The Rev. John Williams, rector of St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church, stands at a parking lot that is the source of a dispute with the City of Beacon.

Photo by J. Simms

Beacon, Church Clash Over Lot Access

St. Andrew lawsuit says city violated 1987 agreement

By Jeff Simms

The City of Beacon and St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church are locked in a stalemate nearly two weeks after the church filed a lawsuit over access to a city-owned parking lot where, according to the suit, church employees and parishioners have parked for more than 30 years. The lawsuit, filed June 26 in Dutchess County court, names the city, as well as Mayor Lee Kyriacou and City Administrator Chris White — both in their official capacities — as defendants. The following day, Dutchess Judge Thomas R. Davis issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting the city from blocking St. Andrew’s access to the lot. The parking lot sits behind the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. fire station and the church — which are side by side on South Avenue — and has been fenced off since construction began last month on what will become the city’s centralized fire facility. The gravel lot is being paved and upgraded during construction and, when complete, will be striped for 52 parking spaces, includ-

Putnam Passes Measure Targeting Migrants

Legislators also approve ‘rule of law’ designation

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In a meeting punctuated by impassioned arguments, the Putnam Legislature Wednesday night (July 5) voted 7-1 to prevent New York City from using in-county lodging to house migrants, unless Putnam first grants permission. Added to the county laws, the shelter ban stipulates that “no municipality outside of Putnam County may offer or provide temporary housing within Putnam, thereby creating a homeless shelter, without first entering into a shared services agreement” with the county. By a second 7-1 vote, the legislators also passed a resolution declaring Putnam a “rule of law” county and pledging cooperation with federal immigration police to identify “arrested felons and gang-associated” individuals suspected of violating entry laws.” The resolution also emphasized that Putnam “is not a sanctuary county” (one not actively pursuing immigration-law violators). That vote enshrined as policy temporary executive orders that County Executive Kevin Byrne began issuing in May as New York City started using hotels in the lower Hudson Valley to house a surge of migrants seeking asylum in the U.S.

Haldane Reviews $108 Million Plan

Projects include new student center, auditorium

By Joey Asher

A draft plan by a Newburgh architecture and engineering firm outlines $108 million in capital improvements over 15 years that would bring Haldane’s facilities in line with comparable school districts in terms of quality and size. Haldane’s facilities are “underdesigned,” with only 148 square feet per student, compared to 205 square feet in similar area schools, said CSArch in a master plan presented on June 20 to the Haldane school board. The company proposes three major capital projects to be put before voters for approval.

The first calls for a new student center with classrooms, offices and a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) lab for the high school, and a STEAM lab for the main building. It would add 18,946 square feet at a cost of $35.7 million and be presented to voters for approval next year. A 350-seat auditorium and music classroom built at the west end of the high school, and fitness and wellness center at the main building would be part of Phase 2. The additions

(Continued on Page 6)
By Jeff Simms

Jim Martin, a Beacon resident and U.S. Navy veteran, was honored during the July 5 New York Yankees game.

How were you selected to appear at the game?
You have to pay $100 for them to vet you. A lawyer looks through your records to determine if you have any benefits you may not be getting, and if he finds something, then you sign a contract that would give him 30 percent of anything he recovers. Then he sends that information to the Yankees and tells them I am a potential honoree. They gave me a list of games and said to keep in mind that afternoon games are reserved for World War II and Korean War veterans. Once you get selected, they give you four seats and a VIP parking pass. I bought 12 additional tickets for family; those were half-price.

What was the experience like?
Around the bottom of the sixth inning, a Yankees representative appeared and walked me through a private area to the field-level box. After I walked onto the field, spectators came up and shook my hand and thanked me for my service. I didn’t expect that. Several people stopped by my seat and talked with me about Beacon. Everyone was very respectful; it was absolutely amazing.

Tell me about your time in the Navy.
I enlisted around 1967 and got discharged around 1971. I was a boatswain’s mate, third-class petty officer stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. The ship was the USS Arcturus; it was a supply ship. Our mission was to take frozen goods and supplies from Norfolk across the ocean and into Spain and the Mediterranean to service the 6th Fleet with food and supplies. Everybody is transferring food from the left side, or the port side, to the starboard side. The other ship that you’re giving it to is passing the food on to the other ship. Ammunition is coming across, oil is coming across. I think I did that six or seven times. It’s a hell of an experience.

How did it feel to be recognized for your service?
At the time you’re serving, you don’t appreciate what you’re doing. You’re doing it because, in my case, the draft was on. So you go in with the assumption that this is what you have to do, and I was proud to do it. You don’t truly enjoy it until afterward, when you reflect. There were difficult times out on the water but, now, when I think about it, I remember the good times I had with the guys I served with. That has always stayed with me.

You’re a diehard Yankees fan. What’s your prediction for this year?
I think they’re going to get the first wild-card. Even though I’m rooting for them, it’s hard to make up 10 games (to win the division), especially when you have to jump over everybody else. The American League East is tough. I’m hopeful that the pitching can maintain and let’s hope that Aaron Judge comes back (from injury) to give them some life.
Seastreak Denied August Dockings

Cold Spring board considers fee increases
By Michael Turton

Cold Spring’s Village Board on Wednesday (July 5) denied Seastreak’s request to dock its tourist boats in August after Mayor Kathleen Foley questioned whether the added revenue was worth the impact on the village and its residents.

The New Jersey-based company had requested additional cruises on August weekends as well as from early September through mid-November.

The board had previously denied Seastreak’s request for Labor Day weekend. Trustee Cathryn Fadde also pointed out that there has been little response to August cruises in the past.

Foley said she will meet soon with West Point officials to discuss possible dockings by boats from the U.S. Military Academy in late August and early September. West Point’s boat carries a maximum of 150 passengers. The village limits Seastreak to a maximum of 400 passengers per trip.

The board also discussed docking fees. Trustee Eliza Starbuck said current fees are $8 per linear foot for boats that drop passengers at Cold Spring’s dock and then leave, and $12 for boats that remain docked. Seastreak has traditionally kept its boats at the dock on some cruises while docking at West Point for others.

Docking fees have not increased since 2017, said Starbuck. Based on inflation, this year’s rates should be $10.24 per linear foot for drop-offs and $13.50 for boats remaining at the dock, she said.

No decision was made on fee increases, pending information on rates currently charged at other municipally owned docks along the Hudson River.

Seastreak has also faced complaints from residents that views of the river and Highlands are spoiled when large boats remain at the dock for prolonged periods.

Village resident Walter Ulmer urged on Wednesday that the board consider Seastreak’s environmental impact on the village.

“The carbon footprint of that vessel is incredible,” he said. “We can’t control autos or trains, but if we have a water emergency, would it be worthwhile to curtail the Seastreak?”

Mondaire Jones To Challenge Mike Lawler
Becomes second Democrat to take on Republican

Mondaire Jones will run against Mike Lawler, the first-term Republican who defeated incumbent U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney in November 2022 to win the 17th Congressional District, which includes Philipstown.

Jones launched his campaign on Wednesday (July 5). The Democrat held the District 17 seat before redistricting changed its boundaries to include Philipstown, where Maloney lives.

Rather than challenge Maloney in a Democratic primary, Jones opted to run in a primary for the 10th Congressional District, where he lost to U.S. Rep. Dan Goldman.

Jones becomes the second Democrat to announce a challenge to Lawler, whose seat is one of the party’s top targets for retaking control of the U.S. House. Liz Gereghty, an entrepreneur and the younger sister of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, launched her campaign in April.

Putnam Deputy Helps Rescue Swimmers
Jumps into Hudson as pair struggled to stay above water

A Putnam County deputy jumped into the Hudson River on Tuesday (July 4) evening to rescue two swimmers in distress near Little Stony Point Park, said the Sheriff’s Department on Wednesday.

The deputy, along with members of the Cold Spring Fire Co. and Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps. responded around 9 p.m. to an emergency call for a male and female having trouble staying above water, according to the department.

After arriving, the deputy removed his gear, entered the river and began swimming toward the two people, both Westchester County residents. He was able to help the swimmers into a civilian boat with the aid of the vessel’s operator, said police.

The swimmers were evaluated by paramedics after being brought to shore and refused medical treatment, according to the Sheriff’s Department.

Mid-Hudson Drivers Can Buy Regional Plates

Image depicts Hudson River bounded by hills

The state Department of Motor Vehicles is now selling regional license plates for drivers in the Highlands and other parts of the Mid-Hudson that depict the Hudson River with hills in the foreground and background.

Introduced in June, the plates are part of a series of customized ones for each of the state’s 10 regions. They cost $60 initially and $31.25 for renewals.

They can be ordered online at dmv.ny.gov, by mail or by calling the DMV’s custom-plates office at 518-401-4838.

part challenge, part contest, 100% delicious.

Collect stamps at participating shops for a chance to win a $100 ice cream spree!

Here’s the Scoop.

Supporting local businesses has never been sweeter! From July 1 to 31, The Current invites you to explore new flavors around Beacon and Cold Spring. This is the best kind of competition: the more ice cream you eat, the more chances to win... more ice cream! Pick up your passport card at any of the participating shops below. Three winners will be announced by Aug 7. Enjoy!
Forge Ahead donation
I served as the campaign treasurer for the Forge Ahead team in 2021 and submitted all campaign finance reports, including amendments, to the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE). There was no impropriety in this campaign (“Public Comment Closes on Cold Spring Zoning,” June 23). All three candidates (Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley and Trustees Eliza Starbuck and Tweephs Phillips Woods) made a pledge in statements and on their websites: “I am committed to local issues, local accountability and a resilient future for Cold Spring. As such, I am not accepting campaign contributions from outside of Philipstown, or from political parties, LLCs, developers or unions.”

Forge Ahead received $2,155 from donors who were in the above categories. Each donation was returned. This is documented on the state Board of Elections website at elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/acampaign finance. A check for $250 was received at a Meet the Candidates event from the family account of Sean and Adriana Kearney, dated July 21, 2021. I deposited it on July 26, 2021, as the contribution met Forge Ahead’s criteria for accepting donations: Philipstown resident, under $1,000, not an LLC, not a political party, not a developer, not a union.

I recorded the contributor’s name on the 32-day pre-General Election report on Oct. 1, 2021, as Sean Kearney, as his name was at the top of the check. While reviewing copies of checks, cash receipts and online donations, I discovered that Adriana Kearney had signed the check so I corrected the error on Oct. 7, 2021, and submitted an amended report. The state Board of Elections encourages treasurer to make amendments to reports to ensure accuracy and transparency. I made six amendments to that 32-day report between Oct. 1, 2021, and Jan. 3, 2022. The original report and all amendments are available on the website.

If the Kearney Group’s offices had wanted to influence outcomes in the village, and if the Forge Ahead team were open to that influence, they could have given, under any of their LLCs, up to a limit of $5,000 set by state elections law. They did not. And if they had, that amount would have been returned by me, as well.

A PDF of all campaign materials must be submitted to the NYSBOE and is available for viewing at the board’s website. There may be a link to the Forge Ahead website on these materials, but no direct solicitations from contributors, but no direct solicitations from contributors. This requirement was met, as were all state campaign finance laws.

Carol Pilmanski, Cold Spring
Wide Angle

The High Cost of Free Parking

By Stove Boyd

D onald Shoup, in his highly influential book The High Cost Of Free Parking, provides us with strategies for dealing with a growing problem: how to best manage parking in communities like Beacon and Cold Spring, which are increasing in popularity.

Beacon and Cold Spring’s main streets are among the communities’ greatest assets, and parking along them is in great demand. But Main Street parking is a resource that can’t be easily increased in either municipality.

Cold Spring is preparing to roll out this fall a paid parking plan that relies on a combination of meters on Main Street and neighborhood-oriented parking permits for residents. Beacon should follow Cold Spring’s lead in paid parking, but avoid the pitfalls of fixed-price parking and adopt “performance pricing” as part of a comprehensive plan. Such a plan would also include striping of the side streets to maximize parking space and continuing free parking in Beacon’s many parking lots.

If we are to balance the needs of local residents and visitors, free parking on Main Street satisfies no one’s desires. Why? Because it produces the wrong results. A survey conducted by Beacon’s Main Street Access Committee last Oct, 15, on a sunny 60-degree Saturday, demonstrates the high demand for parking along the city’s commercial artery.

How can we achieve the goal of having a few parking spaces available on every block so that a resident can drive to Main Street, park, pick up a prescription and drop off dry cleaning, without having to park three blocks away? With free parking, on any given day, that may be a pipe dream. And on a Saturday, as the survey indicates, it’s unlikely.

Shoup’s “performance pricing”—setting parking fees to maintain an 85 percent occupancy rate (one open space on a block with eight spaces)—improves the situation in three ways:

■ If all but one or two spaces are occupied, the resource is being well-used, but the unoccupied spaces are available for use.
■ Since a few spaces are always available, drivers spend less time cruising in search of a space. Cruising for parking is more than a waste of time: It congests traffic, wastes fuel and pollutes the air.

■ So, along Main Street, economic efficiency is increased, since drivers will park, drop off their dry cleaning or pick up take-out, and leave quickly, allowing others to use the space, too.

As Shoup points out, targeting a desired outcome is much better than hoping: “Free curb parking in a congested city gives a small, temporary benefit to a few drivers who happen to be lucky on a particular day, but it creates large social costs for everyone else every day.”

“Free curb parking in a congested city gives a small, temporary benefit to a few drivers who happen to be lucky on a particular day, but it creates large social costs for everyone else every day.”

—Donald Shoup

Another claim is that it’s regressive, falling hardest on less-well-off residents. But Beacon could implement a “one-free-hour-a-day” policy for residents, allowing for most general-use situations, like picking up a prescription.

If someone wants to park and walk around Main Street for a few hours, they are likely a visitor, and we could keep the parking lots off of Main Street unmetered in order to draw long-term visitors, especially in times of high demand.

Some cities are implementing fully automated dynamic pricing, where real-time sensors or information communicated by parking kiosks are used to raise and lower prices based on the number of cars on a given block or in an area.

Ultimately, Beacon would raise new funds from this initiative, once the cost of implementation is covered. Those funds could be used to improve Main Street in other ways, such as increased trash removal and improving dangerous intersections.

Stove 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.
Haldane Plan  
would total 15,283 square feet and cost $41.7 million, with approval sought in five years. The final project, at 15,283 square feet and $30.6 million, includes the gymnasium and locker rooms at the high school and expansion of the art gallery in the main building. The master plan calls for approval in 10 years.

After completion, Haldane's total space would rise to 208 square feet, according to CSArch. Philip Benante, Haldane's superintendent, said that the district is evaluating the tax impact of the proposed projects. He expects the board to adopt a final plan in the fall.

“I think we have a responsibility to the community to do something,” he said. “We have short-term practical needs that need to be addressed.”

CSArch’s study of the district’s capital needs started in April 2022 and included public hearings and community surveys seeking input on the district’s needs.

The student center would rise two stories at the east end of the high school, and become a place where students could eat lunch, socialize and study. The offices would be used for support services, such as counselors and social workers. The center’s STEAM lab would, like the one in the main building, be outfitted with computers and 3D printers. In addition to more space, the projects would reduce the frequency at which students have to travel between buildings, said CSArch.

The plan also includes:
- A new multi-purpose synthetic turf field at the Perkins/9D field area.
- Renovations to entry vestibules for improved security.
- Replacement of district-wide communications systems including phone, public-address and clock systems.
- Smaller infrastructure improvements, such as upgraded HVAC systems, restrooms, meeting rooms, roof repairs and window replacements.

Before moving forward with any improvements, the Haldane school board will need to solicit feedback from the community, said Peggy Clements, the board’s vice president. Because district voters would have to approve financing, the board needs public support, she said.

“The board members are very aware that an increase in taxes would be of concern to the community,” said Clements. “We want to move forward in the most thoughtful and responsible way possible.”

Lot Access  
ôing one compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and charging stations for electric vehicles.

Contractors are also slated to drill more holes to the extent that it can happen. The final project, at 13,294 square feet and $41.7 million, with approval sought in five years.

The master plan calls for approval in 10 years.

The current lawsuit alleges that St. Andrew, said afterward that he expected the Tompkins Hose Co. sold the lot in 2020 to the city for $325,000. It opened to public parking after the sale.

Two days later, City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis asked the judge to schedule an emergency conference due to the “compelling public interest” in constructing the $14.7 million fire station, which is expected to be complete in late 2024. Ward-Willis argued that the project is urgent because city firefighters and trucks have been moved off-site while the Tompkins Hose station is rebuilt from the ground up.

That same day, the church said in court filings that the city continued to block its access and asked Davis to hold the city, Kyriacou and White in contempt of court, a charge which, if upheld, could have led to fines and/or imprisonment. While the judge did not pursue contempt charges, he ordered the city not to add to the piles of rubble and building debris on the lot.

On Wednesday (July 5), the two sides failed to reach an agreement after a 2½-hour mediation hearing in Poughkeepsie. The Rev. John Williams, the rector at St. Andrew, said afterward that he expected Davis to issue a new temporary order by the weekend.

But Ward-Willis on Thursday asked Davis to give the city until the end of the weekend (July 9) to submit a proposal that the attorney said “may factor into any temporary order” and “may dispense with the need for further litigation.” The judge granted the request Thursday afternoon.

In the interim, street parking is available for churchgoers. The Beacon City Council last month agreed to temporarily close the northbound lane of traffic between Beacon and Main streets on South Avenue to create 23 on-street spaces while construction is ongoing at the fire station.
A Rarity Even Among Rarities

Garrison collectors find book sought for centuries
By Michael Turton

David and Cathy Lilburne, the owners of Antipodean Books Maps & Prints at Garrison Landing, have made their living buying and selling old, highly sought-after published materials for almost 50 years. But once in a while something comes along that causes them both to pause and say, “Wow!”

“This book is very special,” Cathy says of a recent find, special enough to warrant a $125,000 price tag. In April, the book was “the star” of the New York International Antiquarian Book Fair, she said.

People have been looking for this book for hundreds of years. Anyone in the financial world with an interest in history would be seriously interested in it.

—Cathy Lilburne

That book is the only known copy of the first edition of The Course of the Exchange, published in 1697. It is the genesis of the London Stock Exchange's Daily Official List that's still published today. It is also the longest-running, continuously printed financial publication in the world, predating the founding of the New York Stock Exchange by 95 years.

“People have been looking for this book for hundreds of years,” Cathy said. “Anyone in the financial world with an interest in history would be seriously interested in it.”

The Course of the Exchange was published twice weekly. The Lilburne's first edition covers March 26 to Dec. 31, 1697, and is marked “81,” signifying that its last entry was the 81st biweekly report from that period. A reader today would not have to be a financial expert or historian to be intrigued by the periodical's entries.

“Anyone in the financial world with an interest in history would be seriously interested in it.” The Course of the Exchange was published twice weekly. The Lilburne's first edition covers March 26 to Dec. 31, 1697, and is marked “81,” signifying that its last entry was the 81st biweekly report from that period. A reader today would not have to be a financial expert or historian to be intrigued by the periodical's entries.

“Anyone in the financial world with an interest in history would be seriously interested in it.”

The Lilburnes are now in the midst of “in-depth discussions” with The British Library regarding a possible purchase. If the book ends up there it will be in very good company.

The items the library houses include everything from the Magna Carta, Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks and the original writings of Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare to Florence Nightingale's original diagram of the causes of mortality, and early handwritten drafts of such Beatles' songs as “In My Life” and “Strawberry Fields.”

One of the hazards of being in the business of acquiring rare, printed materials is the possibility of becoming infatuated with items meant to be resold. “We started dealing in prints by Australian artist Hall Thorne,” Cathy said. “And now they’re all in my house!” That, she said, will not happen with The Course of the Exchange.

Migrants (from Page 1)

Byrne justified the orders as necessary “to protect life and property” because of a “reasonable apprehension of immediate danger” in Putnam, where, so far, New York City has not placed migrants.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley as the nine-person Legislature's sole Democrat, cast the two “no” votes, at the formal monthly session in Carmel.

Before the meeting, residents seeking entry formed a line that snaked around the side of the building. Once inside, they packed the chamber, where some shouted out vitriolic comments, prompting Legislaturchair Paul Jonke of Southeast to apply that migrants “are criminals,” attendees yelled at her: “No they’re not. They’re criminals.”

Views of two Philipstown residents who addressed the Legislature differed.

Montgomery “calls us” — supporters of the county stance — “a mob, and then accuses us of being divisive,” Cindy Trimble said. She praised the other legislators and Byrne “for putting the residents of Putnam first, not allowing any outside municipality, in this case, New York, to dump their problems in the valley, creating an economic burden and public safety risk.”

However, James Adams noted that asylum-seekers are permitted to remain in the country and while their applications are pending. “We should only be so lucky” to get them, he said, given a need to meet increasing demands as the U.S. population ages. “That’s what keeps us going.”

Residents from other towns disagreed. “We cannot support this influx of illegal aliens,” a Mahopac man said. “We’re talking about tens of millions of illegal aliens” competing for U.S. jobs.

“These are not asylum-seekers,” another Mahopac resident contended. And “we’re not getting their best,” from foreign nations. “We’re getting their worst,” including child-traffickers, he said.

Marilyn Miller, an ambulance staffer in Brewster, said that migrants “are taking EMS calls away from our citizens” and that women in the village cannot walk on the street without encountering “catcalls and lewd gestures.” Drunkenness and public urination abound, said Miller.

But a woman who gave her name as Linda, who had helped organize Putnam's Juneteenth celebration, said advocates of the ban were “using New York City as a scapegoat” instead of targeting governors of other states, who, “shirking their duties,” send migrants to north instead of addressing the matter directly.
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Raising A Glass To Clean Water

Environmental group, brewery release new beer
By Brian PJ Cronin

Generally, if a beer you’re drinking conjures thoughts of polluted waste-water, that means something in the brewing process has gone horribly wrong.

That’s not the case with “Riverkeeper,” a new beer by Peekskill Brewery made in collaboration with the eponymous, Ossining-based environmental organization. The refreshing hefeweizen-style brew is made, like all of the brewery’s beers, using the water from Peekskill Hollow Brook.

Riverkeeper is currently working with the City of Peekskill on how to protect the brook, which supplies its residents with drinking water, and thought that a beer highlighting it would complement the initiative. Brandon Cruz of Peekskill Brewery said that they didn’t need a lot of convincing to team up with Riverkeeper.

“Water is one of the four ingredients in beer,” he said (the other three usually being yeast, hops and barley), so brewers are already obsessive about local water quality. He points to the inability of American brewers to replicate German pilsners.

“No matter how hard you try to duplicate that taste, they’ve been using their specific water for over a hundred years,” he said. “Only their beer is going to taste like that. It’s like how bakers in New York and Connecticut say that they make the best pizza and bagels in the world because of the minerals in our water.”

Peekskill Hollow Brook flows from Lake Tibet in Kent, and most people only experience it during the unnerving moment when the Taconic passes through Fahnestock State Park and dips down quickly to cross the rushing water before quickly climbing back up again, said Riverkeeper’s Dan Shapley.

“Very few people realize how important that little creek is for this region.

~ Dan Shapley of Riverkeeper

But in addition to providing drinking water to Peekskill, the brook also supplements the water of the Village of Buchanan, where the Indian Point nuclear power plant is located, and serves as a backup supply to Cortlandt, Somers and Yorktown.

“That’s 100,000 people,” said Shapley, the same total population as the Hudson 7 communities upstream that get their water from the Hudson River. “Very few people realize how important that little creek is for this region.”

This isn’t the first time Riverkeeper has collaborated with a brewery. In 2017, the organization partnered with Mill House Brewing Company in Poughkeepsie — one of the communities that draws drinking water from the Hudson — to make an IPA using 17th-century brewing techniques in order to highlight the importance of protecting the river.

But since the brewery was already using water from Peekskill Hollow Brook, how could they further call attention to it? After one of Cruz’s brewers brought sumac and spicebush back from a foraging hike along the brook’s banks, they decided that using those flavorings would give the beer an added sense of terroir (the natural environment in which a wine is made).

Although they were able to forage enough spicebush for the beer, Cruz said they had to supplement the local sumac with some ordered from a nearby source in order to get enough.

“When you drink it, you get these subtle earth notes that bring it some balance and complexity” as a result of the flavorings, said Cruz.

Much as the beer complements Peekskill’s work to protect the brook, a water-quality monitoring program the city developed with Riverkeeper enhances a new two-year water-quality assessment that New York State is undertaking in the Hudson River.

Shapley said that although the Hudson is probably the most studied and sampled river in the country, there’s still a surprising amount about its health that is unknown. The sampling will look at arsenic and cadmium levels, as well as the conditions that would make an increase in future harmful algae blooms likely.

But the state won’t test for the presence of bacteria from sewage. Shapley said that while municipalities that get their drinking water from the Hudson, as well as the very few approved swimming sites on the Hudson, are left to routinely test whether swimming or paddling in the Hudson is advisable on any given day for the rest of the river.

This means that even though the federal Clean Water Act, passed over 50 years ago, is credited for the river’s rebirth, it’s still not known if the river itself is in compliance with the act because the requisite testing has never been done.

Shapley said that Peekskill’s plans will help to fill in the gaps of the state’s plan and show why a proactive water-protection plan is needed, including land conservation.

The U.S. Geological Survey released a report this year showing that about half of U.S. tap water is contaminated with the “forever chemicals” known as PFAS. The Biden administration is seeking to curtail the use of the toxic substances as scientists discover that even low levels of the chemicals are much more harmful than previously thought.

“We want to maintain the natural filter that forests provide as much as possible,” Shapley said. “And we want to restrict the use of human uses of the land out in the watersheds for these drinking water sources as much as possible, because we don’t always know where the next contaminant is going to come from.”

Peekskill Brewery is located at 47 South Water St. in Peekskill. The Riverkeeper beer is currently only available on tap and in cans on-site. The brewery is hosting a happy hour with Riverkeeper today, July 7, starting at 4 p.m. and featuring giveaways and kids activities.

The Highlands Current
The Real Estate Market is Booming!
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The last few years have been hard: A pandemic, an insurrection, polarization and inflation.

It was time, Jean Noack reasoned, for the cats to return to the Howland Library. So, the library is bringing back its Cat Art Show.

“There are cat art shows in big cities like Los Angeles, so why not Beacon?” the curator explained. “It’s fun, it’s campy, we get some quality artwork out in front of the community and we make donations to local cat shelters and charities.”

There’s a proven track record: The previous Cat Art Show, in 2017, was the biggest art opening the Howland Library in Beacon had ever had. Artists donated the proceeds from works they sold to a local animal charity of their choice, raising $800 in total contributions.

Proceeds from sales by the 23 local artists involved in this year’s show will again go to such organizations as Mid-Hudson Animal Aid, The Animal Rights Alliance (TARA,) and Newburgh’s Talk To Me About Cats.

But unlike the 2017 show, Noack made sure to recruit more male artists.

“I didn’t want us to sound like a bunch of crazy cat ladies,” she said with a laugh.

“Their more than one way to portray a cat. The show features cats being charming, cats being menacing, cats eyeing each other longingly and cats hanging precariously from things they probably should not be hanging from. There is even, should you want to construct one yourself, a set of cat blueprints. Those who labor under the impression that cats only have two moods — aloof and asleep — are in for some surprises.

“Once you have a cat, you really understand what different personalities they all have,” said Jan Dolan, who contributed work based on her cat Tom Tom.

“He’s got a very strong personality,” she said of her subject. “He’s the best cat I’ve ever had, but he runs my life.”

The painter Anna West has no cats: Her partner is allergic, and she’s seen what unsanitary things they can do in one’s garden. But last year, before undergoing knee surgery, she figured that a new art project would help her think about things other than hospitals and scalpels.

West had never painted cats before, but accepted commissions to portray other people’s pets. One of those works, entitled “Black Cats Are Best,” is featured in the show. Black cats are also, as she found out, very hard to paint.

“Getting any detail in their fur is challenging,” she said. “That’s why I picked it, because I wanted the challenge. I like dogs, too, but cat scenes are a perfect subject.”

As for Noack’s contribution to the show, it may appear at first glance to have nothing to do with cats. But any cat owner who peers closer at the abstract feltwork’s details will immediately realize: That’s not wool.

Noack took a weeklong class in “wet felting” at the Fletcher Farm School for the Art and Crafts in Vermont, and while the school did not mention the possibility of using cat fur instead of sheep’s wool in the process, “you find some crazy things on the internet,” said Noack. “I figured, why the heck not?”

With three cats of her own, Noack had no shortage of free material to work with. She brushed her cats until she had enough fur to fill a cup (“That didn’t take long,” she noted), then sprayed the fur with water and soap while pressing it between two sheets of bubble wrap until it became felt.

“It really works!” she said. “I don’t think I’d make a scarf or winter hat out of it, but there’s possibilities there in terms of art. You might as well use it, it’s all going to end up on your floor anyway if you don’t.”

The Cat Art Show is on display at the Howland Public Library at 313 Main St. in Beacon until July 30. An opening reception, featuring a cat cake and Kit Kats, will be held Saturday (July 8) from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. as part of Second Saturday.

The Calendar

**Feline Perspectives**

**Cat Art Show returns to Howland Library**

By Brian PJ Cronin

The painter Anna West has no cats. Her partner is allergic, and she’s seen what unsanitary things they can do in one’s garden. But last year, before undergoing knee surgery, she figured that a new art project would help her think about things other than hospitals and scalpels.

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THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY
SAT 8
LotusWorks Launch Event
BEACON
1 – 9 p.m. Corner of Main and Cross St. lotusworksgallery.org/artparty
To celebrate their new wellness program and expanded gallery, LotusWorks will host mural painting from 1 to 5 p.m., a yoga class at 5 p.m. and DJ music and drinks from 6 to 9 p.m. Free

TUES 11
Community Journaling
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org
For The Pages of Cold Springs project, the library is hosting a writing series for fiction, non-fiction, poetry and collage that will become part of its collection. Continues every other week through Aug. 22.

WED 12
Dutchess County Senior Picnic
BEACON
Noon – 2 p.m. Memorial Park 198 Robert C. Scarr Drive Call 845-486-2555 to reserve a spot or go to dutchessny.gov/Departments/Aging/Senior-Picnic.html. People 60 and older can sign up for a free picnic lunch in the park.

THURS 13
Community Conversation
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org
The Zoom meeting will allow patrons to share their thoughts about the library’s association with Hamilton Fish III, a founder, and recently reported allegations regarding his views on Nazi Germany.

KIDS & FAMILY
SAT 8
Friendship Bracelets
GARRISON
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org
Children ages 6 and older can make their own bracelets to celebrate the themes of friendship, kindness and unity. Registration required.

TUES 11
Mermaid Art
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St. | 845-831-1134 beaconlibrary.org
Children ages 4 to 10 can paint a mermaid silhouette to take home. Registration required.

SAT 15
Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – Noon. Hubbard Lodge 2880 Route 9 845-808-1390 ext. 43160 putnamcountyny.com/health
The Putnam County Health Department will offer free rabies shots for dogs, cats and ferrets. Bring proof of prior rabies vaccine and residency. Animals must be leashed or caged for safety.

Kids ARTS
SAT 9
Creative Icons | Once Upon A Stylist
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Clutter 139 Main St. | clutter.co
Czee13 will exhibit new toy designs in the 5th show of the Creative Series Pentalogy. Peter Van Flores’ paintings combine vintage imagery and street art.

SECOND SATURDAY
SAT 8
Unfolding Vision Leporellos & Corresponding Work Vol. 1
BEACON
3 – 5 p.m. Lofts at Beacon 3 – 5 p.m. Loftsatbeacon.com

SAT 8
Reclaimed
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery 17 Church St. | garagegallery.com
Laura Petrovich-Cheney’s quilts, Jaynie Crimmins’ shredded-paper sculptures and Rinat Goren’s multimedia works will be on view, including her bamboo slip books. Through Aug. 6.

SAT 8
On Golden Pond
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players Theater 2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491 countyplayers.org
The well-known play about family and connection focuses on Ethel and Norman, a couple spending their 48th year at an idyllic summer cottage, with a visit from their daughter and her family. Also FRI 14, SAT 15, SUN 16. Through July 30.

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 8
Love’s Labor’s Lost
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Hampton Cultural Center 592 Main St. | hamptonarts.com
A novelistic searches for answers about the mysterious death of a friend in this 1949 thriller set in post-war Vienna and starring Orson Welles, Alda Valli and Joseph Cotton. Presented by the Cold Spring Film Society. Donations welcome. Free

WED 12
On Golden Pond
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8:30 p.m. Dockside Park coldspringfilm.org
A novelistic searches for answers about the mysterious death of a friend in this 1949 thriller set in post-war Vienna and starring Orson Welles, Alda Valli and Joseph Cotton. Presented by the Cold Spring Film Society. Donations welcome. Free
production as four young men try to uphold their commitment to their studies and not be tempted by the arrival of four women. In previews through FRI 14. Runs through Aug. 21. Cost: $30 to $100

THURS 13
Star Wars: A New Hope
BEACON
8 p.m. Memorial Park
198 Robert Cahill Drive
facebook.com/BeaconRec
Enjoy an outdoor screening the 1977 film about Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Chewbacca and Han Solo’s fight to save the galaxy from Darth Vader with the help of two droids. Begins at dusk. Free

TALKS & TOURS
SAT 8
Forest Forensics
MILLBROOK
8:30 & 11 a.m. Cary Institute
2801 Sharon Turnpike
caryinstitute.org
Tom Wessels, ecologist and author of Reading the Forest Landscape, will lead an interpretive walk through Cary’s forests and demonstrate how to understand what you see. Cost: $10

SAT 8
Hamilton Fish Sr. and the Politics of American Nationalism
GARRISON
3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-842-4020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Anthony Troncone, a retired history professor who wrote his dissertation on Hamilton Fish’s life, will discuss the congressman’s life and politics through the end of World War II. The library’s board is mulling whether to change the name of the library in light of Fish’s sympathetic view of the Nazi regime.

SAT 8
The Lords of 52nd Street
PEEKSILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The Billy Joel tribute band will play his classics. Cost: $37 to $49

SAT 8
The Third Man
JULY 8
3 - 5 PM
36x497
dissertation on Hamilton Fish’s
36x508
demonstrates how to understand
36x599
demonstrates how to understand
36x619
walk through Cary’s forests and
36x629
walk through Cary’s forests and
36x639
Tom Wessels, ecologist and
36x648
Tom Wessels, ecologist and
36x649
Judith Campanaro will lead
36x689
Judith Campanaro will lead
36x699
 Registration required.
36x719
Registration required.
36x729
The saxophonist and his band
36x749
The saxophonist and his band
36x759
The Billy Joel tribute band will play his classics. Cost: $37 to $49
36x769
The Billy Joel tribute band will play his classics. Cost: $37 to $49
36x789
Last Minute Soulmates, July 14
36x809
LARGER THAN LIFE
SAT 14
3 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The tribute band will perform hits from legendary boy bands, including Backstreet Boys, New Kids on the Block, O-Town, Boyz II Men and more. Cost: $35 to $35

SAT 8
Jeff Daniels
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The actor with a passion for music will play guitar, sing and tell stories. Cost: $65 ($70 door)

SAT 8
Larger Than Life
PEEKSILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The tribute band will play the music of Jim Morrison and the Doors. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SAT 15
Feast of Friends
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The tribute band will play the music of Jim Morrison and the Doors. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

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SUN 9
Clare Maloney &
The Great Adventure
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The band will play music from Daybreaker, its debut release. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

SUN 9
Last Minute Soulmates
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The local band features the songs of Russell St. George and Carla Springer. Restless Wanderer will open. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

SUN 16
The Billy Joel tribute band will play his classics. Cost: $37 to $49

SUN 9
Summer Recital Series
GARRISON
3 p.m. St. Philip’s Church In The Highlands
1101 Route 9D | stphilipshighlands.org
Organist Anthony Rispo will play a concert every Sunday afternoon through Aug. 20. The program will include works by Mendelssohn, Widor and others, as well as an original piece. Also SUN 16. Cost: $20 suggested donation

SUN 16
Larger Than Life
PEEKSILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The tribute band will play the music of Jim Morrison and the Doors. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SUN 16
Last Minute Soulmates
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The local band features the songs of Russell St. George and Carla Springer. Restless Wanderer will open. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

MON 10
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov
The singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, Folkocracy, and other hits. Cost: $75 ($80 door)

SAT 14
Last Minute Soulmates
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The local band features the songs of Russell St. George and Carla Springer. Restless Wanderer will play the music of Jim Morrison and the Doors. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SAT 14
Feast of Friends
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The tribute band will play the music of Jim Morrison and the Doors. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SAT 15
Tony DePaolo
BEACON
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bannerman Island
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
Boats leave the Beacon dock at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Take a self-guided tour and enjoy live music. Cost: $40 ($35 children)

SAT 15
Rufus Wainwright
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | towncrier.com
The singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, Folkocracy, and other hits. Cost: $75 ($80 door)

CIVIC
MON 10
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

WED 12
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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The Highlands Current
JULY 7, 2023
13
Let it Be Soup
By Celia Barbour

Picture a chef at work in their kitchen. I’m guessing you imagine a human dynamo, someone dicing shallots with lightning speed while simultaneously managing five flaming pans on the cooktop and shouting out directions to their crew.

And that would be an accurate depiction of life in a professional kitchen, sometimes. But the idea behind it — the one that equates cooking with intense doing — can have a negative effect on an everyday cook like me, and perhaps also you. There are times when cooking, even cooking from scratch, mostly takes restraint.

I learned this lesson several years ago, when I was an assistant cook at a summer camp for 200 girls in central Vermont. Another cook and I were assigned to make tempura vegetables for supper. The other cook, J, was tall, muscular and tattooed; she entered the kitchen at the beginning of her shift like a kickboxer entering the ring. She scared me.

That day, we stood side by side at an enormous gas range, each facing a pan the size of a truck tire filled with hot oil, with a small mountain of vegetables and a bowl of batter off to the side.

We dipped the vegetables in the batter, lowered them into the oil and waited for them to turn crisp and golden. Except we didn’t wait. We pushed them this way and that until all the batter fell off and the naked vegetables got singed.

For the next batch, I decided to try leaving the batter-dipped veggies alone to fry in peace while I quietly hummed a few lines of “Let it Be” in my head. I flipped them and did it again. They came out just right. I transferred them to a paper-towel-lined baking sheet and made another batch.

J, meanwhile, poked and nudged her vegetables this way and that, her wherewithal increasing as she disrobed batch after batch. She eyed my operation suspiciously. “Maybe try moving them around less?” I offered meekly.

“I don’t need advice,” she huffed. She turned her flames up, then down, and carried on until she’d fried up a dozen batches of naked vegetables and a great pile of batter bits.


The outcome was exactly the same. I hate wasting food even more than I love some well-earned schadenfreude. But the main reason I remember that afternoon has to do with something else.

I am more like J than I care to admit; I compulsively stir pots, peek in ovens and push things around in a sauté pan — even when I’m not the one in charge of whatever is happening in those pots and pans. I like to tinker, in other words. But that day I learned that sometimes tinkering is not merely unnecessary, it’s actually deleterious. I’m the same when it comes to recipes. I rarely follow one to the letter, instead adding or adjusting various ingredients. So when

my friend Zanne told me over lunch the other day about a wickedly simple buttermilk soup made with four ingredients, all cold, and all simply stirred together, I was already imagining that I would tweak it.

I continued imagining even after Zanne told me that the recipe was a favorite of legendary food writer M.F.K. Fisher, that Gourmet magazine had featured it a handful of times and that The Gourmet Cookbook included a slightly more elaborate version.

Then I tried it. And, yeah, it was delicious. I stepped back and admired it, just as it was. Let it be, I said to myself. Then I added a few sprigs of dill, because I couldn’t help it.

Cold Buttermilk and Shrimp Soup

1/2 pound medium shrimp in shells (31-35 per pound)
1 quart well-shaken buttermilk
1-2 teaspoons dry mustard (to taste; see note)
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon sugar
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives (optional)

Cook shrimp in boiling salted water until just cooked through, about 1 minute. Drain.

When shrimp are cool enough to handle, peel and devein. Reserve 2 or 3 shrimp for garnish, covered and refrigerated, and chop the remainder.

Whisk together buttermilk, mustard, salt and sugar in a large bowl. Add chopped shrimp, cucumbers and chives, and stir. Refrigerate, covered, until very cold, about 3 hours.

Chop reserved shrimp or slice lengthwise. Ladle soup into bowls and garnish with shrimp and cucumber slices, if using (plus dill).

Note: Zanne likes Coleman’s dry mustard.
Coffee with an ‘Artisanal’ Flair

By Erin-Leigh Hoffman

Oscar Dotter, the owner of Cornwall Coffee Co. & Mercantile on the west side of the Hudson River, had never parked in the Eliza Street parking lot in Beacon, which sits near the intersection with Main Street.

One afternoon in 2022, across the street from the lot, Dotter spotted an empty unit at 344 Main St. that sparked an idea. That idea became Beacon Coffee Co. & Mercantile, whose grand opening Dotter held on June 30. His building-mates include Paul Brady Wine and the School of Rock.

“I saw that there was a vacancy and the shops sort of talked to me and said, ‘Hey man, come check me out,’” he said.

Beacon Coffee Co. & Mercantile shares with its sister shop, which opened in July 2020, Dotter’s unique “artisanal-style” approach to brewing coffee. The style relies on vintage equipment like steam-piston lever machines from the Italian brand Victoria Arduino, a computer-monitored Dietrich coffee roaster and an algorithmic approach to preparing beans for roasting.

The shop has 19 different brewing methods that create “this intimate micro-batch feeling,” said Dotter, 51. In addition, sweeter drinks with flavoring come from hand-made elixirs. Herbal drinks contain fresh herbs infused with a frothing method and dairy products are sourced locally.

“You’re creating recipes to offer to people, then you get the feedback and enjoyment that it brings to them,” said Dotter. “To me, that’s a successful business.”

To match the old-time artisanal feeling, the interior of the shop is clothed in a rugged-chic style of decor. Features include a 4,000-pound hanging mirror with imported panels from France, hanging lights and reupholstered furniture from the 1930s, and hand-selected antiques.

Goods from partnered brands are available in the store, such as Shinola Detroit products, Balthazar Bakery treats and a selection of other fine goods, including the store-owned brand of coffee beans, Deus Es Capulus (“You are a coffee god”).

As the owner of both locations, Dotter emphasizes that it takes dedication and passion to deliver artisan coffee to customers.

“We’re constantly in rotation of what we offer and trying to offer the freshest and finest, most-premium product that we can,” he said. "Beacon Coffee’s commitment to quality means employees underwent six weeks of training before the grand opening, learning not just how to use the machines but also customer-service practices."

Before the grand opening, Dotter held a press event with support from Paul Brady Wine, which provided drinks. When the doors opened to the public, with lunch provided by Baja Taco, Beacon Coffee’s employees were “a hell of a lot busier than we anticipated,” said Dotter. They had served an estimated 500 people by 1 p.m., he said.

The crowd reminded Dotter of the day Cornwall Coffee Co. & Mercantile opened. Some of the customers who frequent that location have journeyed to Beacon, he said.

“I’m so happy that we chose Beacon,” said Dotter.

Beacon Coffee Co. & Mercantile is open at 344 Main St., Suite 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

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A Lifeline To Manhattan’s Homeless

Cold Spring church continues Midnight Run

By Mackenzie Boric

Once a month, members of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown pack up donated clothing and other items and undertake their Midnight Run, a late-night drive to Manhattan to help people living on the streets.

Lorgo Papoutsas and Alberto Lora, both veteran volunteers with First Presbyterian, understand what the trip means. Both have been homeless. Their presence, said Papoutsas, helps homeless people feel that they are valued and creates a sense of connection in otherwise isolated lives.

“It’s beyond the items,” said Papoutsas, who along with Lora helps translate for Spanish-speakers.

The Midnight Run started in Dobbs Ferry in 1984 after members of a churchSpanish-speakers.

Ferry in 1984 after members of a church

who volunteered at a soup kitchen in

Ferry in 1984 after members of a churchSpanish-speakers.

who along with Lora helps translate for

Spanish-speakers.

along with Lora helps translate for Spanish-speakers.

The Rev. Joe Gilmore brought it to First Presbyterian by single-handedly delivering supplies that he handed to people out of the back of his Volkswagen Beetle two nights a week.

Now, Ron Sopyla, a Beacon resident who is the church’s Midnight Run coordinator, keeps it alive with a group of volunteers who keep the monthly trips going even during the pandemic.

The church’s run to Manhattan on June 24 was the first, since the pandemic started, for Lynn Brown, who began volunteering with First Presbyterian in 1992. Mike and Molly Bernstein, a father-daughter duo from Cold Spring, have been on a number of Midnight Runs. Their first trip represented Molly’s bat mitzvah project.

“You’re from heaven!” a homeless man said to Molly, 15, when she gave him food. In addition to food, volunteers hand out blankets, clothing and toiletries. Local residents donate many of the items, and the church also draws from its large food pantry.

The day of the recent run, volunteers met at the church around 1 p.m. to assemble bags of food and make meat and cheese sandwiches. Along with two sandwiches, the bags contained two clementines, an apple, two water bottles and juice.

Distribution takes place at various stops — streets in Manhattan that are frequented by homeless people. Volunteers rendezvous at the first stop around 9:30 p.m. The early arrivals wait patiently on the sidewalk until everyone shows up for the run, which will end two hours later.

There is a system. The homeless receive toiletries, then clothing and other supplies. The distribution ends with bagged sandwiches and cups of soup and coffee.

First Presbyterian’s fourth stop was a street in the lower half of Manhattan, where people huddled in makeshift shelters, highlighting the reality of life on the streets. Some of the homeless stayed asleep when First Presbyterian’s crew began handing out supplies, so volunteers left items with their belongings.

Brown and Nhatavong handed out clothing, blankets, and bags. “It’s usually busier than what it was tonight,” said Nhatavong.

The next Midnight Run is scheduled for July 29. To donate supplies or volunteer, visit the church’s website, beaconpresbychurch.org.

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Leonard Lim
(1947-2023)

Leonard Lim of Cold Spring, NY passed away peacefully on July 1, 2023 surrounded by his family. He was 76 years old.

Born on February 9, 1947, in the Bronx to the late Peter and Alice Fox Lim. Leonard grew up in the Bronx with his four brothers. He was a proud US Army Veteran having served his country during the Vietnam War. He then went on to become an X-ray technician for New York Presbyterian Columbia until he retired in 2010.

Leonard loved visiting the Adirondacks. He tried to go every year when the leaves started to change. He also enjoyed bird watching from his porch; especially the hummingbirds. He liked gardening, stamp collecting, and coffee. He was a 25 year member of the Philipstown Zoning Board and also served for several years as the county representative for the Putnam County Democratic Club. But most of all he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Leonard is survived by his wife, Catherine Lim of Cold Spring, his Son Peter, and his wife Katherine Sexton Lim of Cold Spring. His grandchildren, Rodney, Peter and Cain Lim. He was predeceased by his brothers Bobby, Jack, James, and Raymond Lim.

Friends may call on Thursday July 6, 2023 from 5-8pm at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott Street, Cold Spring. Interment will be private. Military Honors will be rendered Thursday evening.

PAID NOTICE
Plants For Tough Conditions

By Pamela Doan

Most of the gardens I visit have a challenging section where it seems like nothing thrives except the plants that are least wanted. In my yard, that's a patch along a rock wall on a slope in full shade, with the added difficulty of large tree roots and the constant presence of hungry deer.

I've tried planting sedges, wood poppy, bleeding heart and ferns. I've tried viburnum and clover seed. The sedges are still there but haven't spread out. The wood poppies are over-run by the unwanted Asian honeysuckle. The bleeding heart disappeared and never returned. The ferns, too.

The clover didn’t get enough sun and the seed probably washed down the slope. The viburnums, even though they are planted on the edge for more sun exposure, get eaten by the deer and never grow beyond 12 inches high.

Desperate circumstances call for deeper research. There are plants that will handle any situation, although these specialists aren’t as readily available at a retailer. The generalist plants that thrive in most areas — full or part sun, average soil, medium water needs — are the plants that are stocked at all the garden centers. Specialists are more precise in their needs and will fit into these hard-to-plant places.

Here are suggestions of native perennials for scenarios that test the limits:

Dry soil and full shade

If you have a woodland edge to your yard, chances are there is a spot where even after a heavy rain the soil still feels dry. Maybe the tree canopy shields the ground or the water runs off down a slope.

Hay-scented fern (Dennstaedtia punctilobula): This is the least-picky native fern. It will do well with sun or shade, moist or dry soils. It can also be dominating and create a monoculture. In my own yard, I liberally mow it or remove it from areas where it is becoming too dense. During last year’s drought, it dried up and went dormant like many plants, but returned in force this year.

Pennsylvania sedge, (Carex pensylvanica): It’s easy to be sedge-blind. They look similar to grasses unless you stop and take a moment to really notice the plant’s characteristics. For years, I spent all my time in the forest studying trees. Looking down, however, reveals a rich covering of herbaceous plants to identify and understand.

White wood aster (Eurybia divaricata): The deer mostly leave these alone and even during last year’s drought, they still bloomed in the fall. I especially like to see them growing in clusters. The flowers aren’t particularly showy but grouped together, they have an impact.

Shallow soil

Stonecrop plants, also known as sedums in the Hylotelephium genus: These are champions when it comes to shallow and rocky soils. I also like to use varieties of thyme, the perennial herb, that can be found in lovely colors and habitats.

Eastern prickly pear cactus (Opuntia humifusa): New York’s native cactus loves sun and shallow soil. Handle it with tongs and gloves, never bare hands, and plant it somewhere off to the side and let it thrive. It has pretty flowers and edible pads.

Roadside

Butterflyweed (Asclepias tuberosa): This is a native milkweed with orange flowers for a burst of color. It’s tough and hardy, and will handle the less-than-ideal conditions at the end of my driveway, where there is a lot of dust, disturbance and heat.

Catmint (Nepeta racemosa): I don’t usually find the straight species of this plant, but there are many varieties available. Look in the herb section if it isn’t with perennials. These plants are extremely resilient and even though they are in the mint family, I haven’t found spreading to be an issue.

Yarrow (Achillea millefolium): The straight species of this herb has white florets and lacy, fern-like foliage. It’s long-blooming, spreads a little bit to take up bare spaces and is shallow-rooted, making it versatile for several challenging planting scenarios.

Consistently wet soil

Swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata): This is another native milkweed and has bright pink blooms and prefers sunny spots with consistently wet conditions. I’d love to have this plant in my landscape but I don’t have a good spot for it.

Blue flag iris (Iris virginica): I was delighted when I found these growing on a stream bank. The deer leave them alone and the blue-to-violet flowers are showy.

Swamp rose (Rosa palustris): While this plant isn’t deer-resistant, they tend not to eat the entire plant and it’s fairly fast-growing and rebounds, at least in my experience.

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Notice

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 10th 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

This meeting will also be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Zoning Board Meeting July 2023.
Ella Snook (1946-2023)

Ella Mae Snook, 76, a lifelong Beacon resident, died at her home on June 23.

Ella was born Feb. 15, 1942, in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, the daughter of Ernesto and Gregoria Arroyo de Correa. She later relocated to Beacon and studied at SUNY New Paltz.

Maria Torres (1942-2023)

Maria Esther Torres, 81, died at her home on June 23.

She was born on Feb. 15, 1942, in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, the daughter of Ernesto and Gregoria Arroyo de Correa. She later relocated to Beacon and studied at SUNY New Paltz.

Maria held various positions in the Beacon school district and the Astor daycare center as a teaching assistant, including social work in the district’s bilingual program. Most of all, she enjoyed raising her four children and working in the wax-casting process of bronze sculptures at the Polich Tallix Fine Art Foundry.

In 1961 she married Juan Torres. Maria was a talented landscape and still-life artist, working with acrylic and watercolors. She liked gardening and was an enthusiast of classical and folk music.

She is survived by her sisters, Rosa Alba Correa de Norat and Mildred Aviles; four grandchildren, Juan Luis Morales (Nicole), Michelle Enid Morales, Christina Marie Zolotas and Gabriel Smith; and five great-grandchildren, Amora, Dante, Deslin Morales and Cillian and Bodhi Davison. She was also survived by her nieces and nephew, Ileana Maria Prentice (James), Juan Manuel Torres (Ray) and Mildred Enid Smith (Donald). Her husband, her daughter, Ivette Zolotas (James), and two grandchildren, Patrick Morales and Nani Abdelhady; died before her.

A celebration of Maria’s life will be held on July 23 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the William G. Miller & Son Funeral Home, 371 Hooker Ave. in Poughkeepsie. Memorial donations may be made to Hudson River Hospice.

Ella was also an active member of the church’s Welcome Table, which met and fed people from the community every week. She spent many years in banking, working for JPMorgan Chase until she retired.

Ella was predeceased by her loving husband, Donald W. Snook, on July 12, 2001. She was also predeceased by her three sisters, Mary Ellen Stanton, Judith Burris and Dorothy Ramirez. Ella is survived by several cousins and dear friends, all who will remember her fondly.

Her family will receive friends today (July 7) from 3 to 7 p.m. at Libby Funeral Home, 55 Teller Ave. in Beacon, where a service will be held at 6 p.m. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday (July 8) at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9 in Fishkill.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Ella’s memory to the Welcome Table, First Presbyterian Church of Beacon, 50 Liberty St., Beacon, NY 12508 (beaconpresbychurch.org).

FOR SALE

2004 SILVER CHEVY SUBURBAN — 4-wheel drive, 120,000 miles, cream leather seats, heated seats. Excellent running condition. $4,500. Call Clara at 914-497-0866.

FOR RENT

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GARRISON HOME — Charming country house

13, from 11 to 5 p.m. Free admission and free tea are coming to Cold Spring Aug. 12 and 13, from 11 to 5 p.m. Free admission and free raffle. For more information and to see who is exhibiting go to www.Hopsynthethe Hudson.com. Handcrafted, One of a Kind and Small Bath. Come and Shop Local! Come by train and take a short, four-block walk to the market. Parking can be found on all side streets in the village. Woodworkers, potters, craft beverages and so much more. St. Mary’s is the place!


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EVENTS

MODERN MAKERS MARKET — Artists, food, live music, ice cream and Thai tea are coming to Cold Spring Aug. 12 and 13, from 11 to 5 p.m. Free admission and free raffle. For more information and to see who is exhibiting go to www.Hopsynthethe Hudson.com. Handcrafted, One of a Kind and Small Bath. Come and Shop Local! Come by train and take a short, four-block walk to the market. Parking can be found on all side streets in the village. Woodworkers, potters, craft beverages and so much more. St. Mary’s is the place!

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Puzzles

ACROSS
1. Chewable stick
4. Parisian river
9. Chaney of horror films
12. Links org.
13. Leek’s kin
14. Rage
15. Food’s freshness period
17. Hardly any
18. Call — day
19. Papa Hemingway
21. Boot camp reply
24. Swelled heads
25. Curator’s concern
26. Mayo ingredient
28. Bullitt director Peter
31. Leek’s kin
33. Hirohito’s title (Abbr.)
35. Aspiration
36. Rapper’s headgear
38. “Chandelier” singer
40. Stimpy’s pal
41. Christmas
43. Aged, in a way
45. As a whole
47. Perch
48. Zodiac feline
49. Novel storage area?
54. Buddy
55. Kate’s sitcom partner
56. Aussie hopper
57. Fine, to NASA
58. Property claims
59. Chopper

DOWN
1. Family docs
2. “Yecch!”
3. Actress West
4. Sentimental sort
5. Blow up
6. Sundial numeral
7. Type of checking
8. Vigor
9. Biography
10. Raw materials
11. Salamander
16. Fleur-de-—
20. Ham’s dad
21. Three feet
22. Slangy suffix
23. Tot’s reading material
27. Baseball execs
29. Fencing sword
30. Fax
32. Manhandle
34. Football, slangily
37. Worldwide
39. Comes up
42. Dangerous bacteria
44. Sports fig.
45. Exile isle
46. Sleuth Wolfe
50. Flamenco cheer
51. Historic period
52. Bagel topper
53. Nemesis

SUDOCURRENT

WORDLADDERS

Can you go from RATED to PALEO in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

RATED

PALEO

MICRO CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Improvise musically
5. Butterfield 8 author John
7. Suez waterway
8. “____ a Woman?” (1851 speech by Sojourner Truth)
9. Law & Order actor Benjamin

DOWN
1. Terminology study, for short
2. By ____ (very narrowly)
3. Divine sustenance

Answers for June 30 Puzzles

SQUAT
LANCE
ETCHA
DALES
RED

PLACE
PEACE
PEACH
PERCH
PORCH
POUCH

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For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
The Highlands celebrated the Fourth of July with a burst of events. Cold Spring’s Independence Day Parade took place on July 1, with a procession that began at 10 a.m. at Dockside Park. Following the parade, St. Mary’s Episcopal Church hosted Summer Fun Day on its Great Lawn, with food, games, live music and vendors. That same day, Boscobel held its Celebrate Independence Day Concert, with a performance by the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra and fireworks at dusk. See more photos at highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair