

The HIGHLANDS Current

Classic
Wheels
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SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Leave Your Distractions at the Door

*Haldane asks high schoolers
to park their phones*

By Joey Asher

As it turns out, algebra is easier when you're not scrolling the internet or texting friends during class.

That's the conclusion of teachers and students at Haldane High School this fall as they adjust to a new cellphone rule.

Under the policy, students must deposit their cellphones into a repurposed shoe organizer — the "No-Cell Motel" — when they enter a classroom. They can retrieve their phones after the bell.

"It's been wonderful," said Christian Hoolan, who teaches calculus and algebra. "When I'm modeling problems, the kids are engaged. I don't have to worry about kids looking at Snapchat or Instagram."

Students largely seem OK with the policy. "It's a big improvement," said senior Ruby Poses, the student body president. "Last year when we were talking about some-

(Continued on Page 8)



The Beacon Class of 1973 attended high school in this building, which was built in 1916 and closed in 2002. *Beacon Historical Society*

class of 1973

Just Like That... It's 50 Years Later

By Chip Rowe

Today (Sept. 22) and tomorrow, about 50 members of the Beacon High School Class of 1973 are expected to gather at the Southern Dutchess Country Club and St. Rocco's to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

"We have classmates from Norway, Seattle and Texas coming," reported Geri Carola Arno, 68, a Hopewell Junction resident who led the reunion committee. She said she and others did an exhaustive search to find as many of the 259 members of the class as possible (at least 43 have died).

Reporters Mackenzie Boric and Erin-

Leigh Hoffman spoke with seven members of the class, including Arno, about their recollections of Beacon 50 years ago and what they've accomplished in the five decades since high school graduation.

It was a challenging time to be a student. Besides the war in Vietnam and the Watergate hearings, the school year in Beacon began with a teachers' strike that lasted nearly three weeks and resulted in five union leaders being sentenced to jail. (Striking by public employees is illegal in New York.)

There was also tension among some
(Continued on Page 16)

Beacon Church Seeks Home in Fishkill

*Star of Bethlehem formed in
city in 1900*

By Leonard Sparks

One of Beacon's historic Black congregations is seeking to turn a former bar and restaurant near the Mount Gulian Historic Site into its permanent church, two years after selling its longtime home on Main Street because of parking limitations.

The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, which is holding services at the former Tallix Foundry property on Hanna Lane, has applied to the Fishkill Planning Board for a special-use permit to resurrect 37 Lamplight St.

A plan to buy the site in 2020 was disrupted when the pandemic forced churches to close, said Rev. Daniel Blackburn, the church's pastor.

Now vacant and surrounded by overgrown vegetation, the two-story, 12,000-square-foot brick building formerly housed Mary Kelly's Irish Restaurant and an eatery and banquet hall called Chateau Beacon.

In recent years its owner, 37 Lamplight Street Associates, has marketed the building and its 2 acres as a prime location for a brewery, highlighting the site's capacity to cater events for up to 200 people on the second floor, a 140-seat bar and restaurant on the first floor and a full kitchen on the basement level.

For Star of Bethlehem, born in 1900 when
(Continued on Page 5)

Hochul Approves Cold Spring Parking Expansion

*Clears way for residential
permits, meters*

By Leonard Sparks and Michael Turton

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Sept. 15 signed legislation that clears the way for Cold Spring to add 20 streets to a residential parking permit system and to install meters on Main Street.

Sponsored by Cold Spring's state representatives — Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, a Democrat, and Sen. Rob Rolison, a Republican — the bill adds Main Street from the Metro-North tracks to

Parsonage Street; Benedict Road; Fishkill Avenue; and Grandview Terrace to the list of streets where Cold Spring can introduce permit parking for residents.

It also adds Locust Ridge, Maple Terrace and Whitehall Place; Marion, Mountain and Paulding avenues; Academy, B, Cherry, and East and West Belvedere streets; and Hamilton, Orchard, Parrott, Parsonage and Pine streets.

The bill passed the state Senate, 61-0, and the Assembly, 137-3, but could not be implemented without Hochul's signature. Village Accountant Michelle Ascolillo said

(Continued on Page 7)



Cold Spring plans to implement paid parking on Main Street.

Photo by M. Turton

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: JON BOWERMASTER

By Brian PJ Cronin

Jon Bowermaster is a writer, filmmaker and adventurer. On Thursday (Sept. 28) at Industrial Arts Brewing Co. in Beacon, he will screen his latest short documentary, *One Dam at a Time*, about dam removal on the tributaries of the Hudson River.

What drew you to this story?

It's a project that Riverkeeper has been working on [to improve fish and wildlife habitat], and they've been keeping me in the loop. We made a shorter version of the film a couple of years ago, but at that point, no dams had come down. This version has two dams coming down. We're waiting for more. The issue is that while there's plenty of dams lining up to be taken down, they need to find the money to do it.

Were you surprised at the emotions some of your subjects showed?

Yeah. George [Jackman, Riverkeeper's director of habitat restoration] gets pretty worked up when it comes to migrating fish and wildlife returning to where they belong. It's celebratory to see these blockades come down. But then when you hear how many inactive dams are still out there, it's impressive, and not in a good way. It's

a reminder of how we as humans have a tendency to create these kinds of problems and walk away. No one ever thought: "We built this blockade, so now we should take it down instead of abandoning it."

How did you get the shots of fish swimming upstream?

We practiced for years. You put the camera in a watertight box attached to a pole, and you hold the box below the surface. Then you have to be patient. Those shots were taken in tributaries and creeks because the Hudson is such a turbid, muddy river. Once you get 6 inches below the surface, you can't see a thing.

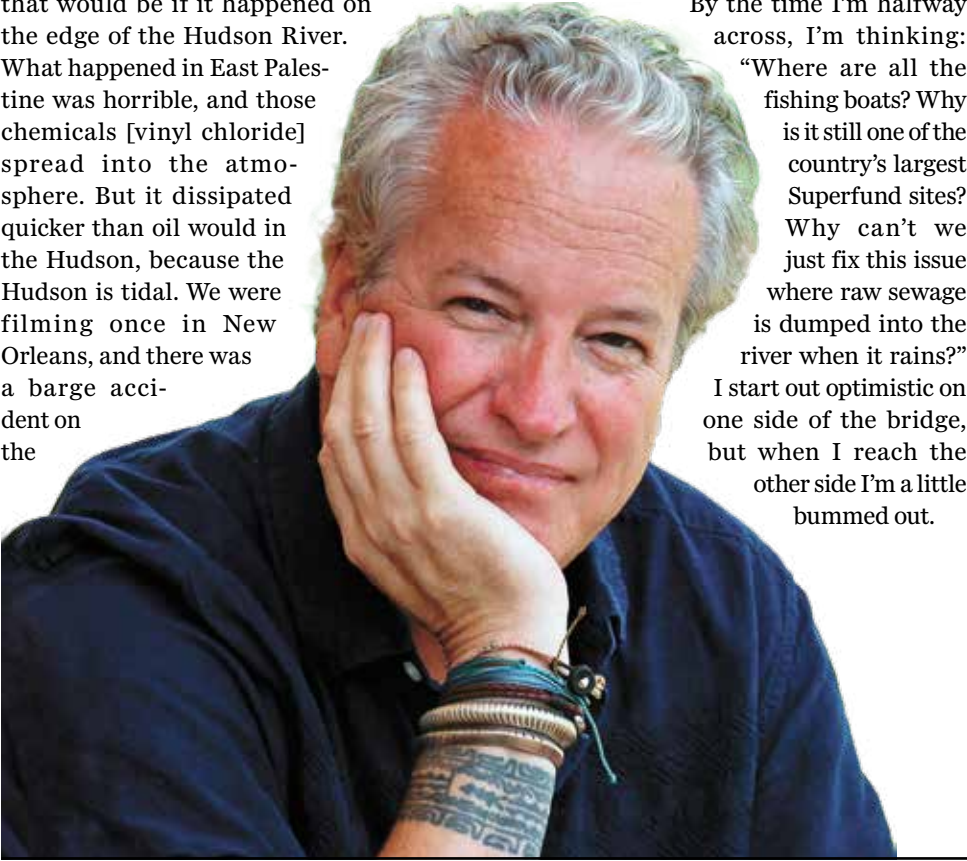
In 2015 you made a film about "bomb trains," or freight trains that carry oil along the Hudson. What was your reaction to the derailment earlier this year in East Palestine, Ohio?

It reminded me of just how awful that would be if it happened on the edge of the Hudson River. What happened in East Palestine was horrible, and those chemicals [vinyl chloride] spread into the atmosphere. But it dissipated quicker than oil would in the Hudson, because the Hudson is tidal. We were filming once in New Orleans, and there was a barge accident on the

Mississippi River in the middle of the night and 400,000 gallons of oil went directly into the river, which is where New Orleans gets its drinking water. But because the Mississippi is a big river moving south, the oil was pretty much dissipated within 24 hours. That oil would stay in the Hudson River for a long time. We had an accident in Newburgh in 2017 when a train hit a forklift — it was carrying hazardous chemicals like the East Palestine train [although no chemicals escaped]. The firefighters in Newburgh reminded me that at least you can see oil. Gas is invisible, so it's harder to clean up and more dangerous.

You've been making films about the Hudson for a long time. How would you define the state of the river?

I drive across the Kingston-Rhinecliff bridge three or four times a day. Every time I do it, I have the same feeling: I'm blown away by the beauty of the river. By the time I'm halfway across, I'm thinking: "Where are all the fishing boats? Why is it still one of the country's largest Superfund sites? Why can't we just fix this issue where raw sewage is dumped into the river when it rains?" I start out optimistic on one side of the bridge, but when I reach the other side I'm a little bummed out.



PHILIPSTOWN

DEPOT

THEATRE

DEPOT CABARET

Saturday, Sept. 23

Beth Leavel

Sunday, Sept. 24

Bryce Edwards

DEPOT DOCS

Friday, Sept. 29

After the Bite

CINEMA DEPOT

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Nine

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton


Are you into poetry?

No, I never read poetry.



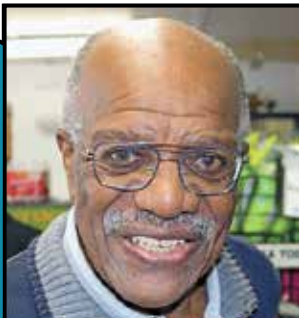
Adam Abdel, Cold Spring

Not really. I'm not sure why; I read pretty much everything else.



Pat Varveri, Cold Spring

Yes! Wordsworth, anything by Thoreau, and especially Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*.



Milton David, Beacon

NEWS BRIEFS



Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson and Library Director Kristin Charles-Scaringi

Libraries Get State Funds

Assembly members direct grants

The Howland Public Library in Beacon, the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring and the Garrison school district each recently received state funds directed to them by Assembly members.

Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, on Sept. 14 announced he had secured \$15,000 to allow the Howland library to purchase desks that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown, and who is a member of the Libraries and Education Technology Committee, said on Sept. 12 she had

distributed her funds to 10 recipients, including the Butterfield Library for a new bicycle delivery program (\$15,000) and the Garrison school district for cultural arts instruction (\$35,000).

Haldane Again Named Blue Ribbon School

High school recognized for graduation rate, test scores

For the second time, the U.S. Department of Education has named Haldane High School as a National Blue Ribbon School, one of 43 public high schools across the country and two in New York state (along with

Bronxville) to receive the honor in 2023.

The awards were announced Sept. 15; Haldane High School also was recognized in 2016. Haldane Elementary was named a Blue Ribbon School in 1988 and the Garrison School was in 2010.

Haldane was named an “exemplary high-performing” school, meaning it has among the highest graduation rates in the state at 98 percent and its students are in the top 15 percent of state assessments in English and math. Schools are nominated by state departments of education.

Report Clears Putnam Deputies in Fatal Shooting

Kent man shot while stabbing estranged girlfriend

Two Putnam County sheriff's deputies were “objectively reasonable” when they shot and killed a Kent man in January as he stabbed his estranged girlfriend, according to the state Attorney General's Office.

Under state law, all fatalities involving police officers are investigated by the AG's office. Its report, issued Sept. 15, concluded that Deputy Shane Haley and Senior Investigator Randel Hill rightfully believed that shooting Christopher Torres, 34, was necessary to save the woman.

The victim, who had a restraining order against Torres, suffered 11 stab wounds. The report drew on interviews and footage from

police body-worn and dashboard cameras, as well as a Ring camera at the woman's home.

Torres, who was pronounced dead at the scene, kidnapped the woman from a home in Southeast and drove to a deserted construction site, said the report. Hill, responding to a 911 call from the victim's mother, spotted Torres' vehicle 34 minutes later and requested backup. When Torres ignored the deputies' commands to stop attacking the woman, they fired, striking him three times.

Fjord Trail Names Community Manager

Former Cold Spring shop owner takes position

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail announced on Tuesday (Sept. 19) that it has hired a Cold Spring resident as its community and visitor-relations manager.

Rebeca Ramirez, the former co-owner of The Cold Spring Cheese Shop, will “collaborate with local groups and individuals to continue fostering community involvement and engagement in Fjord Trail planning,” among other duties, according to the organization.

Before joining the Fjord Trail, Ramirez was a member of the ad hoc parking committee for the village and co-chair of the Philipstown Trails Committee.



Ramirez

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Fri – September 22 – 8 PM
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 Guests also incl members of the B52s and Apples in Stereo.
 Tix adv \$20 or \$25 at the door - howlandculturalcenter.tix.com

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Sat – September 30 – 8 PM
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STEVE KATZ
 An Evening of Story and Song

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Oct 6 - LIT LIT - LITERARY OPEN MIC SERIES
Oct 7 - NO NAME | NO SLOGAN - AVANT GARDE EXHIBIT
Oct 7 - BUZZ SPECTOR lecture - Avant Garde Movement
Oct 13 - MIKE + RUTHY - OF THE MAMMALS
Oct 17 - DAN GARCIA - CLASSICAL GUITAR
Oct 27 - OPEN MIC NIGHT (no OPM in Sept)
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NYFA* Winner: 121 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021, 2022)

* New York Press Association, 2013 - 22

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* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 22

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* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 22

Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Sheep story

Thank you for covering Oracle's story (*Around Town*, Sept. 15). Here's more about what happened. On Aug. 13, we received a report of a lost sheep in Beacon. Solitary sheep are at high risk because they don't have a herd to protect them, and Beacon is very unsafe because of cars, dogs and proximity to the woods.

We started asking the community to let us know where the sheep had been seen. We know that once a sheep finds a safe place, it will stay in that area, so we were hoping she had found a spot. Reports of sheep sightings came from all parts of the Beacon area over the summer, including on dangerous hiking trails. Then someone shared in a Facebook group that there was a sheep at St. Luke's Episcopal Cemetery.

We did a call-out on social media asking if anyone had eyes on the sheep; fortunately, someone who used to live next to the cemetery contacted a former neighbor, Geneviève Mathis, who said she would help.

Geneviève said the sheep, which she named Oracle, would run to the woods whenever she felt threatened, so there was no chance of corralling her. Oracle is fast and strong and did not trust people. With permission from the church, we staged a trailer at the edge of the woods. Every day volunteers moved a feeding station closer to the trailer.

Eventually Oracle was going, on and off, into the trailer, but the door needed to be closed behind her. Even though she trusted Geneviève, who was bringing her pears and peaches from her backyard and spending hours speaking kindly to her, Oracle wouldn't stay on the trailer if anyone was near the door.

Geneviève got resourceful, and on Sept. 11 managed to close the door with a 15-foot pole. Operation Oracle was a success!

Oracle is now in an isolation pen at our sanctuary, where she is being tested for viruses, parasites, bacteria and pregnancy. She likely never has received medical care and is at risk for a lot of bacteria and parasites because of her long-term exposure to the elements, unclear water sources and unknown foods. Once she is cleared medically, she will join our herd.

We reached out to the police and animal agencies and heard no reports of a missing sheep. Due to her fear of humans and her physical condition, we speculate she was likely at a sheep meat farm. She is a hero for surviving that and being on her own for as long as she was. We are honored to give Oracle the life and care she deserves and grateful for the cooperation and compassion that residents of Beacon showed.

Rachel McCrystal, *High Falls*
McCrystal is the executive director of the Woodstock Farm Sanctuary.

Philipstown taxes

Once again, when discussing school consolidation, Philipstown residents in the Lakeland district are never mentioned ("Garrison School Will Study Effect of Merger," Sept. 15).

And when you covered David McKay Wilson's revaluation article in *The Journal News*, you could have reached out to me or Bill Pugh for comment but you just mention the town's duck-and-cover reaction to "speak to the assessor" ("Philipstown: No Money to Adjust Home Values," Sept. 15).

How can Philipstown pay for a reval of every property? How about adding it to the budget so we can get the estimated \$500,000 cost from the funds the town could receive by assessing wealthy properties correctly, instead of at a 30 percent discount that more modest properties don't enjoy?

Instead of begging Putnam County for pennies from sales tax and tourism, taxing \$1 million-plus properties would generate more money for Putnam and Philipstown. The Garrison school district needs more money to operate; getting the wealthiest residents in the district to pay their fair share would certainly help.

Your coverage falls far from complete or even fair. You continue to disappoint.

Kathleen Kourie, *Garrison*

Columbus Day

May I pose the following equally contentious situation to the Beacon school district: Is it planning to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month? ("Columbus Day Still Undecided," Sept. 15). The Spanish conquistadores were responsible for the enslavement and linguistic, cultural and religious eradication of the Indigenous populations throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

The Indigenous populations were also doing a good job of conquering and enslaving their rivals. Read a bit about the imperialism of the Incas and Aztecs for openers; it's not exactly Eurocentric.

What is needed is an honest rendering of history uncompromised by the current revisionist efforts by some such as National Public Radio. Balance is needed: Both Columbus and Indigenous peoples need to be remembered and studied for their roles in history.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

According to Wikipedia, "Cristoforo Colombo" was "widely celebrated in the centuries after his death, but public perception fractured in the 21st century due to greater attention to the harms committed under his governance, particularly the beginning of the depopulation of Hispaniola's Indigenous Tainos, caused by Old World diseases and mistreatment, including slav-

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

ery.” As a first-generation Italian American, I prefer Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Fern Sartori, *Wappingers Falls*

I vote to call it Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the Beacon school calendar. Columbus did not discover the land of my ancestors; he happened upon a place where we were already thriving, living peacefully and respecting our Mother Nature.

Becca Haynes, *via Instagram*

Garrison buses

In the effort to cut our transportation resources, efforts to avoid asking parents were successful (“Parents Unhappy With Garrison Bus Routes,” Sept. 8).

Efforts to avoid asking current bus drivers, former transportation directors, Putnam County and/or state personnel officers were also successful.

The safety of our children is of paramount importance. We, as parents and as a community, do not accept that the professionals we entrust with our children’s safety, health and well-being will be anything other than qualified, experienced, knowledgeable, certified, licensed and responsible in the performance of their duties.

How is it that our transportation system could undergo such radical transformation without the direct and hands-on input of qualified personnel, such as those who have worked for, supervised and served our community for years?

Putnam County requires that supervisors of transportation have, at a minimum, four years of full-time experience in the supervi-

sion or administration of a school district transportation program; or six years of full-time experience in the operation of a school bus or in the repair of automotive equipment of which at least two years must have been supervisory experience or service as a 19A certified examiner; or the equivalent combination of experience and training.

In addition to that certification, supervisors must hold 19A certification and a School Bus Driver Instruction (SBDI) certificate issued by the state Department of Education, and a license to operate a school bus.

Who ignored this? Who didn’t seek guidance? Who disregarded these common-sense and legal requirements? Something’s not right and it needs to be fixed before we are faced with a tragedy that will have been avoidable.

Seth Dinitz, *Garrison*

Editor’s note: In February 2022, the director of facilities and transportation for the Garrison school district, Michael Twardy, retired. Rather than hire a new director at the cost of about \$150,000 annually in salary and benefits, Superintendent Carl Albano said the district dropped the position and distributed Twardy’s duties among other staff. Joseph Jimick, the business administrator, was named transportation coordinator and this year will receive a stipend of \$42,500. Paul Eldridge, the personnel director for Putnam County, who oversees the civil service system, told The Current: “I am not aware of anything [at Garrison] that would be in violation of state regulations or rules.” He said he spoke to Albano and that Jimick is administering a transportation contract with the bus company, which is allowed.

Church (from Page 1)

its founders began worshiping in a private home on North Avenue, the property represents a new start.

The church held services for more than 60 years at the former Mechanics Savings Bank building at 139 Main St., until its leaders sold the building in 2021 to Hudson Todd LLC, one of Beacon’s largest property holders, for about \$1.25 million.

At the time of the sale, Blackburn, who was hired as pastor in 2019, estimated that half of the Star of Bethlehem’s members lived outside of Beacon, some as far away as Sullivan County.

He said that older members increasingly struggled on Sunday mornings to find parking near 139 Main St., which sits among a cluster of shops and restaurants that draw residents and day-trippers. The Lamplight Street property has 79 parking spaces, according to a description at LoopNet.com.

“Having to walk a block, two blocks for parking on a Sunday in the 90-degree sun or the 9-degree cold just didn’t work well for us,” Blackburn told the Fishkill Planning Board on Sept. 14. “We believe that this building is the answer to our prayers.”

In pursuit of a new home, Star of Bethlehem lost out on a bid for the Reformed Church of Beacon building on Wolcott Avenue, which the congregation sold to a company that is developing the property into Prophecy Hall, a hotel and event space projected to open as



The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Beacon is seeking approval to move into this former bar and restaurant in the Town of Fishkill. Photo by L. Sparks

early as 2025. The congregation also looked at a property in Wappinger.

The site in Fishkill is in the town’s Restricted Business zoning district, whose principal uses include hotels, professional offices and restaurants, but allows houses of worship with Planning Board approval of a special-use permit.

Blackburn and Barry Simmons, who chairs the church’s Board of Trustees, said they would remove the bar to create space for Sunday services but otherwise leave the interior intact.

“We like the building but we hate the condition that it’s currently in,” Blackburn told the Planning Board. “We will make sure that it is representative of Fishkill — that it will be well-maintained and not be a continued blight on that area.”

Garrison Superintendent to Retire

Says he plans to leave next week, on his 55th birthday

By Chip Rowe

Carl Albano, the superintendent of the Garrison School since 2020, announced on Sept. 15 that he intends to retire this month after 34 years in public education.

Albano said he becomes eligible for retirement under the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System on Wednesday (Sept. 27), when he turns 55, and will retire that day. He came to Garrison in July 2020 from Westchester County, where he had been superintendent of the Tuckahoe district since 2016.

Before that, he was the assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and pupil personnel services for the Tuckahoe district and principal of Tuckahoe Middle School from 2003 to 2012. Earlier in his career, Albano was an elementary school assistant principal, high school assistant principal and fifth grade teacher.

On Wednesday (Sept. 20), the board appointed James Yap, the district’s director of innovation and learning, as acting superintendent for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year while it searches for a successor to begin on July 1.

In a letter to parents, Albano wrote: “The choice to retire has not been easy, as I continue to have a deep passion for my work and have cherished the opportunity to serve the Garrison community for the past three years. However, after a careful analysis of my current pension benefits, I concluded that retiring on my eligibility date is the most prudent course of action to provide greater financial security for my family.”

He told *The Current* that he had no immediate plans but will continue to work in education. In the near term, he said, “my wife’s been after me to paint our dining room.”

In its own statement, the board wrote: “We are grateful for Mr. Albano’s leadership, dedication and contribution to the children of Garrison. During his tenure as superintendent, our district successfully navigated reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic, oversaw the successful completion of the \$9.9 million capital project, created a preschool program,



Carl Albano

File photo

implemented a pre-K to 8 environmental science program and added a third high school option to the district.”

Earlier this month, the school board tasked Albano and Business Administrator Joseph Jimick to produce numbers on what would happen to property taxes if Garrison and Haldane were to merge. Albano said he expected to have a response by mid-October.

Garrison has struggled to balance its budget in recent years. In 2022, voters approved an override of the state-mandated tax cap (which requires 60 percent approval) and a 6.6 percent increase in spending, but only after rejecting a request for a 9.18 percent hike. The cap was 2.2 percent.

Joey Asher contributed reporting.



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL
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NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, October 2nd, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

This meeting will also be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Philipstown Zoning Board Meeting October 2023.

Beacon School Board Will Wait for Voters

Also changes name of Columbus Day on calendar

By Jeff Simms

A vacant seat on the Beacon school board will remain unfilled until the next election in May, following a vote by the board on Monday (Sept. 18).

Two other seats, currently held by Yunic Heath and Flora Stadler, will also be on the ballot. The candidate with the most votes will join the board immediately to fill a seat vacated by John Galloway Jr. and serve a three-year term. The other two winners will begin their terms on July 1.

It took the board three votes to break a 4-4 tie on whether to appoint a new member to replace Galloway, who resigned in June, or wait until the May 21 election, when voters will also be asked to approve the district's 2024-25 budget.

Since Galloway left, the board has debated the merits of filling the seat immediately — which would restore the board to nine members, eliminating the possibility of tie votes — or waiting until May, when voters could decide. It was the third vacancy the board has addressed in the past five years because of resignations.

The board said at least two people have expressed interest in being appointed but it did not release their names. On Monday, Board

Member Alena Kush said that “if people are interested, we should move to fill the vacancy. Let’s not say: ‘You’re going to have to wait.’”

But doing that would force the board to choose between candidates and, historically, appointment candidates who are not chosen do not run for the office, said Board Member Kristan Flynn, who was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2016. “You have to look at the other people — who you’re proud of for stepping up — and say: ‘Not you,’” she said.

“That’s why we’re here as leaders, to be able to make that decision.”

~ Alena Kush, School Board Member

“That’s life,” Kush responded. “That’s why we’re here as leaders, to be able to make that decision. I haven’t been in that position on the board, but I’ve been in that position when I’m hiring someone. Someone has to be told: ‘Unfortunately, not this go-round.’”

Because state law requires appointees to run in the next election to keep their seat, Board Member Eric Schetter said he didn’t see an appointment as snubbing voters. After an appointee fills out the board until

May, then voters will have “their right to vote on that person,” he said.

On the third vote, Flynn, Heath, Stadler, Semra Ercin and Board President Meredith Heuer voted to leave the seat open until May.

Columbus Day

The federal holiday on the second Monday in October will now be known on the Beacon school district calendar as Indigenous Peoples’ Day/Italian Heritage Day.

After months of debate, including the creation of a committee that was unable to reach a consensus, the school board voted Monday to drop the name of the 15th century explorer Christopher Columbus from the holiday. The move follows the lead of New York City’s public schools, which adopted the dual designation in 2021.

Nationally, school districts on both coasts, as well as many municipalities, have begun recognizing Indigenous Peoples’ Day as a way of honoring the Native American culture that predated Columbus, as well as highlighting the impact of European colonialism on those tribes.

The change in Beacon does not apply to private schools or city government, and it does not signal a change in curriculum. The catalyst for the move was a district resident who last year asked the board to drop Columbus Day, which was declared a federal holiday in 1971, and rename it Indig-

enous Peoples’ Day.

Flynn made the first motion on Monday to adopt the Indigenous Peoples’ Day/Italian Heritage Day designation. She acknowledged the contributions of Italian Americans but said she disagreed with crediting Columbus with the discovery of the “New World.”

“America was not ‘discovered,’” she said. “It was taken from the people who had been living here before.”

That led Board Member Anthony White to suggest amending Flynn’s motion to remove the names of all holidays from the district calendar, instead referring to each of them as a “day off” — a move made by Randolph Township in New Jersey in 2021. “If we’re going to change one, let’s change all of them,” White said, but without a second, his amendment failed.

Schetter then suggested calling the day Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day. “We’re not New York City,” he said, “and there’s a contingent here in Beacon that feels very strongly about this holiday.”

Flynn argued that name would discredit the spirit of honoring the Indigenous tribes, because “they believe that arrival is the beginning of colonization and genocide.” Schetter’s amendment was voted down, 6-1, with Kush, who said she did not feel qualified to weigh in on the cultural debate, abstaining.

Flynn’s original motion then passed, 5-2. Schetter and White opposed the motion and Kush again abstained.

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No End in Sight

Beacon, church likely headed to trial next year

By Jeff Simms

Barring a settlement, a dispute between the City of Beacon and St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church over access to a city-owned parking lot looks like it will stretch well into 2024.

Dutchess County Judge Thomas Davis on Sept. 11 agreed to give the city until Feb. 15 to complete its discovery, or gathering of evidence, in preparation for a trial. The judge's order is a compromise between Nov. 13, the date requested by the church, and June 30, the date requested by the city.

St. Andrew sued the City of Beacon, Mayor Lee Kyriacou and City Administrator Chris White in June, shortly after demolition began at the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. fire station on South Avenue. After razing the structure, the city plans to build a \$14.7 million facility that will serve as Beacon's centralized fire station.

The church, at 15 South Ave., charges that

city officials had "unilaterally" fenced off a parking lot behind the church and stored construction equipment and building materials there.

Attorneys for St. Andrew argued that a 1987 agreement between the church and the Tompkins Hose Fire Co. — which owned the gravel parking lot at the time — ensured that parishioners could use it for worship services and church events. The city, which purchased the lot from the fire company in 2020 and opened it to public parking, maintains that the 1987 agreement is invalid.

The lot is slated to be paved and striped for 52 parking spaces during construction. Sixteen geothermal wells will be drilled beneath it to power heat pumps in the all-electric fire station.

On July 12, Davis ordered the church to accept the city's temporary proposal of 22 spaces in a lot it constructed at 21 South Ave., adjacent to the disputed lot. In addition, the city has reserved 17 spaces on South Avenue and its City Hall parking lot on Sunday mornings for churchgoers.

Davis also ruled that the Beacon Recreation Center at 23 W. Center St. must be made available for the church's food pantry, and the city must permit access to the rear

of the church so trucks can deliver supplies for the pantry.

Along with its request for an accelerated discovery deadline, St. Andrew alleged that city officials had refused to widen the entrance to the 21 South Ave. lot and that police officers had not been ticketing cars that park in the church's dedicated on-street spaces on Sunday mornings. The church also said that vehicles entering the 21 South Ave. lot had been "bottoming out."

“Any good-faith application of this requirement entails not just the posting of ‘no parking signs,’ but actual enforcement by the city.

~ St. Andrew & St. Luke Attorney David Chen

“Any good-faith application of this requirement entails not just the posting of ‘no parking signs,’ but actual enforcement by the city,” attorney David Chen wrote in a letter to the judge. “There has been none

to date despite multiple instances of non-church vehicles violating the Sunday-morning parking restriction.”

Chen quipped that the city had the staff to count the number of parishioners' cars in the disputed lot on a Sunday morning, so “is it too much to ask that this same manpower be used to enforce the parties' agreed-to compromise, especially if this compromise will need to last for the lengthy discovery period requested by the city?”

In a Sept. 12 letter to the judge, City Attorney Robert Zitt said he had spoken to Chen by phone recently, and that the city had agreed to widen the entrance by Sept. 18. City workers had already improved the entrance to the lot to address the bottoming out issue on Aug. 17, he said.

Zitt also defended the city's proposed discovery timeline. The city will need to conduct numerous interviews, as well as “an extensive and thorough search and review of records” related to the 1987 agreement between the church and fire company, he said.

“In other words, the city's discovery process is not as simple as peeking into its filing cabinet,” Zitt wrote. He did not address the allegation regarding enforcement of the church's on-street parking.

Parking *(from Page 1)*

last week that a projected \$43,000 revenue shortfall is partly due to revenue lost as the village waited for the bill to be enacted.

Some of that revenue will come from meters, which could not be installed until Hochul took action, said Mayor Kathleen Foley during the Village Board's meeting on Sept. 13. “We want to make sure residents have a place to park once the meters go in,” she said. “We anticipate the meters will drive [visitors] to side streets.”

Eliza Starbuck, the trustee leading the implementation of the meters and permits, said in June that the new streets will not be among the first designated for residential parking but are “part of a long-term plan to monitor and expand resident permit parking protections throughout the village as needed.”

Cold Spring had already received state approval to create permit parking on Main, New, West, Fish and Market streets; Northern and Railroad avenues; Kemble Avenue from Main Street to Wall Street; and Church, Cross, Furnace, Garden, Haldane, High, Rock, and Stone streets.

Before creating permit parking on those streets, the village needs to update two sections of its code — Traffic & Vehicles and Resident Parking Program — and hold a public hearing before the Village Board votes on the changes, said Starbuck. The board plans to set a public hearing when it meets on Wednesday (Sept. 27).

If the plan is approved, the village would have its roadways and facilities crew install parking-meter kiosks and signage, launch a public-information campaign and begin taking applications from residents who live in the first streets designated for permits.

Cold Spring's Police Department, which has hired one parking-enforcement officer and plans to add another, will train employees to use handheld plate readers and ticket printers, said Starbuck.

During a meeting in January, the Village Board predicted that the introduction of meters would increase revenue substantially. It also proposed making Fair Street one-way on weekends, with metered parking on Saturdays. The tradition of free Sunday parking for churchgoers will continue.

The board also said in January that it will inquire about adding meters on Main Street east of the traffic light (a state road which would require a special permit) and lower Main Street.

“We’ve been down this road before, but never [with] a deficit in the first quarter. You can’t project the first quarter out over the rest of year because different things happen seasonally.

~ Jeff Vidakovich, Cold Spring clerk and treasurer

On Sept. 15, Hochul also signed legislation that amends the residency requirement for Cold Spring's clerk/treasurer and deputy clerk positions. Sponsored by Levenberg and Rolison, the law allows candidates to live outside the village, as long as they still reside in Putnam or an adjoining county.

The legislation “is necessary to ensure that the Village of Cold Spring can draw from a pool of the most qualified individuals,” according to a memo explaining the bill. It passed the Assembly, 147-0, and the Senate, 62-0.

Budget squeeze

With Cold Spring barely into the second quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal year, Ascolillo, in her financial summary at the Sept. 13 meeting, attributed the village's shortfall

not only to the wait for the parking revenue but to a delay in implementing an occupancy tax on hotel rooms and short-term rentals. Both revenue streams had been projected to begin by Sept. 1.

Hochul signed legislation that allows Cold Spring to collect an occupancy tax but the Village Board must still pass a local law, Foley said.

“The big takeaway here is we need to get through the public hearing on parking, get the meters in and get the occupancy tax up,” Foley said. “But right now, we're tight.”

Ascolillo said the deficit would have been higher but the village has benefited from favorable interest rates, the sale of village property and parking waivers, and reduced expenses in such areas as health insurance, credit-card fees and parking enforcement staff wages.

“We’ve been down this road before, but never [with] a deficit in the first quarter,” said Jeff Vidakovich, the village clerk and treasurer. “You can’t project the first quarter out over the rest of year because different things happen seasonally.”

He added that, in addition to new revenue, the village needs to examine how it can spend less, including in areas such as legal and engineering fees.

Foley said the village is stretched “as thin as we can be” in operations, noting that important repairs are needed, including a \$38,000 project at the foot of Main Street.

“We need to have some serious conversations about infrastructure prioritization,” the mayor said, adding this is a time when the village needs engineering expertise.

Seastreak

Seastreak will pay the village \$38,940 in docking fees for its fall weekend cruises as part of the contract that the board approved on Sept. 13. The village will receive 50 percent of the per-cruise fee in the event of cancellations.

The first of 19 sailings will arrive on Sept. 30, with the last docking on Nov. 12. The schedule includes Saturdays and Sundays, each Friday in October, and Oct. 9, which is Columbus Day. One cruise each weekend will drop passengers at Cold Spring, then dock at Bear Mountain State Park to avoid having scenic views from the village dock blocked over weekends. A maximum of 400 passengers will be aboard each cruise.

In other business ...

■ The Recreation Commission is considering a dog park in the northwest corner of Mayor's Park and a butterfly garden at Tots Park, as well as an Eagle Scout project that would add small picnic tables with chessboards. New lights are being ordered for the village dock to replace fixtures that were vandalized.

■ During the public comment period, a man addressed the board, claiming his rights had been violated by a Cold Spring police officer. He declined to give his name but is Leonard Filipowski, who has a YouTube channel in which he identifies himself as an investigative reporter who covers police brutality. In August, he copied *The Current* on a complaint he filed with the village against two officers, alleging he had been mistreated when issued a traffic ticket and during his appearance in traffic court. The mayor responded that the village would investigate. On Wednesday, Filipowski was argumentative, interrupting the mayor after the three-minute comment period had expired. When Foley asked him to leave, he declined and was escorted out by a police officer. Filipowski, with a videographer, also made an appearance on Main Street during Community Day on Sept. 2.

For a report on the Village Board's Sept. 20 meeting, see highlandscurrent.org.

Dutchess Hires Firm to Study Rail Trail

Reuse aligns with Beacon plan for Fishkill Avenue

By Jeff Simms

Using nearly \$278,000 in federal funding, Dutchess County has hired a consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study on creating a rail trail along a 13-mile stretch of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s dormant Beacon Line from the Beacon riverfront to Hopewell Junction.

A Dutchess representative said Thursday (Sept. 21) that the study, to be conducted by Barton & Loguidice, a firm based in Syracuse, is expected to be completed in 2025. While it does not signal a commitment to build a trail, Beacon City Administrator Chris White called the study “a necessary and positive first step in adaptively reusing” the Fishkill Avenue corridor “for non-motorized transportation and recreation.”

If the project proceeds, an engineering study would follow.

With four parcels on Fishkill Avenue owned by the Healey Brothers auto dealerships on the market, the Beacon City Council has begun discussions on rezoning properties from Memorial Park to Mill Street to encourage walkable, mixed-use development.

No-Cell Motel (from Page 1)

thing that I wasn’t really interested in, it was an opportunity to text my mom or friends. Now, when we’re having class discussions, everyone’s engaged.”

Some students complained the first few days, said Gabe Lunin-Pack, the senior class president. But he said most adjusted quickly. “Once I got used to it, I realized that I’m doing a lot more work in class,” Lunin-Pack said.

Haldane implemented the policy because teachers said they were having difficulty with students who refused to put away their cellphones during class, said Principal Julia Sniffen. The common response was that “it’s my personal property,” she said.

It became such a problem that the faculty read and discussed *Stolen Focus: Why You Can’t Pay Attention — and How to Think Deeply Again*, by Johann Hari. The book explores how technology has undermined the ability to concentrate.

When she proposed the No-Cell Motel, “not one staff member said it was a bad idea,” Sniffen said.

Nationally, more than 75 percent of schools ban cellphones except for academic work, according to a 2020 survey by the National Center for Education Statistics. A 2017 study by researchers at Rutgers University concluded that non-academic cellphone use during class reduces long-term retention of the material being presented, which leads to lower exam scores.

Haldane isn’t the only school with a new



Seniors Gabe Lunin-Pack and Ruby Poses said most students have accepted storing their phones during class.



Haldane High Principal Julia Sniffen says teachers had no objections to the idea of a No-Cell Motel.

Photos by J. Asher

policy. The Garrison School this year began requiring middle-school students to leave phones in their lockers during class, said Carl Albano, the superintendent. Albano said that faculty decided to ban phones from classrooms because students were increasingly distracted. “It’s hard for a child to resist not checking his phone,” Albano said.

In Beacon, Superintendent Matt Landahl said this week that he intends to propose a more detailed cellphone policy for the 2024-25 school year. The current student code of conduct allows confiscation of phones when their use violates school policies.

Several local private schools have already

banned cellphones during class. “Our cell-phone policy is simple: Students are not allowed to use cellphones or other smart devices at school, including tablets and smartwatches,” said Maria Stein-Marrison, director of the Manitou School in Philipstown, which runs through the eighth grade.

Similarly, Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon, which also runs through eighth grade, banned cellphones in class several years ago, said Asma Siddiqui, the director. Although middle-school students are allowed to use phones at recess, “we think kids these days spend too much time on devices,” she said.

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Truckin'? Maybe Not in Early Morning on Peekskill Road

Also, Nelsonville continues storm-related follow-up

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

“Keepon truckin’” became popular years ago, but Nelsonville residents don’t want it applied to large vehicles on Peekskill Road — especially not at 4:30 a.m.

Narrow and old, with minimal — at best — shoulders, Peekskill Road connects two state highways, Routes 9D and 301. Vehicles of all sizes use it at all times of day, apparently as a shortcut or to avoid the traffic light in Cold Spring. The speed limit is 30 mph, and over the years, local residents have complained about speeding cars and other hazards.

The latest worry: The number of large trucks “has increased drastically in the last four years,” according to Alan Potts, who spoke at the Nelsonville Village Board meeting on Monday (Sept. 18).

“I’m not against people making a living.

But I am against 11 to 14 trucks, coming every friggin’ morning, from 4:30 a.m. on.

~ Alan Potts

Potts, a teacher and former board member who lives on Main Street at the Peekskill Road intersection, rises early to commute. “At 4:30 in the morning, all these trucks are lined up,” trying to turn from the road onto Route 301 (Main Street). “Everybody has to stop ... wait, back up,” he said. As they maneuver, he hears “air brakes and gearing down,” and a sound he mimicked that resembled a stalled, struggling machine gun. “It’s just horrible.”

Trustee Dave Moroney, a resident of Fishkill Avenue, a few blocks away, observed that the traffic occurs in late afternoon as well and that the trucks, mostly based in Rockland County, serve regional quarries. They cross the Hudson River, drive along Route 9D

and Peekskill Road, turn onto Route 301, and then, beyond Nelsonville, onto Route 9, before picking up I-84 in Fishkill, he explained.

Instead, they are supposed to travel on Route 9W, on the west side of the Hudson, to reach I-84, he said. In fact, he recalled, the state widened 9W to accommodate them.

A small bridge crosses Foundry Brook on Peekskill Road. Potts said he contacted the county highway department and was told the bridge, which the county calls a culvert, has a weight limit of 20 tons. Potts expressed concern that some trucks crossing it weigh more and was told that no cause for alarm exists unless trucks stop.

Peekskill Road, also known as Route 16, “is a half-mile of county road” and Putnam could easily impose restrictions, which would also prevent trucks from driving on Route 9D, where residents have complained about their speed, Potts said.

That “would be wonderful,” Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward remarked.

Potts emphasized that “I’m not against people making a living. But I am against 11 to 14 trucks, coming every friggin’ morning, from 4:30 on.”

Putnam’s highway department recently merged with other offices into the Department of Public Works. Thomas Feighery, its newly appointed director, did not respond to a request for comment about the situation.

Winward tied the truck problem to other traffic issues. “I don’t know what the solution can be,” she said. “But it’s multi-jurisdictional. It’s all interconnected, whether it’s trucks or it’s commuters using Nelsonville as a thoroughfare.”

In other business, Winward reported ongoing efforts by the village to obtain aid for repairs to damage from July’s storms. She said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) scheduled an on-site review for early October.

“It’s going to be a long process, and arduous,” she said. How much money might be needed “is the million-dollar question. We hope it’s not a million dollars, though.” The mayor also cautioned that federal funding for individual homeowners looks less likely than municipal assistance.

Philipstown Adds Preservation Law to Town Code

Board also extends food scrap recycling hours

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board last week unanimously enacted a law allowing the town to protect land of natural or historical value by buying it or helping property owners save it through conservation easements or similar arrangements.

The law formally enshrines in the town code a 96-page preservation plan endorsed by the board on Aug. 3.

Adoption of the law came Sept. 13 at Town Hall in a workshop. In its 3-0 vote, the Town Board did not provide a way to fund the program but left the door open to later adoption of a real-estate transaction fee, with voter approval. As required by state law, before passing the measure the board finalized an environmental impact statement that found the law brings no unwanted consequences.

Two members missed the Sept. 13 workshop, but six days earlier the supervisor and four councilors, who comprise the Town Board, had welcomed the conservation initiative.

“If we can preserve all the properties that possibly could help the community in the long run, it’s a good thing,” said Councilor Robert Flaherty on Sept. 7. Councilor Megan Cotter acknowledged that at present “there’s no fee” to subsidize the plan, “but who knows what the future holds.”

Also on Sept. 7, in a public hearing, only two residents spoke; both favored the effort. Nelsonville resident Heidi Wendel called board support “fabulous,” although she added that “I would really, really like to see it funded.” Wendel, who served on the committee that drafted the plan, emphasized that it would not only assist public acquisition of land but aid owners wishing to preserve environmentally crucial areas without selling them.

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust offered its expertise in preparing the document and a Garrison resident, Claudio Marzollo, urged the board to continue utilizing such public-private partnerships. In other business on Sept. 13, the board unanimously agreed to add, on a trial basis, another opportunity — Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — to the hours for dropping off food scraps at the town recycling center-old landfill on Lane Gate Road.

Flaherty said extending the time permanently depends on sufficient use. Philipstown food-scrap salvaging advocates report that the program collects, on average, 700 pounds a week, or more than 17 tons yearly.



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **DOGWOOD DAYS** — The Beacon bar and music venue was packed on Sunday (Sept. 17) for its last night under owner George Mansfield, who recently sold the East Main Street institution that he opened in 2012. The final band came on at 2 a.m. The building has been a saloon since the 1880s.

Photo by Ross Corsair



◀ **DRACULA** — Bannerman Island this week is hosting a homage to the original 1927 production of *Dracula*. (This shot from a dress rehearsal shows Michelle Kafel as Van Helsing and David Smilow as Dracula.) The five performances, which began Wednesday (Sept. 20), are sold out.

Photo by Ross Corsair



▲ **HUDSON SWIM** — Lewis Pugh, a law professor from South Africa who is an endurance swimmer, covered the 315-mile length of the Hudson River between Aug. 13 and Sept. 13 to highlight the critical role rivers play on a healthy planet. He passed the Highlands on Sept. 7, covering the 5.2 miles from Breakneck Point to Garrison Yacht Club, and swam under Bear Mountain Bridge the next day. The journey ended at Battery Park in New York City.

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The Calendar



The Arun Ramamurthy Trio: Sameer Gupta, Arun Ramamurthy and Damon Banks

Photo by Kevin Allen

Where India Meets Jazz

Trio will blend traditions at Beacon's Towne Crier

By Alison Rooney

Arun Ramamurthy has explained it all before but is always happy to talk tabla and mridangam.

As a composer, musician and educator, his enthusiasm is evident for the percussion instruments and the sounds they produce, part of a 1,000-year-old musical form known as Indian Classical.

Based in Brooklyn, the violinist and the other members of his trio — Sameer Gupta and Beacon resident Damon Banks — will make their Hudson Valley debut at 7 p.m. on Thursday (Sept. 28) at the Towne Crier in Beacon.

As Ramamurthy explains, there are two main forms of Indian Classical. “Hindustani originated in the north and Carnatic in the south, although they came from the same place musically,” he says. “There was one root, from which branches grew. They differ in the approach to improvisation: Hindustani has much shorter compositions that have been improvised on, while Carnatic is more composition-based.

“One difference you’ll notice right away is the percussion. The tabla is northern, while the mridangam is southern and the primary rhythmic accompaniment in a Carnatic music ensemble.”

Ramamurthy learned all of this as a child while growing up in the suburbs of New Jersey, with much of the instruction coming

from his maternal grandmother. “She’s the reason I play the violin,” he says. “She was a super-progressive woman and had so much power — she thought big and taught me to be unique, never forget who I am and make sure my music reflects my truest self.”

There was other music played in the house. “I got interested in hip-hop as a 10-year-old,” Ramamurthy says. “I listened to Radiohead, the blues and Coltrane, which I was hooked on. My older brother played drums, heavy metal and hard rock, so there was a lot going on.”

He began lessons in Carnatic music at age 6 or 7. “My mother was a singer and she started me on Carnatic music,” he says. “It’s always taught vocally, as a way of internalizing the music. My dad was a lover of music and into organizing; both parents would set up tours for musicians from India. I focused on Western classical music, studying violin from 10 to 16, then shifted my focus to Carnatic, connecting with the improvisational aspects.”

While working at a day job in New York City, Ramamurthy connected with other Indian American musicians who had an interest in the form. “We’re the first generation of musicians that was born here, which gives us the authenticity to bridge these cultures musically.”

Twelve years ago, he founded a nonprofit collective, Brooklyn Raga Massive. “We’re focused on finding ways to take care of the musicians and locating sources of revenue that don’t rely on money coming from the venues,” he says.

Ramamurthy also began his own project. “I heard different grooves in the Carnatic music that I didn’t feel I could fully express with traditional instrumentation,” he explains. “Sameer and I always had chemistry, pulling ourselves in different directions and loving it.” In performance, Gupta will “represent the traditions of American jazz on drum set and Indian classical music on tabla, combining traditional and modern improvisational styles.” (The original trio included Perry Wortman on bass, but he moved out of the area.)

“In rehearsals, I would pick a raga,” Ramamurthy recalls. “I understand the raga, but Perry didn’t know it, so he interpreted it harmonically. We would improvise, and certain ideas would gel. Compositional elements were structured by letting go and putting the music in the middle and all of us looking at the middle together.”

Banks came on board two years ago. “Damon has been a blessing — he’s playing electric bass, which was an intentional thing to bring in pedals,” Ramamurthy says. “It was my original take on Carnatic music. It was inspired by the energy and spirit of jazz. The three people are doing different things and are aware of each other, in an open circuit. Expect music that is heartfelt, soulful, spiritual and fun. The music makes sense to all of us more and more as we play it.”

The Towne Crier is located at 379 Main St. in Beacon. Tickets for the Sept. 28 performance are \$20 (\$25 at the door) at townecrier.com. Editor’s note: Damon Banks is a member of The Current’s board of directors.



"Beacon Falls," by Fredericka Foster

DOWN BY THE RIVER

Garrison Institute exhibit centers on water

By Alison Rooney

Rivers, a multimedia exhibition centered on bodies of water, will wrap up its months-long stay at the Garrison Institute on Oct. 1 with a free program of river-centered art and shared experiences that will close the exhibit.

Many of the artists plan to attend a closing reception from 2 to 5 p.m., where community members can view and discuss the artwork and take a stroll around the grounds. There will also be a “movement experience” with Stephanie Diamond of 5Rhythms at 2:30 and a water ritual led by Jaanika Peerna at 3:30 p.m.

The show is part of Pathways to Planetary Health, an ongoing initiative of the Garrison Institute.

Each of the artists whose work is on display belongs to Think About Water (thinkaboutwater.com), whose members “interpret, celebrate and defend water,” says Fredericka Foster, who founded the collective and curated the show. “These artists have experienced the effect of environmental degradation as well as the trans-

(Continued on Page 14)



Jaanika Peerna, a performance artist, will lead a ritual at the reception.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 23

Hudson Valley Ramble

hudsonrivervalleyramble.com

See the website for details about talks, hikes and tours highlighting nature and outdoor recreation. Through SUN 1.

SAT 23

Tag Sale

COLD SPRING

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

For its third annual fundraiser sale, the library and residents will sell household items, clothing, toys, tools and many other items.

SAT 23

Putnam Culture Fest

KENT

11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road
bit.ly/culture-fest-2023

This annual festival, organized by the county's Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board, will feature circus performers, food, live music and children's activities. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 ages 2 to 12, military)*

SAT 23

Cold Spring Lions BBQ

PHILIPSTOWN

3 – 7 p.m.
Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane
coldspringlions.org

For their annual fundraiser, the Lions will have a raw bar and barbecued chicken and ribs. *Cost: \$85*

SAT 23

Nourish Our Neighbors

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | fareground.org

Enjoy food and drinks, an auction and dance party during this shindig to support community food security programs at Fareground. *Cost: \$50*

SUN 24

I Run Beacon 5K

BEACON

8 a.m. Memorial Park
2 Cahill Drive | bit.ly/run-beacon

For the 12th annual fundraiser to benefit the community group I Am Beacon, run or walk or join virtually to complete the 5K wherever you are. *Cost: \$35*

SUN 24

Spirit of Beacon Day

BEACON

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Main Street

Get to know your neighbors and visit booths from organizations, churches



and businesses. There will be food for sale and live music on two stages. The parade begins at 1 p.m. *Free*

SUN 24

Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame

GARRISON

11:30 a.m. Highlands Country Club
955 Route 9D
haldaneschool.org/athletics

Haldane High School will honor a select group of athletes, teams and coaches at this annual lunch. *Cost: \$85*

THURS 28

Wii Bowling

COLD SPRING

Noon – 4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Celebrate National Neighbor Day with a friendly virtual bowling competition.

FRI 29

Craft Fair and Bake Sale

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Methodist Church
216 Main St.

Find seasonal crafts and baked goods and enjoy breakfast and lunch served from the kitchen. Also SAT 30.

SAT 30

Craft Fair

GARRISON

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

More than 60 artists, crafters, designers and makers will display and sell their wares at the art center's 53rd annual fair. Enjoy live music and food, too. *Cost: \$10 (\$9 seniors, \$5 military, free for ages 12 and younger).* Also SUN 1.

SAT 30

Harvest Fest

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

Enjoy live music, hay rides, children's activities, an open barn and food trucks at this annual event. The rain date is SUN 1. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 30

Walk-a-Thon

GARRISON

11 a.m. Saint Basil Academy
79 Saint Basil Road | sbagoa.org

Walk the grounds and enjoy children's games and a cookout at this fundraiser. *Cost: \$25*

HIGH HOLIDAYS

MON 25

Yom Kippur

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. St. Mary's Church | 1 Chestnut St.
philipstownreformsynagogue.org

The Philipstown Reform Synagogue will hold a service to celebrate the holiday.

MON 25

Yom Kippur

BEACON

9:30 a.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave.
beaconhebrewalliance.org

Registration is required. Because of limited space, the service is open only to BHA members.

SUN 1

Sukkot

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. St. Mary's Church | 1 Chestnut St.
philipstownreformsynagogue.org

The Philipstown Reform Synagogue will hold a celebration.

VISUAL ART

SAT 23

Exquisite Corpse Workshop

GARRISON

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

Martha Bone will lead a drawing-game workshop in which each participant adds a sketch to create a strange and interesting character. For ages 8 and older. *Cost: \$65*

SAT 23

Drawing Northgate

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St.
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Thom Johnson, who taught art at Irvington High School for 30 years and is an expert on the Cornish estate ruins, will lead this two-part class. *Cost: \$35 (\$30 members)*

SAT 23

Filling Station

BEACON

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Matthew Lutz-Kinoy will perform his interpretation of the one-act ballet originally staged by Ballet Caravan. The dancers include Bria Bacon, Ayano Elson, Maxfield

Haynes, Niall Jones, Kris Lee, Niala and Mina Nishimura. Registration required. Free with museum admission. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 ages 65 and older, \$12 students and those with disabilities, free for ages 5 to 11 and Beacon residents)*

SAT 23

David Provan

GARRISON

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

The artist will share his sculptures and paintings in an exhibit called *Barely Not Impossible*. Through Nov. 5.

SUN 24

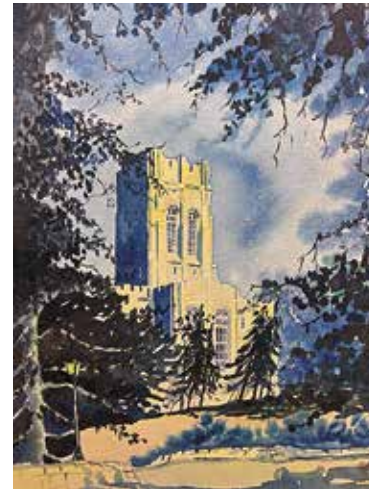
Images of West Point

NEWBURGH

2 – 4 p.m. SUNY Orange
73 First St.

sunyorange.edu/culturalaffairs

Sheldon Stowe created this exhibit for the Mindy Ross Gallery at Kaplan Hall from the collection of his father, Gerald, who was curator of the West Point Museum. Through Oct. 13.



SAT 30

Mary Heilmann

BEACON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org

Work from the artist's *Starry Night* series (1967-71) goes on view. Free with museum admission. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 ages 65 and older, \$12 students and those with disabilities, free for ages 5 to 11 and Beacon residents)*

SAT 30

Open Studios

NEWBURGH

Noon – 6 p.m. Various
newburghopenstudios.org

For this 13th annual event, more than 100 artists' work will be on view through a self-guided tour. Visit the sculpture installed at Glenlily Grounds and the grand opening of The Bank Art Center. See website for a map or pick one up at Newburgh Art Supply, 5 Grand St. Also SUN 1.



SAT 30

Urban Renewal in the 1960s and '70s

BEACON

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

As part of a larger program, *Beacon's West End Story*, the historical society will share the story of development through documents, clippings and photographs. The exhibit is a collaboration with the Howland Public Library, I Am Beacon and *The Highlands Current*. Through February. See Page 18.

SAT 30

Urban Renewal in the Hudson Valley

BEACON

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

David Hochfelder, a history professor at the University at Albany, will discuss development and gentrification and its impact on communities.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 23

Solutions to the Food Waste Problem

MAHOPAC

12:30 p.m. Mahopac Library
668 Route 6 | bit.ly/3Kz00Eg

This panel discussion will include Martha Elder of Second Chance Foods, Karen Ertl of Philipstown's Food Waste Advisory Committee and Jennifer Lerner of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County. *Free*

SAT 23

Mappy Hour

COLD SPRING

5:30 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St.
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Learn about local history during the American Revolution while enjoying a beverage. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 members)*

SUN 24

The Trial of Major André

FISHKILL

11 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Church
5 Elm St. | eventbrite.com/o/fishkill-historical-society

Actors Sean Grady and Gary Petagine will dramatize the 1780 trial of the British officer who conspired with Benedict Arnold. *Cost: \$18 (\$10 members)*

SUN 24

Introduction to Quilting

GARRISON

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

The Hudson Valley Modern Quilters Guild will teach the basics. For ages 10 and older. Registration required.

THURS 28

Disaster Preparedness Training

GARRISON

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

Learn about the tools and

resources available to prepare for severe weather. Registration required.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 23
Blue Family Fun Magic & Music

PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. Hubbard Lodge | 2920 Route 9
philipstowndemocrats.org

Marco the Magician and Louie Miranda, a bilingual Spanish and English singer and musician, will perform, and there will be food for sale from the Cheddar Wagon. Sponsored by Philipstown Democrats. *Free*

SAT 23
Studio on the Farm

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

Children ages 5 and older can learn from a practicing artist and experiment with materials and styles. Register online. *Free*

WED 27
Fall Snow Globe

BEACON
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Students ages 11 to 18 can make a craft to take home. Registration required.

THURS 28
Elementary Write-In

COLD SPRING
Noon – 4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Enjoy pizza and work on an entry for the library's writing contest to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Julia Butterfield. A write-in for students in grades 6 to 12 is scheduled after school on FRI 29.

SAT 30
Introduction to Babysitting

COLD SPRING
Noon – 4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Children and teenagers ages 10 and older can learn the basics of childcare. Registration required.

SUN 1
Family Hike

PHILIPSTOWN
2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge | 2920 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Children ages 6 and older and their families are invited to explore the woods, led by educators from the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. The event is co-sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club. Registration required. *Free*

MUSIC

SAT 23
Porchfest

COLD SPRING
11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Main Street
coldspringnychamber.com

Businesses and organizations will host concerts — including by Aria Anjali, Kat and Stephen Selman,



This Is Spinal Tap, June 27

Heavy Nettles, Sam Sauer and J. Rattlesnake — followed by a closing set by the Daniel Kelly Trio at 7:30 p.m. at the bandstand. See the website for the schedule and locations. *Free*

SAT 23
Beth Leavel

GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Leavel, who won a Tony for her performance in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, will perform as part of the Depot Cabaret series. *Cost: \$35*

SAT 23
Lessons from Strangers

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

John Brown's multimedia performance includes storytelling, visual art and music based on a long-term collaborative project with Sapri, an Indonesian artist. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 23
Top of the World

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

The Carpenters tribute band will play the duo's hits. *Cost: \$40 to \$55*

SAT 23
Jonah Smith Band

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

The singer and songwriter will perform with Andy Stack (guitar, vocals), Manuel Quintana (drums) and Brandon Morrinton (bass). Carillo/Seville opens. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 24
Bryce Edwards Frivolity Hour

GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

The show, part of the Depot Cabaret series, will feature Edwards with his band: Conal Fowkes (piano), Scott Ricketts (cornet), Ricky Alexander (reeds) and Jay Rattman (bass sax). *Cost: \$25*

THURS 28
Arun Ramamurthy Trio

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

The group, Ramamurthy (violin), Damon Banks (electric bass) and Sameer Gupta (drums), will perform classical South Indian music. See Page 11. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 29
Orleans

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

Founders Lance Hoppen and John Hall will be joined by Lane Hoppen, Brady Spencer, Tom Lane and Tony Hooper to play the band's hits and music from their latest release, *New Star Shining*. *Cost: \$35 to \$49.50*

FRI 29
Milton

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

The songwriter will play music from his latest release, *Studio City*. Jacob Bernz and Chris Knoeppel will open. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 23
Calendar Girls

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

This British musical follows the lives of 11 older women who pose nude to raise money for the Leukemia Research Foundation. *Cost: \$22 (\$20 seniors, military, students, ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 23
When the World Didn't End

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

Guinevere Turner will read from and discuss her memoir about growing up in a cult before moving to Garrison when she was 11. Co-hosted with Split Rock Books.

SAT 23
Soon is Now

BEACON
2 – 5 p.m. Long Dock Park
23 Long Dock Road

This Climate Change Theatre Action event will include performances in the park as well as opportunities to meet activists from local organizations. Sign up for an 80-minute tour at 2:30, 3 or 3:30 p.m. The Resistance Revival Chorus will perform at 5 p.m. *Free*

THURS 28
One Dam at a Time

BEACON
7 p.m. Industrial Arts Brewing Co.
511 Fishkill Ave. | riverkeeper.org

Jon Bowermaster will screen his documentary about Riverkeeper's dam removal project, showing how waterways are transformed, followed by a panel discussion. See Page 2. *Cost: \$10 donation*

THURS 28
The Princess Bride

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

After multiple reschedules because of poor weather, Story Screen will show the 1987 film about a quest for true love starring Robin Wright and Cary Elwes. *Free*

FRI 29
This Is Spinal Tap

BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
333 Fishkill Ave.
storyscreenpresents.com

Rob Reiner's 1984 mockumentary follows an English heavy metal band on a comeback tour. With Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Fran Drescher. *Cost: \$10*

FRI 29
After The Bite

GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

This documentary, about the impact of a fatal shark attack on a Cape Cod community, was directed by Cold Spring resident Ivy Meeropol. She will answer questions following the screening, which is part of the ongoing Depot Docs series. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 29
Blind Tiger Improv

BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | blindtigerimprov.com

Improvisers will use audience suggestions to create scenes. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 30
Community Playwriting Workshop

GARRISON
10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-265-3040
hvshakespeare.org

This year's theme for the annual playwriting "Bake-Off" sponsored by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is *Love's Labor's Lost*, or *Jack Hath Not Jill*. During a two-hour workshop led by Christine Scarfuto, acting director of the MFA playwriting program at Hunter College, writers will use a list of items as prompts. Five to seven submitted plays will be performed in November by HVSF actors. A virtual workshop is scheduled for 10 a.m. on SUN 1.

SAT 30
Poetic Echoes

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

Poets Camila Rio Armas (from Venezuela) and Celia Reissig (from Argentina) will read from their collections in Spanish and English as part of the library's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

SAT 30
Uprooted

PHILIPSTOWN
3 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane | stonecrop.org

Page Dickey, a garden writer, will discuss her book about starting a garden in her 70s when she moved away from her home of 34 years. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 members)*

SUN 1
Mary Gaitskill

COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Gaitskill, the author of novels, essays and, most recently, a hybrid work, *The Devil's Treasure*, will read from her 2019 novel, *This is Pleasure*.

CIVIC

MON 25
State Assembly Office Hours

COLD SPRING
1 – 4 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg

Staff members for Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown, will assist residents.

MON 25
City Council

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

WED 27
Village Board

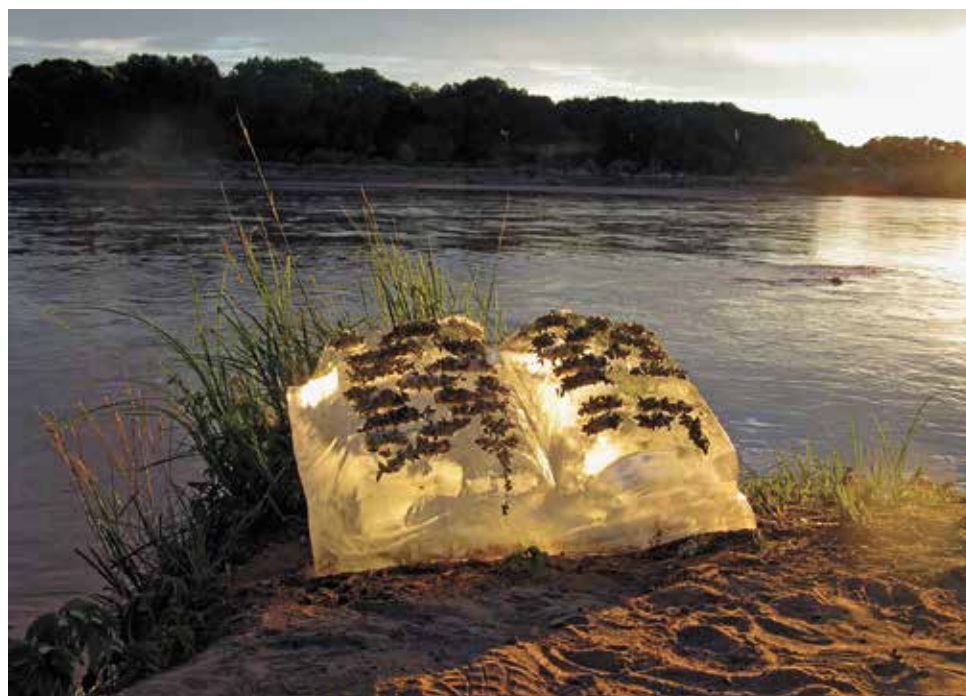
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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"TOME II (Fremont Cottonwood) at dusk, Rio Grande," by Basia Irland

By The River *(from Page 11)*

formative power of art; they have chosen water as their subject matter or medium."

Foster is known for her paintings of water; her latest work, using acrylic paints, is focused on groundwater. Recently she was invited to curate a show, *The Value of Water*, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. She launched Think About Water during the pandemic shut-down to encourage artists to be resilient.

For the Garrison show, she chose rivers as

the subject. "Water is the ultimate commons, shared by all living beings, and the institute is above the Hudson River," she explains. "Our artists believe that art is a form of direct mental targeting, enlivening emotions and creating a sense of connection. We need both reason and feeling to create positive and lasting change."

The artists participating in the exhibit include Rosalyn Driscoll, Doug Fogelson, Basia Irland, Ellen Kozak, Kelsey Leonard, Stacy Levy, Lauren Rosenthal McManus, Peerna and Meridel Rubenstein.

"I have lived half of my life near the shores of the River Pirita in my native country, Estonia, and the other half on the banks of the Hudson River," says Peerna, who lives in Philipstown. "They connect within me as one love. All waterways are ultimately connected, if we only let them be."

Along with leading the river ritual, Peerna contributed a painting to the exhibit.

Diamond, who also lives in Philipstown, created a movement sequence, "Conscious Dance for the Water and Earth." She describes the 5Rhythms practice, which was created by Gabrielle Roth, as "a combination of group meditation and dancing with the ecstatic abandon of someone who is absolutely certain they are all alone but instead are in a supportive community. Dances begin slow, the pace picks up in the middle and ends with a slow unwinding."



Stephanie Diamond (right) with fellow 5Rhythms dancers Angelina Fiordellisi and Peter Fodera during a previous performance

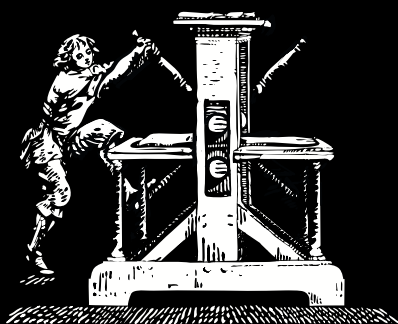
Photos provided



"Ablation Zone 5," by Jaanika Peerna

The Garrison Institute is located at 14 Mary's Way, off Route 9D near the Philipstown Recreation Center. The reception is free but registration is requested at bit.ly/rivers-exhibit. The show is otherwise open by appointment; call 845-424-4800.

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Stonecrop Gardens

Uprooted - A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again
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Saturday, September 30, 3 - 4:30pm

Only a few spots remain...
Buried Treasures - All About Bulbs

Learn all there is to know about bulbs - how to naturalize bulbs in your lawn, take home bulbs to plant in your garden and a pot to bloom in your house during the winter.

Saturday, October 28, 9am - 1pm

For more information & to register, please visit our website, www.stonecrop.org



Small, Good Things

Simply Seasonal

By Joe Dizney

After the meteorologically bizarre summer we've had and the continuing weirdness moving into fall — honestly, lilacs re-blooming in mid-September? — I just wanted to celebrate the last of this summer's sweet corn before it disappeared.

My first thought: Jim Ely's (I believe although perhaps misremembering) fregola risotto with sweet corn from years ago at the Riverview Restaurant in Cold Spring (fregola being a toasted Italian pea-sized pasta), cooked in the manner of risotto, slowly simmered and stirred with fresh sweet corn until it reaches a creamy consistency.

Not complicated, but the fregola can be hard to find. And I'm sensitive to that after a comment from a friend who said he enjoyed the column but said the recipes regularly seemed to require an ingredient he couldn't find.

Maybe, yes, sometimes I tend to complicate the simple things, belying the "small, good" intent of the equation. So why don't we make a regular old *risotto* with sweet corn?

Either way, it's a surprisingly complementary use of common ingredients, highlighting the texture of the slow-cooked, short grain risotto-style rice and the sweetness and tender "pop" of the kernels of corn — an effect that confirms food writer and corn authority Betty Fussell's estimation that corn should be likened to caviar, each ear like a roe sac



containing possible generations of progeny and therefore precious and worth celebrating.

The ingredients list is minimal. The rice should be a short-grain, high-starch risotto variety (Arborio or Carnaroli), but Spanish Bomba (used for paella) will work. These can be cooked longer in the broth without becoming mushy while the starches become saucy-creamy, also accentuated by finishing the dish with butter and grated cheese.

There are those who would further exaggerate the creaminess factor by folding in mascarpone or whipped cream, but even to this unrepentant hedonist that seems like tempting fate.

And to be sure, if you are dairy-free, substitute olive oil for the butter, ignoring the last addition. In place of the cheese, I'd suggest a tablespoon or two of sweet white miso for a funky umami, unless there is some abominable cheese-like substitute you're comfortable with.

For the stock (vegetable preferred), even water will do, but if you have an extra hour, you can make a corn-infused stock from the cobs reserved from prepping the corn. This will noticeably up the corn-centric flavor quotient of the final dish. Simmer the scraped cobs for 45 minutes in 6 to 8 cups of water (or vegetable broth), along with a quartered onion and a stick or two of roughly chopped celery. Strain the resulting broth and proceed with the recipe.

The final result is a salute to the last of summer, and a warm and satisfying foretaste of the comfort foods of fall and winter. Truth be told, you might want to hold on to this recipe: A credible and satisfying version could be made with quality frozen organic sweet corn, bringing the summer back when you might need it most.

Sweet Corn Risotto

Serves 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 tablespoons unsalted butter (or olive oil, or a combination of the two) | 2 cups fresh sweet corn kernels removed from about 2 cobs; reserve cobs for corn stock |
| 1 medium shallot, minced | |
| 1 cup risotto rice (Arborio, Carnaroli, Vialone Nano or Spanish Bomba) | 1 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano or Pecorino Romano, or see story for dairy and nondairy substitutes |
| ¼ cup white wine | ¼ cup chopped chives or minced fresh green herbs of your choice (parsley, basil, tarragon) |
| 6 cups stock — vegetable, chicken, corn (see note in story) or water | |

1. In a large saucepan, bring the stock to a low simmer and keep it there while you prepare the risotto.
2. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a wide, high-sided (about 2 quarts) sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add shallots and cook (do not brown), stirring occasionally for about five minutes. Add rice and stir regularly until the grains are coated and beginning to appear a bit translucent.
3. Add wine and cook, stirring until the liquid is absorbed. Add 1 cup (about 2 ladlesful) of the stock and continue stirring until the liquid is absorbed. Add another ladleful of stock and cook, stirring until it too is absorbed. Continue this procedure, adding a ladleful of stock whenever the mixture begins to appear dry.
4. At approximately the 20-minute mark of cooking, add the corn kernels and another ladleful of stock, proceeding as before. At about the 25-minute mark, the mixture should be getting "creamy," and the corn be cooked and tender. Check the seasoning and add salt and pepper to taste. If you like your risotto a little runny, add another scant ladleful of stock, stir briefly for a couple of minutes to incorporate and remove the pot from the heat.
5. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon butter and about ½ of the grated cheese and most of the chives or fresh herbs, reserving a bit of each for garnish. Stir to incorporate and cover pot for 5 minutes off heat. To serve, spoon into shallow bowls and sprinkle each with some of the remaining cheese and herbs.

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Class of 1973 *(from Page 1)*

students. The yearbook and local newspapers noted several fights, including one in December that resulted in 20 suspensions. Officials attributed the violence to the dimly lit, overcrowded high school, which would not be replaced for another three decades despite a proposal before the school board at the time for expansion. The principal suggested eliminating the lunch period, where trouble often seemed to start, and ending school at 1 p.m.

On the bright side, the football team won its second game in three years, while the basketball team was undefeated at 17-0 until it lost the final game of its season to Poughkeepsie.



Brynie Cooper

Brynie Cooper has lived a lot of life since high school. "I had people say things to me like, 'I know you, and I know you're going to be able to get through this,'" says Cooper, who lives in Poughkeepsie. "And I did."

Cooper, who grew up on Red Schoolhouse Road, sums up life at Beacon High School in the early 1970s as "crazy and hectic."

"There was just a lot of confusion, a lot of different things were going on and just trying to figure out where you belonged," she says.

"Because the student body was diverse, that contributed to the confusion when you did have racial tension," she says. "It wasn't that you knew of people who were of a different race, or ethnicity or religion — you were raised with them, you were in classes with them. So how are you mad at somebody just because they've got that label?"

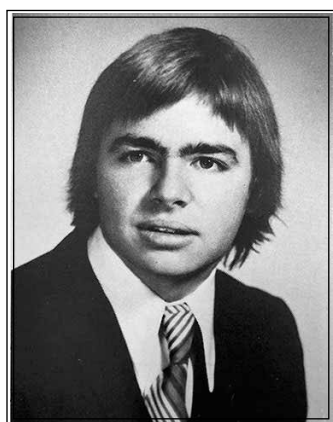
When she was 19, Cooper had a son, Josh. At the time, she worked at the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls. While

raising Josh as a single mother, she worked as a cleaner at summer camps and hotels.

"I was thinking about college but did not go back to school for a long, long time," she says. "It was in the back of my head. I was a good student in high school."

Eventually, Cooper earned a bachelor's degree, followed by master's degrees in community psychology and school psychology (at age 42) from Marist College. She worked for the Poughkeepsie school district and Dutchess County agencies until her retirement in 2016. Today, she is pursuing a doctorate and teaches part-time at Dutchess Community College.

Asked how she is doing, Cooper says, "We're doing OK."



Christopher Sjöholm

When he wasn't in class, Christopher Sjöholm worked in the kitchen at Saint Francis Hospital, where he visited with an older gentleman to keep him company.

He says the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal had a profound effect on his view of the world. He opposed the war and participated in committees and marches calling for its end. By the time he received a draft notice, early in his senior year, it was winding down. The draft was suspended in January 1973.

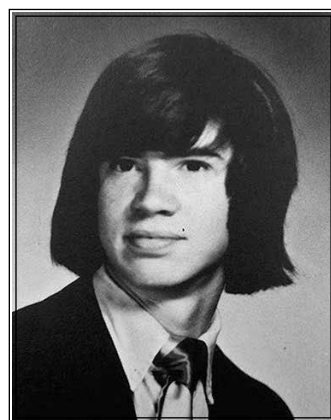
After graduating, Sjöholm enrolled at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., in part because he thought "it would be great to be down there when all of the [Watergate] hearings were going on."

But within two years, he decided that national politics was not for him and transferred to Columbia University in New York City to study economics. He had a long career in the insurance industry, and spent 20 years in New York City, where he met his wife.

In the early 1990s, the couple was living

in Queens and thinking about where they wanted to raise their children, which prompted a return for him to Beacon. "I knew Beacon, and I knew we could find an affordable home at the time," he recalls. "If you know the place, it has physical beauty, it has proximity to major things that you like, and, hell, we even have a minor league baseball team!"

Beacon was a nice place to grow up, he says. By the time he was in high school, "the social consciousness had been awakened. It was the birth of the women's movement and the environmental movement. It was the height of the Vietnam War protests. There was a lot more activism in the community."



Geoff Robillard

As Geoff Robillard prepared to move to Denver for a job in retail and restaurant construction, his mother told him: "No matter where you go, you're always from Beacon."

Robillard grew up on the west side, near the river, with three brothers and a sister. He played football and baseball in high school, and skied. He remembers the diversity of race and culture among his classmates.

His senior year was the last year of the draft. After he received his notice, he decided he would serve. He came from a long line of military men. But his father noted that, practically, "the Viet Cong will have to land on Long Island for you to get called up" at that point in the war.

Robillard attended Pace University to study accounting and lived in Connecticut before moving to Colorado. He and his wife had their first daughter there and two others after they relocated to Stratford, Connecticut, about a 90-minute drive from Beacon. "For 15 to 20 years, my life revolved around my kids, raising them, doing things

with them, doing things for them," he says.

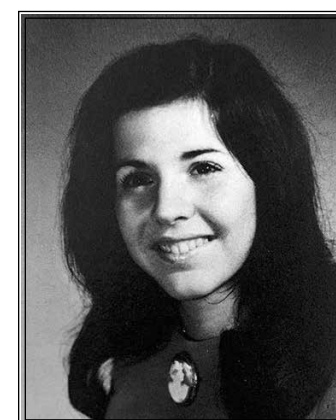
The family visited Beacon often to see family and, in the mid-2000s, Robillard and his wife decided to make it home.

"When I left high school, Beacon was falling apart," Robillard says. "All the factories were closing. Retail had left Main Street and gone to the malls. Forty percent of Main Street was boarded up. Beacon was really struggling."

Starting in the 1990s, "they cleaned it up, they re-established the old brickwork and it took off from there" Robillard says. "The transformation has been nice."

Robillard says he is still close to several high school friends and served on the planning committee for the reunion. He feels that the fact he has been able to maintain friendships for more than 50 years reflects well on Beacon as a community.

"I feel fortunate for how we grew up," he says. "We had a lot of fun times."



Geri Arno

From the age of 10, Yonkers native GERALYN CAROLA ARNO grew up in a bungalow in Glenham, the family's former summer home. Her father, a furniture salesman, commuted to White Plains, while her mother tended to the household, which included Geri, her three siblings and their grandmother.

She doesn't mince words about Beacon at the time. "It was the armpit of Dutchess County," she says. "We were from the other side of the tracks compared to high schools like John Jay, Ketcham and innocent Cold Spring."

Arno says she was a goody two-shoes who sang in the choir. She doesn't recall racial conflicts personally but did hear stories of girls suffering consequences if they dated a Black boy.

(Continued on Page 17)

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing - October 2nd, 2023

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 2nd, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Robert Repetto, 9 Old Albany Post Rd., Garrison, NY 10524, TM#83.13-1-53

Applicant is seeking a variance for a side yard setback for a hot tub installation.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/september>

Dated September 11th, 2023 Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing - October 2nd, 2023

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Lila McDowell, 64 Lake Surprise Rd., Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#27-1-33

Applicant is seeking a variance for renovation of a 2100 square foot print building to create a 2250 square foot accessory apartment.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/september>

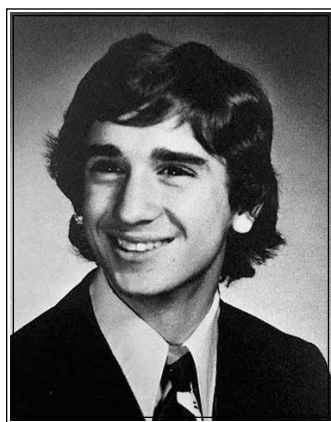
Dated September 11th, 2023 Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

(Continued from Page 16)

"If I wanted to hang out, smoke dope and party all weekend, that was an option, but not for me," she says. "I didn't want to be a stay-at-home mom. I wanted to go to college, get a career and get an apartment because I didn't want to go from my parents' house to my husband's house. I wasn't going to be dependent on anybody."

After graduating, she earned an associate's degree in medical technology from Orange County Community College. She also took courses at Marist before being hired at Highland Hospital and later by the VA. She worked part-time after she and her husband started a family. She has two children and four grandsons.

Before social media, staying in touch with former classmates wasn't the easiest thing to do, Arno notes, but in 1994, she reconnected with her best friend from childhood, Karen Crotty Palumbo. "We've been tight ever since."



Jeff Dexter

Jeff Dexter recalls his first week at Beacon High School. "I was 5 feet tall and about 100 pounds. A week before the start of school, I broke my collarbone playing football. I had to wear a collared vest, where I would walk with my arms out, for three months. So, here's this kid who nobody knows walking in like he's a horror-movie monster."

Although his time at Beacon High began awkwardly, he says his four years there were among the most valuable of his life. "High school to me was extremely important," he says. "It was a lot of fun, a great education and I made friends I will have until the day I die."

He recalls driving up and down Main Street, "almost like we were from the '50s. We all had our little cheap cars. We had amazing parties" organized by word of mouth.

Dexter says the music of those years stands out — Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, the Allman Brothers. Dexter still has his ticket to the Woodstock festival, which took place in 1969, a month before he started his freshman year. It was unused.

"When my parents realized what was going on, they wouldn't let me go," he recalls.

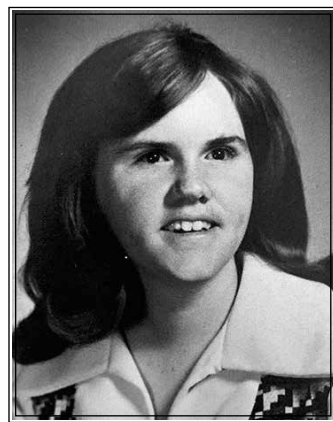
He says he knew people who were sent to fight in Vietnam, but fortunately they all made it home. He recalls "moratorium days" when Beacon residents would leave school or work and march in protest on Main Street, often accompanied by folk singer Pete Seeger.

There were racial tensions at school, and he recalls assemblies designed to ease them. He says he wasn't always sure what led to

the fights. "If you were to ask me back then what was going on, it was just certain people rubbing other people the wrong way — on both sides, whites and Blacks," although he says racism and intolerance were part of the culture at Beacon High School and elsewhere.

But he also says he recognized the value of the city's diversity because his father, a former Dutchess County legislator, was involved with the African American community and Dexter had Black friends through sports and in the classroom. "I'd walk around wondering, 'What the heck is this all about?'"

After graduating, Dexter attended SUNY New Paltz and went to work for IBM. He later was employed by the Red Cross, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and The Carnegie Foundation before launching his own business in 1995 while living in Connecticut. He and his wife, Virginia, had three children; the couple today lives in Sunderland, Vermont, where Jeff enjoys pickleball and tenkara fly-fishing.



Karen Crotty Palumbo

Karen Crotty Palumbo recalls being dedicated to her studies and band. "It wasn't a great time" in Beacon, she says. "You couldn't go after dark to Bank Square because it was a rough neighborhood. Now you can't even afford the coffee!"

Beacon seemed simpler, she says. The Main Street stores sold essentials. There was a fabric store, a clothing store, a bakery and an Army/Navy store. The go-to eateries were Quinn's and the Yankee Clipper. The library was located in what is today the Howland Cultural Center. (It moved to its present location in 1976.)

When she graduated from Beacon High School, her father told her: "College now, or nothing." Palumbo enrolled at the Columbia Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Hudson and became a registered nurse. She worked at Vassar Brothers in Poughkeepsie and Highland Hospital in Beacon. She also met her husband. They have been married for 45 years.

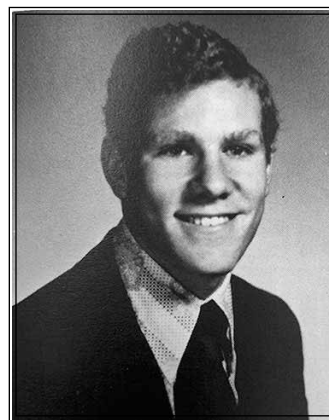
During the 1980s, Palumbo juggled raising her children, working part-time at Vassar Brothers and earning a bachelor's degree in nursing from Mount Saint Mary College. In 1998, she returned to school to get a law degree at Pace.

"It was time to do something different, and I was discouraged with the direction of health care," she says. After graduating, she worked for Legal Services of Dutchess County, then opened her own practice in 2003 in Beacon.

Nearly nine years ago, Palumbo's son,

Vinny, died. Each year the family presents an award in his name to an outstanding student-athlete.

Most recently Palumbo has been focusing on family court, representing children and clients with various domestic issues. "I should be retired, like most of my high school classmates, but I'm not ready to go in that direction just yet," she says. "If you like your work, stick with it."



Stuart Ginsberg

Unlike many of his classmates, Stuart Ginsberg had two parents with college degrees. His father was well known as a dentist.

"Growing up in the public schools in Beacon was a fabulous experience," says Ginsberg. But he acknowledges the students could be rowdy.

"In my freshman year, I was in Key Club and the Junior Kiwanis Club, and we went to the New York state convention at a hotel in the Catskills," he says. "Although we did not actually get thrown out, we were politely asked to tone it down. I remember a couch being thrown out of the hotel, or something like that. You know, high school students are still high school students."

During his senior year, Ginsberg was the Student Council president and ran track. He says he feels his teachers did a marvelous job.

"I would say that my preparation [for college] from what had been viewed as a 'modest' school was excellent," he says. "It certainly was a place where you could learn in a way that allowed you to excel."

Ginsberg says he supported the teachers when they went on strike. He drove to Albany with classmates for an unannounced visit to the state commissioner of education. They parked themselves outside his office until the police arrived.

After graduating from Beacon High, Ginsberg started his higher education at Williams College, attended the University of Pennsylvania for dental school and finished at Georgetown University with a law degree.

A few years ago, Ginsberg, who lives in Virginia, retired from the legal profession to become a full-time middle and high school teacher. "I loved what I did, but I love teaching more than anything else," he says. "One of the reasons that I do is because of the example of the teachers I encountered throughout my Beacon public-school education."

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Donald Teff (1942-2023)

Donald R. Teff, age 81, of Cold Spring, NY and formerly of Foley, MN, died on September 17, 2023, at his home due to an accidental fall.



He was born August 27, 1942, in St. Cloud, MN to Joseph and Clara (Dorr) Teff. Don graduated from Foley High School in 1960 and went on to earn higher education degrees from St. Cloud State University and The New School in New York City. He lived most of his life in New York state, working in New York City in finance and banking with Chase Manhattan Bank for many years. He later began a career as a consultant in human resources, coaching individuals for many company clients.

Don was a gifted public speaker and spoke at many career conferences. He was also an accomplished writer on all things career-related and was a published author. Having been in New York City on 9/11/2001, he wrote an extensive first-person account of the tragedy for his hometown newspaper. In his retirement, he volunteered at Graymoor, writing resumes, and giving career counseling to help the residents gain employment and fulfill their greatest potential.

He met Joe Pacheco in April 1975, and created a genuine partnership that lasted more than 37 years. In their later years they had a thriving antique business. They shared a love of pets, devoted to their dogs Hoot Gibson and Jesse James. Don was a talented cook and loved to entertain his friends with elaborate dinner parties and gourmet cuisine.

Don traveled the world and shared many stories with his family and friends of his adventures. He was a charismatic and generous man, highly intellectual yet able to have a beer at a local bar with anyone. His sense of humor was legendary, as well as his passion for causes he cared deeply about. Don was a man of great faith, very active in his place of worship, Our Lady of Loretto Roman Catholic church in Cold Spring. A life-long student of human nature, he had a large collection of books and many collectible items that he often gave as gifts to others.

Cecil Wade, a close friend and author of the Benton County News column "Impulse for Here", referred to Don in a feature dated 8/24/2010, saying, "Don may well be the most profound (if not the original) 'people person,'" highlighting his ability to find the good in everyone he met. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Don is survived by his brothers and sisters, Carol Gapinski, Foley, MN; Jerome (Lois), Foley, MN; Harold (Ione), Monument, CO; Joni (Tim) Costello, Clear Lake, MN; Bonnie (Tom) Stachowski, St. Cloud, MN; Larry (Shelly), Sartell, MN; Brenda (Harvey) Fuss, Becker, MN; many nieces and nephews, and many dear friends and colleagues in New York state.

He was preceded in death by his husband, Joe Pacheco, mother Clara, father Joseph, sister Marilyn, brother-in-law Al Gapinski, niece Heather Stachowski, and nephew Darrell Gapinski.

Friends may call on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring. Interment will be the family plot in Minnesota.

PAID NOTICE

LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (September 1873)

The trustees of the Fishkill Landing schools debated whether to keep segregated classes for Black students up to a certain grade, but Black parents protested their children should not have to attend a separate school at any grade. (At the same time, the Board of Education in Poughkeepsie voted to close its Black school and integrate, noting that only 20 of 74 Black students attended.)

When a man named Latermore drove his horse and wagon across a damaged bridge that crossed the Hudson River Railroad at Fishkill Landing, the horse became frightened and slipped through an opening in the wood. Suspended by the harness, it dangled above a train that passed underneath, then was carefully lowered by ropes. However, the animal was so badly injured it had to be shot.

A boy named James Burks was seriously injured at the Wicoppee Rubber Works at Matteawan when he caught his hand in a grinder.

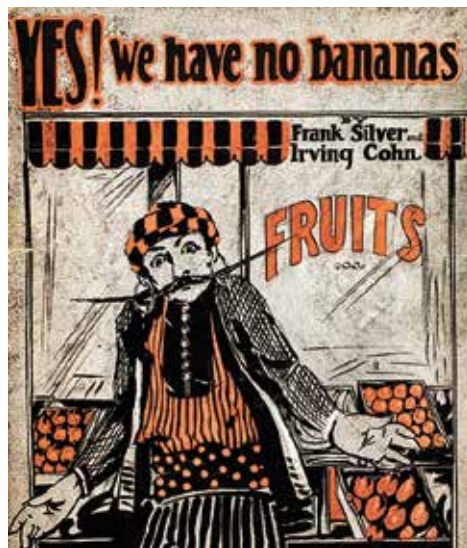
The Dutchess County sheriff and four officers came to Fishkill Landing in search of a suspected burglar named Rowland. When he escaped, the officers arrested John Faulkner of Newburgh, accusing him of aiding the fugitive. Faulkner said he witnessed the attempted arrest but was too busy delivering ale for a brewery to lend a hand.

The Seamless Clothing Manufacturing Co. leased a building opposite its factory at Matteawan to begin making piano felt.

According to the *Fishkill Journal*, the Millerton sheriff was taking a prisoner by train to the Poughkeepsie jail when it backed up over the Connecticut line to switch tracks. At that moment, the prisoner stood up and stepped off. Realizing his prisoner was now outside his jurisdiction, the sheriff pleaded with him to return.

The Rev. Duncan of St. John's Church at Matteawan officiated at the 89th annual convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of New York. Among the guests at the convention, held at St. John's Church in New York City, were the U.S. secretary of state, Hamilton Fish (a resident of Garrison), and the Right Rev. John Barrett Kerfoot, the bishop of Pittsburgh.

After hearing testimony in a lawsuit filed by a Fishkill resident who said he had been slandered as a thief, a jury found for the plaintiff. Asked for their verdict on damages, the eight jurors suggested amounts ranging from 6 cents to \$100 and



The composer of this famous song visited Beacon in 1923.

settled on \$12.50 [\$320 today].

Charles Winter of Matteawan displayed a 5-pound cluster of Syrian grapes at a Newburgh Bay Horticultural Society exhibit.

Despite an initial report that Mrs. Bellow's son had been shot to death in Texas, she later learned he had only been stabbed, and survived.

The clerks of Matteawan challenged the clerks of Fishkill Landing to a game of baseball at Prospect Park in Matteawan.

The barn and haystack of Mr. Lester, who was leasing the Knapp farm on Dates Lane between Matteawan and Low Point [Chelsea], was destroyed in a 4 a.m. fire. Gypsies were blamed.

125 Years Ago (September 1898)

The Odd Fellows of Fishkill Landing hosted a Labor Day excursion to Coney Island aboard the *Sirius*. The iron steamer made a stop at Cold Spring but was so crowded only 16 of the 100 people waiting could board.

The Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. sent a Fishkill Landing undertaker to Cuba to retrieve the body of a member, Sidney Scofield, of the 71st Regiment, who had been killed by a sharpshooter during the Spanish-American War.

Frank McLaughlin Sr., who delivered cigars and tobacco for his brother, David, died after falling from the terrace of his home in Matteawan while tending to his chickens.

A 30-year-old Poughkeepsie man went to the river to gather driftwood; the next his family heard, he was in the Highland Hospital at Matteawan with one leg amputated at the hip and the other at the ankle. For reasons unknown, he had ridden the bumper of a southbound freight train to New Hamburg, where he fell off and was run over. A conductor lifted the injured man back onto the train and continued to Fishkill Landing.

A swindler who claimed to be S. Jerome Armour, a nephew of the Chicago meatpacking magnate, stayed at the Dibble House, where he showed off a check made out to Armour & Co. for \$250,000 [\$9 million]. Mr. Dibble sent a message to Chicago to verify the guest's identity, but before he could get a response, the man had disappeared, leaving behind a forged check to pay his board.

The Democrats nominated W. Martin Watson of Fishkill Landing, a lawyer and member of the 71st Regiment, as their

candidate for a state Assembly seat. The 23-year-old had opened a recruiting station but, when few men signed up, he enlisted and went to Cuba himself. "He did not return with his regiment and nothing was heard from him for weeks," reported the *New York Sun*. "When he arrived home on a Monday night, the town went wild" and he was offered the nomination. The Republican candidate was John T. Smith, the president of two banks and the street railroad.

Police Chief Elijah Mosher, of Matteawan, in search of Antonio Prunier, who was suspected of absconding with his wife's diamonds, received a tip that he had joined the Army. Mosher wrote to various military camps until Fort McHenry in Baltimore responded that Prunier was there and would be held.

100 Years Ago (September 1923)

Frank Silver, the composer of "Yes! We Have No Bananas," spent a few days in Beacon on his way to the Catskills. He told a reporter that he and the lyricist, Irving Cohn, had made \$60,000 [\$1.1 million] on the song, which had been released in March, and expected to make more.

Edna Shoemaker, the former principal of the Matteawan School, was implicated in a murder case. She testified that she had written a letter formerly attributed to the victim, Edith Lavoy, who had been one of her teachers. Prosecutors cited the letter at the trial of William Creasy, accused of killing Lavoy, as evidence of motive: In it, she broke off their engagement. Creasy, who was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Sing Sing, was given a new trial by an appeals court that ruled the letter was inadmissible because it was not in Lavoy's handwriting.

Officer Burke was stationed at the Mount Beacon Casino to ensure couples kept their feet moving and didn't slip into "stepless dances."

A Cross Street man who was offered \$700 for a lot on South Cedar Street discovered he didn't own the property. He had won the parcel at a city tax sale, but Beacon said the taxes were current at that location and that the lot he purchased was actually on Brett Street. However, it found the taxes were current there, as well. The buyer said he planned to sue.

An autopsy determined that Thomas Lott, 48, who had been found dead at his home on Beekman Street, was poisoned by mushroom stew. He and two friends made the meal after hunting woodchucks and gathering toadstools; the other two men were not affected.

A Democratic primary vote for the 2nd Ward supervisor ended with controversy. Harold Jones (also the Republican nominee) received four votes, while James Lynch Sr. received three. There was also a vote for James Lynch, but without the "Sr." it could have been for father or son and was discarded.

The Matteawan Silk Mill shut down temporarily because of a lack of raw material from Japan.

Beacon installed new speed-limit signs at city entrances after a motorist who had received a speeding ticket successfully argued in court that the numbers on the former signs were smaller than state law required.

(Continued on Page 19)



A West End house is bulldozed to make room for a development.

Beacon Historical Society

A Look Back at Urban Renewal

An exhibit and series of talks that begin next week will examine the "urban renewal" that altered the landscape in Beacon during the 1960s and 1970s, when the city demolished most of the buildings compromising the Black community on the West End.

"Beacon's West End Story," organized by the Beacon Historical Society, Howland Public Library, I Am Beacon and *The Highlands Current*, will tell the story through historical documents, photos, news clippings, oral histories and interactive programs.

Urban renewal was a federal initiative to revitalize cities with new construction. But as the organizers note, the process often had complex and unintended consequences, particularly on marginalized communities.

"Ours is an untold story and history," says Connie Whitener Perdreau, a former West End resident who worked on the project. "Beacon's West End was once a vibrant, thriving community full of vigor, talent and potential."

Michelle Rivas, a Howland librarian, noted that there are few documents that offer the perspective of West End residents displaced by urban renewal. She said project organizers hoped to "start a dialogue about how these lessons from the past relate to issues facing our community today."

The project includes a four-part podcast; an exhibit at the historical society that opens with a reception from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sept. 30; a lecture at the Howland library at 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 30 by historian David Hochfelder on urban renewal in the Hudson Valley; an exhibit at the library that opens Oct. 14; a panel discussion at Springfield Baptist Church on Oct. 24; and a community conversation with residents of Forrestal Heights and Hamilton Fish Plaza on Nov. 15.

For more information, see beaconlibrary.org/westendstory.

(Continued from Page 18)

Frank Martin, a former Beacon resident who moved to Los Angeles, was a caddy at the Hollywood golf club. His regulars included actors Norma Tallmadge, Larry Semon and Jesse Lansky.

Members of the Ku Klux Klan apparently met early on a Wednesday morning at the Wilkes Street baseball field. Cars were seen departing at 1 a.m., and neighbors found the charred remains of a cross. A few days earlier, a cross had been burned in Fairview Cemetery.

75 Years Ago (September 1948)

Four men armed with revolvers held up the New Haven House at 12 Beekman St. at 1 a.m. on a Saturday. After binding the owner, John Bruno, and three others, the men stole \$139 from the customers and \$56 from the register.

Ten days later, one bandit was shot dead and another critically wounded by two off-duty detectives who interrupted the gang during the daytime robbery of a real estate office in Queens. Bruno and a customer traveled to New York City to identify the other two men in a lineup.

A 59-year-old employee at the new St. Joachim's cemetery dropped dead while arranging the flowers on a newly dug grave.

Beacon firefighters asked the City Council for a \$500 raise to their annual salaries of \$2,500 [\$32,000].

Residents at the Beacon View hotel at 424 Main St. were awakened at 2 a.m. by shouts for help from the second floor. Police found a chair cushion had caught fire and filled a



A former Beacon resident caddied in the 1920s in Hollywood for the silent film comedian Larry Semon (left).

room with smoke.

The body of Pvt. Arnold Lasko, who died in the Pacific during World War II, was among 3,921 casualties returned to the U.S. for reburial.

A 17-year-old Beacon girl pleaded guilty to being a wayward minor and was sent to a reformatory in Westchester County.

During a tackle in a 25-6 loss at Poughkeepsie, a Beacon High School football player suffered what appeared to be a fractured skull. Several years earlier, the high school had dropped the sport after a player was critically injured but had added it back before the 1947 season.

A 12-year veteran of the Beacon Police Department was suspended after being accused of drinking alcohol while on duty.

A former financial secretary of Local 301 of the United Electrical Workers testified to a U.S. House labor committee that he had attended a "secret school" for Communists in Beacon in 1936 as the party attempted to take control of the union.

50 Years Ago (September 1973)

Thomas Wyatt, who had been hired as a riverkeeper by the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, the Scenic Hudson River Preservation Conference, the Sloop Resto-

ration and the Hudson River Conservation Society, told the Beacon Kiwanis Club that the Hudson was making a comeback after decades of pollution.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation sent two planes to dump 4,000 gallons of water on a remote ridge of Mount Beacon to douse a fire that destroyed 10 acres. Officials blamed campers for the blaze.

A 27-year-old Beacon man was sentenced to four years in prison after he and three friends broke into an East Fishkill lumberyard. Because the other defendants were all under 20 years old, the prosecutor referred to the man in court as Fagin, after the character in *Oliver Twist* who trained children to steal.

25 Years Ago (September 1998)

A Beacon woman wrote to the *Poughkeepsie Journal* to thank a driver from Beekman Taxi who doubled back on Route 9 just north of Peekskill to give her a ride after her car broke down after dark. He was returning from taking a fare to New York City.

The Beacon school district expanded Glenham Elementary with four classrooms for first graders and Sargent Elementary with six classrooms for kindergarteners.

Sitting in a lawn chair on Main Street during the annual Spirit of Beacon Day, Thelma Cherry, 80, a lifelong resident, recalled that during her childhood in the 1920s, "this was a thriving city." It had fallen more recently into industrial decline and racial strife, which the 21-year-old celebration was created to remedy.

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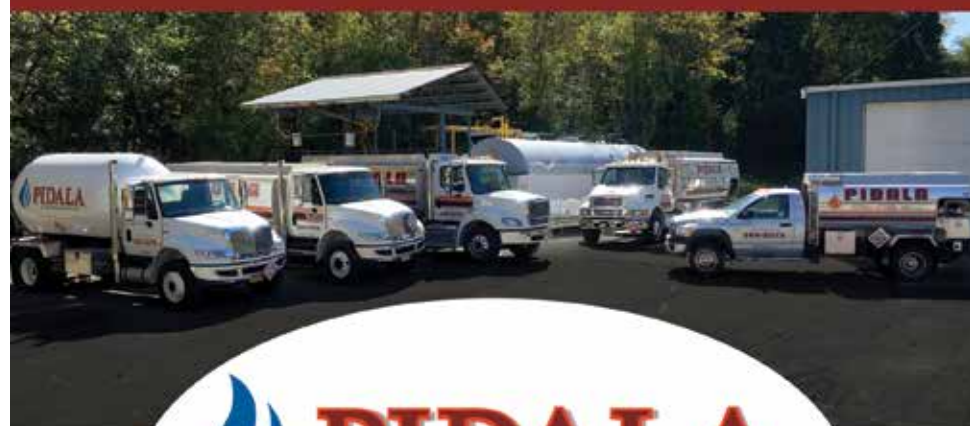
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Classic Wheels

1951 Vincent Black Shadow

By Michael Turton

Most people vividly remember their first car. For Greg Rathe, the memory is clear, but it includes only two wheels.

“When I was 6, I had a 1974 Honda MR50,” recalls Rathe, 56, who lives in Cold Spring. “It was 50 cc and made for little kids.”

That scooter was his first love, but his 1951 Series C Vincent Black Shadow is the love of his life, at least among motorized vehicles.

“I bought it in 2019 from the estate of a monster collector of vintage bikes in New Jersey,” Rathe said. “It is the one that I wanted to keep, the most special. I’m an industrial designer by education; I feel this bike is a piece of art. I have the honor to possess and care for it as long as I can.”

He declined to say how much he paid, but even in fair condition Black Shadows sell for more than \$20,000.

The bike is not pristine, and Rathe likes it that way. It was restored many years ago, but the paint is peeling in places and it has



scratches. “I’m happy with its condition because it looks like it’s been used,” he said.

He has made only a few alterations, such as upgrading a “notoriously complicated clutch” with a modern Australian replacement.

“I love most European motorcycles — Ducatis, BMWs — but this is the British bike I’m passionate about,” Rathe said. He said the motorcycle was ahead of its time. “It competed in displacement with the Harley Davidsons and Indians of the time,” he said. “But it was much more advanced in engine development and its suspension.”

The 1,000-cc, twin-cylinder engine is part of the frame, which is essentially just a bar that connects the front suspension to the rear suspension. “The engine provides the bike’s rigidity,” Rathe said. “It’s likely the first time that was ever done.”

The one-piece rear suspension, designed during World War II, was used in Vincent production models beginning in 1946. Twenty-two years later, when Yamaha repli-



cated the design, it became the standard.

An innovative feature Rathe appreciates is the sprockets located on each side of the bike, which gives an owner the option of adding a sidecar. He also noted that the speedometer, which measures 6 inches across, is easy to read and accurate.

From 1948 into the 1960s, Vincent was the fastest motorcycle in the world. The Black Lightning, the racing version of the Black Shadow, held the speed record for 20 years.

Rathe said the odometer read 300 miles when he bought the bike but that it had undoubtedly been reset. He’s put about 500 miles on it since.

“It’s phenomenal to ride; it’s small, low to the ground and compact,” he said. “It’s very fast and very comfortable,” adding the Black Shadow has no trouble keeping up with modern bikes. He’s had his 72-year-old Vincent up to 95 mph.

He has shown his Black Shadow at the Bear Mountain Car Show and the annual Historic Festival at Lime Rock Park in Connecticut. “If you show up with a Vincent, it gets noticed,” he said.

The Vincent brand, which ended production in 1955, was immortalized in British singer-songwriter Richard Thompson’s

The Specs

Manufactured: Stevenage, England

Production period: 1948-55

Total production: 1,774

Engine: 1,000 cc OHV twin cylinder

Gearbox: 4-speed, right foot shift

Drive: Chain

Horsepower: 55

Top speed: 125 mph

Weight: 500 pounds

1951 Price: £451 (\$564)

ballad, “Vincent Black Lightning, 1952.” American journalist and author Hunter S. Thompson also added to the mystique in his book *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*.

The latter wrote of the Black Shadow: “If you rode it at top speed for any length of time, you would almost certainly die; that’s why there aren’t many life members of the Vincent Black Shadow Society.”

NOTICE OF SCHOOL TAX COLLECTION

The Warrant for the Collection of Taxes for the City School District of the City of Beacon, New York, for the School Fiscal Year **2023 - 2024** has been delivered to me. Please be advised of the following:

Payment must be made by **Check or Money Order in the full amount of the tax bill and payable to the Beacon City School District**. Please be sure to include the **Bill No.** and a **Daytime Phone Number**.

In person payments (check or money order only) will be received in the District office, 10 Education Drive, Beacon NY between the hours of 9:00am – 1:00pm Monday - Friday September 5, 2023 to October 4, 2023 only.

Please Note: We strongly recommend that tax payments be mailed to our account at M&T Bank as follows:

**Mail Payments to: Beacon City School District
School Tax Collection
P.O. Box 1330,
Buffalo, New York 14240-1330**

COLLECTION PERIOD: September 05, 2023 - October 04, 2023 *Penalty Free*

October 05, 2023 - November 03, 2023 *must include the 2% Penalty*

Payments will be accepted with a **Post Office Post Mark of no later than NOVEMBER 03, 2023**.

Payments dated and/or Post Marked after November 3, 2023 will be turned over to the City of Beacon or Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance for collection.

SIGNED: Florence Zopf, School Tax Collector | Beacon City School District
Tel. (845) 838-6900 x2006

Tax Bills/Receipts are available online at:
www.infotaxonline.com

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – October 2nd, 2023

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 2nd, 2023 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Eric & Diana Hasler, 55 Hiram Rd., Garrison, NY 10524, TM#27.12-1-23

Applicants are seeking a variance for a one-story garage addition.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/september>

Dated September 11th, 2023 Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals



FREEDOM SAIL

If you want friends, own a boat. The Beacon Sloop Club has plenty, especially since it offers free evening sails on the sloop Woody Guthrie from June through mid-October.

Bobbing along the Hudson River is a relaxing experience for passengers only because a small army of volunteer crew members navigate the decks like mountain goats as the vessel shifts with the winds. They ensure that the ride is smooth and safe.

Pete Seeger commissioned the vessel in 1978 as a smaller replica of the sloop Clearwater, the type of ship that carried cargo up and down the river long before highways laced the countryside.

Remaining true to Seeger's vision of using the sloop to educate people about the Hudson River, no hat is passed. The captain invites people to join the club, but if the annual dues of \$25 is burdensome, the organization is happy to take whatever anyone can give.

Many sailing terms have become part of everyday conversation, like "learning the ropes" and "three sheets to the wind," but aboard the Woody Guthrie, the crew communicates in what sounds like a foreign language: Landlubbers won't understand the phrases "slack the port topping" and "sweat the halyard up real loose."

On a recent journey, the captain cut the motor, the crew hoisted the rust-colored sails and everyone tried to appreciate a moment of silence.

Despite the intermittent noise generated by airplanes, the ferry, jet skis, train whistles, honking automobiles and someone talking into a loud PA system at a nightclub along the Newburgh waterfront, it is possible to find pockets of peacefulness as the Hudson reflects the darkening sky and resembles a sheet of rippling steel.

Text by Marc Ferris
Photos by Ross Corsair



SPORTS



FIRST WEEK IN PHILIPSTOWN — The Philipstown Soccer Club hosted its first games of the fall season on Sept. 17 at Philipstown Park. The Fusion (U13 boys) took on Orange County (shown here), the RedHawks (U9 coed) battled Carmel, the Cannons (U11 boys) faced Rhinebeck and the Valkyrie (U11 girls) lined up against Red Hook. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair



THE LATEST BUZZ — In its first game, the newest travel team for the Beacon Soccer Club — the Bumble Bees, for girls ages 9 and younger — tied the Wappingers Wings, 6-6.

Photo provided

Current Classifieds

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WANTED

VINTAGE VIDEO EQUIPMENT — Local artist seeking all types of vintage video equipment

including tube TVs, CRT monitors, VCRs and VHS, camcorders, security cameras, video mixers, etc. Offering cash and able to pick up your heavy TVs. Please email pictures to rooster@artistrooster.net. Have a wonderful day!

ARTIST’S WORKSPACE — Cold Spring mom/multimedia artist (inc. clay) in need of a space to work. Open to different types of available space. Need a medium-sized room/heated garage with electricity, access to a sink and at least one window where I could leave my work safely undisturbed. Wifi would be a plus but isn’t necessary. Would generally keep school hours so if you need plant or pet care during the

day, I could help. Cold Spring, Garrison, Beacon and Newburgh locations would all be workable. Email evelynecarrwhite@gmail.com.

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

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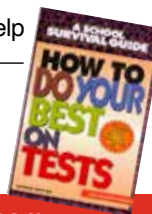
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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13					
14							15					
16					17	18				19		
			20	21				22	23			
24	25	26		27			28		29		30	31
32			33				34					
35					36					37		
		38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

- ACROSS
1. Swamp

6. Foliage

12. Alaskan peak

13. Current measure

14. Kidnapper’s demand

15. European peninsula

16. Venetian blind part

17. Suffix for million

19. Busy insect

20. Penne — Vodka

22. Press for payment

24. — Alamos

27. Mexican snack

29. Aussie greeting

32. Chekhov play, with “The”

35. Nickelodeon’s “Explorer”

36. Outlet letters

37. Venus, to Serena

38. CBS logo

40. Abel’s brother

42. Campaigned
44. Bangkok cuisine

46. Elevator name

50. Biblical prophet

52. Outer-space cloud

54. Honor

55. With uniformity

56. Vestibules

57. Valleys
- DOWN
1. Repast

2. Visitor to Siam

3. Bob Marley fan, often

4. — -mo

5. Nepal’s — Mountains

6. Hideaway

7. Plant firmly

8. Gorilla

9. Porches

10. Ireland

11. Plane reservation

12. ER workers
18. Former Chrysler CEO Lee

21. USPS delivery

23. “Yecch!”

24. PC screen type

25. Discoverer’s call

26. Peace

28. Admitted to the clergy

30. *Entourage* role

31. QB’s gains

33. Shaft of light

34. 201, in old Rome

39. Bygone anesthetic

41. Prestigious prize

42. Coral formation

43. To boot

45. Easter entrees

47. Melody

48. Misfortunes

49. Utter

51. Observe

53. Actress Longoria

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

LARGE

BILGE

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Aspirin’s target

5. Beige-like hue

6. “I’m Every Woman”
singer Khan

8. From scratch

9. Motion of the ocean
- DOWN
1. Chest muscle

2. “Let’s have ____” (“We
need to talk”)

3. Esfahan resident
- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | 7 |
| | 8 | | | |
| | 9 | | | |

4. Microwaved

7. State of wonder

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

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

	P	E	T	E
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M	A	T	E	O
I	C	E	A	X
B	E	N	D	Y

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VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' SOCCER — Last year the Blue Devils lost only two games en route to the Class C state title; this season they were in the midst of a three-game losing streak when they thrashed visiting Poughkeepsie, 7-0, on Sept. 15, behind three goals from Clem Grossman and two from Matt Nachamkin. Ty Villela and Milo Pearsall also scored.

Grossman scored the first goal 11 minutes into the game, and then the Blue Devils broke it open with four goals in three minutes. They led 6-0 at the half and Coach Ahmed Dwidar was able to get all 23 players on his roster into the game.

On a rainy Monday (Sept. 18), the Blue Devils took on Peekskill, hoping to beat the Red Devils for the first time in four seasons. Haldane scored twice in the first half — Villela on an assist from Grossman, and Grossman on a free kick — and held on for a 2-1 victory.

On Tuesday they traveled to Putnam Valley, extending their streak to three with a 3-0 win. Grossman recorded two goals and an assist, and Max Westphal had a goal and an assist of his own.

The Blue Devils (4-3) will face North Salem at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday (Sept. 23) for homecoming, and on Sept. 29 will host Pawling at 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS' SOCCER — Haldane notched its first win at home on Sept. 14 with a 3-0 victory over Woodlands. Josephine Foley-Hedlund scored twice and Stella Gretina tapped in a cross from Miley Pena-Rider. “Josie’s work ethic is always on, and it’s really awesome to see,” said Coach Mary Callaghan.

The Blue Devils made it three in a row on Tuesday (Sept. 19) with a 2-1 win over Peekskill. After being down 1-0 at half, Haldane got goals from Miley Pena-Rider and Anna-Catherine Nelson.

Haldane traveled to Beacon on Thursday (Sept. 21). On Saturday, the team (3-2) will host Putnam Valley at 11 a.m. for homecoming. On Tuesday they will travel to Pawling and on Thursday host North Salem at 5 p.m.

GIRLS' TENNIS — After a 5-0 shellacking by Croton-Harmon, Haldane faced Westlake on Sept. 14 but fell short, 3-2.

At first doubles, Camilla McDaniel and Julie Shields won (6-3, 6-4), and at second doubles, Mary McBride and Scout ThankurdeBeer won (6-4, 6-1). “The communication between the partners has really been great of late, and they’re starting to play much more aggressively,” said Coach Simon Dudar.

On Tuesday (Sept. 19), the Blue Devils lost, 5-0, at Leffell but on Wednesday defeated



The Beacon offense had a tough time in a 6-0 loss to Burke, but the defense kept the team in the game.

Photos by Cadence Heeter

Valhalla, 3-1. Ellen O’Hara won at first singles (6-4, 6-0) and Ella Mekeel at second singles (6-4, 7-5).

On Saturday, the Blue Devils will host Pleasantville at 11 a.m. for homecoming; on Tuesday they travel to Croton-Harmon.

VOLLEYBALL — After winning their first game of the season on Sept. 7, it has been tough going for the Blue Devils. Their fourth straight loss came at home on Tuesday (Sept. 19) to Tuckahoe (25-16, 25-9, 25-20).

Last week, they fell on Sept. 14 to O’Neill (24-20, 25-17, 25-7). Nevertheless, Coach Nancy Bowden said she liked her team’s energy. “Our serves were so much better and the communication was there,” she said.

Scotia Hartford led with five aces, and went 12 for 13 on serves. Emily Tomann had three aces and went 9 for 10 on serves. She also led Haldane in kills with five and digs with nine.

The Blue Devils (1-4) hosted Croton-Harmon on Thursday (Sept. 21) and will host Pawling at 6 p.m. on Wednesday (Sept. 27)

FOOTBALL — The Blue Devils (2-0) had the week off but return to action today (Sept. 22), hosting Tuckahoe (2-0) at 7 p.m. for homecoming.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

FOOTBALL — The Bulldogs’ defense put up a fight against Burke Catholic on Sept.



14, recording five turnovers on downs, two fumbles and an interception, but the offense couldn’t score and Beacon lost, 6-0. “The defense kept us in the game,” said Coach Jim Phelan.

Despite their scoring drought, the Bulldogs had a great chance to tie the game after a 12-play, 58-yard drive in the fourth quarter, but a 30-yard touchdown pass from Jazziah Whitted to Kavon Ricketts on fourth and 8 was called back for offensive pass interference. The redo on fourth and 22 was an incompleteness. Burke scored in the second quarter on a 35-yard touchdown pass.

The Bulldogs (0-3) travel to O’Neill (1-2) today (Sept. 22).

GIRLS' SOCCER — Playing in the rain, the Bulldogs on Monday (Sept. 18) defeated Sullivan West, 4-0. Reilly Landsi and Devyn Kelly each had two goals, and Emma Campgiorni kept a clean sheet with three saves at goal.

On Wednesday, the Bulldogs fell at Newburgh Free Academy, 4-3. Landisi, Olivia Del Castillo and Noelle Haase each scored and goalie Gabrielle Kuka had seven saves, including of a penalty kick.

The Bulldogs (3-2) hosted Haldane on Thursday (Sept. 21) and travel to Liberty on Tuesday.

BOYS' SOCCER — Beacon defeated O’Neill at home on Tuesday (Sept. 19) to improve to 3-2. Nick Lentini, Josue Pintado and Brody Timm each scored. Lentini continues his great form to start the season, with five goals in five games.

The Bulldogs go to Chester today (Sept.

22) before hosting Port Jervis on Wednesday and Cornwall on Thursday. Both games start at 4:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL — The Bulldogs went down on Sept. 14 for the first time this season, dropping a 3-1 decision to Franklin D. Roosevelt (25-21, 28-26, 13-25, 25-22). The squad bounced back on Monday (Sept. 18) to defeat Port Jervis (25-16, 25-13, 29-27). Lila Burke had 18 kills, Allie Thomas had 27 assists and Evy Diebboll had 13 digs.

On Wednesday, the Bulldogs defeated Liberty (25-5, 25-13, 25-18) to improve to 5-1. The team travels to Newburgh Free Academy today (Sept. 22) and Goshen on Wednesday.

GIRLS' SWIMMING — Beacon hosted three schools for a meet on Sept. 14, finishing third behind Red Hook and Lourdes.

Beacon had five swimmers or teams score points. The 200 free relay team finished second in 1:58.93 and the 400 free relay was second in 4:30.62; Meara Kumar was second in the 100 backstroke in 1:15.55; Lauren Antonucci was fourth in the 100 fly in 1:30.38; and Saniyah Wiltshire was fifth in the 100 free in 1:05.37.

On Wednesday (Sept. 20), Beacon defeated Middletown, 93-83. Kumar won the 50 free in 29.16; Wiltshire took the 500 free in 6:44.02; and Serena Stampleman was first in the 100 breaststroke in 1:19.56. The team also won the 200 free and 200 medley relays.

The Bulldogs (2-3) host Newburgh and Valley Central on Wednesday (Sept. 27).

CROSS-COUNTRY — The Bulldogs hosted Cornwall and Monticello on Tuesday (Sept. 19), with Cornwall picking up wins in both the boys’ and girls’ races. The top finishers for Beacon were Henry Reinke and August Wright, and for the girls, Rachel Thorne and Cecilia Allee. The team next runs in the Bowdoin Classic in Wappingers Falls on Saturday (Sept. 23).

GIRLS' TENNIS — Beacon picked up a convincing 5-0 win over Franklin Roosevelt on Tuesday (Sept. 19) behind Bethany Rudolph, Addison Miller and Nina Rivers in singles and Vanessa Campanelli and Willa Freedman at doubles.

The Bulldogs (3-1) host Washingtonville today (Sept. 22) before traveling to Warwick on Tuesday, hosting Minisink Valley on Wednesday and visiting Goshen on Thursday.

GIRLS IN SPORTS — Girls in grades 3 to 8 are invited to attend a camp from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday (Sept. 23) at Beacon High School to try out sports offered by the district and meet the coaches. The cost is \$25, which includes lunch and a T-shirt. Register at bit.ly/BCSD-girls-sports.