

The HIGHLANDS Current

AUGUST 11, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Page 14



CHANGE OF DIRECTION – Beacon Hoops this summer, for the first time, offered a division for girls, including teams sponsored by Palisi Auto Body (red) and *The Highlands Current* (yellow) that competed Aug. 2 at Riverfront Park. For more photos, see Page 20.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Two Promising Housing Possibilities

Beacon Housing Authority, Dutchess explore adding to affordable stock

By Jeff Simms

Dutchess County plans to solicit ideas from developers to add affordable housing at the Beacon Center, known

to most as the DMV building, at 223 Main St.

The county plans to issue a “request for expressions of interest,” or RFEI, but has not set a timetable, said Colleen Pillus, a county representative, on Wednesday (Aug. 9).

If a project moves forward, it would likely involve reconfiguring the parking lot to create room for another building on the parcel, City Administrator Chris White told the City Council on Monday.

In addition, the Beacon Housing Authority (BHA), which manages the Forrestal Heights and Hamilton Fish Plaza low-income rental complexes, has had preliminary talks with a developer about constructing several dozen new apartments on its land, White said. The Housing Authority, which operates independently from the city, could present the council with a conceptual proposal by fall.

The two proposals breathed new life into the council’s discussion of affordable hous-

(Continued on Page 9)

Prophecy Hall Approved

Beacon hotel, event space could open in 2025

By Jeff Simms

Just over two years after it was introduced, a proposal to convert the former Reformed Church of Beacon to a hotel, restaurant and event center called Prophecy Hall was approved by the Planning Board on Tuesday (Aug. 8).

The board voted 4-0 to approve a site plan

and special-use permit that will allow a development group to transform the 164-year-old church into a venue for art, theater and music with an ancillary 50-seat restaurant. An adjacent parsonage will be renovated and expanded as a 30-room hotel. Thirty-three parking spaces will surround the hotel.

The Planning Board has seven members, but Donna Francis, who was appointed in March, abstained — “I don’t think I should bother,” she said, when asked for her vote

(Continued on Page 7)



The Beacon Planning Board approved a proposal to develop the former Reformed Church into an arts and events venue.

File photo

Dutchess Judge Issues New Migrant Ban

County cites TB cases in lawsuit against NYC, hotels

By Leonard Sparks

A state judge has barred New York City from sending more migrants to hotels in Dutchess County until she decides whether to issue a permanent ban in the county’s lawsuit against the city and two hotels.

Judge Maria Rosa’s ruling, issued Aug. 4., highlighted the positive tuberculosis tests of 12 asylum-seekers being housed at the Red Roof Inn on Route 9 in the Town of Poughkeepsie as evidence that the county has been harmed by New York City’s transport of 88 migrants to the hotel on May 21.

One of the people tested had an active
(Continued on Page 8)

‘Our Plan is to Start Paving’

Philipstown says it will have aggressive response to storm damage

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The fraught issue of resurfacing dirt roads resurfaced last week in Philipstown when Supervisor John Van Tassel revealed plans to pave some such roads — at least in part — after last month’s storms created washouts and pushed debris into streams.

“We need to address this aggressively,” he said at the board’s monthly meeting Aug. 3. “Our plan is to start paving.”

Between July 8 and Aug. 2, Philipstown spent \$94,000 on road repairs, often on dirt roads, he said. He mentioned “culverts in Nelsonville, full of pieces of Lane Gate Road that we had to remove,” and similar wreckage elsewhere. “It’s not only a fiscal disaster for the town, it’s an environmental disaster,” he said.

Van Tassel acknowledged that July’s torrents damaged paved roads, as well, but described dirt roads as particularly vulnerable. Crews “put the roads together [on a] Sunday night, into Monday, and Tuesday they were gone again,” he recalled. Hence, he

(Continued on Page 7)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: MALACHY CLEARY

By Michael Turton

Malachy Cleary, of Cold Spring, is a longtime actor whose recent roles have included Grandpa Steve Stone on the NBC/Netflix series *Manifest*.

How did you get into acting?

My father was a teacher at my grammar school, St. David's, on East 89th Street in New York City. He had actor friends and loved acting and directing, but only at the amateur level. I was shy, and he got me into acting to get me out of my shell. In fifth or sixth grade, I was in *The Devil and Daniel Webster*; then did all the school plays. I decided to make acting my life. My dad was like, "Oh no, what've I done to my son?" When he retired, he pursued acting as well, but unfortunately became ill and died just as he was getting started.

Besides *Manifest*, what have been some memorable roles?

I was an understudy to Paul Newman in the Broadway production of *Our Town* and a stand-in for him in the Showtime production; he came up behind me once and said, "I'm not that short!" On *Boardwalk Empire*, I played President Warren Harding; I actually looked like him. I was Thad McCone in an episode of *The Sopranos*. I play Richard in *Gabriel's Redemption*, a new Passionflix production



Malachy Cleary in an episode of *Manifest* NBC

directed by Tosca Musk, Elon's sister. And we did great work locally a number of years ago with World's End Theatre and Gordon Stewart, the founder of this paper.

Like many actors, have you done odd jobs between gigs?

Oh, yes. I was a doorman at 944 Fifth Ave. for three-and-a-half years, on and off. I worked three years as a tender for divers working on piers in Bayonne and Newark. I briefly waited tables; I was horrible. I bartended, did catering, painted apartments. Even fairly recently, when things went south, I did landscaping. Lately, I've been getting by with acting. We're on strike now; the personal issue for me is making enough to qualify for union health insurance.

What does the public not understand about actors?

A lot of people think the minute you're on TV, you're rich. Those days are long gone and it's getting even tougher to be a middle-class actor. I completely missed this, but back in the day you were paid scale (the minimum acting wage), then if you worked

a bit, you'd have what was called your "quote," then incremental increases every time you worked, \$3,000 to \$5,000, even for a relatively unknown actor. Not now. You can do well if you're the star or a repeating guest star, but for rank-and-file actors, it's pretty much workaday.

What type of acting is most difficult?

Theater is by far the most work, memorizing lines, constantly performing, dealing with costumes. It's blood, sweat and tears; there's no second or third take. *The Way of the World* [by World's End] was a monumental effort, getting the language down and being ready in two-and-a-half weeks. It's the hardest, but I love theater; the biggest thrill is performing before a live audience. It's fun doing film, but that can be somewhat sterile. TV commercials can be relatively easy, like when I worked with Cliff Robertson and John McEnroe. They were the center of the spot; I was just sort of around them. But if I served as the spokesman, they worked my butt off. I mean, 72 takes! You have to keep your cool, and at some point say: "I need a break." I did commercials for years; that's what kept me going.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's your favorite summer meal?

“Watermelon with mint and feta cheese salad.”



Karen Agresci, Beacon

“Three pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes, sweet corn and a cookie.”



Quintin King, Beacon

“Pan con tomate, grilled shrimp on skewers and a bottle of Vinho Verde.”



Eri Panasci, Cold Spring

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Giorgio Cappozzo, Italy, 2004

Tutto su mio padre
Fabio Sargentini
Fabiana Sargentini, Italy, 2003

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Caro Diario
Nanni Moretti, Italy, 1993

Sunday, August 20, 2023
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Paolo Sorrentino, Italy, 2013

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NEWS BRIEFS



Popolopen Bridge Reopens

Storm damage repaired on 9W passage

New York State announced Aug. 4 that the Popolopen Creek Bridge on Route 9W in Highland Falls has reopened after being damaged by storms last month.

Heavy rainfall on July 9 and 10 caused a 20-foot-deep “soil mass” to wash down the bridge’s southern slope, the state said.

The repair work took about four weeks. The bridge connects the Bear Mountain Circle with Route 9W and provides access between Putnam and Westchester counties and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and O’Neill High School, which some students from Garrison attend.

According to the governor’s office, the state highway department installed a wall “that uses layers of materials, such as fabrics, grids and meshes, to strengthen the soil and hold it in place.”

Cold Spring Resident Sues Village

Seeks reversal of zoning code changes

A Rock Street resident has sued Cold Spring, asking a state judge to reverse the Village Board’s recent approval of zoning changes because of alleged illegal activity by the mayor and Village Board.

William Pugh filed the lawsuit in Carmel on Aug. 4, claiming that a change to the zoning of the former site of the Marathon Battery plant on Kemble Avenue from industrial to mixed use was illegal “spot zoning” to “benefit politically favored friends.”

Pugh made similar charges in public comments at Village Board meetings. He protested that an ad hoc committee created to recommend changes to the village code, which included Mayor Kathleen Foley, did not hold public meetings or keep minutes.

In the lawsuit, Pugh claims the rezoning decreased the value of his property by causing a “change of community character, as well as the socio-economic status of everything in the village” because of what he said would be a 10 percent increase in population due to new housing.

Pugh asked the judge to overturn the Village Board votes at a meeting held on June 26, and for reimbursement of his legal fees. The village has 30 days to respond.

State Announces Flood Assistance

Eligible homeowners can apply for up to \$50,000

New York State announced on Wednesday (Aug. 9) that it would provide \$3 million in emergency assistance to lower- and middle-income homeowners in eight counties, including Dutchess and Putnam, whose primary residences suffered storm damage in July, including flooding.

The funding is in addition to \$3 million the state released last month to assist homeowners in Orange County.

The program will be administered by nonprofits in each county and cover the cost of repairs needed to bring a home into a “safe and habitable condition,” such as by replacing or repairing electrical and plumbing systems, heating systems and appliances, flooring, drywall, insulation, windows, doors, siding and roofing.

A full list of qualified repairs and eligibility criteria is available at hcr.ny.gov/ahc-flood-assistance-program, where an application will be available beginning today (Aug. 11). Applicants must have incomes at or less than 80 percent of the area median income. The repairs also cannot already have been funded by other government recovery grants or insurance.

Commuter Fares to Rise

New pricing takes effect this month

The cost of weekly and monthly commuter tickets on Metro-North are scheduled to increase Aug. 20 for the first time in four years.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority had been increasing fares every other year since 2009 but suspended the hikes during the pandemic shutdown.

For riders traveling from Cold Spring, Garrison and Manitou to Grand Central Station, the weekly fare will increase \$5 to \$145 and the monthly fare by \$14.50 to \$407.75. One-way peak tickets will rise by 75 cents, to \$20.75, and off-peak by 25 cents, to \$15.25.

For riders traveling from Beacon to Grand Central, the weekly fare will increase \$6.75 to \$158.75 and the monthly fare by \$19, to \$446.50. One-way peak tickets will rise by \$1, to \$23, and off-peak by 25 cents, to \$17.75.

Even after the increases, weekly and monthly tickets are priced lower than they were before the pandemic because of a 10 percent decrease in March 2022, the MTA said.

Tolls on the seven bridges and two tunnels operated by the MTA in New York City rose 6 percent on Aug. 6, to \$6.94 per crossing for cars with E-ZPass. Tolls did not increase on Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon and other Hudson Valley bridges, which are not operated by the MTA..




The HIGHLANDS

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Chiara Di Lello,
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Millie Hendrix,
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021, 2022)

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Shelter law

No one in local government asked for this national migrant crisis, but tragically, decades of inaction by our federal government amplified by dishonest and underhanded moves by politicians placed it on our doorstep.

In New York, this crisis hit our region following a variety of dishonest and deceptive acts from the City of New York. In Putnam County, false information quickly circulated about this serious issue as well as Putnam's response to prevent a homelessness crisis from unfolding in our community. Elected officials, political organizations and pundits in the press that did not support Putnam County's emergency action and local legislation engaged in a campaign of disinformation to gaslight and further their own goals of self-promotion, division and fearmongering.

Putnam's new "homeless shelter" law is short, simple and barely over one page long. The regulation within it states: "No municipality outside of Putnam County, or agent thereof, may offer or provide temporary housing within Putnam County, thereby creating a homeless shelter as defined above, without first entering into a shared services agreement with Putnam County to provide said services."

Despite what critics have asserted, this law does not ban or prohibit any human being from existing in Putnam County, it does not label any one group of people as criminals, it does not eliminate or change local zoning, it does not change any law enforcement operations or powers, nor does it infringe on anyone's Constitutional rights. Nowhere in this local law is "migrant," "immigrant" or "asylum-seeker" mentioned. This is because, while the migrant crisis is part of the origin of this law, it's not what this law is about. New York City's actions simply exposed a flaw in existing law that other municipalities could exploit in the future, and we sought to fix it.

The reality is, what New York City and other municipalities have attempted to do equates to dumping their obligations onto other municipalities with zero planning. In Putnam County, we demonstrated restraint and exercised responsible decision-making. After we confirmed Putnam's temporary rentals were already 80 percent full with limited capacity, and after Putnam learned that New York City's representatives engaged directly with a motel, without any county or local government's knowledge, seeking a six-month to five-year contract, Putnam responded to ensure a shared services agreement would first be

in place before any municipality attempted to abandon their homeless population in our county.

The president's refusal to take ownership of this crisis and take corrective actions to secure our nation's southern border and fix the asylum-seeking process has left municipalities across the U.S. with few options. While Putnam County has acted responsibly, the fact remains that this is a national crisis in need of a national solution.

Kevin Byrne, Carmel

Byrne is the Putnam County executive. A longer version of this letter, with citations, is posted at highlandscurrent.org.

Storm cleanup

On July 12, Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes Philipstown, engaged in an act of political misdirection when he sent out a mass email perpetuating MAGA fearmongering about crime. Lawler tries to generate fear of a mythical "massive" crime wave as he would like to distract us from his own party's failed agenda, and his own problem behavior.

First, some facts about crime. Violent crime and most major crimes are on the decline in our area, and the counties that comprise the 17th Congressional District are among the safest in the state. New York is much safer than most Republican-led states, where lax gun laws and failed social policies lead to much higher rates of violent crime. Crime is an issue that is proven to "hijack" our emotions, which is why MAGA-types and faux news outlets talk about it nonstop. Though we are far less likely to be a victim of a crime than we were 20 to 30 years ago, MAGA politicians want us terrified of a "massive crime wave" so that we don't think clearly about real policy issues.

On July 12, Lawler could have tried to provide information to his constituents about resources for people affected by the severe storms and the flooding in our area ("Push for Disaster Aid Begins," July 14). Instead, he sent an email perpetuating myths about crime. Perhaps this was done because Lawler had just spent the prior day being ridiculed by major news outlets for having been blocked on Wikipedia for too much self-editing without verifying his identity ("Wikipedia Unblocks Rep. Lawler," July 28).

Don't fall for Lawler's low-rent sleight of hand. He's not that focused on how you're recovering from the flood. He's interested in public relations, fake crime waves and MAGA nonsense.

Linda Tafapolsky, Garrison



Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Affirmative Action Group Takes Aim at West Point

Group recruiting rejected applicants for lawsuit

By Leonard Sparks

West Point’s growth in minority enrollment could face a new threat.

Students for Fair Admission, an organization that in June won a U.S. Supreme Court case that effectively ended the consideration of race in admissions decisions by universities, is recruiting plaintiffs for a lawsuit against West Point and the Air Force and Naval academies.

The group says it is “committed to ending these practices at America’s military service academies.” Applicants to the academies and high school seniors intending to apply are invited to “tell us your story” at West-PointNotFair.org if they suspect they didn’t get in because “you’re the wrong race.”

Students for Fair Admission claimed discrimination against Asian and white applicants in lawsuits against Harvard and the University of North Carolina that ended up before the Supreme Court. On June 29, in a majority opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, the court said the schools “lack sufficiently focused and measurable objectives warranting the use of race, unavoidably employ race in a negative manner, involve racial stereotyping and lack meaningful endpoints,” in viola-

tion of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution’s 14th Amendment.

Roberts also concluded, however, that “nothing prohibits universities from considering an applicant’s discussion of how race affected the applicant’s life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability that the particular applicant can contribute to the university.”

The opinion does not address the consideration of race in admissions to West Point and the other military academies “in light of the potentially distinct interests that military academies may present,” Roberts wrote.

Minority enrollment has grown significantly at West Point, where applicants need to meet academic and physical-fitness requirements and be nominated by the U.S. president or vice president, a member of the U.S. Senate or House, Army veteran or the children of military members who are deceased, disabled, a Medal of Honor recipient, a prisoner of war or missing in action.

Minorities represent 38 percent of West Point’s incoming first-year class this year, including 170 Asians, 137 Latinos, 127 Blacks and 18 Native Americans, according to the academy.

That diversity drew support from a group of 35 former military leaders who filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court case. The group includes Daniel Christman, a former West Point superintendent, and Bob Kerrey, a former Nebraska senator and governor.

Percentage of West Point Cadets Who Are...

	2002	2022
White	76	61
Black	7.6	11
Latino	6.7	12
Asian	6.5	9

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

They argue that the military’s ability to field a diverse corps of officers “hinges, in turn, on the military’s continuing admission of diverse student bodies” to the academies and Reserve Officer Training Corps programs at colleges.

“History has shown that placing a diverse armed forces under the command of homogenous leadership is a recipe for internal resentment, discord and violence,” they wrote. “By contrast, units that are diverse across all levels are more cohesive, collaborative and effective.”

The military leaders criticized as “thinly sourced” an amicus brief filed by a group called Veterans for Fairness and Merit, which says 292 of its 627 members are graduates of the five service academies (including the Coast Guard and Merchant Marines).

Veterans for Fairness and Merit claims that considering race in admissions is “unquestionably harmful to our national security” and that the policies “have been costly, inefficient, and, in some instances, have reduced quality.”

NEWS BRIEF

Serino Raises \$225K in Dutchess Race

Democratic opponent far behind in fundraising

Sue Serino, the former state senator whose district included the Highlands, has raised \$225,000 for her Republican campaign to become the next Dutchess County executive, far outpacing her Democratic opponent, Tommy Zurhellen.

Both announced their campaigns in February and made their most recent reports to the county Board of Elections on July 17. Zurhellen, a Navy veteran who is an English professor at Marist, has raised \$35,000.

According to the *Hudson Valley Pilot*, Serino has received contributions from the Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff Police Benevolent Association (PBA), the NYS Correctional Officers PAC, the Civil Service Employees Political Action Fund and the National Federation of Independent Business PAC.

Zurhellen received a donation from the Communication Workers of America District 1 PAC but most of his support has come from individuals. Karen Smythe, a Democrat who lost a state senate race to Serino in 2020, contributed \$1,000.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.


REAL ESTATE MARKET

HOME SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE LAST 30 DAYS

BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPERTIES	CITY	BEDS	BATHS	SQ FT	SOLD!
74 N Elm St.	Beacon	2	1/0	1,122	\$525,000
68 N Chestnut St.	Beacon	3	2/1	1,752	\$550,000
50 Falconer St.	Beacon	3	1/1	1,500	\$575,000
11 Cliff St.	Beacon	4	2/1	1,926	\$585,000
101 Sunflower Cir.	Fishkill	4	2/1	3,200	\$680,000
25 Ash Rd.	Fishkill	5	2/1	2,635	\$695,000
263 Fishkill Ave.	Beacon	4	3/0	1,631	\$725,000
31 Mountain Ln.	Beacon	5	4/0	3,520	\$965,000

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The Philipstown Food Pantry

Wish to thank all of you who have supported the Philipstown Food Pantry during our June food drive and throughout the first half of this year. Your generosity enables us to provide healthy food for over 60 families that come to our door. Our mission to Fight Hunger in Philipstown will continue to be successful with your enduring support.

- Joan Crouch

Michael Cavanaugh

Renee Cruikshank

Michael Williams

Leslie Leonard

Nancy Martinez Cirelli on behalf of the Haldane Association

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Holly Evarts

Cold Spring United Methodist Church

for the Easter Baskets

Joseph and Katharine Plummer

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Katherine Smelter

Putnam County S.P.C A.

Laura Kissack

Residents of Glasbury Court

Kristen Tran

Kelly Lindhardt and the candy posse

Kristin Celello

Charles & Gigi

Lisa Quartin

All of those who wish remain anonymous

To our youngest fundraisers - Saige, Liliana, Ben Sophia - Great Idea & Job Well Done!

Beacon, Church Still at Odds

Sides agree to temporary measures for duration of legal case

By Jeff Simms

There has been little movement between the City of Beacon and St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church, as the sides remain gridlocked in their dispute over a city-owned parking lot. Both sides last month agreed to accept a Dutchess County judge’s temporary order for alternate parking arrangements for the duration of the litigation. While Judge Thomas Davis has ordered the attorneys for the city and church to convene in Poughkeepsie on Aug. 30, there is no indication in the more than 60 documents filed with the court that a decision is imminent. St. Andrew filed suit against the city, Mayor Lee Kyriacou and City Administrator Chris White on June 26, alleging that they had “unilaterally” fenced off a parking lot behind the church and stored construction equipment and building materials there as demolition began on the Tompkins Hose fire station. On July 12, Davis ordered the church to accept the city’s temporary offer of 22 parking spaces in a lot at 21 South Ave., the site of the former Martin Luther King Cultural Center. In addition, the city has dedicated

17 on-street spaces on South Avenue and the City Hall parking lot to churchgoers on Sunday mornings. A 12-foot lane has also been created in the construction zone to allow trucks access to the rear of the church to deliver supplies for its food pantry. The Rev. John Williams, the rector at St. Andrew, said on Aug. 2 that the make-shift arrangement is “satisfactory at the moment, but is not a long-term solution.” Church attendance is typically down during the summer, Williams said, but St. Andrew is hosting the premier of a student film in September, and he’s hopeful a decision will be rendered by then. “The facts have all been presented,” he said. “We all agree that the documents themselves are the facts. We’re hoping that the summary judgment will be a matter of weeks.” In an affidavit filed on July 21, White disagreed with St. Andrew’s claim that 40 vehicles park in the disputed lot for worship services every Sunday. A staff member reviewed videos posted on social media by the church and said that, based on attendance, closer to 20 cars park there, White testified. In its lawsuit, the church has argued that the city ignored a 1987 agreement establishing the church and the Tompkins Hose fire company’s shared access to the gravel parking lot. White noted in his testimony that the city and church have previously disagreed about use of the lot, which the city purchased from the volunteer fire company in 2020. In 2021, St. Andrew installed “church parking only” signs at entry points to the lot, “which the city subsequently had to remove given their impropriety and the fact that the city purchased the parking lot to serve both the fire station and the public,” White said. According to his testimony, the signs were never reinstalled and “at no point since was the parking lot restricted to church parking only.” The church has asked Davis to force the city to remove the fence around the parking lot and restore the lot to its “original and intended condition.” St. Andrew maintains that the 1987 agreement gave it and the fire company “equal rights to use the parking lot” and that the parties agreed to consult with each other so that one party “shall not interfere with the use of the parking lot by the other.” However, city contractors began razing the outdated fire station in June. Once demolition is complete, a \$14.7 million facility that will serve as Beacon’s centralized fire station will be constructed. In other words, the church’s demand that the construction site be returned to a gravel parking lot would jeopardize the fire station project and “potentially cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in delay claims from the contractors,” White said. The lot will be paved and striped for 52 parking spaces during construction. In his affidavit, also filed on July 21, Beacon attorney Nick Ward-Willis called the church’s assertion that no harm would come from delaying the city’s project “patently absurd.”

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Paving *(from Page 1)*

explained, the need to pave — “not the entire road,” but sections “that are chronically washing out, storm after storm after storm.”

Councilor Robert Flaherty concurred. “We’re not going around paving every single dirt road in our community,” he said. “We’re looking at trouble spots.”

Councilor Jason Angell, who lives on South Mountain Pass and comes “from a passionate dirt-road family,” remembered how, in 2015, homeowners protested plans to pave the western tip of his road, at its intersection with Route 9D. Eight years later, “I’m sure this is going to be a passionate conversation because we’ve all been part of those meetings in the past,” Angell said. “And I’m also someone who cares about the environment. I’ve seen culverts showing up in places they shouldn’t” and Item 4 [a dirt-road surface material] “going into the creeks.” Moreover, in recent years he said he has witnessed frequent washouts. He advised “taking a hard look” at paving dirt roads.

Van Tassel said town officials plan to review paving details this fall, focusing on select roads suggested by Adam Hotaling, the highway superintendent. He also said he would seek federal relief money to help fund the work.

Terry Zaleski, a resident of Old Albany Post Road, a historic byway, is president of the Old Road Society. He urged the Town Board to avoid basing decisions on after-effects of the July rain.

“Extreme events should not undermine” years of efforts to save the town’s ambience, he said. “We know there were real problems on some dirt roads, but similarly there were real problems on many of the paved roads, here

and there. So is paving always the answer?”

Madeline Rae, who also lives on Old Albany Post Road, advised the Town Board to follow practices in dirt-road maintenance guides, including one presented to the Town Board in 2016 by a specialist enlisted by the road society.

“The most important thing is following the manuals, not spending millions of dollars on paving,” she said. “We can invest in keeping the rural character of Philipstown.”

“We know there were real problems on some dirt roads, but similarly there were real problems on many of the paved roads, here and there. So is paving always the answer?”

Terry Zaleski,
President of the Old Road Society

She blamed problems on the town’s Item 4 mixture. Without a “binder,” its sand and gravel material washes away, plus “cars go over it and break the rocks and you have dust,” Rae said.

Van Tassel replied that the problem can’t be attributed to freakish weather. “We’re in a different environment,” he said. “The climate is changing. We get a 100-year storm, it seems, every six months.” Moreover, he said, the town improved drainage and changed its grading methods and road-topping mixture, but washouts continue. “No matter what we do, we can’t keep the dirt on,” he said.

Partnerships

In other business, the Town Board unanimously approved interagency agreements for emergency services, gas for Cold Spring police cars and the Metro-North stop at Manitou.

The contract involving emergency services allows Putnam County to erect a radio communications tower and building on 2,600 square feet at the town Highway Department on Fishkill Road, at the edge of Nelsonville. The county will lease the space for 35 years for a token fee of \$1.

“It is the last piece of the puzzle” in solving a communications dilemma, Van Tassel said, observing that, throughout his 40 years as a first-responder, Philipstown has lacked adequate connectivity with the rest of Putnam. He emphasized that “there will be no commercial providers on this tower. It is strictly for emergency services communication. We’re excited about it.”

Ralph Falloon, a former Cold Spring mayor who is deputy commissioner of the county Bureau of Emergency Services, described the tower as the last in an 11-unit chain that would give Putnam a “seamless connection from Breakneck” to the eastern border with Connecticut.

Under a second agreement, Cold Spring will be allowed to fuel its police cars, fire vehicles and utility fleet at the Highway Department garage at wholesale prices. The town already provides at-cost fuel for Putnam County vehicles. The village fueling equipment is outdated and needs repair, the contract notes.

Finally, the board approved an agreement to allow Philipstown to collaborate with Metro-North on safety upgrades at the Manitou stop. Van Tassel said the improvements include a new path for pedestrian access.

What’s Online at Highlands Current.org

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

Local Officials

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

Local Government Video Guide

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

How They Voted (Congress)

Summaries of consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted. Updated weekly during congressional sessions.

Storm Updates and Resources

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

Community Calendar

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

Community Directory

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

Shop Local Online

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

Real-Estate Data

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

Job Search

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

Back Issues

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

Podcast Archives

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

Prophecy Hall *(from Page 1)*

— and Len Warner and Randall Williams were not present.

A special-use permit was required because the project, at 1113 Wolcott Ave. (Route 9D), is within Beacon’s protected historic district.

Board members last month said the project is consistent with the city’s Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and approved a “negative declaration” indicating that it will not adversely affect the environment.

The proposal drew considerable opposition from some residents, particularly those who live in four residential developments that surround the church, which closed in 2020. A public hearing was continued for nearly a year, with neighbors submitting a petition with more than 350 names opposing the project. The board also received hundreds of comments.

The proposal was downsized several times in response to concerns about noise and parking. The event space, which the Planning Board considered as an accessory to the hotel, was first presented as a 500-person venue; after being reduced four times, its maximum capacity now is 150.

Operating hours were also scaled back. There will be no events on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Programs on Thursdays and Sundays must end by 7:30 p.m.

and on Fridays and Saturdays, by 8:30 p.m.

The restaurant must be closed during events with more than 100 attendees. If there are multiple events in a day — a tactic that opponents described as a workaround for the reduced capacity — there must be a two-hour break in between.

A smoking area has been designated in the parking lot. A number of noise-mitigating features, such as a brick wall with solid infill material near one property line, a cedar sound-mitigating fence at the parcel boundary to the north, acoustic glass inserts and a decibel limit on amplified sound, are also part of the plans.

Gavin Hecker, one of Prophecy’s owners, said Wednesday that he and his partners hope to have the hotel completed by 2025. The exterior of the church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, will not change, he said.

Only religious events, such as worship services and weddings, will be allowed until the hotel receives its certificate of occupancy from the city. A plan to restore and maintain the historic cemetery behind the

“As skeptical as I remain, legally you have managed to conform to the requirements of the zoning.”

Kevin Byrne, Planning Board Member

church must also be submitted to the Building Department before the hotel can open.

As a further condition of its approval, the Planning Board will require Prophecy to reapply for the special-use permit for the event space after it has been open for a year. A public hearing will be required, and a new traffic study must be submitted within the first nine months of operations.

Despite the changes to the application, board members Kevin Byrne and David Jensen said Tuesday that they were only reluctantly voting to approve.

“The original zoning intent didn’t contemplate this being used as an assembly space in the way that is being discussed,” Byrne said. But, “as skeptical as I remain, legally you have managed to conform to the requirements of the zoning.”

Byrne added that he does not think the mitigation efforts or the parking plan, which relies on nearby public lots to supplement the on-site spaces, will work out as expected. “I wish this was a different project,” he said.

But John Gunn, the Planning Board chair, said the back-and-forth over two years had been a testament to Beacon’s strong zoning laws and the flexibility of the community.

“It’s part of the evolution, it’s part of the growth” of the city, he said. “We’ve been able to absorb, accommodate and continue to be a thriving community even with countless contentious, concerning applications.”

Migrants *(from Page 1)*

infection, according to the county. With latent TB infections, a person is symptom-free and not contagious, but could become sick if untreated.

Rosa also questioned the city's argument that it is permitted under state Social Services law to transport and house migrants, and the contention by the owners of the Red Roof and Holiday Inn on Route 9 that they are entitled under federal and state law to contract with the city.

She ordered the city to provide Dutchess with the names of each migrant and notification when someone leaves, and allow the county to conduct safety inspections at the Red Roof Inn, which is the only one of the two hotels where migrants are staying, and to provide medical and other services.

"It cannot be reasonably disputed that in the future, the current and any future shelter seekers continuing to reside in the county will require similar local resources, as well as social, emergency and fire services," Rosa wrote.

Her ruling replaces a temporary injunction issued May 23, two days after Dutchess filed its lawsuit against New York City, the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the entities that own the Holiday and Red Roof inns: Sai Ram Management LLC and Route 9 Hotel LLC.

On the day Rosa issued the temporary injunction, William F.X. O'Neil, Dutchess' Republican county executive, castigated



New York City in May transported 88 asylum-seekers to the Red Roof Inn on Route 9.

File photo by L. Sparks

the city, New York State and the federal government; he had earlier issued a statement calling the Democratic administration of President Joe Biden "incompetent and ineffective."

"The worst will be if these asylum-seekers end up staying in Dutchess County, and the government that is now financing them pulls financing, and they have to find they have to fend for themselves," said O'Neil.

In their responses to Dutchess' lawsuit,

New York City and Route 9 Hotel LLC criticized the claims of harm as "speculative." They also argued that an emergency order Hochul issued May 9 in response to the influx of asylum-seekers since spring 2022 preempted the county ban on migrants.

Part of the governor's order is meant to "facilitate the occupancy by asylum refugees of temporary housing, specifically including hotels, across the state," said Route 9 Hotel LLC in its filing.

In addition, the company submitted

guidance from the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, which says that although New York City should employ temporary housing outside its boundaries as a "last resort," the city does not need permission to do so.

According to New York City, which is struggling to find housing for nearly 100,000 new migrants: "There is simply no concrete basis to suggest that the health or safety of any Dutchess County resident would be placed at risk by the City of New York providing services to the individuals that would be temporarily located" at hotels.

Despite the city's assurances, Dutchess' Department of Behavioral and Community Health received notice on June 3 of a positive blood test for tuberculosis, three days after SunRiver Health visited the Red Roof Inn, according to the affidavit from Livia Santiago-Rosado, the county's health commissioner.

Further testing "suggested the need for isolation and hospitalization due to concern for active disease," said Santiago-Rosado, whose affidavit was filed June 23. The county brought its mobile RV to the hotel on June 8, along with nurses, two public health advisers and Spanish-speaking support staff.

More than 50 asylum-seekers underwent testing for tuberculosis over a three-week period, with eight initially testing positive, Santiago-Rodriguez said in her affidavit.

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Housing (from Page 1)

ing, which has been ongoing for months but has not led to a decision on how to move forward. The council learned during a presentation on July 24 by Dutchess County planners that the greatest rental housing need in Beacon is for people earning less than \$20,000 annually — data which “says I should be looking for another program at the lower end [of income levels], meaning the Beacon Housing Authority,” Mayor Lee Kyriacou said during that meeting.

Kyriacou noted this week that he has met with Housing Authority board members and encouraged them to consider two “underutilized” parking lots on BHA property — one near Dinan Street, the other near West Center Street — as sites for development. White also said Monday that he recently walked through the BHA property with Roland Traudt, the agency’s executive director.

“The layout on the BHA property is pretty inefficient, and they’ve explored adding as many as four to five dozen apartments there,” White said.

That led the council to briefly discuss potential zoning amendments, such as doing away with minimum parking or apartment-size requirements, that would make it easier for the Housing Authority to build. If the council were to enact either of those changes, Kyriacou suggested doing so citywide, not just on BHA land.

On Tuesday, the Planning Board also discussed minimum parking requirements, a



Dutchess County is planning to issue a request for expressions of interest for affordable housing projects at the DMV building on Main Street in Beacon. Photo by Una Hoppe

mechanism that John Clarke, a city planning consultant, said is now considered “regressive” because it adds to the cost of development (and rent) but punishes low-income renters, who are less likely to have cars. According to U.S. census data, 28 percent of working-age Beacon residents have either zero or one car available to them, Clarke said.

Traudt was out of the office this week, but, in a 2021 interview, he said that the Housing Authority’s waiting list was closed, except for seniors and people with disabilities, because it had gotten so long.

“The wait for a family could be five to eight years,” he told *The Current* in 2021. “I’ve been here since 2008, and there’s been

a waiting list since then. If the wait is that long, there’s a problem.”

(According to Dutchess County’s annual rental housing survey, which was released last month, the waiting list at Forrestal Heights and Hamilton Fish Plaza is still closed. At the Davies South Terrace and Tompkins Terrace low-income developments, the wait is between one and three years, it said.)

At the DMV site, Clarke has long suggested partnering with Dutchess County on an infill project there. While working with the city’s Main Street Access Committee, Clarke shared sketches showing how a three-story, mixed-use building could be integrated into the site, along with

a transit-linked public park.

In one scenario, he suggested a two-story public parking structure behind the buildings that could fit up to 290 spaces, more than tripling the parking available there.

The county recently received an unsolicited proposal from a developer hoping to build at the site, but Pillus said this week that she could not release details of the plan. However, White said during Monday’s council meeting that county representatives had visited the site on a Sunday to observe how the Beacon Farmers’ Market could fit into potential building plans.

While the council members were enthusiastic about the potential for affordable housing projects, Justice McCray, who represents Ward 2, said the city should take its conversation beyond housing supply “and figure out ways that we can expand access to the renter-to-homeownership pipeline and promote stability to keep people in their homes.”

“We don’t need to reinvent the wheel, but I want to make sure we’re doing what we can to make sure our residents have access to the tools that are available and that we’re bridging that connection,” McCray said.

At the county level, Dutchess has established a housing trust fund that includes, in addition to a housing creation program, infrastructure and pre-development support and first-time homeownership programs. It also has applied for \$15 million in state funding to create a permanent shelter for people without homes.

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The HIGHLANDS
Current



The Highlands Current is looking for someone to help with coverage of Beacon and Haldane high school sports during the fall, winter and spring seasons.

Ideal candidates will have experience in sports reporting or other forms of journalism. This is a freelance position that will include coverage of one game per week during the fall, winter and spring seasons, as well as roundups of results from other teams. The ability to also photograph live games is a plus.

The fall season includes cross-country, football, boys’ and girls’ soccer, girls’ tennis, girls’ swimming and volleyball; the winter season includes basketball, indoor track, boys’ swimming and wrestling; and the spring season includes baseball, softball, outdoor track, boys’ and girls’ lacrosse, golf and unified basketball. There are also sports that are combined with other schools, such as crew and hockey.

The reporter will be paid a fee each week based on the number of games/teams that must be covered. Deadlines are Wednesday night.

Email a resume and writing samples to

editor@highlandscurrent.org.

The HIGHLANDS
Current

AROUND TOWN



▲ **NEW OFFICE** — The Dutchess County Office of the Public Defender — led by Thomas Angell, center — on Aug. 3 hosted an open house at its satellite office in Fishkill, which opened in December and has since served nearly 600 defendants who could not afford to hire private lawyers. In 2022, the office handled 6,329 cases in the criminal, appellate and family courts. The satellite office serves clients who have cases in nearby municipal courts, including at Beacon. *Photos provided*



▲ **MAKING PROGRESS** — The installation of concrete footings began on Tuesday (Aug. 8) on the north side of the Tompkins Hose Co. for what will become Beacon's central firehouse. The current firehouse (at right) is being demolished to its steel frame.



◀ **GOOGLE GLASSES** — The search engine on Aug. 4 featured this illustration on its home page to mark the 116th birthday of Altina Schinasi (1907-1999), an artist and inventor who designed the Harlequin eyeglass frame. She also happens to be the grandmother of Peter Sanders of Cold Spring, who in 2014 directed a documentary about her. "Google contacted me, so I put them in touch with my uncle Terry, her only surviving son," he says. "They surprised us — Google is very secretive!"

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Emily Ota appeared in 2015 in HVSF's production of *The Tempest*Ota with Omar Shafiuzzaman in *Henry V*

Photos by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF

The Calendar

Meet Your King

Under the tent, Emily Ota portrays Henry V

By Alison Rooney

Last fall, Davis McCallum, the artistic director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, suggested a role to Emily Ota that left the actor at a loss for words.

Would she be interested in playing Henry V?

"I knew very well how few women have this kind of opportunity, and I couldn't wait to jump in," she recalls.

McCallum says he imagined Ota in the role after watching her portrayal last summer as Prince Escalus in HVSF's *Romeo and Juliet*. "She brought to it a mix of natural authority and moral complexity and emotional vulnerability that made me think she'd bring a fresh approach to a portrait of a king as a leader," he says. He also was confident "she would handle the language of Henry's great speeches brilliantly."

Ota emphasizes that she is portraying Henry as a man in her performances — which continue under the tent at the former Garrison Golf Course through Aug. 21 — "though in a way, I'm never fully able to achieve this. Because I'm a mixed-race woman [Japanese, German and Irish] playing a man onstage, it maybe results in a different way of seeing the man, the myth, the legend."

Ota, 32, has aspired since childhood to be a classical actor. "I'm deeply in love with Shakespeare," she says. "I love the writing, the universality of the stories. It doesn't matter where you come from; these stories bring to life the human complexities of being alive."

Repertory theater is a great teacher, she says. "You're learning how to be a universal actor when you're playing a maid, guard, Juliet, Hamlet," she says. "My goal was to become an actor with the biggest range I could reach for; in repertory, you're important if you're playing any role in any show."

Ota, who grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and joined HVSF in 2015 as a member of its Conservatory Company, says she believes that she has found success in classical acting because it's "based more on skills than on looks. As a mixed-race, mid-sized woman, I've had fewer opportunities than my white counterparts. But you have to have an exceptional skill set to do this. If you don't know how to command the language, you won't have much success. If you can channel the language, you'll have work the rest of your life."



Ota as Henry V with, from left, Timothy Bright, Kurt Rhoads, Omar Shafiuzzaman and Nance Williamson

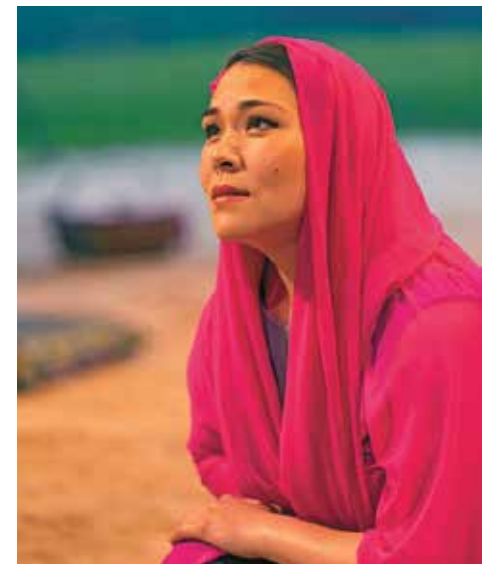
Among her past roles, including during three seasons with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, are Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Marianne Dashwood in Kate Hamill's *Sense and Sensibility* and Alice in an adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*. She says she enjoyed "bringing to life women who, despite their circumstances, took their destiny into their own hands. I would love to think of ways to do that in my own life."

Before auditions, characters are often described in ways that don't reflect her appearance, she notes. "If [role] breakdowns are described in an offensive way I won't even submit," she says. "I want to represent myself and people like me and also represent a part of the world I want

to see, where casting is based on merit, the type of person the actor is, and who they want to be. It's far more interesting to watch someone's complexities being a human rather than being an object.

"I'm interested in their hearts, minds, souls and intelligence, and how they approach the world and the challenges in the play. It's not as common a way to approach the work, but I think typecasting is changing, which is wonderful, phenomenal. There is still pushback, but there are a lot of people opening their minds to the range people have inside of them."

Ota says she would love to play Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, although her favorite Shakespeare play is *Titus Andronicus*, "which is weird because it's dark and

Ota, then a member of HVSF's Conservatory Company, in the 2015 production of *The Arabian Nights*

gory and appalling! I would love to play Tamora [Queen of the Goths] — she's incredibly flawed, very intelligent, a fascinating person. I might still be too young to play her, but hopefully in a decade I'll get the chance."

In the other HVSF production this summer, *Love's Labor's Lost*, Ota plays Maria. She says she will miss the tent, although it can be "a challenging beast to try to tackle every night, from the phones [that weren't turned off] to the outdoor elements. They all make it harder, but the challenges are a great unifier. Everyone's sweating, but we decided to be here at this moment. I love it because it means that the audience really wants to be there and we want to be there, too."

"It's kind of how it should be. It brings the poetry to life in a way that it can't in a super-controlled environment," she adds. "At Oregon Shakespeare, which has both indoor and outdoor stages, while performing Juliet I could see the moon, and to be able to reference the elements Shakespeare so often uses in his work, to feel immersed, is such a gift."

"Freak rainstorms during *Henry* add to the environment," Ota says. "At one performance, while the soldiers were going into Agincourt, you could hear West Point cannons. It's those happy accidents which, along with the audience, contribute to a beautiful art form."

Tickets for remaining performances can be purchased at hvshakespeare.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 12

Modern Makers Market

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthudson.com

More than 50 artisans and artists will sell their work. There also will be live music and food. Also SUN 13.

SAT 12

Massacre On Main Street

BEACON

4 – 10 p.m. VFW Hall | 413 Main St.
facebook.com/beacontoyandcomicshow

Story Screen and the Beacon Toy and Comic Books Show will partner to present a double feature and a vendor event. Watch *Monster Squad* at 6 p.m. and *Phantasm* at 8 p.m. The toy show continues SUN 13. *Cost: \$3 (16 and younger free)*

SUN 13

Corn Festival

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
beaconsloopclub.org

Enjoy local sweet corn, lemonade and watermelon at this annual event to benefit the Beacon Sloop Club. The Offshoots, David Amram, Lydia Adams Davis, the Cabos and other musicians will perform on two solar-powered stages, and children can make crafts and learn about river life. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 19

Become a Citizen

BEACON

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

Learn how to become a U.S. citizen and pick up the necessary documents. Registration required.

SAT 19

Back to School Block Party

BEACON

Noon – 3 p.m. South Avenue Park
iambeacon.org

Help “stuff the bus” with school supplies for families in need and learn about local organizations at this event hosted annually by I Am Beacon. See the website for a list of supplies; they can be dropped at Key Food through Aug. 27.

SAT 19

Seafood Festival

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

Sample seafood dishes along with craft beers and cider. Tribute bands will play throughout the event. Also SUN 20. *Cost: \$20 to \$110*



Cinema in Piazza, Aug. 18

SAT 19

Butterfly Festival and Concert

WAPPINGERS FALLS

4 – 7:30 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

On this, the final day of the farm's weeklong festival, there will be hay rides in a butterfly wagon, children's activities, food trucks and a concert by Big Band Sound.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 12

Janice Caswell | Martha Bone

GARRISON

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

Caswell's mixed-media exhibition, *Off Kilter*, will be exhibited in the Balter Room and Bone's collaged paintings and assemblage, *Mapping the Invisible*, in the Gillette Gallery. Through Sept. 10. Bone will discuss her work at 3 p.m. on SAT 19.



KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 12

Campfire Sing-a-Long

WAPPINGERS FALLS

5 p.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
commongroundfarm.org

Join Compass Arts, Common Ground and the Beacon Rising choir for harmonizing. Bring a picnic dinner. *Cost: \$10 to \$15 (\$25 to \$50 group)*

TUES 15

Nature Scavenger Hunt

GARRISON

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

Find treasures on the library grounds and make a craft. For children ages 8 and younger with a caregiver.

FRI 18

Pride Alliance

BEACON

3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org

Children and teens ages 11 to 18 are invited to gather in a safe space for conversation and games. Registration required.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 12

Andre Junget

BEACON

4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346
bannermancastle.org

The gallery will display work by the illustrator of *Bannerman Island, Recollections from a Time Gone By*, and the artist will sign copies of the book.

SAT 12

What is Lost?

BEACON

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

Fern Apfel's paintings are of hand-written letters while Amy Becker's photos of pay phones evoke evolving connections. Through Aug. 27.

SAT 12

The Big Blonk Show | Dingy Dave

BEACON

5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
139 Main St. | clutter.co

The group show will feature multiples and figures. Through Sept. 1.

SAT 12

Up Close

BEACON

5 – 8 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | hudsonbeachglass.com
Tanja Bos' works on paper and Linda

Pratt's collage and postage stamps will be on view through Sept. 4.

SAT 12

Bradley Silver

BEACON

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. LotusWorks
261 Main St. | lotusworksgallery.com
Paintings on wood. Through Oct. 8.

SAT 12

Respire

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.org

This show, with works by 43 artists juried by Jennifer McGregor after an open call, will be on view through Sept. 3.

SAT 12

Small Works by Strangers

BEACON

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

The show is a juried exhibit of works by artists outside the collective, including Laura McCarthy, Thomas Stringer, Kohar Minassian, Anna Sirota, Kim Del Dolori and Emma Diamond. Through Sept. 2.



SAT 12

Subverting Reality

BEACON

7 – 9:30 p.m. Distortion Society
172 Main St. | distortionsociety.com

The collaborative show will feature artists from Super Secret Projects, including Evan Samuelson, Allegra Jordan, Michelle Silver, Darya Golubina, Diana Vidal, Elin Lundman and Alyssa Follansbee. Through Sept. 3.

TALKS & TOURS

SUN 13

Butterflies and Blooms

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10 a.m., 11 a.m. & 8 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

As part of its annual festival, which continues through SAT 19, the farm will host a honeybee hive tour, pollinator plant walk, after-dark moth walk, art, music and crafts. See the website for details. Most activities are \$5.

SUN 13

Great Estates Garden Tours

BEACON

11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org

Learn about the grounds owned by the Verplanck family and their master gardener, James Brown, an escaped slave and one of the first Black people to own property in what is now Beacon. Reservations suggested. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 6 to 18, ages 6 and younger free)*

THURS 17

Page-to-Screen Book Club

GARRISON

5:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

On the third Thursday the library hosts a screening of a movie adaptation and participants discuss whether the book was better. This month is *A Street Cat Named Bob*. Register online.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 12

Love's Labor's Lost

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

Amanda Dehnert directs this production as four young men try to uphold their commitment to their studies and not be tempted by the arrival of four women. Also, SUN 13, MON 14, THURS 17, FRI 18, SAT 19. Through Aug. 27. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SAT 12

Paula Poundstone

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The comedian, author and podcast host (*Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone*) will perform stand-up. *Cost: \$37 to \$55*

SAT 12

My Garden of 1,000 Bees

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8:30 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

As part of its Butterflies and Blooms Week, the farm will screen a PBS documentary by a wildlife filmmaker who focused his lens on the bees in his yard during the pandemic lockdown. *Free*

SUN 13

Stacey Z Lawrence

PUTNAM VALLEY

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

The poet will read from her collection, *Fall Risk*, followed by an open mic. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 13

Pee Wee's Big Adventure

BEACON

8 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
7 E. Main St. | storyscreenpresents.com

Follow the eccentric Pee Wee, played by the late Paul Reubens, as he pursues his stolen bike in this 1985 classic. Bring chairs or blankets. Hosted by Story Screen Presents. *Free*



MON 14
Henry V
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

HVSF presents the epic tale of King Henry and his war to seize the French crown. Emily Ota plays the lead. See Page 11. Also WED 16, SUN 20, MON 21. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

FRI 18
Cinema in Piazza
PHILIPSTOWN
8 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

As part of the museum's outdoor summer film series, *Rome: A Visual Journey*, curator Roberta Minnucci will screen *La forma del limone - Astrattisti a Roma*, by Giorgio Cappozzo, and *Tutto su mio padre Fabio Sargentini*, by Fabiana Sargentini. On SAT 19, the selection is *Caro Diario*, and on SUN 20, it's *La Grande Bellezza*. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors, \$10 students)*

SAT 19
The Man Without a World
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Eleanor Antin's modern silent film, released in 1992, is set in a Poland shtetl in the 1920s. Alicia Svigals (klezmer) and Donald Sosin (piano) will provide a live score. *Cost: \$20*



The Barefoot Movement, Aug. 18

SAT 19
Clue
BEACON
8 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
storyscreenpresents.com

Six victims are invited to an isolated mansion by a man who knows a dark secret about each of them. Bring chairs or blankets. The screening will include trivia, raffles and a costume contest. Hosted by Story Screen Presents. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 19
Aliens
COLD SPRING
8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org

As part of its summer series, the Cold Spring Film Society will screen the 1986 sci-fi film starring Sigourney Weaver and Carrie Henn. *Free*

MUSIC
SAT 12
David Amram
BEACON
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

In a benefit for the cultural center, the multi-instrumental composer of jazz and classical music will perform with Kevin Twigg, Rene Hart, Adam Amram and Adira Amram. *Cost: \$35*

SAT 12
Peter Yarrow
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The folk singer and songwriter is known for his work with Paul Stookey and Mary Travers as Peter, Paul and Mary. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

FRI 18
The Barefoot Movement
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Americana group will play music from its latest release, *Pressing Onward*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 19
Laurel Canyon
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The tribute band will perform the songs of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. *Cost: \$35 to \$45*

SAT 19
Manticore
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Emerson, Lake and Palmer tribute band will play the hits. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 20
Darryl Brown and Little Bones
BEACON
11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Boats leave dock
bannermancastle.org

Enjoy an outdoor musical performance at Bannerman while taking a self-guided tour of the island. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 ages 11 and younger)*

SUN 20
Trio Raconteur
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Amy Schroeder (violin), Felix Uman-ski (cello) and Yalin Chi (piano) will perform compositions by Beethoven and Ravel. Donations welcome.

SUN 20
California Dreamin'
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The band will play songs from the 1960s and 1970s made famous by Southern California artists or about the lifestyle. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

CIVIC
MON 14
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconnny.gov

TUES 15
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Auditorium | 15 Craigside Drive
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WED 16
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov



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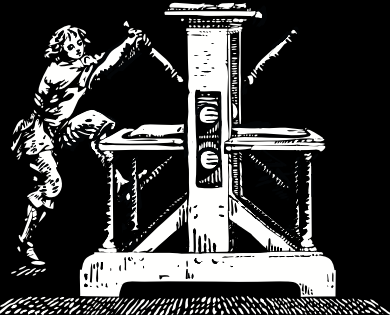
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Gone IN AN Instant

Beacon photographer searches for fleeting images

By Marc Ferris

Thomas Stringer, who lives in Beacon, is concerned about soaring rents and development in the city.

To document the issue — and to capture vérité moments on the street — he totes around a Minolta Autocord camera that he found in his grandmother's basement. (He also uses a digital Fujifilm camera.)

It can be difficult to reduce issues of development into a photo frame, but Stringer, 29, says he is “trying to objectively capture the effect of what’s happening. It’s not all bad and it’s not all good.”

The recent teardown of a building near the Salvation Army on Main Street caught his eye.

“The building is now a pile of scrap metal lying next to what looks like an abandoned church. I like the juxtaposition.”

He photographs residents as they go about their day. One photo shows a woman sweeping the sidewalk. Another captures the moment a man carrying a boy on his shoulders lined up with a pole.

Stringer’s first experience with a camera came during high school in Westchester County when he took a photography class that included darkroom developing. (The year after he graduated, the course pivoted to the iPhone.) He says his interest lapsed while he worked in the sound industry.

“I was the first one in, the last one out and there was so much gear to set up and strike down that I couldn’t see myself doing it forever,” he says. “That vampire lifestyle isn’t healthy.” Today he works as an audio-visual professional at a conference center.

Stringer moved to Beacon in 2019 when a friend bought a house. There, he met his fiancée. Persistent rent increases — he had to sell a camera to pay for one — fueled his interest in what he considers the city’s housing crisis. He credits the local arts community for rekindling his interest in photography.

Sometimes, Stringer worries that he is exploiting his subjects. “I could talk with them before I shoot, but those pictures turn out like family photos,” he says. “Asking for a picture ruins the moment.”

He shoots mostly on Main Street and has thought about exploring Fishkill Avenue. “I’ve seen some characters there, a lot of disheveled people, so it’s a strange moral line to dance around,” he says.

Once, he found a great shot on Main Street but stopped himself. “The ballet school has beautiful windows, which I love because they divide the frame,” he said. “Then I realized that taking photos [through the window] could be construed as a little creepy.”



Thomas Stringer Photo by Allegra Gordon



The manual-focus Autocord was introduced by Minolta in 1961. Wikimedia

The Ways of Healing

Cold Spring author draws on Mexican traditions

By Alison Rooney

When Robyn Moreno, a media executive and mother of two young children, detected she was burning out, she was unsure how to remedy the situation.

Moreno, who moved to Cold Spring with her family in 2014, felt an adjustment in her work-life balance was needed. Once that was accomplished, however, she still felt lacking in her pursuit of “peace and purpose.”

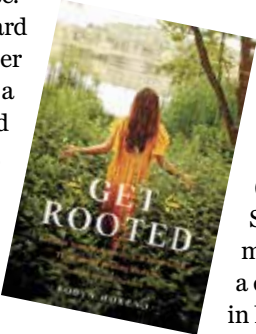
She found herself turning toward ancestral paths, specifically her own, in Mexico. She went on a 260-day spiritual journey (based on an ancient Mexico, or Aztec, calendar), then “kept writing and writing. I felt like ‘I have a story here,’ partly because there was not enough self-help for people of color.”

The result was *Get Rooted: Reclaim Your Soul, Serenity and Sisterhood Through the Healing Medicine of the Grandmothers*, published this summer by Hachette, followed by a cross-country tour by the author to promote it.

Moreno describes the book as part memoir,



Robyn Moreno Photo provided



part self-help, with techniques used by her foremothers to relieve stress and address a “crisis of spirit.” She learned about *sustos* (soul losses) and *ser* (true essence). She reconnected with family members, took cooking lessons from a demanding Mexican chef, found joy in hiking, visited the jungle in Belize.

“It’s a book I wish that I had,” she says. “I looked at all my self-help books, from silent retreats to food groups. At the same time, the traditions of my Mexican grandmothers came to me. Their traditional medicine, called *curanderismo*, or ‘the ways of healing,’ spoke to me in a way

that nothing else had.”

Moreno envisioned *Get Rooted* speaking to people with a Latino background but says she’s heard from people of other heritages who connected through “wanting to go back to ways that are slower, more enchanting.” The San Antonio, Texas, native says she has seen that in Philipstown. “One sees so many people changing, like they used to be a lawyer and now they run a coffee shop,” she says. “Like me, they’ve taken non-linear paths.”

While writing the book, she says “one theme emerged naturally, and that is self-trust — the trust which encourages you to walk down a different path, honoring what you feel, see and trust. That helps me navigate a consumer-based world. All of our old ways have been disbanded, dismissed. We had to change them, hide them. Don’t do that ingrained-doubt thing to yourself.”

Moreno cites a passage from *Get Rooted* that she says is emblematic of the teaching of her ancestors and suggests a way of moving through the stresses of modern life:

“If we could approach the messy people and places in our lives with the humble willingness to support, instead of the obsessive need to fix, then we might find that the caring becomes the cure.”



Get Rooted is Moreno’s fourth book. Her first three, which came out during her self-described “media exec” years, include what she describes as “a Rizzoli coffee-table book on Latin male style; an anthology; and a mainstream lifestyle guide. This is a very different type of thing.”



Baby and Dog

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Connie Ramos of Beacon shared this photo of her grandson, Elias, with Tessa. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

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ANNUAL NEWS RELEASE - PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BEACON CITY SCHOOLS

Beacon City School District Food Service office today announced a free and reduced price meal (Free Milk) policy for Beacon area school children. Local school officials have adopted the following family eligibility criteria to assist them in determining eligibility:

2023-2024 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK

Free Eligibility Scale						Reduced Price Eligibility Scale*					
Free Lunch, Breakfast, Milk						Reduced Price Lunch, Breakfast					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 18,954	\$ 1,580	\$ 790	\$ 729	\$ 365	1	\$ 26,973	\$ 2,248	\$ 1,124	\$ 1,038	\$ 519
2	\$ 25,636	\$ 2,137	\$ 1,069	\$ 986	\$ 493	2	\$ 36,482	\$ 3,041	\$ 1,521	\$ 1,404	\$ 702
3	\$ 32,318	\$ 2,694	\$ 1,347	\$ 1,243	\$ 622	3	\$ 45,991	\$ 3,833	\$ 1,917	\$ 1,769	\$ 885
4	\$ 39,000	\$ 3,250	\$ 1,625	\$ 1,500	\$ 750	4	\$ 55,500	\$ 4,625	\$ 2,313	\$ 2,135	\$ 1,068
5	\$ 45,682	\$ 3,807	\$ 1,904	\$ 1,757	\$ 879	5	\$ 65,009	\$ 5,418	\$ 2,709	\$ 2,501	\$ 1,251
6	\$ 52,364	\$ 4,364	\$ 2,182	\$ 2,014	\$ 1,007	6	\$ 74,518	\$ 6,210	\$ 3,105	\$ 2,867	\$ 1,434
7	\$ 59,046	\$ 4,921	\$ 2,461	\$ 2,271	\$ 1,136	7	\$ 84,027	\$ 7,003	\$ 3,502	\$ 3,232	\$ 1,616
8	\$ 65,728	\$ 5,478	\$ 2,739	\$ 2,528	\$ 1,264	8	\$ 93,536	\$ 7,795	\$ 3,898	\$ 3,598	\$ 1,799
Each Add'l person, add	\$ 6,682	\$ 557	\$ 279	\$ 257	\$ 129	Each Add'l person, add	\$ 9,509	\$ 793	\$ 397	\$ 366	\$ 183

***Students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge.**

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Households: Households that currently include children who receive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) but who are not found during the Direct Certification Matching Process (DCMP), or households that currently receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) must complete an Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk, listing the child's name, a valid SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. Eligibility for free meal benefits based on participation in SNAP, TANF or FDPIR is extended to all children in the household. When known to the School Food Authority, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals based on their participation in the SNAP, TANF or the FDPIR programs. No application is necessary if the household was notified by the SFA their children have been directly certified. If the household is not sure if their children have been directly certified, the household should contact the school.

Other Source Categorical Eligibility: When known to the School Food Authority, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals based on the individual child's designation as Other Source Categorically Eligible, as defined by law. Children are determined Other Source Categorically Eligible if they are Homeless, Migrant, Runaway, a foster child, or Enrolled in Head Start or an eligible pre-kindergarten program.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. A separate application for a foster child is no longer necessary. Foster children may also be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children. Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If non-foster children in a foster family are not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, an eligible foster child will still receive free benefits

If children or households receive benefits under Assistance Programs or Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs and are not listed on the notice of eligibility and are not notified by the School Food Authority of their free meal benefits, the parent or guardian should contact the school or should submit an income application.

Other Households: Households with income the same or below the amounts listed above for family size may be eligible for and are urged to apply for free and/or reduced price meals (or free milk). They may do so by completing the Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/ Milk sent home with the letter to parents. One application for all children in the household should be submitted. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. **Applications may be submitted any time during the school year to Food Service Director BCSD. Please contact Director Karen Pagano at bcsd_food-service_office@beaconk12.org with any questions regarding the application process.**

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the School Food Authority if they choose to decline the free meal benefits. Households may apply for benefits at any time throughout the school year. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed or experience a financial hardship mid-year may become eligible for free and reduced price meals or free milk at any point during the school year.

Children in households receiving Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits may be eligible for free or reduced price meals through the application process.

For up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first) an individual child's free or reduced price eligibility status from the previous year will continue within the same School Food Authority. When the carryover period ends, unless the household is notified that their children are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the children's meals must be claimed at the paid rate. Though encouraged to do so, the School Food Authority is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.

The information provided on the application will be confidential and will be used for determining eligibility. The names and eligibility status of participants may also be used for the allocation of funds to federal education programs such as Title I and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), State health or State education programs, provided the State agency or local education agency administers the programs, and for federal, State or local means-tested nutrition programs with eligibility standards comparable to the NSLP. Eligibility information may also be released to programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or the Child Nutrition Act (CNA). The release of information to any program or entity not specifically authorized by the NSLA will require a written consent statement from the parent or guardian.

The School Food Authority does, however, have the right to verify at any time during the school year the information on the application. If a parent does not give the school this information, the child/children will no longer be able to receive free or reduced price meals (free milk).

Under the provisions of the policy, the designated official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the designated official, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing to appeal the decision. **Ann Marie Quartironi, Deputy Superintendent** (whose address is 10 Education Drive, Beacon NY 12508) has been designated as the Hearing Official. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. However, prior to initiating the hearing procedure, the parent or School Food Authority may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of the data submitted in the application or the decisions rendered. The request for a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing.

Only complete applications can be approved. This includes complete and accurate information regarding: the SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number; the names of all household members; on an income application, the last four digits of the social security number of the person who signs the form or an indication that the adult does not have one, and the amount and source of income received by each household member. In addition, the parent or guardian must sign the application form, certifying the information is true and correct.

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability or limited English proficiency.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov

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Out There

If a Tree Falls in the Woods...

By Brian PJ Cronin



Our summer of storms has changed the Highlands. At Madam Brett Park in Beacon, the heavy rains saturated the ground, toppling creek-side trees and sending them downstream to smash against the shuttered footbridge over Fishkill Creek.

One old giant managed to avoid that fate: It fell onto a slender island that lies upstream of the bridge, creating a makeshift bridge, which gave me pause.

Years ago, I interviewed Evan Pritchard, a Native American anthropologist, about Indigenous names for the Highlands' landscape. He told me that this particular island in Fishkill Creek was a special place for the Munsee Tribe, a subset of the Lenape. They referred to it as M'singwe Island, named after the spirits that inhabit it, tiny magical figures invisible to humans unless they reveal themselves.

After Madam Brett (who died in 1764) learned of this legend, she began calling it Fairy Island, and many Beacon residents know it that way.

I've read enough folktales to know that

when someone tells you that a place is inhabited by spirits, what they are saying is: Stay away. But I have always been curious about things I'm told to ignore. Every time I'm down at Madam Brett Park, I find myself wrestling with conflicting urges: Be cautious and respectful, especially when dealing with a culture that is not yours. But invisible woodland spirits? How can they reveal themselves when I'm on shore?

Now there was this bridge. I took a photo and showed it to my wife and 12-year-old son over tacos. "Is this an invitation, or a trap?" I asked.

My wife thought it was a trap, pointing out that woodland spirits aren't known for graceful invitations. "If I remember correctly, they're mostly into unauthorized baby-swaps," she said. My son offered to build a remote-controlled, wheeled robot with a camera attached to send across the log when his robotics class starts again next month.

Some journalists report from war zones. And some find themselves Googling "How to appease forest spirits?" in the middle of the night. Apparently, you need to make an offering of mead. Would beer work? Can their tiny, ephemeral hands pop open the can? Is making offerings to elves compatible with Leave No Trace principles? Which breaks down first, a



An invitation, or a trap? Photos by B. Cronin

culture's myths or an aluminum can?

Based on the faded logos on the cans I found on the island, the M'singwe have been appeased with beer for a good while. The island was well-guarded, in the form of a carpet of poison ivy.



An ancient offering to the M'singwe

I did hear a sound that took me a minute to puzzle out. Anyone who has been to Madam Brett Park knows the sound of the falls, which can range from breezy to deafening. But at the eastern tip of the island, the rush of the falls harmonizes with the tones caused by the north and south sides of the creek. From M'singwe Island, the footbridge and the waterfall looked like nothing I'd ever seen before and, for a moment, I forgot where I was.

If that's not magic, I'm not sure what is.

“Some journalists report from war zones. And some find themselves Googling ‘How to appease forest spirits?’ in the middle of the night.”

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University alum will assist with your personal-administrative needs, light-duty household chores, scheduling medical appointments and contractors, shopping, some cooking and driving, house-sitting, some pet care. Excellent references. Hourly rate. Prefer an exclusive live-on premises arrangement if we work well together and our temperaments align. Call Thomas at 914-621-2703.

EVENTS

MODERN MAKERS MARKET — Artisans, 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.HopsontheHudson.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!

HELP WANTED

ORGANIZER AND LAUNDRY — Busy Garrison residents looking for a weekly house organizer to do laundry and organize home, home offices, garage and auxiliary spaces. We have a house

cleaner who comes once a week, so this is strictly organization; tidying, laundry, ironing, closet organizing; garage, art supplies and bookshelf organizing, etc. Solution-minded person needed for creative family of collectors and creators. Marie Kondo devotees welcome! Please do reply with experience with laundry and clothing care. Text 917-842-0534.

SPORTS REPORTER — *The Highlands Current* is looking for someone to help with coverage of Beacon and Haldane high school sports during the fall, winter and spring seasons. Ideal candidates will have experience in sports reporting or other forms of journalism. This is a freelance position that will include coverage of one game per week during the fall, winter and spring seasons, as well as roundups of results from other teams. The ability to also photograph live games is a plus. The reporter will be paid a fee each week based on the number of games/teams that must be covered. Deadlines are Wednesday night. Email a resume and writing samples to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

FOR RENT

COLD SPRING OFFICE — 3182 Route 9 Plaza, 400 to 1,200 square feet, second floor, with private bath, kitchenette and parking. Call Ron at 914-490-9606.

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that sealed Bids, in duplicate, are sought and requested by the Board of Education, Beacon City School District (hereinafter called "Owner"), for the Reconstruction to: JV Forrestal ES, Sargent ES, South Ave ES, Rombout Middle School, Beacon High School, and Addition and Alterations to: Glenham ES.

Separate Bids are requested for the Prime Contracts for:

General Work GC-D1, General Work GC-D2, Mechanical Work HC-D1, Mechanical Work HC-D2, Electrical Work EC-D1, Plumbing Work PC-D1, and Site Work SC-D4 in accordance with the Drawings, Project Manual (including Conditions of the Contract and Specifications), and other Bidding and Contract Documents prepared by:

Tetra Tech Engineers, Architects & Landscape Architects, P.C. d/b/a

Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers

A pre-bid conference for potential Bidders and other interested parties will be held on **Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 10 a.m., starting at District Office, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York 12508.** Refer to Instructions to Bidders for special instructions.

Sealed Bids will be received by the Owner until **Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.**, at the District Office Conference Room, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York 12508 at which time and place Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

For the convenience of potential Bidders and other interested parties, the Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Beacon City School District, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, NY 12508

Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers,

Complete digital sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained online as a download at www.tetrataehaeplanroom.com 'public projects' for a non-refundable fee of \$49.00 (Forty Nine Dollars).

Complete hard copy sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained online at www.tetrataehaeplanroom.com 'public projects'. Checks shall be made payable to **Beacon City School District** in the sum of \$100.00 (One Hundred Dollars) for each set of documents. A scanned copy of the deposit check can be emailed to projects@revplans.com. Once the scanned copy of the executed deposit check is received, Bidding Documents will be shipped. Mail checks to Lohrius Blueprint, 226 Newtown Road, Plainview, New York 11803. Plan deposit is refundable in accordance with the terms in the Instructions to Bidders to all submitting bids. Any bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with the printer and pay for all packaging and shipping costs (either by providing FedEx/UPS account number or being charged a flat rate by the printer).

Please note REV www.tetrataehaeplanroom.com is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information, electronic or hard copy. Only those Contract Documents obtained in this manner will enable a prospective bidder to be identified as a registered plan holder. The Provider takes no responsibility for the completeness of Contract Documents obtained from other sources. Contract Documents obtained from other sources may not be accurate or may not contain addenda that may have been issued.

All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders, regardless of receiving electronic or hard copy Bid Documents, via email and will be available at www.tetrataehaeplanroom.com. Registered plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use, and coordinate directly with REV for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

As bid security, each Bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond made payable to the Owner, in accordance with the amounts and terms described in the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner requires Bids comply with bidding requirements indicated in the Instructions to Bidders. The Owner may, at its discretion, waive informalities in Bids, but is not obligated to do so, nor does it represent that it will do so. The Owner also reserves the right to reject any and all Bids. The Owner will not waive informalities which would give one Bidder substantial advantage or benefit not enjoyed by all affected Bidders. Bids may not be withdrawn before 45 days following the Bid opening thereof, unless an error is claimed by the Bidder in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (August 1873)

A coroner's inquest was held in the death of Catherine Malone, 9. She and her sister Ellen, 6, had gone to Roach's Store at Sunk Mine on a Sunday afternoon, where Catherine paid Mr. Roach 50 cents for a pint of whiskey at the request of her father, who was sick. As they walked home, Ellen said her sister took three or four clandestine swigs, then collapsed. She died at 9 a.m. the next day. Roach said he bought the whiskey from James Patterson of Molleysville, who said he had purchased it from a wholesaler in New York City and provided a sample from the barrel. No charges were filed but the jury recommended the coroner report Roach to the Board of Excise for selling liquor on Sunday.

Because there had been so little rain, *The Cold Spring Recorder* asked if the village was too reliant on a single spring and six public wells to sprinkle the streets, make mortar, wash carriages and put out fires. It said many homeowners were considering digging their own wells but found it challenging; George Purdy had found water only after digging 55 feet. The Village Board appropriated \$200 [about \$5,000 today] to dig a well on Garden Street and residents pledged another \$100.

Soon after he purchased Michael Walsh's grocery on Kemble Avenue, Edward Calanan nearly lost it when a glass kerosene lamp exploded. Although the cisterns on either end of the village were empty, it had rained the day before and every nearby house had full barrels of rainwater for the bucket brigade.

A girl watching a baseball match at Vinegar Hill between Kellogg's and the Active Club of Newburgh was struck by a foul ball but not seriously hurt.

During a game at Sandy Landing between Kellogg's and the Undercliffs, "money was openly flaunted and bets made" on the number of runs and the winner. Soon after, 10 members of the Kellogg's team issued a statement denying rumors that they had "sold the match," which they lost, 36-20.

The prima donna Clara Louise Kellogg, who had a home in Philipstown, performed at the Methodist Church to benefit the Cold Spring Library Association. The performance sold out in 24 hours and raised \$700 [\$18,000].

Soon after, Miss Kellogg offered a \$5 [\$125] reward for a deep-yellow canary that escaped from her estate. It was recovered on Paulding Avenue.

Lewis Le Maire, a clerk in Cold Spring, was driving on the Breakneck Road when he spotted Milton, the 7-year-old son of Capt. George Wise, standing on the seat of a skiff while he rowed. Le Maire saw him fall in the water and began to shout. Capt.

Wise and two of his men rowed to the spot, found the boy floating face down, took him to the beach and managed to revive him. That same afternoon, Milton was playing outside as if nothing had happened.

While the women of the Gilbert family were occupied, Alice, 18 months, dropped something out of a second-floor window on Main Street and her brother, George, 3, went downstairs to retrieve it. To watch, she apparently leaned out too far and fell 10 feet onto the plank sidewalk. She was seriously injured but recovered.

Three new homes were completed on Parrott Street, and two others enlarged.

The owner of two cows found trespassing on the property of Dr. F.D. Lente was ordered in a public notice to appear at a certain date and time in the office of his attorney to explain why they shouldn't be sold for damages.

N.C. Smith shot a 10-pound raccoon out of a tree at Elisha Nelson's home on Paulding Avenue, which, after being dressed, provided a feast for both families.



Larry Riley sued the captain of a canal boat whose dog, he said, had killed his chickens while the captain loaded pig iron at the furnace wharf. *The Recorder* said that "a verbal remonstrance to the captain on the part of Mr. Riley was met by a disclaimer of ownership of the dog and the usual marine advice to go to ____."

The landscape artist William Craig, who spent part of the summers in Philipstown, produced new paintings of Indian Falls that were purchased for resale by the owner of the Cold Spring Music Store.

Seward Acher and John Dutcher, while building a stone wall at the Breakneck Hollow farm, caught a rattlesnake with nine rattles and put it into a box with a glass lid. They eventually released it in Ulster County.

Miss S.P. Monks of Cold Spring arrived at Santa Barbara College in California, where she had been hired as professor of natural science.

Mr. Smalley, leading a team with a load of iron ore that weighed about 6,000 pounds, got stuck while ascending Pear Tree Hill in Nelsonville. He disengaged the team from the tongue and hitched it to the rear to pull the load off the gravel. But once in motion, it continued down the hill and a 12-foot bank into a meadow, smashing the wagon but sparing the horses.

125 Years Ago (August 1898)

A shooting gallery under a tent in a vacant lot next to the post office was doing a brisk business by offering prizes to the best marksmen, including a rocking chair.

D. Cohen of Newburgh opened a store in the Southard building at Main and

Garden streets with a stock of pawnbrokers' unredeemed pledges, including watches, jewelry, cutlery and musical instruments.

The Village Board passed a law banning anyone from selling goods "to be sold on account of the owner giving up business, or as goods damaged by fire, water or otherwise" without a monthly license that cost \$23 [\$850].

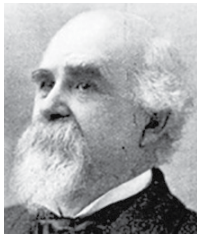
George Owen of Continentalville owned a kitten with five paws.

A train bearing the remains of Hamilton Fish Jr., who had been killed in action in Cuba, arrived in Garrison. A cavalry escort marched up the long, winding hill to the St. Philip's Churchyard, followed by the hearse and a carriage procession. As the coffin was lowered into the grave, the Rev. Carroll Perry, the rector at St. Philip's, said: "Man that is born of woman hath but a short time to live and is full of misery." This was followed by the hymn, "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

A dispute arose over the \$7,500 estate of Purdy Warren, who had left Cold Spring decades before to make his fortune in Arizona, changing his name to Hugh Warren so his family would not find him. After his death, Warren's friends hired a lawyer, George Smith, to locate his relatives, who included Mary Ann Owens of Peekskill, who was set to receive \$1,400 [\$50,000]. She said she agreed to let Smith represent her but not to his 50 percent commission. The lawyer sued in Arizona but Owens got a state judge to prevent him from pursuing the matter in New York.

Frank and Charles Pelham rode a tandem bicycle from Cold Spring to Fishkill in just under 30 minutes.

Judge Monroe Hayward, the son-in-law of Edward Pelton, a former Cold Spring resident, was nominated by Republicans in Nebraska as their candidate for governor. [Hayward lost a close race to the Populist Party candidate; he was elected the next year to the U.S. Senate but died before taking office.]



Hayward

During a Wednesday afternoon storm, lightning split a tree in the yard of Peter Jaycox's house on Division Street in Nelsonville and shocked his youngest child, who was sitting on the stoop.

Two intoxicated strangers chose the wrong pedestrian to harass late on a Saturday night — it was Officer McCaffrey, out of uniform. He arrested one, who was sentenced to 30 days in jail, but the other escaped.

A traveling, steam-powered merry-go-round was set up in a vacant lot at the foot of Fair Street.

The ladies of Cold Spring held a fete at Undercliff, the estate of Mrs. Daniel Butterfield [now the Haldane campus], to benefit sick sailors and soldiers. The estate was lit by hundreds of multicolored Chinese lanterns and a platform was installed for dancing. There was also a parade of 37 decorated bicycles.

When Hattie Lyons, 5, fell into the river, her brother, David, 7, whom *The Cold Spring Recorder* noted "could swim like a duck," jumped in, put her on his back and swam 35 feet to the beach.

Mr. Turnbull, one of the owners of the

Highland House, said he would return after dropping his family at the railroad depot to settle the details of the failing hotel with his partner, Mr. Curran. When he hadn't appeared by the next day, the employees departed. Soon after, an auction was announced to sell the furnishings.

The Recorder announced a "missing word" contest; anyone who guessed the answer would receive the newspaper for a year for \$1. A church deacon sat down on the pointed end of a carpet tack. He sprang up and said two words, the second of which was "it." What was the first? [This was a subscription gimmick repeated by dozens of newspapers across the country; the response didn't matter as long as the dollar was included.]

The Baptist Sunday school held its annual picnic in the grove behind the Nelsonville schoolhouse. "A number of people were present, and all claimed to have had a good time," *The Recorder* reported.

The Board of Education voted to levy a tax to raise \$550 [\$20,000] to hire an additional teacher. A classroom would be created by dividing the assembly room with a curtain.

Gustavus Snider, 52, a cigar maker, died at his home at the corner of Main and Stone streets. His family had emigrated from Germany when he was 8, then moved to Cold Spring when he was 20.

Burglars attempting to break into the home of James Shewan in Philipstown awakened Mrs. Shewan, who was home alone with her daughter and the female servants. She went downstairs to the kitchen and loudly called to her daughter to get her revolver, at which point the men fled into the woods.

100 Years Ago (August 1923)

The annual field day hosted by the Hudson Valley councils of the Knights of Columbus was held in Cold Spring under the auspices of the Loretto Council. The events included a baseball game, a tug of war and track and field, the latter refereed by Bill Brown of Brown's Physical Training Farm in Garrison.

75 Years Ago (August 1948)

Two young Poughkeepsie men died at Butterfield Hospital in Cold Spring after their tractor-trailer collided head-on with a sedan on Route 9 at Cat Rock Road [Route 403] in Philipstown. Five of the seven occupants of the car were injured. Police said the truck, which was carrying a load of milk, left the roadway and overturned. Passersby pulled out one man and the other was able to escape, but both were badly burned.

Based on their grade-point averages, St. Clair McKelway and June Dibb of Haldane High School were among 827 students awarded full scholarships by the Education Department to any state university in New York.

The Southern Dutchess Singers hired Roy Seeber of Cold Spring as conductor.

Red Cross volunteers from the Cold Spring and Poughkeepsie Motor Services drove 12 veterans from the Castle Point hospital to Hyde Park to meet with Eleanor Roosevelt, who spoke about her experiences visiting wartime hospitals in the

South Pacific. Elliott Roosevelt, son of the late president, was also there.

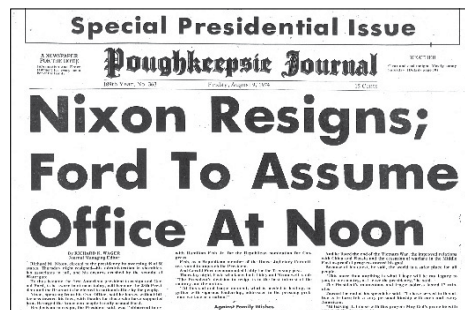
50 Years Ago (August 1973)

The Garrison Art Center held its fourth annual Arts and Crafts Fair and, for the first time, had a selection committee review the work of applicants.

The Continental Village Fire Department battled a blaze at Ace Distributors on Route 9 at South Mountain Pass that was spotted at 6:35 a.m. and probably had been burning most of the night.

The Butterfield Library began lending phonograph records.

In his weekly "Washington Report" that appeared in the *Putnam County News & Recorder* on Aug. 8, Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. explained how impeachment worked, saying it was "moving to the forefront in many minds" in the case of President Nixon because of Watergate. That same day, Nixon announced he would resign.



The Philipstown Area Jaycees announced a "donkey ball" game on the Haldane field against the North Highlands Fire Co., with the animals provided by the Buckeye Donkey Ball Co. of Columbus, Ohio.

Don McLean of Garrison, whose single, "American Pie," topped the charts in January 1972, was the featured performer at the Dutchess County Fair.

Because of overcrowding, Haldane announced it would add 90 minutes to the school day and begin double sessions for students in grades 3 to 6. Children in grades 3 and 5 would attend from 10:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. and those in grades 4 and 6 from 7:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Because of the double sessions, residents in the Manitou school district voted 79-10 to allow the district to pay tuition for its elementary students to attend the Garrison School or Haldane, which had been the

only option.

A group of residents formed the Committee for the Preservation of Cold Spring to lobby for strict interpretation of the zoning code.

25 Years Ago (August 1998)

Tony Hay, who represented Southeast on the Putnam Legislature, proposed that the county distribute to towns and villages as grants for specific projects half of any sales tax collected over what was budgeted. Finance Commissioner William Carlin opposed the idea, saying that the county was spending the money more efficiently. The proposal was defeated, 5-4.

Sheila Coffey, a longtime summer resident of Manitou, was killed in a collision when she pulled from Manitou Road onto Route 9D.

The Philipstown Town Board voted to create the Garrison Landing Water District to "acquire, rehabilitate and operate" its century-old supply system, which served 32 users. It began as a catchment area and spring east of Route 9D and south of Route 403, ran via pipeline through the Highlands Country Club to a concrete reservoir and water treatment station, then continued as a pipeline along Lower Station Road.

The Garrison school board approved architectural plans for a \$5.98 million expansion but rejected a proposal to add a second story. A public vote was scheduled for October.

The Cold Spring Village Board exercised an option to cancel its 25-year lease with the Boat Club. "Perhaps the limited number of village residents involved in the club explains the apparent lack of respect of the village which results in confrontations with visitors and non-members," the village wrote in its notice. It said that the board was convinced that "the village would realize a greater benefit by selling the property or expanding the waterfront park."

Eighth graders Alexis Lyons and Leah Kaye of Philipstown earned their black belts in karate.

Thirty people met at the home of Paul Heuston to discuss creating a Village of Garrison. "It would take Garrison business out of Town Hall," Heuston said, although Garrison would remain part of Philipstown, on par with the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville.

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GIRLS GOT GAME

For the first time, Beacon Hoops this summer offered a division for girls. There are four teams: The Highlands Current (yellow), AON Physical Therapy (blue), Palisi Auto Body (red) and Don Knight Plumbing & Heating (green). Beacon Hoops, founded by Leaman Anderson and Wayne Griffin in 1996 for students ages 6 to 18, will hold its inaugural girls' title game at 6 p.m. on Monday (Aug. 14) at Loopers Court, followed by an All-Star game on Aug. 19.

Photos by Ross Corsair





Living Green

Wrangle the Water

By Krystal Ford

It's raining again. As I type, rain is hitting the hard surfaces of rooftops, parking lots and roads and the result is small rivers flowing down the streets. All the flooding that happened in the Northeast this summer is a reminder that a) this is exactly what experts predicted would happen to our area because of climate change, b) we have failed to mitigate climate change fast enough and c) we are now in the even-less-fun phase: We must mitigate and adapt at the same time.

How will local governments cope with the increased rainfall in a sustainable way? Even without climate change most towns in the U.S. have struggled with how to handle flooding and stormwater pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency cited runoff as one of the fastest-growing sources of pollution, containing everything from raw sewage to trash to toxins entering our waterways from city sewer systems. And now we add in homes flooding and roads being washed away.

We need a new way of managing water, a greener way, called green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure mimics natural habitats, absorbs excess water and can help conserve water, while also preserving water quality. It's a combination of practices that include permeable pavements, green parking lots, green roofs, rain barrels, rain gardens, bioswales and tree planting. Here's what you can do.

Harvest your rainwater.

By one calculation, an inch of rain on a 1,300-square-foot roof generates 832 gallons



of runoff. Gutters and downspouts channel this water into storm drains but it could be collected in rain barrels to water a lawn or garden (just don't use it on leafy greens). Governments could require new construction to install below-grade cisterns that can hold a lot of water or require developments and renovations to offset the water from roofs and driveways in their landscaping.

"We need to be thinking about both the redirecting side and the saving size," says Jennifer Lerner, an educator with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County. "We never know if we are going to get a flood or a drought."

Plant a rain garden.

Rain gardens, with native shrubs, perennials and grasses planted in a shallow basin, are designed to trap and absorb runoff and can be 30 percent more absorbent than a conventional lawn.

Volunteers on a horticultural hotline operated by the Cornell Cooperative Extension on weekday mornings (845-278-6738, ext. 220) often field calls about rain gardens. They will advise you on plants (nearly all native), and Cornell has a lab that can analyze a soil sample for \$15 to

suggest fills or other amendments. Lerner cautions that while creating a rain garden sometimes requires heavy equipment and fill, it will be worth it.

Plant more trees.

Jennifer Zwarich, who chairs the Tree Advisory Committee for the Cold Spring Village Board, will always advocate more

trees but also believes a large-scale water-systems study is needed.

She notes that many areas in the village lack canopy cover but don't have enough space to plant because of narrow sidewalks or overhead lines. Private property is the best hope, such as on Route 9D, where donated shade trees were planted on the property of community-minded businesses (see coldspringtree.weebly.com/sponsorship.html).

Use permeable pavement.

If you need to redo your driveway, a parking lot or private road, consider permeable pavement that allows rainfall to seep through to the soil and groundwater aquifers.

Build a bioswale.

Bioswales are long, deep channels of native plants, grasses, flowers and customized soils that run parallel to parking lots or roads and can handle large quantities of runoff.

Adaptation may cost more money upfront, but it has and it will cost us more to do nothing, or to keep building fragile infrastructure. Our short-term thinking has failed us repeatedly.



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NOTICE

In accordance with Education Law §2801-a, the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District will hold a Public Hearing to solicit public comment on the District-Wide School Safety Plan on **August 28, 2023**, in the LGI at **Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY 12508**, at approximately 7:00 p.m.

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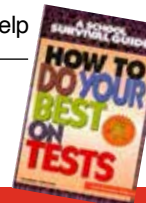
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- ACROSS
1. Glasses, slangily

6. Acid type

11. “Cut that out!”

12. Alphas’ opposites

14. He loved Roxane

15. Not certain

16. PC key

17. Blue Grotto isle

19. Hearty quaff

20. Floral rings

22. Vat

23. Peevish fit

24. Song of praise

26. Olympic skater Brian

28. “Certainly!”

30. Away from SSW

31. Mexican chili pepper

35. Labrador explorer

39. Nashville venue

40. “A spider!”
42. — Breckinridge

43. Fib

44. King of Judea

46. Taunting laugh

47. Captivate

49. Comic Ray

51. Bagel choice

52. Retaliate

53. Trusty horse

54. Dweebs
- DOWN
1. Fashions

2. Shakespearean heiress

3. Ecol. watchdog

4. Title akin to POTUS

5. Brown ermine

6. Kentucky brew

7. Hotel chain

8. *In medias* —

9. Big lizard
10. Comedian George

11. Overcharge for tickets

13. Handle

18. Tavern

21. In a sneaky way

23. Fulton’s power

25. — culpa

27. Business mag

29. Showed scorn

31. Fishing rods

32. Speaks one’s mind

33. Chicken serving

34. “— the ramparts ...”

36. Manually

37. Arboreal apes

38. Western resort lake

41. Imam’s holy book

44. Abode

45. Peace symbol

48. Astronaut Jemison

50. Mal de —

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2		9			3		8	

WORDLADDER

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

YEARN

CRAMS

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. *Ice Age* sloth voiced by John Leguizamo

4. Chopin’s Revolutionary, for one

7. Snake with a hood

8. Playful one

9. Grain bristle
- DOWN
1. Denomination

2. Langston Hughes poem

3. 43rd president, informally

5. Doodled

6. Pull down

1	2	3		
4			5	6
7				
8				
		9		

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

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

J	E	S	S	E
O	F	A	L	L
R	I	V	A	L
E	L	E	N	I
L	E	D	G	E

BANKS
TANKS
TASKS
CASKS
CASTS
CARTS

Answers for Aug. 4 Puzzles

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This Air Force One is owned by Dutchess Community College for its aviation program.



West Point cadets trained at the Dutchess airport with Vultee BT-13s.

U.S. Air Force

History Landed Here

Regional airport has seen tragedy and triumph

By Michael Turton

The Hudson Valley Regional Airport has witnessed a lot of history, from wartime pilots' training and the arrival of world leaders and U.S. presidents to mistaken landings and even a hijacking.

The airport, established as New Hackensack Field in the Town of Wappinger in 1930 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, initially served as an emergency landing strip for mail routes between cities on the East Coast. Colonial Airlines, one of the original airmail contractors, was among its first tenants.

Locals grumbled at times about the slow pace of improvements. In a letter to the editor in *The Beacon News* in 1940, a reader asked: "Is it a flying field, or a cow pasture?"

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered Stewart Field in New Windsor transformed into a pilot-training center for West Point cadets. As part of the order, New Hackensack Field became an auxiliary training facility to practice takeoffs and landings in Vultee BT-13s, and a 60-foot observation tower was constructed.

Pilot training was an elective for the cadets. Of the 514 graduates in June 1943, 206 earned their wings. Four died in training accidents.

At the height of World War II, on June 17, 1942, British Prime Minister Winston

Churchill flew into New Hackensack Field from Washington, D.C., aboard a Navy plane. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had come from his home in Hyde Park, was there to greet him in a hand-controlled automobile; polio prevented him from using his legs.

In April 1947, with the war over and the field no longer needed by the military, the War Assets Administration sold the airport, valued at \$2 million (about \$27 million today) to Dutchess County for \$1. A month later, the renamed Dutchess County Airport (DCA) opened on weekends for private flights.

Gov. Thomas Dewey boarded a plane at DCA on Aug. 23, 1950, and flew to Ottawa, Ontario, the Canadian capital, to make what the *Albany Times Union* described as "one of the most important speeches he has delivered as titular head of the Republican Party," opposing the seating of "Red China" on the U.N. Security Council.

In May 1959, the airport hosted the Eastern States Soaring Society's glider meet, which included a reenactment of a 1910 powered flight from Albany to New York City by pioneering aviator Glenn Curtiss.

Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy

landed at DCA on Aug. 14, 1960, where he was greeted by 5,000 supporters en route to visit Eleanor Roosevelt in Hyde Park. Two years later, then-President Kennedy again flew into DCA with Vice President Lyndon Johnson and former presidents Harry Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower to attend Mrs. Roosevelt's funeral. With the Cuban missile crisis at a boiling point, Kennedy was advised to have a telephone installed outside the church, enabling Washington officials to contact him if the situation worsened.

President Bill Clinton flew into DCA in 2000 for one of several visits he made to the mid-Hudson Valley. Presidential candidate Donald Trump followed suit in 2016 on his way to a rally in Poughkeepsie.

Perhaps the most dramatic moments in DCA history took place on Jan. 27, 1972, when Heinrich von George, who had lived in Peekskill until 1970, hijacked a Mohawk Airlines flight from Albany bound for New York City. Armed with a pistol and threatening to blow up the plane, von George demanded \$200,000.

The 10-hour drama came to a head after the plane landed at DCA, where the money

and a getaway car provided by the Dutchess County sheriff had been placed at the end of the runway. Von George ordered a flight attendant — his sole remaining hostage after the others were released during a stop at the Westchester County Airport — to fill his duffle bag with the cash, then forced her to the car. When von George shot at an approaching FBI agent who told him to surrender, the agent returned fire and killed him.

The gun turned out to be a starter's pistol. The "bomb" was two water-filled canteens. The flight attendant was not harmed.

“ In a letter to the editor in *The Beacon News* in 1940, a reader asked: 'Is it a flying field, or a cow pasture?'

While not as dramatic, an unplanned arrival on Sept. 24, 1982, caused a stir: A four-engine Aero Airways DC-8 touched down when the pilot mistook DCA's 5,000-foot runway for the 11,800-foot runway at Stewart.

Over the years, a number of airlines offered passenger service, from Colonial Airlines in the 1950s to Command, Colgan, Air North and American Eagle Airlines later on. Commercial flights dropped off after Stewart initiated passenger service in 1990. Commutair, which offered flights to Burlington, Vermont, was the last commercial airline to operate at DCA, ending service in 2001.

In 2016, DCA was renamed Hudson Valley Regional Airport. Jeff Durand, its director of aviation, said about 120 aircraft use the field, mostly for private, recreational flying. In 2021, Dutchess Community College opened a \$16 million Aviation Education Center, which has a small fleet of aircraft, including a Grumman G3-C20 jet that once served as Air Force One for Presidents George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan.



In 2021, DCC opened an Aviation Education Center at the airport.



The control tower at Hudson Valley Regional Airport Photos by M. Turton