Beacon Council Member Seeks Raises for Colleagues

Says it would offset inflation, encourage participation
By Jeff Simms

A departing Beacon City Council member has proposed adding salary increases for the council to Mayor Lee Kyriacou's 2024 budget. Justice McCray, who represents Ward 2 but is not seeking re-election next month, asked Monday (Oct. 16) during the council's workshop if the members' $9,000 salaries could be adjusted for inflation. Doing so, McCray said, would help remove one of the barriers that may keep some candidates from running for the office.

"I will not be sitting in this seat next year, so this proposal will not impact me," said McCray, who was elected in 2021 to a two-year term. "Looking at our budget over the last 10 years, that [salary] number hasn't increased but the cost of living has. There are a lot of people in the city who are passionate about making Beacon better. I was in a position where I had the privilege of being able to manage my finances with what this offers, but I would love to see this number increase."

If there is consensus about the increases, the council could vote to amend Kyriacou's budget proposal, or Kyriacou could voluntarily add them. The council must approve (Continued on Page 9)

Study: Merger Would Raise Garrison Taxes by 33%

At the same time, Haldane taxes would drop 20%
By Joey Asher

School property taxes in Garrison would jump at least 33 percent if the district were to combine with Haldane, according to an analysis conducted by the administration.

The increases would be three times that if the district were to merge with the Putnam Valley or Lakeland districts, the study concluded.

As a result, board members appeared largely disinterested in a merger feasibility study, which would be the next step toward combining with another district.

"My gut tells me this is an absolute dead end," said Trustee David Gelber at the board's Wednesday (Oct. 18) meeting.

Sarah Tormey, the board president, said that "paying more to give our kids less does not make sense." Tormey said that when combining with another district, the students would likely lose public high school choice (they can now attend Haldane, O'Neill or Putnam Valley), have fewer sports opportunities and lose classes such as environmental education. (Continued on Page 9)
**FIVE QUESTIONS:** **ANTHONY AMATO**

By Michael Turton

Anthony Amato, a 2001 Beacon High School graduate, is a submarine commander for the U.S. Navy stationed at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

**You're the command master chief for Squadron 1. What are your duties?**

I'm responsible for a staff of about 30 and seven nuclear-powered submarines. My job is to motivate and inspire the chief in each boat and provide training and mentorship. I help get the submarines ready for deployment. Sometimes I'm out at sea for seven to 10 days a month; the next month I may not be home at all. When at sea, I do evaluations and provide feedback to the command team, the triad, the chiefs and the officers. If you want to make a difference and be somewhere that allows you to develop, Pearl Harbor is the place.

**Do you like working on submarines?**

I grew up in a close-knit Italian family, and the submarine force is a fraternity unlike any other. Every day you go out to sea, you're dependent on every single person to do the right thing, make the right decisions, to make sure you get home safe. I love that in every port I go to there's no way I'm not going to know someone I've served with on another boat or know through someone else. I love the professionalism and tight-knit dynamic on submarines. We have some phenomenal sailors.

**How self-sustained are today’s submarines?**

The only reason a submarine has to pull into port is to replenish food; we average about a three-month supply. We make our own oxygen and water and purify our air. The limiting factor is always food; we can stay submerged until we run out. And the food is phenomenal. Everything is fresh because prepackaged food takes up a lot of space. You get fresh bread and meals every day. When the food is good, you look forward to it and it raises the morale. Our crews average 150 sailors. For recreation there's movies, audiobooks, reading, treadmills, rowing machines, bikes and free weights. People get into workout routines. And people on subs play a lot of cribbage.

**What are your memories of Beacon High School?**

I made many lifetime friends. I was on the wrestling and soccer teams. We had a pretty bad soccer team but I played with a lot of great guys, good friends, growing up together along the way. I took Dana Cabrera, a friend of mine from Newburgh, to the prom. My brother still lives in Beacon and my wife's family is from there, so we visit.

**Why did you join the Navy?**

I'm fourth-generation Navy: My great-grandfather was a boatswain mate, my grandfather was a gunner's mate during World War II and my father was a hull maintenance technician on an aircraft carrier. I was 17 when I went to boot camp in July 2001, two months before the terrorist attacks. I think 9/11 solidified that I was in the right place, at the right time, doing what I wanted to do. Not everyone had a cellphone; we didn't know what was going on. They shut down the base, then allowed people from New York to make phone calls. It was a scary moment but, at the end of the day, it was: 'All right, man, this is why you joined, the possibility of things like this.'
Through October 31, submit photos of yourself, your children, pets or the whole family in costume. A panel of local judges will choose the winners for each of the categories above. Winners will receive a 1-year membership to The Current and a whole year’s worth of bragging rights! Winners and select submissions will be featured in our Nov. 3 issue.

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Fjord Trail

Gena Wirch, the architect for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, said in your Oct. 13 article (“Can the Landscape Change Behavior?”) that the addition of trail stewards and the Nimham Trail have led to a reduction in emergency calls to Breakneck. The numbers bear this out. The Cold Spring Fire Department made an average of 15 calls (including a rope rescue) to Breakneck and Bull Hill in 2019, 2020 and 2021 but only nine in 2022 and only three this year to date, according to a log we keep at the park. In addition to these calls, which mostly involve injured hikers, the park staff, park police and state police handle the vast majority of lost hiker incidents all over the Hudson Highlands, which average about one a month over the course of a year. Many are resolved by guiding hikers to trails and out of the woods over the phone.

We have done a tremendous amount of work over the past several years re-blazing trails, establishing designated hiking loops at Bull Hill and Breakneck, and increasing our presence at the trailheads and on the paths. I am hopeful that the recent drop in rescue calls is attributable to these efforts and not just a statistical anomaly.

Evan Thompson, Philipstown Thompson is the manager of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve.

You must be receiving quite a few responses to your long front-page article about the proposed Fjord Trail. The article’s credulous embrace — hook, line and sinker — of a massive public relations campaign is stunning. Words fail in what way is this journalism? Rather than addressing each of the depressingly Panglossian points in the article, I’ll select one, a comment by Fjord Trail Executive Director Amy Kacala: “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.”

Unmentioned here, as in all Fjord Trail literature, is the more than 2½-mile stretch of “trail” from Dockside Park to Breakneck Ridge. No land exists there for a footpath, so a 10- to 14-foot elevated bike and pedestrian walkway is planned, on concrete pilings and surrounded by an 8-foot chain link fence. Think Sing Sing, not cathedral.

There are no drawings of this trail section on the HHFT website. Eyesores are omitted — that’s marketing, baby. Differentiating truth from propaganda falls to us as citizens. It’s not an easy task, especially when information is deliberately withheld. Hope Scott Rogers, Cold Spring

The fact that The Highlands Current continues to publish these Fjord Trail fluff pieces rather than dig into the environmental impact, approval process or funding of this project? (“Can the Landscape Change Behavior?”) is disheartening. It’s not an easy task, especially when information is deliberately withheld.

Emmy Hare membership@highlandscurrent.org
Correction
In the Oct. 13 issue, we reported that the Beacon City Council planned to give each city employee a one-time, $1,000 retention bonus. In fact, the budget proposal is to increase each employee's annual salary by $1,000.

The HHFT staff respectfully shared and continue to gather. I hope our community can continue to benefit from the collaborative vision and efforts of the HHFT committee. Community members can continue to attend Q&A forums about the Fjord Trail as it moves forward. I also encourage neighbors to get out and “forest bathe” on our unique highland trails.

Julie Corbett, Philipstown

Your article is a complete derailment of balanced journalism and instead a nauseating display of unvarnished favoritism. The Current is solidly in the deep pockets of Chris Davis and Ned Sullivan (of Scenic Hudson). Shameful!

Pete Salmonsnoh, via Facebook

Such a beautiful spot for a walk! Great idea, great location.

Doug Whelan, via Facebook

To the chorus of incredulous replies, I’ll add that also going unmentioned here are the roughly 1,000 new and reallocated parking spaces, including 400 new spaces at the foot of the Notch trail. We don’t need more parking for more cars. No matter how many consultants are hired, I cannot argue with “induced demand.” More parking means more cars and more traffic.

Anne Melville, via Facebook

Your attention must be focused on what has been happening here in the villages, a place where you would most enjoy the cool dim glow of countless LED lights and which will require lighting, blighting a scenic viewshed. Your system will not be environmentally sensitive or generally down-facing to minimize light pollution impacts. You can find this info on page 104 in the master plan flipbook at hhft.org.

Lighting and parking are areas where community input is still being gathered. If you have thoughts and ideas, please email them to rramirez@hhft.org so I can share them with the team.

Rebecca Ramirez, Cold Spring

St. Mary's

There was an interesting exchange Oct. 5 at the Cold Spring Zoning Board of Appeals meeting about the recently updated Village Code now having a “scenic viewed overlay” that specifically protects St. Mary’s lawn [Section 134-14]. Does the overlay protect the buildings as well?

Kelly House, Nelsonville

Editor’s note: At the meeting, Zoning Board Chair Eric Wirth, who served on the Ad Hoc Committee on the Code Update, noted that St. Mary’s and its lawn are among a dozen sites that “cannot be degraded” without a variance. “If you attempt to put condos on the lawn, it would run directly afoul of the scenic viewed provision,” he said. However, John Martin, a Zoning Board member, pointed out that, because St. Mary’s is private property, the designation could be challenged as a “taking” — in which government illegally seizes private property for public use — because St. Mary’s wouldn’t be able to generate the same value from its property if it can’t be developed.

I find it interesting there is no mention of the businesses that are renting space in the former rectory to give income to the church. This article reads as if there is no income from these sources.

Christine Peterson, via Facebook

The Rev. Steve Schank, rector at St. Mary’s responds: “Currently there is one business and one artist letting space in the rectory, for a grand total of $4,000 of monthly income, or less than half of our monthly fuel bill. Our Parish Hall rentals need to double. We also now charge for use of the great lawns, such as for the Modern Makers Market and the Community Day event. Whatever the source, our income is down while our operating expenses have exploded.”

Byrne budget

I was pleased to see our Putnam County
executive, Kevin Byrne, make good in his first budget on his intentions to watch out for the interests of taxpayers (“Putnam Executive Proposes $195M Budget for 2024,” Oct. 6). This includes crafting a budget that keeps the property tax levy flat while reducing the tax rate to its lowest point in 15 years. Rather than rely on borrowing and putting off financial responsibilities, his budget finds ways to utilize money in the general fund for $8 million worth of infrastructure projects. At a time when inflation and the cost of living continue to impact our lives, Byrne is working to place the county on a financially responsible track. Further, he has created a path forward to partner with local governments and nonprofit organizations with the proposal of several programs that provide financial assistance to worthy projects.

Residents on the western side of the county often feel like they may be forgotten. I’m impressed with the effort that Byrne has made to ensure our needs are met. Additionally, his executive budget focuses on filling critical needs for the public, like the newly proposed director of mental health.

Town taxes

The Philipstown Town Board’s plan to raise taxes for 2024 far more than the state-mandated 2 percent cap places an unfair burden on many homeowners (“Philipstown Proposes 8.4% Tax Increase,” Oct. 13). This increase will have to be made up by families somehow. Perhaps many people will eat out in restaurants five to six times fewer, or maybe they will not attend any of the craft fairs that are held during the year. Surely people will find many ways to recoup the money lost to such an onerous tax increase. This lost revenue from business will only further burden local municipalities.

Anthony Stropoli, Cold Spring

Hamiton Fish

I applaud Russell Pyne’s eloquent and persuasive letter providing context and biographical insight about the career and opinions of his late grandfather, Hamilton Fish III, co-founder of the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison (Letters and Comments, Oct. 13).

Within the extended Fish family and within the larger Garrison community of my childhood 70 years ago, what MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow reported in her podcast, Ultra, was the oldest of old news. I understand why she did her usual effective (if somewhat slanted) work with this archaeology, documenting a period of past national dissension that prefigures today’s riven country and the rise of authoritarianism at home and abroad, and Trump’s cry of “America First!” It must have been a surprise to listeners how largely isolationist the U.S. population was in the late 1980s. As the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, it was not inappropriate for Hamilton Fish to take whatever position he felt was in the nation’s best interest at the time. Nevertheless, as an elected representative of a largely rural and conservative district, he could be expected to reflect in his speeches and votes the convictions of his constituents. Sometimes this is a tricky needle to thread; but there can be little doubt that in the 1930s the electorate in his congressional district was overwhelmingly isolationist.

The ill-considered optics of one or two public appearances and his inattention to the management of his office surely became for him a source of regret, but to infer from this that he was antisemitic and in thrall to Nazi racism is entirely wrong. In the years that I saw a good deal of him in private situations beginning in the 1960s (I served on the Desmond-Fish Library board for its first 25 years), I never heard the slightest word suggestive of such thinking. The film Men of Bronze, a documentary, including interviews, about the Harlem Hellfighters of World War I, illuminates the mutual feelings of respect and admiration between Fish and Black veterans. He was too serious a political persuader to ever discount or deprecate the opinions of a voter, whatever his or her race, ethnicity or political inclination.

The divisions within the nation in those days were evident in the Fish family, as well. By the time the European war began in 1939, Fish’s four sisters (two of whom, Helena Forster and my grandmother, Rosalind Cutler, were Garrison residents) and my mother had entirely broken with him over his vehement opposition to FDR’s gradualist policies leading to preparedness and aid to Britain.

And, of course, he made the inevitable about-face when the war came that he had not wanted. Following his death at 102, I remember at his funeral, at the West Point Cadet Chapel, hearing a recording of a portion of his speech before a Joint Session of Congress immediately following FDR’s address asking for a declaration of war. Fish thunderously seconded the motion.

As Russell Pyne suggests, fairness, understanding and perspective are needed in assessing the actions of a public servant 85 years in the past.

J. Winthrop Aldrich, Albany

Now is not the time for nuanced debates and gray areas and trying to imagine what it was like for a congressman 100 years ago. It’s 2023 and Jews continue to be targets of violence and bigotry. Why would a community contort itself to try to defend any historical figure who had Nazi sympathies (even if it was because he really didn’t like (Continued on Page 7)
Communism, or really didn’t know what Hitler was going to end up doing?

What happened in Israel this month and the resounding threats to Jews across the world make it clear that we must stand united to do all we can to promote peace and inclusion.

Kim Chirls, Cold Spring

It disturbs me greatly that so much of today’s so-called journalism fails to put things in historical context. Or, more importantly, doesn’t want to — just make a stir to gain viewers or readership. The Fish family served the country with distinction and honor for decades and their contributions to their hometown of Garrison were immeasurable. It is misguided to tear down statues, one with the real money who endowed it.

Jackaline Ring, Albany

It is misguided to tear down statues, change names and try to rewrite history in a-poke.

Nareau Breault, via Instagram

The man is long dead. He helped fund the community. The man is long dead. He helped fund the community.

Doug Donaldson, via Instagram

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Fuel in Casks
Radioactive wastewater remains

The Indian Point Closure Task Force on Monday (Oct. 16) announced that Holtec, the company decommissioning the nuclear power plant near Peekskill, had moved all spent fuel to dry-cask storage. The fuel had been stored at the plant, which closed in 2021, in cooling pools. The task force said 5,998 “spent fuel assemblies” are now contained in 127 reinforced concrete and steel casks on the site. The casks are expected to remain on-site for at least 10 years. Since the federal government has not yet made good on a 1998 promise to build a facility capable of safely storing radioactive waste for up to 300,000 years, the casks have nowhere to go. Holtec is in the process of attempting to obtain approval to construct an interim site in New Mexico.

Although the cooling pools have been emptied of spent fuel, the radioactive waste remains. Its fate is unclear after Gov. Kathy Hochul in August enacted a law that prevents Holtec from discharging the water into the Hudson River. Buchanan, the village where Indian Point is located, has passed local legislation preventing the long-term storage of the wastewater in tanks at the site. Holtec has said it is considering “multiple options” about what to do with the wastewater, but has released no further information.

All Indian Point Fuel in Casks

Garrison Hunter (from Page 1)

Besides New York, he has been to a Garri-son in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, Utah and West Virginia. Minnesota, Nebraska and Pennsylvania are yet to come, as well as return visits to New Mexico and North Dakota, which have two each.

Emblazoned souvenirs are hard to come by. Gallagher gets a letter with a Garri-son postmark wherever possible, “but some places don’t even have a post office,” he says. “Some are just a few shacks, like Garrison near the Idaho-Montana border or the one in Colorado, a one-horse town.”

He speaks highly of Philipstown’s Garri-son. “Truthfully, it’s the most beautiful,” he said. “That view across the river to West Point is gorgeous.”

Gallagher usually travels in his Jeep. In the past, it often provided shelter, although he now relies on motels. “I’d never fly,” he says. “There’s too much to see.”

He mostly travels alone, although his wife, Kate, accompanied him to four Garri-sons. “She’s good to travel with,” he says. “But usually, I couldn’t be bothered bringing somebody with me because I’d be driv-ing along, see a sign for somewhere and just turn off. Women don’t like that.”

U.S. Bucket Lists

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Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Geographic Names Information System, populated places

Beacon Raises (from Page 1)

The 2024 spending plan by Dec. 31 and is expected to vote Dec. 11, after several more workshops.

Dan Aymar-Blair, Wren Longno, Molly Rhodes and Paloma Wake, who are all running unopposed for re-election, said Monday that they support McCray’s proposal. Kyrilacou and George Mansfield, who is not running again after 14 years on the council, did not support it.

While the part-time council members are paid $9,000 annually, the mayor, who is considered the city’s chief executive, receives $25,000. The last time their benefits were adjusted was in 2017, when the council voted to amend Beacon’s charter to give members the option of a $2,500 payment if they choose not to enroll in the city’s health insurance plan. (The city has offered health insurance to council members since at least 1988. If they accept, the council member pays 20 percent of the premium.)

On Monday, City Administrator Chris White said that council members’ salaries, if adjusted for inflation, would rise to $11,000, in addition to the health insurance option, and the mayor’s would increase to $30,000.

If there is agreement to go forward, City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said a public hearing would be required. A “permissive” referendum might also be necessary, he said, and would require the approval of a percentage of the city residents who voted in the most recent election. If necessary, the referendum would have to happen within 90 days of the council’s budget vote.

If no referendum is required and the budget is adopted before Dec. 31, the salary increases would be effective Jan. 1, when council members are sworn in. If a referendum is needed, the increase would be deferred until after the next election, in 2025. Ward-Willis said he would report back to the council on the next steps.

Aymar-Blair, the Ward-Willis reply. “They’re the old Irish,” he says. “If you knock on the door and they’re eating their dinner, they’ll want you to come in and eat with them.”

My last question was about my 5-star rating for Tullamore Dew Irish whiskey. “Oh my god,” Gallagher says. “I love Tullamore Dew.” He dispatched his buddy Tommy Conway to deliver a bottle of the Dew to my attention care of an undisclosed location in Garrison (New York).

Though he left in his 20s, he returns to Garrison in Ireland to visit his brother and sister.

Asked what his family thinks of his Garrison pursuit, Gallagher says: “They probably don’t think I’m the full shilling since I started wandering about, but they understand me.”

As a young man, he was a painter, studied fine art in England, and traveled extensively in Europe. He moved to the U.S. at 27 and now lives in Los Angeles.

When he speaks of the residents of his Irish hometown, he describes them as the most hospitable people in the world.

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Market Report (September)

Real Estate

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Sources: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.

Beacon

Philipstown

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OCTOBER 20, 2023
9

NEWS BRIEFS
Garrison Taxes (from Page 1)

Superintendent Carl Albano, who retired last month but was appointed by the board on Oct. 4 as the interim for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year, said that doing a feasibility study would create instability in the district. “You run a big risk,” he said. “Resumes will go out.”

After the discussion, Tormey said there seemed to be no consensus to move forward with a feasibility study. The board did briefly discuss conducting a demographic study to analyze enrollment, as well as a five-year financial plan.

Garrison studied the tax issue in light of its budget challenges in recent years. Several members of the community who had spoken in favor of a feasibility study attended the meeting Wednesday but left without comment after hearing the results of the tax study.

In 2022, the district proposed a budget that would have raised taxes by 9.18 percent. That plan failed to get approval from at least 60 percent of voters to override that year’s state-mandated tax cap of 2.2 percent. Voters then approved a spending plan that included a 6.6 percent tax increase. (The increase for 2023 was 3.3 percent, making the state cap.)

You end up with less aid than you would get if the districts were separate.

— Joseph Jimick, district business administrator

The Garrison and Haldane districts have the lowest school property tax rates in Putnam County. For 2022-23, Garrison had a rate of $9.75 per $1,000 of market valuation, while Haldane’s was $36.97 per $1,000. By contrast, the Brewster school district has the lowest school property tax rates in Putnam County. For 2022-23, Garrison had a rate of 3.3 percent, making the state cap. (From Page 1)

Condos Proposed for Brockway Site

Fishkill project requires bridge over MTA tracks

By Leonard Sparks

In a letter to former Gov. George Pataki in 1998, then-Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chair Virgil Conway listed “potential actions” the agency could take to improve access to the Hudson River. One was to collaborate with Fishkill developer Thomas Perna and his company, RPA Associates, on a bridge allowing cars to cross over Metro-North’s Hudson Line tracks to access a riverfront property that once housed the Brockway brickyard.

A quarter-century later, Perna hopes to convince the MTA to grant approval for a span across its tracks, which in a previous plan for the property was built as an extension of Brockway Road. At stake, he told the Fishkill Town Board on Wednesday (Oct. 18), is the viability of Fishkill Landing at the Waterfront, a development that would bring 116 condominiums to the town and tax revenue to it and the Beacon school district.

In addition to the condominiums — with 10 percent of the units at “entry-level” prices — Fishkill Landing at the Waterfront would include a donation of 10 acres of waterfront property to the town, as well as the rights to 100 acres of underwater land. The Rivercrest apartments and Overlook Pointe townhomes, which also straddle Brockway Road, sit across the tracks from the property.

With approval from Fishkill’s town and planning boards, construction would start during the first half of 2026, with the bridge and a 2,000-foot road completed by 2028, according to RPA. The company says the completed project would increase Fishkill’s tax base by up to $100 million.

Perna said the research turned up a 1929 deed covenant that requires the MTA to allow a bridge to access the property at a specific location, which he did not identify, but connecting the development there would require crossing private property. He said his firm has contacted the MTA about the bridge and, after waiting months for a response, “we’re in the process of scheduling a meeting.” RPA has also applied for state funding to construct the bridge and road.

“We are asking for your support because this is the only way it’s going to get built,” Perna told the Town Board. “I don’t believe the railroad folks are going to be looking kindly upon a 1929 agreement.”

Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra said on Thursday (Oct. 19) that “there’s going to be nothing like this on the Hudson River.” A section of the 10 acres donated to the town could be used for a commercial venture, like a restaurant, and the rest as a town park, he said. The project would also include a promenade, said Albra, and 100 underwater acres would be preserved instead of being developed.

We’re going to do what the residents want.

— Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra

Albra and some members of the Town Board expressed concerns during Wednesday’s meeting about traffic and said they wanted to hear from residents in the area.

“We’re going to do what the residents want,” said Albra.

Other ideas have been proposed for the Brockway property. A nonprofit called Hudson River Aquarium Inc. announced in 2000 that it had planned to buy the property from RPA and build a $50 million aquarium. By 2003, Perna was touting a proposal combining 78 townhomes with two-car garages, a restaurant and retail shops, and a marina with a boat launch.

Any development would bring people back to a property, roughly 2 miles north of Beacon, that was once a thriving brickyard turned a 1929 deed covenant that requires the MTA to allow a bridge to access the property at a specific location, which he did not identify, but connecting the development there would require crossing private property. He said his firm has contacted the MTA about the bridge and, after waiting months for a response, “we’re in the process of scheduling a meeting.” RPA has also applied for state funding to construct the bridge and road.

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Fire Districts Draft 2024 Budgets

Garrison and North Highlands detail spending

The Garrison and North Highlands volunteer fire companies held public hearings on Tuesday (Oct. 17) to discuss their tentative 2024 budgets. The Garrison Fire District commissioners have proposed spending $782,500 in spending, which represents a 2 percent increase over 2023. The budget includes spending $30,000 from reserves. It anticipated no revenue other than property taxes.

The Philipstown North Highlands commissioners proposed spending $964,000, or a 7 percent increase. The district expects to receive $902,500 from property taxes and $18,000 in revenue (such as through donations and grants) and spend $45,500 from reserves.

Cold Spring Opens Parking Hearing

Written comments accepted through Oct. 25

The Cold Spring Village Board on Wednesday (Oct. 18) held public hearings on changes to Village Code Chapter 126 (Vehicles and Traffic) and Chapter 127 (Residential Parking Program).

At the meeting, a number of residents provided comments in person or via Zoom. The board will post its response to all public comments after its Oct. 25 deadline for written submissions.

The parking program update includes implementation of metered parking on Main Street and expansion of parking permits issued to residents. Vehicles and traffic revisions include reducing the speed limit from 30 to 25 mph, limiting vehicles left on streets to a maximum of 14 days and limiting the number of streets accessible to tour buses. A slideshow summarizing the updates is available at coldspringny.gov.
David Provan, the visiting artist at the Garrison Art Center, says his first encounter with the Hudson Valley came from looking at Hudson River School paintings. “I thought: ‘This must be artistic license, because it looks like heaven,’” he says. In 2007, the vision was confirmed when he moved from Brooklyn to Philipstown, where he and his wife, Ann, also an artist, have studio space.

Barely Not Impossible, a solo exhibit of Provan’s sculptures, drawings, paintings and mosaics that continues at the art center through Nov. 5, is not a retrospective, he notes, but a selection of work from the past decade, as well as two new pieces. Provan’s work has been shown in galleries and museums in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, London and South Korea. He has completed several public art projects, including a permanent sculpture installation for the Herald Square subway station in New York City in 1996. He works in various media but primarily makes abstract sculpture in welded steel, bronze, wood and clay. He will present two workshops — one for families on Oct. 21, and one for adults on Oct. 28, both with waiting lists — to demonstrate how he creates maquettes, which are cardboard sculptures that he finds helpful in figuring pieces out, particularly when he’s planning on making a piece in metal.

In his artist’s statement for Barely Not Impossible, Provan writes that he has, through his art, “tried to construct objects that model and resonate with that world that lies just beyond our understanding.” This quest can be traced to his youth. He grew up in Northern California and graduated from high school during the war in Vietnam. He joined the U.S. Navy, flying on electronic reconnaissance missions, at the back of the plane. Four years later, when he was discharged, he stayed the summer in Japan, working as a carpenter, “reading about Buddhism, taking yoga, no longer eating meat and questioning my decision to go to Vietnam. I needed a new way of living.”

When a clerk told him the Navy would fly him either to California or New Delhi, everything changed. “I went to India and Nepal for two-and-a-half years, including a year in a Tibetan monastery.” From there, Provan traveled overland through the Middle East and Europe.
THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 21
Heritage Applefest
GARRISON
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Boscoobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscoobel.org

Learn about how apples are grown, harvested and processed and enjoy live music, games, history and crafts.
Cost: $24 ($21 seniors, $15 ages 6 to 11)

SAT 21
Filling Empty Bowls
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St. | fareground.org

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

SAT 21
Butterfield Cocktail Party
COLD SPRING
3 p.m. West Point Foundry
Bed and Breakfast | 10 The Boulevard
butterfieldlibrary.org

The masquerade-themed event will include food, raffles and the presentation of Innovation in Teaching awards. Cost: $85

SAT 21
Community 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

SAT 21
Castle to River Run
GARRISON
8 a.m. Philipstown Recreation
107 Glencliff Dr. | 845-424-4618
friendsofphilipstowntownrecreation.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

COMMUNITY

SUN 22
Cocktail Benefit
GARRISON
4 p.m. Private residence | hhit.org

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

TUES 24
West End Story
BEACON
7 - 8:30 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
61 Leonard St. | beaconhistorical.org

View the society’s new exhibit on urban renewal and a short film featuring the recollections of local residents. Light refreshments will be served.

THURS 26
The Future of New York City
GARRISON
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Daniel Doctoroff, a former deputy mayor for economic development, will discuss major projects with author Thomas Dyja. Registration required.

FRI 27
Teen Night Hike
PHILIPSTOWN
7 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 90 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 9 to 12 can join this guided hike through the park after dark. Registration required.

SUN 22
A Conversation with Ben Patton
GARRISON
7 p.m. Cary Institute
2801 Sharon Turnpike | caryinstitute.org

Douglas Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home, will explain his proposal to shrink lawns, plant natives and increase connections in ecosystems. Attend in person or watch online.
Free

SAT 28
Community Bike Ride
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Foodtown | 49 Chestnut St.

Take a guided walk to the Boulder Osio and enjoy the beauty of the season.
Cost: $100

Thursdays

TODAY
TALKS & TOURS

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 | hhit.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: $30

SAT 21
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
Hope is a Mother
NEWBURGH
1 – 3 p.m. GraceWorks Gallery
115 Broadway | graceworks.com

See Caroline Harman’s 35-foot painting of the world she observed during the pandemic lockdown, along with others that reflect species loss. Through Dec. 17.

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.
Entrance is about a half-mile south of the park address. Cost: $10 suggested

SUN 29
Moments and Marvels
GARRISON
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 the pandemic lockdown, along with others that reflect species loss. Through Dec. 17.

PECULIARITY

TUES 24
Drawing Cartoon Animals
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Cove Care Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
ccovecarecenter.org

Children ages 6 to 10 will make art together with a caregiver.
Cost: $20

SAT 28
Burrito and Beer Night
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Cove Care Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
covecarecenter.org

The quartet will play music from the trio of piano, French horn and flute will have a program that includes Duvernoy, Ewazen, Bonis, Piazzolla and Schocker.
Cost: $17 ($4 students and seniors)

SUN 29
Monsters and Marvels
GARRISON
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 the pandemic lockdown, along with others that reflect species loss. Through Dec. 17.

SUN 29
Corner House
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The quartet will play music from their latest release, How Beautiful It’s Been. Cost: $20

FRI 27
Touch a Truck
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Haldane Playgroup
15 Craigside Drive

The fundraiser to support the junior class trip will include a 50/50 raffle, face painting, food and drinks, as well as trucks.
Cost: $10 donation

SUN 22
A Conversation with Ben Patton
GARRISON
7 p.m. Cary Institute
2801 Sharon Turnpike | caryinstitute.org

Douglas Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home, will explain his proposal to shrink lawns, plant natives and increase connections in ecosystems. Attend in person or watch online.
Free

SUN 22
The Future of New York City
GARRISON
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Daniel Doctoroff, a former deputy mayor for economic development, will discuss major projects with author Thomas Dyja. Registration required.

FRI 27
Teen Night Hike
PHILIPSTOWN
7 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 90 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 9 to 12 can join this guided hike through the park after dark. Registration required.

SAT 28
Draw Cartoon Animals
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Cartoonist Rick Stromoski, the author of Schnanzer & Taterettes Take a Hike!, will lead drawing exercises for children ages 6 to 10.
Registration required.

SUN 29
Monsters and Marvels
GARRISON
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Alysa Wishingrad will read from her latest book for middle-school readers and answer questions.

SUN 29
Doansburg Chamber Ensemble
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscolspRING.com

Trio of piano, French horn and flute will have a program that includes Duvernoy, Ewazen, Bonis, Piazzolla and Schocker.
Cost: $17 ($4 students and seniors)

SAT 21
Corner House
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

The quartet will play music from their latest release, How Beautiful It’s Been. Cost: $20
Pumpkin Glow
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 4 to 10 are invited to paint a zombie — along with a brain for it to devour. Registration required.

**THURS 26**

Young Frankenstein
BEACON
7 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
7 E. Main St. | storyscreenspresent.com

The Beacon Horror Show, organized by Story Screen, presents the 1984 comedy starring Gene Wilder. Free

**FRI 27**

Scavenger Hunt
BEACON
3 - 6 p.m. Main Street
hocuspocusbeacon.com

Get your passport stamped by finding black cats at local businesses. Also SAT 28.

Scary Stories in the Barn
BEACON
5:30 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org

Storyteller Lorraine Martin Gelardi will spook and delight kids ages 5 to 15 in the historic barn. Cost: $15 ($8 children)

**FRI 27**

Trunk or Treat
GARRISON
6:30 – 8 p.m. Philipstown Recreation
6:30 – 8 p.m. 107 Glenclyffe
6:30 – 8 p.m. 107 Glenclyffe

Children can practice their trick-or-treating skills. Costumes welcome.

**FRI 27**

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

The former KISS guitarist will perform songs from his latest release, Origins II. Cost: $30 (35 door)

**FRI 27**

Slaid Cleaves & Robbie Fulks
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

These two artists will include classics and rarities. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

**SAT 28**

The Howling Comedy Show
BEACON
5 – 8 p.m. Memorial Park
198 Robert Cahill Drive
hocuspocusbeacon.com

This adult event will feature comedians and treats.

**SAT 28**

Dance Party
BEACON
7 p.m. University Settlement
724 Woollcott Ave. | compassarts.org

This party, sponsored by Compass Arts With a Night of the Living Dead theme, will include jams and drinks. Wear your best costume. Cost: $30

**SAT 28**

Nosferatu
POUGHKEEPSIE
7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Watch the 1922 silent horror film on the big screen accompanied by Juan Cardona Jr. playing his original score on the theater’s Wurlitzer organ. Free

**SAT 28**

Hudson Valley Boo Ball
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. MIN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
mihudsonvivicenter.org

The Hyde will perform, and there will be beer trucks. Cost: $15

**SAT 28**

Repo Man
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
333 Fishkill Ave.
storyscreenspresent.com

The Beacon Horror Show, organized by Story Screen, presents the 1984 sci-fi black comedy starring Emilio Estevez and Harry Dean Stanton. Cost: $20

**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.

**WED 25**

Zombie Painting
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
howlandlibrary.org

This event will include a painting activity – along with a brain for it to devour. Registration required.

**SAT 29**

Night of the Living Dead
BEACON
7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
storyscreenspresent.com

The Beacon Horror Show, organized by Story Screen, presents the unrated 1968 fright classic. Cost: $10
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

HudsonFjord fjord_trail
A Production of Pivots

For new musical, lyricist ends up as director

By Alison Rooney

Jim Semmelman knows how to increase dramatic tension. Enter as a lyricist, then write a play, then rewrite it. Cast the play, then cast it again after one of the leads lands an off-Broadway job. There’s been a whole lot more since the Garrison resident originally was brought in to write the lyrics for what was then someone else’s project.

The project was a play called Last Chapter, Best Chapter, by Stephen Chinlund. Feeling that there was “not enough there, there,” Semmelman says he asked if he could “create a backstory with more meat to advance and inform the story.” He eventually rewrote nearly all of the story, “showing how we got there, giving the characters’ history, tension, problems to overcome and movement.”

He even altered the title, to Brush Strokes. Composed of “relationships that are wacky, and movements that are wacky,” he says, “Each of the characters has their own sound. Virginia, the main character, is more classical, while her granddaughter, Mitzi, is quirkier and jazzy. Eric, who is pursuing Virginia, is more bombastic and standard musical theater.”

Molding the words and cadences of his characters to match their musical counterparts was new for Semmelman. “I didn’t realize at first how the dialogue would be, coming out of the voice of that character,” he says. “I had clear voices in my head, because I would write the dialogue for each. I instinctively knew all three of these characters. Then your actors bring different things to it: They’ll ask questions, you’ll explain it, they interpret it in a different way. I love the collaboration.”

The actors are Mark McGrath, Lynne Wintersteller and Rachel Fairbanks, who recently appeared in Camelot at Lincoln Center. When Semmelman had to re-cast the play, he thought of McGrath, a fellow graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He then remembered that McGrath’s wife, Wintersteller, was a past nominee for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical. “I realized, ‘Oh my God, here are two Broadway veterans who will already have a short cut, because they’re married.’ Getting a husband and wife to play the love interests is fun and exciting.

“I sent them the script, and they read it that afternoon, then called me at night,” he says. “They hadn’t even heard the music. They jumped in full force, and had some suggestions. They did a sing-through, with their amazing voices. I couldn’t be more thrilled.”

Mark McGrath

Nearly all of his work deals with yin yang and the duality of the universe. “Two things come together and produce a third; that pattern goes through all of my work,” he says. “For instance, a series called Life Continuity diagrams a person’s life from birth to death. Doing this diagrammatically is a way to visualize someone’s life, and also the continuity of life, generation to generation. Another called The Great Ongoingness is modeled on a Tibetan knot.”

Provan likes making “succinct, structurally contained objects, things like little icons or altars to the great mystery. I make these objects as acknowledgment and homage. Sometimes I have an idea of where I want to wind up. Once I see it in three dimensions, I can enhance it.”

The Garrison Art Center, at 23 Garrison’s Landing, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more of Provan’s work, see davidprovan.com.
Three Sisters Chili

SERVES 6 TO 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Olive oil or peanut oil</th>
<th>1 large yellow onion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>½ cup butternut squash cut into a ½- to ¾-inch dice</td>
<td>4 to 5 cloves garlic minced</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 teaspoons ground cumin</td>
<td>1 quart vegetable stock</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 teaspoons chili powder</td>
<td>1 cup John Cope’s Dried Sweet Corn</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons light brown sugar</td>
<td>2 cups cooked chili beans (black, pinto, cranberry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt and pepper</td>
<td>and reserved cooking liquid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 teaspoon ground chipotle pepper</td>
<td>2 tablespoons masa harina or yellow cornmeal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 teaspoon ground ancho chilies</td>
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**Ingredients:**
- For the chili shown here, I confess to using Cope’s Dried Sweet Corn. Founded well over a century ago in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Cope’s uses supersweet varieties such as Silver Queen, Silver King and Natale that are harvested in the early stages, stripped and air-dried at a low temperature for about eight hours. That preserves their color and nutrients, intensifying a sweet, nutty, caramelized corny flavor.

**Method:**
1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees with the rack in the upper position. In a large bowl, toss the squash cubes in 2 tablespoons oil and dust evenly with 1 teaspoon cumin, 1 teaspoon chile powder and the sugar. Spread evenly in one layer on a parchment-lined sheet pan. Sprinkle a little salt and grinds of black pepper over all and roast for 25 to 30 minutes. (Remove from oven and reserve when done.)
2. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a large (2 quart) saucepan or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. When oil shimmers add onion and sauté until it just begins to color. Add garlic and cook 30 to 45 seconds. Add remainder of cumin and chili powder, the oregano, plus powdered chile powder and ancho peppers and cook for a minute or two. Add the vegetable stock and lower heat to a simmer. Cook for 10 to 15 minutes and add the Cope’s dried corn. Let simmer for about 30 minutes.
3. Add the beans and reserved squash and bring back to a simmer for 20 minutes. If it’s too thick add some of the reserved bean-cooking liquid or more stock or water. Five minutes before serving, stir in the masa harina or cornmeal and stir to thicken.
4. Serve over rice or some other grain (wild rice or a wild rice blend would be nice) and garnish with the usual chili accompaniments: sour cream or cheese, scallions, cilantro or avocados.

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Small, Good Things

One for the Ladies

By Joe Dizney

In the wake of both harvest season and Indigenous Peoples’ Day, one can’t help but be grateful for our native agricultural and culinary heritage, and the Northeast Native American — in particular, the Iroquois — traditions.

The Iroquois were a matrilineal society, and their major crops (squash, beans and corn) were thought to be imbued with female energy and known collectively as the Three Sisters.

Mohawk women cultivated the three crops symbiotically: Beans were planted at the base of budding corn stalks and their vines climbed the growing stalks to catch the sun, while broad-leaved squash plants nestled in at the base to shade, cool and keep the roots moist, benefiting all.

Nutritionally, they are equally symbiotic with corn and squash providing complex carbohydrates, the beans providing excellent vegetable protein (especially in concert with corn and squash providing complex carbohydrates), and the beans and squash supplying healthy vitamins and minerals.

In the kitchen and on the tastebuds, they are equally welcomed as a trio, and with the cooler, and unseasonably wet weather upon us, I recently lit upon the idea of a Three Sisters Chili, meatless, but hearty and redolent of chilies — warm and comforting in the best way.

I initially thought to use the last of the market corn, thickening the pot with a couple of tablespoons of masa harina (or yellow cornmeal) at the end, which is traditional, at least in my house, for chili.

And then ... I remembered another singular corn product that has a great many uses and is well worth seeking out and exploring for your winter larder and table: John Cope’s Dried Sweet Corn. Founded well over a century ago in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Cope’s uses supersweet varieties such as Silver Queen, Silver King and Natale that are harvested in the early stages, stripped and air-dried at a low temperature for about eight hours. That preserves their color and nutrients, intensifying a sweet, nutty, caramelized corny flavor.

A final step — cracking the corn into smaller bits — makes for a unique texture and quick cooking time. It also adds a slightly chunky texture that is much welcomed in this surprisingly hearty chili. I have yet to find an acceptable substitute. I would say Cope’s is hard to find, but in this day of internet commerce, the dreaded Amazon is a reliable source, as is Zingerman’s, or even a couple of Amish and Pennsylvania Dutch suppliers also now online. But you have to love a shelf-stable product that lists only one ingredient on the label: dried sweet corn.

I like to add it to a pot of polenta when I make polenta (wild rice or a wild rice blend would be nice) and garnish with the usual chili accompaniments: sour cream or cheese, scallions, cilantro or avocados.

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Two new eateries open in Beacon

By Marc Ferris

**LA BARBIRRIA**

The opening of a new Mexican cantina is likely to elicit more ho-hum than gung-ho, but this isn’t just another taco joint.

For a couple of months, locals knew it as Fishkill, five years ago. Now, he turns his attention to well-crafted Mexican fare.

Patricio Patino, a native of Ecuador, opened Soltano, a northern Mediterranean spot in Fishkill, five years ago. Now, he turns his attention to well-crafted Mexican fare.

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**TACOS & BUTTER**

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By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (October 1873)
The creditors of Caleb Knapp, whose shoe store at Fishkill Landing was $2,647 in debt [$68,000 today] when he disappeared, gathered at the Court of Bankruptcy to see what they could recover.

Two men who were seriously injured in an explosion of nitroglycerine during blasting near Sylvan Lake were placed on a train at Dutchess Junction bound for Bellevue Hospital in New York City.

James Welsh, a laborer at the Mott Brick Co., near Dutchess Junction, was killed while pushing a carload of bricks along the tracks when he slipped under the wheels.

An empty train car came loose at Glenham and rushed through Matteawan “like a spectral car with Satan for an engineer,” according to The Cold Spring Recorder. Informed by telegraph that the car was coming, officials at Dutchess Junction stopped it with a barricade of railroad ties.

Because of a national financial crisis, the Schenck’s machine shop at Matteawan closed and 100 men were dismissed. At the Matteawan Hat Shop, which employed 282 men, a manager said: “If this thing keeps on 10 days longer, we shall close. The most our employees can stand is a stoppage of one to three months.” The Seamless Clothing Co., which made druggets, hoop skirts and linings for arctic shoes, robes and blankets, had been running 24/7 with 500 employees but had reduced that to daytime with 350 workers.

While fishing at Lake Levenon, 5 miles from Monticello, Dr. H.C. Wilson and Lyman Moses of Matteawan caught 150 pounds of pickerel that weighed from 8 ounces to 4 pounds each.

125 Years Ago (October 1898)
Herman Inman of Matteawan broke his collarbone while bicycle racing at Peattle’s when a person ran in front of him on the track.

William Woods of Cold Spring purchased some of the frame tenement buildings at Glenham owned by the Hiltons and tore them down to sell the timber.

The residence of Reuben Knapp in the Highlands burned to the ground on a Wednesday afternoon. Knapp and his wife and their hired hand were in the field husking corn when they were astonished to see the home ablaze. A neighbor had spotted the flames and sounded the alarm, but the house and everything in it was lost. Working with neighbors in a brisk wind, they did manage to save the barns and other buildings.

The Matteawan Journal boasted that the introduction of electric light and an excellent water supply kept the village on par with other progressive villages.

Frank Howard received word that his brothers, Fred and Irving, had drowned when their small boat capsized while crossing the Hothen Inlet in Alaska. They had gone to search for gold in the Yukon.

John L. Sullivan, the first heavyweight champion of gloved boxing, visited the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminally Insane when his exhibition tour brought him to Fishkill for one of only three bareknuckle fights of his career, against Jake Kilrain. He and Kilrain, who came along, wore their “ring costumes” and gently sparred for the 600 patients, who jumped on chairs, shouted, clapped and cheered for five minutes. “When I meet you again I hope it will be under more favorable conditions for yourselves,” Sullivan said.

The following week, the Matteawan inmates performed a musical comedy, For Love and War, accompanied by the Matteawan Asylum Orchestra. The cast consisted of prisoners and three guards. In the front row sat the infamous triple murderer, Lizzie Halliday, and Oliver Curtis Perry, the train robber who blinded himself.

The Fishkill Herald printed this notice: “Will the person who surreptitiously abstracted the 1897 5th District registration book from the Town Clerk’s office at Matteawan and left an 1896 book in its place, please return the same.”

The Warm Springs of Fishkill Landing, a baseball team of Black players, hosted the Lone Stars, a team of Black players from Back Book. Looking Back in Beacon

Newburgh, winning 71-18. After the game, the teams marched through the streets with a fife and drum, then held a cake walk and a hop.

100 Years Ago (October 1923)
John Pendleton went to City Court to complain that the principal of the Matteawan School had cut his son's hair without permission. The principal said the boy's hair, usually combed in a pompadour style, had fallen over his eyes, and he cut it as an act of kindness.

Work on the Melzingah dam site was becoming hazardous because of the number of copperheads, rattlers and other snakes, including a nest with eight inhabitants.

St. John's Catholic Church sold a piece of its property on Willow Street for $6,500 ($117,000). It planned to use the funds to build a convent.

Fifty boys tried out for the first soccer team at Beacon High School.

A hatter named Roy Annan with a wife and 6-year-old child in Beacon was arrested on a charge of bigamy. He allegedly married Wife No. 3; to marry Wife No. 3, Annan had shown the priest a fake death certificate for Wife No. 2.

A group of 35 Beacon High School students started a school newspaper.

Durisol, Inc., which made roofing planks, announced it would construct a $250,000 ($83 million), 10,000-square-foot plant at the former Dennings Point brickworks site. Its innovative planks were made from mineralized wood chips combined with cement and reinforced by steel bars.

50 Years Ago (October 1975)
Frank Moore, the Republican challenger for mayor, vowed that, if elected, he would end urban development projects such as the Tompkins Terrace apartment complex.

Col. WilliamFew, the signer of the Declaration of Independence who had been buried in a vault behind the Reformed Church, was re-interred in Augusta, Georgia. Few died in Fishkill Landing in 1828 while visiting his daughter. A member of the Fishkill Historical Society and Georgia Gov. Jim Carter took part in the ceremony.

The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps asked the Planning Board for an access road from Fishkill Avenue to Asylum Road on the Matteawan State Hospital grounds, where it planned to build a new headquarters.

The National Shakespeare Co. performed As You Like It at Beacon High School.

Dave Eraca, who played third base for Beacon High School and had a 500 batting average during the spring season, was named the outstanding senior high school player in Dutchess County by the Old Timers Baseball Association.

Dr. Solon Wolff, a retired physician in Beacon, shared a ghost story with the Poughkeepsie Journal: "A former New York City fire chief trained horses on the grounds of the present Matteawan hospital. When one of the famous trotters died, he had the horse buried on the estate. Since that time, many people have reported hearing a mysterious horse which gallops about the grounds at night."

25 Years Ago (October 1998)
Beacon officials were hopeful that a Façade Improvement Program that offered low-interest loans to property owners to restore their storefronts would return Main Street to its former glory, particularly on the west end. Owners could apply for loans of up to $7,500 at 0.5 percent below the prime rate, which was 8.25 percent.

For the first time, the state parks department allowed artists to visit Pollepel Island to create paintings for a benefit organized by the Bannerman Castle Trust.

James Yanarella, 60, was shot and killed by his wife in Poughkeepsie. He had taught on Saturdays for years at the Yanarella School of Dance in Beacon, which was owned by a relative, and served as master of ceremonies at recitals.

City Administrator Joseph Braun presented a proposed budget to the City Council that included a 6.5 percent tax increase. "We had no tax increase last year," he said. "This year we have to pay the piper."

Two new stores opened: Billy's Cafe at 422 Main St. and Beacon Wine Shoppe and Liquors at 344 Main St., formerly Ritter's Liquor Store.

Evelyn Merritt died at age 90. From 1954 to 1982, she and her husband ran Dutchess Publishing in Beacon, which printed the Beacon Light, Fishkill Standard and East Fishkill Record.

The Beacon school board hired a Rhinebeck architectural firm to draw plans for a new high school. "Because we design buildings that are tools in the educational process, we have to determine what a high school education in Beacon will mean in the new millennium," said Louis Turpin, the firm's founder. The building was expected to cost $30 million ($87 million today).
Howland Music Circle Tries a New Approach

Introduces tiered pricing to draw new faces

By Alison Rooney

A t orchestral concerts, solo recitals and chamber music performances, a common denominator is that most attendees are middle aged or older and largely white. How, then, do organizers open the doors more widely?

These concerns are front and center for the Howland Chamber Music Circle, which has been presenting concerts at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon since 1993. Its longevity has been forged by being able to attract a strong roster of musicians, drawn by the reputation of the Music Circle and the venue, which is architecturally appealing and acoustically revered. (The two nonprofits operate independently of each other.)

The concerts often sell out, and the audiences continue to be enthusiastic. But the Music Circle board members recently decided to focus on the issue of diversity. The early results are promising but there is more work to be done, reports Paul Stoddard, the president, and Jinny St. Goar, a board member.

“We’re still struggling to get the youngsters across the threshold,” St. Goar says, although the Music Circle does have a long-time series, Classics for Kids, in which a visiting group performs during the day before the later usual performance. There are also a program at Arlington High School and a residency program in the Beacon elementary schools.

Young adults are trickier to attract, Stoddard says. “A lot of them find us while they’re walking in the neighborhood; they love the architecture and they come in to check it out and learn what’s happening.”

Still, a formalized approach was needed. “The board has been thinking about how to make concerts more accessible to a broader audience,” St. Goar says. “There’s been a lot of talk in recent years about diversity, equity and inclusion. There was a way for us to increase all these things.”

One strategy is to make the shows affordable to everyone. “Last year, for one concert, we experimented with a form of ‘pay what you wish’ — which has been adopted in various ways by entities such as Mostly Mozart, the Minnesota Orchestra and many museums — to all of its programming.

“The last 10 tickets have been selling at the reduced prices,” St. Goar says, and buyers told the Music Circle they would not have attended at full price. “We have pretty clear results from our first concert, which was the Juilliard String Quartet,” she says, at which six tickets sold for $5 and the others for $10 or $20 each.

Stoddard adds: “We wrote to our regular subscribers and got enthusiastic responses. One donated more money. It’s a tricky problem to solve, and it will take a long time to make a big difference.”

In another innovation, the Music Circle has been sponsoring new works. “When the Juilliard String Quartet performed here in September, it played a newly composed piece,” St. Goar says, with the composer, Tyson Gholston Davis, an undergrad at Juilliard, in the audience. The Music Circle is co-commissioning a composition by Davis, who is Black, that will be presented during its 2024-25 season.

The board has also looked at other ways to “stretch” the audience, St. Goar says, by “going beyond the canon and enlivening pieces.”

On Nov. 12, violinist Arnaud Sussman and pianist Michael Stephen Brown will present a program called Jewish Voices, with works by composers whose lives were impacted by World War II. The concert draws inspiration from the survival of Sussman’s grandfather at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

The Music Circle’s more traditional programming will include piano concerts in January, February and March with Jonathan Biss; Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung; Conrad Tao and Ying Li; followed by performances by the Brasil Guitar Duo (Douglas Lora and Joao Luiz), the Merz Trio, the Isidore String Quartet and the Escher String Quartet.

For tickets and more information on the Music Circle, see howlandmusic.org.

Evolutionary change is a process of trial and error. As long as the Music Circle is open to new ideas, its programming will continue to be vibrant, exciting and refreshingly different.
Out There

Following the Forest

By Brian PJ Cronin

The stretch of South Highland Road in Putnam Valley that the Appalachian Trail crosses doesn’t look too different from the rest of the road as you zoom past in your car. But when I recently walked the patch of road with Cory Tiger of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, I began to see it in a different light.

Using a worksheet created by an initiative called Follow the Forest, Tiger showed me how unusually favorable this short stretch is for wildlife crossings.

There were no guardrails to slow down deer, no 90-degree curbs to stop newts. The trees on either side of the road are tall enough to form an interlocking canopy, which is handy if you’re a flying squirrel whose habitat range is drifting north because of climate change and you need a safer way to cross the street. Even the harmful invasive plants such as barberry, knotweed and tree of heaven that filled the rest of the street were absent here, making it more enticing to native wildlife.

There is also what lay beyond our vision. The north side of the street was a 1,439-acre protected section of Fahnestock State Park with no roads running through it. The south side consisted of 400 protected acres surrounding the Appalachian Trail.

The parcels are what Follow the Forest considers “core forests,” and the section of road is a potentially critical wildlife missing link. But without enough features to facilitate safe wildlife crossings, it could be potentially deadly for animals as well as the humans who hit them with their cars.

In the western U.S., the features include multimillion-dollar, grass-covered bridges over highways. In the Highlands, the interventions would probably be far more modest: gaps in fences, slanted curbs, conservation easements, planting of native species. Follow the Forest has selected hundreds of potential habitat linkages in the Northeast, stretching from the Bear Mountain Bridge into Canada, which can be found on an interactive map at bit.ly/FTF-hudson, but each needs to be examined in person.

That’s where local residents come in. The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is partnering with the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) to host a community science workshop in Garrison on Friday (Oct. 27) to train people to assess potential linkages. (Register at bit.ly/FTFworkshop.)

“We can only gain so much information from behind our computers,” says Julia Rogers of HVA. “It’s the people in our communities who are driving the roads every day that see the wildlife patterns.”

Rogers worked for the land trust before joining HVA in 2021. The two nonprofits have a similar mission: Protect large parcels and find ways to connect them. The larger the parcel, the more drinking water it can filter, the more resilient it can be to climate change and the easier it becomes for wildlife to move around. But climate change is increasing migration as former habitat areas become inhospitable and wildlife must hit the road to find new homes.

It’s also changing migration in surprising ways. Decades ago, the Hudson River froze solid, allowing people to walk between West Point and the Highlands. What sort of animals made that crossing? What are they doing now instead?

Since every land trust covers only so much ground, HVA developed Follow the Forest for conservation groups in the Northeast to work together. Connecting the core forests through linkages not only prioritizes what parcels should be protected but identifies where it makes the most sense to build housing, roads and other infrastructure.

“How do we as communities fit within this bigger picture?” Rogers asks. “We tend to think of ourselves as separated, yet we are influencing these ecosystems.”

The project is also an act of interspecies empathy. How would you cross the road you live on if you were a fox or a salamander? What would make it safer?

These potential connections and their obstacles became all too clear to me the day after I spoke with Tiger and Rogers when, as I drove on Red Schoolhouse Road at dusk, a bobcat darted in front of me, missing my car by a whisker. It was the first bobcat I’ve seen in 16 years of living in the Highlands, and I almost ran it over.

When I got home, I went to the Follow the Forest map online and zoomed in on the spot where the encounter took place. The bobcat had been running from the Muller Pond trail to the Sierra Trail. I knew those trails well, but as the map confirmed, neither the meadows surrounding Muller Pond nor the woods surrounding Sierra Pond were anywhere near large enough to be a core forest.

Zooming out, I looked at the intertwined network of dense roads and how far they were from a landscape that wildlife might consider safe. I thought about how many roads that bobcat still had to cross as it headed north. Would its luck run out?

“Do we as communities fit within this bigger picture? We tend to think of ourselves as separated, yet we are influencing these ecosystems.”

- Julia Rogers of HVA

Beacon's Rachel Thorne raced against Port Jervis on Tuesday (Oct. 17).

A Beacon swimmer competes in the backstroke against Warwick Valley on Oct. 13.

Varsity Roundup (from Page 24)

CROSS-COUNTRY — Henry Reinke took home some hardware on Oct. 14 at the Manhattan Invite in the Bronx, finishing 13th of 160 entrants in the 2.5-mile race in 13:36. For the girls, Rachel Thorne was the top finisher, placing 94th in the 2.5-mile race in 20:06. The boys’ and girls’ teams also defeated Port Jervis in a home meet on Tuesday (Oct. 17).

GIRLS’ SWIMMING — Beacon on Oct. 13 lost its final meet of the year, falling to Warwick Valley, 117-63. The Bulldogs (2-10) won the 200-meter medley relay in 2:08.46 and Meara Kumar finished first in the 100-meter fly in 1:10.16.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of street and perimeter lighting throughout the physical campus. Selection criteria will be based on experience, competitive pricing, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting rfp@edenvillagecamp.org.

Bids will be accepted until January 5, 2024 and installation must be completed by April 20, 2024 at the latest.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of new commercial windows. Selection criteria will be based on installation experience, competitive pricing, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting rfp@edenvillagecamp.org.

Bids will be accepted until January 5, 2024 and installation must be completed by April 20, 2024 at the latest.

CITY OF BEACON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the City of Beacon City Council hereby schedules a public hearing for October 23, 2023 regarding the 2024 Community Development Block Grant Program. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom at One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508, and also via videoconference and teleconference.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the public can view and/or listen to the meeting (1) in-person in the Courtroom, or (2) live on YouTube or Zoom by visiting beaconny.gov/events. Members of the public can comment during the public hearing in-person or by joining Zoom via phone or computer.

Benjamin Swanson, Secretary to the Mayor

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**Puzzles**

**ACROSS**
1. Apple tablet  
6. Happen next  
7. Sudden contraction  
8. Chicago Symphony conductor Georg  
9. Summers abroad?  
13. Stockpile, as toilet paper  
14. — bene  
15. King, in Cannes  
16. British noble  
18. — ending  
19. Pub potables  
20. Diner employee  
22. Kathmandu’s land  
23. Census stat  
26. Western searching tool  
27. Birthright  
29. Chemical suffix  
30. Before  
31. Chemical suffix  
32. Long time  
33. Slaloms  
34. Baseball film starring Kevin Costner  
35. “Tell Me You Love Me” singer Lovato  
36. Rodeo rope  
37. Baseball film starring Kevin Costner  
38. “Right you —!”  
39. Kidnapped monogram  
40. Hawaiian island  
41. Phase  
42. Quick look  
43. “Doing my best”  
44. Vogue rival  
45. Brit. record label  
46. April forecast  
47. “Tell Me You Love Me” singer Lovato  
48. Ms. Thurman

**DOWN**
1. Bygone Peruvian  
2. Betting group  
3. Tiny bit  
4. Long time  
5. A deadly sin  
6. Long time  
7. Slaloms  
8. Reeves of Speed

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**SudoCurrent**

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

**WARTS**

**LOADS**

---

**WordLadder**

**MICRO CROSSWORD**

ACROSS
1. Stockpile, as toilet paper  
6. Happen next  
7. Sudden contraction  
8. Chicago Symphony conductor Georg  
9. Summers abroad?  
10. “Right you —!”  
11. Kidnapped monogram  
12. Stanley Cup org.  
13. Paris summer  
14. Consumer crusader Ralph  
15. Curry and Landers  
16. Jared of Panic Room

DOWN
1. Bygone Peruvian  
2. Betting group  
3. Teensy bit  
4. Stately duo?  
5. A deadly sin  
6. Long time  
7. Slaloms  
8. Reeves of Speed

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**Answers for Oct. 13 Puzzles**

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
FOOTBALL — On Oct. 13, the Blue Devils traveled to Valhalla to take on the Vikings. Amid a raucous atmosphere, and without a working scoreboard to keep time, the Blue Devils prevailed with a gritty 15-6 win.

Valhalla nearly scored first in the initial quarter but a touchdown with 7:16 left was called back on a penalty. The drive ended when Haldane’s Erik Stubblefield intercepted a Vikings pass. (Stubblefield wreaked havoc throughout the game; along with his interception, he finished with 12 tackles and a sack.) At the start of the second quarter, the Blue Devils defense forced a fumble inside its own 20-yard line, ending another long Valhalla drive.

With 8:43 left before the half, Haldane quarterback Ryan Van Tassel opened the scoring with a 41-yard scramble. (Van Tassel went 16 for 18 on serves with two aces; and Emily Tomann went 13 for 16 on serves with an ace and led the team with 19 digs.)

On Tuesday, Haldane visited Putnam Valley, losing 3-0 (25-14, 25-5, 25-6). The busy schedule continued on Thursday at home against Putnam Valley, and today (Oct. 20) the Blue Devils (1-12) are on the road again at Somers to finish their regular season. On Thursday, Haldane will take on Leffell in the first round of the Section I, Class C tournament.

BOYS’ SOCCER — In their last home game of the season on Oct. 13, the Blue Devils dominated Pawling, 6-2, behind five goals from Clem Grossman and one from Samuel Cardona.

On Oct. 14, the team traveled to Blind Brook and came home with a 2-1 victory. The Blue Devils struck first on a goal by Brandt Robbins, but Blind Brook equalized with two minutes left in the game. Grossman scored the winner in extra time.

The Blue Devils (9-6), seeded No. 2 in the Section I, Class C tournament, will host No. 3 North Salem (9-6-1) at 2 p.m. on Wednesday (Oct. 25). The teams split their regular-season meetings.

CROSS-COUNTRY — The girls’ team finished third and the boys’ team was fourth in the league championships at North Salem on Oct. 18. Penelope Andreou finished ninth for the girls in 27:55 and Owen Powers was eighth for the boys in 18:37. Both earned All-League honors, as did Hazel Berkley and Kate Resi. Tyler Schacht and Silias Emig were honorable mentions.

On Saturday (Oct. 21), the Blue Devils will compete in the Coaches Invitational at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls, and on Monday they’ll host Hendrick Hudson at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison.

BOYS’ SOCCER — Like the girls, the boys won the league title — their eighth consecutive in Sections I and IX — on Monday (Oct. 16) with an 8-0 win over Liberty. The Bulldogs’ defense achieved 11 shutouts in 14 games, conceding only seven goals behind captains Liam Murphy and Avery Davis.

The Bulldogs (10-2-2) now wait to see whom they will play in the sectional tournament.

VOLLEYBALL — Beacon, which had lost only once this season, went down twice in three games this week, falling to Franklin D. Roosevelt and O’Neill but defeating Goshen.

Against Roosevelt, the Bulldogs lost in three sets (25-21, 25-23, 25-19); Burke had 11 kills and five blocks and Daveya Rodriguez had eight kills and four blocks.

Against Goshen, Beacon won in four sets (19-25, 25-16, 25-21, 25-15); Burke recorded 16 kills and Pearl Kirigi had seven digs. On Wednesday (Oct. 18), O’Neill beat Beacon 3-2.

Against Goshen, Beacon won in four sets (19-25, 25-16, 25-21, 25-15); Burke had 11 kills and five blocks and Daveya Rodriguez had eight kills and four blocks.

Beacon (12-3, 6-0 league) travels to Seward today (Oct. 20) before finishing the regular season hosting Valley Central at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

(Continued on Page 22)