Beacon Stores The HIGHLANDS

OCTOBER 27, 2023 NYPA Newspaper of the Year

Liz Campbell Kelly, a landscape architect and Nelsonville resident, was among the volunteers who worked on the green roof at the Chapel Restoration.

Rooftop Garden Restored

Chapel Restoration goes green - again

By Michael Turton

green roof at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring is enjoying a rebirth and will soon flourish but rejuvenating the biologically diverse rooftop has taken nearly 15 years.

Also known as a "living" or "eco" roof, a green roof consists of soil, vegetation and a waterproof barrier established over all or part of a building's rooftop.

In 2009, a chancery was added to the historic Chapel Restoration on the village

 $river front. \ The \ design \ by \ Peter \ Smith \ included$ a 500-square-foot green roof, but problems developed not long after construction.

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Smith's design was "excellent" but his specifications weren't followed, said architect James Hartford of Cold Spring. As a result, the roof flooded, sending water through the electrical panel and creating a fire hazard. Moisture and humidity also caused mold growth.

Hartford was hired by the Chapel Restoration board in 2013 to restore the roof's integrity and repair the drainage system. In 2022, the board voted to give the green roof a second try and began fundraising and recruiting volunteers.

(Continued on Page 24)

Expand Page 21

No Contests

Nearly all local candidates unopposed on Nov. 7

By Chip Rowe

he only certainties in the 2023 election are that Philipstown will have a new justice and Dutchess County will have a new executive and district attorney.

There are no contested races in Beacon or Cold Spring. In Philipstown, there are three candidates (including two incumbents) for two seats on the Town Board. and two newcomers vying to become town justice, but the incumbent supervisor, highway superintendent and clerk have no opposition. In the only countywide race in Putnam, the district attorney will win a third term without a challenger.

Early voting begins Saturday (Oct. 28), and Election Day is Nov. 7. See Page 9 for more information and a preview of the ballot.

PHILIPSTOWN

After nearly 30 years on the bench, Stephen Tomann did not seek re-election as town justice. Two attorneys in private prac-

(Continued on Page 7)



IT FITS — A young shopper at a thrift sale held earlier this month in Cold Spring tries on a Spiderman glove and plans her Halloween web-slinging. The sale at St. Mary's raised more than \$10,000 for the church and the Philipstown Food Pantry.

'Extraordinary' Find at Historic Chapel

Eucharistic vessels given to Cold Spring church

By Michael Turton

hen the Rev. Thomas Lutz of Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring received a call from Stephen

Hutcheson, a board member at the Chapel Restoration, offering to give the church two items, the priest expected nothing remarkable.

But when Hutcheson brought an antique wooden box to the Fair Street church and opened it, Lutz's reaction was far more animated. "Oh my gosh," he said. "That's extraordinary!

The custom box contained vessels used in the celebrating the Eucharist - including a chalice, paten, plate and two cruets that are likely nearly 200 years old. (A small round compartment in the box is empty, and Lutz is unsure of what it held.)

"It's a French-style chalice," Lutz said, (Continued on Page 16)



The Eucharist set in its custom box

Photo by M. Turton



FIVE QUESTIONS: MICHAEL ADAMOVIC

By Brian PJ Cronin

ichael Adamovic is the author of *Hudson Valley History & Mystery* and *Hudson Valley History & Mystery, Volume 2*, which will be released on Oct. 28.

You took trips to Harriman State Park to find a legendary lost silver mine of the Hudson Highlands, which is supposed to be near a rock shaped like an arrowhead. Will you keep looking for it?

If I get any new tips I will, but I've spent so much time over there, I had to give up. That area is so dense. There are so many shrubs, you could walk right by it without seeing it. I'm pretty sure I was in the right spot, and I did find man-made pits and a rock in the perfect shape of an arrowhead. I spent a lot of time looking for it and I wanted to put a photo in the book!

What was the most surprising thing you uncovered during your research?

The number of sea serpent sightings in the 1800s. In 1886 there was a three-month period in which hundreds of people saw something in the Hudson River. It was a little surprising to read about all of these pretty reliable eyewitnesses claiming that they saw a sea serpent.



You'd expect to find a couple of people over the years, but how do you explain hundreds of people all seeing the same thing? I can't imagine it was just a log that they all saw floating by. It was clearly something that was alive. Aleister Crowley [a British occultist] claimed to have seen one during the year he lived on Esopus Island. It was around World War I, so some people thought it was the periscope of a German submarine. I find that to be unlikely, and he tended to exaggerate a lot of things. Maybe he did see it, or maybe he just imagined it during one of his trances.

When did you start to think there was enough material for a second volume?

When I first started working on it. I started doing research and compiling places I thought would make interesting chapters, and I came up with a list of 30 places. I had to narrow it down for the first volume.

As with Vol. 1, you buried "treasure" near a site in the book and posted a riddle to be decoded. (See bit.ly/ HudsonValleyRiddle2.) Did anyone find the first treasure?

It took two years. I made the second one a little bit easier. I didn't think the original one was that difficult, but when you're creating it, it always seems easier.

Will there be a Vol. 3?

I don't see that happening anytime soon. I have two small children and finding the time for the research and writing does not work at the moment. The research takes about five times as long as the writing. I have to dig into primary sources and visit libraries to find newspaper articles from the 1700s. I had to visit a few libraries in Connecticut for the chapter on The Leatherman [a hermit dressed from head to toe in leather who wandered between the Hudson Valley and Connecticut in the late 1880s.] There were hundreds of articles written about him during his life.



Bv Michael Turton

Who would you love to dress up as for Halloween?

Catherine de' Medici, from the Renaissance period.



Fran Pergamo, Cold Spring

Amy Winehouse; I
just really respected
her as an artist.

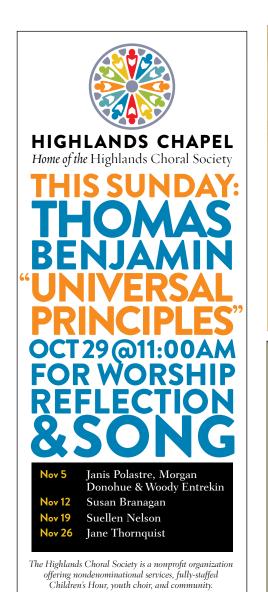


Liz DePonto, Beacon

Mother Teresa, because she helped so many people.



Lucia Grandetti, Cold Spring



216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY

HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG (f







Show off your Halloween spirit!

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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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Garrison school taxes

I have heard in other contexts that New York State prefers larger school districts over smaller ones, and yet the Garrison School's business administrator is claiming that state (and perhaps federal) aid would be reduced in the case of a merger with Haldane ("Study: Merger Would Raise Garrison Taxes by 33%," Oct. 20).

It would be nice to probe this issue a bit deeper so residents can better understand how merging leads to this unfortunate outcome. It's disappointing to hear about public incentives stacked on the side of remaining separate.

Matthew Illian, Garrison ${\it The\ editor\ responds:\ The\ short\ answer\ is}$ that the state's complex aid formula penalizes $relatively\ we althy\ districts\ such\ as\ Garrison$ and Haldane and combined they would be penalized even further. Joseph Jimick, the business manager, noted during his presenta $tion \, that \, a \, consultant \, hired \, by \, the \, district \, in \,$ 1999 had reached the same conclusion.

Based on your reporting of comments from Garrison school board members, it may well be that there are now enough nails in the coffin to bury the idea of merging the Garrison and Haldane school districts. Although it is unlikely this specter will soon be revived,

in the spirit of the season allow me to add one more nail to the long list of negatives that should doom this ill-born concept.

The district's business administrator. Joe Jimick, admirably documented the dramatic rise in Garrison school taxes that would result from a merger. But that tells only part of the tax story. It fails to observe the concomitant reduction in property values relative to neighboring districts that inevitably accompany large local tax increases. To get the idea, look no further than Continental Village, where houses on the high-tax Lakeland district side of the street sell at a substantial discount to identical properties on the low-tax Garrison district side

Raymond O'Rourke, Garrison $O'Rourke\ is\ a\ former\ Garrison\ school$ board president.

Hispanic heritage

Reading "My View: Designing Connections" (Oct. 13) was deja vu for me, a moment of "this was your life." Like Christine Ortiz, I grew up in a large Puerto Rican family that gathered often to celebrate our connections with music, dancing and comida criolla. It was a nurturing space to learn our history and values.

The older generation is gone now, but I pass on that culture of togetherness with frequent

dinners with my close family and occasional parties with cousins and other relatives and friends. Kinship promotes health and happiness. Thank you for honoring my heritage.

Wilma Feliciano, Beacon

Fjord Trail

Thank you for the insightful article on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, which is going to be a beautiful and much-needed asset for our community ("Can the Landscape Change Behavior?" Oct. 13).

Tom O'Quinn, Cold Spring

In order for a driver to reach Breakneck Ridge via New York City, he or she will most likely take the Palisades or Sprain Brook parkways, beautiful roads that happen to be part of the exclusionary legacy of Robert Moses, the legendary builder who reshaped New York State throughout the mid-20th century (no relation to me).

The portrait of Moses painted by Robert Caro in his iconic 1974 biography, The Power Broker, is that of a visionary public servant transfigured by prejudice. In order to discourage access to his parks by public transportation, for example, Moses punctuated his parkways with low overpasses, making bus travel arduous or unsafe.

Moses saw New York's most beautiful areas as preserves for the wealthy. So do the residents trying to torpedo the Fjord Trail with misleading letters to the editor and conspiratorial yard signs. Drive through the communities that the Fiord Trail intends to connect, and you'll notice that those yard signs are most prevalent in Cold Spring (rich) and Garrison (richer). The debate over the trail isn't really about the environment. It's about economics. By improving train and trail access, Scenic Hudson is helping to open the area to all New Yorkers.

It takes a lot of imagination to dream up a project like the Fjord Trail and a lot of passion to bring it to life. I am hopeful that it will democratize access to one of the most beautiful parts of the Lower Hudson Valley. Brett Moses, Beacon

Notwithstanding improvements to Metro-North access, all the drivers reaching or attempting to reach Breakneck from the south and east on the Palisades or Sprain Brook will need to pass through the lone traffic light at the intersection of Main Street and Morris Avenue - a single lane in each direction. They will come to see fall foliage, but by the time they get to Breakneck it might be spring.

A contemplated solution would be to widen the roads leading to the intersection, thereby busting up the scale of the scenic and historic village, similar to Robert Moses' Cross Bronx Expressway.

> David May, Cold Spring (Continued on Page 5)



My View

Dear AI: I'm Not Dead

By Henry Feldman

sk the chatbot to write a biography of yourself. Do try this at home!"



So suggested Gary Smith

in a Salon.com article I was reading about the generative artificial intelligence programs that have captured our hearts and minds. I knew asking would only depress me with bios of far more fabulously interesting people who share my name. But I've also written a computer program with a unique name and a theatrical play. Shall we see what the chatbot had to say?

"Who wrote DBMS/Copy?" I asked Google's Bard. Here are the first two lines

of its response:

"DBMS/Copy was written by Henry Lewis Feldman, who was the founder and CEO of Conceptual Software, Inc. Feldman was a pioneer in the field of data management, and he developed DBMS/Copy to address the need for a tool that could easily transfer data between different software programs."

Pretty cool: It knew I wrote the program! Being a "pioneer in the field of data management" is a stretch, but I'll take the ego stroke.

After those two sentences, however, Bard took a hard left. I became a Henry Feldman born 19 years earlier with degrees from other colleges who started my company three years earlier than I did. And the kicker:

"Feldman died in 2015 at the age of 75. He is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren."

Google says I have an extra grandchild! And that I'm dead.

How is this possible? Unfortunately, it's baked into the design. Chatbots are nothing more than extremely impressive autocomplete programs. They have munched trillions of words to calculate the "most probable" word that should appear next based on what it has already written.

If taking a scenic drive through Crazy-Town is the "most probable" next direction, away it goes. But when did the most probable word become equal to the correct word?

As you can imagine, as a not-dead person with a long history in the computer field, I find myself exceptionally troubled that some of the largest companies in the world are falling over themselves to promote programs that lie. They give it the cute word — "hallucinations" — but they're lies. (Originally, I thought it branched off to another "me" and followed his life, but he seems to not exist.)

As the chief technical officer of OpenAI (ChatGPT) said of chat bots: "May make up facts." Since when is that OK? Why are we allowing them to push this stuff?

Behind the scenes, it seems there might be millions of poorly paid people around the world fixing the errors. That sounds more mechanical turk than artificially intelligent to me. And yes, the responses to my questions have changed. (Glad I saved the links.)

What happens when the responses (aka lies)

are pasted on websites that get munched next year? And what if this article gets processed? Will my death just get another vote?

Please don't use a chatbot for fact-finding. It's not in the design. It doesn't care. Use it to get a great excuse for why your homework isn't done, because it will tap into the world of excuses and likely give you something better than you could ever imagine.

Don't be like the lawyer who used a chatbot to find prior cases to include in a brief. He asked the chatbot if the cases were real. The chatbot said yes.

And just so you know that the answer about my computer program wasn't a fluke: I asked Bard about my play, Sea Level Rise: A Dystopian Comedy. It was performed three times in 2019 at a small theater festival in New York City, and the chatbot shared with me glowing reviews that I missed in The New York Times, Boston Globe and The Washington Post.

If only.

Feldman, who lives in Cold Spring, is a computer programmer and writer.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Pet medics

Michelle Scarchilli of VetMedics takes care of my cats when I travel, and her training as a vet tech, compassion for animals and reliability give me such peace of mind ("Pet Paramedics to the Rescue," Oct. 13). I'm so grateful for her services.

Joni Sweet, $via\ Facebook$

Michelle was there when my fur family needed it most. I am forever grateful to her. Paul Yeaple, via Instagram

Beacon raises

Great idea ("Beacon Council Member Seeks Raises for Colleagues," Oct. 20). Can you imagine if council members could make their work a full-time job? There are so many ways the community could be served.

Donna Mikkelsen, via Instagram

Are you kidding me? A \$1,000 raise to each City of Beacon employee so he or she will stay ("Beacon Budget Proposes \$100 Tax Bump, Employee Raises," Oct. 13)?

Who is the idiot who thought this was a good idea? Let me guess: Someone who is getting a \$1,000 check! If a thousand bucks keeps them here, they weren't leaving anyway. This city is run by idiots. You expect us to believe employees with 10 years on the job are going to leave? This is a cash grab, and plain and simple lunacy.

Joel Ingold, via Facebook

Beacon fashion

Wait, what? How did I not know about Wanderlux ("The Fashion Mixmaster," Oct. 13)? Samara Mormar, via Instagram

Can Ginger Zee, the meteorologist for *Good Morning America*, truly not wear the same outfit twice? How about every few months? That feels insane. If *GMA* wants that, their wardrobe person should handle it.

Katie Schmidt Feder, $via\ Instagram$

Correction

In a story in the Oct. 20 issue, we reported that the Cold Spring Village Board planned to post its response to all public comments about the proposed changes to the Village Code on vehicles and traffic and residential parking received by the Oct. 25 deadline. In fact, the board will address comments during its discussions at meetings.

Dutchess vote

I will be voting on Nov. 7 to re-elect Yvette Valdés Smith as our county legislator. [Her district includes Ward 4 in Beacon.] Yvette takes care of our community as she does her own family, or her prior classrooms as a teacher. Her dedication can't be measured.

She has worked tirelessly to bring salestax reform to the forefront of the debate in the Dutchess County Legislature and has proposed having the county cover the cost for concurrent tuition for high school students to attend Dutchess Community College. She proposed hiring a Climate Smart coordinator to help expand composting and environmental protections. She has prioritized lowering property taxes, co-sponsoring a bill to bring down rates.

Yvette works hard and is always looking out for us, the taxpayers. If you re-elect her, she will continue to support our values and fight to lower taxes. She not only sees you, she hears you.

Raquel Verdesi, Beacon

Philipstown vote

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse, for the election on Nov. 7, the candidacies of John Van Tassel, Bob Flaherty and Judy Farrell for the Philipstown Town Board and Tara Percacciolo for town clerk. (I support Adam Hotaling for highway superintendent, too, but don't interact with him as much as I do with the other candidates and Board

Members Megan Cotter and Jason Angell.)
As a regular visitor to Town Hall and

attendee at Town Board meetings, I can attest to the complete transparency and full functionality of the activities and conduct of these individuals. They may be associated with the same political party, but they all have very different perspectives on the issues that come before them.

As a close observer of their interactions, I am continually impressed by the informed and respectful nature of their debate. And I can assure you that there is no unwillingness to listen to and consider each other's ideas. Further, anyone in the town who wishes to be heard by these individuals at a Town Board meeting can be heard and their comments will be respected and considered.

We are indeed fortunate to have a local government process that works and whose participating members are genuinely committed to finding balanced outcomes that are aligned with the interests of a broad consensus of the residents of Philipstown.

Nat Prentice, Garrison

Judy Farrell is the rare public servant. She listens to her constituents, shows good judgment, cares about the issues we face in Philipstown and she isn't afraid to stand up on her own and do the right thing.

She was the sole vote against the appalling property tax proposal, which would increase our taxes at more than double the rate of inflation. She was one of only two elected officials in Cold Spring and Philipstown who voted against the callous efforts to ban Ukrainian, Israeli and pride flags from display on public property. She takes her job seriously and won't go along with reckless proposals.

There is a sense that our local governments have lost their way. There is growing dissatisfaction in elected and appointed officials who aren't focused on important issues and are threatening our unique way of life by approving more suburban sprawl.

Judy Farrell is not one of those people.

She is a sterling example of leadership, integrity, fiscal discipline and thoughtfulness. She deserves your vote.

Dan Willson, *Philipstown*

For more endorsements, see highlandscurrent.org.



NOVEMBER AT TCCC

FRI., NOV. 3RD, 7:30 PM

Art, Money, Fiction

A Conversation with Tad Crawford Publisher, Attorney and Author of "Legal Guide for the Visual Artist" Interviewed by James Shearwood

SUN., NOV. 5TH, 2:00 PM

"Seeking The Light" by Karin Lemke

Art Exhibit and Reception Live music by Tim Pitt and Linda Thornton

SUN., NOV. 12TH, 2:00 PM

George and Ruth: Songs and Letters of the Spanish Civil War

Veterans Day Program

SAT., NOV. 18TH, 7:30 PM

Down Hill Strugglers

Old-time String Band
John Cohen Memorial Music Series

SUN., NOV. 19TH, 3:00 PM

Poets' Corner Open Mic

Featuring Lucia Cherciu

Visit TompkinsCorners.org

6 October 27, 2023 The Highlands Current Support our nonprofit. Become a member!





Heeter

Норре





Morrison

Thorne





Tripp

Zuckerman

The Current Names Student Journalists

Six will participate in 2023-24 program

The Highlands Current has named six high school students as reporters and photographers as part of its Student Journalists Program, now in its fourth year.

The program, which is funded by gifts from The DJ McManus Foundation and members of *The Current* (see highlandscurrent.org/donate), provides students with an opportunity to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as paid correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website. The correspondents will primarily cover their high schools and issues related to young people.

Three students return for 2023-24: Clara Tripp, who lives in Garrison and is a junior at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in the Bronx; Lily Zuckerman, who lives in Garrison and is a senior at the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry; and Una Hoppe, a senior at Beacon High School who will contribute photography.

Joining them are Jude Morrison, who lives in Garrison and is a junior at St. Regis High School in New York City; Cadence Heeter, a senior at Beacon High School who will contribute sports photography; and Rachel Thorne, a senior at Beacon High School who, as a ninth grader, was one of the two members of the inaugural Student Journalists Program in 2020.

STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

Cold Spring Parking Plan Progresses

Public comments prompt changes

By Michael Turton

he public hearing on revisions to Cold Spring code chapters dealing with residential parking, vehicles and traffic was closed at the Wednesday (Oct. 25) meeting of the Village Board, moving the community a step closer to metered parking on Main Street and, the board hopes, less frustration for homeowners and tenants searching for a place to park.

When the hearing was opened at a meeting last week, Mayor Kathleen Foley underlined how long parking has been a thorny issue by reading from a *New York Times* article published 34 years ago that stated "many Cold Spring residents complain about the lack of curbside parking, especially on weekends when visitors take up

the relatively few spots."

Then-Mayor Antonia Garufi told the paper that the village was considering installing parking meters but had not yet figured out how to let residents park near their homes while limiting tourist parking.

Foley noted that the current proposed changes do not apply across the entire village. "This is Phase One, which includes most streets from the riverfront to Route 9D and between Northern Avenue and Wall Street," she explained, adding that permits will not reserve specific spaces.

New York State has approved the addition of about 20 streets in the upper village to a residential parking program, which will be considered later.

On Wednesday, the board agreed on a number of revisions to the proposal:

■ Each residential unit in the Phase One area can receive up two permits. The presence of a driveway will no longer be a factor.

- Each permit will cost \$50. (In previous drafts, some permits cost \$75.) Replacement stickers will cost \$5.
- Metered parking on Main Street will be expanded beyond weekends and holidays to include Fridays.

Several steps remain before metered parking and residential permits can be implemented, including the installation of signage and payment kiosks and training Cold Spring police officers to use the enforcement technology.

Trustee Eliza Starbuck said the residential permits will be in place before metered parking. Foley added that, ideally, permits will be distributed by December and valid starting in January.

The board authorized the mayor to sign a contract with T2 Systems, which will provide the metered parking software.

NEWS BRIEFS

Putnam Legislators to Adjust 2024 Budget

Meeting to approve spending set for Monday (Oct. 30)

The Putnam County Legislature has scheduled a meeting for Monday (Oct. 30) to consider adjustments to \$195.2 million in spending for 2024 proposed by County Executive Kevin Byrne.

The agenda for the meeting includes measures to restore \$36,000 in funding for Peers Influence Peers, an alcohol and substance abuse treatment program; \$6,000 for technology classes at senior centers; a \$3,000 raise for the confidential secretary in the Sheriff's Department; and the addition of a deputy sheriff sergeant position for \$180,027, including benefits.

The proposed adjustments would also provide a 2.75 percent cost-of-living raise to the coroners, clerk and sheriff; increase the county auditor's salary by \$5,000; and increase the printing and forms budget for the Board of Elections from \$100,000 to \$150,000 because of the possibility of three primaries and high turnout in 2024.

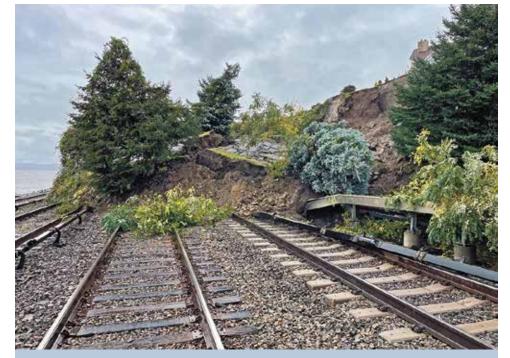
To pay for the adjustments, the Legislature will consider removing two Byrne initiatives: \$250,000 for competitive grants to towns, village and special districts, and \$250,000 for grants to nonprofits. The changes also would remove \$133,814 from the Personnel Department budget because of a retirement.

Rite Aid in Beacon Not on List to Close

Parent company files for bankruptcy

The Rite Aid on Main Street in Beacon is not among the initial list of stores that the company plans to close because of its recent bankruptcy.

As part of Chapter 11 proceedings filed Oct. 15, Rite Aid said it will close 154 phar-



LAST STOP — A landslide on Oct. 21 closed the Metro-North line between Tarrytown and Croton-Harmon for most of the weekend, although crews managed to clear two tracks before the Monday morning commute. The collapse occurred on the Hudson Line near the Scarborough station in Briarcliff Manor.

MTA photo

macies in 12 states. Nearly all the 20 New York locations on the list are in New York City and on Long Island, although Rite Aid said it could add more.

Rite Aid is the third-largest standalone pharmacy chain in the U.S. behind CVS and Walgreens but has struggled to compete with Amazon, Walmart, Target and the like. It had \$3 billion in losses over the past six years.

Where to Report Concerning Behavior

Putnam County creates website for threat assessment

The Putnam County Threat Assessment Management Team (PC-TAM) announced last week that it has launched a website at pctam.net where residents can

report concerning behavior or activity that could lead to violence.

The county said the site is designed to allow residents to provide detailed information about individuals who are exhibiting potentially dangerous behavior but is not an emergency that requires a call to 911. Submissions are evaluated by a team of mental health and law enforcement investigators.

Reports may cover concerning behaviors such as threats, intense or escalating anger, interest in weapons, depression or isolation, changes in behavior or appearance, an interest in violence or talk of being bullied.

"Pre-attack behaviors and indicators are part of a well-documented phenomenon that occurs prior to an incident of targeted violence, known as the pathway to violence," said Sheriff Kevin McConville in a statement.

Election (from Page 1)

tice, Randall Chiera and Angela Thompson-Tinsley, are competing to succeed him. Chiera is running on the Republican and Conservative ballot lines and Thompson-Tinsley on the Democratic and Team Philipstown lines.

This is the first contested election for the position since Tomann won a three-way race in 1995. The justice serves a four-year term.

To assist voters, we asked Chiera and Thompson-Tinsley to answer questions by email. Their responses start on Page 10.

The three candidates for Town Board are incumbents Judy Farrell and Bob Flaherty and challenger Neal Tomann.

Farrell, who will appear on the Democratic and Team Philipstown lines, was appointed in 2019 to replace Nancy Montgomery, who had been elected to the county Legislature. Farrell won the seat later that year and is seeking a second, 4-year term.

Flaherty, who will appear on the Democratic and Conservative lines, was appointed in 2015 when Dave Merandy was elected as Cold Spring mayor. Flaherty was elected that fall and is seeking his third term.

Neal Tomann, whose name will be on the Republican and Conservative lines, is a member of the Philipstown Planning Board and ran for the Town Board in 2021, when he was third in a four-way race behind Jason Angell and Megan Cotter, whose seats will be on the ballot in 2024.

We asked the three candidates to answer questions by email; their responses are posted at highlandscurrent.org.

Supervisor John Van Tassel is running unopposed for a second, 2-year term and Highway Superintendent Adam Hotaling is running unopposed for a 4-year term after being elected in 2022 to finish the term of Carl Frisenda, who retired for health reasons. Tara Percacciolo, the town clerk, is running unopposed for a second, 4-year term. All three are Democrats.

COLD SPRING

Mayor Kathleen Foley and Trustee Eliza Starbuck are running unopposed for their second, 2-year terms. Cathryn Fadde, the owner of Cathryn's Tuscan Grill, Starbuck did not seek re-election





Beacon candidates, from left: Dan Aymar-Blair (Ward 4) Molly Rhodes (1), Pam Wetherbee (at-large), Mayor Lee Kyriacou, Wren Longno (3), Paloma Wake (at-large), Jeff Domanski (2)

to what would have been her third term; her seat will be filled by Aaron Freimark, a senior vice president at Imprivata, a data technology firm. All three candidates will appear on the Forge Ahead line.



We asked Foley and the two trustee candidates to answer questions by email: their responses are posted at highlandscurrent.org.

The other members of the board are Tweeps Phillips Woods and Laura Bozzi, whose seats will be on the ballot in 2024.

PUTNAM COUNTY

Robert Tendy, a Republican who has been district attorney since 2015, is running unopposed for a third, 4-year term. He ran unopposed in 2019, as well.

There are three open seats on the Putnam Legislature, to represent Putnam Valley, Kent and Mahopac.

In Putnam Valley, incumbent William Gouldman, who will appear on the Republican and Conservative lines, is seeking a fourth term, his last because of term limits. He is being challenged by Maggie Ploener, a massage therapist and artist who will be on the Democratic and Working Families lines.

In Kent, incumbent Toni Addonizio, who will appear on the Republican and Conservative lines, is also seeking her fourth and final term. She faces Kathy Kahng, a Democrat who owns CityRax, a firm that works on public space projects. She also serves on the Putnam County Land Trust board.

In Mahopac, Amy Sayegh will appear on the Republican and Conservative lines for her third term. She is running unopposed.

The Legislature has nine members who serve 3-vear terms: Nancy Montgomery. who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, is its only Democrat.

BEACON

Democratic candidates are running unopposed for all seven seats on the City Council, including for mayor. There will be new faces representing Ward 2 and one of the two at-large seats, as Justice McCray and George Mansfield did not seek re-election.

They will be succeeded by Jeff Domanski, director of climate strategy at Arch Street Communications and former executive director of Hudson Valley Energy, and Pam Wetherbee, the operations manager at Hudson Peak Wealth Advisors, who served on the council from 2013 to 2017.

McCray was elected in 2021 and served one term; Mansfield, who recently sold his east end restaurant, Dogwood, served seven terms.

The incumbents who will return for their second. 2-vear terms are Molly Rhodes (Ward 1), Wren Longno (Ward 3) and Paloma Wake (at-large). Dan Aymar-Blair (Ward 4) will be seated for his third term.

The mayor, Lee Kyriacou, is also running

unopposed for a second, 4-year term. Before his election, Kyriacou served nine terms on the City Council, beginning in 1993.

We asked questions of each council candidate and the mayor; their responses are posted at highlandscurrent.org.

DUTCHESS COUNTY

With the departure of the county executive, William F.X. O'Neil, and the retirement of the district attorney, William Grady, both Republicans, there will be newcomers in those seats.

O'Neil was sworn in Jan. 3 to succeed Marc Molinaro, who left when he won a seat in Congress. O'Neil had been deputy county executive since 2012 but said he would not run for the top position.

Instead, the Republican candidate is Sue Serino, whose district when she served in the state Senate from 2016 to 2022 included the Highlands. After redistricting in 2022, she lost her seat



to Democrat Michelle Hinchey. Serino, who is a real-estate agent, lives in Hyde Park.

The Democratic and Working Families

candidate is Tommy Zurhellen, a Navy veteran who grew up in the Bronx and Putnam County. For the past 19 years has been an associate professor of English at Marist College: in 2019 he walked across



Zurhellen

the country to raise awareness about veteran homelessness and suicide.

Grady, a Republican who has been the district attorney for 40 years. announced in 2019 that he planned to retire. Two of his deputies, Anthony Parisi, a Democrat and former public defender who is the major crimes bureau chief, and Matt Weishaupt, a Republican and former police officer who is the chief assistant D.A., announced last year that they planned to campaign for the job.





(Continued on Page 9)

NEWS BRIEFS

State Funds Emergency Communications

Putnam, Dutchess receive grants

rew York State announced on Wednes-New York State announced on day (Oct. 25) that it had awarded \$55 $million\ in\ funding\ to\ counties\ for\ upgrades$ to emergency communications systems, including in Putnam and Dutchess.

The state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services will send \$531,528 to Putnam and \$681,272 to Dutchess.

The funds are intended to connect technology used by first responders across agencies and support the development of a "next generation" 911 emergency call system that integrates geographic locators.

Dutchess Needs Friendly Callers

Volunteers chat with older residents

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging will hold orientations on Monday (Oct. 30) and Wednesday (Nov. 1) for its Friendly Calls program.

Once each week, volunteers call an older adult in Dutchess County for a conversation of at least 20 minutes to keep them socially connected. Volunteers commit to at least eight weeks of calls. Orientation sessions are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Monday and Wednesday in Poughkeepsie, although virtual training can be arranged. Email bjones@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-2555.

Fishkill Woman Charged in Hit-and-Run

Allegedly struck and killed pedestrian

New York State Police troopers arrested a Fishkill woman on Sunday (Oct. 22) who allegedly left the scene of a fatal crash.

Police said Aida Y. Miranda, 62, while driving a 2019 Kia Sorrento, struck Balvinder Parihar, 72, of Fishkill, at about 10:10 a.m. on Saturday on Merritt Boulevard near Vanderbilt Way.

Parihar was taken by ambulance to St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh. where she was pronounced dead.

Miranda was arraigned and sent to the county jail. She returns to court Nov. 4.

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Election (from Page 7)

Brad Kendall, the Republican county clerk, is seeking his fifth, 4-year term. His challenger, as in 2019, is Kenya Gadsden, a Fishkill resident and former member of the Beacon school board who will appear on the Democratic and Working Families lines. Kendall won in 2019 with 55 percent of the vote.

In the county Legislature, which has 17 Republicans and eight Democrats, Nick Page, a Democrat whose district includes three wards in Beacon, is running unopposed for a fourth term. Ward 4 is part of the district represented by Yvette Valdés Smith, a Democrat in her first term. She is being challenged, as she was in 2021, by Ron Davis, chair of the Town of Fishkill Zoning Board of Appeals, who will appear on the Republican and Conservative lines. Valdés Smith won in 2021 with 54 percent of the vote.

There is also a race for one of the four, 10-year seats on the Dutchess County Family Court. The incumbent, Joseph Egitto, whose name will appear on the Republican and Conservative lines, was elected in 2013 and appointed in 2018 as supervising judge.

He is being challenged by James Rogers, who has the Democratic and Working Families lines and is a former president of the Legal Aid Society, deputy state attorney general and deputy labor commissioner. He is currently director of business development for the state Office of Cannabis Management.

STATE COURT

There are eight candidates for four seats on the state Supreme Court for the 9th Judicial District, which covers Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties.

The seats are held by two incumbents, Francesca Connolly and Charley Wood, who will appear on the Democratic and Conservative lines, and two Rockland County justices who have reached mandatory retirement age.

The six newcomer candidates are John Ciampoli, Karen Ostberg, John Sarcone and Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia on the Republican line, and Larry Schwartz and Rolf Thorsen on the Democratic and Conservative lines.

Despite its name, the Supreme Court is not the highest court in New York. That is the Court of Appeals. Instead, it is a trial court that operates at the county level.

Justices serve 14-year terms. The Supreme Court justices in Putnam County are Gina Capone (elected in 2019) and Victor Grossman (2013). In Dutchess County, they are Christi Acker (2017), Thomas Davis (2021) and Maria Rosa (2012).

PROPOSALS

There are two statewide proposals on New York's ballot. The first would allow New York's 57 small-city school districts, including Beacon, to borrow up to 10 percent of the value of the taxable real estate in the district, rather than 5 percent.

The second proposal would extend for 10 years the authority of counties, cities, towns and villages to remove borrowing for the construction of sewage facilities from their mandated debt limits.

Here Are Your Choices

The polls will be open on Nov. 7 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. For early voting hours, see below.

NEW YORK STATE

Ballot Initiatives

1. The proposed amendment to Article 8, Section 4 of the Constitution removes the special constitutional debt limitation now placed on small-city school districts, so they will be treated the same as all other school districts. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

2. The proposed amendment to Article 8, Section 5 of the Constitution extends for 10 years the authority of counties, cities, towns, and villages to remove from their constitutional debt limits debt for the construction of sewage facilities. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

State Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District (4 seats)

Covers Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Rockland, Westchester

John Ciampoli (R)

- Oyster Bay, private practice

Francesca Connolly (D, C)*

- Ossining

Karen Ostberg (R)

 $\hbox{-} \textit{Minisink town justice}$

John Sarcone III (R)

- Cortlandt, private practice

Larry Schwartz (D, C)
- Rockland County Court judge

Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia (R)

- Town of LaGrange justice

Rolf Thorsen (D, C)

- Rockland County, Court Judge Charley Wood (D, C)*

- Goldens Bridge

FOR VOTERS IN BEACON

Beacon Mayor

Lee Kyriacou (D)*

City Council

Ward 1: Molly Rhodes (D)*

Ward 2: Jeff Domanski (D)

Ward 3: Wren Longno (D)*

Ward 4: Dan Aymar-Blair (D)*

At-Large (Seat 1): Paloma Wake (D)*

At-Large (Seat 2): Pam Wetherbee (D)

Dutchess County Executive

Susan Serino (R, C) Tommy Zurhellen (D, WF)

Dutchess District Attorney

Anthony Parisi (D, WF) Matthew Weishaupt (R, C)

Dutchess Clerk

Kenya Gadsden (D, WF) Brad Kendall (R, C)*

${\it Dutchess Legislature}$

District 16 (Beacon, Ward 4) Ron Davis (R) Yvette Valdés-Smith (D)*

District 18 (Beacon, Wards 1-3) Nick Page (D)*

Dutchess Family Court

Joseph Egitto (R, C)* James Rogers (D, WF)

FOR VOTERS IN PHILIPSTOWN

Supervisor

John Van Tassel (D, Team Philipstown)*

Clerk

Tara Percacciolo (D, Team Philipstown)*

Justice

Randall Chiera (R, C) Angela Thompson-Tinsley (D, Team Philipstown)

Board (two seats)

Judy Farrell (D, Team Philipstown)* Bob Flaherty (D, C, Team Philipstown)* Neal Tomann (R, C)

${\it Highway Superintendent}$

Adam Hotaling (D, Team Philipstown)*

${\it Putnam \, District Attorney}$

Robert Tendy (R, C)*

FOR VOTERS IN COLD SPRING

Mayor

Kathleen Foley (Forge Ahead)*

Board (2 seats)

Aaron Freimark (Forge Ahead) Eliza Starbuck (Forge Ahead)*

*incumbents

*

PARTY GUIDE: C = Conservative, D = Democrat, R = Republican, WF = Working Families



Early Voting

For Beacon

Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52

For Philipstown

North Highlands Firehouse, 504 Fishkill Road

SAT 28	TUES 31
9a - 5p	8a - 4p
SUN 29	(Beacon)
9a - 5p	WED 1
MON 30	9a - 5p
9a - 5p	THURS 2
(Philipstown)	Noon - 8p
MON 30	FRI 3
Noon – 8p	9a - 5p
(Beacon)	SAT 4
TUES 31	9a - 5p
IOES ST	0 G, 0 P

Registration

Applications to register to vote in the 2023 general election must be received by the Board of Elections by Oct. 28. To verify you are registered and locate your polling place, visit voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

Results

Check highlandscurrent.org after 9 p.m. on Nov. 7 for unofficial results.

Absentee Voting

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail or other means has passed, although you can apply in person at the county Board of Elections through Nov. 6. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 7.

Note: Voters who have been issued an absentee ballot may not vote in person on a machine, regardless of whether the ballot was submitted. However, a voter who requested an absentee ballot but did not return it can complete an affidavit ballot at the polls.

tephen Tomann, who has been the Philipstown Town Justice since 1996, did not run this year for re-election. Two lawyers, Randall Chiera and Angela Thompson-Tinsley, each hope to succeed him. Their responses, below, were received by email and have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Justice Tomann held the job for nearly 30 years. What would you bring to the position?

CHIERA: Justice Tomann had support from both Republicans and Democrats because, unlike those who enact laws and create policy, which at times can be contentious, a judge should be fair and impartial, regardless of political affiliation.

A judge is required to apply the facts to the law, and rule with clarity and without bias, personal opinion or favor. If elected, I would act in that way. As an attorney, I have had the opportunity to represent many residents of this town in a variety of legal matters. None were ever concerned about my party registration, but instead wanted an understanding and knowledgeable attorney to help them, which is the service I provided.

My experience suits me well for this position. As an attorney for more than 34 years, I have argued and tried cases in the state and federal courts of New York before many judges. I have been a judge myself in law school and college moot court/mock trial competitions. The lessons I have learned through my interactions and observations have provided me with the valuable insight

Questions for Candidates

[Philipstown Town Justice]

needed to be an effective and efficient jurist.

THOMPSON-TINSLEY: I have great respect for Judge Tomann, who has given so much time to public service in our community. I believe I will bring a fresh perspective to the position. I appreciate that appearing in court for most people can be overwhelming, even threatening, which isn't necessary. Having spent my career in courtrooms throughout the state, I value

At the local level especially, the judicial system can be effective without being

an environment where every-

one is treated with respect.

intimidating. Our community is best served when everyone appearing in our Town Court feels informed and empowered as an active participant. I am committed to creating that environment and using my skills to ensure fair and legally correct outcomes.

What do you enjoy most and least about practicing law?

CHIERA: This is quite a difficult question,



Chiera



Thompson-Tinsley

because I have been an attornev admitted to practice law in the courts of the State of New York since 1988 and have had a variety of legal experiences. I have worked for a mid-sized firm of 75 attorneys, a boutique firm of 17 attorneys and with a partner in my own firm, all in Manhattan. There I litigated cases, representing individuals who had been injured due to the negligence of someone else, as well as, early on, defending companies and individuals who were sued. I took some of these cases to trial before courts as far north as Rensselaer County, as far east as Suffolk County and as far south as Richmond County. I

practiced in all the courts of the five boroughs and most counties north of New York City in the handling of these matters.

After 9/11, my office was located in an area known as the "frozen zone" in downtown Manhattan, so I moved it to Westchester and Putnam counties. I was still doing primarily litigation, but began doing the legal work required for real-estate closings, wills and some criminal matters.

The mundane part of running a business is what I like least. What I like most is being challenged with a difficult case or legal argument that appears at first to be insurmountable, and then, through research and legal reasoning and argument, that difficult situation becomes one that is positive for my clients. Having satisfied clients is the goal of all lawyers; I like when mine are happy with the work I have done for them.

THOMPSON-TINSLEY: My favorite thing about practicing law and, in particular, being a trial attorney, is the opportunity to engage others in the judicial process. I love the challenge of translating complex legal issues for people who don't have legal training and being mindful of the unique vantage points of all participants, including clients, attorneys, jurors and judges. By being open-minded and creative, the path to resolution in every case can feel inclusive instead of alienating. If given the privilege to serve as town justice, my approach to practicing law will translate to a court where everyone understands their rights and has confidence that the law is accurately interpreted and justly applied.

My least favorite thing is dealing with attorneys who let their egos take center stage. Being an effective advocate for your client requires respecting your adversary's position and not being rigid or dogmatic. When you view compromise as a weakness, you do a disservice to your client specifically and to the profession generally. Ultimately, it's a waste of everyone's time.

UPCOMING SHOWS at the Depot

Nov 5: Brush Strokes

Nov 10. Cinema Depot: DreamGirls

Nov 11: Jake Xerxes Fussell

Nov 12: Cat Guthrie

Nov Depot Turn Every Page

Dec 2-9: The Wizard of Oz

Dec 22: Cinema Depot: White Christmas

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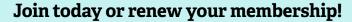




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Candidates Clash Over Fishkill Supervisor Seat

Development, police spending among issues

By Jeff Simms

John Forman, a Republican member of the Fishkill Town Board and former Dutchess County legislator who represented part of Beacon, is challenging incumbent Ozzy Albra, a Democrat, to become town supervisor.

Early voting begins Saturday (Oct. 28) and the election is Nov. 7. Both candidates spoke this week about the issues they feel are central to what has become a heated race that included Forman's arrest on Tuesday (Oct. 24) for allegedly stealing campaign signs.

Albra, a retired police officer who is seeking a second, 4-year term, says that development in Fishkill was the most important issue when he took the job in 2019 and remains so.

"The developers don't run the Town of Fishkill anymore — the residents do," he said, repeating one of his administration's mantras since a 2021 court victory.

In that case, a state judge upheld the Town Board's decision to end its review of a rezoning request from a firm proposing a 30-building, 463-unit development on Route 9D just outside of Beacon. The decision signaled the end of the Rolling Hills development proposal, which would have drawn water from Beacon and added





Albra

Forman

students to the Beacon school district.

Albra said the case set a precedent that "a municipality has the right to enforce its own zoning laws." In addition, he said that his administration has thwarted the development of hundreds of other housing units that, if built, would have forced the town to build a \$35 million new school.

"I fulfilled my campaign promises," Albra said, though he warned that "the developers are going to come back and run the town" if his opponent is elected.

Albra also cited as an achievement the creation of an aquifer protection overlay zone, which sets development limits on environmentally sensitive land and restricts the use of fertilizers and underground fuel tanks, among other safeguards.

Finally, Albra said he has increased police spending by 25 percent and hired an additional officer for the town's parttime Police Department.

Forman, an insurance agency partner, disputes Albra's claim of increased police

spending. Much of the additional spending, Forman said, can be attributed to salary increases negotiated through union contracts while the town's department lacks new vehicles and equipment.

Forman, who served 12 years in three stints in the Dutchess County Legislature, also criticized Albra for engaging the town in lawsuits.

"We are spending way too much money on legal fees and lawsuits," he said, alleging that Fishkill's legal fees have ballooned from \$125,000 per year to \$340,000 while Albra has sparred with Domenico Broccoli, the developer of the proposed Continental Commons complex on Route 9. "Meanwhile, we're gutting the Police Department budget."

Forman argued that town residents would be better served by increased scrutiny on the administration's policies, including disparate staff raises made "with no rhyme or reason" and inconsistent communication with department heads. "Nobody knows what's going on except for Ozzy," Forman claimed. "If there were department head meetings, you would know what's going on."

Regarding development, Forman said he is in favor of "smart commercial development" that produces tax revenue. "I don't think either party wants another Merritt Boulevard," he said, referring to the busy strip malls on Route 9. "The roads can't take it."

Instead, he said, he hopes to see commercial growth that "adds property tax but doesn't saturate our school districts."

Fishkill Candidate Arrested

Allegedly stole campaign signs

John Forman, a member of the Fishkill Town Board who is challenging incumbent Ozzy Albra to become supervisor, was arrested on Tuesday (Oct. 24) for removing disparaging campaign signs.

The signs read "Renters and homeowners pay taxes, John Forman does not," suggesting that Forman does not live in the Town of Fishkill, which would disqualify him from serving on the Town Board or as supervisor. Forman says he has rented in the town for the past two years.

Forman said Wednesday that he and Albra had agreed that the yard signs should come down because they do not promote a candidate and contain no information about who paid for them, as required by state election law.

The candidate said he began picking up the signs "at 9:30 in the morning, in front of anyone who was watching." One, he said, was "booby-trapped" with an Apple Air Tag that led East Fishkill police to his vehicle.

Albra, however, denied on Thursday any agreement with Forman. "He had no permission to take the signs that were in his car, period," he said, adding that the signs were paid for by the Fishkill Democratic Committee.

Forman was charged with misdemeanor criminal possession of stolen property and is scheduled to appear in East Fishkill court on Nov. 1.



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AROUND TOWN



◆FISH STORY — Two Cold Spring residents, writer Nicole Vitale and illustrator Sarah Monck, visited the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison on Oct. 3 to read from their book, Ollie, about a fish that touches the heart of a little girl in a magical fishbowl.

Photos by Ross Corsair (4)



◆ TO A LONG LIFE — Before a performance

on Oct. 22 at the **Howland Cultural** Center in Beacon of 'Quartet for the End of Time," by Oliver Messiaen, who wrote the piece in 1941 while imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, the Salon Séance quartet asked audience members to think of someone who needed a healthful blessing and place an origami crane on the floor (center) as an offering.



▼ PUTNAM DANCE —

Three companies — Isadora/NYC, Erick Hawkins Dance Co. and the Putnam County Dance Project — performed Oct. 8 at the Lake Carmel Arts Center.



⋖ GARDEN FUND —

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the Memorial Building in Beacon, the Tioronda Garden Club donated funds toward beautification. From left are John MacEnroe, treasurer of **American Legion Post** 203, club president Geraldine Fuller and past presidents (and veterans) Robert **Haight and Norm** McLeod. Photo provided



◆ CAREFUL WITH

THAT! — The Garrison Volunteer Fire Department on Oct. 16 made its annual visit to the St. Philip's Nursery School to talk fire safety and offer an insider's tour of a firetruck. Here, firefighter Wendy Heintz explains how a fog nozzle works.

The Calendar



Tad Hills during a school visit

Photo by Ryan Vemmer

The Real Person Who Makes Duck & Goose

Children's book author and illustrator to visit Desmond-Fish library

By Alison Rooney

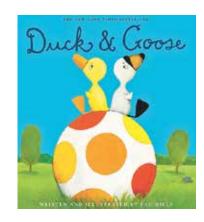
fter a bucket of Halloween candy has been consumed at a rapid clip, parents of young children are likely to enjoy a respite from the mayhem, and the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison has just the thing: Tad Hills, the author and illustrator of the bestselling, nine-volume *Duck & Goose* series, lately adapted into a series that streams on Apple TV.

At the free event, which is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Nov. 4, Hills will demonstrate how he illustrates his books. Children will receive copies of Hills' books courtesy of an anonymous donor and Split Rock Books in Cold Spring. The library will also present the author with the Alice Curtis Desmond Award for Excellence in Children's Literature, named for the library's co-founder, who wrote books for young people.

For kids' books, you have to tap into a voice that they can relate to.

~Tad Hills

Dede Farabaugh, the Desmond-Fish director, says she is a fan of Hills' illustrations "because they are charming and simple — using pleasingly familiar shapes (circle, triangle, plump banana) — paired



with expressive features." She cites, in particular, his use of eyebrows.

Hills, who lives in Brooklyn, has, courtesy of friends, spent much time in Philipstown. He began illustrating picture books several decades ago at the request of his wife, who was running the children's book department at Simon & Schuster.

"It helps to be married to your publisher," Hills says with a laugh. "The first books she asked me to illustrate were novelty books, where there was no narrative, just cute animals. I didn't have to worry about consistency from page to page.

"She was always encouraging me to do a picture book, which I did with *Duck & Goose* [in 2006]. I didn't know what I was doing, and I still don't! Every new book is intimidating. Writing under perfect circumstances is difficult.

"For kids' books, you have to tap into a voice that they can relate to," he says. "You want your illustrations to be aligned with the storyline, but also to have the pictures expand the text."

Hills grew up in Massachusetts in a (Continued on Page 17)



All eyes are on Sheldon, a box turtle.

Photos by A. Rooney

Born to Be Wild

Rehabber helps animals prepare for return home

By Alison Rooney

Responding to an opening question from a child during an appearance Oct. 7 at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, Maggie Ciarcia-Belloni, a wildlife rehabilitator for 27 years, replied: "I've never rehabbed an octopus."

She has, however, aided many creatures in their return to the wild, some on the spot, others after months. To illustrate her presentation, Ciarcia-Belloni brought along an eastern box turtle and an opossum, which is her specialty, although she also focuses on smaller mammals, particularly squirrels, and game birds.

Her pursuit began decades ago after a bird flew into a sliding glass door at her home. "I did everything wrong," she recalled. "I tried to feed it and put it in a birdcage. People instinctively are nurturing and want to feed, but they shouldn't." Instead, keep it warm, dark and quiet. "Don't try to get it to drink. Get the animal safe, in a box, then call a rehabber."

Ciarcia-Belloni found a rehabber who explained to her all that goes into getting licensed by the state. There's a 100-question test, letters of reference and mandatory training — all done online now. You also must be at least 16 years old.

The New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council defines wildlife rehabilitation as "providing aid to injured, orphaned, displaced or distressed wild animals in such a way that they may survive when released to their native habitats. It's part science, part caregiving."

Ciarcia-Belloni provided scenarios: An animal might be "trapped in a chimney, hit by a car, caught in a disaster, caught up in a lawn mower, or the victim of human bad behavior." Sometimes it's inadvertent; for example, if a tree is cut down that has a hidden bird's nest.

Another kid question: "Do you rehab

bugs?" Answer: "No."

Ciarcia-Belloni dispelled common misperceptions: "You don't have to rehab every animal you get a call for. In the beginning, I did mink, foxes, chipmunks and a wider range of birds, occasionally. I even had a bobcat. I don't do turtles or birds of prey. I'd rather fix teeth than talons.

"Rehabbing an animal is not the same as raising them, though you do get close," she added. "They need to learn to not approach predators. Don't put a squirrel in with a cat or a dog. I borrow squirrels so it has one of its own to be raised with. Sometimes where they came from is bad — predators, construction, lost habitat. We try to replicate their habitat."

If releasing the animal into the wild is not feasible because of injury or other conditions, rehabbers attempt to place them with a nature center. In some cases, euthanasia is the most humane option.

The guests, Sheldon the turtle and Oh Boy, the opossum, then made appearances. An eastern box turtle only goes into water to drink, Ciarcia-Belloni explained, and they are programmed from birth to know (Continued on Page 17)



Maggie Ciarcia-Belloni, a wildlife rehabilitator, gives Oh Boy a treat.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 28

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. Rescheduled from SAT 21. Cost: \$24 (\$21 seniors, \$13 ages 4 to 8)

Day of the Dead Fiesta

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Bring a photo of a loved one or pet who has died to honor on the altar of memories.

SAT 4

Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival

beaconbonfire.com

Dozens of local venues will host art and music events. ALSO SUN 5. See the website for a full schedule. Tickets to individual events available. Cost: \$39 one-day pass (\$59 two-day pass)

Taproots Festival

2 - 5 p.m. The Yard

4 Hanna Lane | bit.ly/taproots-2023

Beacon Climate Action Now will host this community event with education, activities, music, games and food. Free

Daylight Savings

2 a.m. Move your clocks back one hour.



Train and Hobby Show

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. MJN Center 14 Civic Center Plaza midhudsonciviccenter.org

There will be model-train displays and vendors, as well as ride-on trains for kids. Cost: \$5

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 28

Touch a Truck

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Haldane Playground 15 Craigside Drive

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

Basketball Clinic

10:30 a.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road beaconk12.org | 845-838-6900

This clinic, which will be run by players and coaches from the boys basketball program, is for girls and boys in kindergarten through the fifth grade. Free

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 Schnozzer & Tatertoes Take a Hike!, will lead drawing exercises for children ages 6 to 10. Registration required.

Monsters and Marvels

GARRISON

2 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.

DIY Geode Craft

BEACON

4:15 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St. | 845-831-1134 beaconlibrary.org

Use salt and glue to create crystals. Registration required.

THURS 2

Coco

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Bring snacks and enjoy hot cocoa for a sing-a-long at this Day of the Dead screening.

THURS 2

Trivia at the Library

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

Children and teens ages 11 and older are invited to play for prizes.

Dinosaur Sleepover

GARRISON

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

Come to the library with a prehistoric friend for storytime and snacks. When the humans depart, the dinos will stay at the library and you can pick them up the next day. For ages 3 and older. Registration required.

Teen Movie Night

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 6 and higher can watch Guardians of the Galaxy 3 together. Registration required.

4-H Puppeteer Players

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

The players will perform shows based on popular children's stories and fairy tales. For children ages 8 and younger. Registration required.

Tad Hills

GARRISON

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

The author and illustrator of the popular characters Duck, Goose and Rocket will demonstrate how he draws them and read from his books. See Page 13.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 28

Brush Strokes

GARRISON

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

Jim Semmelman's musical deals with love, loss and lawyers. Also SUN 29, FRI 3, SAT 5, SUN 5. Cost: $\$30 \ (\$25 \ students, seniors)$

Homecoming

BEACON

7 - 10 p.m. KuBe Art Center 211 Fishkill Ave. I ecfa.com

The immersive art experience will include a day in the life of a high school student that ends with a dance in the gym.

Art, Money, Fiction

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peekskill Hollow Road tompkinscorners.org

Tad Crawford, the author of the Legal Guide for Visual Artists, will talk about his advice and experience as well as his novels, A Floating Life and On Wine-Dark Seas. Cost: \$10

The Humans

WAPPINGERS FALLS

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

The Stephen Karam play centers on a holiday dinner party. Cost: \$22 (\$20 seniors, children, military)



VISUAL ART

SAT 28

Sympoietic Workshop

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Constitution Marsh 127 Warren Landing constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

Nicole Peyrafitte will lead a photography, drawing and writing workshop inspired by the landscape at the marsh. Donations welcome. Free



123 Rombout Ave. Beacon, NY (845) 265-2330 www.rocpilates.net



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 5-7 PM

Enjoy martinis, live music and draw on our gallery walls! Garrison Art Center



Purchase tickets at garrisonartcenter.org or via the QR code.

SAT 28

Boo at the Zoo

BEAR MOUNTAIN

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo 3006 Seven Lakes Drive trailsidezoo.org

Make bear treats at 10:30 and watch the bears explore their decorated den at 11 a.m. There will also be pumpkin decorating, face painting, games and crafts. It's about a 20-minute walk from the parking lot to the zoo. No food or pets. Cost: \$10 parking

Hocus Pocus Parade

1:30 p.m. Main Street hocuspocusbeacon.com

Line up at the Welcome Center and walk to Memorial Park, where there will be a Monster Jam from 3 to 5 p.m. There will also be a scavenger hunt from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. See website for details.

Halloween Parade

COLD SPRING

4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Lawn 1 Chestnut Street

facebook.com/coldspringhalloween-

The 29th annual parade to the bandstand steps off at 5:30 p.m. Costumes, pets and costumed pets welcome.

SAT 28

The Howling **Comedy Show**

5 - 8 p.m. Memorial Park 198 Robert Cahill Drive hocuspocusbeacon.com

This adult event will feature comedians and treats.

Thriller Party

COLD SPRING

6 - 9 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall 1 Chestnut St.

bit.ly/thriller-party-2023

High school students are invited to enjoy spooktastic music, dancing and food. Cost: \$10

SAT 28

Dance Party

7 p.m. University Settlement 724 Wolcott 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

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





Hudson Valley Boo Ball

8 p.m. MJN Center 14 Civic Center Plaza midhudsonciviccenter.org

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

Rocky Horror Picture Show

PFFKSKILI

9 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039 paramounthudsonvallev.com

The 1975 cult classic, with Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry and Barry Bostwick, returns for the holiday. Costumes welcome. Cost: \$23.50

SUN 29

Storytime COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Tot's Park

4 High St. | splitrockbks.com

Frances Cha will read from her book, The Goblin Twins, followed by a craft and snacks. Costumes welcome.

SUN 29

Tales of the Macabre

6:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery 7 E. Main St.

Actors and writers will read classic stories and poems by Edgar Allan Poe upstairs in the brewery's new event space. Donations welcome. Free

SUN 29

Frankenstein

PEEKSKILL

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

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's novel, watch a film of the National Theatre's performance of the classic story. Cost: \$27

Night of the Living Dead

7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane storyscreenpresents.com

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

TUES 31

Spookytown

4 - 5:30 p.m. Chestnut Ridge

Trick or treating for children ages 5 and younger.

SUN 5

Pumpkin Smash

GARRISON

Noon - 2 p.m. Graymoor 1350 Route 9

Guests are invited to bring their leftover Halloween pumpkins to the Holy Mountain to smash them or roll them down the hill. The remnants will be composted at San Damiano Farm. There will also be donuts and cider.

SAT 28

Pavilion Tour

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art 2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

Miguel Quismondo will lead a tour of the new Robert Olnick pavilion, which he designed. Cost: \$10

FRI 3

Bill Kooistra

COLD SPRING

5 - 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery 123 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com

Kooistra will show paintings and drawings he created of a landscape near his home. Through Nov. 26.

Una Notte a Magazzino **PHILIPSTOWN**

5 - 8 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art

2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

Enjoy after-hours at the museum. Cost: \$20

SAT 4

Jenny Morgan | **Anders Hamilton**

BEACON

3 - 5 p.m. Mother Gallery 1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039 mothergallery.art

The Heart wants what it wants or else it does not care includes paintings by Morgan and sculptures by Hamilton. Through Dec. 16.



SAT 4

Bends & Folds

COLD SPRING

5 - 7 p.m. Studio Tashtego 160 Main St. I studiotashtego.com

This group show will include works by Kentaro Takashina, Natalia Engelhardt, Camille Le Dressay, Bonnie Levine, Soledad Christie, Alvina Jakobssen, Hiroshi Tovofuku, Alan Meredith and Scott Strickstein. Through Jan. 14.

TALKS & TOURS

A Conversation with **Ben Patton**

GARRISON

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

Patton, a filmmaker, psychologist

and author who runs a nonprofit that works with veterans, will discuss growing up with a father and grandfather who were major generals. Registration required. Free

SAT 28

Sandra Proto

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

The writer will read from her collection of poetry, Wrapped Up In Life with Omniscient Eyes, and answer questions about her work.

Citizens Preparedness Training

REACON

6:30 p.m. Memorial Building 413 Main St.

Sponsored by the Lions Club. this workshop is presented by the **Dutchess County Department of** Emergency Response.

THURS 2

The Seed Huntress

GARRISON

3 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Join the Philipstown Garden Club for a presentation by Sefra Alexandra, project coordinator for the Ecotype Project, which works to restore native plant species. Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors)

Beacon Women Poets

BEACON

7 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar 173 Main St. I reservabeacon.com

Live Writing and the Beacon Litfest will host this evening of poetry.

Hudson Valley Land Wars

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Putnam History Museum 63 Chestnut St.

putnamhistorymuseum.org

Learn about conflict during the 1760s over land between Indigenous people and Dutchess tenant farmers and landlords in a lecture by Jim Merrell. The event will also be livestreamed. Cost: \$10 (members free)

North and South Redoubts

GARRISON 10 a.m. North Redoubt Trailhead

Snake Hill Road putnamhistorymuseum.org

Take a guided, three-mile hike to the redoubts used during the Revolutionary War to thwart the British. Register online. Cost: \$15 (\$12 members)

History of the **Lenape People**

BEACON

1 p.m. Mount Gulian 145 Sterling St. I mountgulian.org Harv Hilowitz will discuss how the

first inhabitants of the Hudson Valley lived before colonialists arrived in 1609, forcing many to leave and changing their way of life, and what has happened since. Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$5 ages 5 to 15, members free)

MUSIC

SAT 28 Back to the Garden 1969

BEACON

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

Dress as a hippie to truly enjoy the Woodstock tribute band. Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)

SUN 29

9 Horses | Jacob Jolliff

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

The chamber ensemble featuring Joe Brent (mandolin), Sara Caswell (violin) and Andrew Ryan (bass) will play a program that includes works by Vivaldi, Bach and Tchaikovsky. Cost: \$15



(Continued on Page 16)

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 15)

CLIN 20

American Brass Quintet NEWBURGH

3 p.m. St. George's Church 105 Grand St. | 845-534-2864 newburghchambermusic.org

The program, part of the Newburgh Chamber Music series, will include 17th-century dance music as well as new work by Timothy Higgins. *Cost:* \$35 (\$30 seniors, \$10 students)

SUN 29

Tret Fure

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The singer and songwriter returns to the folk music of her youth after

more than five decades of recording and playing. *Cost:* \$20 (\$25 door)

FRI 3

Adrian Legg

BEACON

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

The guitarist will be joined by Chris Miele. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

EDI 3

Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes

PEEKSKILL

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

The New Jersey band will play its rock and soul-style hits. *Cost: \$47.50* to \$62.50

SAT 4

Britishmania

POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon & 7:30 p.m. MJN Center 14 Civic Center Plaza midhudsonciviccenter.org

The Beatles tribute band plays music from three eras of the band's arc. *Cost:* \$45

SAT

Gary Lewis & The Playboys | Mitch Ryder

PEEKSKILL

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

Both performers will play their hits. *Cost: \$35 to \$57*.50

SAT 4

Stella Blue's Band

BEACON

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

The group will play music by the Grateful Dead. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 28

Early Voting

FISHKILL

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Town Hall | 807 Route 52 elections.dutchessny.gov

For Beacon residents; daily through SUN 5. See website for times.

SAT 28

Early Voting

PHILIPSTOWN

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse 504 Fishkill Road | putnamboe.com For Philipstown residents; daily through SUN 5. See website for times.

WED 1

Village Board

COLD SPRING

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

THURS 2

Town Board

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St. 845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Chapel Gift (from Page 1)

adding that "it makes sense" that the set was given to Cold Spring's first Catholic church by the Right Rev. Bishop John Dubois of New York when he dedicated the Chapel of Our Lady on Sept. 21, 1834. (Dubois, who was French, served as bishop of New York from 1826 until his death in 1842.)

The chapel had been built on the riverfront in 1833. Abandoned in 1906 when the congregation moved to its new church on Fair Street, the building deteriorated over the decades before being restored in the 1970s. Now known as the Chapel Restoration, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as a venue for community and cultural events.

Lutz said he was told the vessels were found in a trunk in the choir loft. He said it was also extraordinary that they survived. "The place had been in ruins," he said. "There were fires down there."

The chalice and other items needed polish but are in good condition otherwise. They have no markings, but Lutz plans to have them examined and appraised by a chalice manufacturer in hopes of determining their history and who crafted them.

The set was displayed during Mass on Oct. 22 and "without question" will now be used at Christmas, Easter and other special occasions, Lutz said.

The Chapel Restoration also presented Our Lady of Loretto with a wooden kneeler that had been kept at Boscobel in recent years. Dating to the 1870s and in need of refurbishing, it was used at the original riverfront chapel.



John Dubois, the bishop who presented a Eucharist set to the Cold Spring church in 1834



Tad Hills (from Page 13)

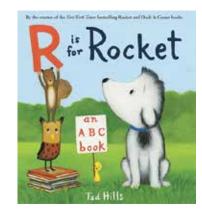
family of engineers and artists, a combination he feels favored his development in subtle ways. "I like to construct things," he says. "When my kids were little, that's what I enjoyed doing the most, because it's intricate and complicated and hard for me to recreate the steps, because the process was both spontaneous and deliberate — like making a book.

"I start fresh every single time, and stick words and sentences together, figuring it out as I go. That's what an engineer does, and an artist, too. Making art is like making decisions, that's how I see it."

His family and pets have found their way into his stories in large and small ways. "We had a dog named Rocket. We lost him last November. We have a new dog, Wilbur, so many people have asked if he'll be the star of books. You never know. Wilbur is a mini-Bernadoodle, insanely cute and sweet."

With his children grown, Hills thinks twice before quoting them in his writing. "Nothing in my stories is directly lifted from them, though years ago some of the dialogue was inspired by overheard conversation or behavior that I witnessed with their friends," he admits.

"When they were little, I worked in the house, at the kitchen table or the dining room table, with walls covered with sketches drying. The kids were always around, and it was a great experience for them to live with.



"I like to keep it innocent," he adds. "I would have trouble introducing an iPhone into a story. In general, I keep the dialogue without trendy catchphrases. I like a bucolic atmosphere and environment."

Hills says he enjoys meeting his readers, although school visits can prompt unexpected questions. "A lot of times, kindergartners and first graders are so excited to ask a question, when they're called on, they don't remember it. Others go in for the nitty gritty: 'My dad has the same socks as you,' or 'Do you have an agent?'

"For them, that this real person wrote this book, they're amazed by that," he says. "It's pretty exciting for all of us."

The Desmond-Fish Public Library is located at 472 Route 403 (at the intersection with Route 9D) in Garrison. Register for the event at desmondfishlibrary.org.

Wildlife (from Page 13)

where they came from and can make their way back there.

Problems ensue when someone takes one into their home and effectively erases the ability for the turtle to find its way home. This is what happened to Sheldon, who now serves as an "education turtle."

Sheldon is a spritely 35 years old. "They tell that by the shell," Ciarcia-Belloni says. Because he's male, he has red eyes (females have brown eyes). The turtle is "quite active, has strong feet, and loves slugs and tomatoes," she said.

Out came the opossum, the only North American marsupial, or pouched mammal. Oh Boy has a sister who lives at Green Chimneys Farm & Wildlife Center in Brewster; they survived a road accident last year that killed their mother.

"Opossums have bad eyesight, good teeth, soft fur and an excellent sense of smell," Ciarcia-Belloni said. "They have lots of upper body strength and can climb trees, and use their tail as a fifth hand. They have 50 teeth, which is more than any other mammal. They come out at night to look for food. They are omnivores and eat everything — nature's little sanitation truck." (Favorites for Oh Boy include salmon, apples, broccoli and bok choy.)

"They're prone to frostbite in the winter, and use their tail to carry leaves and to make a leaf nest," she said. "Also, they snore. Oh Boy and his fellow opossums live in a three-tiered ferret cage, in which they

can walk around and explore. The females have a pouch. In the wild, they are fed milk, then ride around on their mother's back."

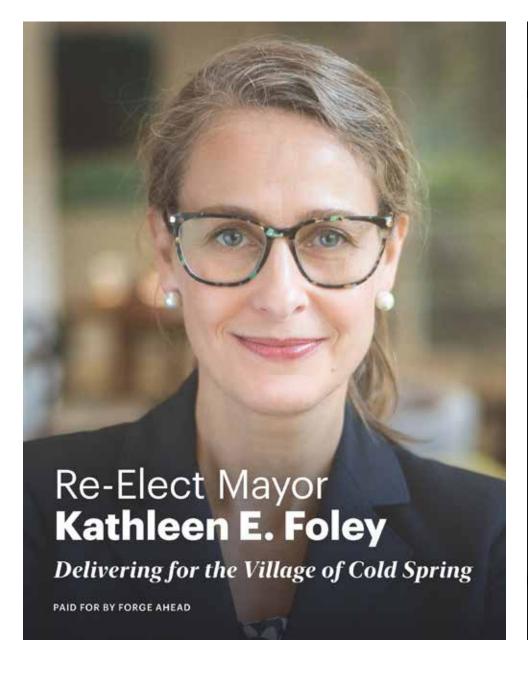
The expression "playing possum" is a description of their defense system. When threatened, they involuntarily play dead, with eyes shut, lying motionless for as long as six hours. Despite this, they have a short life span, just two years in the wild. There are many predators, or they get hit by cars, or they succumb to heart problems (cardiomyopathy).

Opossums are the lowest on the rabies vector scale, meaning a human can get bitten and not die, Ciarcia-Belloni. And — drumroll, please — an opossum can eat 3,000 to 5,000 ticks in a year. They also eat mice or rodents. "They open their mouth, show their teeth and drool, which makes them look like a rabid animal," she said.

Ciarcia-Belloni has three baby opossums at home. At 125 grams, they're too small to go out until spring. She feeds them all kinds of things they might find in the wild, as well as milk replacement made by Fox Valley Animal Nutrition.

She tries to avoid baby-talk with her charges, though she does play rain sounds and cricket chirps, the same sounds they will hear when released.

Ciarcia-Belloni is retired from a corporate job, which was a challenge because it takes her three hours a day to clean the cages and make the formula. "I did have an awesome boss," she said with a laugh, which was fortunate as "birds fledged and flew around my office."





Accurate information is critical to productive conversation.





The Fjord Trail concept originated with Philipstown residents nearly two decades ago.

Among these residents were Richard Shea and Andy Chmar, both of whom now serve on HHFT's board. The project began as a way to help ease the congestion in Cold Spring, improve pedestrian safety, solve chronic traffic and parking issues on Route 9D, and provide a new walking and biking trail to connect Cold Spring and Beacon. As more voices collaborate on the project, that plan continues to be refined to better serve people of all ages and abilities.



HHFT's board chair, Chris Davis, was inspired by the project and decided to be part of making it a reality, more than a decade after it was originally conceived.

Chris, who has been an active member of the Philipstown community for over 25 years, became a lead donor to ensure that resources were available to realize all of the core goals of the Fjord Trail plan.



Easing the congestion Cold Spring currently experiences on peak weekends is an essential part of the plan.

This includes: improving pedestrian infrastructure and traffic flow along key Village routes to Fjord Trail entry points, additional restrooms and trash receptacles managed by HHFT, and new wayfinding signage guiding hikers directly to the Trail from the train station. We will confer with communities about the best possible options for infrastructure improvements in areas where Fjord Trail users might use municipal streets.



Early improvements made by HHFT have already made things safer at Breakneck.

The installation of the Nimham Trail (2021), early safety improvements at the Breakneck Metro-North Station (2022), and the newly enhanced Breakneck Upper Overlook (2023), have drastically reduced first responder calls in the Breakneck area – 14 calls in 2021, 9 calls in 2022, and only 3 calls, to date, in 2023 (source: OPRHP).



Local taxes will not pay for the Fjord Trail.

The majority of the Fjord Trail capital project will be financed by private donations and grants. HHFT's operating budget will be primarily funded by private donations, grants, and earned revenue from parking fees and programming at the Visitor Center. Once operational, local taxpayers will benefit from the new recreational resource, and the infrastructure improvements that existing municipal budgets cannot support.



The cost of doing nothing is too high.

Weekend congestion problems in Cold Spring and 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:

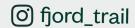
October 29 from 2-4 PM at Hubbard Lodge

Email us: info@hhft.org

Visit: hhft.org







Current Classifieds

FOR RENT

BEACON OFFICES — Private and professional offices for rent at 123 Rombout Ave. in a very quiet building with many amenities. Each of the offices include electric, heat, lobby access, kitchenette access, full parking lot. Can combine offices for more space. All offices can accommodate multiple desks and employees. Perfect for therapists, designers, accountants, attorneys. One-year leases are available but open to shorter-term rentals. Call/text 845-265-2330.

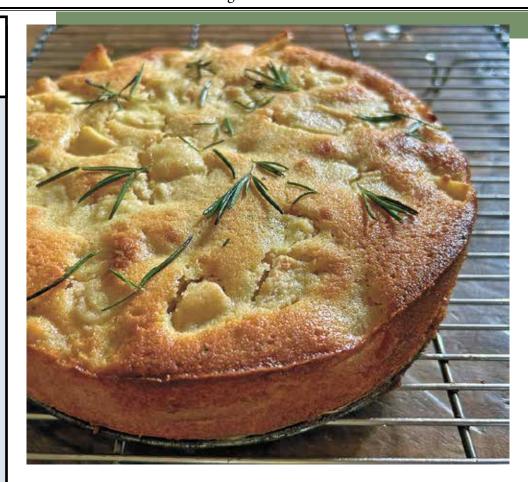
SERVICES

HEALING BODYWORK — With Joy Matalon. Featured in NY Magazine as "one of the 15 best massage therapists offering CranialSacral Therapy," with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish massage incorporating CranialSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupuncture, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years' experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit Joymatalon.com.

SPANISH-LANGUAGE TUTOR — Former Wesleyan Spanish TA who has lived and worked in Latin America with experience teaching Spanish both in the classroom and one-on-one is available to tutor children and/or adults. I am deeply involved in the Latin American community and adore the Spanish language. I am also a grammarphile, and, because Spanish is my second language, I feel I can understand what it takes to learn Spanish. I love watching my students grow. References available. Email manyalasagna@gmail.com.

REIKI READINGS — Usui Reiki Master offers Reiki, Oracle Angelic Readings, Rune Readings and Pendulum Readings in Beacon on Main Street. For more information, please contact Sandi at sandiafonso70@gmail.com or leave a message at 845-245-5976.

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



Mouths to Feed

Fruit Arrangement

By Celia Barbour

ran into a friend at an event over the weekend. "Are you baking lots of pies and tarts these days?" she asked.



"No," I said, then immediately wished I had come up with a friend-lier reply. "No" is a conversation stopper. We stood there staring awkwardly into our cups of hot cider until I thought up something else to discuss.

The truth is I haven't made pie for 20 years and feel a little embarrassed about it. During peak fruit seasons, people like to talk about pie — cherry pie in cherry season, peach pie in peach season, etc. — and always expect me to join in.

It's not that I don't like pie. I feel upward of neutral about pies in general, and truly adore a few types (cherry, mince).

Moreover, I wrote one of my first-ever, favorite big magazine features about pie, and became so smitten with the topic that my enthusiasm inspired my sister to make a short film about pie. What got me excited was learning that pie crust was both the Tupperware and Corning casserole dish of its (ancient) day. Made of just flour and water, it dried hard as clay, and provided a way to store and/or cook soft, perishable ingredients. In the Middle Ages, a particularly hospitable nobleman was known to enclose live creatures such as frogs or birds in pie crust for the sole purpose of delighting his guests when the crust was cut and the filling scampered away.

But much as I like the notion of crust, said crust is a big part of why I don't make pie. I am a perfectionist, and our current ideal of a pie crust laughs at people like me, always reminding us that ours could be flakier, more tender, more richly golden — not to mention better crimped, vented and/or latticed.

Finally, pie filling is simply not my favorite thing to do with fruit. I'd rather eat it out of hand, slice it into a salad or bake it into a cake. For the past few autumns, I've made variations on Marie-Helene's Apple Cake, a recipe that was written down by Dorie Greenspan after spending several hours watching Marie-Helene make her cake with *un tout petit peu* of this and a *soupcon* of that.

In other words, it's a recipe based on inspiration, imperfection and improvisation, and thus right up my alley. It's so full of fruit it feels almost healthy, its melting, moist texture more like that of a British steamed pudding than, say, a carrot cake. It also keeps well: Leftovers make for a fine breakfast or teatime snack.

So if I run into you at an event, I hope you will forgive my lack of eloquence on the subject of pie. What can I say? No, I don't dislike pie. But yes (oh yes), I do love this cake.

Pear Cake with Lemon and Rosemary

Adapted from Dorie Greenspan

Equipment: 8-inch springform pan

- 4 large pears, mixed varieties
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons brandy, fresh lemon juice or a combination
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest (from about 2 lemons)
- ½ teaspoon vanilla

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Line the bottom of the pan with parchment paper and generously butter it and the pan's sides. Place on a baking sheet and set aside.

In a small skillet, melt the butter. Add the rosemary sprig and cook very gently for about 5 minutes. Remove skillet from heat and set aside to cool.

Peel the pears, cut them in half lengthwise, and core. Cut into 1-to 1½-inch chunks. Set aside.

In a small bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs until foamy. Add the sugar; whisk briefly. Whisk in the brandy and/or lemon juice, lemon zest and vanilla. Strain the rosemary from the melted butter and mince finely. Stir ½ teaspoon minced rosemary into the batter.

Switch to a spatula and fold half the flour mixture into the batter. Add half the butter, followed by the remaining flour and butter, stirring gently after each addition. Fold in the chopped pears. Transfer the batter to the prepared pan and place in the oven. Bake 50 minutes to 1 hour, or until deep golden on top.

Remove from oven and allow to cool about 10 minutes. Run a slim knife around the inside edge of the pan, then undo the springform latch, checking to make sure that no batter is stuck to the pan before removing it completely. Allow cake to cool on pan bottom placed on a rack.

To store: Because this cake is so moist, do not cover leftovers; if desired, press a piece of parchment paper against the cut edges to keep fresh.



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available in

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Two Beacon Businesses **Expand**

Another Door and Siblings add space, products

By Marc Ferris

Another Door

The glowing plates, bowls and serving ware in the window of Another Door on Main Street in Beacon are selfie magnets. Originally called Violet Reserve, the consignment boutique recently doubled its space and the new name "better suits the business," says owner Andrea Ferko.

"It can be metaphoric: one door closes and another one opens, or as people close doors in their lives, say through moving or an estate situation," she explains. "But it is also literal, because these items have to pass through doors and I just expanded right next door."

Ferko opened in 2021, rebranded this past March and moved into the new space after La Mere Clothing and Goods closed. The storefronts are linked by interior doors and have a stroller and wheelchair ramp in the back.

Along with women's fashions and housewares, Ferko offers men's clothing and furniture. In her previous space, things got jumbled together, she says. Now, the clothes have their own showroom and the home goods section is less cluttered.

"It was a 'wow' moment as an entrepreneur to double the square footage so I could focus on the story I want to tell," says Ferko.

Along with practical items, her stock includes a vintage Yashica A camera (it uses film!) and a dental compound scale. Mounted on the walls are striking local photos by Jennifer Sarah Blakeslee.

Ferko says her goal is to promote sustainability and upcycling. "These items should not have to end up in the garbage," she says. "There is no need to buy some awful piece of new furniture made from particle board that's going to fall apart in a year. You can get a solid wood table for around the same price."



Andrea Ferko outside Another Door with her glowing dinnerware

Photo by THEGINGERB3EARDMEN

Heloisa Tomaz de Aquino and Jil Facko at Siblings

Be careful with the eerie-looking plates that glow underneath black light. They are known as Depression glass (because they were made between 1929 and 1939) or uranium glass (for what's inside). They would register on a Geiger counter but are safe unless chipped or cracked, Ferko says.

"It's a fun vintage parlor trick," she says. "I live above the shop and see people taking pictures [of the display window] at night. It has become a fixture in Beacon. Some photos went viral and lots of collectors found us, which is a nice byproduct of having a shop with timeless things, whether they glow or not."

 $Another\,Door\,is\,located\,at\,468\,Main$ St. See anotherdoorbeacon.com or call 845-202-0470.

Sybil and Siblings

Sybil, another expanding shop going for an Old World vibe, has opened a new outlet, Siblings, for children. Owner Jil Facko's reverence for history is reflected in the store name, a tribute to Sybil Ludington, Putnam County's Paul Revere.

Why not call the satellite shop Syblings? "It reminded me of an old AOL user name and I didn't want to confuse children who are learning how to spell," says Facko, a Mahopac native who cut her retail chops in Portland, Maine, for eight years.

Retail is in her blood: Her father sold coins, stamps and jewelry from a Bronx shop, buying large lots of random items and storing them at the house, she says. Once, she found a box of wallets and sold them for a dollar each to her classmates but got in trouble with the teachers.

As an adult, determined to have her own store, she started stocking up on items bought at Goodwill and scouting locations up and down the Atlantic coast. But when the pandemic hit, she decided to come home.

When a storefront opened on Main Street, she pounced. She opened in November 2020. "It was the craziest thing I ever did," she says. "But I figured if I crashed and burned, I'd be near family."

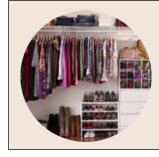
Facko says she searches for items with beauty, heritage, utilitarian purpose and an artisanal pedigree. Les Anis de Flavigny candies were first made in 1591 and market bags (also French) date to 1860. Imabari towels are made on Japan's oldest loom. And, she sells the newly ubiquitous Swedish dish towels.

"Classic is never out of style," she says. "My products are useful; they're not just pretty things taking up space on a shelf."

She sold children's goods at Sybil, but as local children grow older, parents look for more than baby shower and toddler items. So Facko and a business partner, Heloisa Tomaz de Aquino, took the plunge with Siblings, where young visitors can draw while their parents shop. Their artistic creations are then hung in a mini-gallery.

Now it's time to gear up for the holidays. "I figured that operating a small boutique would be a care-free, charming lifestyle, which is how it's shown on TV," says Facko. "But the joke among shop owners is that we spend our life savings for a minimum-wage job."

Sybil is located at 426 Main St. and Siblings is at 504 Main St. See shopsybil.com.



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Saturday, November 4, 1:00 pm





Classic Wheels

1965 Corvair Monza 110 Sport Coupe

By Michael Turton

lassic-car owners love to recount how they came by their prize possession, whether in a dusty old barn,

inherited from a long-lost uncle or buried in the classified ads.

Few can top Charlie Merando's tale. Acquiring his 1965 Chevy Corvair Monza 110 Sport Coupe got the Cold Spring resident reported to the police — by his wife.

Merando bought the car from a co-worker in Poughkeepsie 30 years ago, paying just \$200 because it had a bad gas tank.

"I had another '65 Corvair I bought from Nelsonville Mayor John Meyer, so I used its tank," Merando said.

He actually had eight Corvairs in his yard at the time, which upset his wife and his neighbor. "So, they called the cops!" Soon after, he scrapped the surplus vehicles.

The car he purchased from his workmate had its original black paint, brown interior and about 65,000 miles on the odometer. He later painted it Nassau blue, converted the interior to light blue leather, and upgraded the air conditioning.

"Everything else's original, including the push-button radio," Merando said.

The aluminum, 164-cubic-inch, flatsix-cylinder engine is turbocharged and produces 110 horsepower. "The cylinders are



Photo by M. Turton

opposed; they go sideways, not up and down" in the air-cooled engine, he explained.

He has taken the Corvair up to 75 mph; it was rated at up to 115 miles per hour in 1965. "When a car's that old, I don't doubt something's going to fall out," he said.

He estimates the vehicle gets 20 to 25 miles per gallon, just as it did 58 years ago. Gas cost 31 cents a gallon when it was built.

"It's nice to drive; it has a two-speed automatic," Merando said. "It floats a bit because with the engine in the back, air gets under the front end; people used to put sandbags up front."

The rear-mounted engine meant good traction in snow. "I used to drive it to work in winter and it was excellent," Merando said.

Now the car is stored each winter. The rest of the year Merando only takes it for Sunday drives and to car shows. Before modifying it, he brought home trophies two years running from the Corvair Show in Wilton, Connecticut, and has done well at shows in Cold Spring, Beacon and Bear Mountain State Park.

Merando is the car's third owner. The original invoice shows it was purchased from Cochrane Chevrolet in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and included features such as a padded instrument panel, no-glare mirrors, two-speed windshield wipers, retractable seat belts and a spare wheel lock.

The Corvair broke ground when introduced in 1960. Sometimes called "the poor man's Porsche," it was the first production car with a turbocharged engine. Its sleek, wrap-around-the-body lines were Chevy's answer to European compacts many considered sexier. *Curbside Classics* described the 1965 Corvair Monza as "the best European car ever made in America."

The Specs

Assembly: Ypsilanti, Michigan (plus five other North American cities)

Production period: 1960-69

Total production (1965): 235,500 (including 88,954 2-door sport coupes)

Engine: 110 horsepower, turbocharged, 164 cubic-inch flat six-cylinder; 140 horsepower, turbocharged, 230-cubic-inch flat sixcylinder

Transmission: 2-speed Powerglide automatic; 3- and 4-speed manual

Top speed: 115 mph

Gas mileage: 20 to 25 mpg

1965 Price: \$2,671 (\$26,098 today)

Consumer activist Ralph Nader was less enthused. His 1965 book, *Unsafe at Any Speed*, claimed Corvair's swing-axle rear suspension was flawed, making handling difficult and the car more prone to rollovers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration later found no such handling problems, but the criticism went worldwide.

Although Chevy had redesigned the rear suspension before Nadar's book came out and sold 235,500 of the 1965 model, his assertions and the advent of affordable muscle cars such as the Mustang, GTO and Camaro took their toll. By 1969, production had fallen to 6,000 units, spelling the end of a 10-year run that put more than 1.8 million Corvairs on the road.

Delivering for the Village of Cold Spring.

Vote Early:

October 28 to November 5 9 am – 5 pm

North Highlands Fire House 504 Fishkill Road

Vote on Election Day:

Tuesday, November 7 6 am – 9 pm

Cold Spring Methodist Church 216 Main Street at Orchard

PAID FOR BY FORGE AHEAD



Re-Elect Mayor **Kathleen E. Foley**



Re-Elect Trustee **Eliza Starbuck**



Elect for Trustee

Aaron Freimark

SECURING DRINKING WATER

- Passed local law to manage water use in drought conditions
- Restored connection to backup Catskill Aqueduct water supply
- Re-launched dam repair planning and engineering

STORM MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE RESILIENCY

- Securing FEMA funding for stormdamaged infrastructure repairs
- Working with engineers to develop fortified stormwater management plan
- Established Local Emergency Coordintion Center with Philipstown and Nelsonville for future storms

MODERNIZED ZONING CODE

- Added essential tools to the Planning Board's kit for protecting village and neighborhood character
- Brought Cold Spring into compliance with New York State laws
- Created tight restrictions & multi-tiered public review for Marathon site proposals
- Identified critical topics for exploration in next Village Comprehensive Plan Update

TOURISM MANAGEMENT

- Increased garbage pickups, public restroom access, and crosswalk safety on Main Street
- Implementing Residential Parking Plan and Main Street meters system

- Capped numbers of boats & passengers for Seastreak: increased docking fees
- Drafted revisions to Short Term Rental Law with resident committee; will improve compliance & enforcement

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Partnered with NYS Assembly, Senate and the Governor to pass three State laws supporting Village priorities
- Entered intermunicipal agreements for shared uses & mutual aid with Philipstown, Kent, and Haldane
- Claimed seat at the table with NYS Parks & HHFT so our residential community flourishes alongside the Fjord Trail

ROADWAYS & FACILITIES

- Contracted engineers to properly assess, prioritize and direct infrastructure repairs
- Made long-overdue repairs and commissioned mural for MNR pedestrian subway tunnel
- Secured \$250K state grant for needed repairs in Village Hall





Start Reading Now

November book club selections

Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club

THURS 2, 7 P.M

Confederates in the Attic, by Tony Horwitz Lincoln Depot Museum, 10 S. Water St., Peekskill Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

Fiction Book Club

THURS 9, 7 P.M.

Disappearing Earth, by Julia Phillips Split Rock Books, Cold Spring Register at splitrockbks.com.

Elementary Book Club (Grades 2-4)

THURS 16. 3:15 P.M.

Classic Starts: Little Women, by Deanna McFadden Butterfield Library, Cold Spring Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Page-to-Screen Book Club

THURS 16, 5:30 P.M.

Jurassic Park, by Michael Crichton Desmond-Fish Public Library, Garrison Register at desmondfishlibrary.org.

Butterfield Book Club

MON 27, 7 P.M.

The Night Watchman, by Louise Erdrich Butterfield Library, Cold Spring Register at

butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

Beacon Book Club

THURS 30. 7:15 P.M.

The Golem & the Jinni, by Helene Wecker Brother's Trattoria, Beacon

Register at

meetup.com/beacon-bookclub.

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit-

Sunday, November 5th, 2023

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, November 5th, 2023 at 9:30am to inspect the following site:

RKB Materials LLC, 39 Horseman's Trail, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#16.12-1-7

H is for Hopscotch

Teachers use organized play to prepare students

By Joey Asher

ho would've guessed that hopscotch could help children learn to read?

That is the idea behind the new "sensory pathway" outside the pre-K classroom at the Garrison School. The pathway is a series of "kinesthetic-learning" activities where children jump, crawl and hop through a course of colorful floor and wall stickers and also learn their letters, numbers and

"The kids just think they're having fun, playing in the hallway," said James Yap, the district's director of innovation and learning. "But they're learning."

Debbie Earle, the teacher, said the pathway is an important part of preparing children for kindergarten. "When they're doing things and saving things at the same time. the learning soaks in more," she said.

It also energizes her students. "At this age, you can only teach in short increments," she said. "When they're playing like this, you can do something fun and bring them back to class."

Funded with a \$1,300 grant from the Garrison Children's Education Fund, the



Debbie Earl follows a student along the sensory pathway at the Garrison School.

Photo by J. Asher

pathway is a product of Fit and Fun Playscapes, a company founded by Nelsonville resident and former Haldane PTA co-president Pamela Gunther.

Gunther, who is an architect, explained

she was inspired to start her business in 2008 when one of her children was in kindergarten at Haldane. She and other members of the playground committee painted colorful lines on the blacktop for games like hopscotch and foursquare.

She also saw how physical activity helped her oldest child, who had attention deficit challenges. "Movement is a key factor to help children regulate their bodies so that they can maintain focus in the classroom," said Gunther. Founded in 2011, Fit and Fun has installed its learning products at 8,000 locations in the U.S., Canada, Australia and Europe.

Timothy Davis, who teaches in SUNY Cortland's physical education department, has studied the benefits of playground activities. He says the pathway helps teach what is known as "midline crossing," where children move their feet and hands across their bodies. That helps develop the rightto-left-eye midline crossing movement that children need to learn to read.

Pathways activities are also helpful for a generation of students who are showing developmental delays because of excess screen time, said Davis. He cited a 2019 study at the University of South Carolina which showed that 75 percent of preschoolers show delays in their ability to run, jump, hop, throw, bounce and catch a ball.

"As a whole, we've declined in our movement abilities because we're sedentary," Davis said, adding that activities like those on the sensory pathways can help children quickly catch up.





Rooftop Garden (from Page 1)

Rebekah Tighe, president of the Chapel's board, said the new green roof cost about \$14,000. The nonprofit received a \$10,000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts for the project and also raised \$2,450 from its annual appeal and a 2022 lawn party, she said.

Construction began Oct. 3 with two weeks of planting, and the roof was dedicated on Sunday (Oct. 22). More vegetation will be added in the spring.

Liz Campbell Kelly, a landscape architect in Nelsonville who, with Hartford, was among about 20 people who volunteered to install the green roof, said most of Smith's planting plan was used as the starting point. The roof will have more than 600 plants, from warm-season grasses and cool-season sedges to wildflowers that will bloom in three seasons, providing habitat for birds and insects. There will also be a sedum layer, drought-resistant groundcover that will provide a "living mulch."

The roof's vegetation will absorb sunlight, converting it to plant growth rather than thermal energy, helping to keep the building's interior cooler.

~James Hartford, Architect

Campbell Kelly said the 6-inch-deep soil is manufactured specifically for green roofs and contains no weed seeds, reducing the need for maintenance.

The ability of the roof to bear up to 75 pounds per square foot of soil and rain or snow is a crucial part of the design, she said. The soil rests on a waterproof membrane similar to the one used at Manitoga in Garrison and New York City landmarks such as the Chrysler Building, Carnegie Hall and the Empire State Building. While the chancery roof is flat, Campbell Kelly said green roofs can include berms or be established on gentle slopes.

Once the plants are established, the green roof will reduce runoff and augment climate control inside the chancery. "Its greatest contribution will likely be in summer," Hartford said. "The roof's vegetation will absorb sunlight, converting it to plant growth rather than thermal energy, helping to keep the building's interior cooler."



Patrick Biesemans and Anne Sherer plant on the roof.



Anne Sherer spreads soil.





Jaimie Fandl and Stephen Hutcheson transport dirt to the roof. Photos by Ross Corsair

Roots and Shoots

Spring Gifts

By Pamela Doan

ardeners live in the future.
The results of our efforts are sometimes weeks and months and years ahead. It must be the joy of the process that sustains us in the meantime and the promise of possibility.

When you tend a garden like Stonecrop, that process is multiplied and intensified. Barbara Scoma has been "doing bulbs" at the 15-acre nonprofit garden on Route 301 in Philipstown for 22 years. She orders the bulbs, reseeds them, bags them up, gets them ready and helps with planting.

The scope of the task has shifted. Years ago, when the garden was being established, Scoma would have ordered 45,000 bulbs for a season; today it is closer to 22,000. For scope, I will be planting a few dozen in my yard.

Here, Scoma shares some bulb basics.

Is there a system for knowing how deep to plant a bulb?

It depends on the bulb and soil, but it's usually double or triple the length. Follow the instructions on the package for best results.

Will it grow if it's put into the hole with the root facing up?

With small bulbs and tubers, it may be hard to tell where the roots are. Some will eventually still grow out, but something like an allium won't.

What are some of the best ways to plant bulbs? I've tried specialty tools



The flower garden and tool shed at Stonecrop

Photo provided

and didn't think they worked. But maybe I'm using them wrong.

It depends on the soil. The flower gardens are lovely because the soil is like butter and in the gravel garden we use a trowel or knife. For small-bulb planting in a large grouping, we scalp the lawn and make a lid. Dig, place the bulbs, replace the soil and tamp it down. In a bed, place the bulbs out and dig them in with a trowel. We don't use an augur.

What is the difference between hardy and tender bulbs?

Hardy bulbs can stay in the ground and come up the next year. They include narcissus, tulips and small bulbs like crocus. You have to dig up tender bulbs such as clivia,

Years ago, when the garden was being established, Scoma would have

SERVICE

ordered 45,000 bulbs for a season; today it is closer to 22,000.

colocasia and mirabilis in the fall before they freeze. Store them over the winter and plant again in spring.

Are there ways to deter wildlife from taking your bulbs?

We don't do anything in particular to keep them out. We wait for temperatures to be cool enough, but it's getting more difficult because we don't have deep winters like we did in the past. If we find things get shifted, we blame it on chipmunks and squirrels. There are bulb cages that look like a suet basket available to protect them. Tulips are frustrating because the deer love them.

Why should you leave the foliage after the plants bloom?

Photosynthesis happens. The plants need that to build the food storage to come back next year. We deadhead daffodils, for example, and leave them for another six weeks.

What is curing and how do you store bulbs?

For example, we take dahlias and cannas in for the winter. We dig them up and clean the bulbs. Then we leave them in a fairly dry medium in a plastic pot. They are stored stacked on top of each other in cubbies covered in burlap to keep the light out in a cool environment. They overwinter well. A garage or basement could work. You want them cool but not frozen.

What are some favorite bulbs at Stonecrop?

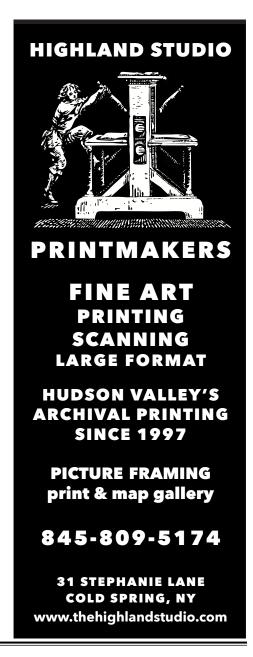
DIRECTORY

We plant bulbs by color in the flower garden. There are narcissus in the lawn by type of bulb planted in clumps. They are sold as a blend. You get a group of bulbs that are a variety of heights and bloom times. There are native bulbs in the car park, including camassia and erythronium (trout lily) and some daffodils. In the flower garden,

we have a little bit of everything, including muscari and daffodils and summer blooming bulbs, including dahlias and canna lilies.

Any other key points?

Plant 100 to 200 to make a big sweep. Record and map what you planted and be precise so you don't forget. Take photos, too. Keep adding bulbs every year because they won't last forever.











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County Executive Criticizes Stadium Audit

Dutchess comptroller questions public spending

By Chip Rowe

n audit by the Dutchess comptroller of the operations of Dutchess Stadium prompted a strong reaction from the county executive.

The comptroller, Robin Lois, noted that the county subsidy for the stadium, which is located on Route 9D in Wappingers Falls and now known as Heritage Financial Park, has increased from \$134,000 in 2020 to \$423,000 in 2023.

"Although the stadium is budgeted as a county park, residents do not have free access as with a normal public park as it is a paid venue operated by a for-profit entity," the Hudson Valley Renegades minor league baseball team, Lois wrote in a section of the audit labeled as her "observation and opinion." "The stadium should be held to a different and higher standard for its tolerance of taxpayer subsidy."

Lois, a Democrat, urged the administration to continue negotiations of the lease with the team to "lessen the long-term burden on the taxpayers." She added that a "last-minute" \$25 million amendment to the county's 2023 operating budget by the Legislature for capital improvements at the stadium was "ill advised."



Heritage Financial Park is located just north of Beacon

nis- break even. rks, "It is very

"It is very shortsighted not to recognize the value of having a long-term lease with a minor league baseball team — a New York Yankees affiliate — to play in our stadium and provide low-cost entertainment for families," he added. He expressed concern about the "political nature of the audit" and questioned the timing of its release a few weeks before the election.

Yvette Valdés Smith, a Democratic legislator whose district includes Ward 4 in Beacon, said in a statement that spending on the stadium "has been a major difference between Republicans and Democrats" and that the audit "confirms what we suspected all along — this is a grab of taxpayer funds that does not and will not translate into long-term financial gains for the county or its residents."

Smith pointed to recent claims by Gregg Pulver, a Republican who is chair of the Legislature, that the county uses the rent paid by the Renegades to fund its other parks. She said that "directly contradicts" the audit findings and O'Neil's statements.

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit-Sunday, November 5th, 2023

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, November 5th, 2023 at 10:30am to inspect the following site:

Krasniqi Plaza, LLC, 3626 Rt. 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#17.-1-43

Although Robert Balkind, the commissioner of the Department of Public Works, said he found the audit "appears to be complete and accurate," County Executive William F.X. O'Neil, a Republican, wrote to Lois on Oct. 20 with a different take.

He said the audit "ignores many facts."

He said the audit "ignores many facts," such as that "revenues need to equal or surpass expenses. There is no requirement for the stadium to show a profit, or even

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

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

ACROSS

- 1. Lass
- 4. Choose
- 8. Beanies
- 12. Historic time
- 13. Actor's quest
- 14. Theater award
- 15. Contingency funds 17. Goddess of victory
- 18. Orange veggies
- 19. Pursuing
- 20. Cellist Casals
- 22. Innocent one
- 24. New York canal
- 25. Misfortune
- 29. Balloon filler
- 30. Pal
- 31. Big D.C. lobby
- 32. Melancholy melodies
- 34. Alike (Fr.)
- 35. Aftermath
- 36. Condition
- 37. Of the Arctic

- 40. Chinese dynasty
- 41. Egg
- 42. Believed
- 46. Ganges wrap
- 47. Skip
- 48. Apprehend
- 49. BPOE members
- 50. Lectern locale
- 51. Sticky stuff

DOWN

- 1. Prized possession
- 2. Altar constellation
- 3. Small beetle
- 4. Teaser ad
- 5. Charged bits
- 6. The Browns, on scoreboards
- 7. Lock opener
- 8. Have a huddle
- 9. Slightly
- 10. Toll road
- 11. Crystal gazer 16. Like ganders

- 19. "Dear --"
- 20. Stew veggies
- 21. Operatic solo
- 22. Police ID
- 23. Tosses in
- 25. Nonsense
- 26. Attractive
- 27. "I smell -!"
- 28. Hardy cabbage
- 30. Sow's mate
- 33. Hindu teachers
- 34. Sicilian volcano
- 36. Prepares flour
- 37. Sit for a photo
- 38. Ellipse
- 39. Hide in the bushes
- 40. 1502, in Old Rome
- 42. Brick carrier
- 43. "I Rock"
- 44. Eastern "way"
- 45. Game of Thrones airer

SUDO CURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

TREAT

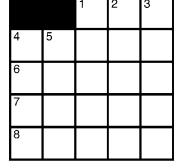
TRICK

MICRO **C**ROSSWORD

ACROSS

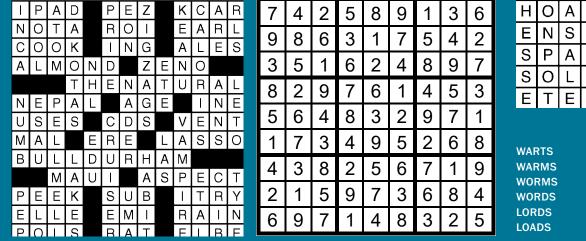
- 1. Classic diner, sandwich, for short
- 4. Not as restrained
- _ a dream" (Martin Luther King Jr.)
- 7. Judy star Zellweger
- 8. Mitigates

- 1. Coffee grinder filler
- 2. Flood control barrier
- 3. Where koalas live



- (out-and-4. Dumpster ___ out disaster)
- 5. Flightless bird of South America

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Answers for Oct. 20 Puzzles

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Senior defender Sara Gonzalez (23) protects the goal against Port Jervis in Beacon's win on Monday.

> Lila Burke (18) sends the ball over the net in Beacon's 3-1 victory over Valley Central on Wednesday.

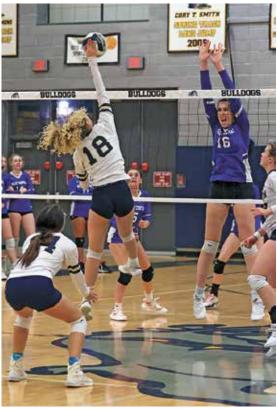


Photo by Cadence Heeter

highlandscurrent.org

VARSITY ROUNDUP

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

GIRLS' SOCCER — The Bulldogs continue to make history. Not long after securing its first Section IX title, Beacon won twice in three days to advance to the sectional tournament title game for the first time since 1988.

Seeded No. 3 in Class A, the Bulldogs hosted No. 6 Port Jervis on Monday (Oct. 23), winning 5-2. Following a shaky opening 15 minutes where the teams traded goals, Beacon controlled possession, scoring two goals in 60 seconds and then a third 18 minutes in to go up 4-1. The latter of those goals was by senior Reilly Landisi, who also scored at 29 minutes and 64 minutes for a hat trick.

Two days later, the team traveled to face No. 2 Red Hook, winning 1-0 on a goal by Devyn Kelly off a corner kick by Chelsea DerBoghossian with 16:38 left in the first half. The Bulldogs (13-2-1) will travel on Saturday (Oct. 28) to Wallkill for a 1:30 p.m. matchup against No. 1 Lourdes (13-4).

FOOTBALL — Beacon knocked off Liberty, 12-9, on Oct. 21 — a win the Bulldogs needed to qualify for the Section IX, Class B playoffs. Both Beacon touchdowns came courtesy of Keavon Ricketts, who ran a kickoff back for an 88-yard touchdown and scored on a seven-yard run. Mason Supple lead the way on defense with six tackles, including two for losses, and a blocked point-after

attempt. Beacon (2-6), seeded No. 6, will travel to No. 3 Saugerties (6-2) today (Oct. 27). Saugerties defeated Beacon, 35-14, during the regular season.

BOYS' SOCCER — The Bulldogs (11-2-2), seeded No. 3, began their hunt for a Section XI, Class A title — and a return to the state title game — on Thursday (Oct. 26) with a 3-0 victory over No. 6 Liberty. See highlandscurrent.org for details. The Bulldogs will play at No. 2 Marlboro on Saturday (Oct. 28).

VOLLEYBALL — Beacon defeated Seward, 3-0, on Oct. 20 and Valley Central, 3-1, on Wednesday (Oct. 25) to finish the regular season at 14-3 and win the first league title in school history. Against Seward, Daveya Rodriguez and Lila Burke combined for 31 kills and Allie Thomas had 26 assists. The Bulldogs await their seed in the Section IX, Class A tournament, which is scheduled to begin Saturday (Oct. 28).

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' SOCCER — On Wednesday (Oct. 25), Haldane — the reigning Class C state champions — hosted North Salem in what the Blue Devils hoped would be the first win in their defense of the title.

It was not to be, as the Blue Devils, seeded No. 2 in Section I, lost a heartbreaker in extra time, 1-0, to the No. 3 Tigers.

North Salem put pressure on Haldane throughout the game, and goalkeeper Ronan Kiter had a busy afternoon. The Blue Devils had a difficult time with their attack because their leading scorer, Clem Grossman, was out with a hairline fracture.

See more photos at

Haldane was able to hang around but couldn't put the ball in net. With 5:55 left in the 15-minute overtime, a North Salem player sent a rocket past Kiter to end the game. "I'm not upset, because the boys battled and gave it everything they had," said Coach Ahmed Dwidar. The Blue Devils finished 9-7.

FOOTBALL — On the heels of a gritty win at Valhalla, Haldane had another road test on Oct. 21 against undefeated Westlake, falling 16-14 in a nail-biter.

Westlake took an early 7-0 lead but it was all Blue Devils in the second with a 3-yard touchdown run by Evan Giachinta and a 15-yard TD pass from Ryan Van Tassel to Michael Murray.

That would be all the Haldane scoring, however. In the third, Westlake scored on a 3-yard run but missed the extra point, allowing the Blue Devils to maintain a one-point lead. But with 3:21 left in the game, the Wildcats kicked a 24-yard field goal to take the lead.

For the second week in a row, Haldane's offense struggled to put up points. Van Tassel completed seven of 14 passes for 59 yards, and Giachinta and Van Tassel each rushed for 49 yards. "We did not execute down the stretch," said Coach Ryan McConville.

The Blue Devils (5-2) will close the regu-

lar season hosting Woodlands (0-5) at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday (Oct. 28).

GIRLS' SOCCER — On Thursday (Oct. 26), the No. 4-seeded Blue Devils (6-8) traveled to No. 1 Leffell (9-2-1) for the Section I, Class C tournament. The teams did not meet during the regular season. See highlandscurrent.org.

CROSS-COUNTRY — Haldane raced on Oct. 21 in the Section I Coaches Invitational at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls. Owen Powers finished 53rd in 19:39.1 and Silas Emig was 88th in 21:16.9. For the girls, Kate Resi finished 101st in 29:20.1, Penelope Andreou was 106th in 30:33.4 and Hazel Berkley was 108th in 30:45.5.

Powers and Andreou were the top Haldane finishers in a home meet against Hendrick Hudson held Monday (Oct. 23) at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison. The Blue Devils' next race will be the Northern Counties Cross-Country Championship in Milton on Saturday (Oct. 28).

VOLLEYBALL — Haldane finished a tough season last week without an elusive second win, falling in three sets on Oct. 19 to powerhouse Putnam Valley (25-11, 25-13, 25-18) and on Oct. 20 at Somers (25-11, 25-15, 25-8).

Against Putnam Valley, Scotia Hartford was 8 for 8 on serves and had five digs and three assists and Emily Tomann went 6 for 7 on serves with an ace and also had 10 digs and 5 kills. The Blue Devils (1-14) did not qualify for the Section I, Class C tournament.