

The HIGHLANDS Current



NOVEMBER 3, 2023

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Dear Readers,

Your news and your views do make a difference.

In this year alone, *The Highlands Current* has published more than 1,350 stories covering our governments, schools, enterprises, economy, environment and interests that range from cultural to culinary, artistic to athletic. And the paper has also carried more than 700 of your letters to the editor and comments, giving voice to concerns about the news developments that can frame public opinion and affect outcomes.

When your news and views are known and shared, things can happen – which makes *The Current* a vital forum for our communities.

As an independent **nonprofit** news organization, *The Current* depends on your help to continue in that role. We are funded by readers like you who believe in the importance of local journalism for the impact it has on community life, and, as we begin our yearend fundraising effort, we ask that you please **join or renew as a member of *The Current***. Your support will help to ensure that you, your friends, neighbors and all in the community will have *free access* to the stories that matter in Philipstown, Beacon and beyond.

Your support this year will also help us provide *better access* to the stories that matter to you as we improve your digital experience of *The Current*. The weekly print newspaper remains central to our mission, but we are also working to improve our digital publishing system so that we can give you your local news and views more quickly and in a customized fashion.

You can help our journalism serve you by becoming a *Current* member with a tax-deductible gift of as little as \$2 a month, or you can join or renew at any level at **highlandscurrent.org/membership**. And the benefits of membership, shown on the third page of this special section today, will enhance your involvement in community news.

In addition, when you join or renew between now and Dec. 31, NewsMatch – a national program funded by major foundations – and a group of local donors who strongly support our nonprofit journalism will match gifts up to \$1,000, to a total of \$50,000. With these matches, membership gifts totaling \$50,000 will mean \$100,000 for our newsroom.

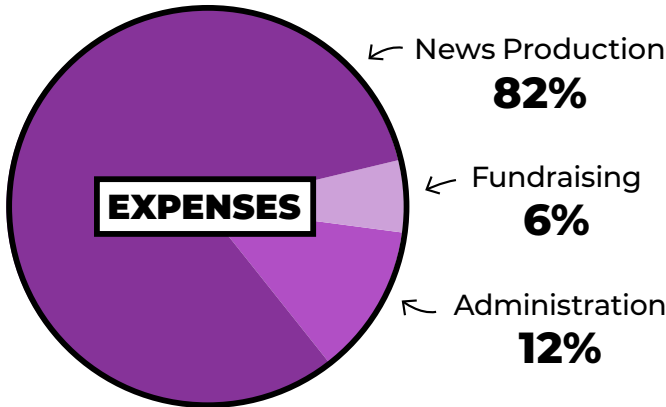
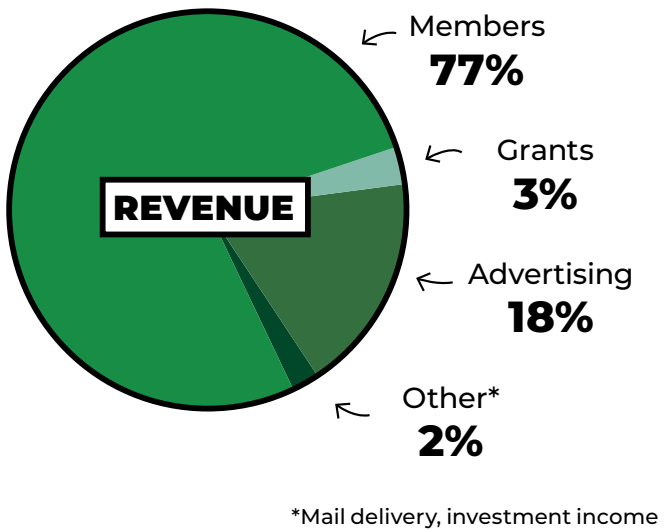
Earlier this year, the New York Press Association singled out *The Current*’s efforts to keep you informed by naming it **NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR** for the second year in a row. Your membership gift will help our reporters, editors, photographers, student journalists and all on our news staff continue to bring you **the news and views that can make a difference** in the Hudson Valley.

Ever grateful for your support,


Christine Bockelmann
Chair of the Board

We Need You

As has been the case since our membership program started in 2019, members provided the largest portion of support for *The Current*’s news operations in our fiscal year 2022-23.



The HIGHLANDS Current

Halloween
Costume
Contest
Winners

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NOVEMBER 3, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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No More Pills, Test Sirens or Escape Routes

Regulator: Indian Point can drop emergency plans

By Brian PJ Cronin

The days of test sirens and iodide pills are over.

On Oct. 24, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced

that it had approved a request by Holtec, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant near Peekskill, to abandon the emergency response plan created when the plant was operational.

The approval comes a week after Holtec said it had completed transferring the plant's spent nuclear fuel rods into dry casks.

The NRC said it had concluded that, with

the spent fuel in storage and less radioactive than it was 15 months ago, when the last of three reactors was shut down, "the risk of an off-site radiological release is significantly lower, and the types of possible accidents significantly fewer."

Even if there was an explosion (a gas pipeline runs through the boundaries of

(Continued on Page 6)

Barge Parking is Back

Despite earlier ban, Coast Guard issues directive

By Brian PJ Cronin

Halloween may be over, but an issue that many Highlands residents thought was settled has unexpectedly returned from the dead: the fight over where barges can anchor long-term in the Hudson River.

After a proposal to increase the number of anchorages north of Tarrytown from one to 10 met with fierce resistance and came to an end only with action by Congress, the U.S. Coast Guard declared in a recent bulletin that, because of its own imprecise wording, the 2021 ban does not apply between Tarrytown and Albany, which includes Philipstown and Beacon.

The original proposal sought to increase the number of specific anchorage areas. The new bulletin opens the door for barges to anchor for the long term anywhere north of Tarrytown.

Also: It's effective immediately.

The idea that a 462-word memo could counteract Congress caught lawmakers and environmental groups by surprise. One person contacted by *The Current* said their initial reaction was that the bulletin had been issued by mistake. Another, John Lipscomb of Riverkeeper, said he was baffled. "What's the end goal of doing this?" he wondered.

The conflict began in 2015. In response to reports that commercial vessels were anchoring illegally in the Hudson, the

(Continued on Page 10)



SPOOKY! — Cold Spring held its annual Halloween Parade on Saturday (Oct. 28), with the usual cast of goblins, ghosts, ghouls, robots, witches, knights, giant insects, pirates, princesses, astronauts, clowns, superheroes, singers, hot dogs and one can (that we saw) of tomato soup. For more photos of the Cold Spring and Beacon parades, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Another Wild Saturday in the Village

'The busiest day I've seen in more than 10 years'

By Michael Turton

Busy fall weekends are nothing new to Cold Spring, but Saturday (Oct. 28) was beyond busy.

The day was busier than even the most recent busiest day ever, Oct. 22, 2022, a Saturday that Mayor Kathleen Foley said at the time left the village "very, very full" because of Seastreak, family weekend at West Point, near-peak fall foliage and a Haldane home football game.

This past Saturday, Metro-North Railroad sold 3,010 tickets to passengers headed to

the village (population 1,986) from Grand Central Station. Throw in the first nice weather in seven weekends, 400 visitors aboard the Seastreak, hundreds more by cars that lined every side street between Route 9D and the river, West Point families and a Halloween parade, and the picture becomes clear: The village was mobbed.

"It was the busiest day I've seen in more than 10 years," said Mike Procopio, owner of Cold Spring Pizza. "We sold about 250 pizzas, almost all by the slice."

On a typical Saturday they make pizza dough once for the day; on Oct. 28 they made it five times, he said.

Procopio didn't mind the extra business,

(Continued on Page 8)



Pedestrians filled Main Street in Cold Spring on Saturday (Oct. 28).

Photo by M. Turton

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: MEG LAZAROS

By Jeff Simms

Meg Lazaros is an organizer of the Beacon Bicycle Coalition.

What is the Beacon Bicycle Coalition?

We're a group of Beaconites who love to ride bikes for transportation, recreation and as an alternative to using a car. The mission is to create safe, accessible and fun biking opportunities within the city while building community.

How did the coalition come together?

In March, I participated in a Community Quarterly, one of the City Council forums where residents can bring ideas that they think would help improve the city. I proposed that Beacon commit to a timeline for a city-wide bike plan. It received the second-most votes of the ideas that were brought forward, so I was assigned a council member, Wren Longno, who has been mentoring me about how to move it forward.

I got together with a small group of people who expressed interest, all avid bikers concerned about safety and biking in the city. We all have some background in organizing, so we decided that the best path would be to create something outside of government that's more based in people power. We started in September, and we're



at 50-plus members. The hope is that if we become too big to ignore, the city will see that many residents feel strongly about this. Our members run the gamut from families, parents and kids. There are people who have lived in Beacon for decades and people who just moved here.

What would a citywide plan entail?

The goal is to have the city commit to a bike plan and potentially bike paths throughout Beacon. We want to make sure the city feels accessible to everybody, and that it feels safe for everybody, of all ages, to ride. My daughter should be able to grow up riding to school. Another goal is to make

sure that Beacon has a culture of biking around it. I often talk about how I biked to work every day when I lived in New York City. It was terrifying, but in some ways it was not as terrifying as it is up here, because people there know to look out for bikers. It's part of the culture.

We also want to find other people who are enthusiastic about this and connect them through things like regular bike rides. The rides are really fun because we're able to bike in numbers, which feels safer, but also to make stops along the way and talk about our experiences. It's a way for everybody to have input on how we can improve biking in Beacon.

How can someone get involved?

We're on Instagram @beacon.bicycle.coalition. We're also going to be at Taproots, the free community festival at The Yard, on Saturday (Nov. 4) with a table from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We're aware that the City Council is considering a zoning revision for a stretch of Fishkill Avenue, so we're creating a petition to urge the city to conduct a study on how to plan and design those roadways, not only with motorists in mind, but for the safety and accessibility of bicyclists and pedestrians, as well. That would be such a good opportunity for Beacon to become a leader in biking infrastructure. It's a win all around.

When did you start biking?

When I was a kid, I was the last person on the block to learn to ride a bike. Even the mailman tried to help me. I grew up in the Bronx, so once I learned, biking became crucial for me. In the last eight years, I've been involved with environmental groups, and I feel like biking is one component of the future that makes so much sense. Whether that's electric bikes or some combination of e-bikes and regular bikes, it is so important for everyone to see that as a mode of transportation. About 60 percent of car rides are less than 3 miles or 15 minutes long. If we could take those trips that people are making every day and convert at least some of them to bike trips, it would do wonders for the environment and our fuel-obsessed society.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Did you prefer 80- or 60-degree fall days?

If I'm not staring at the ocean, I want 60.



Vanessa Black, Beacon

I like both; I'm Australian.



Daniel Askill, Garrison

I'll take 80; I like warm weather.



Alison Lusardi, Cold Spring



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Nov 19 Suellen Nelson
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NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 13th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Zoning Board November 2023.

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Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ At its Wednesday (Nov. 1) meeting, the Cold Spring Village Board approved a Recreation Commission proposal to create a dog park in the northwest corner of Mayor's Park. The nonprofit Friends of Philipstown Recreation will raise the funds.

■ Resident Peter Farrell addressed the board regarding flooding and damage to homes on Main Street east of Chestnut Avenue during the severe storm on July 9. Farrell read a letter signed by himself and seven other residents, asking if village mitigation efforts on Cedar Street during the storm contributed to the flooding.

The mayor responded: "Your premise in that question is not correct." She said no pumping took place until July 14 and that the storm, which saw more than 9 inches of rain in 3½ hours, created rushing waters that were too dangerous for workers to stand in. As a result, "There were no interventions during the storm," she said.

Farrell said "pumping" wasn't mentioned in the letter but that water from Cedar Street landed in his property, to which the mayor responded: "Water from the entire mountain landed in your property and everyone else's."

After Farrell commented that some resi-

dents "are concerned that nobody is being transparent" about floodwaters that came down one side of Main Street, Foley said that she, the Philipstown supervisor and a county official could meet in public session or at residents' homes to review maps showing how the water moved, what the village did and what is planned.

■ The board supported a plan by Simon Pieza for his Eagle Scout project to add two picnic tables with built-in chessboards to Riverfront Park. Pieza said he was inspired by similar tables in Brooklyn, where he lived before moving to Cold Spring. "It is something everyone can enjoy; of course, you'd bring your own chess pieces," he said. The Historic District Review Board will review the project on Tuesday (Nov. 7).

■ Three men, all non-residents, addressed the board in succession during public comment. The first identified himself as Scalzo and the second as John Paul Reyes. The third declined to identify himself but was Leonard Filipowski, a provocateur who last appeared at the Sept. 16 meeting. The trio had complaints about Cold Spring Police Officer Kenneth Baker; Foley said the village does not address personnel matters during public meetings.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dutchess Seeks Proposals for DMV Building

Affordable housing among goals in Beacon

Dutchess County has issued a "request for expressions of interest" to redevelop a portion of its property at 223 Main St. in Beacon.

According to the county, the goal is the creation of affordable housing and ground-floor commercial space.

The request emphasizes what the county calls its "strong preference" for the maximum number of below-market-rate housing units, including for people whose income is 30 percent or less of the area median income. Green building practices and a pocket park or other public green space are also encouraged.

Dutchess County offices, as well as the

Department of Motor Vehicles, will remain. The farmers market will also continue to run on Sundays in the building's parking lot. Proposals are due by Nov. 30.

Garrison School Sets Vote

Proposal will formalize bus pickups

The Garrison school board scheduled a public vote for Dec. 5 to formalize a policy that allows children who live within 2 miles of the school to take the bus.

The school has provided the service for years but never received approval from the voters as required by law, explained Carl Albano, the interim superintendent. He called it "a formality recommended by our attorney."

Albano said the cost of providing transportation within a 2-mile radius is about \$16,000 annually. He said the vote is not related to cuts made earlier this year to its bus service that the district says saved \$120,000.

Public Open House

- at 30 Hudson River Lane
Garrison, NY 10524
- Sunday, November 5, 2023
- 1:00 - 3:00p.m.

This home has spectacular views, unprecedented River access and is only steps away from Metro-North's Manitou Station with direct access to Grand Central. Kayak or swim directly from your private dock. Watch bald eagles hunt and watercraft including sail, tug boats, colorful cruise and container ships glide by your home. 30 Hudson River Lane is a turn-key 1,476 sf, 2 bedroom, 2 bath home featuring an open plan living area with a large wood-burning fireplace and chef's kitchen. Indoor/outdoor living is a must in a location like this and there are three decks in total. Walk to the Mystery Point Nature Preserve or drive a few minutes to Cold Spring's bustling downtown.



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UPCOMING SHOWS *at the Depot*

Oct 27 – Nov 5: **Brush Strokes**

Nov 10: Cinema Depot: DreamGirls

Nov 11: Jake Xerxes Fussell

Nov 12: Cat Guthrie

Nov 17: Depot Docs Turn Every Page

Dec 2-9: The Wizard of Oz

Dec 22: Cinema Depot: White Christmas

For tickets & info:
philipstowndepottheatre.org



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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021, 2022)
* New York Press Association, 2013 - 22



NNA* Winner: 109 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 22



NYNPA* Winner: 28 Awards for Excellence

* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 22

Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Corvair dreams

I was 10 years old in 1965 when my parents bought a Corvair as their second car for mom ("Classic Wheels: 1965 Corvair Monza 110 Sport Coupe," Oct. 27). (Our first car was a 1962 Chevy.) It wasn't the Monza, just the basic four-door model. We loved this car and ended up sequentially owning used Corvairs — 1967 and 1969 models — after that first one moved on.

Mom was a member of the Corvair Club for years, receiving all their catalogs and mailings. I learned to drive in those Corvairs in the early 1970s, then drove them all around Westchester and New York City, and sometimes borrowed them for trips to our upstate SUNY colleges (and associated Grateful Dead shows) throughout the decade.

The Corvair was a really fun car to drive, "sporty" and "peppy." As mentioned in the column, its rear engine made it sure-footed in the snow, and with its light front end, it steered easily without power steering. Since the 1965 and later models had corrected the early axle (etc.) problems, we never had any of those issues.

The one Achilles' heel of the car was its single fan belt and its complex path around the engine. We once missed getting to a wedding on time because the fan belt broke. We were carrying a spare — you had to — but

getting it mounted correctly was a challenge.

My folks sold their third Corvair in the mid-1980s. After they'd downsized their commercial photography business and moved it into their house, and my sister and I had moved out, they no longer needed two cars. But those great Corvairs were the cars of my teens and 20s, and they remain a treasured memory.

Michael Goldfarb, *Beacon*

Ballot proposals

A reminder to voters: When you go to vote this year, be sure to flip your ballot over and review the constitutional amendment questions on the back. Both are worthy of consideration.

Proposition 1 relates to small-city school districts. If enacted, this would not mean that the debt limit for small-city schools is unlimited. This amendment, along with a recently signed new law, would mean that small-city school districts will finally have opportunities equal to those of the large suburban and rural districts when it comes to capital projects and debt limits.

Under the state constitution, small-city school districts cannot incur debt of more than 5 percent of their average full value of taxable real estate, except with approval by 60 percent of voters, the state comptrol-

ler and the Board of Regents. In contrast, large suburban and rural districts have no constitutionally prescribed debt limits but do have a statutory limit of 10 percent. This puts small-city school districts at a severe disadvantage when it comes to maintaining and improving facilities. The constitutional amendment and this new law would make all school districts equal.

What does this mean for you? If you live in any of New York's other small-city school districts [including Peekskill and Beacon], it will be easier to modernize your local school buildings. For those who do not live in small-city school districts, this amendment does not impact you negatively. Voting "yes" only levels the playing field for these small-city school districts, which makes our region better.

Proposition 2 gives municipalities flexibility when it comes to financing sewage facilities. This proposal extends their authority to remove debt for the construction of these facilities from their constitutional debt limits for 10 years. In this era of climate change, this authority is needed so that our local governments have the ability to finance these critical infrastructure projects.

Dana Levenberg, *Albany*

Levenberg is a member of the Assembly whose district includes Philipstown.

Write-in candidate

With regard to "No Contests" (Oct. 27), the mayor's race in Beacon is a contested election. There is an opposition candidate to Mayor Lee Kyriacou. Reuben Simmons is mounting a write-in campaign.

I met Reuben while working at the St. Andrew's food pantry. It was a very positive interaction. Reuben is a longtime resident of Beacon, a union member and past president of the union representing Highway Department workers. That tells me he has some solid leadership qualities.

What impressed me is how many of the food pantry clients knew him. That is because he volunteers all across the city, whether it is for Spirit of Beacon Day or Beacon Hoops. Reuben has made a positive impact on the city. I believe as mayor he will be in a position to do even more.

Please consider supporting Reuben Simmons as a write-in candidate for mayor.
Rich Dambra, *Beacon*

Stadium audit

All citizens and taxpayers of Dutchess County should note: Robin Lois was elected to the position of comptroller ("County Executive Criticizes Stadium Audit," Oct. 27). William F.X. O'Neil was not elected to the position of county executive but appointed through legislative manipula-

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

tion by his predecessor.

Virginia Buechele, *Poughkeepsie*

Fjord Trail

I am an 18-year resident of Cold Spring, and I love this community. I'm not a hiker, biker or runner, but I was distressed by all the antipathy toward the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

After attending an informational event at the Fjord Trail offices, during which the staff gave a comprehensive overview of their plans — including detailing how much they had listened to community members and had revised certain aspects of the trail plan, I came away thoroughly impressed, not just by the levels of expertise at work, but by how much these folks are driven by data, which includes listening to public opinion.

The recent hire of Cold Spring resident Rebeca Ramirez as its community and visitor-relations manager demonstrates more of that: care for the community and a desire to dialogue. As the great Buddhist educator Daisaku Ikeda states, genuine dialogue should be “death-defying” — meaning we must be willing to enter into an exchange in which we can let our preconceptions die. This can only happen when the parties are committed to listening to each other. In my experience, the Fjord Trail team is doing just that.

John Plummer, *Cold Spring*

I applaud the Cold Spring mayor's

concerns about potential impacts of an imposed trailhead at Dockside as being inconsistent with the integrity of the village's character and solvency of its budget (“Questions for Candidates: Cold Spring Board,” Oct. 27). I have been voicing these same concerns since 2016, when the Fjord Trail planners — in their infinite wisdom — concocted the ill-conceived notion of a tourist trailhead and bridge usurping a cherished neighborhood park.

I believe Trustee Eliza Starbuck is equally astute as the mayor, perhaps a bit more exacting, in making informed decisions that will ultimately respect the community. That said, I'd like to see both the mayor and the trustees take a more comprehensive posture against the trailhead. In so doing, I note that trustee candidate Aaron Freimark does not share the same opinions regarding the trailhead. In fact, he relishes streets jammed with tourists.

I am not sure what “amenities and services” to the village he is referring to. That sounds like tripe. I can assure that such opinions are espoused exclusively by shop owners looking for tourist shoppers. It would be nice to see consistency within the governing party. I note that Freimark refers to the stores that wouldn't survive on weekday traffic alone, whereas most of our stores are closed until Wednesday or Thursday. In so doing, village residents must compete with weekend shopping crowds.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

Living Green

Burned Out

By Krystal Ford

When my husband and I decided to pack up our life in 2022 and move from Garrison to Lake Placid, a lot of factors went into the decision, such as wanting more outdoor activities and more nature for ourselves and our children.

But there was something else driving my decision. I was burnt out from my climate work. I was giving it my all: protesting, writing climate articles, working as the climate coordinator, lobbying, writing this column, making changes in my own lifestyle. It wasn't enough and often I felt lonely and alone in my pain for the Earth. Instead of living in the moment, I was living in the future, and the future was dark, scary and filled with loss. So, yes, I burned out on climate work.

I had just decided to write about my climate grief when I saw that Erin Muir, who lives in Cold Spring, would be assisting with a workshop on Oct. 29 called “The Work That Reconnects: Healing Burnout.”

I shared with Muir my experience with climate burnout. She responded: “It is because of our connection to the Earth and our love for it that the despair and sadness is so intense. And there's no one talking about it, no space or ritual around how to process that.”

Muir says she was in a difficult place 2½ years ago, feeling disheartened about the state of things, the Earth, politics and life. She was having a hard time pulling out of it when her friend gave her a copy of *A Wild Love for the World*, an anthology of writings about Joanna Macy, an activist, author and Buddhist scholar.

In her Work That Reconnects workshops, Macy offers teachings and practices for transforming grief, anger, paralysis and fear into compassionate connection and



action. Work That Reconnects was developed 45 years ago and has been practiced thousands of times all over the world since.

As Muir read Macy's book, she said it felt like it gave voice to a lot of things that had been ruminating for most of her career as a landscape architect. Macy asks people to “become unafraid of our pain for the world, not ignore it. The pain is there because of our connection and if we block it we are blocking important feedback. Letting it fester within us is not helpful. Instead, if we can face it, give it voice, then collectively what can we do, if we are not afraid?”

The workshops are a process of group work that uses experience-based activities to help participants connect with one another and with the intelligence of self-healing powers of life on Earth. She draws upon concepts such as deep ecology, systems theory and gaia theory. The “spiral” is what is used to guide participants through four steps: Gratitude moves to “grief for the world,” to “seeing with new eyes” and “going forth.”

There are practices for each step of the spiral; each workshop is unique and emergent. But the aim is to provide a safe space for people's concerns about what is happening to the world, to help shift perspective to beyond the personal, and give space for creativity and power to do “right action.”

Muir joined a facilitator group for Macy's program and now organizes her own workshops. She has hosted three locally. Each lasts six weeks, with eight or nine participants.

One takeaway from my conversation with Muir was that we need activism to stop business as usual. But we also need life-sustaining practices such as permaculture and regenerative buildings. And we need self-care, tapping into joy, tapping into flow, music, into the feeling of connection. “You need to take care of you, so you can carry out all the other pieces,” Muir says.

After a year of taking time for myself, walking my dog in the woods, feeling gratitude for the seasons, learning how to figure skate, I am feeling ready to come back to work on behalf of the Earth, but this time I will do it differently.

For information about her next workshop, email Muir at erin@thefigure-groundstudio.com.

Philipstown Climate Fund

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How Low Can We Go?

Apply to get \$\$\$ for electric upgrades in your home!

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Indian Point *(from Page 1)*

the former plant), earthquake (the plant was built near the intersection of two seismic zones, including a fault line that passes less than a mile north of the site) or terrorist attack (the plant was considered by the 9/11 hijackers as a possible target), the radiation that would be released would only pose a threat to workers on-site.

Practically, the NRC ruling means that:

- Evacuation plans, including the routes of emergency buses to Brewster and Carmel (schoolchildren would be sent to Kent) will no longer be distributed to households within 10 miles of the plant, including in Philipstown. The 2020-22 edition of the *Are You Ready?* emergency booklet will be the last produced by Putnam, Westchester and Orange counties.

- The Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services has stopped distributing potassium iodide (KI) pills, which block radiation from entering the thyroid gland, and local public schools will no longer send permission slips to allow nurses to give KI pills to students during an emergency.

- An emergency hotline from Indian Point to the Westchester county executive can be disconnected.

- The quarterly siren tests in Philipstown and elsewhere within the 10-mile radius will be discontinued. In an emergency, the sirens would alert residents to turn on their

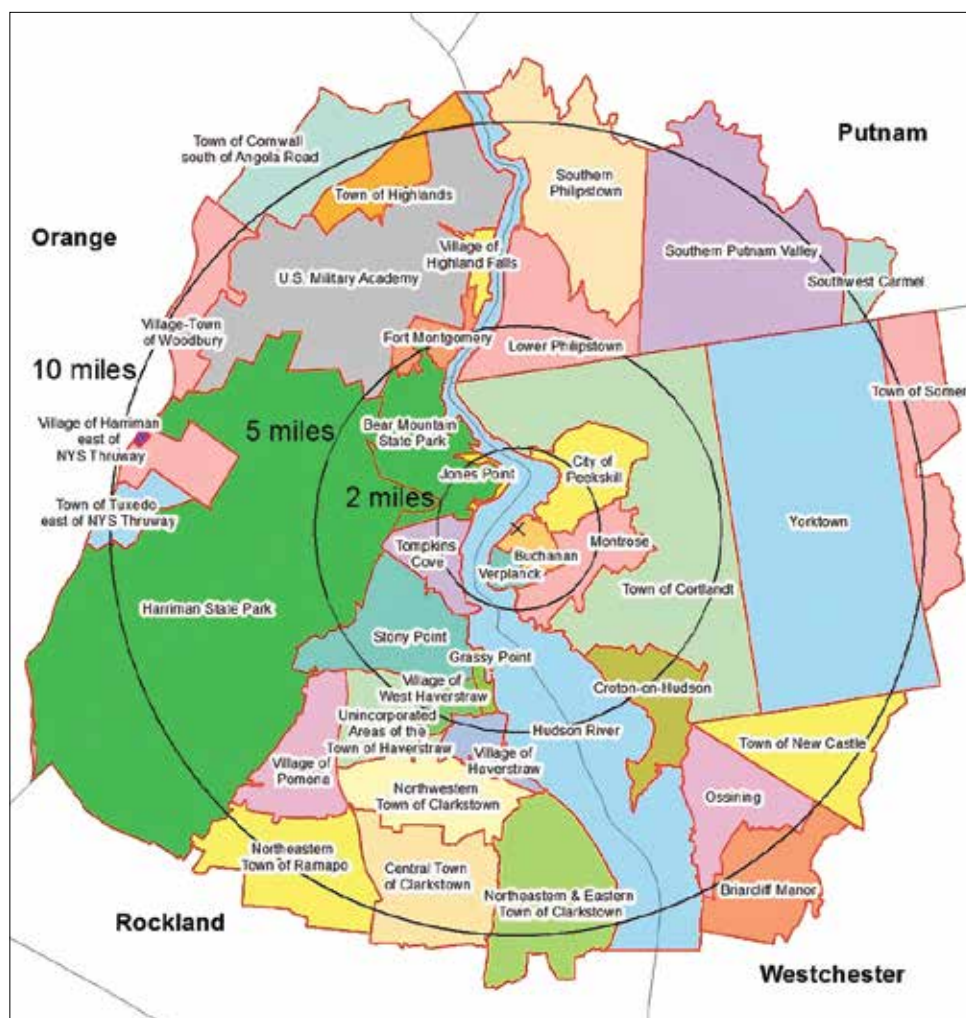
radios or TVs for instructions.

Holtec's request to drop the emergency plan drew criticism from the state's Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board, but Holtec insisted that there was nothing unusual about the change. In 1999, the NRC identified 34 sections of its regulations that don't apply to nuclear plants that have been permanently closed, although the agency has not taken any formal action to remove them.

As a result, every firm that is decommissioning a plant must ask the NRC for an exemption. Holtec says it was having to needlessly follow overly stringent regulations that added time and cost to the decommissioning.

New York State formally objected to the exemption request in January, arguing that while the NRC usually grants the exemptions, Indian Point is unlike other shuttered plants because it is in a highly populated area. They also noted that mishaps at other nuclear plants that Holtec is decommissioning "raise questions about whether this facility and this owner in particular warrant this exemption."

The state asked that any exemptions not go into effect until all the plant's nuclear fuel had been placed into dry casks. The NRC effectively honored that request "by waiting until the fuel was in dry cask storage before granting the exemption," a representative of the Decommissioning Oversight Board said Tuesday (Oct. 31).



A map from the 2022 Indian Point emergency plan shows "protective action areas." The population within the 10-mile radius is about 324,000 people.

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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)
- 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)*

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)

Highway Superintendent

Adam Hotaling (D, Team Philipstown)*

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

Dutchess Family Court: Experience Vs. Reform

Egitto, Rogers vie for 10-year term

By Jeff Simms

Joseph Egitto, a Lagrangeville resident elected in 2013 to one of four seats on the Dutchess County Family Court, is seeking his second, 10-year term but facing a challenge from James Rogers, an attorney who lives in Hyde Park.

The family court, which renders decisions on custody disputes, allegations of abuse or neglect and juvenile trials, is based in Poughkeepsie.

Egitto, a Republican, was named in 2018 as the supervising family court judge for the 9th Judicial District, which includes Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland and Orange counties. He appears on the Republican and Conservative ballot lines.

Rogers, a former president of the Legal Aid Society, deputy state attorney general and deputy labor commissioner, appears on the Democratic and Working Families lines.

Egitto did not respond to two requests for an interview. However, his campaign website argues voters should re-elect him because of his experience.

Before his election in 2013, Egitto was an attorney in private practice for 28 years. He was also the LaGrange town justice, a role that he said routinely saw him preside over domestic violence cases and others involving youthful offenders. His site says he is on call 24/7 because of his supervisory role.

The experience Egitto does not have, his website chides, is as director of business development for the state Office of Cannabis Management — the position Rogers holds.

In an interview on Wednesday (Nov. 1), Rogers noted that, as a public defender, he represented many low-level offenders as they worked their way through the legal system. Getting those people out of courtrooms and “using the markets for a social-justice goal is something that we have always dreamed of,” he said. “Now we have a chance to build something positive.”

Rogers says the race is not about experience but reform. On his website, he calls attention to what he says are failures in the family court system.

Fact-finding hearings, custody disputes and trials involving minors are routinely delayed in Dutchess County, Rogers said, forcing potentially volatile situations to wait for resolution. “You want to give a sense of permanency to all the kids caught up in these cases,” he said. “You want to make sure you get it right, but you also have to make sure you get it right quickly.”

That lack of “immediate due process” could also be blamed, he said, for statistics that show family court judges in Dutchess County removing children from their families four times more often than in Putnam County and six times more often than in

(Continued on Page 9)

★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 4
9a – 5p

SUN 5
9a – 5p

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 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.

Registration

The deadline to register
to vote in the 2023 general
election has passed. To verify
you are registered and locate
your polling place, visit
voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

What's Online?

highlandscurrent.org/election

- Questions for Candidates: Philipstown
- Questions for Candidates: Cold Spring
- Questions for Candidates: Beacon
- Fishkill supervisor race

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About Natasha Shaginan, MD

Natasha is a psychiatrist and psychologist. She has a Master’s degree in Applied Positive Psychology and Coaching Psychology (MAPPCP). Natasha has worked internationally as a Positive Psychology Specialist with individuals and various groups focusing. Her recent innovative project ‘Positive Emotions Through Photography’ was presented in London in January 2023 with Dr. Martin Seligman, the founder of Positive Psychology.

About Katya Varlamova, Clinical Herbalist

Katya is a clinical herbalist with more than 12 years of experience. Katya is a naturopath, plant wellness educator, and founder of the organic herbal wellness line Warmicita Herbs. She hosts plant walks, teaches plant medicine classes and retreats in NY, Europe and the Amazon. Katya uses herbal medicine from a variety of traditions and works closely with her clients to get to the true cause of health challenges.

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Record Crowd *(from Page 1)*

but he wasn’t happy with some fellow shop owners. Procopio said customers told him that some Main Street businesses that have restrooms sent them to his restaurant instead.

“That isn’t fair,” he said. “There was a lineup for our restroom for five straight hours.”

The queue at public restrooms near the Visitor Center at the foot of upper Main also often stretched back to the pedestrian tunnel.

At Brasserie Le Bouchon, visitors waited in a line along Fair Street. It was the restaurant’s busiest day ever, but Michael Vierra, the head waiter there for the past 16 years, wasn’t fazed.

“If you’re in a restaurant or retail business here, the crowds are nothing,” he said. “Once I’m full, I’m full.” For Le Bouchon, that meant all 100 seats were taken.

Vierra estimates there were about 6,000 visitors in Cold Spring on Oct. 28. “We don’t have 1,000 restaurant seats in the village,” he said. “It would be awesome if there were designated spots for food trucks” that could serve people wanting to grab a bite without waiting for a table.

Craig Muraszewski, owner of the Cold Spring General Store, embraced the large number of visitors. “It was a bright spot,” he said. “There were a lot of people, but after two months of weekend rain, I welcomed a bit of craziness. It was great for business.”

Judiann Romanello, owner of DamnAged Vintage, agreed, describing Saturday sales as phenomenal. “As a small business, these days are crucial to keep us going, especially when Monday to Thursday foot traffic is so low,” she said.

Evan Thompson, manager of Hudson Highlands State Park, said it was probably the busiest day he’s seen, reminding him of when the pandemic shutdown meant parks were the only place to go.

The long lines weren’t a problem, he said, but the number of cars were. “Cars were parked illegally in places I’ve never seen before, including right in front of the lot here at Little Stony Point and at Breakneck,” he said, adding that as soon as one driver parks illegally, others quickly follow suit. Cars parked perpendicular to the road in parallel-parking zones was also a problem.

One trouble spot was the stretch of Route 9D from Little Stony Point north to Break-



A long line formed for tables at Le Bouchon.

Photo by M. Turton

neck Ridge, where cars lined the no-parking zone. At least one car had to be towed after it became stuck in the roadside ditch. Removing it caused traffic to back up all the way into Cold Spring.

Thompson said many cars were ticketed by officers from the state park police, Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, New York State Police and Palisades Park Police.

“It was just so many people,” he said. “It’s like sticking your finger in the dike; it’s just impossible to stop” the illegal parking.

Thompson thinks the park saw up to 10,000 visitors that day. Between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., he estimates 2,000 people walked past Little Stony Point returning to Cold Spring.

Only one injury was reported in the park. An older hiker who hurt her foot on the Undercliff Trail was assisted by the Cold Spring Fire Co., which used its all-terrain vehicle.

In the village, two Cold Spring police officers and one parking enforcement officer had their hands full. Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke called the day a “perfect storm” that included traffic that was “out of control.”

He said drivers routinely ignored no-parking signs and fire hydrants and “just parked wherever they pleased.” That resulted in “a bunch of summonses.”

Fair Street, where parking is only allowed

from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays, saw a long line of illegally parked cars through much of the day.

At the Wednesday (Nov. 1) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Mayor Kathleen Foley also referred to Saturday as a “perfect storm.”

“It felt like a tide of people because it was a tide of people,” she said, adding that the Metro-North data would be forwarded to the Fjord Trail’s Data Committee to make it aware that worst-case scenarios do occur in the fall. “We need to plan for that eventually moving forward,” the mayor said.

Foley noted there wasn’t much towing in the village on Saturday because the companies were “fully engaged on Route 9D — there just weren’t enough tow trucks to go around.”

She said one car had been ticketed after it was left in the traffic lane of a side street, but not towed. In the past, cars were not towed unless they were impeding emergency vehicles or blocking a driveway, but the Village Code now gives officers more leeway. She said she has instructed the Police Department to ensure its officers are trained regarding their ability to order towing.

The mayor also cleared up what she called “mythology” that Seastreak on Saturday brought more than the 400 passengers allowed by the village. The boat had 586 passengers, she said, but 186 disembarked at Bear Mountain State Park before it reached Cold Spring.

A week earlier, at the board’s Oct. 25 meeting, Foley said that while the village can’t stop people from driving to Cold Spring, it can make it more inconvenient. The soon-to-be-implemented residential parking permits will help, making many streets unavailable to visitors, she said.

She said the number of hikers coming into the village must be reduced drastically. “The village can’t do that alone,” she said. “State parks and the Fjord Trail must make trail parking truly satellite, corralling trail visitors long before they enter the village, getting them on trailhead shuttles that bypass our residential community.”

Pleasant fall hiking weather is forecast through Monday (Nov. 6).



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New Bookstore in Beacon

Stanza plans to open Nov. 11

By Marc Ferris

The Snooki Shop, owned by Nicole Polizzi, the former *Jersey Shore* star, brought some levity to the east end of Main Street in Beacon. But it closed over the summer and now a bookstore is coming in with plans to create some intellectual fun.

Andrea Talarico will oversee day-to-day operations at Stanza Books. She opened a shop in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and later worked at New York City bookstores and with purveyors of fancy pens and stationery.

Her partner, Mark Harris, is an interior designer who has crafted creative spaces for museums, HBO and Netflix. He will create the store's atmosphere, which will include listening stations and other installations designed to drive interaction.

"We're going to make this cozy, not corporate," said Harris.

The couple moved to Beacon this past summer — to an apartment above The Snooki Shop. They were making plans for a bookstore when the landlord told them the ground-floor space would be available.

By late October, the 750-square-foot space was filled with chin-high piles of boxes and illuminated by antique chandeliers. It will have its grand opening on



Mark Harris and Andrea Talarico at Stanza Books, which opens Nov. 11

Photo provided

Second Saturday, Nov. 11.

The store will also be home to Sacred Consort Media, a new independent publisher. Its first title will be *Hekate's Return*, by Harris, in which witches battle a bull god during the Bronze Age. A release party is scheduled for Nov. 18.

It may seem counterintuitive to open a brick-and-mortar bookstore in 2023, especially in Beacon, which has Binnacle Books and a used bookstore that benefits the Howland Public Library. An independent bookstore just opened in Newburgh, as well. But according to the American Booksellers Association, based in White Plains, more than 600 bookstores have opened

since the pandemic began in 2020, including 17 in the Hudson Valley this year alone.

"Part of it is the 'great resignation,' where people cashed in their retirements to pursue their dream of opening a bookstore and took advantage of empty storefronts and the renaissance of reading that occurred during the lockdowns," said Allison Hill, the association's CEO. "People are also committed to shopping local."

Talarico and Harris are sanguine about their business model. "People say it's crazy to open a bookstore, but people are interacting more with their neighborhoods, especially if they work from home," said Talarico. "We can do things that Amazon can't and I

Family Court *(from Page 7)*

Rockland. At 27 percent, Dutchess is far below the state's target of placing 50 percent of children in foster care with relatives.

In addition, Rogers cites state data that shows that of the 12 Dutchess children in juvenile facilities in 2022, seven were Black. None were white. In Rockland and Ulster counties, whites make up 43 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of those facilities' populations.

"I don't understand what is behind that number, but I do understand it is a marker for someone to dive into," Rogers said.

believe there is room for all of us."

She points to the development of hybrid consumers who mix analog and digital experiences. "There's a vinyl [record] store in Beacon that's thriving, but I'm sure that their customers also listen to Spotify and stream music on their phones," she said. "It's the same for readers; they buy brand-new titles and used books, go to the library and probably use a Kindle or read online."

This type of consumer exists across all demographics, she said: "Screen fatigue is real. YA [young adult] and the middle grades are exploding. Young people really are reading print."

Stanza Books will be located at 508 Main St. in Beacon. Call 845-440-3906 or visit stanzabooks.com. The grand opening is scheduled for Nov. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m.

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat + Sun – November 4 + 5 – 1-5 PM
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Nov 17 - HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW & SALE
Nov 18 - ARTICHOKE Storytelling Series
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Barge (from Page 1)

Coast Guard issued a bulletin that clarified where barges could park. It identified seven anchorage grounds, but only one, near Hyde Park, was north of Tarrytown. “Except in cases of great emergency, no vessel shall be anchored in the navigable waters of the Port of New York outside of the anchorage areas established in this section,” it wrote.

The Tug & Barge Committee of the Port of New York and New Jersey responded with a request for more anchorage grounds, citing an anticipated boom in the oil market because of the lifting of a federal ban on crude exports.

The Coast Guard responded in 2016 with a proposal for 10 new anchorage grounds north of Tarrytown, with space for 43 barges. They asked for public comments and received more than 10,000, with 98 percent opposed.

Opponents acknowledged that the Hudson is a “working river” but feared it would turn into a parking lot of barges filled with oil, biding their time as they watched prices and picked a profitable time to rush to the Port of Albany to sell. Environmental groups pointed out that more parked barges increased the chances of a spill; the Hudson is a muddy, turbid river, meaning any spilled oil would quickly bind to the organic matter in the mud and then sink, making cleanup effectively impossible.

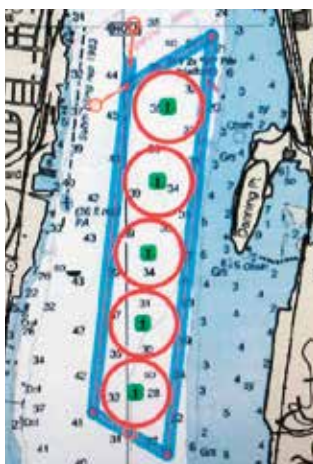
Conservationists noted that many of the new anchorages were in the breeding grounds of the Atlantic sturgeon and

short-nosed sturgeon, two endangered species. The swaying of the anchors as the Hudson changes direction a few times a day would carve deep gouges in the sturgeon’s habitat, as the fish often keep to the river bottom as well as lay their eggs there.

Municipalities that had spent millions reviving their waterfronts objected to the idea of their revitalized towns now looking out onto aquatic parking lots with ships beaming stadium-style lights all night. (In fact, the lights and noise of barges parked illegally near Rhinebeck in 2015 prompted the initial complaints.)

The Coast Guard responded by suspending the proposal. In 2018, it released the results of a safety assessment that concluded that the new anchorages were not needed. Taking no chances, opponents pushed for a ban, which was inserted into the Defense Authorization Act of 2020. The act was vetoed by then-President Trump, but Congress had enough votes to overturn it.

At a January 2021 news conference, then-Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district included the Highlands, said the matter was now settled “forever.” He added: “In the future, if you want to undo it, you can come talk to us and tell us why you want to screw up the Hudson River.”



A map shows the five barge parking spots that were proposed for the Hudson between Beacon and Newburgh before the plan was abandoned by the Coast Guard.

That future arrived in July, when the Coast Guard said that its 2015 bulletin had been mistaken when it referred to the seven allowable anchorage grounds as being within “the navigable waters of the Port of New York.” It said that “detailed research of the anchorage regulatory history” had revealed that the Port of New York encompass navigable waters within a 25-mile radius of the Statue of the Liberty, or to a point just south of the Mario Cuomo Bridge near Tarrytown. (The original Tappan Zee bridge was constructed there in the 1950s so that it would be outside the oversight of the Port Authority, and the state could collect the tolls.)

In short, the anchorage regulations end at the Cuomo Bridge. Anywhere north, barges can anchor anywhere they please, and for as long as they please, as long as they have adequate lighting, deep enough water and space to turn around.

Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, recently wrote to the Coast Guard for clarification. The response by Michael Emerson, director of marine transportation systems, was not reassuring, saying only that the Coast Guard is asking for “a collective evaluation on the outcomes” from its “clarification of the

geographic reach of the Port of New York.”

Ryan described the response “woefully inadequate.” In a speech on the House floor on Wednesday (Nov. 1), he called on the Coast Guard to uphold the anchorage ban and for “every single Hudson Valley resident to join me in this fight to protect our river.” He is soliciting comments at patryan.house.gov/hudson-river-barge.

In a statement, the Coast Guard said that “significant deliberation and review next steps are ongoing, and the Coast Guard will keep the public and all stakeholders informed with any changes or updates to ensure the Hudson River remains safe for all communities and users.”

Drew Gamils, an attorney at Riverkeeper, said that the group reached out to the Coast Guard to set up a meeting but has received no response. If the Coast Guard declines to rescind the bulletin or clarify its language, “we do have some really good legal arguments,” she said, such as citing the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water Act, among other regulations.

Lipscomb said that, so far, he hasn’t seen a dramatic increase in barges dropping anchor for extended periods. There’s also less of a threat of oil cargoes than a few years ago because of new pipelines.

However, pipelines break or get shut down, and the absence of a current threat doesn’t mean that the bulletin should stand, Lipscomb said. “We want the Hudson protected, not from the volume of barges today, but from the potential volume of barges and potential future cargoes.”

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Pieces Reassembled

Solo show, a victim of pandemic, finally opens

By Alison Rooney

In the March 6, 2020, issue of *The Current*, I wrote about an upcoming show, *Everything, 2020*, by Matthew William Robinson at BAU Gallery in Beacon.

"Robinson deconstructs buildings," I wrote. "He does this on canvas, using string, cut-up magazines, paint and ink, energizing the architecture with new rhythms and spatial dimensions. The structures in his paintings are abstract but take their cues from awnings, tarps or Tyvec or other, more innate features. Some are imagined, others inspired by actual sites. They're designed so that the elements join with colored pencil lines to create the illusion of depth."

It was not meant to be. The world shut down instead, and the show was postponed, then canceled. (The 2020 story, titled "Building with Pieces," is posted at highlandscurrent.org/matthew-robinson.)

Last month, Robinson opened a new show — his first since the pandemic shut down — at the Industrial Arts Brewing Co. in Beacon. It contains art that would have appeared in the 2020 exhibit but went back into his flat files, as well as new works.

Robinson's work has been exhibited recently in galleries in the Bronx and New Haven, Connecticut, as well as at Art Port Kingston and Big Mouth Coffee Roasters in Beacon.

"I'm grateful to be able to show work," he says. "I've been making a lot. I'm trying to refine my original vision, getting to the bottom of what makes me make. Showing your work lets you know that you're communicating effectively, or at all, and that you're not just speaking to yourself in your studio."

Industrial Arts, at 511 Fishkill Ave., is open from 2 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. on Sunday.



"Conflict," which was part of the 2020 show, also appears in the new exhibit.



Matthew Robinson with some of his new artwork at Industrial Arts Photos provided

Karen Michel, Audio Anthropologist

Beacon resident has a question for you

By Alison Rooney

As a self-described audio anthropologist, Karen Michel asks, observes, records and processes the results of her examinations. She poses seemingly straightforward questions, compiles the responses, adds her observations and creates "performance documentaries" with the audio, film and connected objects.

Her method has yielded a substantial body of work, most of it broadcast by National Public Radio — including on "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" — and its affiliates.

Most recently, Michel has been training her recording equipment on Beacon, where she has lived for three years. She moved just before the pandemic after a peripatetic life that has taken her from Brooklyn; to northern and southern California; to rural Alaska (replete with dog mushing), where she lived for 12 years, some of them spent in a whaling village above the Arctic Circle; and to more northern parts of the Hudson Valley.

On Saturday (Nov. 4), at 8:15 p.m., as part of the Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival, she'll be at Beahive, with microphone in hand, to discuss her past projects and her work-in-progress, "What Matters?" The event is free for Bonfire ticket holders and for anyone whom Michel has previously recorded.

Michel describes the forthcoming documentary as a performance and presentation of answers, reflections, photos, music and objects. Like its predecessor, "Live? Die? Kill?," it puts questions into play for on-the-spot replies.

For "Live? Die? Kill?," Michel traveled around the country following 9/11 to ask strangers what they lived for, would die for and would kill for. (She has since dropped the "Kill?" component, feeling it was inappropriate in this ever-more-violent world.) The edited responses, augmented with visual and aural motifs, will be shown at venues in Beacon in April.

For "What Matters?," which received initial funding from Arts Mid-Hudson, Michel is asking: "In these divided and difficult times, what matters to you now?" She spoke with passersby during the Spirit of Beacon Day from outside the Howland Public Library and will continue collecting responses at Bonfire. She expects to share the results at KuBe in Beacon in the spring.

"The pleasure of this work is helping people tell their stories," Michel explains. "It's collaborative."

As a child growing up in Los Angeles, she aspired to be an arts journalist but wound up studying sculpture and photography at San Francisco State University.



As part of her education, she had to take courses in many different media, and "as a result I never looked at any type of art as just one thing," she says.

"When I morphed into being an audio anthropologist, it came about partially through realizing the importance of observing everything possible," she says. "I get clues from the way someone moves, an inflection. Someone might barge in, or, on the other hand, someone might hunch. What is it about them they don't want to reveal? There are surprises; it's astonishing what people say or don't say."

"People are afraid they're going to give a wrong answer," she adds. "Some interviews last five minutes, others more than a half-hour. There are people who want to be heard, to have someone listen to them and value what they say."

"My fundamental interest is how do people approach each other? In the last few years we've become an us-and-them society. That is not how life is, or what humans are about. Everything has become digitized, including emotion."

"From studying linguistics, I learned how to deconstruct: What are the real specifics? As an interpreter, I de-codify these from one to another. My writing is at least as important as the tape itself. I want to make them visual to the ear. I'm trying to reach as many senses as I can."

Michel has received many commissions, awards and fellowships over the years, including a Fulbright fellowship to travel to India and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship to travel to Japan. She also has won a Peabody Award.

She was the first audio documentarian to be appointed the Lehman-Brady Visiting Fellow in Documentary and American Studies at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies. She says it was there she developed the presentational format she has used most often since. "Performing is a stretch for me, and I like scaring myself," she says.

The second annual Beacon Bonfire will take place Nov. 4 and 5. For passes, see beaconbonfire.com. Beahive is located at 6 Eliza St. To hear an episode of "Live? Die? Kill?," visit bit.ly/kcrw-live-die-kill.



The HIGHLANDS Current's HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Now in its fourth year, *The Current's* Halloween Costume Contest has become one of our favorite things to come out of 2020. We asked readers to submit photos of themselves or their children and pets in costume — and we corralled others before the Halloween parades in Cold Spring and Beacon on Oct. 28. Here are some of the most memorable efforts, and there are many more shots at highlandscurrent.org. You'll also find galleries there of photos taken at the parades by Ross Corsair and Michael Turton.

Our guest judges had a hard time choosing the winners in six categories — these masters of Halloween spirit will receive an annual membership to *The Current* and a year's worth of bragging rights. Thank you to everyone who entered, and to our judges: Johanna Reinhardt, director of the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring; Beth Vardy, teen services librarian at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison; and Stephanie Montesanto, head of youth services at the Howland Public Library in Beacon.

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED!





BEST OVERALL



Groth Family (Cold Spring)

BEST FAMILY



Traaen/Fuller Family (Garrison)



BEST BABY

Cara Patricia Ault as Lucille Ball





BEST PET



Georgie (Cold Spring)

FUNNIEST





Jennifer Cannell (Garrison)



Badillo Family (Beacon)





 HudsonFjord
 fjord_trail

Q: Where can I get my questions about the Fjord Trail answered?

A: HHFT's Sunday Afternoon Chats!

Thank you to everyone who has come out to these very popular meetings.

We've just added four more dates, through February 2024!



**Upcoming
Events Page:**

NOV 26

DEC 17

JAN 28

FEB 25

2:00 to 4:00 PM
@ Hubbard Lodge
2920 US-9
Cold Spring, NY



No registration required; drop in at your convenience.

hhft.org/upcoming-events

Please join us for an upcoming gathering to chat with HHFT's Executive Director Amy Kacala, share ideas, and get answers to your questions.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 4
Beacon Bonfire Music + Art Festival
BEACON
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)*

SAT 4
Taproots Festival
BEACON
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*

SUN 5
Daylight Savings
2 a.m. Move your clocks back one hour.

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.

TUES 7
Cake for Dinner
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Celebrate the release of Yossy Arefi's *Snacking Bakes: Simple Recipes for Cookies, Bars, Brownies, Cakes and More* with cake and cake-related games. Registration requested.



WED 8
Cocktail Party
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St.

The Tioronda Garden Club will honor Norman McLeod for his work in beautifying the city. Tickets are available from members; email fullergeri@gmail.com. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 11
Arty Martini Party
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Draw on the walls and enjoy live music by Omar Ramirez during the art center's fall fundraiser. *Cost: \$50*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 11
Small Works Exhibition
BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346
bannermancastle.org

This annual show and sale will include paintings, prints, photographs,

ceramics and mixed media works to benefit the nonprofit's work at Bannerman Island. Through Feb. 4.



SAT 11
Fly Boy TV | Grumble
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 139 Main St.
212-255-2505 | clutter.co

See the exhibits *Uh-Oh, I Smell Another Cartoon Crossover* and *Tuff Stuff*. Through Dec. 1.

SAT 11
Between Facing Mirrors
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com

Michelle Silver's paintings of her inner world will be on view through Dec. 2.

SAT 11
Ilse Schreiber-Noll
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.org

In Gallery 1, see Schreiber-Noll's paintings in *Embracing Nature's*

Brush; in Gallery 2, Joel Brown's ceramic sculptures and Linda Winters' paintings; and in the Beacon Room, works by 40 artists from New York, Germany and the Netherlands.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 4
North and South Redoubts
GARRISON
10 a.m. North Redoubt Trailhead
Snake Hill Road
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Take a guided, 3-mile hike to the redoubts used during the Revolutionary War to thwart the British. Register online. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 members)*

SAT 4
History of the Lenape People
BEACON
1 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | 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)*

TUES 7
Positive Psychology & Plant Medicine
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Cold Spring Coffeehouse
92 Main St. | warmcitraherbals.com

Herbalist Katya Varlamova and

WINTER HOURS
10-1
NOVEMBER-APRIL

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MARKET

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Fine art gallery located on second floor

Falling Forward

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Nov 11 – Dec 3, 2023

Artists' Reception SECOND SATURDAY
Nov 11, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Laurel Smith

Jen Smith

162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

psychiatrist Natasha Shaginian will lead a workshop about increasing well-being that includes making an herbal tea. *Cost: \$70*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 4
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.

SAT 4
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.

THURS 9
3D Printing
BEACON
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Students ages 11 and older are invited to design a project for the library's new 3D printer. Registration required.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 4
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 5. *Cost: \$30 (\$25 students, seniors)*

SAT 4
The Humans
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countypayers.org
The Stephen Karam play centers on a holiday dinner party. Also FRI 10, SAT 11, SUN 12. *Cost: \$22 (\$20 seniors, children, military)*

TUES 7
The Stones and Brian Jones
PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Nick Bromfield's documentary explores the legacy of Jones, one of the founding members of the Rolling Stones, who died in 1969 at age 20. *Cost: \$17*



WED 8
Stand Up Beacon
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Beacon Theater | 445 Main St.
bit.ly/beacon-comedy-11-8
This evening of laughs will feature transgender comedian Jaye McBride and Cody Montanye, both natives of upstate New York. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

THURS 9
The OH Show
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
This play, which addresses "the good, the bad and the ugly" of life, was inspired by the stories of ordinary people who overcame extraordinary challenges. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 10
Cold Spring Comedy
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Move | 37 Chestnut St.
movecoldspring.com
The comedians will be Pete Smith, Renee Cassard, Katie MacInness, Amy Stiller, Cynthia Levin, Lloyd Desbrisay and Joey Asher. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 10
DreamGirls
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
As part of the Cinema Depot movie musical series, see the 2006 film starring Beyoncé Knowles, Jennifer Hudson,

Anika Noni Rose and Eddie Murphy about a group of soul singers. *Cost: \$15*

FRI 10
Wings
POUGHKEEPSIE
7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
To honor veterans, the theater will screen the 1927 silent film, which starred Clara Bow and won the first Oscar for best picture, with live organ music by John Barrata. *Free*



SUN 12
Songs and Letters of the Spanish Civil War
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 – 4 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
In honor of Veterans Day, the center will stage a reading of this play about the letters that newlyweds George and Ruth Watt exchanged while George was a volunteer in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. *Cost: \$20*

VISUAL ART

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. | studiotashtego.com
This group show will include works by Kentaro Takashina, Natalia Engelhardt, Camille LeDressay, Bonnie Levine, Soledad Christie, Alvina Jakobssen, Hiroshi Toyofuku, Alan Meredith and Scott Strickstein. Through Jan. 14.

SUN 5
Seeking the Light
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 – 4 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Karin Lemke's landscape, seascape and skyscraper paintings will be on view through Dec. 14.

(Continued on Page 20)

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 storm-damaged infrastructure repairs
- Working with engineers to develop fortified stormwater management plan
- Established Local Emergency Coordination 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



THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 19)

SAT 11
Arvo Pärt Night
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
For the final event of the avant-garde exhibition *No Name | No Slogan*, Jaanika Peerna will be accompanied in a visual-art performance by the Brasiles Ensemble and the Brasiles Art Collective. *Cost: \$20*

MUSIC

SAT 4
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)*

THURS 9
Robin and Linda Williams
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
After playing with their own bands, the duo has regrouped to perform country music. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*



FRI 10
Joanie Madden, Mary Coogan & Bruce Foley
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Members of Cherish the Ladies will play Celtic music. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 11
Miles Fusco
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com
The pianist from the American Ballet Theatre will celebrate Veterans Day with a patriotic concert. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 11
Blues Blowout Anniversary
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The show will feature the Billy Price Band and Kevin Burt. *Cost: \$50 (\$55 door)*

SAT 11
Soultown to Motown
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The Sensational Soul Cruisers will play the music of iconic bands, including Otis Redding, the Four Tops and the Commodores. *Cost: \$40 to \$57*

SUN 12
Arnaud Sussman and Michael Stephen Brown
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
This concert, presented by the Howland Chamber Music Circle, will honor Sussman's father, a Holocaust survivor, with a program of work by Jews who were victims of the Holocaust or managed to escape. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

CIVIC

MON 6
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 6
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 7
Election Day
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

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

WED 8
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 8
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

WED 8
Town Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com
The board will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2024 budget.

THURS 9
Dutchess Legislature
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100
dutchessny.gov

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.

Current Classifieds

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

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Out There

The Rainy Season

By Brian PJ Cronin



The reason Long Dock Park in Beacon often floods is because it's designed to.

When Scenic Hudson was redesigning the park about 15 years ago, it viewed the flooding caused by Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy as harbingers. Putting up a seawall around the park might keep the water out, but the river's energy would increase during heavy storms as the waves slammed against it and the water would find a way to wherever there wasn't a wall. So the design included grassy berms and native marsh vegetation to accept the water and diffuse the energy.

That's great if you want to create sustainable landscapes that mitigate the effects of climate change. It's far less great if you're planning an event on the river bank.

The third annual Soon Is Now theater festival, which took place Oct. 1, consisted of performances about the climate crisis. The pieces have always been site-specific to Long Dock and the banks, but this year the river decided it wanted a starring role.

"It came in with such force," said Eve Morgenstern, the festival director, who has lived in Beacon for years. She knows what high tide looks like here. But this was

different. As spectators walked through the park, they found themselves wading through deeper and deeper water. Performers were stranded, surrounded by the overflowing river. It swallowed an iPhone hooked up to speakers to provide sound.

Oct. 1 was otherwise a sunny, beautiful day. The festival had been scheduled for the previous weekend but was postponed at the last minute because of Tropical Storm Ophelia.

Morgenstern believes the flooding happened because of the days of heavy rain leading up to the event, the high tide and a full moon. Going forward, event planners may need to check not only the forecast but a tide chart and the lunar cycle.

Then again, if you're hosting a festival devoted to the climate crisis, having the Hudson River surge in the middle of the performance, wash away equipment and send performers and audience members running for higher ground is a powerful visual. "A few people did say to me, 'Isn't this what it's all about?'" said Morgenstern.

Erin Riley, the senior vice president at Scenic Hudson, which owns the park, said she loves Long Dock but that it can seem to have its own microclimate. "I can go up to Main Street and the climate is completely different."

That contrast was driven home earlier this summer when Scenic Hudson held its annual fundraiser at the park. The forecast noted the possibility of rain, but Beacon was clear and sunny so the staff decided to hold the cocktail hour outside, instead of under the tent.

That's when it started hailing.

A few months later, the organization took



The Soon is Now festival at Long Dock Park was flooded on Oct. 1. Photo by Flynn Larsen

no chances for its annual Farmland Cycling Tour, scheduled for Sept. 23. It was canceled, and not just because of concerns about 400 people biking through a tropical storm. The organization uses its Poet's Walk park in Red Hook for the event but weeks of rain had turned that field into a soggy mud wallow, making it vulnerable to being torn up by tire treads, especially the tires of the tow trucks that would have inevitably been needed.

"That field is a habitat and we manage it as a habitat," Riley said.

Destruction came to Manitoga during the July floods — a road leading to the Dragon Rock House became a river, the lower waterfall partially fell in and blew

out the lower bridge, which wiped out the paths that tour groups usually take — but Executive Director Allison Cross said it could have been much worse.

Last year, a hydrologist warned her that the upper waterfall desperately needed to be reinforced due to the damage it received years ago from Irene and Sandy, and because of the increased frequency of storms due to climate change. The reinforcement work was done last November. If it hadn't been done, "the whole waterfall would have come down," said Cross.

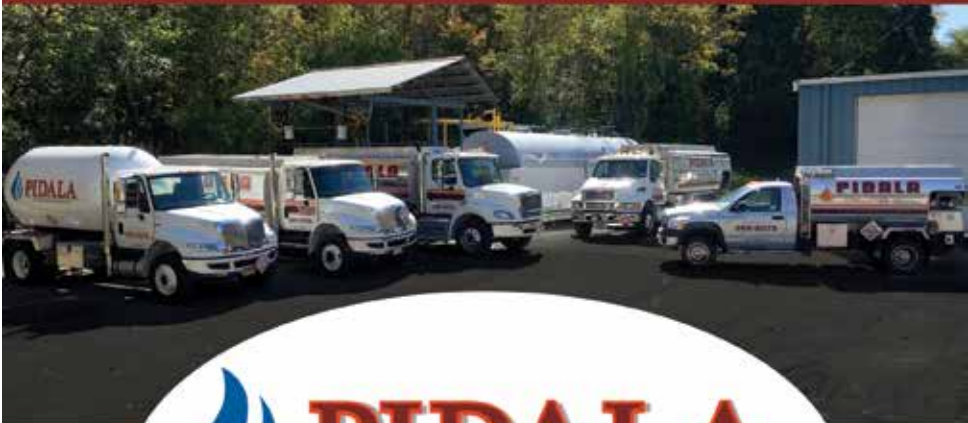
Climate change has affected the landscape of Manitoga in other ways that increased the effects of the storm. Manitoga Forest has lost 80 percent of its hemlock trees because of the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid. Had those trees still been alive, their roots would have soaked up much of the water; instead, it poured through the waterfall and into the quarry.


Cross said they're working on a plan to deepen the quarry so that it can hold more water. Manitoga sits in a basin surrounded by the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, so much of the water that flows downhill ends up there.

As the climate continues to heat up, the warmer atmosphere is able to hold increasing amounts of moisture, making events like the July floods and the September storms more common.

"We're an outdoor organization, so at a certain point it is what it is," said Riley. "We'll just have to keep coming up with backup plans."

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EARLY VOTING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Ad Paid for by The Philipstown Democrats

Freda Perrotta

(1926-2023)

Freda Perrotta passed away Sept. 3, 2023, in Bradenton, Florida. She was 97 years old.

Born in the Midwood section of Brooklyn, New York, in 1926, Freda was the second child of Abraham (Al) Polansky and Fay Polansky (née Golding). Her brother Paul was two years older.

A bright and eager student, Freda moved through the grades of the New York City public school system at an accelerated pace. By age 16, she had graduated from high school and was taking classes first at the Cooper Union in Greenwich Village and then at City College of New York on East 23rd Street, now known as the Bernard M. Baruch College of the City University of New York. It was there she met her future husband, Francis (Frank) Perrotta.

Encouraged by Frank’s offhand comment that he would marry her when she was “21 and had graduated from college,” she wasted no time in enrolling as a full-time engineering student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (now known as Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia. This was during the height of World War II, and women at VPI had only very recently been permitted to pursue this course of study. She and Frank were married in July of 1947, shortly after her 21st birthday and her graduation.

For the first seven years of their married life, Freda and Frank lived on West 57th Street in Manhattan. Each pursued professional careers — Frank in credit and commercial factoring; Freda in commercial engineering.

Around 1954, they decided to leave New York City and move to Garrison, where they built a house on five acres of forested land on Avery Road. Frank became a commuter on the Hudson Line and continued with his career in New York City. Freda became a full-time homemaker and had three sons in not-so-rapid succession: Peter (1955), Paul (1957) and David (1964).

As her youngest child was approaching high school age, Freda readied herself for a return to work by earning a master’s degree in library science from C.W. Post College on Long Island. After receiving her degree, she had a 15-year-long career in libraries, working first as a children’s librarian at the Alice Curtis Desmond and Hamilton Fish Library in Garrison and then as middle-school librarian in the Highland Falls public school system. During this time, she was also an adult literacy volunteer.

After the death of her beloved husband Frank in 1992, Freda began a new chapter of her life. In search of a milder climate, she moved to Longboat Key, Florida — a Perrotta family vacation destination since the 1960s — and re-committed herself to volunteerism.

She delivered Meals on Wheels to home-bound residents of Longboat Key, spent countless hours phone-banking for the local chapter of the Democratic Party, organized (and catered) the monthly newsletter mail-out for the Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club, and — most famously — became the unofficial “Top Turtle” of Longboat Key Turtle Watch, a volunteer group dedicated



to sea turtle conservation.

During her many years with LBKTW, she took on numerous responsibilities, including scheduling beach patrols, organizing t-shirt sales, and educating the public through well-attended “nest openings” on the beach and at impromptu sunset releases of straggler sea turtle hatchlings. For many years, she was also a volunteer docent at the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium.

Freda was well known for her seemingly inexhaustible energy and her eternal optimism. Over the years, there were few if any setbacks that she couldn’t find a way to view as opportunities for something else.

At the age of 75, she injured her leg on an Audubon Society bird-watching excursion and was told by the physician who stitched the wound that she shouldn’t go in the water for six weeks. She immediately decided this was her big chance to get the tattoo of a baby sea turtle that she’d been wanting but which she had foregone because she’d been told she would have to refrain from swimming for six weeks after being inked.

When, due to failing vision in her late eighties, she reluctantly surrendered her driver’s license, she became an advocate for public transportation on Longboat, attending numerous public meetings and tirelessly lobbying town and county transit officials. To this day, the bus stop near her condominium on Gulf of Mexico Drive is home to “Freda’s bench” — installed there for her benefit (and the benefit of anyone else needing a seat) by an employee of the Sarasota County transit agency whose affection and admiration she’d won through relentless lobbying.

Infirmity began to catch up with Freda in her early 90s, but she accepted setbacks with grace, dignity and good humor. She set ambitious goals for herself and struggled with the limitations of advancing age but inevitably adjusted to the realities of each “new normal.”

She died with family and friends close by and is survived by her three sons, Peter Perrotta (Sharon Kraus) of Chicago, Illinois; Paul Perrotta (Tamra Myers) of Seattle, Washington; and David Perrotta (Janet Stocks) of Washington, D.C. Other surviving family members include her three granddaughters, Melinda Rosen of Chicago; Cara Frances of Philadelphia; and Nora Stewart of New York City; as well as two step-granddaughters Catherine Thornton-Stocks and Cora Thornton-Stocks, both of Chicago and great-grandchildren Hanna Mae Borden-Stocks of Chicago and Walker Jefferson James Stewart of New York City.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks that those wishing to make a memorial gesture consider a donation to Longboat Key Turtle Watch (lbkturtlewatch.org/friends_of_freda).

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NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Philipstown Conservation Board November 2023.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, November 16th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Philipstown Planning Board November 2023.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the City of Beacon City Council hereby schedules a public hearing for November 13, 2023 regarding the 2024 Proposed Budget. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom at 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508, and also via videoconference and teleconference. Copies of the Proposed Budget are available for inspection by the public on [beaconny.gov](https://www.beaconny.gov), at 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Monday-Friday), or at the Howland Public Library during hours of operation.

CITY OF BEACON 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY

Article No. 362 Be it ordained by the council of the city of beacon that the following sum comprising the annual appropriation ordinance for the year 2024 be and the same is hereby appropriated to meet the amount of money for the year 2024

DATE: October 10, 2023

	GENERAL	4% INCREASE WATER	6% INCREASE SEWER
APPROPRIATIONS	25,418,651	4,243,011	5,293,477
TOTAL REVENUE	12,411,643	4,146,511	5,293,477
BALANCE OF APPROPRIATIONS	13,007,008	96,500	
FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATIONS			
Appropriated from Debt Reserve		(96,500)	
Appropriated from Fund Balance	(250,000)		
Tax Levy:	12,757,008		
Allowable levy at tax cap:	13,293,433		
Amount below cap:	536,425		
	HOMESTEAD	NON-HOMESTEAD	TOTALS
Adjusted Tax Levy Distribution	9,318,443	3,438,565	12,757,008
Base Proportion	73.045680	26.954320	100.00
Rates:			
2024 tax rates	5.873118	9.160724	
2023 tax rates	6.214000	10.680877	
Percentage Increase/decrease	-5.4857%	-14.2325%	
Assessed values:			
10/10/23 - Tentative roll	1,586,626,330	375,359,513	1,961,985,843
11/21/22 - FINAL ROLL	1,426,130,810	341,303,420	1,767,434,230
Percentage Increase	11.25%	9.98%	11.01%
Dollar change	160,495,520	34,056,093	194,551,613

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the public can view and/or listen to the upcoming Council meeting (1) in-person in the Courtroom, or (2) live on YouTube or Zoom by visiting [beaconny.gov/events](https://www.beaconny.gov/events). Members of the public can comment during the public hearing in-person or by joining Zoom via phone or computer. Benjamin Swanson, Secretary to the Mayor

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Netting

5. Composer Porter

9. “I’m not impressed”

12. Dog food brand

13. Send forth

14. Chopper

15. “Arrivederci!”

16. Marathon fraction

17. Blemish

18. Difficult

19. JFK info

20. Gentle soul

21. Victory

23. Greek X

25. Quick run

28. Cry of distress

32. Exact moment

33. Broadcast again

34. Rouse

36. Caviar provider

37. “Xanadu” band

38. “— Blue?”

39. Family fight

42. Zodiac animal

44. Frost

48. Hostel

49. Future tulip

50. Tex. neighbor

51. Scribble (down)

52. Regarding

53. Paris airport

54. Equi-

55. “Scram!”

56. Calendar squares
- DOWN
1. Jet speed measure

2. Director Kazan

3. Practice pugilism

4. Bamboozled

5. Solidify

6. Skip

7. Fragrant flowers

8. Summer on the Seine

9. Crib cry

10. Physical

11. Basil or thyme

20. Bread and butter, so to speak

22. Chip giant

24. Seraglio

25. Resort

26. “Wham!”

27. Estuary

29. — de cologne

30. *Top Gun* target

31. Historic time

35. “Take your time”

36. Panda’s diet

39. South Pacific nation

40. Eve’s grandson

41. “Do — others ...”

43. Sax range

45. Gumbo veggie

46. Friend

47. Beams

49. Some coll. degrees

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

SKATE

PEACH

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. *Bohemian Rhapsody* star Malek

5. River through Stratford

6. Hospital divisions

8. “What ___ this time?”

9. Element No. 82
- DOWN
1. Like many salad veggies

2. Benefit

3. *Mad Men* actor Robert

4. Mumbai’s land

7. Norm: Abbr.

1	2	3	4	
5				
6				7
	8			
	9			

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

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

	B	L	T
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I	H	A	V
R	E	N	E
E	A	S	E

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WORMS
WORDS
LORDS
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Answers for Oct. 27 Puzzles

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VARSITY ROUNDUP

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BOYS' SOCCER — The Bulldogs won their third straight Section IX, Class A title on Tuesday (Oct. 31) after a thrilling penalty shootout, upsetting No. 1 seed Lourdes in Goshen. Beacon was the third seed and is ranked ninth among Class A teams in the state by the New York State Sportswriters Association. (Lourdes is ranked eighth.)

Things looked dire for Beacon, which last season reached the Class A state title game, with a minute left in the match and Lourdes up, 1-0. The Bulldogs needed a hero, and they got one: Jaidyn Caccamo scored to send the game into extra time.

Neither team found the net during two 15-minute periods, so the match went to penalty kicks. All four Beacon shooters — Brody Timm, Enis Dika, Avery Davis and Caccamo — converted and keeper Matt Sandison sealed it with two saves.

The Bulldogs will play next on Saturday (Nov. 4) at 6 p.m. against Section I winner Byram Hills at Franklin Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park. Byram Hills (14-2-4 and ranked No. 5 in the state) defeated Section IV champ Oswego, 4-1, to reach the game; Beacon received a bye. The winner advances to the Class A final four on Nov. 10.

Earlier in the week, Beacon won its final regular season game at Marlboro, 2-0. With their Lourdes win, the Bulldogs are 13-2-2.

GIRLS' SOCCER — An historical season came to a disappointing end for the Bulldogs on Saturday (Oct. 28) when they fell to Lourdes, 2-1, in the Section IX, Class A title game. Rory LaDue scored Beacon's lone goal in the second half.

It was the first appearance by the Beacon girls in the Class A title game in 35 years, said Coach Mike Lentini. The Bulldogs finished 13-3-1 and ranked No. 20 among Class A schools by the New York State Sportswriters Association. Lourdes (15-4 and ranked No. 16), advanced to the regionals to face Section I champion Rye.

VOLLEYBALL — Another strong season came to a disappointing end on Monday (Oct. 30) when the Bulldogs were upset in the first round of the Section IX, Class A tournament. Beacon had won its first Section IX league title following a 14-3 season and received the No. 2 seed, but No. 7 Lourdes (8-9) pulled off a 3-2 victory. Lourdes fell at No. 3 New Paltz, 3-2, in the semifinals on Wednesday.

FOOTBALL — The Bulldogs squeaked into the Section IX, Class B playoffs as the



Beacon quarterback Jazziah Whitted (2) looks for room against Saugerties after a block by Kevin Beal (64).

lowest seed with a win in their final game but had to face a tough Saugerties squad in the first round on Oct. 27 and lost, 27-6.

Seeded No. 3, Saugerties jumped to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter and kept a comfortable margin throughout. Mason Supple scored for the Bulldogs on a blocked punt. Quarterback Jazziah Whitted completed 5 of 11 passes for 53 yards.

The Bulldogs finished 2-7 but won two of their last three regular-season games, over New Paltz and Liberty. The loss was a forfeit to Cornwall because Beacon didn't have enough players due to injuries.

CROSS-COUNTRY — Beacon competed in the OCIAA Championships on Oct. 28 at Warwick Valley High School, with Henry Reinke finishing 18th of 148 runners in 17:09.50, followed by August Wright (54), Harsh Gupta (64), Travis Dickston (91), Rubio Castagna-Torres (95) and Bryce Manning (118). The Bulldogs finished 11th among 18 varsity teams.

For the girls, Cecilia Allee was 66th of 111 runners in 24:22.3, followed by Lily Murr, who was 86th.

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

FOOTBALL — In their final regular-season



Daveya Rodriguez (4) prepares for a spike against Lourdes. No. 3 is Evy Diebboll.

Photos by Cadence Heeter

game on Saturday (Oct. 28), the Blue Devils defeated winless Woodlands, 37-20, to move to 6-2.

Early on it was all Haldane, with Evan Giachinta scoring twice on runs from inside the 5-yard line. The defense also forced a safety, extending the lead to 16-0.

In the second quarter, Giachinta blocked a punt to give the Blue Devils terrific field position. Later in the drive, on a fourth down at the Falcons' 17-yard line, quarterback Ryan Van Tassel scrambled and ran into the end zone for a 23-0 lead.

Later in the quarter, Coach Ryan McConville began making substitutions. Merrick Williams replaced Giachinta at running back and, after being stopped three times by Woodlands at the goal line, finally punched the ball in for a 30-0 lead.

Woodlands scored with 2:13 left in the half but the two-point conversion failed.

In the second half, David Powlis took over at quarterback for the Blue Devils, with Alex Gaugler and Williams as running backs. Woodlands scored on a 48-yard touchdown catch-and-run and added the two-point conversion to make it 30-14.

In the fourth, Gaugler ran for a TD from 10 yards out to extend the lead, and the Falcons closed the scoring with 2:52 left on a 27-yard touchdown pass.

Williams had 16 carries for 105 yards and

a touchdown, and Giachinta had 10 carries for 74 yards and two scores.

The Blue Devils will meet Tuckahoe (4-3) on Friday (Nov. 10) at 3 p.m. at Arlington High School in the Section I championship game; the teams are the only two Class D schools in the section and play each year for the title. The winner will face the Section IX champion on Nov. 17 at Mahopac High School.

Haldane defeated Tuckahoe, 21-13, on Sept. 22. The Blue Devils are ranked No. 9 among Class D schools by the New York State Sportswriters Association.

CROSS-COUNTRY — Haldane raced against eight schools, including Putnam Valley, Brewster, Carmel, Arlington and Ketcham at the Section I Northern Counties Championship in Milton on Oct. 28.

The boys' team finished eighth, just ahead of Carmel. Owen Powers was the top finisher for the Blue Devils, placing 21st among 61 runners in 17:51.50, followed by Silas Emig (40), Brendan Shanahan (50), James Frommer (54) and Emmett Homer (57).

For the girls, Kate Resi finished 30th of 58 runners in 27:13.3 and Penelope Andreou was 32nd. The other Blue Devil competitors were Hazel Berkley (44) and Tyler Schacht (51).

Haldane will compete Saturday (Nov. 4) in the Section I championship at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls.



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The Current.



About Our Fundraising

Highlands Current Inc. is a New York State not-for-profit news organization begun in 2010 as Philipstown.Info, Inc. Through its print edition, *The Highlands Current*, and its website, highlandscurrent.org, it is dedicated to providing balanced reporting of the news in the communities of Philipstown (Cold Spring, Garrison, Nelsonville, North Highlands and Continental Village) and Beacon in the Hudson Highlands region.

Highlands Current Inc. is governed by a volunteer board of directors responsible for the financial health and mission-driven activity of the organization.

In order to provide our content free to the communities we serve, we rely on the generosity of members who believe in our mission. Our corporation has tax-exempt status as a federal 501(c)(3) enterprise, and donations to it are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. As a nonprofit that operates as a public trust, we do not pay certain taxes. We also may receive funds from government programs offered to nonprofits or similar businesses.

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