,000 [\$735,000] addition to Beacon High, 275-139. The proposal had been defeated three times when only taxpayers were eligible to vote. For the fourth vote, the district allowed parents to cast ballots.

The *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* noted the upstart Poughkeepsie-Highland ferry was making a play for the Newburgh-Beacon ferry's truck traffic by offering crossings after midnight and erecting roadside billboards touting its service.

Ground was broken for a two-story convent on the grounds of St. John's Church on Oak Street. The former convent on Willow Street had been sold.

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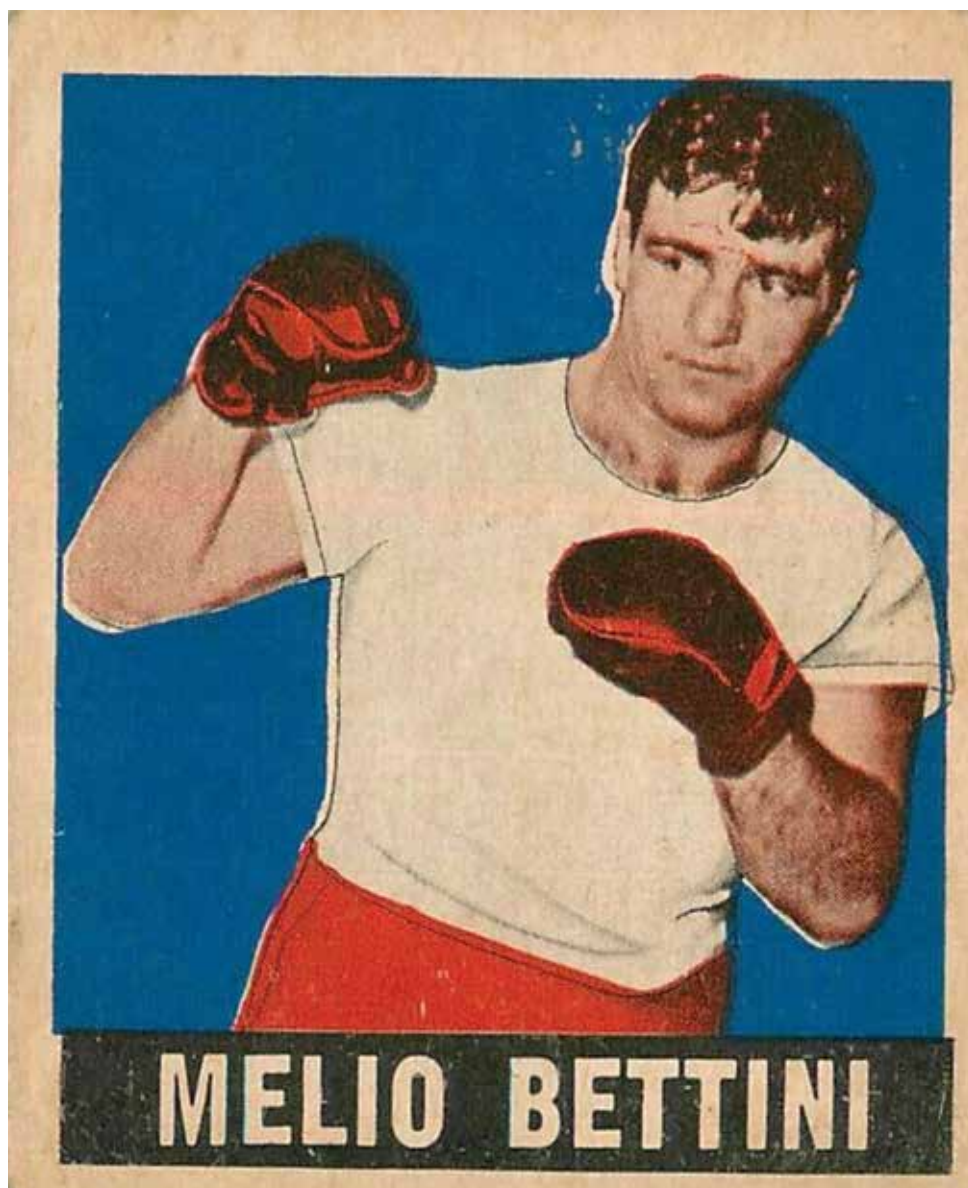
According to a news report, the keeper of the elephant and camel for Stone's circus had tied both to a tree in Fishkill Landing when an express train roared past. The camel fainted and the elephant took off, dragging the tree, camel and keeper.

According to the *Daily Freeman* in Kingston, Matteawan lots were selling for \$125 to \$150 [\$3,200 to \$3,800 today].

The Fishkill Landing Machine Works was busy building a 350-horsepower engine for the New York & Rosendale Lime and Cement Co.; a 500-horsepower engine for the Toledo and Wabash Elevator Co.; and two hot-air engines for the Hudson River Iron Co.

Wladyslaw Pralatowski of Fishkill Landing wrote to the editor of the *Irish World* to dispute its report that Poland, his native land, had ever been "conquered." He noted that, most recently, following a general revolution from 1863 to 1864, "the governments that control Poland have been trying to destroy her language and her nationality, but they will never do it."

The *Kingston Journal* reported that a woman at the house of a newly married couple in Matteawan "undertook to repel the assaults of a skimelton party by throwing hot and cold water upon them. Unfortunately, a party of guests arrived at that time and right into the faces of ladies and gentlemen went a whole bucket full." [According to an article in *New York History*, skimeltons in the 19th century were a ritual in which "people of the town or village, sometimes in costume or disguise," surrounded the home of the newlyweds banging pots and pans, blowing horns and singing until they were given a "fine" or treats to go away.]



A trading card depicting boxer Melio Bettina in 1947, with his last name misspelled

was dedicated. The all-male school, one of 600 operated by the Society of Mary, had been founded the previous year with 28 students.

William Hardy broke out of the prisoner's room at the police station and hid in the cellar for an hour before a sergeant found him there. Hardy had been arrested after firing a .38-caliber revolver at the railroad station while drunk.

Two Beacon veterans of the World War died when they were thrown from an Essex touring car after it struck a tree along the state road near Poughkeepsie. The driver, who was not injured, told state troopers he was only going 23 mph and was forced off the road by other vehicles, but witnesses

said they saw no traffic.

75 Years Ago (May 1948)

Twenty-three students came out for Beacon High School's newly formed track team, coached by William Forrestal. The school already had a cross-country team.

Augusto Lanari, who operated a shoe repair shop at 3 Fishkill Ave., died at age 71.

Two Beacon men were arrested after a 19-year-old Wappingers Falls woman accused them of rape. [In September, a judge dismissed the case against one defendant for lack of evidence and in October sentenced the other to six months in jail as part of a plea bargain.]

In the first major theatrical production



The Poughkeepsie ferries competed with Newburgh-Beacon for customers.

at Beacon High School in several years, students performed the comedy *You Can't Take It With You*.

A Beekman Street man was sentenced to 30 days in jail for hitting a woman with a pick handle.

The Beacon school board hired Vincent Stearns as its first attorney, at a salary of \$1,000 annually [\$12,500]. The superintendent said some board members wanted a lawyer at the ready, not just when called upon.

Members of the Spring Street School PTA, assigned by the school board to identify a location for a new building, proposed a site on Liberty Street next to the old city dump.

The board appointed Calvin Denning, a graduate of Fredonia State Teachers' College, as instructor of instrumental music.

Construction began on a 24-by-34-foot fieldhouse at Memorial Park for use as a dressing room and to store equipment. The structure was being built by vocational students from the high school.

In an innovative move, the Beacon High School chorus recorded its practices to play back and correct faults.

Melio Bettina, the Beacon heavyweight, in his first appearance since a disastrous loss at Madison Square Garden, knocked out Jackie Fisher in the fifth round of a fight in Bangor, Maine. Two weeks later, he knocked out Ross Strickland in the fifth round at the Avalon Rollerdom in Newburgh.

After 23½ hours on the run, an inmate who escaped from the Matteawan State Hospital was apprehended near Chelsea. He had been in the asylum for 15 years after killing his wife

in New York City. While he was at large, state troopers set up roadblocks and checked every car leaving the county.

50 Years Ago (May 1973)

A federal grand jury indicted a company for allegedly dumping liquid cement and oil into the Hudson River. Officials credited Allen Thorpe, a Beacon High School student, with spotting the discharge from the Price Brothers Co. plant in the Town of Fishkill. The firm faced up to \$25,000 [\$170,000] in fines.

The police station was inundated with calls when a black bear cub was seen wandering near Main Street. It later headed toward Mount Beacon.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that New York State's policy of sending defendants to the Matteawan State Hospital without an indictment or having a jury rule whether they were "dangerously incapacitated" was a violation of their constitutional rights. The case was brought by four Matteawan inmates, including George Matesky, a Con Ed employee known only as the "Mad Bomber" before his 1957 arrest for planting three dozen devices in New York City over 17 years.

25 Years Ago (May 1998)

Police were searching for suspects in two robberies of pizza delivery workers, one at Tompkins Terrace and the other at Forrestal Heights. In each case, a person emerged from under a stairwell and put a knife to the driver's throat.

The school budget, which included a 2.75 percent tax increase, was approved, 763-372, and Deborah Sheers, Edward Tucker, Carla Pettorossi and Michael Riehl were elected to the board.

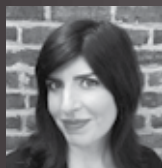
The Otero family, newly relocated from the Bronx to North Walnut Street, were featured in a segment on *Good Morning, America* about how moving affects children. The ABC producers found the family through U-Haul.

Students at Glenham Elementary collected 1,850 pounds of pennies, or about \$3,000, to help fix the roof on the Howland Cultural Center.

John Robinson, a Beacon High School graduate, won Division III titles in the 110-meter hurdles and the long jump for SUNY Farmingdale.

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Migrants (from Page 1)

without being threatened or handicapped.” But he also finds himself in a country divided over recent immigrants.

Orange County legislators and activist groups such as For the Many and Beacon Climate Action Now are spearheading donation drives and arranging other support for the nearly 200 immigrants bused last week from New York City to the 124-room Crossroads and another hotel in the Town of Newburgh, a 150-room Ramada on Route 300.

On another front, however, Orange County and the Town of Newburgh are suing both hotels, and decrying New York Mayor Eric Adams’ decision to send migrants to the hotels for up to four months. The city is struggling to shelter more than 60,000 new asylum-seekers, some of them ordered bused from Texas by Gov. Greg Abbott.

Sandra Sciortino, the Orange County judge hearing the county and town’s lawsuits, on Tuesday issued a temporary restraining order allowing the 110 immigrants at the Crossroads and 76 at the Ramada to remain as the cases proceed, but barring New York City from sending more people to either hotel.

Her order prevented New York City from sending seven buses with more asylum seekers that same day, said Steve Neuhaus, Orange County’s executive.

“New York City should not be establishing a homeless shelter outside of its borders in Orange County,” said Neuhaus, who on May 8 declared a state of emergency after learning that the city planned to move people to Orange and Rockland counties.

He ordered hotels to reject migrants



Activists greeted migrants on May 11 as they arrived at a Newburgh hotel.

Photo by Rene Mejia

from the city, and warned of “potentially thousands of persons” being sent to the county, with “no reason to believe that these migrants or asylum-seekers will leave” once the city stops paying for their housing.

“We should not have to bear the burden of the immigration crisis that the federal government and Mayor Adams created,” said Neuhaus on Tuesday. He is also suing New York City.

Ashok Batt, the owner of Crossroads, denied in a court filing on Tuesday one of the county and the town’s main assertions: that the city’s use of his hotel violates Newburgh’s code and the certificate of occupancy issued by the town.

Newburgh cites the town’s definition of

a hotel as offering “transient lodging,” and state building code, which defines transient as a stay not more than 30 days.

Siding with the town “would require the hotel to evict these 110 asylum refugees, with no place for them to secure shelter and essential services,” said Batt in a court filing. “Rather than embrace compassion and basic human decency, the town has opted for racism, fear and hatred.”

The New York Civil Liberties Union made the same claim in a federal lawsuit it filed May 11 against Neuhaus and Ed Day, the executive of Rockland County, after a judge barred a hotel in Orangeburg from accepting migrants.

The lawsuit cites the Rockland executive’s claim that “we have child rapists,

we have criminals, we have MS-13 [gang members]” among newly arrived immigrants. Orange County Legislator Genesis Ramos said on May 10 that Neuhaus’ order encouraged a “xenophobic, racist and dehumanizing tone.”

Isselko Sidi, who is also from Mauritania and staying at the Crossroads, said some drivers have lobbed insults and yelled “Why are you here?” while passing the hotel. People from Costa Rica, Colombia and Senegal are among the other migrants staying there, he said.

“We just want to earn a decent living and send money to our families,” he said. “What did we do for them not to welcome us here? We’re leaving our homeland in order to settle here and we think that America is the best state ever.”

Along with housing, New York City’s program is funding on-site case managers, breakfast, lunch and a hot dinner; legal assistance; laundry service every other week; telehealth appointments; and hygiene kits. Security guards sit at each hotel’s entrance.

Members of Beacon Climate Action Now planned to drop off donated items on Thursday (May 18) for migrants staying at the Ramada. The items include men’s clothing and underwear, shoes and toiletries, said Veekas Ashoka, one of BCAN’s founders.

Two barbers, Lucky Longo in Beacon and Eileen Shephard in Newburgh, agreed to cut hair for free, and several residents who speak French volunteered to translate, he said.

“Beacon is doing our part,” said Ashoka. “I’m grateful and appreciative of our neighbors on this side of the river, stepping up and seeing the value in welcoming people who need a safe place to live.”

What Elected Officials Said

State Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon and the Town of Newburgh:

Throughout this process, Mayor [Eric] Adams has given us little advance notice and made virtually no effort to coordinate with local officials. The mayor’s office said they expected to receive significant support from local volunteer groups. This is not a plan; it is a hope and a prayer. They also failed to provide an answer when I asked who would be responsible if some of the migrants left the Newburgh area.

The Town of Newburgh is not New York City. There is little within walking distance of these motels and public transportation is scant. Mayor Adams’ decision to send these migrants from New York City to be housed in Orange County and Rockland County was ill-conceived, hastily executed and a shocking abdication of responsibility.

Kevin Byrne, the Putnam County executive, in a letter to Adams:

While I appreciated your virtual call with

county and local leaders earlier today [May 11], it was clearly a reactionary step to overwhelming opposition in the face of what I would describe as an underhanded move.

In your call, you mentioned that you’re asking for assistance, and you don’t want to force this move on anyone, but clearly that was not true a few weeks ago. You sought to house these individuals by having the city contract with various hotels and other temporary residency facilities without first giving adequate notice to Orange or Rockland counties.

The president’s inaction to date is completely unacceptable, especially given that he was just in the region yesterday to fundraise and failed to address this tinderbox of a situation that New Yorkers and many of our fellow Americans are facing. Our country has never faced a situation such as this. The migrant crisis we find ourselves in is inherently different from other situations in recent memory, like the Syrian refugee crisis and the Afghanistan retreat debacle. Obviously, this is a significantly larger number of individuals we’re dealing with, but also in those other two cases, asylum applicants were held in a different country while their applications were evaluated.

You should know that our Sheriff’s Office has been and will continue to be committed to working and communicating with federal law enforcement officials, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to ensure the safety of these individuals and our communities. It is worth reiterating that while Putnam County is a caring and welcoming county, it continues to support the rule of law and is not a “sanctuary county.”

William F.X. O’Neil, the Dutchess County executive, in a letter to Sen. Chuck Schumer:

Dutchess County is already facing housing issues for our existing residents. ... There is no capacity for an influx of hundreds of additional people seeking emergency/transitional housing. Additionally, Dutchess’ health and social services systems remain strained, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The expectation of counties providing wrap-around support services to hundreds of additional people without resources or funding is ludicrous.

Simply housing people en masse in local hotels is not a solution — it creates far more problems than it solves,

overburdening local communities that do not have the necessary infrastructure or resources to meet people’s needs. Without connections or support in the community, these transplanted individuals are at great risk for exploitation, trafficking or criminal involvement. This is not a humane or logical solution.

This crisis must be addressed, and it must be addressed at the federal level. Once again, the Biden administration’s lack of planning has put communities throughout New York state in this perilous position.

Ozzy Albra, supervisor of the Town of Fishkill, where the board voted May 12 to take “civil and/or criminal” action against any hotel that accepts migrants from New York City:

The hearts of the Town of Fishkill go out to all individuals seeking asylum in the U.S. I myself am a first-generation American, the son of immigrants from Eastern Europe, one of whom was granted asylum here. However, the duty to process and assimilate these individuals and families in an orderly manner is the responsibility of the federal government, and not local or regional entities.

Cold Spring Continues Code Update

Public hearing remains open for feedback

By Michael Turton

The Tuesday (May 16) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board served as the fourth round of an ongoing public hearing on proposed updates to chapters of the village code that cover zoning, noise and signage.

The workshop was held a day earlier than usual because three board members planned to attend the annual meeting of the New York Conference of Mayors, which began on Wednesday.

The meeting was brief, just 30 minutes, in contrast to three previous sessions that each lasted more than two hours.

Mayor Kathleen Foley said an ad hoc working group met twice last week and continues to make recommendations regarding revisions based on its review of “legitimate and substantive questions” and comments from the public.

To date, 21 recommendations from the working group, which includes Foley, Trustee Laura Bozzi, Donald McDonald, Eric Wirth, Jesse St. Charles and Paul Henderson, have been posted at coldspringny.gov.

Tuesday’s discussions centered on topics such as “form-based zoning” (designed to

preserve village character), landscape standards and streetscape requirements.

The public hearing was again left open and will reconvene at the May 24 board meeting. Residents can offer feedback in person or by Zoom, but Foley said all comments also must be submitted in writing.

The village faces a June 30 deadline for having its revised code accepted by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), which provided funding for completing the update.

At the May 10 public hearing, the board accepted recommendations from the work-

ing group dealing with subjects such as development density at the former Marathon battery plant site on Kemble Avenue, the maximum height of residential buildings, and accessory housing.

The formal adoption of recommendations will come after all issues raised by the public have been addressed. Ted Fink, the village planning consultant, said a redline version of the updated chapters will be created, and Foley suggested a summary of substantive changes also be prepared.

The working group recommended that a number of issues raised by the residents, such as allowing higher structures on the riverfront because of projected increases in water levels due to climate change and

alternative uses for the highway garage site, be considered as part of a comprehensive plan review. Fink suggested that the need for affordable housing should also be addressed in the comprehensive plan.

The most recent comprehensive plan was approved in 2012. The village code is being updated in part to bring it into compliance with the comprehensive plan, which is required by New York State law.

During public comment, residents have raised concerns about what they characterize as a lack of transparency in the code update process; the completeness of responses to questions posted by the working group; the future of the Marathon site; and the appropriateness of many of the proposed updates.

In other business ...

■ Two parking pay stations will soon be installed on Main Street near Church Street and Village Hall. The kiosks will only accept payment by credit card but fees also can be paid through the ParkMobile app.

■ Foley reported that she and Larry Burke, officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, recently met with nearby law enforcement agencies at the request of the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department to discuss pedestrian safety along Route 9D. The meeting was in response to the Metro-North train

platform at Breakneck Ridge being closed until July because of construction.

■ Applications before the Planning Board include a request by Foodtown to expand into the former Soho Salon; a move by Houlihan Lawrence from 60 Main St., where its offices have been located since 1993, to 49 Main; and a change of use at 81 Main to open a teahouse. The board also accepted the resignation of Jack Goldstein, chair of the Planning Board, although no reason was given for his departure and he later declined comment.

■ The Cold Spring Police Department

responded to 48 calls in April, and officers issued five traffic and 21 parking tickets. There were two arrests, one for criminal mischief and another on a warrant. The board accepted the resignation of Officer Vincent D’Amato, a nine-year veteran of the force.

■ The Recreation Commission recently completed the resurfacing of the multi-use court at Mayor’s Park and is discussing opportunities to partner with the nonprofit Friends of Philipstown Recreation. Steve Etta was honored for his 35 years of service to the commission.

ARTISTS’ WRITINGS: THE CASE OF SALVO AND BARBARA T. SMITH

Virtual conversation between Lisa Andreani, member of the Archivio Salvo, and Pietro Rigolo, Associate Curator at the Getty Research Institute.

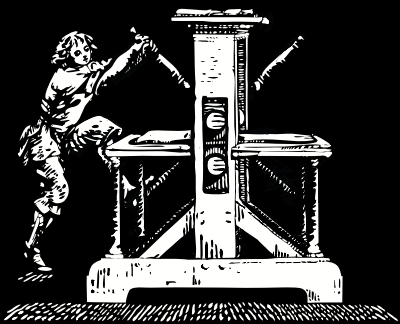
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Leaf Blowers *(from Page 1)*

blowers to clear sidewalks and other public areas, or on lots greater than an acre in size.

On Monday, Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair, who introduced the idea in the fall, said he felt the draft legislation was “on the money,” and that seasonal restrictions would be a steppingstone to permanent regulations. Aymar-Blair brought the idea to the council after complaints from his Ward 4 constituents about the noise generated by leaf blowers, and its effects, such as migraine headaches, he said. (Leaf blowers and other lawn equipment are exempted from the city’s noise laws.)

But City Administrator Chris White said the law, as proposed, would be difficult for police, who are already tasked with investigating noise complaints, to enforce. White said there are only four officers working most shifts; if a fifth is on duty, he or she typically walks Main Street.

White also noted that he had spent several hours talking to a Beacon resident who owns a landscaping company and feared the law would put him out of business.

“I don’t think you want to send police to give tickets to low-income workers because they’re using a tool of their trade,” White said. “If you’re going to go after sound, why don’t we go after the jazzed-up cars and the motorcycles that make Main Street almost unwalkable when they go by?”

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said he was con-

“ I don’t think you want to send police to give tickets to low-income workers because they’re using a tool of their trade. If you’re going to go after sound, why don’t we go after the jazzed-up cars and the motorcycles that make Main Street almost unwalkable when they go by?

~ City Administrator Chris White

cerned that the law, as drafted, would over-regulate city residents. He and Council Member George Mansfield both expressed doubt about restricting residents’ ability to use the equipment while exempting city employees.

White and Aymar-Blair then briefly sparred over whether it is practical to consider a law at all.

Aymar-Blair argued that the restrictions, preceded by a public-education campaign, would attempt to change people’s habits, rather than “blasting everybody with tickets.” However, White said he had not heard “a single complaint about a leaf blower” since his hire in late 2020. “But I have heard a lot of complaints about traffic, and I’d rather assign the limited police time that we have to things that are probably more important to more people,” he said.

Having made no progress, the council agreed to revisit the discussion during an upcoming workshop.

Ethics *(from Page 1)*

and the terms of the other three had expired.

The candidates are Paul Eldridge, a Philipstown resident who is the county personnel director and whose term would end Dec. 31; Roderick Cassidy, a U.S. Army veteran, and Barbara Scuccimarra, a Garrison resident and former county legislator, whose terms would end in 2024; and John Sweeny Jr., a retired state judge, and Joseph DeMarzo, a retired deputy county commissioner of social services, whose terms would end in 2025.

Ethics board members serve three-year terms. Byrne said the term dates he provided were based on the last time the Legislature approved candidates for each of the five seats.

The board investigates violations of the county’s code of ethics, issues advisory opinions and collects annual financial disclosures from employees to monitor potential conflicts of interest. Its members, who are volunteers, cannot hold elective office in the county, be employed as a lobbyist or hold office in a political party. Only one member of the board may be an employee or appointed officer of the county.

Before the Rules Committee voted unanimously to advance the nominations, Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, asked its three members to go into executive session so she could provide “important information.”

When the committee returned, a discussion ensued in which it became clear that Montgomery, the only Democrat on the

Legislature, had raised questions about Scuccimarra, a Republican whom she defeated in 2018 and 2021.

Montgomery said that committee members should consider an “ethics accusation” concerning Scuccimarra’s involvement in a nonprofit, the Putnam Tourism Corp., created in 2012 by Libby Pataki, then the county’s tourism director, that paid Pataki a salary separate from what she earned from the Putnam County Visitors’ Bureau.

According to a story by *The Journal News* that prompted an investigation by the state attorney general, both nonprofits operated without the functioning boards required by state law, and the existence of the second nonprofit was a surprise to county officials.

Scuccimarra was identified in legal documents as the secretary and treasurer of the Putnam Tourism Corp. but denied to *The Journal News* that she was involved and said she didn’t recall signing the paperwork that created it. Pataki resigned as tourism director in 2016 and the organization was dissolved.

On Tuesday, two Rules Committee members said that the allegation that Scuccimarra had been involved in unethical behavior was unfounded; in the moments before the vote, Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson said all five candidates had her full support and instructed her colleagues to “think of the motivation” behind Montgomery’s concerns.

Committee members also dismissed the contention that Scuccimarra had created the nonprofit and faulted Montgomery for not providing documentation.

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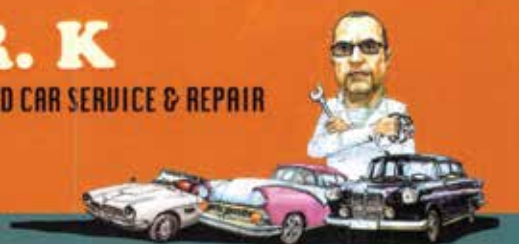
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1 Actor Baldwin

5 Hindu hero

9 ISP alternative

12 Without help

13 Burden

14 — Jima

15 Woody's son

16 A/C measures

17 Moving vehicle

18 High point

19 Belief

20 Fury

21 "There's no — team!"

23 Mil. morale booster

25 "Bottoms up!"

28 Perfect place

32 Martial arts mercenary

33 "Rubber Capital"

34 Cancel out

36 Heirs

37 Workout unit

38 Scratch (out)

39 AAA jobs

42 Scull tool

44 Bigfoot's cousin

48 Mimic

49 Initial chip

50 Cupid's alias

51 CSA soldier

52 Rhone city

53 Baseball's Tommie

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
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39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48				49					50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

54 Switch settings

55 Madame Bovary

56 Valentine flower

DOWN

1 Now, in a memo

2 Traditional tales

3 Jazzy Fitzgerald

4 Ginger snaps vessels

5 Small songbirds

6 Picnic invaders

7 Hawaiian garment

8 Ninny

9 Prima donna

10 Booty

11 One and only

20 Athlete's first season

22 Hopping mad

24 Pancake order

25 Blitzer's channel

26 Hasten

27 Chang's brother

29 Expert

30 Charged bit

31 Reply (Abbr.)

35 Name derived from a person

36 Tennis great Williams

39 Tropical tuber

40 Frank

41 Entanglements

43 Teensy bit

45 Thus

46 Low digits

47 "Got it"

49 Hearty quaff

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 tennis court dividers (4)

2 small baked treats (8)

3 ketchup giant (5)

4 Google, of Alphabet (10)

5 it hid the Wizard of Oz (7)

6 one waiting on you (9)

7 "wedding planners" (8)

SOLUTIONS

NE	CUR	HE	CUP	SU
ES	ATT	ES	TA	FIA
IN	ANT	DIA	INZ	CAK
BSI	NCE	TS	END	RY

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for May 12 Puzzles

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

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

1. DEODORIZES, 2. FRIED, 3. GRACIOUS, 4. MONUMENT, 5. BIDDY, 6. MESSAGING, 7. BEGAN

SPORTS



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VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BASEBALL

No. 4 seed Haldane won the first game of a best-of-three playoff against No. 1 Leffell on Tuesday (May 16) at Leffell but lost the second on Thursday at home, 3-2. The Section I, Class C series will be decided on Saturday at Leffell.

In the first game, Haldane broke a 6-6 tie in the sixth inning before blowing it open with a 12-run seventh to win, 19-6.

Julian Ambrose got the win on the mound in relief of Milo Pearsall. Jeremy Hall went 2-for-3 with a grand slam and four RBIs; John Kisslinger was 3-for-5 with three RBIs; Jake Hotaling was 3-for-4 with a double and two RBIs; and Pearsall drove in three runs and scored twice.

“Trajan McCarthy and Ryan Eng-Wong were major catalysts for our offense,” said Coach Simon Dudar. “Between the two of them, they managed to get on base six times and score five runs and steal two bags.

“The team has incredible chemistry right now, and everyone looks to contribute anyway they can, one through 17,” he said. “Even the guys on the bench are looking for pitcher tendencies and tells, charting what opposing batters swung at or took, cheering loudly, picking up guys when they strike out or make an error, and coming through with pinch-running and pinch-hitting opportunities in big spots.”

Beacon, after picking up wins over Port Jervis and Chester last week, came up on the short end of a 12-7 decision against Monroe-Woodbury on Wednesday at home to ends its regular season at 14-6.

The Bulldogs were waiting Thursday to find out when their first-round game will be in the Section IX, Class A tournament. Coach Bob Atwell said he expected his team will play on Monday (May 22).

In Wednesday’s loss to Monroe-Woodbury, the Bulldogs went with younger pitchers because of the uncertainty about the playoff opener and found themselves in a 7-0 hole after the Crusaders had batted twice.

“We got it back to 7-5, but then we gave it back,” Atwell said.

Ronnie Anzovino had two RBIs for Beacon, and Mercer Jordan, Derrick Heaton, Joey Vollaro and Liam Murphy each had one. Mateo Alvarado, Anthony Borromeo, Zach Schetter, Jackson Atwell, Anzovino and Ryan Smith all pitched.

On May 12 at Heritage Financial Park



Mateo Alvarado was one of many Beacon pitchers who tried to shut down Monroe-Woodbury’s batters.

(Dutchess Stadium), the Bulldogs honored their seniors before a game against Chester that had what Atwell called “as exciting a finish as you could have.”

Beacon trailed 6-4 with two out in the bottom of the seventh when Mikey Fontaine hit a two-run, inside-the-park home run to send the game into extra innings. In the bottom of the eighth, Anzovino smacked a one-out double and scored when Murphy put the ball in play and Chester made a throwing error.

Fontaine earned the win on the mound and went 3-for-4 with three RBIs. Anzovino, Ryan Smith and Heaton each finished with two hits.

The night before at Heritage, the Bulldogs defeated Port Jervis, 13-6, with Borromeo earning the win in relief of starter Julian Brown. Murphy went 2-for-5 with a double and a triple, Atwell was 2-for-3 with three stolen bases, Smith went 2-for-4 with two RBIs, Vollaro tripled in a run and stole three bases, and Jack Antalek went 2-for-3.

TRACK & FIELD

Beacon’s Henry Reinke ran the 800 meters in 1:56.37 — the second-fastest time in school history — on May 12 at the Loucks Games in White Plains.

On May 13, the team ran in the Middletown Invitational, where Rubio Castagna finished third in the 400 hurdles in 59.89 and Reinke won the 400 meters in 49.07, another second-fastest time for the school and the best time this year in Section IX.



Ryan Smith jumps to avoid a Monroe-Woodbury runner sliding into second.

Photos by S. Pearlman

For the girls, Isabella Migliore was second in the 800 in a season-best 2:29.03.

“I was impressed by Reinke’s weekend,” said Coach Jim Henry. “The school records in the 400 and the 800 are in serious danger.”

Beacon will compete in the regional championships in Goshen on Saturday (May 20).

SOFTBALL

Beacon fell to Lourdes, 14-2, on May 12, and to Wallkill, 12-1, on Monday (May 15). But on Saturday, the Bulldogs scored five runs in the seventh inning to scratch out a 12-11 win over Monticello.

Bella White started the game on the mound and had a rough second inning, said Coach Catie Oriani. “Mikayla [Sheehan] came on in the third and gave the performance of her career,” with six strike-outs, the coach said.

Sheehan, who will play next year for Western Connecticut State, went 4-for-4 with five RBIs. Kat Ruffy was 3-for-3 with a double, a triple and three RBIs; Bryana Kelliher had two RBIs; Hope Cleveringa went 3-for-3 with three runs scored; and Ivianna Dickens had two RBIs.

“This was a game where I saw the team come together,” Oriani said. “Even when our pitcher was struggling, our hitters rallied behind her to keep us in the game.”

The Putnam Valley/Haldane team (14-6) received the No. 6 seed in the Section I, Class B tournament and hosts No. 11

Pleasantville today (May 19). The winner advances to the quarterfinals on Monday.

GIRLS’ LACROSSE

Haldane, the No. 7 seed in the Section I, Class D playoffs, was upset at home on Tuesday (May 16) by No. 10 Westlake, 20-10. The Blue Devils finished 10-7.

Mairead O’Hara had four goals and an assist for Haldane, Kayla Ruggiero had a hat-trick and an assist, Caroline Nelson and Carmela Cofini each had a goal and assist, and Ellen O’Hara had a goal. Lola Mahoney stopped 14 shots on goal.

BOYS’ LACROSSE

Haldane (12-4), the No. 2 seed in the Section I, Class D tournament, will play on Tuesday (May 23). The Blue Devils will host the winner of a Saturday game between No. 7 Albertus Magnus and No. 10 Irvington.

BOYS’ TENNIS

Beacon played its last match of the season on May 11, defeating Lourdes, 6-1, to finish 11-5. Beckett Anderson at third singles and the first doubles team of Scott Bunker and Charlie Klein each finished at 15-1.

“The boys surprised a lot of teams who took us lightly,” said Coach David Ryley.

On Wednesday (May 17), Bunker and Klein played in the Orange County tournament, winning two matches before falling in the quarterfinals to Cornwall, 3-6, 6-1, 7-5. By finishing in the top eight, they qualified for sectionals on Wednesday (May 24).