

The HIGHLANDS Current



Fill a Bowl
Page 17

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Beacon Students Seek Contraceptives in School

New York State would have to approve policy
By Jeff Simms

Students for Gender Equality, a club at Beacon High School, has asked the school board to allow the high school nurse to distribute condoms to students.

Ella Cason, Nico McKible and Mia Nelsen-Cheyne, all seniors, spoke during the public-comment portion of the board's Oct. 2 meeting. The students said they had collected 75 signatures during Spirit of Beacon Day supporting the availability of contraceptives at the high school.

"We believe allowing students to access contraceptives will encourage teenagers to consider safer options and would be a better dialogue to discuss sexual health and safety," Cason told the board. "It is up to us as a community to protect our students and make sure they are making decisions that help keep them safe."

McKible, a co-president of Students for Gender Equality, said this week that the school nurse, who is the club adviser, told the students that condoms are not available. "That was surprising to us," McKible

(Continued on Page 10)



Gena Wirth and Amy Kacala stand in view of Storm King. Photo by B. Cronin

Can the Landscape Change Behavior?

Walking the Fjord Trail with its architect

By Brian PJ Cronin

There are many ways to describe the Breakneck Ridge train station, but "welcoming" isn't one of them.

Jutting up from the cracked ground is a vast thicket of such invasive plants as tree of heaven and barberry, which not only don't provide habitat or nutrition for native wildlife but are the preferred homes

of spotted lanternflies and black-legged ticks, respectively. Cars roar by, choking the air with exhaust and noise. There's no shelter from the elements. Concrete blocks and barriers are the only places to sit. And the station is hemmed in with a towering chain-link fence, blocking the view of Storm King, the mountain that led to the formation of Scenic Hudson in 1963 when citizens banded together to stop a power plant from being built into its north face.

"You're in the birthplace of modern

(Continued on Page 20)

How They Voted

Governor signs round of bills passed by state legislators

By Chip Rowe

Through this week, Gov. Kathy Hochul had enacted 521 bills passed during the 2023-24 legislative session, which ended in June.

Below are summaries of select laws and the votes cast by Republican Rob Rolison (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Dana Levenberg (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon).

Wage theft

Hochul on Sept. 6 enacted legislation to make "wage theft" a form of larceny, allowing prosecutors to pursue stiffer penalties. Wage theft can include not paying overtime to hourly workers, paying less than the minimum wage, not providing required breaks, misclassifying employees as contractors, withholding final paychecks or not providing reimbursement for expenses. According to the bill's sponsors, the practice is pervasive among undocumented and low-income workers and in the construction industry.

Passed by Senate, 61-0
Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 140-4
Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

(Continued on Page 7)

Pet Paramedics to the Rescue

Fishkill ambulance specializes in animal patients
By Leonard Sparks

Michelle Scarchilli remembers the first call to VetMedics, the pet ambulance and house-call company she launched in 2012 in Fishkill.

It came from a family whose dog had given birth. A longtime veterinary technician, Scarchilli checked the condition of the puppies and instructed the owners on the need to keep them warm and nursing.

More calls came: a gravely ill, 237-pound mastiff who needed to be transported to a hospital at 3 a.m.; a goat with pneumonia who needed to be driven to Cornell University's vet school for treatment; a dog hit by a train in Orange County; canines sick from

eating marijuana edibles.

In 2018, Scarchilli found herself face first in a hole in Beacon, burrowing to rescue an over-eager dachshund who literally went down a rabbit hole in pursuit of a bunny and became stuck nearly 4 feet under.

In a world where our emotional attachments to pets can be as strong as the bonds between humans, the VetMedics ambulance has become a savior to distressed owners.

"To be a part of an animal healing and see it live on is awesome," Scarchilli said.

She was working at a veterinary hospital when, inspired by complaints from pet owners about the difficulty in transporting large dogs for care and a lack of options for seniors who no longer drive, she considered creating a pet ambulance.

(Continued on Page 9)



Michelle Scarchilli, the owner of VetMedics, and longtime assistant Joe Steinfeld stand outside the company's ambulance. Photo by L. Sparks

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: CALLI ROTHBERG

By Alana Semuels

Calli Rothberg is the owner of Passion — The Adult Dance Studio in Beacon, which she opened in 2022. Her responses are excerpted from an interview for the *Beaconites* podcast.

What do you do at Passion?

One, I'm teaching dance. Beyond that, I'm trying to build a community of like-minded people who want to find joy, pleasure and fun in life. As adults, we don't always have those spaces that are just for us. Fun and pleasure can be an afterthought — besides going to a bar and drinking. Which is fun, but we want to do other things too, right? In terms of classes, we have classic nia technique, hip-hop, samba. I teach heels; putting on a pair of heels just does something. It's like putting on a costume. You can find a different energy that you don't get to put out there every day.

What inspired you to open the studio?

I work remotely in the tech industry. COVID made me move back to Beacon, where I grew up. I was living in Charleston, South Carolina, but I didn't have any family there. I come from a large Beacon family, and I'm the oldest of five kids. We all moved home, all five of us. I missed dance. In Charleston I had found this dance studio that had an adult



Photo by Michael Isabell

program, where we would put on performances. It was called The Bad Girls Club. Just from that name, you can catch the vibe.

You were wearing heels, I assume.

Heels, minimal clothing. It was raunchy. I loved that community and missed it. I was not in a great place during the pandemic. I had gone from living this amazing life performing in Charleston and getting some of my first paid gigs for dancing to living at home at 28 and working long hours. I decided to find a coach. She was a sex-and-pleasure coach.

You'll think immediately about the act of sex, but it's so much more than that. You can think about it more as a life coach. How can we bring pleasure to the small things in life — even washing the dishes? She just helped me to get into my body. She's also a movement coach, so it wasn't as much talk therapy. It was more than 50 percent movement. Through movement, she helped me get over my fear. I knew that I wanted to do this, even in Charleston, but there was so much fear of failure.

Your mom goes to some of the classes, right?

My mom is like my right hand. She goes to all of the classes. She's a McElduff. Anyone from Beacon knows the McElduffs. She is No. 9 of 11 siblings.

I've heard your family's house is the second-oldest in Beacon, after Madam Brett's homestead. True?

Yes. It's the oldest "lived-in" house, we like to say. It was built in 1794. An old house is creaky. You can't sneak around. In the dining room there's a hole in one of the floorboards that goes into the basement, and sometimes we would pass secret messages through the floor. One time we were redoing the siding and my dad found multiple pairs of old shoes. One of my friends in high school came into school one day and said, "Calli, your house is on Wikipedia."

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What sport could we do without?

“Mixed martial arts. It's too violent and bloody.”



Christian Soto, Beacon

“Ping pong. It's not physical enough.”



Abraham Soto, Beacon

“Horse racing. A lot of horses get killed or injured.”



Margaret Hayford, Cold Spring



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Oct 29 Tom Benjamin

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Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ At the Wednesday (Oct. 11) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Mayor Kathleen Foley described the previous weekend as “mayhem” because of the number of visitors, including nearly 400 passengers from a Seastreak fall cruise, and heavy vehicle traffic that led to safety and parking issues in restricted areas on Wall Street and Fair Street. According to the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, 187 Seastreak passengers are expected today (Oct. 13), 402 on Saturday and 252 on Sunday.

■ Foley emphasized the importance of two public hearings scheduled for Oct. 18, at which the board will hear resident comments on updates to Village Code chapters dealing with vehicles, traffic and parking. The code revisions, she said, will “operationalize resident parking and set controls in place in areas where we don’t have as much control as we need.” The mayor said she will outline a proposal next week to limit bus traffic to a loop that includes Route 301 (Main Street), Route 9D

(Morris Avenue / Chestnut Street) and Fair Street. The Chestnut Street spur would be designated as a bus parking area.

■ Foley commented on the recent budget address by Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne, which she attended with Trustee Eliza Starbuck. “Their budget is \$195 million,” Foley said, including \$59 million in sales tax revenue. She added that the Municipal Partnership Initiative, a competitive process for county grants among the six towns and three villages, is \$250,000, an amount she described as “disappointing.”

“It’s clear we have to look at other alternatives; tax sharing is not coming,” Foley said. Putnam is one of a few New York state counties that does not share sales tax revenue with the towns and villages where it is collected, although county officials say it provides many services for municipalities instead.

■ Village officials met recently with Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives to assess damages to several village properties caused by the

summer’s severe storms, including to the pedestrian tunnel under the Metro-North tracks; culverts on Fish and Fair streets, including beneath the Mayor’s Park parking lot; and the area around the Visitor Center at the foot of upper Main. FEMA will reimburse the village for emergency repairs but funding for long-term fixes requires engineering plans. “What FEMA doesn’t want is to pay for the same mistake over and over,” Foley said.

■ The Cold Spring Police Department responded to 67 calls for service in September. Officers issued 12 traffic and 47 parking tickets. There were no arrests. Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke said as a result of the recent attacks in the Middle East, the department has increased patrols around churches and the local synagogue that uses St. Mary’s for its services. The Cold Spring Fire Co. answered 11 calls, including a structure fire and a transformer fire.

■ Water Superintendent Matt Kroog said that more than 8 inches of rain in September raised village reservoirs to 98.9 percent

capacity. At the same time last year, the reservoirs were at 62 percent.

■ The Historic District Review Board approved an additional window required for retail space on the ground floor of Building 1, the final phase of construction at the Butterfield redevelopment project on Route 9D.

■ Jeff Amato, who chairs the Recreation Commission, has joined the board of Friends of Philipstown, a nonprofit that supports the Philipstown Recreation Department. Cold Spring’s commission, which is working on plans for a dog run at Mayor’s Park, can raise money for its projects under the umbrella of the Philipstown organization.

■ On-street parking regulations were suspended on Marion Avenue to facilitate snow removal this winter. The village will again offer up to 25 winter parking permits for the municipal lot on Fair Street for \$40.

■ During public comment, Kemble Avenue resident Joe Meyer asked the board to limit how long cars can be parked on that street, noting that vehicles are often “stored” there for extended periods.

Philipstown Proposes 8.4% Tax Increase

Town Board plans to exceed cap for 2024

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board last week said it planned to exceed a state-mandated 2 percent cap on property-tax hikes and could increase taxes by 8.4 percent for 2024.

The board is considering a budget of nearly \$12.9 million, with a tax levy of \$9.5 million. At the board’s Oct. 5 meeting, Supervisor John Van Tassel said the increase would be 9.1 percent but that was adjusted after reviewing the numbers.

To fund the spending, the board voted 4-1 to pursue passage of a local law allowing it to override the tax cap. Unlike school boards, town boards need not conduct a voter referendum but must approve an override vote by at least 60 percent. A public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday (Oct. 18) at Town Hall.

In addition to the \$9.5 million in taxes, the draft budget anticipates the town will receive \$2.46 million in revenue and take \$900,000 from its savings.

When the board discussed the budget at the Oct. 5 meeting, Van Tassel attributed the town’s fiscal woes to dips in income from mortgage taxes, which are down 30 percent; a drop in fees collected for Recreation Department programs; and the cost of supplying water to the Garrison’s Landing and Continental Village districts during infrastructure upgrades.

“We’ve hit bottom,” Van Tassel said. “We’ve gotten to the point where we need

to exceed the 2 percent cap. I know that’s hard to swallow.”

The board will conduct budget workshops with town agencies, fire departments and ambulance services during the rest of the month as it continues to refine the draft. “We probably will whittle this down a little bit,” the supervisor said. Typically, the board goes through three budget drafts before adopting a final version in November.

Under the initial draft, the four Town Board councilors in 2024 will each earn \$18,000, as they did in 2023 and 2022, and the supervisor will again collect \$27,000.

However, some officials and employees will receive raises. The salary for the elected town clerk and tax collector position, held by Tara Percacciolo, will increase by about 4 percent, to \$67,000, and the elected highway superintendent, currently Adam Hotaling, will rise by about 5 percent, to \$100,000.

Keeping salaries at 2023 levels makes only “a minuscule amount of difference,” Van Tassel said, expressing fears that Philipstown could lose good salaried staff without the pay boosts.

Councilor Judy Farrell, who cast the lone “no” vote on the preparatory override measure, voiced concerns about higher taxes. She also expressed frustration that the Garrison’s Landing water district has been “draining a lot of funds out of our budget for the last few years.” She added: “It’s vital, of course, that we provide water,” but “we have other needs to fund,” too.

Van Tassel and Councilor Robert Flaherty

reported that, after intensive efforts, the town located a new well to serve Garrison’s Landing but that the town must still buy water because pipe connections remain unfinished.


Councilor Jason Angell joined Van Tassel, Flaherty and Megan Cotter in backing the tax-cap override but said that, in considering the property-tax structure, “I can’t help thinking about the assessment system it’s built on.” He recommended that a tax-cap override measure include the Town Board’s support for seeking funds to assist with a town-wide revaluation.

“Our system is not perfect. It’s what we can afford,” Van Tassel replied. Moreover, he maintained, a revaluation “has nothing to do with our current budget, nothing whatsoever.” However, he agreed that Angell should research options for a revaluation. “If we can afford to do it, I think it would be a service to Philipstown,” he said.

Meanwhile, he added, the town might identify properties with present assess-

ments “way out of whack, and bring them into line.” However, state law fails to provide a way to reassess an individual property unless improvements have been made to it. That situation creates discrepancies which fuel calls for a town-wide revaluation.

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“We’ve gotten to the point where we need to exceed the 2 percent cap. I know that’s hard to swallow.”

~ Supervisor John Van Tassel

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Hamilton Fish

Hamilton Fish III was my grandfather. I was present when he and Alice Desmond began their discussions about founding a community library in Garrison as their shared legacy. I worked with them and many others to help achieve their vision and I served on the library board for decades. I am disappointed by the prospect of changing the library's name in reaction to an incomplete and sensationalistic story of his life ("Desmond-Fish Library Posts Survey," Oct. 6).

My grandfather was a tough man. He fought for what he thought was right and devoted much of his life to serving our country.

His political career was influenced by his early experiences as an officer in the 369th Infantry Regiment of mostly African American soldiers known as the Harlem Hellfighters. The 369th spent 191 days in front-line trenches, more than any other American unit. They also suffered the most casualties of any American unit and were the first Allied Forces soldiers to cross the Rhine into Germany. Obviously, serving in such a unit could create an indelible memory of the horrors of war. It's not surprising that my grandfather subsequently fought to avoid another world war.

He also maintained an almost paranoid fear of Communism. In my view, this belief may have caused him to underestimate other serious dangers in the world. He felt

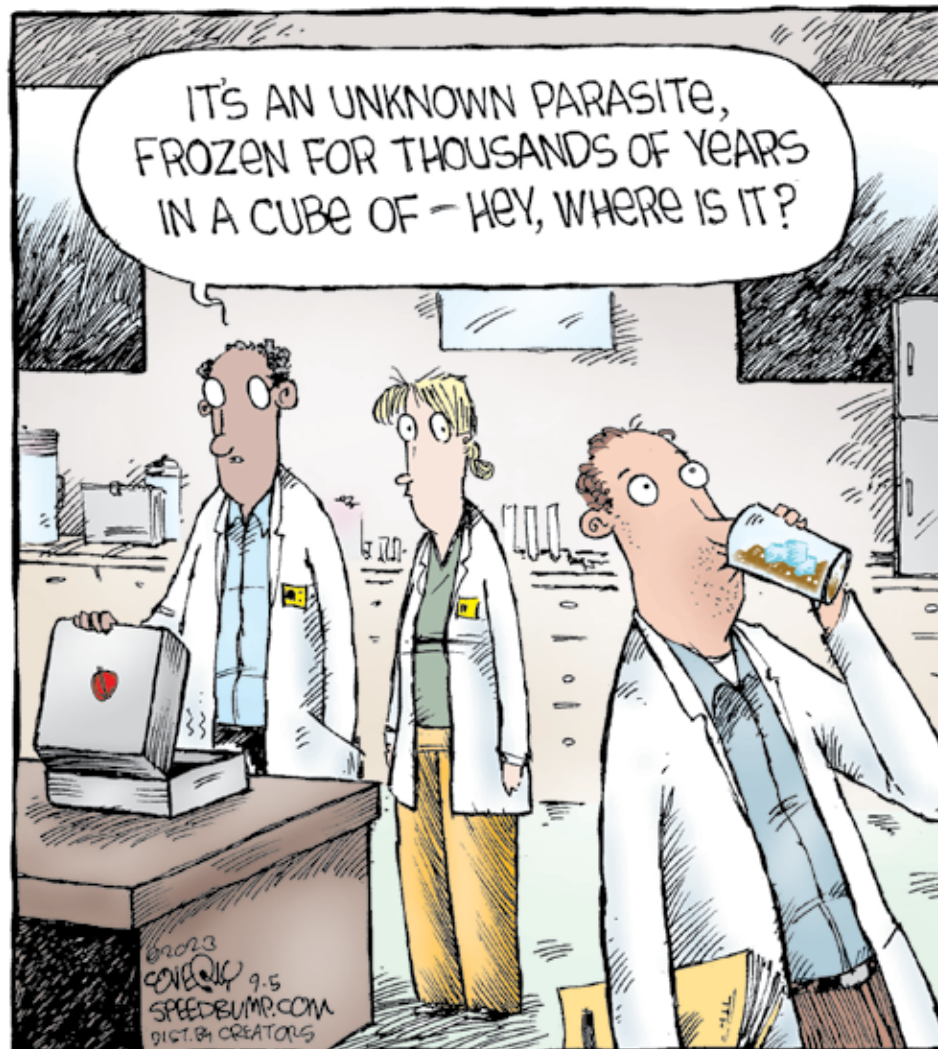
surrounded by enemies and individuals who didn't subscribe to his views. He knew that Franklin Roosevelt was trying to undermine him, but I doubt he suspected the British Secret Service of plotting against him.

It's indisputable that my grandfather was responsible for many admirable accomplishments. In 1988, for his 100th birthday, he received a letter from Moshe Arad, the Israeli ambassador to the U.S., praising his unflagging support of Israel. Some people discount these accomplishments and argue that he showed lapses of judgment. But he was an elected leader navigating a world in crisis when there were no easy answers and enemies appeared everywhere. Could one of us have done better? We'll never know.

It's easy to be judgmental, particularly when that person can't defend him or herself. Maybe it's just a sign of our times that we seek to judge rather than to understand.

It's striking to me that Arad, the official envoy of the State of Israel, spoke so glowingly of my grandfather as a champion of Israel. He made these statements even though various accusations against my grandfather were well known and more than 30 years closer in time than today. I respectfully request that anyone who chooses to condemn my grandfather ask themselves why they are more qualified to judge a man's legacy.

My grandfather was not a perfect man.



Corrections

In a story that appeared in our Oct. 6 issue, we reversed two addresses. Distortion Society is moving from 172 Main St. in Beacon across the street to 155 Main St. and will open there on Saturday (Oct. 14).

A photo caption in the Oct. 6 issue misidentified one of the chicken people as Joe Cogliandro. In fact, it was Richard Cogliandro.

But he wasn't a bad man. I am proud to be his grandson.

Russell Pyne, *Atherton, California*

It is disgusting to feed into misguided activism and Diversity-Equity-Inclusion ideologies that only want to divide us with imaginary hate and the rewriting of history. In doing so, you teach generations that long-lost contributors were hate-filled humans. In changing the name, the library will disgrace our town and all the good it has. Desmond-Fish Library is the name!

Judy McLaughlin, *Garrison*

I'm all for erasing the name of a Nazi sympathizer from public buildings that are taxpayer-funded.

Lori Merhige, *via Facebook*

If they go through with a name change, I'll never go to the library again.

Barbara Scuccimarra, *via Facebook*

The library may be a public building but it wouldn't be here without the generosity of the people whose names are on it. Many people did not know about Fish's past; now they do but they are still using the building because there's knowledge inside, not a man or his one-time beliefs. Let's not hide history but learn from it.

Hamilton Fish is not the man people may have thought he was, but he did do something good for our community. And no one has ever driven by and thought: "That's the library the Nazi built."

Becky Janes, *via Facebook*

The Alice Desmond Library?

Carol Newman, *via Facebook*

Newburgh books

Your periodical is the epitome of "fake news." Your reporter did not do any investigation, made many false statements and sensationalized the story of another bookstore opening in the City of Newburgh ("Newburgh Gets a Bookstore," Oct. 6).

(Continued on Page 5)

My View

Designing Connections

By Christine Ortiz

As we celebrate Hispanic heritage this month, I find myself reflecting on my childhood with immense gratitude for the cultural richness it brought to my life. The members of my family were exceptionally warm, bursting with life and radiated a contagious sense of fun. I strive to bring that same energy to my interior design practice.

I grew up in New York City in a large Puerto Rican family. My grandparents shared 10 children. Impromptu get-togethers and holiday parties consisted of multi-generations of



extended family and friends. All day long and into the night, my grandparents, Mama and Papa (Ana and Rafael), welcomed all. Miraculously, my grandmother always seemed able to feed everyone who came through the door. Did she have a magical bottomless pot of rice? I truly have no idea how she did it. What I do know is her food was amazingly delicious. My favorite meal was her arroz con gandules y perril (yellow rice with pigeon peas and roasted pork shoulder).

We ate well and we danced. There was always music playing. My aunts and uncles all have the most beautiful singing voices and knew every word to every song, both in English and Spanish. On the congas, one of my uncles kept that rhythm going.

The children would line the walls of the

apartment watching the adults dance salsa and merengue. Until they came to get us, because no one was left out. Shyness was not allowed when there was so much fun to be had! Couples, siblings, in-laws and cousins dancing together and sharing in the joy of togetherness. Parties would spill into the hallway of the building. It was New York City in the 1970s; this wasn't unusual.

When my grandparents retired to Puerto Rico, I had the good luck to spend weeks there with them. There was always someone visiting from New York. They had an open kitchen where we could easily watch Mama prepare our favorite foods and hope we'd get a pre-meal taste. With year-round perfect weather, we could eat out on their covered porch to enjoy the front garden, palm trees and each other's company. Laughing in paradise was an even more delightful experience.

The sounds of my childhood — “El Gran Combo” and other salseros, the Caribbean-accented Spanish of Puerto Rico, spoken

impossibly fast, and the aromas of “Comida Criolla” (Criollo food, our soul food) live with me always.

My background serves as a reminder that the heart of any home lies in the moments shared with loved ones, and it has deeply informed my approach to interior design. My focus is to design rooms where clients can unwind and make meaningful connections. I achieve this by carefully blending elements that promote comfort, versatility and functionality for their lifestyle, whether it is for everyday moments or larger gatherings.

Every family has their own traditions, interests and vibe. My goal is to carefully curate spaces that capture the unique spirit of each client so that they can live life to the fullest within their home, creating lasting memories filled with joy.

Ortiz is the owner of Oh! Designs Interiors in Cold Spring. National Hispanic Heritage Month continues through Sunday (Oct. 15).

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Had your reporter done any investigation, she would have known there is already a bookstore in the City of Newburgh. It is The Giving Tree Cafe at 136 Lake St.

Had your reporter interviewed anyone other than this new owner [of Golden Hour Books], she would have found that The Giving Tree Cafe is well known to all city elected officials (as many have made donations of books) and that The Giving Tree Cafe has done several events with the Newburgh Free Library. It has existed at this spot for more than two years.

You write on your site about your reports being “based on facts, either observed or verified directly by the reporter,” of which this was not. I will do everything in my power to expose your publication for the lies it produces. And for clarity, it is my wife who owns the bookstore and I am a New York State Assembly member. I would think you may need to correct this copy ASAP and apologize to your readers. I send this for the purposes of communication should you prefer to keep further discussion of this topic off my Assembly website.

Chris Eachus, *New Windsor*

The editor responds: “We didn’t consider a coffee shop that has used books to be primarily an independent bookstore.”

Teaching across the spectrum

The school districts are not there to help you; the school boards are there to protect the interests of themselves and taxpayers (“Teaching Across the Spectrum,” Oct. 6). They don’t care, and the system in Dutchess County is broken to a point where you have to fight and fight to get your child what he or she needs.

Brian McArtin, *via Instagram*

The first installation of the “Teaching Across the Spectrum” series (Sept. 29) fell short in capturing the appreciation and value that Haldane has for every child — their unique contributions, diverse abilities, perspectives and backgrounds. As several community members shared in response to the article, not only do neurodi-

verse students benefit from being educated in their community, every student benefits from learning alongside their peers.

Haldane is committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn and grow together, to the greatest extent possible, in a learning environment that is safe, welcoming, inclusive and enriching. We firmly believe that our diversity is our strength.

The district has taken several actions over the past year to expand our ability to meet the needs of all learners: (1) The district established a new special class (grades K to 2) as well as a new co-taught class in the elementary school; (2) The district partnered with the Garrison Union Free School District to form another special class for elementary students in grades 3 to 5; (3) The district hired a special-education teacher in the high school to expand the services available to its students.

In addition, (4) The district received a grant from the Putnam County Health Department to secure additional mental health support for high school students through the 2022-23 school year; (5) The district engaged the Public Consulting Group to conduct an independent audit of its special-education services. The results of this audit will continue to be used as a basis in our planning and improvement efforts.

This commitment by the district is not new, and is not a burden as the article infers. Rather, it is a reflection of our guiding principle: The Haldane Central School District believes that inclusivity is essential to providing an equitable and just learning environment for all students.

Philip Benante, *Cold Spring*
Benante is Haldane’s superintendent. The letter was also signed by Regina Kaishian, its director of pupil personnel services

Leafblowers

I agree with Stowe Boyd: It’s getting ridiculous, with everyone blowing the leaves on different days (“Wide Angle: Dirty and Loud,” Oct. 6). There is never any peace. We should leave the leaves or rake to the sides of yards. Many creatures overwin-

ter in the leaves, and they are important for a balanced ecosystem.

Kathie Kourie, *Garrison*

My parents had four kids so they could make us rake leaves while they slept in.

Christine Peterson, *via Facebook*

Thanks for shedding light on a serious and underestimated source of pollution.

Thomas Carrigan, *Cold Spring*

Fishkill Avenue

This city’s inaction is going to lead to a stupid zone in place of these car lots (“Fishkill Avenue Rezoning Could Be Scaled Back,” Oct. 6). We have the opportunity to build an extension of Main Street in Beacon — we can’t build up, so we have to build out. Up or out, City Council. Take some risks and get something done. It’s not like anyone will run against you.

Pedro Rivera, *via Facebook*

St. Mary’s

I was brought up in the Jewish faith. I am not a Christian. I am not even a believer. Yet I am writing this letter to offer my strong support for the future of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring. I read with dismay in last week’s *Current* that the church is in danger of disappearing (“St. Mary’s Again Faces Precipice,” Oct. 6).

I consider the church a local treasure that benefits everyone who walks or drives by the corner of Chestnut and Main, and everyone who has attended events at the sanctuary or parish hall, from the moving Christmas services to events as secular as, for example, Trivia Night. In addition, the great lawn is not just a wonderful sight. It is used regularly: for the garden of remembrance every Memorial Day, for the staging area for community events like the Halloween Parade, for craft sales and for sledding as soon as the snow falls.

I could not agree more with vestry member Vinny Tamagna. The area is rich. If there are not enough people willing to make (tax-deductible) contributions that would total up to \$3 million in this very rich set of commu-

nities (which includes all of Philipstown), then we don’t deserve to have St. Mary’s. The rest of us will do our part, from the highly successful recent thrift sale to individual contributions that number in the thousands rather than the hundreds. And maybe small donations can close the \$50,000 gap for the coming year. But the article makes clear, the church needs an endowment.

Well, folks, it’s up to all of us. Thanks to the church leaders for honestly sharing the facts of the financial crisis.

Michael Meeropol, *Cold Spring*

Hidden brooks

This came up recently with the Planning Board for the subdivision of 44 Kent St. (“Out There: The Buried Streams of Beacon,” Oct. 6). The city engineer forced the developer to relocate the proposed house and driveway so that the city could have future access, if needed, to the covered creek.

I heard from someone who grew up on Verplanck Avenue that one of the houses used to flood often from the creek and the foundations had to be rebuilt because of the damage. You can see the pipes running in the storm drain in front of 155 Verplanck Ave.

James Petty, *Beacon*

NOTICE

The Philipstown Town Board will hold a **Budget Workshop** on Wednesday October 25, 2023 @ 7:30 pm at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 with the following:

- Recreation
- Highway
- Continental Village Park District
- Continental Village Water District

Dated: October 11, 2023
Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk

Beacon Budget Proposes \$100 Tax Bump, Employee Bonuses

As in recent years, new construction reduces tax impact

By Jeff Simms

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou on Tuesday (Oct. 10) introduced the city's proposed 2024 budget, a \$35 million spending plan that includes about a \$100 property tax increase on the average home and a \$1,000 employee-retention bonus for city staff.

The budget proposes a decrease in the residential tax rate for the third straight year; if approved, it would fall to \$5.87 per \$1,000 in assessed value, from \$6.21. However, because home assessments in Beacon continue to rise, City Administrator Chris White estimated that the average (\$400,000) home would see its tax bill increase by about 4 percent, or \$100.

The commercial tax rate would decrease for the second year in a row, this time to \$9.16 per \$1,000 in assessed value, from \$10.68. A \$500,000 commercial parcel would see a 14 percent decrease, or \$760, in its tax bill.

The tax rates are determined in part by what New York State calls "base proportion" percentages. The percentages, which can change from year to year, determine the balance between residential and

commercial properties in making up the city's tax levy, which next year will be \$12.76 million.

In 2024, residential taxes must account for 73 percent of that levy, and commercial taxes 27 percent. The levy is \$536,425 less than what the state-mandated tax cap would allow.

In addition to cost-of-living adjustments, the city has proposed a one-time, \$1,000 bonus for every employee. "The labor market is incredibly tight," White said on Tuesday. "We're having trouble, particularly at the lower salary levels, in holding on to people. Everybody's hiring, and there's a limited pool from which to hire."

Only one new position, a part-time police dispatcher, is proposed for 2024. Two positions created this year — a recreation assistant and deputy building inspector — are retained in the budget. The recreation assistant will allow the city to expand its afterschool programming sites from three to four in early 2024; the summer camp program at University Settlement will also expand by two weeks next year.

The proposed budget would use \$250,000 from savings to balance the \$25.4 million general fund and \$96,500 in savings for the \$4.2 million water fund. The \$5.3 million sewer fund is not expected to draw from savings. Water and sewer fees would increase for city residents by 4 percent and 6 percent, respectively, to cover what city

officials said were rapidly rising costs for supplies and repairs.

On Tuesday, Kyriacou explained that the addition of \$27 million in new construction and renovations to the tax rolls had mitigated the tax increase for residents. "In the face of a challenging budget year, the modest increases we have proposed are aimed to continue moving the city in a positive direction while limiting the tax impact on homeowners," he said.

A public hearing on the budget is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 13; the City Council must approve the spending plan by year-end.

Public comment

The council heard from a dozen residents Tuesday about the proposed rezoning of a mile-long portion of the Fishkill Avenue (Route 52) corridor. Most asked the city to involve public input in the process while seeking an affordable, walkable area that preserves views of Mount Beacon and the Fishkill Ridge.

"The most important thing is that there needs to be community input," said Tina Bernstein, one of the speakers. "And if we truly want community input, there has to be a moratorium on construction in this area. We need to reach out to people in this community where they live. It's not enough to expect people to come to City Council meetings, or to fill out something online."

6 Commerce St.

The council voted 6-1, with Dan Aymar-Blair dissenting, to rezone 6 Commerce St. from a residential classification to the Central Main Street zone, which it abuts. The property owner plans to rent the space for commercial use and requested the change. Aymar-Blair, who represents Ward 4, said in previous meetings that he opposed the change because the property owner should have gone to the Zoning Board of Appeals but in Aymar-Blair's opinion approached the City Council to save on legal fees.

Woman May Avoid Death Penalty in Beacon Case

Jamie Orsini charged with husband in ex's disappearance

By Leonard Sparks

A woman charged in the alleged carjacking and killing of her ex-husband in 2020 after he dropped off their children at her home in Beacon may not face the death penalty.

Damian Williams, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said in a letter to the court that his office had been authorized by the Department of Justice "not to seek the death penalty" in its case against Jamie Orsini, who is charged with conspiring with her husband, Nicholas Orsini, to kill Steven Kraft.

One of the two charges filed against the couple, who are being prosecuted separately, is carjacking resulting in death, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment or death. Prosecutors said in July they were discussing with the Orsinis, who are also charged with conspiracy, "possible disposition of this case without trial," and "whether the government will seek the death penalty."

Police arrested the Orsinis on June 15, charging them in Kraft's disappearance. The Marlboro resident has not been seen since April 28, 2020, after he returned the two daughters he shared with Jamie Orsini to her home on West Church Street following a custody visit.

Prosecutors allege the couple began plotting Kraft's murder at least two days before he disappeared. Security footage and a receipt from the Home Depot on Route 9 in Fishkill showed Jamie Orsini buying, with cash, items that included a 10-foot-by-100-foot tarp, duct tape and a Tyvek suit and boots, according to the complaint.

Following Kraft's disappearance, the Orsinis traveled "extensively" between Beacon and Amsterdam, where Nicholas Orsini's family owns farmland, prosecutors said. Nicholas Orsini drove to Amsterdam the day after Kraft disappeared, according to court documents.

Nicholas Orsini also bought from the Home Depot in Fishkill two 31-gallon galvanized steel trash cans, an angle grinder and ax, three bottles of charcoal lighter fluid, a flame lighter and 16 bundles of firewood, prosecutors said.



HOCUS POCUS
PARADE & EVENTS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 & 28, 2023
ALL ARE WELCOME! COME IN YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME.
BLACK CAT SCAVENGER HUNT - GHOST TOURS & STORIES - MONSTER JAM - COMEDY SHOW
AND SO MUCH MORE IS IN STORES, SHOPS, MAIN STREET AND MEMORIAL PARK!

Friday
Main St. Trick-or-Treating, Black Cat Scavenger Hunt, PLUS: Ghost Tours & Stories!
Pick up scavenger hunt passports at participating stores. Get your passport stamped for every Hocus Pocus black cat you find in participating businesses. Prizes for the more you find! Ghost stories presented by Beacon Walking Tours! More details on the website (listed below) and social media!

Saturday
Black Cat Scavenger Hunt Continues!
Parade!!!!!! (meet at Beacon Welcome Center, Main Street, to Memorial Park!)
Monster Jam After Party (Memorial Park)
Food & beverages, special treats, music, vendors and games
Costume Contest - with prizes! "G-HOSTED" near Memorial Park Pavilion.
Comedy Show (for Adults)

For updated times and events, as well as becoming a sponsor of the Hocus Pocus Parade and Events, and/or being a participating Black Cat Scavenger Hunt Business on Main Street (free to participate) Please go to www.HocusPocusBeacon.com or Scan the QR Code Above!

More: HocusPocusBeacon.com Beacon Chamber Of Commerce Event Want To Be A Sponsor? We Want You To Be One BQO!



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Laurey Goldberg

How They Voted *(from Page 1)*

Red-flag fees

On Sept. 15, Hochel enacted legislation to remove a \$210 fee charged to make a request for an Extreme Risk Protection Order, or a red flag. Since June 2022, family or household members, school officials, police officers, district attorneys and some health care workers can request that a court temporarily prevent people they believe are at risk of harming themselves or others from possessing or purchasing a firearm. But to do so, applicants had to pay an “index number fee.” The law eliminated the fee.

Passed by Senate, 45-17

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 133-14

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Worker rights

On Sept. 14, Hochul signed legislation that requires employers to notify employees that they are eligible for unemployment whenever the employer makes “a permanent or temporary separation of the employee” or substantially reduces that person’s hours.

Passed by Senate, 51-10

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 143-0

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Hochul also signed legislation that prohibits employers from requesting or requiring from employees their personal social media, email or other online usernames, login information and passwords as a condition of hiring, employment or promotions, or for use in a disciplinary action. Rolison said he voted against the bill because “it was amended to specifically exclude law enforcement agencies, fire departments and corrections from its provisions, a clear double standard. The New York State School Boards Association also opposed the legislation.”

Passed by Senate, 43-18

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 123-25

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Red-light cameras

On Sept. 29, Hochul signed legislation allowing Westchester County to install red-light cameras at up to 50 intersections that photograph license plates but not inside the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle is liable for a fine of up to \$50. Eighty percent of the fee goes to the county and 20 percent to the town or village where the violation occurred.

Passed by Senate, 60-2

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 111-38

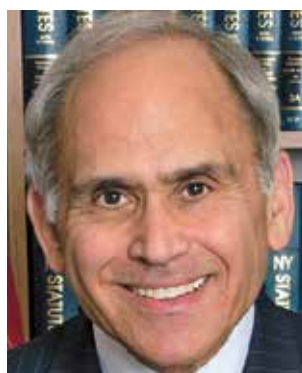
Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Flood risk

On Sept. 22, Hochul signed legislation that requires sellers to inform homebuyers whether a property is located in a flood risk area or has flooded. Before the law was enacted, sellers could provide a \$500 credit at closing to “opt out” of disclosure. The legislation eliminates that provision and requires the seller to share information about flood risk, history and insurance. According to the



Rolison



Jacobson



Levenberg

Natural Resources Defense Council, in 2021 in New York more than 7,500 homes that had been flooded were sold. Rolison said he voted “no” because “this is about seller and buyer choice. Most homeowners choose not to fill out the property disclosure form and credit the buyer. One reason is because they feel it is safer to credit the buyer rather than risk a claim from the buyer for misrepresentation.”

Passed by Senate, 42-21

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 106-38

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Voting reforms

On Sept. 20, Hochul enacted a package of bills concerning voting rights, including:

■ A law that allows absentee ballots to be counted if the envelopes are sealed with tape and show no signs of tampering. Rolison said he voted no because “common sense suggests that tape or paste is an indication that a ballot has been tampered with, yet this legislation would claim the opposite.”

Passed by Senate, 42-21

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 100-48

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

■ A law that allows residents on a “Golden Day” — the first day of early voting — to register to vote and vote on the same visit to the polling station. Rolison said he voted no because “under the current law, an individual submits a voter registration to their local Board of Elections within 10 days of an election. This is a much more secure way of registering individuals to vote as the voter’s data can immediately be entered into the board of elections system. It prevents potential irregularities and imposes no additional burden on the individual voter.”

Passed by Senate, 40-18

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 95-45

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

■ A law that requires election officials to provide at least five days’ notice if they change the location of a polling place for early voting.

Passed by Senate, 61-0

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 140-0

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

■ A law that created a system for early voting by mail that will take effect Jan. 1. Voters will be able to request early voting ballots in any election up to 10 days before an election. The ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day and received no later than seven days after the vote. The ballots

will be distinct from absentee ballots, which are issued when a voter anticipates he or she will not be able to vote in person. (Republicans in Albany have filed suit to block the law.) Rolison said he voted against the bill because “in 2021 voters in our state overwhelmingly rejected a constitutional amendment that would establish no-excuse absentee voting, which is akin to what this bill does.”

Passed by Senate, 41-21

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 94-51

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

■ A law that requires local jails to provide voter registration information to adults who are being released. Rolison said he voted no because the measure “mandates local correctional facilities to maintain records of inmates who decline a voter-registration form, a violation of privacy and the spirit of the secret ballot.”

Passed by Senate, 41-21

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 102-46

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

■ A law that requires the state Board of Elections to develop a mandatory training program for poll workers, with the goal of having a standard curriculum that covers polling place operations, voting systems, diversity and assisting voters with disabilities.

Passed by Senate, 49-12

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 137-4

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

■ A law that requires school boards and private schools to adopt policies that encourage students to register to vote, or pre-register if they are not yet 18 years old. Rolison said he voted no because “young people can pre-register to vote when they are 16 or 17 years old, or when they apply for a driver’s license. This bill, however, would place mandates on charter and private schools to run registration drives, whether they wanted to or not.”

Passed by Senate, 40-21

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 128-15

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

■ A law that bans “forum shopping” in constitutional challenges for election cases by designating specific courts to hear challenges. Rolison said he voted against the bill because “our state constitution provides for a system of checks and balances. The courts have a right, when it acts outside the boundaries of the law, to check the legislature. This bill takes away that right, and limits a plaintiff’s choice of courts to just

four venues, hand-picked by the legislature, in a state of 19 million people.” Levenberg said she voted no because, “while it is important to stop the practice of forum-shopping, this bill came up late in the session and we didn’t spend much time discussing it. Since it is a big change to the way that challenges had been handled in the past and did deal with some constitutional issues, I would have liked more time to research the implications of it before voting. But I am satisfied that the new law will enable claimants to have their cases adjudicated fairly.”

Passed by Senate, 41-19

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 82-62

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

■ A law that prohibits “faithless electors.” New York has 29 electoral votes that go to the presidential candidate who receives the highest number of votes within the state. However, in the past, individuals chosen as members of the Electoral College have cast votes for candidates who did not win. This law requires electors who do that to resign. “Our democracy is under attack; it is up to us to preserve it by ensuring that each and every person’s vote is counted the way it was intended,” said Jonathan Jacobson, whose Assembly district includes Beacon and who sponsored the bill.

Passed by Senate, 57-1

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 145-0

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Telemarketing calls

On Sept. 13, Hochul signed legislation that increased the fine for telemarketers who violate the Do Not Call Registry (donotcall.gov) from \$11,000 (established in 2004) to \$20,000. A law signed by Hochul in December requires telemarketers to give people the option to opt out of future calls before they begin their spiel.

Passed by Senate, 58-0

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 146-1

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Work meetings

On Sept. 6, Hochul signed legislation to prohibit employers from disciplining employees who choose not to participate in meetings reflecting the employer’s political or religious views, such as rallies or recruitment events for parties or civic, fraternal, labor, and church groups. Non-partisan events such as “get-out-the-vote” drives are still permitted.

Passed by Senate, 53-9

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 112-28

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Student councils

On Sept. 7, Hochul enacted a law that requires every high school to have a “peer-selected” student government.

Passed by Senate, 63-0

Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 128-15

Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

(Continued on Page 9)



Outdoor adventure activities across New York & The Northeast:
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anothersummit.org

VetMedics *(from Page 1)*

"I bought a Ford Transit van and outfitted it with everything that we thought an animal with an emergency situation may need," she recalled.

Most requests are still for emergency transport, including animal hospitals transferring patients to other facilities for higher levels of care or specialized tests, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRIs). VetMedics also receives requests from people who prefer to have terminally ill pets euthanized at home.

In addition, Scarchilli and her three technicians provide routine care, such as taking animals to check-up and grooming appointments, and make house calls, such as to administer medications.

It all began with that original Ford Transit; Scarchilli opened its back doors to reveal the tools of the trade: hydraulic gurneys, an oxygen tank, IV pumps, inflatable Ambu bags and muzzles because "hurt animals are pretty protective of themselves," she said. "It's like a little hospital on wheels."

Joe Steinfeld, a former psychiatric social worker employed by the state Office of Mental Health at the Fishkill and Downstate correctional facilities, found that out. He befriended Scarchilli when she worked at the East Fishkill Animal Hospital, where he took his dogs.

“They can become lethargic and, depending on the type of drug, or the amount, they can become agitated.

~ Michelle Starchilli, on dogs that eat overlooked marijuana edibles

After he retired, Steinfeld joined VetMedics. He drives; helps carry large dogs, like the mastiff; and assists when the ambulance transports animals with "temperament issues."

His first emergency call came while he was having coffee with a friend. A hospital needed to transport a dog that had been gored by a deer. "How she kept the dog alive, I still don't know," he said.

Another call brought VetMedics to Forrestal Heights in Beacon. A tenant had died and his two parrots were loose and needed to be caught. One had attacked



Only Michelle Starchilli's legs were visible as she dug in 2018 to rescue a dachshund trapped underground. Photo provided

the medical examiner, said Steinfeld, who volunteers for Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center in Hunter.

Scarchilli said requests for transportation increased during the pandemic, when people stuck at home began acquiring more dogs, cats and other pets. Scarchilli said the pandemic also stands out because they responded to more emergencies involving dogs that had eaten marijuana edibles — "the chocolate chip cookies and the brownies left on the counter."

"They can become lethargic and, depending on the type of drug, or the amount, they can become agitated," she said.

When the owners of these pandemic purchases returned to work, they began calling VetMedics to walk their dogs and sit with their pets, said Scarchilli. That led her to launch a sister company, the Walking Dog Co.

Another sign of growth is a larger Ford Transit sitting at VetMedics' headquarters. Already emblazoned with the company name, logo and phone number, it is being outfitted with electric wiring before being put on the road.

When finished, Scarchilli and her crew will have amenities lacking in the original van, like a ceiling fan, more lighting and a body-warmer. "We will be able to actually stand up and move around," she said.

VetMedics can be reached at 845-202-7200 or vetmedics911.com.

How They Voted *(from Page 7)*

Deepfakes

On Sept. 29, Hochul enacted a bill that makes it illegal to distribute, without a person's consent, sexually explicit digital images created with artificial intelligence, aka "deepfakes." The crime carries a penalty of up to a year in jail. The law becomes effective Dec. 13. It has been illegal in New York since 2019 to distribute explicit images of a person without his or her consent, aka "revenge porn."

Passed by Senate, 61-0
Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 148-0
Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

Lunar New Year

Hochul on Sept. 9 signed legislation making the Asian Lunar New Year a public school holiday. The next Lunar New Year, on Feb. 10, falls on a Saturday but in 2025 will be on a Wednesday (Jan. 29) and in 2026 on a Tuesday (Feb. 17).

Passed by Senate, 62-0
Rolison ☒

Passed by Assembly, 144-0
Jacobson ☒ Levenberg ☒

For how they voted in Congress, see highlandscurrent.org.

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What's Online at Highlands Current.org

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

Local Officials

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

Local Government Video Guide

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

How They Voted (Congress)

Summaries of consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted. Updated weekly when Congress is in session.

Storm Updates and Resources

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

Community Calendar

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

Community Directory

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

Shop Local Online

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

Real-Estate Data

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

Job Search

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

Back Issues

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

Podcast Archives

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

Contraceptives *(from Page 1)*

said. "It felt like something really common-sense that should be taken care of."

Board President Meredith Heuer and Superintendent Matt Landahl told *The Current* that they support making condoms available. Landahl noted that if the district moves forward, the initiative would allow parents to prevent their children from receiving contraceptives.

Although Beacon and Haldane high schools do not distribute contraceptives to students, New York allows public districts to do so under what it calls a Condom Availability Plan. The state must approve a district's plan, and it requires dozens of conditions, such as training for the staff members who will provide "personal health guidance," as well as the formation of an advisory council of parents, school board members, school personnel and community members, including representatives of a religious organization.

In addition, students would be required to complete an HIV/AIDS instructional program before receiving condoms.

Parents would be notified annually about the plan and the opt-out provision. Health guidance provided to students would describe abstinence as a "healthy and safe choice" for responsible sexual behavior, and the most effective way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The school board must also approve the plan, although it is unclear from the state's rubric when in the process that would happen.

Percentage of High School Students Who Have Had Sex

West Virginia	48.9
Missouri	44.3
Texas	42.7
Mississippi	41.3
Pennsylvania	40.6
Florida	36.6
New York	30.3
California	28.1
United States	38.4

Source: Guttmacher Institute, 2019, self-reported by students. Nationally, 57 percent of seniors reported having had sex.

Students in New York City can request free condoms, as well as information about sexual health through health resource rooms. In Rochester, the school board in 2012 approved condom distribution to high school students who had completed a health course that includes HIV/AIDS education and received guidance from a school nurse, including information about abstinence, safe sex, STDs and birth control, along with instruction on how to safely use a condom.

In a national survey this year of 3,480 K-12 school health workers, two-thirds of respondents said their schools or districts don't provide students with contraceptives, including condoms. Last year, a federal judge in Texas ruled that Title X — a national program that would provide confi-

dential and free birth control to anyone, regardless of age — violates parents' rights. Parents must be informed if their children request birth control, the judge said. The ruling is being appealed by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Critics of condom distribution argue that making the contraceptive available in school sends students the wrong message about the safety of sexual activity. In the national survey by *Education Week*, 13 percent of school health workers said the number of pregnant students at their school or district had increased since 2019, while 79 percent said there had been no change.

According to a 2019 survey by the Guttmacher Institute, New York and California have the lowest percentages of high school students who have had sex, at 30 and 28 percent, respectively. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2017 calculated that, in a New York high school classroom with 30 students, seven are sexually active, two have had sex but are not active, and 21 have not had sex.

Of those sexually active, according to the Guttmacher survey, 58 percent of New York students said they had used a condom the last time they had sex. The national average was 54 percent. The percentage of students in New York who used any type of contraceptive was 84.5 percent.

The most recent figures from the state Department of Health found that 163 women aged 15 to 19 in Dutchess County were pregnant in 2016 and 55 percent had abortions, compared to 25 percent of older women.



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Salary Range: \$22 - \$25 per hour

ABOUT CAFÉ SILVIA AT MAGAZZINO ITALIAN ART:

Café Silvia is a charming eatery nestled within the cultural haven of Magazzino Italian Art. Our cafe offers a delightful dining experience to visitors, combining delicious Italian-inspired cuisine with the beauty of contemporary Italian art. We are seeking a passionate and dedicated Line Cook to join our team and contribute to our culinary excellence, working directly with Chef Luca Galli

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Previous experience as a Line Cook or in a similar culinary role.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment while maintaining composure and quality.
- Excellent communication skills and a positive attitude.
- Dedication to culinary excellence and continuous improvement.
- Food handler's certificate or relevant culinary qualifications is a plus.

BENEFITS

- Competitive hourly wage (\$22 - \$25 per hour), commensurate with experience.
- Opportunity to work in a creative and inspiring environment.
- Access to training and professional development opportunities.
- Employee discounts at Café Silvia and Magazzino Italian Art events.

Apply by emailing your resume to Chef Luca Galli at luca@magazzino.art.

Café Silvia at Magazzino Italian Art is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes candidates of all backgrounds to apply. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Fri - October 13 - 8 PM

MIKE + RUTHY (OF THE MAMMALS)

"Some of the best songwriting of their generation."

Tix: \$25 adv or \$30 at the door - howlandculturalcenter.org



Sat + Sun - October 14 + 15 - 1-5 PM

NO NAME | NO SLOGAN - AVANT GARDE EXHIBIT

3 Night Events - Tickets on Sale Now - \$15 adv / door



Hugo Ball Night - Sat 10/14
Greg Miller will offer a lecture. With a live poetry reading from actor, André Herzogovitch, followed by a performance of Talking Heads and Zimbra from various local musicians

David Lynch Night - Fri 10/20
Dan Frome will give a lecture on David Lynch followed by a film screening of Eraserhead (DANIEL FROME is an Editor at HBO)

Arvo Pärt Night - Sat 11/11
Jaanka Peerna presents a visual art performance accompanied by The Brasiles Ensemble and members of The Brasiles Arts Collective singing music by Arvo Pärt, followed by her interview.

Oct 16 / 23 / 30 - ARGENTINE TANGO - CLASS & PRACTICE

Oct 17 - DAN GARCIA - CLASSICAL GUITAR

Oct 27 - OPEN MIC NIGHT

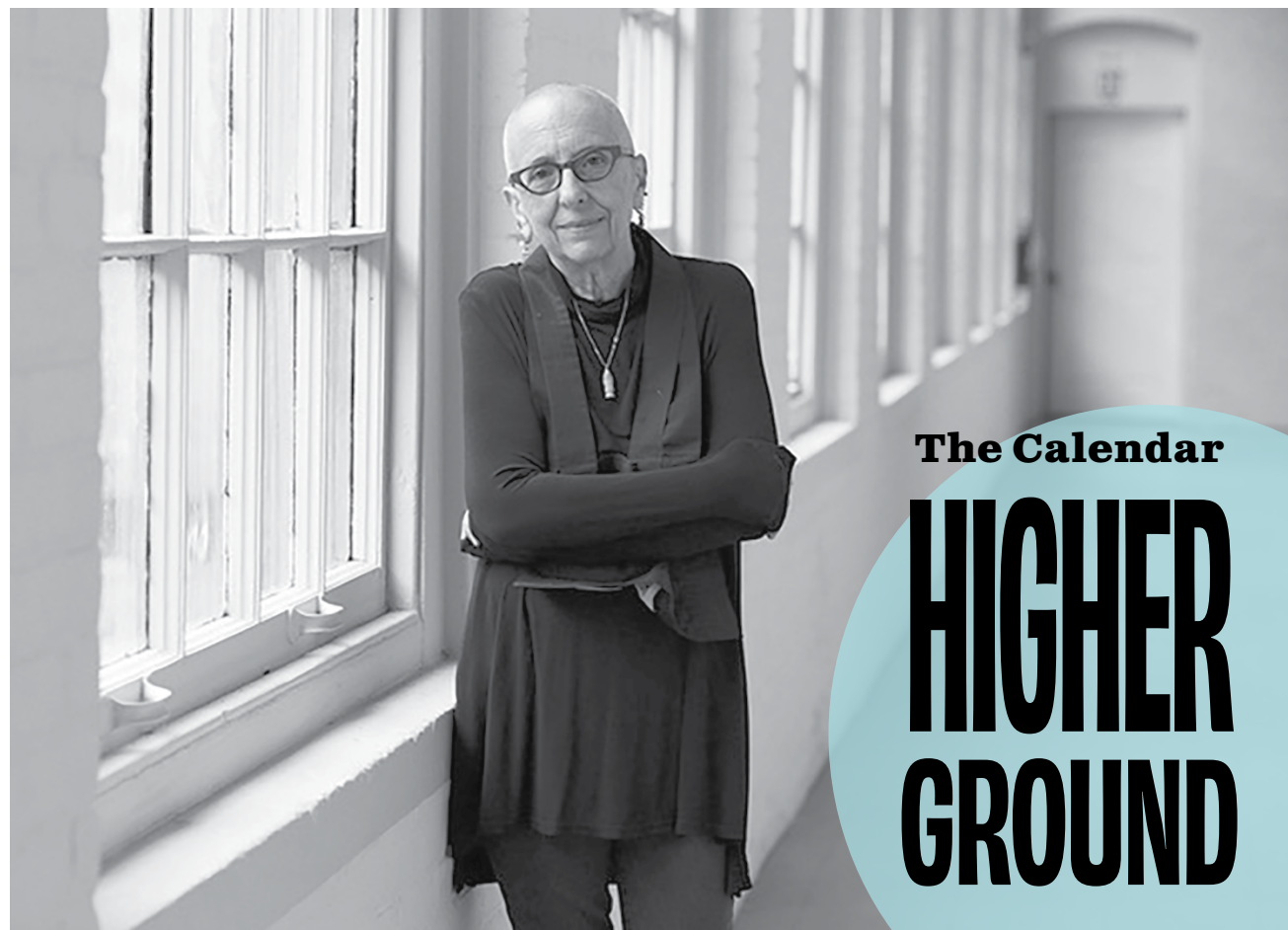
Oct 29 - 9 HORSES & JACOB JOLLIFF

Nov 17 - STEPHEN CLAIR - Album Release Concert

Nov 17 - HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW & SALE

Check our website + media for more events, info + tickets

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



Robyn Ellenbogen

Photo by Nancy LeVine



"Breath Shield for the Cosmos"



Studio installation of "Avalokitesvara"

Beacon artist blends art and spirit

By Alison Rooney

Robyn Ellenbogen considers herself fortunate to have grown up when she did because, she says, "the arts were so alive and I was so hungry." The abstract expressionists and beat poets were her trailblazers, and she "felt incredibly nourished by how these people saw the world."

As a child, Ellenbogen already felt like she "would never fit into the world in a way that other kids fit into the world. I always saw myself as an artist, though I wasn't completely sure what that meant. Every kid knows something about themselves they're not able to put into words."

"I was deeply drawn to abstract work," she says. "It has to do with a way that one sees the world but doesn't necessarily understand, as a child, that you see the world in a very unusual way. These are the things I thought about."

Decades later, Ellenbogen, whose exhibi-



Untitled

tion, *Turning Toward Avalokitesvara*, opens at the BAU Gallery in Beacon on Saturday (Oct. 14), is still curious. She moved to Beacon two years ago, seeking community.

Her implements and materials include metalpoint, artist books, textiles, installations, papermaking and animation. She describes metalpoint as a 12th-century technique used in Europe before the discovery of graphite.

"If you were going into the studio and wanted to do a sketch, you'd be priming a piece of paper so you can draw with metal, silver, gold," she explains. "Silverpoint has the capacity to oxidize over time depending on humidity and temperature. Initially it can look like graphite, then in the changing light over a day the drawing can appear to glow. There are metal artists who spend a lot of their time ruminating what to do their drawings on."

While at the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan, Ellenbogen would cut class to visit the Museum of Modern Art to see the works by Gorky, Pollock and Barnett Newman. "I was deeply smitten," she says.

After attending the Pratt Institute in Brook-

lyn, Ellenbogen worked for the artist Louise Bourgeois. "She helped me form and support my understanding and feeling that, 'Wow, I'm in this for the long run. What unique capacity do I need to develop a body of work that will matter?' We'd spend nights making prints and reading William Blake. That was the model that helped form me as a young artist."

As a teenager, Ellenbogen found herself drawn to Asian art. "I couldn't understand what it meant, and I thought it was beautiful," she says. She came upon an artist who was practicing Zen Buddhism and became a teacher to her. "I flourished from that point on," she says.

After many years of study, she became a Buddhist priest, inspired in part by her work as a teaching artist with ArtWorks Foundation, a nonprofit focused on chronically ill and dying children and young adults and their families.

Her spiritual beliefs and her art "are so deeply connected and important that I can easily weave between them," she says. "Lots of

people start meditation with a goal of being calmer. What I learned over many years is that, if there's any goal, it's to help other people.

"I've always worked in unique situations making art with people from very untypical backgrounds," she says. "I continue this work, now helping families who, for whatever reason, have to leave their homeland." Ellenbogen also intends to become a death doula, which she feels is "intimately related to making art because of the ritualistic practice that can be involved. Art is pretty much what matters most to me."

Turning Toward Avalokitesvara — the latter the name of the figure in Buddhist iconography associated with compassion and the benevolent protection of the world — will be on view at BAU Gallery, 506 Main St., in Beacon, through Nov. 5. An opening reception is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 14. The gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m., or by appointment.



"Bamboo Held in Bark"



"Dreaming Stars"

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 14

Harvest Fest

PUTNAM VALLEY

Noon – 4 p.m.

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

There will be crafts, artisans, food from Smok'd and live music by the Bottoms Up Dixieland Jazz Band, the Kitchen Table Band and Linda Thornton and Tim Pitt. *Cost: \$10 suggested donation*

SAT 14

Solar Eclipse Watch Party

COLD SPRING

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

Sponsored by NASA, the program will include science experiments, games and snacks. Eclipse glasses will be provided. Registration required.

SAT 14

Watch the Solar Eclipse

GARRISON

12:15 – 2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Bring chairs and snacks to watch from the library lawn. Glasses will be provided.

SAT 14

Spirits Festival

POUGHKEEPSIE

5 – 9 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org

Sample whiskey, gin, vodka and tequila from distilleries, paired with food. *Cost: \$64 (\$119 VIP)*

SAT 14

Taste of the Valley

PHILIPSTOWN

6:30 – 9 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

Enjoy food and drink while supporting the Haldane School Foundation. *Cost: \$125*

SUN 15

Pumpkin Festival

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconsloopclub.org

This annual Beacon Sloop Club event will include pie and soup, artisans, a children's stage and live music by Betty and the Baby Boomers, Sharleen Leahey and Sarah Underhill and The Stockport Middleground. Donations welcome. *Free*



Hocus Pocus, Oct. 20

SAT 21

Heritage Applefest

GARRISON

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

Learn about how apples are grown, harvested and processed and enjoy live music, games, history and crafts. *Cost: \$24 (\$21 seniors, \$13 ages 4 to 8)*



SAT 21

Filling Empty Bowls

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | fareground.org

Enjoy a lunch donated by local restaurants and take home a pottery bowl made by local potters. The event benefits individuals and families in the community who are experiencing food insecurity. See Page 17. *Cost: \$35 (\$75 per family)*

SAT 21

Farm Open House

BREWSTER

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

Master Gardeners and 4-H members will host crafts, activities, games and pony rides. The rain date is SUN 22. *Free*

SAT 21

Butterfield Cocktail Party

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. West Point Foundry
Bed and Breakfast
10 The Boulevard | butterfieldlibrary.org

To mark the 200th anniversary of Julia Butterfield's birth, the Butterfield Library and the Putnam History Museum will host this talk about Thomas Rossiter's painting, *A Picnic on the Hudson*. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 21

Common Ground Auction

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Prophecy Hall
1113 Wolcott Ave.
commongroundfarm.org

Bid on artwork, services, travel packages and other items to support Common Ground Farm. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 22

Castle to River Run

GARRISON

8 a.m. Philipstown Recreation
107 Glenclyffe Dr. | 845-424-4618
friendsofphilipstownrecreation.org

Choose a half marathon or 5K in the scenic area around the Rec Center that includes Osborn's Castle and the river. The races begin at 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., followed by a 1-mile children's fun run at 10:30 a.m. *Cost: \$50, \$35 and \$5*

SUN 22

Cocktail Benefit

GARRISON

4 p.m. Private residence | hlht.org

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust will host its annual fundraiser. Register online. *Cost: \$200 to \$500*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 14

Wee Play Costume Swap

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St.
facebook.com/weeplaybeacon

Search for the perfect child's costume. Donate costumes at Clutter, the Howland Library or the Refill Store. Also SUN 15.

SUN 15

Nature Scavenger Hunt

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Sugarloaf Trail Lot
philipstowngardenclubny.org

The Philipstown Garden Club is launching a series of events for families with children ages 4 to 12. Register online.

TUES 17

Halloween Science

GARRISON

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

Prepare yourself for messy, gross and spooky family science projects. Registration required.

FRI 20

Hocus Pocus

POUGHKEEPSIE

6:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
bit.ly/hocus-pocus-oct-20

Dutchess County will host this sensory-friendly screening of the 1993 Walt Disney film starring Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy. Register online. *Free*

SUN 22

Pumpkin Glow

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The library grounds will be decorated with artistic pumpkins. Come in costume and enjoy the spooky fun. Register online from TUES 17 to SAT 21 to contribute a carved pumpkin.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 14

CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #1

WAPPINGERS FALLS

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

This installment of the reading series includes *The Cake*, by Bekah Brunstetter, and *The New Century*, by Paul Rudnick. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 for both)*

SAT 14

Pay Dirt

MAHOPAC

5 p.m. Putnam Arts Council
521 Kennicut Hill Road
bit.ly/pay-dirt-preview

The Putnam Theatre Alliance will present scenes from its upcoming play about a struggle over land before the American Revolution in what would become Putnam County. Registration required. *Free*

SUN 15

Tony Howarth

PUTNAM VALLEY

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

The poet will read from his latest collection, *The Grievs That Fate Assigns*, followed by an open mic. *Cost: \$10*

MON 16

Variety Showcase and Drag Show

COLD SPRING

4 – 8 p.m. Glynwood Center
362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338
glynwood.org

Meet regional growers and breeders of vegetable, fruit and grain plant cultivars and taste what is happening before enjoying a drag show. *Cost: \$50 to \$125*

TUES 17

Silence of the Lambs

BEACON

7 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St.
storyscreenpresents.com

The Story Screen Horror Show series will screen the 1991 thriller starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins. Get a discount on the book and stay for a post-film discussion. *Cost: \$8*

FRI 20

Green Room

BEACON

7 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery
10 N. Chestnut St.
storyscreenpresents.com

The band Low Fiction will perform before a Story Screen Horror Show screening of the 2015 film about a punk band targeted by skinheads. *Cost: \$12*



FRI 20

David Lynch Night

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

Dan Frome will discuss the filmmaker's work as part of the *No Name | No Slogan* avant garde exhibition and then screen Lynch's *Eraserhead* (1977). *Cost: \$15*

FRI 20

Ballet Hispánico

PEEKSKILL

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

The company will perform selections from its repertoire, including *Línea Recta*, *New Sleep*, *Sor Juana* and *Club Havana*, to celebrate Hispanic cultures. *Cost: \$45 to \$62*

SAT 21

Dead Man Walking

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

Watch a livestream of the Metropolitan Opera performance. *Cost: \$30 (\$28 members, \$23 ages 12 and younger)*

SUN 22

Our Town

PUTNAM VALLEY

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

Actors from the White Pond Community Arts Center Stage will read the Thornton Wilder play. *Cost: \$10*

VISUAL ART

WED 18

Watercolor Wednesday

GARRISON

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

Artists of all skill levels are invited to this mindful painting

workshop, held each month on the first and third Wednesday.

SAT 21
Hope is a Mother
NEWBURGH
3 – 7 p.m. Grit Works Gallery
115 Broadway | grit-works.com
See Caroline Harman’s 35-foot painting of the world she observed during COVID lockdown, along with others that reflect species loss. Through Dec. 17.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 14
A Collaborative Portrait of a Community
BEACON
1 – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
This exhibit of photos, presented as part of a project exploring the lives of residents affected by urban renewal, documents the West End community. Through December. A preview of the Rise Up student film, *Lines of Demarcation, Memories from Beacon’s Black Communities of the 20th Century*, will be screened, as well.

SAT 14
Making Marks
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery
17 Church St. | garagegallery.com
Lily Prince’s landscapes and Stephen Grossman’s drawings will be on view through Oct. 29.

SAT 14
TNT Plastic | Grizzly Workshops Ecoplasm
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 139 Main St.
212-255-2505 | clutter.co
Figures and multiples from the artists will be on view through Nov. 3.

SAT 14
At 80 — A Retrospective
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. Lofts at Beacon | 18 Front St.
845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com
More than 50 years of work by Robert W. Paschal, including ink drawings, multimedia and acrylics, will be on view through Oct. 31.

SAT 14
Robyn Ellenbogen
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.org
Ellenbogen’s multimedia work, *Looking Toward Avalokitesvara*, will be on view in Gallery 1. See Page 11. In addition, Clara Curbera’s paintings, *Apple of Your Eye*, will be displayed in Gallery 2, and Linda Lauro-Lazin’s digital work will fill the Beacon Room. Through Nov. 5.

SAT 14
Identity
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
This group show will be on view through Nov. 4.

SAT 14
In Spirit
BEACON
7 – 9 p.m. LotusWorks Gallery
261 Main St. | lotusworksgallery.com
The group show will include works by 18 artists. Through Nov. 11.

SAT 14
Somesthesia
BEACON
7 – 9:30 p.m. Distortion Society
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com
Laura Bochet’s solo exhibition of paintings explores the feeling of memory in the body. Through Dec. 2.

SAT 14
Hugo Ball Night
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
Ball and the Dada movement will be celebrated with a lecture, poetry reading and musical performances. *Cost: \$15*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 14
Bird Walk
WAPPINGERS FALLS
7:30 a.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Guides from the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead this search for migratory birds and unusual species. Registration required.



Trail Talk From an Old Dirt Kicker, Oct. 21

SAT 14
The Making of the Daniel Nimham Sculpture
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org
Watch a documentary about sculptor Michael Keropian’s creation of the recently dedicated statue on view in Fishkill. The artist and director will answer questions following the screening and the Nimham Mountain Singers will perform. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 15
Guided Walk: Foundry Cove
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org
A history tour about Indigenous people in the area will begin at the museum and continue through Foundry Cove. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members)*

SUN 15
Saving Native Plant Seeds
GARRISON
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Join Master Gardeners in the pollinator garden to learn how to collect, prepare and store seeds. Registration required.

WED 18
Cemetery Tour
NELSONVILLE
11 a.m. Cold Spring Cemetery
36 Peekskill Road | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Take a guided historical tour of the Cold Spring Cemetery as part of the celebration of Julia Butterfield’s bicentennial. Register online. A tree planting and reception at the library is scheduled for 1 p.m.

THURS 19
End-of-Life Planning
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Learn about how to prepare and take control of decisions. Registration required.

SAT 21
Electric Heat Pumps
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Learn about financial incentives and cost savings, efficiency increases and lower carbon emissions from using heat pumps. Organized by the Climate Smart Task Force and the Village of Cold Spring.

SAT 21
Trail Talk From an Old Dirt Kicker
PHILIPSTOWN
2:30 p.m. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9 | hhl.org
J. Robert Harris, the author of

Way Out There: Adventures of a Wilderness Trekker, will share stories and photos in this program hosted by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 21
Autumn Walk & Sunset Toast
GARRISON
4 p.m. Manitoa | 584 Route 9D
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org
Take a guided walk to the Boulder Osio and enjoy the beauty of the season. *Cost: \$100*

SUN 22
Discover Your Natural Self Through Song
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Francesca Genco will lead the group in exercises in making sound and singing. Registration required.

SUN 22
Annual Meeting and Social
PHILIPSTOWN
3 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D | littlestonypoint.org
The Little Stony Point Citizens Association invites anyone to become a member of the nonprofit, volunteer organization.

SUN 22
Fall Fundraiser
PUTNAM VALLEY
3 p.m. Fahnestock State Park
1498 Route 301
philipstowndemocrats.org
Meet local candidates at this annual Philipstown Democrats event held at the Pelton Pond picnic area. The entrance is about a half-mile south of the park address. *Cost: \$30 suggested*

MUSIC

SAT 14
Decoda
COLD SPRING
Noon. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com
The quartet will play chamber music that inspires thinking about connection and compassion. *Free*

(Continued on Page 14)

ArtEast

Open Studio Tour

Oct. 14/15 and Oct. 21/22

11am to 5pm

www.arteastdutchess.com

Music at St. Mary's Presents:

DECODA

Ravel!
Piazzolla!
Hello Dolly!
Schubert!

Oct. 14, 2023
12:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church
Cold Spring, NY
10516

FREE
Donations Accepted

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)

SAT 14
Boots by the Bandshell
WAPPINGERS FALLS
3:30 – 8:30 p.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road | dutchessny.gov/parks
This third annual country music festival will feature the Thunder Ridge Band, as well as line dancing, family games and a bonfire.

SAT 14
Shamarr Allen
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The singer and trumpet player will play music from his latest release, *True Orleans 2*. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 14
Vic DiBietto
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The comedian known as the Italian Hurricane will do stand-up. *Cost: \$35 to \$55*

SAT 14
Richard Shindell
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer, known for the stories

in his music, will play songs from his latest release, *Careless*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 15
Joseph Lin
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The violin and viola player's program will include music by Bach. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 15
Russell Thompkins Jr. & The New Stylistics
PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Members of the original 1970s band unite with new players for an evening of R&B. *Cost: \$35 to \$65*

THURS 19
Invisible Collage
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon
6 Eliza St. | beahivebzzz.com
Tamalyn Miller and Craig Chin will create an Immersive Sound Salon to honor the changing of the season. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 20
Tannahill Weavers
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Scottish band will play Celtic music from its latest release, *Órach*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SAT 21
Doansburg Chamber Ensemble
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com
The trio of piano, French horn and flute will have a program that includes Duvernoy, Ewazen, Bonis, Piazzolla and Schocker. *Cost: \$17 (\$14 students and seniors)*

SAT 21
Corner House
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkincorners.org
The quartet will play music from its latest release, *How Beautiful It's Been*. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 21
Yellow Brick Road
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The tribute band will play the hits of Elton John. *Cost: \$37 to \$47*

SAT 21
Van the Band
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band will play the music of Van Morrison. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 22
Salon Séance
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
The Howland Chamber Music Circle presents The End of Time by the Salon, a concert based on Olivier Messiaens' work that combines storytelling, music and origami. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

SUN 22
Total Mass Retain
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Yes tribute band covers everything from classics to rarities. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

CIVIC

MON 16
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 16
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

MON 16
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 17
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

WED 18
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 18
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
845-424-3689 | gufs.org



Meet Democratic candidates for local offices.

Robert Flaherty
TOWN COUNCIL

Tara Percacciolo
TOWN CLERK

John VanTassel
SUPERVISOR

Judy Farrell
TOWN COUNCIL

Adam Hotaling
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

PHILIPSTOWN DEMOCRATS

ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER

Sunday, October 22
3pm to 5pm

Pelton Pond Shelter

Route 301 across from the
Fahnestock State Park Headquarters
Sun or rain – we'll have fires in the hearths



FOR TOWN JUSTICE
Angela Thompson-Tinsley

R.S.V.P. at
philipstowndemocrats.org
Suggested Donation: \$30

facebook.com/
philipstowndemocrats

AD PAID FOR BY
THE PHILIPSTOWN DEMOCRATS

Accurate information is critical to productive conversation.

- ✓ **Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT) is a subsidiary nonprofit of Scenic Hudson, whose excellent record of stewarding the Hudson River Valley spans 60 years.**
The Fjord Trail represents the inclusive, forward-thinking, community-focused conservation initiatives that are the hallmark of Scenic Hudson's work. The proof is right here in our communities: West Point Foundry Preserve, Foundry Cove, Long Dock Park, and Mt. Beacon Park.
- ✓ **HHFT's Staff and Board live here.**
Two staff members live in greater Philipstown and one lives in the Village of Cold Spring. More than half of HHFT's board members live in Philipstown. *You know us.* We are residents who care deeply about our community.
- ✓ **Nearly half a million people already visit Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve annually.**
With better infrastructure to meet demand and smart visitation management tools, the Fjord Trail will help solve the visitation problems the community faces today and manage future challenges proactively.
- ✓ **Hikers need a direct route to the trails.**
The Village of Cold Spring will benefit from increased public parking, an improved Breakneck Ridge train station, a Visitor Center at Dutchess Manor, and new trailhead entries – **all north of the Village.** These will strategically draw hikers away from Cold Spring.
- ✓ **HHFT's proposal for Dockside Park is simple.**
We plan to add public restrooms, a trailhead entry point to move hikers off Village streets faster, and work with local groups, like the Cold Spring Film Society, to make sure beloved community activities at the park continue. Any additional ideas for the park would be led by community input and interest.
- ✓ **The Fjord Trail plan is undergoing rigorous environmental review through the SEQRA process.**
HHFT will follow all guidelines for habitat protection and mitigation, as outlined by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation.
With Scenic Hudson as our lead partner, environmental integrity is central to all of our work.
- ✓ **The cost of doing nothing is too high.**
The weekend congestion problems in Cold Spring and the serious safety concerns along Route 9D won't go away simply because we want them to. **We must take action.**

Want to learn more or share your ideas for the trail?

Join the grassroots group that is fostering collaborative conversation about how the Fjord Trail can best serve our community.
Reach out to PhilipstownAdvocatesForTrails@gmail.com

Join our next Sunday Afternoon Chat:
October 29 from 2-4 PM at Hubbard Lodge
Email us: info@hhft.org
Visit: hhft.org



The Fashion Mixmaster

Beacon clothier combines luxury and low-budget

By Marc Ferris

Along with predicting the unpredictable weather, Ginger Zee, the meteorologist at *Good Morning America*, faces another challenge: how to assemble a new outfit for every day she appears on the show.

Zee supports sustainability and tries to avoid buying new clothes. Instead, she goes secondhand, borrows from friends and rents her fashion, sometimes from Wanderlux, a couture boutique at 475 Main St. in Beacon. This year, at *GMA's* Oscars after-party, Zee wore an outfit from the store on air.

Figuring that meteorologists, athletes and social-media influencers would have trouble buying the high fashion they favor, proprietor Jennifer Cutinella sent direct messages to folks she thought might be interested in renting, the modern version of making telephone "cold calls."

In addition to Zee, she signed up singer Eva Sita; Lindsay Slater, a weather reporter in Milwaukee; and Charlene Westfall, an influencer and former Miss Ohio.

"The world of high fashion can be intimidating and expensive, but I want to shatter the misconceptions," says Cutinella. "Few people wear only luxe. The key is to blend in low-end

pieces. I call myself 'the fashion mixmaster' and figured out how to do it on a budget."

Other sources, such as Rent the Runway, offer wedding dresses and other clothing for special occasions. But it doesn't carry menswear and the brands are mid-tier, said Cutinella.

Although Beacon High School graduates Elijah Hughes, who played in the NBA for three years, and Lenny Torres, a pitcher in the Cleveland Guardians' minor league system, are Wanderlux clients, Cutinella doesn't focus on men's clothing beyond accessories such as sneakers, sunglasses, hats and coats. "We're slowly building our men's collection, but it's a much harder market," she says. "Men rarely have the same interest [in upscale fashion] as women."

Cutinella, who grew up in Wappingers Falls, moved to Beacon 15 years ago. Her infatuation with fashion began in childhood. During the pandemic shutdown, she lost her corporate job, became an empty nester and decided to try her hand in the industry. Beyond following style trends, she also loves to travel, hence the outlet's name.

The store interior is modeled after a minimalist SoHo boutique. Video loops of runway shows are projected on the back wall and the racks showcase established brands along with rising stars, including Valentina Perissi at DAPHNE Italy and Sophia Denim, designed by Sophia Tezel-Tzelepis,



Jennifer Cutinella at her shop, Wanderlux, in Beacon

Photo provided

who teaches fashion history and business at Marist College.

In the formal gown showroom and changing space, sequins, sparkles and spangles adorn elaborate embroidered dresses.

Beyond the storefront, Cutinella offers personal styling. After setting a budget, deciding on a look and taking measurements, she puts the pieces together. Or she will look at everything in the person's closet and decide with them what to keep and what can go to consignment. "Then I augment what they have

by reinvesting in their wardrobe to elevate their look and add new pieces or missing staples that can be worn 20 ways," she says.

To her, fashion is art. "Jumbling together H&M, Walmart and Hermes is my talent," she says. "It's not about brands, it's about what looks beautiful."

But foremost, she said, clothes should be fun. "Fashion and style have no age limit. Take a risk and don't be intimidated. Start with one or two pieces and get out of your comfort zone."

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Completed bowls at the ready

Soup in Every Bowl

Artist organizes fundraiser to battle hunger

By Alison Rooney

Soup's on — specifically, five varieties, prepared by local restaurants, that will be served during a luncheon Oct. 21 at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring.

Known as Filling Empty Bowls, it's a communal event designed to raise awareness of and funds for organizations that work at a grassroots level to address hunger.

The event has a long history around the world but is new to Cold Spring. The soup

is served in decorated pottery bowls made by residents. Participants will choose a bowl and the soup is ladled, accompanied by music from jazz singer Rose Stoller and followed by an art raffle. At the conclusion of the meal, the bowls go home with the diners.

The collective construction of the bowls has been taking place for months at ElephantBelly Pottery, the home ceramics studio of organizer Alicia Leeds. Volunteers have so far made nearly 200 bowls.

"The generosity of the artist community here in Cold Spring and elsewhere has been amazing," she says. "It's a way for people who make art and use clay to use their



Grace Lo and Alicia Leeds display some of their creations for the event.

Photos provided

unique talents to serve something good."

Leeds, who has participated in many Empty Bowls events elsewhere, thought that it would be perfect for the Highlands.

"There are many interpretations of the concept, from affordable and simple, such as the one we're doing, to fancier gala fundraisers," she says. Grace Lo, who owns Supplies for Creative Living in Cold Spring, was the first donor for the event and became a co-sponsor.

"Food justice is something everyone can come together on," Leeds says. "We need spaces where we can be together. By having a variety of businesses, with different clientele, I want to get the word out there that

everybody is welcome."

The soup-makers are Jennifer Clair, Dolly's, Fareground Kitchen, Marbled Meat and J. Murphy's, with bread by Signal Fire. Leeds said she also received support from Fallkill Creative Works in Poughkeepsie (which donated 40 bowls); Understory Market, In Bloom, Wyld and the Chamber of Commerce in Cold Spring; and Grey Printing in Philipstown.

Tickets, sold at the door, are \$35 for individuals or \$75 for families. All proceeds will benefit Fareground, the Beacon-based anti-hunger organization.

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LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (October 1873)

Dan Rice's three-tent Museum, Circus, Coliseum and Menagerie visited Cold Spring, including its educated mules, a 40-horse team, a rhino, "the largest known elephant in the world" and a unicorn.

James Mark, in court before Justice Coe after being accused of selling stolen paving blocks, drew a revolver and said he would shoot anyone who tried to detain him. Several men jumped Mark and, as the group wrestled under a table, his gun went scuttling across the floor. After John Drews took the weapon as payment toward Marks' unpaid boarding bill, the accused paid a fine and was released.

Hooligans threw stones and dirt against the windows of the old Presbyterian Church while Jewish services were being held inside.

The Kellogg baseball club defeated a team from Garrison, who had arrived on the noon train, 59-11, in six innings.

Theodore Morrison was appointed as an agent for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Four days later, he received a license from the commandant of West Point to operate the Hudson River ferry. Later that day, he was informed he had been hired by the police force in New York City.

Two dormer windows were added to the courthouse in the upper story of the Cold Spring House.

Three school districts held their annual meetings: No. 3 (Rock Street, with an average attendance of 183 students between ages 5 and 21); No. 10 (Nelsonville, with 116); and No. 13 (The Foundry School, with 120).

The new mine opened in the Sunk was idle because of the national financial panic, and creditors were busy making claims to the ore at the dock.

Andrew Ladue's wagon broke an axle

when crossing over the Garden Street gutter.

Residents showed up in a steady stream at *The Recorder* office to show off their giant vegetables, such as 1-pound tomatoes, 2-pound potatoes and a cauliflower that measured a foot in diameter.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church raised \$100 to send to the residents of Memphis, where there had been an outbreak of yellow fever. The rector was given leave for one month to assist personally.

John Nelson's store and dwelling, which had been foreclosed, was sold at auction for \$4,000 [\$100,000 today].

Mrs. Van Blarcom sold 200 acres of woodland near the top of Storm King to a group of New York City investors for \$35,000 [\$900,000].

The New York Conference of the Temperance Society held its convention at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Philipstown. The attendees prayed and heard lectures such as "Elements of Strength in the Total Abstinence Cause."

Henry Swansen was brought before Judge Ferris, who found him guilty of stealing from his landlady and sentenced him to 30 days in the county jail in Carmel.

The Rev. Benjamin Bowen of the Baptist Church delivered a sermon titled "Another Plea for Congregational Singing."

The Putnam Republican Party nominated Hamilton Fish II to represent the county in the state Assembly. (Fish would win the seat, the first of his 12 terms.) The Republicans also nominated Samuel Owen of Cold Spring for district attorney.



Hamilton Fish II

125 Years Ago (October 1898)

The Cold Spring Recorder noted that the new state "tramp law" allowed anyone arraigned as a vagrant who had not resided in the county for at least six months to be sent to the state penitentiary.

About 175 people gathered in the grove of the Charles Warren farm in Continentalville



The well-traveled illusionist Signor Bosco performed four shows at Town Hall in 1873.

for the inaugural clam bake hosted by the Ladies' Aid Society of the North Highlands Methodist Episcopal Church. The event grossed \$44 [\$1,625] and netted \$9 [\$334].

The Cold Spring Hose Co. No. 1 announced that, as a fundraiser, it would present the drama, *The Stars and Stripes; or, A Union Spy*, at Town Hall.

After a recruitment drive, 28 residents joined the Cold Spring Village Improvement Association.

Officer McCaffrey went to Newburgh to retrieve a Cold Spring boy who had run away. The boy claimed he had been abused by his father, "which an investigation proved to be correct," *The Recorder* reported. "The boy is now at home and it is hoped that he will receive better treatment, otherwise the law will take its course."

The auction of the contents of the bankrupt Highland House amounted to \$3,000 [\$110,000].

William Benjamin, after returning home from fighting in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, planned to spend a few weeks in Colorado to recuperate but instead sailed for Europe.

Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn was struck by a bicyclist and seriously injured while walking on the road near Garrison.

John Forson, who for 10 years had been the superintendent at the Yonkers estate of the late Samuel Tilden, a former governor of New York, resigned to partner with his brother, James, at his general store on Garrison's Landing [now the Garrison Art Center].

Hamilton Fish Jr., 9, left for Massachusetts with his father to enroll at boarding school.

The launch Juliette S. announced it would leave Cold Spring at 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m. on days when the West Point football team had games. In their opener, the cadets defeated Wesleyan, 27-3. The next week, West Point lost to Harvard, 28-0. The Harvard team arrived in a special train car that waited for them at Garrison.

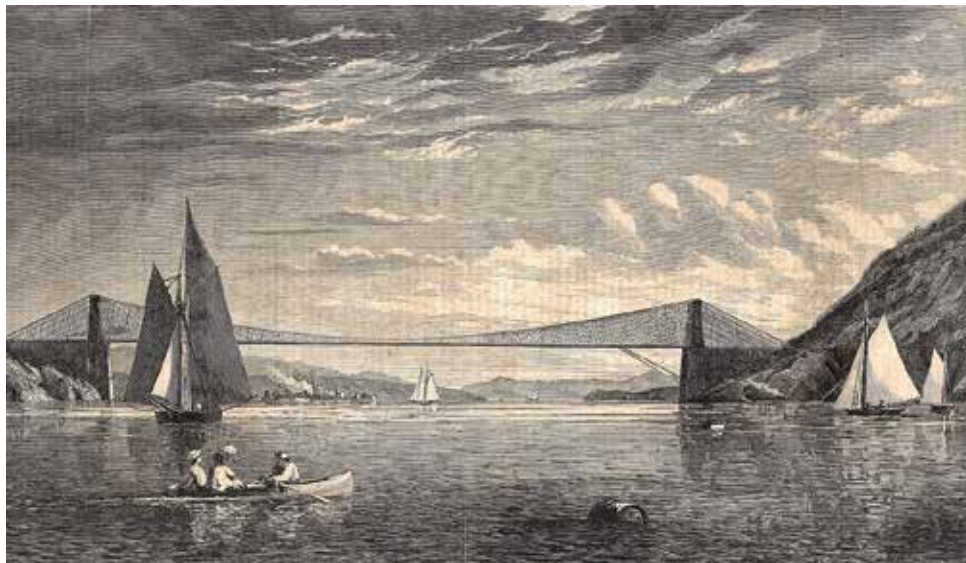
The state truant officer visited Haldane, Garrison and Philipstown to ensure that

(Continued on Page 19)

BRIDGE DREAMS

Next year, the Bear Mountain Bridge will mark 100 years of operation. When it opened in November 1924, the structure was the first crossing over the Hudson River south of Albany and the world's longest suspension bridge.

There had been discussion of a bridge from Anthony's Nose to Fort Clinton as early as 1868, when *Harper's Weekly* published a rendering of a vision by the Hudson Highland Suspension Bridge Co. (at right). In 1890 *Harper's* published an updated rendering. But by 1916 only the basic foundation work had been completed.



(Continued from Page 18)

schools were enforcing the compulsory attendance law.

Several residents complained their windows had been broken by boys with slingshots.

A number of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hustis gathered at their home on Main Street in Nelsonville to celebrate the couple's second wedding anniversary.

The southwest winds caused the highest tide in years, flooding lower Main and West streets.

The Webb building on Stone Street, which had been used as a paint shop and a steam laundry, was converted into a dwelling.

The Recorder warned residents they could face arrest if they drove over the Main Street sidewalk as a shortcut to Chestnut after watering their horses at the public trough.

The Haldane Debating Club considered the question: "Resolved, that the U.S. Army should maintain a standing army of 100,000 men."

William Ladue, the accomplished bicycle racer from Cold Spring, had won \$1,200 [\$44,000] in prizes, including diamonds, watches, clothing and a sewing machine.

The barge John L. Sulton, towing a load of bricks, sprang a leak near Constitution Island that brought in water so fast its cargo shifted and slid overboard.

A pickle factory opened in the old Presbyterian Church on Market Street. Owned by Titus Truesdell, it employed a dozen women who packed the pickles into bottles. The supply was kept in barrels of brine in the lower level.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Darwin McIlrath of Chicago, who had bicycled from New York to San Francisco in 52 days before criss-crossing Asia and Europe for three years, returned to the U.S. to ride the 1,000 miles between New York and Chicago, including a stretch through Cold Spring. William Ladue and other bicyclists planned to accompany them to Fishkill Landing [Beacon].

100 Years Ago (October 1923)

Albert Terwilliger of Cold Spring called the Poughkeepsie police after a car with California license plate 40-181 struck his vehicle and fled north toward that city.

Trains on the Hudson line of the New York Central Railway were delayed because a landslide sent 200 feet of track near the Garrison tunnel into the river. The 7:05 p.m. train from Poughkeepsie would have been near the section of track when the slide occurred but had been delayed at Cold Spring.

50 Years Ago (October 1973)

Louise and Orvelo Wood, the authors of *Make It With Paper*, hosted a demonstration at the Garrison Art Center on how to make sculptures.

Jim Budney rushed for 221 yards in a 36-6 Haldane football victory over visiting Mount Everett High School of Sheffield, Massachusetts.

After playing a gig at the Northwood Lounge in Cold Spring, the Chazy Band left for a three-week tour of the Southeast. The band included Mike Klubnick, Andra Klubnick, Joe Rudzinski and Tom Haley.

John Miles Pearce, 18, formerly of Cold Spring, performed a program of classical

music for guitar at the Garrison Art Center.

A 19-year-old Garrison resident was killed when the car in which he was a passenger went off Route 403 near Route 9 and struck a rock wall.

More than 150 people attended a party at Dutchess Manor for Margaret Mihalik, who retired after 20 years as Philipstown town clerk.

The Hand-to-Mouth Players performed *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* at the Garrison Depot Theatre.

25 Years Ago (October 1998)

The Garrison school board shared the results of a study of its special education department. It found that 13.9 percent of the students in the district received special-education services; of those students, the largest group (42 percent) was classified as speech impaired, and the smallest (2 percent) was diagnosed as autistic. The report said the district needed to hire more special-education staff but that there was potentially an "over-classification" of students who needed services.

At a joint meeting, the boards of Cold Spring and Philipstown discussed sharing a building inspector.

Haldane Elementary dedicated its new playground.

Putnam Sheriff Robert Thoubboron reported that, during its first six weeks of operation, the county's 911 system received 804 calls, but that only 329 involved emergencies. The others were hang-ups or

non-emergencies, such as people needing directions; one person asked to be transferred to Macy's after losing phone service except for dialing 911.

Glen Marullo gave a slide presentation at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison about his world travels as a documentary filmmaker. The Cold Spring resident had worked for 20 years as a sound mixer and producer and won three Emmys.

By a 554-479 vote, Garrison residents approved a \$6 million bond to fund a major addition to the school.

Haldane football fans were unhappy about a crucial call in a 20-14 loss at home to the Edwin Gould Academy. Late in the game, Brendan Hackett caught a tipped pass and ran it inside the 5-yard line. The ball came loose when he hit the ground, which a referee ruled it a fumble that the Giants recovered, effectively ending the game. The rules stated that the ground could not cause a fumble.

The members of the Putnam County Legislature overrode a veto by County Executive Robert Bondi of a resolution to give themselves a 27 percent raise. The measure, introduced by Vincent Tamagna, who represented Philipstown, set the legislators' salaries at a percentage of the county executive's.

Two dozen descendants of Peter Parrott, the brother of Robert Parrott, the director of the West Point Foundry, famous for making cannons during the Civil War, visited the Putnam County Historical Society. Peter Parrott lived in Orange County, where he ran an iron mine.

NOW SHOWING: JOHN ANDRÉ'S FLUTE

By Marc Ferris

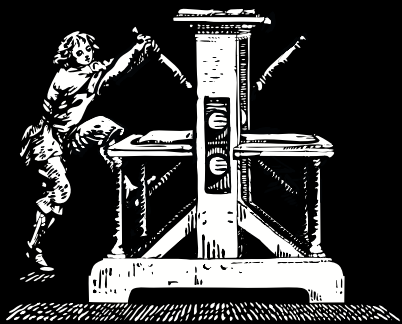
A flute (at right) believed to have belonged to Maj. John André, who was caught and executed during the Revolutionary War for assisting Gen. Benedict Arnold in his betrayal, is making a long-term visit to Boscobel.

Jennifer Carlquist, executive director of the cultural site, said the instrument came to Garrison on permanent loan from the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum in Manhattan, which was owned by a branch of the family that lived in the Boscobel mansion.

In 1915, when the Dyckman family donated its Manhattan home to the city, Boscobel was a dilapidated house on a foreclosed farm in Montrose. (It was saved from demolition in the 1950s, moved to Garrison, restored and opened to the public in 1961.) Carlquist said Boscobel and Dyckman collaborate in many ways: interns come to Cold Spring, Boscobel sends apples to distribute in the city, they share research, apply for grants and are founding members of the Northern Slavery Collective.



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in the Highlands**

Garrison, NY

Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

American environmentalism,” said Gena Wirth, gesturing to the mountain. “Let’s let people soak it in a little.”

Wirth is a principal at SCAPE Landscape Architecture, a New York City firm that’s earned a reputation as one of the most climate-conscious groups of designers in the country. Its projects include “living-breakwater” structures being built off the southern shore of Staten Island that are designed to protect vulnerable neighborhoods from increasing storm surges while providing vital habitat for marine life, and the newly redesigned 31-acre Tom Lee Park on the banks of the Mississippi in Memphis.

It’s also part of the ongoing design of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, a 7.5-mile linear park that will connect Beacon and Cold Spring along the river. When residents started kicking around the idea in 2006, it was envisioned as a simple walking path. But as Breakneck Ridge became one of the most popular — and riskiest — day hikes in the country, the vision expanded.

According to that vision, the trail will take on the problems of visitor management to keep the village of Cold Spring from being overwhelmed; reduce traffic on Route 9D; make coming to Breakneck less dangerous without making it less thrilling; account for sea-level rise expected from climate change; and restore land trodden by thousands of feet.

Which is a lot. But Wirth said she believes you can’t heal a landscape unless you also change people’s behavior.

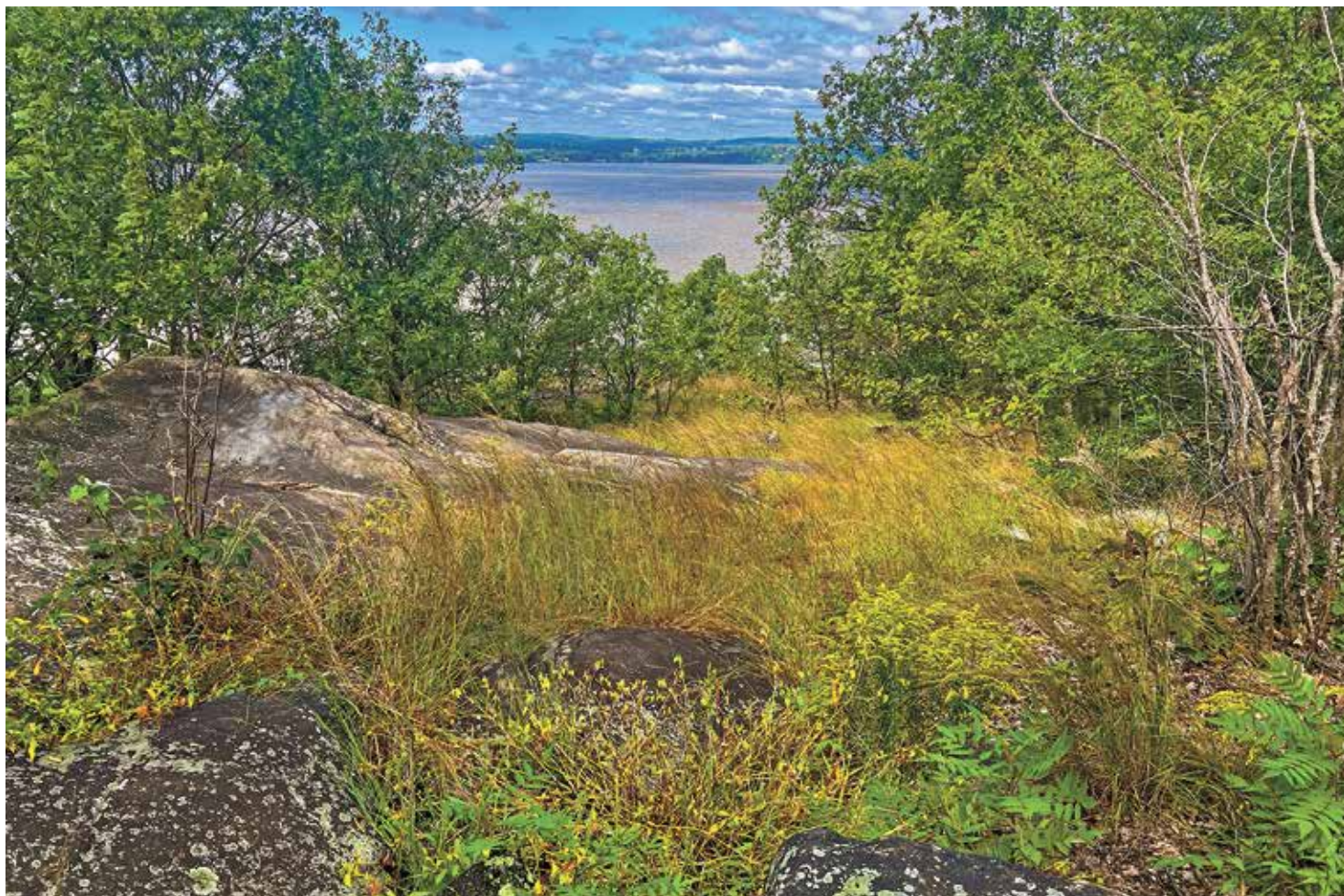
“For too long, we’ve said ecology is about conservation, and not about people,” she said during a recent hike along part of the Fjord Trail’s projected route. “This isn’t about trying to create a landscape that looks pretty or looks like someone’s imagination of what happened here. It’s about trying to involve people in the long-term stewardship of the river. You can’t have a relationship with a landscape if you can’t access it or experience it.”

Why should people who live in Beacon or Philipstown, who likely don’t use the Breakneck Ridge train station, care about what it feels like to arrive here?

For starters, if more people come to Breakneck on the train instead of by car, it will mean less traffic, less parking, less pollution and fewer greenhouse-gas emissions. If there’s a free or low-cost shuttle bus, as is planned, Fjord Trail planners believe that will be further incentive to take Metro-North. And if the experience of being at the train station at Breakneck is inviting, instead of making people feel like the conductor has abandoned them, they’re more likely to take the train home from where they disembarked rather than from Cold Spring.

That’s the reasoning. Fjord Trail staff members positioned themselves over the summer on weekends to watch people get off the train. They found they do one of four things: Visit the portable toilets, look at a map, put on bug spray and sunscreen or rush to the trailhead to outpace the first three groups.

“A lot of this project is about trying to create space for things that are happening already,” said Wirth, standing in the



A closed social trail near the Breakneck Trailhead has started to rewild; the native goldenrod in the foreground is new.



A trail-steward shelter was installed this summer; its green roof was planted more recently.

Photos by B. Cronin

wasteland of the train station with Amy Kacala, executive director of the Fjord Trail, which is a project of Scenic Hudson. Wirth pointed to where restrooms will be installed; where people will be able to linger; where the landscape will be raised to accommodate projected sea-level rise; and where berms will shield visitors from the rush and roar of the highway.

The most significant landmark in the first phase of the project is the Breakneck Connector, a bridge over the train tracks that’s scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2026 and will provide access for visitors with disabilities. The bridge will allow people who park in new lots to walk over the tracks to reach the trailhead,

providing a parking option besides Route 9D, as well as a soaring view of Storm King.

Kacala said that most of the trail will have a lighter touch, and is being designed to feel invisible. She said a Fjord Trail board member compared it to the aisle of a cathedral: You don’t notice the aisle when you’re walking down it, because you’re too busy looking at everything around you.

Wirth added: “It needs to feel intuitive, and not like we’re just slapping things onto the landscape.”

The Fjord Trail team experimented with this approach on the Nimham Trail, which opened in 2021. It winds its way from Route 9D to the first summit of Breakneck, bypassing the vertical scramble. It allows hikers

to turn around if they realize on the rock face that they’re in over their heads. And it allows people to see the view from the first summit without climbing the scramble. The stone staircases that wind up the rock face look more like features that formed over centuries of weathering and erosion than a planned design that was built in months.

Wirth said that, over time, as native species are restored and grow tall, shading the trail, and invasive species are weeded out, the designers hope that the area will look like it’s been that way all along. “In 10 to 15 years, people will get off the train at Breakneck for the first time, look around and say, ‘I don’t understand, what did they do?’” she said.

There’s a reason that so much of the area between the road and the river alongside the projected path of the trail is filled with invasive species, suffers from poor drainage, is prone to flooding and is rapidly eroding: It wasn’t there when the painters of the Hudson River School captured the Highlands in the 19th century.

“This is all fill,” Wirth said as we walked single file along Route 9D toward the trailhead, with cars whipping by inches away. “This is all created space.”

Giving the land back to the river isn’t a practical option, since it is now traversed by train tracks. Instead, the Fjord Trail plan is to transform the landscape from man-made to sustainable. The organization plans to plant 400 native trees and 2,000 woody shrubs on the 5.4 acres that make up the Breakneck Connector section, drawing from native species such as button-bush (a tall shrub that thrives in wet soils and provides food for ducks) and Virginia sweetspire (the only domestic member of the *itea* genus of shrubs, and known to excel at erosion control).

(Continued on Page 21)



A section of shoreline below the Breakneck Overlook will eventually be accessible.



The stairway up to the scramble has been rebuilt, closing off social trails that were destroying wildlife habitat.

Photos by B. Cronin

(Continued from Page 20)

Culverts will be built to act as wildlife crossings, but the trail already has a head start after working with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and state parks to remove some of the lower sections of chain-link fencing along the tracks to give amphibians and small mammals access to the river (although they'll still have to make it across the tracks).

The plan also considers potential habitat, such as what will happen with projected sea-level rise over the next century. In some spots, the riprap that stabilizes the shoreline is eroding. Rather than replacing it, the project will install what Wirth refers to as "planted shelves." Similar to SCAPE's Living Breakwaters project, the new riprap will include shelves above the surface of the water that can become habitat for aquatic plants and animals as the river rises.

This summer, the Fjord Trail opened the Breakneck Overlook, which begins at the trailhead by the tunnel and ends at the beginning of the scramble. It's a small section, but as Wirth and Kacala walked through it, they pointed out the ways in which the modifications are leading to changes in behavior.

Part of the work involved closing off "social trails," the paths formed when visitors go off-trail. These social trails can be dangerous for wildlife — many disturbed the habitat of the eastern fence lizard, a rare and threatened species in New York — but also for hikers, because some had steep drop-offs.

The work involved examining why people go off-trail. In this case, that included uncertainty about the path of the actual trail; trying to pass groups of hikers to avoid a logjam at the scramble; and hoping to get a better view of Storm King and the river.

The new section has stone stairs that clearly define the path. A permanent shelter for trail stewards with a "green" roof of plants and a solar-powered plug station for emergency responders has been constructed at the beginning of the scramble. This is where stewards can show novices how challenging the climb is and suggest easier hikes nearby.

Across from the shelter is an overlook. It

allows faster groups to pass slower ones but also gives visitors the views they were pursuing off-trail. Wirth pointed out the places where crews had started removing invasive species and where native species are returning. As she spoke, two small groups of hikers came to the overlook, took in the view and left without climbing the scramble.

"There's a lot more breathing room and people now have a much better sense of what the Breakneck experience is like, and they can make their decisions," Wirth said. The addition of trail stewards and the Nimham Trail has led to a reduction in emergency calls to Breakneck, she said, and it's hoped that the overlook will continue that trend.

For now, if a large group of hikers with varying levels of ability comes to the trailhead, there will be options for those who feel uncomfortable climbing the rock face. As more sections of the trail are built, those options will increase, she said.

"Maybe people will say, 'You guys go ahead and hike Breakneck, we're going to walk to the Visitor Center,'" said Wirth, referring to the former Dutchess Manor that is being transformed into the Fjord Trail headquarters. "Or they will say, 'We're going to walk to Little Stony Point and Cold Spring and we'll meet back here in three hours.' Each of them will have had meaningful experiences that meet their skill level and their appetite for adventure."

The Fjord Trail has faced criticism from many Philipstown residents — signs that question or oppose the trail adorn the yards of many homes — who fear that the trail will prove so popular that it will only make the weekend summer crowds worse. But Kacala believes the completed trail has the potential to rein in the problem by giving visitors options along a 7.5-mile span rather than simply hitting Breakneck and Cold Spring.

It also may change the behaviors of visitors for the better. "When people think about more visitors coming, they're envisioning people doing the same things they're doing, instead of what it will mean to have off-street parking or a shuttle to take people to Beacon," she said.

"There are things that are going to enable better behaviors that aren't an option today, and that's going to take some of the pressure off. But it's a complex project, and it's hard to visualize. As we get more tangible examples open, and more of these behavior changes are observed, it'll help people to feel better about this."

Even after the trail is complete, some visitors will still scramble at top speed up Breakneck, take their pictures, grab lunch in Cold Spring and leave without a second

thought. But Wirth hopes that the Fjord Trail will make it easier for visitors to forge a long-term relationship with the landscape by giving them space to pause and educate them about being better stewards of the places they visit.

"It's not about the selfie," she said. "It's about visiting in the winter and watching the ice floes push up from the river, coming back in the spring and watching a caterpillar munch on a leaf, coming back in the summer to see a swallowtail butterfly."



Sunday, October 22nd 2023

Philipstown Community Center in Garrison, NY

**1/2
Marathon**

**9 AM START
\$50**

5K

**9:30 AM START
\$35**

**Kids 1 Mile
Fun Run**

**10:30 AM START
\$5 (Race Day
Registration only)**

The Castle to River Run includes a 1/2 marathon that takes you up past Osborn's Castle and down to the Hudson River. The 5K race follows part of Benedict Arnold's escape path to the Hudson River and back to the recreation center. A Kids 1-mile fun run circles the recreation center grounds.



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The Castle to River Run is a fundraiser for the Friends of Philipstown Recreation. Donations for this 501(c)3 also accepted at www.FriendsofPhilipstownRecreation.org

Roots and Shoots

Big Trees

By Pamela Doan

You've probably heard the modern proverb that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago and the next best time is today.



Depending on the type — maple, oak, birch, poplar, ash or any other native to our area — a tree planted in 2003 might have grown 1 to 2 feet per year. That means a 6-foot sugar maple would now be nearly 30 feet tall.

There is a red oak in a field in my landscape that grew from an acorn. I was inexperienced with trees when we settled in the Highlands and I wanted to transplant it. The oak was on a high spot and I was concerned it would shade the vegetable garden.

A knowledgeable person informed me that, because oaks develop deeper tap roots than most trees, it would die if I tried to move it. So it stayed. I also learned that oaks grow slowly and that, by the time it was shading the garden, I would probably not be tending the garden any longer. I watched over the years as deer rubbed their antlers on the trunk, leaving marks but not damaging it.

I also became fascinated with petioles, the botanical term for the stalk that connects a leaf to a branch. I noticed the oak kept its leaves much longer than other types of trees, sometimes late into winter. This is called *marescence*, and there are various explanations for why it occurs. I like the one that posits oaks protect their buds by keeping the leaves longer to discourage browsing deer — more evidence that trees are smart!

If you're ready to plant a tree, here are suggestions. I'm going to stick with native hardwoods, not including pine and spruce or woody plants.

• **Maples** Within the Acer family, there are 13 species native to the U.S. and seven that are regionally native. The best known is the sugar maple, which is the centerpiece for all of the winter festivities that demonstrate how maple syrup is produced from sap. The sugar maple is also dominant in many local forests and beloved for its colorful fall leaves, on display now.

It's worth it to get to know your maples and distinguish the silver maple, red maple and striped maple. Each has compound, lobed leaves that resemble hands.

The Norway maple is an introduced tree that was planted instead of native maples for decades in cities and developments because it tolerates a wide range of soil and water conditions. However, as has been the case of many species that we have taken outside of their native ecosystem, Norway maples are prolific seed distributors that are spreading into New York forests, too, disrupting diversity. The roots are shallow and prevent other plants from grow-

ing around them, and the wood is weak, making branches susceptible to breaking during storms. Best to avoid.

• **Oaks** In the *Quercus* line, the most common locally are red oak and white oak. Oaks are more slow-growing among the hardwood trees and are long-lived. They fill many niches in ecosystems — as habitat for wildlife and birds and food sources for insects and the wildlife that feed off acorns. In *The Nature of Oaks*, Douglas Tallamy shares his observations and experiences with an oak in his yard. Doing a deep dive into a species brings intimacy and connection that can change the way you think about a lot of things in nature.

(*The Tree Book*, by Michael Dirr and Keith Warren, and anything by Diana Beresford-Kroeger can also broaden your knowledge.)

It may be more true for oaks that the best time to plant was 20 years ago, but it's well worth it to start now as a gesture of hope and a gift to others.

“ A tree planted in 2003 might have grown 1 to 2 feet per year. That means a 6-foot sugar maple would now be nearly 30 feet tall.



This is the red oak in my yard that I'm glad I didn't destroy by trying to transplant it 13 years ago.

Photo by P. Doan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown on October 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments for/against **A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-C"**.

A complete copy of the Local Law is available for inspection upon request sent to townclerk@philipstown.com and is also available on the Town's Website, Philipstown.com.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk

Dated: October 11, 2023

NOTICE

The Philipstown Town Board will hold a **Budget Workshop** on Wednesday October 18, 2023 @ 7:30 pm at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516 with the following:

- Continental Village Fire
- Village of Cold Spring Fire
- Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corp
- Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corp

Dated: October 11, 2023

Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk

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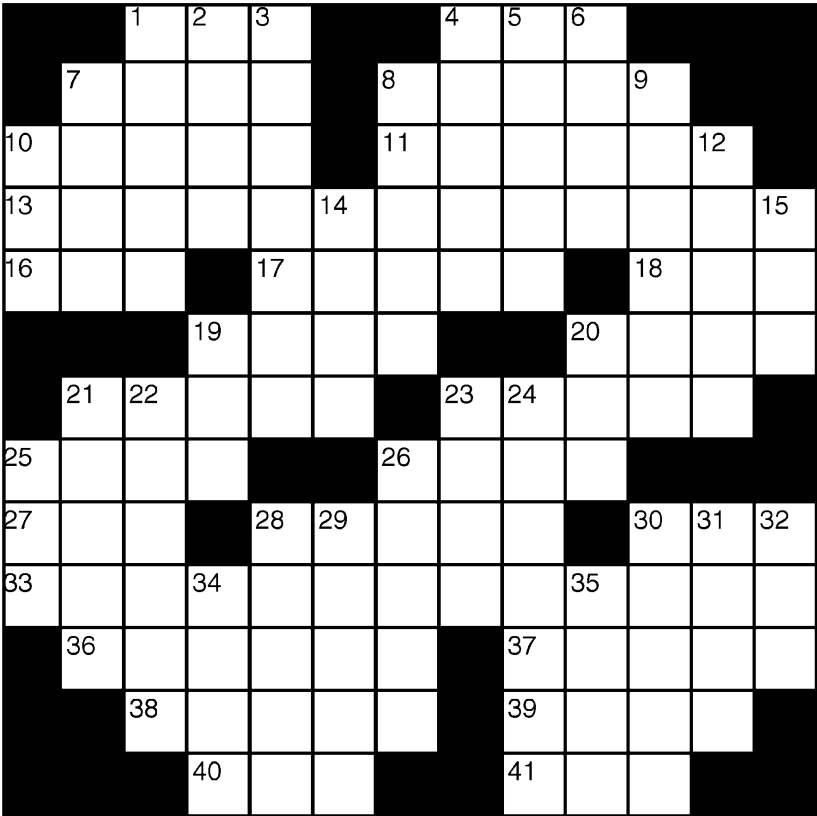
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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

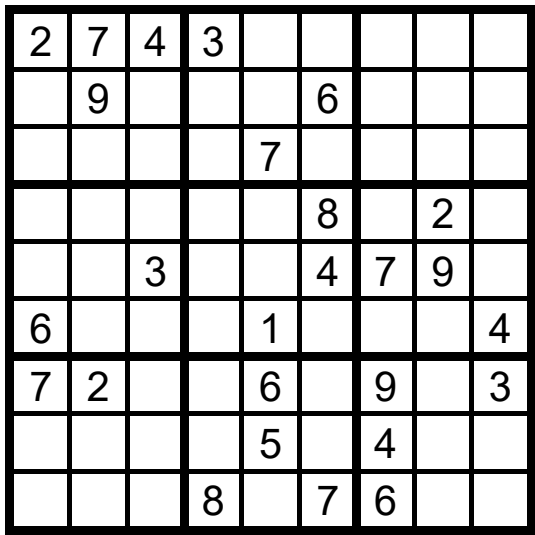


- ACROSS

 - 1. Big mouth
 - 4. Scoundrel
 - 7. Actress Rogers
 - 8. Underneath
 - 10. Choir member
 - 11. Loves to pieces
 - 13. Woven containers
 - 16. Raw mineral
 - 17. Levels
 - 18. Cistern
 - 19. Pet food brand
 - 20. Feel sorry for
 - 21. Answers an invitation
 - 23. Sandbox toys
 - 25. Dandies
 - 26. Billions of years
 - 27. Simile part
 - 28. Egypt's Mubarak
 - 30. Pallid
- 33. Company codes used at a stock exchange
 - 36. Journalist Bly
 - 37. Bakery smell
 - 38. Japanese wrestlers
 - 39. Minnelli of *Arthur*
 - 40. AOL rival
 - 41. Tofu source
- DOWN

 - 1. Chop finely
 - 2. Out of control
 - 3. Spy's device
 - 4. Fragrant wood
 - 5. At — for words
 - 6. Dweeb
 - 7. Israel's Golda
 - 8. Innocents
 - 9. Cotton pest
- 10. Tango team
 - 12. Sports figures
 - 14. Eyeglass frames
 - 15. Pigs' digs
 - 19. Hosp. hookups
 - 20. Math ratios
 - 21. Cello bow application
 - 22. Parking spots
 - 23. Shetland, for one
 - 24. Cracker shapes
 - 25. Corpulent
 - 26. Road curves
 - 28. Big wheels at sea
 - 29. Hunter in the sky
 - 30. Lightheaded
 - 31. Mater lead-in
 - 32. Code-breaking gp.
 - 34. Heidi of *Project Runway*
 - 35. Vivacity, in music

SUDOCURRENT



WORDLADDER

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

PLANK

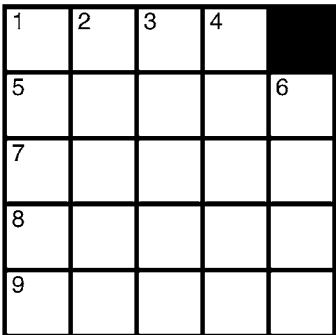
PRIMS

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS

 - 1. Polynesian feast
 - 5. Artist's motivation, in slang
 - 7. Sinks one's teeth into
 - 8. Collars for schoolboys
 - 9. Actress Carter, who played Wonder Woman on TV
- DOWN

 - 1. Malign in print
 - 2. A principle of Kwanzaa
 - 3. ____ Martin (luxury sports car)



- 4. Overturn
- 6. Mountain in Thessaly

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

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

S	A	M	B	A
A	W	M	A	N
M	A	D	R	E
S	K	I	R	T
	E	V	E	

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TILES
TIMES
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Answers for Oct. 6 Puzzles

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A New Paltz runner is stopped in his tracks by Beacon's Mason Supple.

Photo by
Cadence Heeter



Evan Giachinta drags a defender behind him during a run against Dobbs Ferry.

Photo by
Skip Pearlman

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

FOOTBALL — For the first time in 2023, the Bulldogs found themselves in the win column on Oct. 6 after a 34-0 dismantling of New Paltz for homecoming. Fullback Kaevon Ricketts had 11 carries for 151 yards, including 54- and 75-yard runs that ended in touchdowns. Quarterback Jazziah Whitted completed seven of eight passes and ran for 73 yards and a score on four carries. On defense, Ryan Wandji recovered a fumble in the end zone after a blocked punt. Beacon (1-5) travels to undefeated Cornwall today (Oct. 13).

BOYS' SOCCER — Beacon moved to 7-2-2 following a defensive battle with Lakeland on Monday (Oct. 9) that ended in a scoreless draw. The Bulldogs hosted O'Neill on Thursday, travel to Port Jervis today (Oct. 13) and host Liberty on Monday (Oct. 16) at 4:30 p.m. to close out their regular season.

VOLLEYBALL — Beacon knocked off Port Jervis, 3-1 (25-19, 25-16, 16-25, 25-19), and O'Neill, 3-1 (25-21, 25-22, 16-25, 25-19), last week. Against Port Jervis, Lindsay Pedersen had seven kills and Evy Diebball and Londyn Jones each had 10 digs. Against O'Neill, Allie Thomas notched 19 service points and 18 assists and Lila Burke had 17 kills. The Bulldogs also defeated Newburgh Free Academy, 3-1, on Wednesday (Oct. 11) to improve to 11-1. The team travels to Franklin Roosevelt in Hyde Park today (Oct. 13), hosts Goshen at 6 p.m. on Monday and visits O'Neill on Wednesday.

GIRLS' SOCCER — Beacon had two easy wins

VARSITY ROUNDUP

this week, defeating Chester, 9-1, and Liberty, 8-1. The Bulldogs (9-2) traveled to Kingston on Thursday (Oct. 12) and end the regular season at Wallkill on Saturday and at home against Port Jervis (9-3) at 5 p.m. on Monday.

CROSS-COUNTRY — Beacon finished 22nd of 27 teams at the Brewster Bear Classic on Oct. 8. Henry Reinke was the top Bulldog runner, finishing 19th in the 5,000 meters in 17:17.90. Rachel Thorne was the top finisher for the girls, placing 76th in 24:33.30. The team travels to the Bronx on Saturday (Oct. 14) to compete in the Manhattan College Invitational.

GIRLS' SWIMMING — Beacon suffered three tough losses this week, falling to Cornwall, 96-76, New Paltz, 94-64, and Kingston, 101-61. Against Cornwall, first-place winners were Abigail Haydt in the 200 individual medley (2:45.42); Meara Kumar in the 50 freestyle (29.46); Saniyah Wiltshire in the 100 backstroke (1:14.91); and the 400 free relay team (4:32.04). Against New Paltz, Isabella Haydt won the 100 breaststroke in 1:21.72. At Kingston, Serena Stampleman won the 500 freestyle in 6:19.19 and Haydt won the 100 breaststroke in 1:22.41. The Bulldogs (2-8) host Warwick today (Oct. 13) to close their regular season.

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

FOOTBALL — The undefeated Blue Devils met their match against Dobbs Ferry

on Oct. 7, losing 24-20 in the rain. After two scoring runs by Evan Giachinta and a Brody Corless interception and return, Haldane led 20-8 with 1:32 left in the half. But Dobbs Ferry tacked on a touchdown and two-point conversion to make it 20-16.

The Blue Devils couldn't score in the second half, although they got close with 2:51 remaining from the Eagles' 15-yard line when quarterback Ryan Van Tassel connected with Michael Murray. But the ball was fumbled and Dobbs Ferry recovered. A minute later, Haldane had another chance when the knee of a Dobbs Ferry player appeared to hit the ground 2 yards short of a first down but the spot was marked where the ball landed.

The Blue Devils (4-1) host Valhalla at 7 p.m. today (Oct. 13).

BOYS' SOCCER — Haldane celebrated Senior Night on Oct. 5 with their third game in as many days, defeating Putnam Valley, 3-0, behind goals from Matthew Nachamkin, Frankie DiGilio and Samuel Cardona.

Things did not go so smoothly this week, with the Blue Devils falling at Walter Panas, 3-2, and at North Salem, 1-0, in extra time. Haldane (7-6) hosts Pawling at 4:30 p.m. today (Oct. 13) and ends the regular season at Blind Brook on Saturday.

GIRLS' SOCCER — After two lopsided losses earlier in the week, the Blue Devils pulled out a close one over Putnam Valley on Oct. 6, winning 1-0 on a goal by Amelia Alayon on a pass from Finola Kiter.

On Tuesday (Oct. 10), on their Senior Day, the Blue Devils defeated Pawling, 2-0, behind two

second-half goals by Anna-Catherine Nelson, the second on an assist from Stella Gretina.

In a rematch against Putnam Valley on Wednesday, the Blue Devils fell, 2-1. The squad faced Edgemont on Thursday (Oct. 12) and travels to North Salem today before hosting Edgemont at 11 a.m. on Saturday to end the regular season.

GIRLS' TENNIS — The Blue Devils defeated North Salem twice last week; Ellen O'Hara won three games in just two sets each, while Ella McKeel won both of her singles matches in three sets. In doubles matchups, Julie Shields and Camilla McDaniel won their matches by identical scores (6-0, 6-2) and Scout Thakur deBeer and Mary McBride did the same (6-2, 6-1).

This past weekend, O'Hara and Ellie Dubroff competed at the Section I tournament but lost, 6-0 and 6-1, respectively.

VOLLEYBALL — After a long layoff, the Blue Devils traveled to North Salem on Oct. 5, losing 3-1 (25-17, 21-25, 25-10, 25-17). Emily Tomann was 22-for-22 on serves, with seven aces and five kills. Lola Mahoney went 18-for-18 on serves, with two aces and a kill. Haldane also lost 3-0 (21-8, 25-21, 25-19) on Oct. 6 to Walter Panas. The Bulldogs face Pawling on Saturday (Oct. 14) before taking on Croton-Harmon, Putnam Valley (twice) and Somers next week.

CROSS-COUNTRY — At the Brewster Bear Classic on Oct. 8, Kate Resi finished 51st with a personal best of 29:41.10. She was followed by Hazel Berkley, who was 56th in 31:12.30. On the boys' side, Owen Powers finished 40th with a personal best of 18:34.30. Haldane travels on Wednesday (Oct. 18) to the league championship at North Salem.