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)

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 Rilson, 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)
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. This version has two dams coming down. This version has two dams coming down. This version has two dams coming down.

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?
I was pretty surprised. I'm not sure why; I read pretty much everything else.

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.

5 QUESTIONS: Jon Bowermaster

By Michael Turton

Are you into poetry?
No, I never read poetry.

by Adam Abdel, Cold Spring

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

by Milton David, Beacon

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

by Pat Varveri, Cold Spring

All tickets available at www.philipstowndepottheatre.org
Library Committee, said on Sept. 12 she had
the Libraries and Education Technology
with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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.

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 Investi-
tigator Randel Hill rightfully believed that
satisfactory 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
the Philipstown Trails Committee.

Ramirez, the former co-owner of The
Cold Spring Cheese Shop, will “collaborate with local
groups and individuals to continue fostering commu-
nity 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
Philpistown Trails Committee.

By Peter Van Severen

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.

Rebecca Ramirez, the
former co-owner of The
Cold Spring Cheese Shop,
will “collaborate with local
groups and individuals to
continue fostering commu-
nity involvement and
engagement in Fjord Trail planning,” among other
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Philpistown Trails Committee.

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 Garri-
son 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.

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 coun-
try and two in New York state (along with
Bronxville) to receive the honor in 2023.

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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.

Go to website to sign up:
www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Join environmental educator
Pete Salmansohn for fun
sensory awareness activities,
all designed for helping both
big and little people tune
into nature. Registrations
are necessary due to large
demand. (Max. of 16)

Hubbard lodge is just north of
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LETTERS AND COMMENTS
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.

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, unclean 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.

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 openness; 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

Philippstown taxes
Once again, when discussing school consolidation, Philippstown 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 reevaluation 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” (“Philippstown: No Money to Adjust Home Values,” Sept. 15).

How can Philippstown 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 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 Philippstown. 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
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 became eligible for retirement under the New York State Teachers' Retirement System on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 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, 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.

Church

(From Page 1)

its founders began worshipping 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 owners.

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 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.”

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
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 Yunice 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 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.

“Those are the reasons we’re here as leaders, to be able to make that decision.”

~ Alena Kush, School Board Member

“Those is 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 Erzin 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 calendar, instead referring to each district calendar as Indigenous Peoples’ 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.

“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.

There are local elections on November 7*

VOTE FOR

John VanTassel
FOR PHILIPSTOWN TOWN SUPERVISOR

Robert (Bob) Flaherty
FOR PHILIPSTOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Judy Farrell
FOR PHILIPSTOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Reelect Philipstown leaders who dedicate full-time commitment to managing everything from municipal operations, to town-wide infrastructure while balancing tight budgets, collaborating with Putnam representatives and negotiating with State and Federal officials to keep Philipstown a great place to live and work.

*Early voting Saturday, October 28 - Sunday, November 5

Ad paid for by Philipstown Democrats
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 wind up in 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 Kyrias 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 32 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 the 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

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 first step in adaptively using” 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 rezonings 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 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 cellphone 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.

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
Truckin’? Maybe Not in Early Morning on Peekskill Road

Also, Nelsonville continues storm-related follow-up

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

“K"eep on truckin’” became popu-
lar 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, strug-
gling machine gun. “It’s just horrible.”

Trustee Dave Moroney, a resident of Fish-
kil Avenue, a few blocks away, observed that the traffic occurs in late afternoon as well and that the trucks, mostly based in Rock-
land 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 Depart-
ment of Public Works. Thomas Peighery, 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 solu-
tion can be,” she said. “But it’s multi-juris-
dictional. 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 damag-
ed 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 ardu-
ous,” 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 prop-
erty 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 work-
shop, 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 Coun-
cilor 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 commit-
tee that drafted the plan, emphasized that it would not only assist public acquisition of land but aid owners wishing to preserve environment-
ally crucial areas without selling them.

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust offered its expertise in preparing the document and a Garrison resident, Clau-
dio 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 drop-
ning off food scraps at the town recycling center-old landfill on Lane Gate Road.

Flaherty said extending the time perm-
ently depends on sufficient use.

Philipstown food-scrap salvaging advo-
cates report that the program collects, on average, 700 pounds a week, or more than 17 tons yearly.
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

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.

Photo provided

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

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2023 GALA
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

Raise a glass to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival with cocktails, dinner, performances, and a live auction. Join us to honor MARGOT HARLEY, producer and co-founder of The Acting Company and MARIT KULLESEID, Board President Emeritus.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE 2023 GALA LEADERS

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Get tickets, bid in our online auction, and learn more at hvshakespeare.org/gala.
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 composition-based improvisations that have been improvised on, while Hindustani is northern 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 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 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

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)
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

** Payload with images, tables, and diagrams**

**COMMUNITY**

**SAT 23**

**Cold Spring Lions BBQ**

7 p.m.

Taconic Outdoor Education Center

75 Mountain Laurel Lane
coldspringscions.org

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

**SAT 23**

**Putnam Culture Fest**

KENT

11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Park

201 Gypsy Trail Road
tby/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**

**Nourish Our Neighbors**

BEACON

7 p.m.

Howland Cultural Center

313 Main St.
butterfieldlibrary.org

For their third annual fundraiser sale, the library and residents will sell household items, clothing, toys and other items. **Cost: $35**

**SAT 24**

**Putnam Craft Fair**

GARRISON

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

73 First St.
exhibits@putnamhistorymuseum.org

More than 60 artists, crafters, designers and makers will display their wares at the 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**

**Spirit of 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

**SAT 30**

**Walk-a-Thon**

GARRISON

11 a.m.

St. Mary’s Church | 1 Chestnut St.
garrisonartcenter.org

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

**SAT 23**

**High Holidays**

MON 25

Yom Kippur

GARRISON

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**

GARRISON

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

Martin 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.

DiaBeacon | 3 Beeckman 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, Nila 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 **Nakedly 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. 15.

**SUN 24**

**Hudson Valley Ramble**

NEWBURGH

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Various

tthursdaymorningwalkers.org

This annual event, more than 100 artists’ work will be on view through a self-guided tour. Visit the sculpture installed at Glenlyon 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.

**SUN 24**

**Disaster Preparedness Training**

GARRISON

6 p.m.

DiaBeacon | 3 Beeckman St.
845-424-3020

diaart.org

Learn about the tools and

**TALKS & TOURS**

**SAT 23**

**Solutions to the Food Waste Problem**

MAHOPAC

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 Fiskhill**

COLD SPRING

11 a.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church

5 Elm St.
eventbrite.com/o/fishkill-historical-society

As part of a larger program, Fishkill’s Indian Boundary will present a reenactment of the trial of Major André. An 18th-century actor, Gary Petagine, will dramatize the 1780 trial of the British officer who conspired with Benedict Arnold. As part of the larger program, Fishkill’s Indian Boundary will present a reenactment of the trial of Major André. An 18th-century actor, Gary Petagine, will dramatize the 1780 trial of the British officer who conspired with Benedict Arnold. **Cost: $15 ($10 students)**
resource available to prepare for severe weather. Registration required.

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**SAT 23**

**Blue Family Fun**

**Magic & Music**

**PHILIPSTOWN**

9 a.m. Hubbard Lodge | 9290 Route 9
philipstowndemocrats.org

Marco the Magician and Louise 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

**SUN 1**

**Family Hike**

**PHILIPSTOWN**

2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge | 9290 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

**SUN 24**

**Bryce Edwards Frivollity 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 Rattmann (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), Daman Banks (electric bass) and Sameer Gupta (drums), will perform classical South Indian music. See Page 11. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

**FRI 29**

**Orleans**

**PEEKSKILL**

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Founders Lane 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 Benz and Chris Knoeppel will open. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

**SAT 23**

**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 Peeks Kill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

John Brown’s multimedia performance includes storytelling, visual art and music based on a long-term collaborative project with Sapti, an Indian 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 Morrison (bass). Carills/Seville opens. Cost: $26 ($20 door)

**SUN 1**

**State Assembly Office Hours**

**BEACON**

1 – 4 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
yassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levensberg

Staff members for Assembly Member Dana Levensberg, 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

**MON 25**

**Village Board**

**BEACON**

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

**WED 27**

**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**

**Community Playwriting Workshop**

**GARRISON**

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-265-3040
desmondfishlibrary.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 Scarfato, 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.

**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.
By The River (from Page II)

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 shutdown 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 Korak, 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.”

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.

By The River

**“TOME II (Fremont Cottonwood) at dusk, Rio Grande,” by Basia Irland**

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

**“Ablation Zone 5,” by Jaanika Peerna**

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**Stonecrop Gardens**

**Uprooted - A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again**

Lecture and book signing with Page Dickey

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](http://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-bloom in mid-September? — I just wanted to celebrate the last of this summer’s sweet corn before it disappeared.

I just wanted to celebrate the last of this summer’s sweet corn before it disappeared. I just wanted to celebrate the last of this summer’s sweet corn before it disappeared. 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 organic sweet corn, bringing the summer’s sweet corn before it disappeared.

Organic sweet corn, bringing the summer’s sweet corn before it disappeared. Organic sweet corn, bringing the summer’s sweet corn before it disappeared. Organic sweet corn, bringing the summer’s sweet corn before it disappeared.

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 peeling 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 the season, 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)
1 medium shallot, minced
1 cup risotto rice (Arborio, Carnaroli, Vialone Nano or Spanish Bomba)
¼ cup white wine
6 cups stock — vegetable, chicken, corn (see note in story) or water
2 cups fresh sweet corn kernels

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 ladlesful of stock and stir, cooking until it too is absorbed. Continue this procedure, adding a ladlesful of stock whenever the mixture begins to appear dry.

4. At approximately the 20-minute mark of cooking, add the corn kernels and another ladlesful 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 ladlesful 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 dinily 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.

“Weak 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. “I 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 a part-time teacher and teaches part-time at Dutchess Community College.

Asked how she is doing, Cooper says, “We’re doing OK.”

Christopher Sjoholm

When he wasn’t in class, Christopher Sjoholm 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, he was winding down. The draft was suspended in January 1973.

After graduating, Sjoholm 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 knew 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.”

(Continued on Page 17)
“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 grandchildren.

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 school started, 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 had amazing 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 Quinns 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.

“When 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.”

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 Quinns and the Yankee Clipper. The library was located in what is today the Howland Cultural Center. (It moved to its present location in 1976.)

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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 Kiwanian 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, attended 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.
The composer of this famous song visited Beacon in 1923.
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.

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

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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 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 Restoration 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.
M ost 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.”

The bike is not pristine, and Rathe likes 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 Davisons 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 replicated 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 1946 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 65 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 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.”
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
CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

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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 (incl. 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 evelyncarrwhite@gmail.com.

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Puzzles

CrossCurrent

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

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
13. Current measure
14. Kidnapper’s demand
15. European peninsula
16. Venetian blind part
17. Suffix for million
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WordLadder

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

LARGE

BILGE

MicroCrossword

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
4. Microwaved
7. State of wonder

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
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 Villala 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 — Villala 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 Gretna 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-van West, 4-0. Reilly Landsi and Devyn Kelly each had two goals, and Emma Campgiorni scored and goalie Gabrielle Kuka had seven saves, including third behind Red Hook and Lourdes.

Haldane traveled to Beacon on Thursday (Sept. 21). On Saturday, the Blue Devils will host Pleasantville at 11 a.m. for homecoming; on Tuesday they travel to Croton-Harmon.

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

FOOTBALL — The Bulldogs defeated O’Neill on 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, Alle Thomas had 27 assists and Evy Dieboll had 13 digs.

On Wednesday, the Bulldogs lost 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, 53-83. Kumar won the 50 free in 29.16; Wiltshire took the 500 free in 5:44.02; and Serena Stampelean 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 (3-3) hosted 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.

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 Jazzhah Whitted to Kavon Ricketts on fourth and 8 was called back for offensive pass interference. The redo on fourth and 22 was an incompletion. 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 Landis and Devyn Kelly each had two goals, and Emma Campgiorni kept a clean sheet with three saves as goal. On Tuesday, 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 third behind Red Hook and Lourdes.

On Wednesday, the Bulldogs hosted Minisink Valley on Wednesday (Sept. 27).

GIRLS’ SWIMMING — 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 (3-3) hosted 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.