

# The HIGHLANDS Current



NOVEMBER 24, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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## Shakespeare Festival Completes Review

*Planning Board approves  
environmental remedies*

By Leonard Sparks

The Philipstown Planning Board on Nov. 16 approved the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's strategies for minimizing noise and traffic, and other environmental impacts from its new venue at the former Garrison Golf Course.

With its unanimous approval of a "findings statement," the board completed an environmental review that began in July 2022 amid concerns from neighboring homeowners about noise from amplified performances, roads clogged by theatergoers and the destruction of scenic views from the property on Route 9.

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) still has to secure site-plan approval from the Planning Board, zoning amendments from the Town Board and permits from various agencies. But that final plan will include new turn lanes and other measures to reduce traffic, the planting of new trees and other mitigation measures.

"We are pleased to have reached this milestone, and we continue to be committed to serving as a good neighbor, a local cultural resource and a model for environmental sustainability in the performing arts," said Kendra Ekelund, managing director for the festival, and Davis McCal-

*(Continued on Page 10)*



**MY FIRST RESPONDER** — Allysa Fry, holding her son, Adam, was among the firefighters from North Highlands, Cold Spring, Continental Village and Garrison who gathered for a photo shoot at Surprise Lake Camp on Nov. 12. The pictures will be used by the four departments to recruit new volunteers. See more on Page 18.

Photo by M. Turton

## Booming Beacon

*Updates on development  
projects in city*

By Jeff Simms

It has been a year since the last one of these updates, and while submissions to the Planning Board have slowed in recent months, there was plenty of activity over the summer. Here's where things stand on notable developments, plus information on projects approved since our last update.



**Beacon Commons (16 West Main St.)**

**Number of units:** 62 apartments

**Status:** Approved in November 2022, this project received a special-use permit allowing parking on the adjacent residentially zoned parcel. It returned to the Planning Board this month and was granted a six-month extension of the permit while the developer finalizes construction details.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Environmental Cleanup Set for Site

*Developer plans  
townhouses, apartments  
along creek in Beacon*

By Brian PJ Cronin

A cleanup 17 years in the making is finally scheduled to begin by next month at the Beacon Terminal, as the site's new owner plans to convert the long-derelict buildings along Fishkill Creek into housing.

The work is expected to begin sometime between Nov. 28 and Dec. 5 and last approximately three months at the 11-acre property, which is located at 555 South Ave., next to the parking lot for Madam Brett Park, and has been vacant since 1995.

The cleanup, which involves the removal of 3,740 cubic yards of contaminated soil, is being done as part of the state Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Brownfield program, in which developers receive tax breaks for cleaning up contami-

*(Continued on Page 10)*



Volunteer Gerry Singer helps tourists at the Cold Spring Visitor Center. Photo by M. Turton

## Reporter's Notebook: Visitor Center Confidential

By Michael Turton

I recently spent two shifts in the Cold Spring Visitor Center with Chamber of Commerce volunteers Gerry Singer and Nat Prentice.

There was a feeling of déjà vu as my mind leapt back to when I answered tourists' questions for a living. Fresh out of college, I was the first male travel information officer hired by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism. I was a very green, 21-year-old country bumpkin working in a large, all-female



office in downtown Toronto.

My slightly older colleagues had a field day initiating the rookie, including calling me on the 1-800-Tourism line to grill me mercilessly about a nonexistent nudist camp near my hometown. Eventually, I understood the hoots of laughter coming from the next office.

Once my brain returned to Cold Spring, I started thinking about the village, its dual role as a community and tourist destination, and the visitor center that's part of both.

Weekend crowds are sometimes beyond intense. I know the aggravation of being

*(Continued on Page 10)*



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: SUSAN OSBERG

By Alison Rooney

Susan Osberg, an award-winning choreographer and filmmaker from Beacon, will premier two of her dance films, *Remembering Pina* and *Mining the Moon*, at CineHub on Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

What prompted your move to multimedia storytelling, and away from dance performance?

Once it's done, the dance is gone, just images remain. I got interested in making films because I wanted the work to stay around longer. I edit the films. Once the material is given to me, I reframe and make it into dance for the screen. I don't simply want to recreate.

With *Remembering Pina*, you fused "movement memories" with dancers' remembrances of [choreographer] Pina Bausch. What did the process entail?

We all wrote down a story of our memories of Pina, then came up with



gestures while retelling the stories. Then we went into different sections, where I worked with everyone separately. We shot it as material before we made it into a performance. Then we rehearsed, which for me meant finding different ways to work with people. There were stories spoken while others developed completely out of the movement.

You've worked with Beacon composer J. Brooks Marcus several times. How do you collaborate?

J. and his collaborator, Jonny Taylor, would come in and have me listen. In some cases, J. used songs he had already written. They could watch the shadows left in the movement of the dancers, feeling a rhythm and the timing, and they also worked in a lot of different genres, making it more popular and contemporary — covering a lot of bases, from jazz to pop. In *Pina*, some of

the music is sad, some clever, some ridiculous, some humorous. That was Pina!

Does aging inspire most contemporary dancers and choreographers, or do the body's physical constraints inhibit them?

This is funny because my next film, tentatively called *Dancing On the Wheel of Time*, will be on aging and dance. It is inspiring me. Aging has to be reckoned with. My early teachers were old and took their dance to their death. Now it's a young world. You have to change, and aging is a part of dance.

Was funding easier to find earlier in your career, or now?

Back then we were starving artists. The thing was, it never stopped us. In Europe, they're funded. Here it's very, very hard. I feel fortunate to have been in New York City when I was young, and also fortunate to be able to work in Beacon. I moved here in 2004 and initially had no one to work with. Now we have a big trust, and know we can rely on each other. The next film will be an ode to them.

CineHub is located at 20 West Main St., Suite 4 in Beacon. There is a suggested donation of \$20, payable at the door. For reservations, email [susanosberg@mac.com](mailto:susanosberg@mac.com) or call 845-831-1832.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's your favorite and least-favorite Thanksgiving food?

“ Love sweet potatoes, but had too much stuffing as a kid. ”



Madeline Simmonds, Beacon

“ You gotta have turkey, but cranberries are controversial. ”



Kevin Gaugler, Cold Spring

“ I love stuffing, but definitely not cranberry sauce. ”



Kristin Celello, Cold Spring

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From New Member  
**Aubrey Carter, Putnam Valley**

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Stabilization Center

Recently, I attended a meeting for the public featuring a presentation by Steve Miccio, CEO of People USA, which plans to launch a Crisis Stabilization Center in Putnam County ("Putnam Crisis Center Faces Backlash," Nov. 17). The location was to be in Brewster and the center would have been a sorely needed option for Putnam residents experiencing mental health crises.

Unlike other mental health services available in the county, the center would have provided a walk-in option for people needing emergency assistance but who don't meet the criteria for hospitalization. People USA operates such a facility in Dutchess County, and it has been wildly successful.

At the public meeting, a group of parents shouted down the idea for the sole reason that the planned location was near a daycare center. Despite the fact that another mental health facility — Mental Health Association Putnam — had operated in the same space for years, parents made comments about hypothetical clients, who they seemed to think would overwhelmingly consist of pedophiles, criminals and active drug users.

Nevermind that Miccio's presentation noted that children and families are 50 percent of those served by the Dutchess

center, and that the top three diagnoses are depression, anxiety and trauma. The assumption that children are better off without more mental health services in the county than with them is completely backward.

The hypocrisy is mind-blowing. A county run by Republicans, the party that protects and defends the Second Amendment at all costs and regularly blames the "real problem" on inadequate mental health services, just shot down the one opportunity this county has had in decades to provide better options to people.

I see an inordinate number of parents in Putnam wasting time screaming on social media about drag queens and drag story hours, or filing false reports about LGBTQ+-affirming teachers and curricula under the guise of concern for kids. No one is buying it anymore. It's painfully clear that your true motivations stem from the age-old, incredibly unimaginative Fear of the Other.

The parents who complained and the decision-makers who denied this center should be ashamed.

Eileen McDermott, *Brewster*

*Editor's note: Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne said the county is committed to the idea and will look for another location.*

### Cold Spring parking

Cold Spring clearly will not have enough residential parking permits for all who are eligible ("In Cold Spring, A Price on Parking," Nov. 17). This begs the question: What is the process for applying for a permit and, more importantly, what is the process for deciding who gets one? Will the process be first-come, a lottery or some unstated selection process? And most importantly, will the process for allocating limited residential permits be transparent and fair?

Bill Pugh, *Cold Spring*

### Tax increase

Now that the Philipstown Town Board has approved steep tax increases, the time has come to collect the taxes fairly ("Philipstown Approves Tax Hike," Nov. 17). Only a town-wide revaluation done by an outside company can take a look at property values and assess everyone fairly. It has been shown that the wealthiest among us are under-assessed and the most-modest homes are overpaying, subsidizing the high-end properties. The town supervisor says they will do one. I'd like to know when.

Kathleen Kourie, *Garrison*

### Opioid Overdoses

The cause of opioid addiction is the same as the cause of gun violence, animal abuse, racism, sexual assault, gender abuse and every conceivable negativity in our lives: We look away ("Overdose Death Worsen," Nov. 17).

In order to resolve the opioid addiction problem, the Food and Drug Administration needs to be the first to stop looking away. From there, maybe Congress will follow suit and stare down the gun lobbyists? Do they have the guts? Do we have the guts to hire / vote for leaders with integrity who will stop looking away?

Fern Sartori, *Beacon*

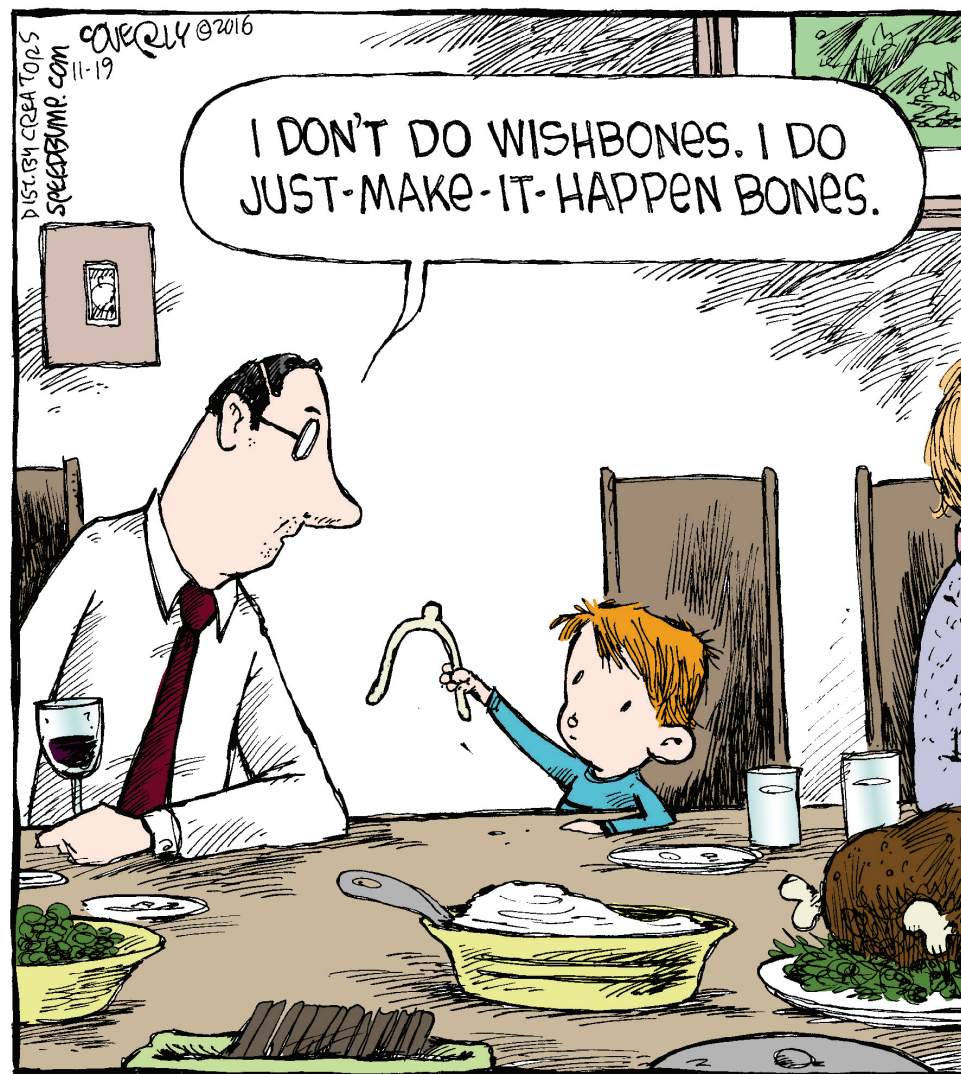
### Empty bowls

Thank you so much to *The Highlands Current* for including our event in the paper ("Soup in Every Bowl," Oct. 13). Because of your article and the amazing support of our kind and generous community, Filling Empty Bowls raised over \$5,000 to address food insecurity in our region. We were also able to support St. Mary's Church in its efforts to raise money by hosting community events.

We are especially grateful to the local artists, businesses, individuals and families who gave so generously of their work, their food, their dollars and their presence. What a blessing to live in such an amazing place.

Alicia Leeds, *Cold Spring*

*Leeds is the founder of Filling Empty Bowls.*





## NEWS BRIEFS

## Second Shooting in a Month in Beacon

*Police release few details, seek witnesses and more information*

Beacon police are investigating the second shooting in the city this month.

Officers responded to the area of Washington and Depuyster avenues on Monday (Nov. 20) around 6:30 p.m. after receiving reports of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers located a “crime scene,” the police said in a news release which provided no further details.

A short time later, a local hospital received a male victim with a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. He was treated and later released. The department did not release the victim’s name but said it is continuing to investigate the incident and asked witnesses or anyone with information that would further the investigation to contact the detective division at 845-831-4111.

Earlier this month, a 16-year-old male was shot near the Tompkins Terrace apartment complex. The victim, whose name was also not released, was transported to a local hospital in stable condition after receiving a superficial gunshot wound to his arm.

## Byrne Names New Putnam Commissioner

*Servadio will lead social services*

Sara Servadio will replace the retiring Michael Piazza as commissioner of the Putnam County Department of Mental Health, Social Services and Youth Bureau, County Executive Kevin Byrne announced on Nov. 17.

Servadio has been serving as deputy commissioner of the department since February 2022. Her 20-plus years of experience includes positions with various nonprofits and the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health, said Byrne.

The Legislature is expected to approve Servadio’s appointment at its next meeting on Dec. 5. Piazza’s retirement took effect on Nov. 9.

“Sara Servadio is a consummate professional who brings a level of dedication and leadership that is unmatched in her field,” said Byrne. “I am confident that under her guidance the many operations she oversees, especially our mental health services, will thrive.”

## Dutchess Committee Approves Large Raises

*County executive, legislators, clerk to benefit*

Incoming Dutchess Executive Sue Serino and other county officials will receive hefty salary increases in 2024 under budget amendments approved on Nov. 15 by the Legislature’s Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee.

The vote, 9-3, was largely along party lines, with Randy Johnson, a Democrat representing the City of Poughkeepsie, voting with eight Republicans in favor of the raises, while all three “no” votes came from the committee’s other Democrats.

Serino, a Republican who defeated Democrat Tommy Zurhellen in this month’s general election, will receive \$185,500 next year, compared

to the current county executive salary, \$157,424. County Clerk Brad Kendall will be paid 26 percent more (\$150,000 versus \$119,330).

The committee also approved a 56 percent raise for the Legislature’s chair (to \$54,500), a 68 percent increase for legislators (\$27,500) and a 81 percent boost for the majority and minority leaders (\$45,500). Assistant party leaders would also receive a pay hike: 76 percent to \$36,500. Committee chairs, who are currently unpaid, would receive \$3,000 stipends beginning next year.

Legislator Will Truit, a Republican representing parts of Hyde Park and the Town of Poughkeepsie said the increases will “compensate for the position so that we can attract new candidates in the future.”

But Yvette Valdes Smith, the Democrats’ minority leader whose district includes Beacon, said: “I know how much we all give as public servants. However, this huge increase in salaries cannot be justified.”

A public hearing on the budget is set for Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. A vote to adopt the plan is scheduled for Dec. 7.

## Dutchess Comptroller to Resign

*Lois to be replaced by outgoing Legislature chair*

Dutchess County Executive William F.X. O’Neil named outgoing Legislature Chair Gregg Pulver to replace the departing Robin Lois as comptroller.

Lois announced Monday (Nov. 20) that she is resigning, effective Dec. 30, to work with the state Comptroller’s Office as deputy comptroller of local government and school accountability. The Democrat first won election as Dutchess comptroller in 2017 and was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2021.

“I am proud of the work that my staff and I have done to protect tax dollars and report to the residents of this great county how their government spends its funds,” said Lois.

The same day as Lois’ announcement, O’Neil named Pulver as his choice to fill the position, effective Dec. 31, until a special election is held next November to fill the remainder of Lois’ term, which ends in 2025. Earlier this month, Pulver lost his bid for re-election to a sixth term.

## Hochul Signs Bills Honoring Local Veterans

*Portions of three state routes to be renamed*

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed on Veterans Day (Nov. 11) legislation to rename portions of three state roads in Fishkill for

war veterans who lived in the town.

A section of Route 52 will be named the Chief Daniel Nimham Memorial Highway. Nimham was the chief of the Wappinger tribe and fought alongside Americans during the American Revolution, where he was killed in action.

A trail in the Hudson Highlands State Park is named for Nimham. A statue honoring Nimham is also standing at Routes 52 and 82 in Fishkill.

Hochul also signed legislation designating part of Route 9 as the Sergeant Elijah A. Briggs Memorial Highway. Briggs fought for the Union Army during the Civil War and received a Congressional Medal of Honor after being wounded in service.

A third bill signed by the governor dedicates a portion of Route 82 as the Corporal Derick Franklin Brinckerhoff Memorial Highway. Brinckerhoff enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1948 and was killed in the Korean War during the Battle of Pusan. He was awarded a Purple Heart.

Two state legislators representing Fishkill — Sen. Rob Rolison, whose district also includes Beacon, and Assembly Member Anil Beephan — sponsored the bills.



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## Booming Beacon *(from Page 1)*



### 393-397 Fishkill Ave.

**Number of units:** 12 apartments

**Status:** The Planning Board approved this project, a merger of lots at 393 and 397 Fishkill Ave. and 7 Conklin St., in April. The developer will build a three-story, mixed-use building with 3,500 square feet of retail space on the ground floor and 12 apartments on the second and third floors.



### Mirbeau Spa

**Number of units:** N/A

**Status:** Mirbeau plans to restore the 64-acre Tioronda Estate, which includes the former Craig House psychiatric hospital, with a luxury spa and hotel, among other amenities. Earlier this year, the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency approved a 15-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILOT, agreement with the company. In exchange for support of that application, Mirbeau agreed to contribute to a “community fund” to offset property tax revenue the Beacon school district stands to lose.

The project received a special-use permit from the Planning Board because the site is within Beacon’s protected historic district. Mirbeau was granted a six-month extension of that permit this month. Abatement and demolition at the site is scheduled to begin in January, with new construction to follow in late spring. The company hopes to open the new facility in fall 2025.



### The Mews at Beacon

**Number of units:** 9 condominiums

**Status:** This Eliza Street development was approved in 2019 and will feature loft-like condos erected around a central landscaped courtyard. A project representative said this week that construction is 70 percent complete, and the developer is finalizing a new round of financing.



### 12 Highland Place

**Number of units:** 3 houses

**Status:** The developer proposed subdividing a 1-acre lot with an existing home into five lots, with four new homes. The plan called for converting a driveway on Highland into a private road leading to driveways for the new lots. After pushback from neighbors, who said during public hearings that the proposal would create a new “mini-community” on the narrow residential street, the project was downsized to include three new homes. It was approved in March.



### 536 Main St.

**Number of units:** N/A

**Status:** The Planning Board approved a proposal in June to develop this vacant lot with a three-story building that will include retail showroom space on all three floors for Warp & Weft, a custom and designer rug business. The company currently has a showroom on Third Avenue in New York City. There will be office space on the second and third floors of the building, but no apartments.

## Beacon to Drop Parking Requirements?

### Council to set public hearing on proposal

The Beacon City Council is expected on Monday (Nov. 27) to schedule a public hearing on code amendments that, if adopted, would eliminate minimum parking requirements for new developments or projects involving the reconstruction or substantial alteration of a site. The council will also refer the proposal to the Planning Board for its review.

Planning Consultant John Clarke told the council on Nov. 6 that more than 200 municipalities nationwide — including Hudson, Buffalo, Boston and Burlington, Vermont, in the Northeast — have dropped minimum parking standards as a way of encouraging affordable and walkable cities. The idea, Clarke said, is that cities such as Beacon have continued to rely on outdated standards set in the 1970s and ‘80s that require a set number of parking spaces for various land uses.

For example, Beacon’s code currently requires at least one space for every four seats or pew spaces in a place of worship, theater or athletic field. But

those standards, in addition to almost always overestimating the need for parking, cause the cost of development to rise significantly, Clarke said.

For residential developments, parking represents 10 percent to 20 percent of the total cost of development and adds 17 percent to the average apartment rent, said Clarke. “And there’s a lot of people who don’t have cars, or don’t need cars, who can get by with walking and public transit in places like Main Street in Beacon,” he told the Planning Board in August.

In parts of Beacon, parking requirements have not been updated in decades, yet households in the city are 26 percent smaller now than they were in the 1970s. “If you require less parking, you can lower rents, in theory,” Clarke said, “because developers don’t have to spend so much on land or upkeep.”

Kingston also recently dropped its minimum requirements and goes a step further by delineating in its code 10 automobile demand-reduction strategies, such as creating bicycle parking spaces, promoting ride-sharing and mass transit, supporting free or subsidized transit-to-work shuttles and encouraging “live near your work” programs.

If Beacon were to drop minimum parking requirements, Clarke suggests adopting maximum requirements in their place. For example, an apartment complex would require a maximum of one space for each dwelling unit, plus a quarter of a space for each bedroom, plus half a space for each live/work unit containing a retail area.

The Planning Board, rather than relying on “arbitrary” standards set decades ago, could review site-specific conditions such as comparable uses, location, walkable access to public transit and the size of the parcel during its review of each project.

“Right now the Planning Board is hamstrung by minimum parking requirements as a starting point,” Clarke told the council. Dropping those requirements would allow the board to “look at the size of the parcel, whether there’s a historic building on it or not and give extra consideration to a variety of factors.”

Freed of the burden of parking minimums, the board could “be providing alternatives and working with applicants to give them a whole range of transportation options,” he said. “This is a new and different way of looking at the world.”





### 152-158 Fishkill Ave.

**Number of units:** 16 apartments

**Status:** This project, which was approved in September, will see a multifamily structure and auto detailing shop demolished to make way for a 2½-story, mixed-use building about a block from Main Street. The first floor will be office space, with one- and two-bedroom apartments above. The adjoining lots were merged through the subdivision approval process.

It will provide 53 parking spaces on-site and six more along Fishkill Avenue. The developer agreed to use landscaping to protect across-the-street neighbors from being disturbed by lights from the site.



### 248 Tioronda Ave.

**Number of units:** 64 apartments

**Status:** The Planning Board approved this project, which also includes 25,400 square feet of commercial space, in 2020. The developer in 2021 asked the Zoning Board of Appeals for permission to build the residential buildings before the commercial component of the project. A public hearing was held and adjourned, but the developer never returned to the ZBA.

The chair of the city's Conservation Advisory Committee alleged during the City Council's Nov. 13 meeting that the developer has violated Fishkill Creek development standards by constructing a building too close to the creek bank. The Beacon building inspector is looking into the claim.



### 2 Cross St.

**Number of units:** 18 apartments

**Status:** The Planning Board approved this project, a three-story building at the corner of Main and Cross streets, in 2022. It will include retail on the street level and 18 apartments, nine of them for seniors, on the two top floors. The developer is hoping to utilize county and state programs that would keep all of the apartments below market rate, but that has not been finalized. In March Dutchess County awarded the project \$1,575,000 from its housing trust fund for the creation of housing units affordable to households earning between

60 percent and 100 percent of the area median income.

The all-electric building will be constructed using energy-efficient design elements, including a green roof. 172 Main St. will retain its facade and be integrated into the new building, while 4 Cross St. will be demolished and replaced with new construction. The site will include a publicly accessible plaza at the corner of Main and Cross. The project returned to the Planning Board earlier this year to amend its site plan to include 25 parking spaces, with four additional spaces land-banked for future use, on the east side of Cross Street, adjacent to the new building.



### 364 Main St.

**Number of units:** 20 apartments

**Status:** The Planning Board approved this three-story mixed-use project in April 2022. Initially proposed as a four-story building, it was downsized and will replace the former Citizens Bank with retail on the ground floor and 20 apartments on the second and third floors. Construction is expected to begin in the spring.



### Beacon Views

**Number of units:** 37 townhouses

**Status:** This project near Conklin Street was approved in July 2022. Access to the site had been an issue until the developer reached an agreement with the owners of a Townsend Street subdivision to establish access via Townsend, off of Route 52. The proposal, introduced to the Planning Board in 2019, was delayed over wetlands on the site and the question of whether its development would adversely impact the environment. The Planning Board approved a 90-day extension of the project's site plan and subdivision approval in June (after two previous extensions late in 2022).

### The Lofts at Beacon (Beacon HIP Lofts)

**Number of units:**

28 lofts plus artist studios

**Status:** Because this project is in the Fishkill Creek development zone, the City Council sent the proposal to the Planning Board for its environmental review, which concluded in June. Afterward, the project was to go back to the council for a vote on the concept plan but that has not happened yet. Following the council's vote, it will return to the Planning Board, which will complete the site-plan review. The expansion of the apartment complex, off of Mason Circle, is proposed to include a two-story building with 28 loft apartments and 30,000 square feet of artist and artisan studios, along with a 66-space parking lot with 14 more spaces land-banked for future use.



## What's Online at Highlands Current.org

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

### Local Officials

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

### Local Government Video Guide

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

### How They Voted (Congress)

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

### Storm Updates and Resources

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

### Community Calendar

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

### Community Directory

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

### Shop Local Online

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

### Real-Estate Data

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

### Job Search

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

### Back Issues

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

### Podcast Archives

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





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# Haldane Capital Plan Moves Forward

*Benante says focus on 'needs instead of wants'*

By Joey Asher

A safer campus. More functional, non-smelly high school classrooms. A place for high schoolers to eat lunch. Upgraded HVAC for the main building. And more teacher bathrooms.

Those are among the critical campus needs to be addressed by the \$35.7 million first phase of the recently adopted Haldane Campus Master Plan, according to district leaders.

The three-phase plan, as currently proposed, would cost \$108 million and take 15 years to complete. To pay for it, Haldane recently announced it would need to raise taxes by 10.5 percent, a move that would have to be approved by district voters.

The plan includes a long list of high-profile projects, including a new auditorium, an additional gymnasium, additional tennis courts and a new open air "out-i-torium" on the school's central lawn.

But Phase 1, as it's currently configured, is loaded with more functional upgrades — "needs instead of wants," said Philip Benante, the district superintendent.

"It's really about addressing the most critical needs on campus having to do with space and safety and creating appropriate classrooms for kids and teachers," added Peggy Clements, president of Haldane's school board.

Earlier this month (Nov. 13), the district held a community forum to hear public input as it works to "finalize the exact components" in Phase 1 to be presented for a vote, which would likely be next fall, Benante said.

The initial phase has 45 separate projects, including new classrooms, improved access for people with disabilities and upgraded clocks and fire alarms. Here are some of Phase 1's major projects:

## New high school wing (\$16.4 million)

The costliest item would be a 17,300-square-foot addition to the east end of the high school. The addition will have four classrooms to "ensure that our kids and staff have a quality educational experience," Benante said.

Currently, many high school students are taking classes in the Mabel Merritt Building, which was originally designed for offices. The building's four makeshift classrooms are either oddly configured or too small, Benante said, adding that the building also has security challenges.

One classroom has a support pillar in the center blocking views. Students also complain about the building's smell, said Benante.

The new wing will also provide a Student Center where high schoolers can eat lunch. While there is a lunchroom in the main building, it's too small and requires an outdoor, cross-campus walk. As a result, high school students typically sprawl around the hallways, classrooms or outside at lunchtime.

The addition will also include office

space and a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) lab.

## Main building (\$7.1 million)

The plan calls for replacing the HVAC equipment and adding air conditioning. But several community members at the district's forum on Nov. 13, as well as the school board's meeting the following day, questioned whether the project included clean-energy options. Benante said the district and its architect are reviewing this part of the project.

## Safer traffic flows (\$2.2 million)

The plan aims to improve pedestrian safety, said Benante. "We have an unhealthy mix of car, bus and pedestrian traffic in the current design," he said. "The updated design will better separate vehicular traffic from pedestrian traffic on campus. It also includes additional sidewalks and more clearly designated crosswalks to improve staff, student and visitor safety."

## Secure entry vestibules (\$454,000)

In light of concerns about campus violence, it's too easy for strangers and guests to enter the school buildings, Benante said, noting that "if someone holds open a door, it's easy to get in." Phase 1 addresses that with secure entry vestibules for both major buildings.

**HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER**

**Fri/Sat/Sun – November 24/25/26 – 12-5 PM**  
HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW & SALE - SHOP LOCAL

**Fri – November 24 – 7 PM**  
**THE HOWLAND'S OPEN MIC NIGHT**  
Lottery Sign-up 6:15 - 6:45 - \$5 Donation  
**Wed – November 29 – 7 PM**  
**THAT'S ALL FOLK - BARD Recital American Folk Music**  
Admission is FREE - Seats are Limited

**Dec 1 - LIT LIT**  
**Dec 2 - The Return of the Year End HOOTENANNY**  
**Dec 9 - FOOLS MASS**  
**Dec 14 - ARTICHOKE - OPEN MIC**  
**Dec 17 - Goldee Green & Friends - Holiday Hoot**  
**Dec 21 - THE WYNOTTE SISTERS**

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

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



## The Real Estate Market is Booming!

Contact these top local agents to see the latest listings, or to sell your home



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LICENSED REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY

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## HVSF *(from Page 1)*

lum, its artistic director.

After leaving its longtime home at Boscobel, HVSF has staged its last two seasons at the former golf course, after receiving a donation of 98 acres there from Chris Davis, the property's owner.

The first phase of its project, which will occur on 38 acres, includes a new permanent open-air tent, a back-of-house area and new concessions and bathrooms. A second phase, five to 15 years away, would include 26 units of new housing for artists and guests, rehearsal and administrative space and a welcome center.

To mitigate the impact from the removal of 168 trees, nearly all of them in the area of the now-closed golf course, HVSF will

convey 17 acres of forest to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, plant 250 new trees, along with shrubs and perennials, and allow the "rewilding" of the course.

The organization also said it will restrict tree removal to between Nov. 1 and March 31 to eliminate potential impacts to any Indiana and Northern Long-eared bats in the area, although an assessment determined that the trees identified for removal were not a "suitable nesting area" for either species.

The review determined that the biggest impact from traffic will occur at the four-way intersection of Route 9 and Snake Hill and Travis Corners roads. While approval from the state Department of Transportation for a traffic light at the intersection is pending, HVSF will rely on police to direct

drivers "during peak events," according to the findings statement.

The festival also said it would install a right-turn lane on Snake Hill Road at the approach to its intersection with Route 9; a northbound left-turn lane on Route 9, where it intersects a driveway to the property; and a southbound left-turn lane on Route 9 at Coleman Road, opposite the driveway.

HVSF said it will preserve a northwesterly view from a ridge by installing a gathering area north of the new tent for people attending shows. (HVSF plans to continue allowing neighbors to use the property for "passive" activities like dog-walking and snowshoeing.)

Although an analysis of noise levels concluded that "even with simultaneous

events," sound from the festival's performances will not exceed Philipstown's limits, Heidi Wendel, a member of the Planning Board, said neighbors have complained.

For a period of five years after the permanent theater begins operating, HVSF said it will "investigate and evaluate" complaints about noise to the town's Building Department. The organization said it would pay for measurements when sources of noise "cannot be immediately identified and addressed by HVSF through changes in programming or management."

After five years, HVSF said it will continue to respond to complaints, but will not foot the cost of noise measurements.

"That does still bother me — that there are neighbors who have been complaining about noise," said Wendel.

## Site Cleanup *(from Page 1)*

nated parcels, usually former factories.

The site's current owner, Rodney Weber, is also the developer of Edgewater, a 246-unit, seven-building apartment complex near Tompkins Avenue that broke ground last year. The DEC said that Beacon Terminal will be "redeveloped by constructing new buildings and renovating some existing buildings to construct townhouses, duplex and triplex units."

Weber declined to specify when the project might be coming before the Beacon Planning Board for review, but new construction is prohibited until the DEC determines that the cleanup is successful. Both Weber and the DEC said that remediation is not expected to impede access to Madam Brett Park.

Originally built in 1879, Beacon Terminal served as the site of the Tioronda Hat Works Factory as well as the New York Rubber Co. and a factory for Tuck Tape.

In 1974, volunteers working with Clearwater identified at least 27 illegal discharges from the Tuck Tape factory into Fishkill Creek. The company's vice president at the time asserted that despite the color and odor of the discharges, the factory was actually



The Beacon Terminal was originally built in 1879 and has been vacant for 28 years.

Photo by B. Cronin

making the water cleaner.

Previous testing of soil at the site revealed elevated concentrations of toluene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polyaromatic

hydrocarbons (PAHs). Recent groundwater testing did not turn up any significant contamination.

Although the DEC says the site does not

currently pose threats to human health or the environment, that would change if the it were to become residential. The excavated soil will be disposed of "at an appropriately permitted facility equipped to receive the material," according to the DEC. They declined to provide further specifics as to where that facility might be.

"Therefore, the contamination present at the site will be cleaned up by the applicant with DEC oversight to ensure it meets the protective standards in place for the proposed residential redevelopment of this former industrial property," said an agency representative.

The DEC first moved to develop a cleanup plan in 2006 with the site's previous owner, Beacon Terminal Associates. After years of testing and development, the plan was completed in 2014.

The site's owner, however, submitted a work plan to perform additional fieldwork before eventually choosing to implement the original cleanup plan. Beacon Terminal Associates then sold the site to Weber in 2016.

A fire in early 2017 damaged the site even further; the cause of the blaze has never been determined.

## Notebook *(from Page 1)*

unable to find either a parking spot on my street or a seat at my local pub, the latter being more upsetting.

But here's the thing: Whitehall, a village in Washington County, was recently named New York's worst small town. I prefer our small village, a great place to live and nice enough that others want to visit.

Visitors did not produce any shockers for Gerry or Nat. They asked about restaurants, maps, trails, train schedules, directions, restrooms, Seastreak and how to get to the river.

How to get to the river? Seriously?

A silly question at first. But to first-time visitors unaware that the little brick structure is the entrance to a tunnel that will take them to the river, it's a logical question. It reminded me that there are no bad questions. Like when, on one of my first trips into Manhattan, I asked how to get back to Grand Central Station — while

standing at its entrance.

My strongest impression of the folks who came to the visitor center for help, and others on foot nearby, was how happy they were. Maybe it was the great weather, or finding a parking spot right away, but they were definitely a contented lot.

I'm not naive. I know the tales of how cranky tourists can be if they're waiting in a long line outside on a chilly day, stomach growling, baby crying. But at the booth, they were demonstrably grateful for even the smallest favor: being offered a map, pointed toward a trail or told where to buy bottled water.

Younger visitors seemed more enthralled with their phones than their destination. I jokingly wondered if they were Googling photos of Cold Spring.

Others snapped photos by the dozen; some even used a camera. They shot things new to them: historic buildings, ivy-covered walls, creative signage, store windows — the things residents, including

me, often overlook.

I pondered what villagers might photograph to capture their community as they see it, beyond the mandatory sunset photo?

I'd shoot a quiet, early morning Main Street, the guy zooming by on his bike with two kids on the back, Richard cutting someone's hair at Barber and Brew, and artist George Stevenson sitting out front of Cold Spring Pizza. And dog photos.

I probably would not photograph the trolley. Three women asked Gerry about it, hopped aboard for the Beacon run and returned giddy over how much fun they had. Yet the trolley remains an enigma. As crazy-busy as recent weekends have been, it managed to stay mostly empty, confirming that it is a good idea that has yet to work.

What does work is the visitor center, and like the Philipstown community, it functions thanks to volunteers. This season, 14 local residents gave up some 300 hours from their weekends to help visitors feel welcome. They handled more than 3,500

inquiries; the number of people they helped was much greater because the vast majority of their responses benefitted a couple, a family or a small group.

While my time in the visitor center produced no startling revelations, it reinforced some familiar themes. Additional trash bins are still needed in some areas. More public restrooms, increased access to Main Street bathrooms or extra porta-johns would help.

A visitor center water fountain would be great. Strategically placed weekend food trucks could benefit residents and visitors alike. Some commonsense marketing might fill empty trolley seats.

Autumn leaves are all but gone. The number of hikers is decreasing. Seastreak has weighed anchor. The visitor center has wound down. Main Street feels different already.

Think I'll head to a Cold Spring restaurant this weekend.



## The Calendar



Blacksmith Wines operates out of a former horseshoeing and wagon-making business located at 286 Main St. in Nelsonville. Photos provided

# Fine Wines at a Price

*Nelsonville dealer specializes in rare vintages*

By Joey Asher

If you're looking for a nice gift for a wine lover this holiday season, you might visit Blacksmith Wines in Nelsonville, where you can buy a case of three bottles of red burgundy from the Rominée-Conti vineyard in France.

The price: \$87,500.

The pricey bottles reside in the old H.D. Champlin & Son Horseshoeing and Wagon-making shop on Main Street. The weathered red brick building is on the National Register of Historic Places but passersby will see nothing indicating that it houses a wine shop.

Inside is an intriguing place — more musty warehouse than store. Wine cases are stacked in the back. A dusty old forge sits near the front counter. Most business is conducted by appointment or online. While some bottles go for under \$50, the average is \$250.

Blacksmith is “hiding in plain sight,” said Mark Mancinelli, the former Garrison resident who owns and runs the store from his home in Bologna, Italy.

“It may sound ludicrous that we have wines that cost \$30,000 a bottle,” he said. “But that’s a function of the market. We have this enormous trove of rare back-vintage wines that are priced less than almost anybody in the United States.”

Blacksmith’s clients represent a broad range of wine lovers, but many of them view buying fine wines as “asset allocation,” said Mancinelli. “Am I going to allocate money to this, to the stock market, the art market or to something else?” he said.

Those clients often allot \$40,000 to \$80,000 a year for “buy programs” with a long-term goal of building a million-dollar cellar, Mancinelli said.



Mark Mancinelli owns Blacksmith Wines on Main Street in Nelsonville.

One client, Carl Nelson, of Garrison, sees Mancinelli as both friend and consultant. Mancinelli enrolled him in a program with Bordeaux and Burgundies, said Nelson, who typically spends \$100 to \$200 a bottle and buys 150 to 200 bottles a year to stock his 2,000-bottle cellar.

Mancinelli has “helped me buy great vintages of cabs [cabernets], and we’ve gone after some really great old-school Italian and French wines,” said Nelson.

Mancinelli caught the bug while attending the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he drank lots of “cheap” wine, he said. “Then I had some Syrah [a variety of grape] called Qupe from California and I thought: ‘This is much better than the other stuff. Why is that?’”

(Continued on Page 15)

# Hampton Fluker’s Next Role

*Beacon actor preparing shift to farming*

By Alison Rooney

Hampton Fluker has only lived in Beacon for a few years, but he’s fast becoming a familiar face.

You might recognize him as the manager of the Beacon Farmers Market, or maybe you’re taking an adult acting class he’s teaching at Compass Arts. Maybe you’ve watched him play Marcus Tufo on *Shades of Blue*, the NBC series that starred Jennifer Lopez.

Fluker is accustomed to the spotlight. Growing up in Georgia and excelling at football and track will bring that, as will making a splash in a Broadway debut, fresh out of Boston University’s acting conservatory, in a 2019 Roundabout Theatre Company revival of Arthur Miller’s *All My Sons*.

The role earned him a Dorothy Loudon Award, which recognizes an outstanding performance in a Broadway or Off-Broadway production.

But despite experiencing success as an actor before the pandemic, something was missing, said Fluker. He and his wife, Amber Reauche Williams, also love community-building and farming. “Gardens give us peace,” he said.

Now, the couple are about to embark on the next phase of a transition that began with a move to Beacon, in 2020, during the pandemic and led to Fluker becoming manager of Beacon’s farmers market.

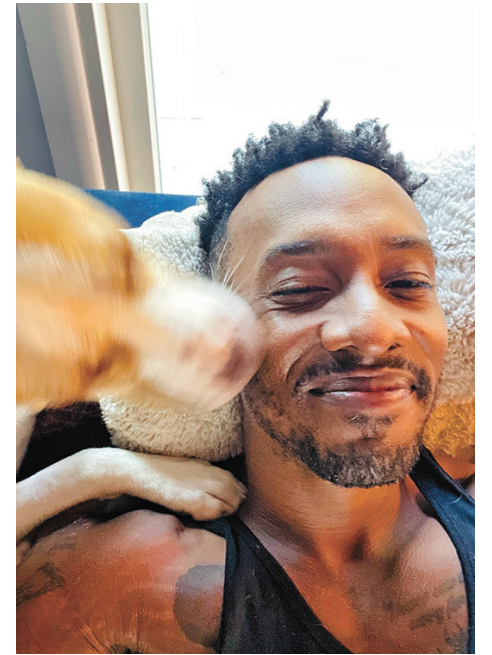
He is leaving that role so he and Williams can build, on 5 acres they are leasing, a dream: a “theater farm” to be called Fable and Sow, where they sell organic herbal tea and offer diversity and inclusion workshops, particularly for BIPOC people [Black, Indigenous and other people of color].

“Covid taught us that we’re not always going to get what we want immediately, but something will happen,” said Fluker. “We needed this time. We can now go back to work and do this. Every single chapter in Beacon has led us to this farm.”

Being an admired athlete and a lauded actor were what Fluker was expected to have as traditional goals. His father, whom Fluker calls his best friend — he describes his mother similarly — was, until his recent retirement, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership at Boston University.

“I was raised with a work ethic from early on, and while he supported my endeavors, he’d say things like: ‘You want to study acting? Good, but college ends in four years; you’re going to have to plan and not waver,’” said Fluker.

After graduating, Fluker pounded the pavement like many aspiring actors, and experienced the typical frustration that comes from repeated rejections. His low point came when he auditioned for *Romeo and Juliet*. The wind scattered the pages of his script and, having not memorized his



Hampton Fluker and a fan Photo provided

lines at that point, he went in and improvised, with no success.

Success did come, but Fluker is a seeker — not of fame or breaking a track record, but of things less overtly coveted. “I like falling into things, truly enjoying them, going with the flow,” he said.

In that way, he and Williams fell into Beacon during the pandemic. While having a “rough time with identity” during the period, Amber suggested they go camping, something Fluker had only done as a Boy Scout.

The couple watched YouTube videos on camping, drove upstate to a tented site and on their return stopped in Beacon for a meal, said Fluker. While there, he recalled, “my wife said: ‘We don’t need to be in Brooklyn anymore. What if our getaway became forever?’”

Fluker started vending for Obercreek Farm at Beacon’s farmers market to understand the rhythm of small-town life. At the market he met “a lot of interesting people, different characters. I saw hard workers who reminded me of how I was raised.”

So, he applied for the market’s assistant manager job, and underwent a six-month mentorship under its manager after being hired. Soon, he took over as manager.

As he learned while doing at the farmers market, Fluker and Williams embarked on a search for land to farm and hold workshops. They recently were approved to lease 5 acres across the Hudson River. Fluker plans to resign from the market effective Sunday (Nov. 26).

His father, born in Mississippi and part of the Great Migration to Chicago, had family members with a background in agriculture, and Williams’ family were sharecroppers near Philadelphia, said Fluker.

“There has been a disconnect between Black folks and the land,” said Fluker. “We’ll have a farm that feels safe to grow not just herbs, but stand in confidence in the lower Hudson Valley.”



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

**SAT 25**  
**Pottery Show & Sale**  
**GARRISON**  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
garrisonartcenter.org

Work by more than 30 regional potters will be available, along with jewelry and art. Also SUN 26. Donations for the Putnam Community Action Partnership food pantry will be collected.

**SAT 25**  
**Holiday Gift Show & Sale**  
**BEACON**  
Noon – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

Find crafts, jewelry, ceramics and artwork by regional artisans at this annual sale. Weekends through Dec. 22.

**SAT 25**  
**Alumni Basketball Game**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Haldane Gym  
15 Craigsides Drive | haldaneschool.org

Watch Haldane High School alumni compete after the varsity girls scrimmage at noon and the varsity boys scrimmage at 2 p.m. *Cost: \$5 (\$2 students)*

**SAT 25**  
**Tree Lighting**  
**BEACON**  
4 p.m. Memorial Park  
198 Robert Cahill Drive

The city will hold its sixth annual holiday ceremony with hot chocolate and cookies, carols sung by Scout troops and a visit from Santa Claus. The tree lighting will take place at dusk.

**TUES 28**  
**Breakfast Meeting**  
**COLD SPRING**  
9 a.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9  
coldspringnychamber.com

The Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting will include a tour of the new pavilion and updates. *Free (\$10 non-members)*

**TUES 28**  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**GARRISON**  
Noon – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Schedule a time at redcrossblood.org or walk in. While supplies last, donors will receive a free pair of Elf socks.



Wizard of Oz Jr., Dec. 2

**THURS 30**  
**Winter Glow Tree Lighting**  
**GARRISON**  
5:30 p.m. Winter Hill | 20 Nazareth Way  
The community tree lighting will happen at dusk. Enjoy hot drinks, too.

**FRI 1**  
**Holiday Tree Lighting**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
6 p.m. Village Green Park (across from 258 Main St.)  
nelsonvilleny.gov  
There will be carols, cocoa and cookies.

**SAT 2**  
**Annual Christmas Fair**  
**BEACON**  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Joachim's Church (school gym)  
51 Leonard St. | stjochim-stjohn.org  
Shop for holiday gifts, décor, jewelry and more. There will be raffles, food and crafts for children, too. Also SUN 3.

## STAGE & SCREEN

**THURS 30**  
**A Christmas Carol**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
7 p.m. Mahoney's Irish Pub and Restaurant  
35 Main St. | bannermancastle.org  
Enjoy a 3-course meal and a performance of Dickens' classic tale, performed by Theatre on the Road, at this Bannerman Castle fundraiser. Dress as a character and you may win a prize. *Cost: \$100 (\$40 children)*

**THURS 30**  
**Mining the Moon | Remembering Pina**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. CineHub  
20 W. Main St. | susanosberg.com  
The filmmaker and choreographer Susan Osberg will

screen 2 documentaries of dance performances. See Page 2. *Cost: \$20 suggested donation*

**FRI 1**  
**A Christmas Carol**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
7:30 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org  
Jonathan Kruk will portray more than 30 characters in his solo retelling of the classic Dickens tale. *Cost: \$20*

**SAT 2**  
**Wizard of Oz Jr.**  
**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. and 4 p.m.  
Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org  
Follow the Yellow Brick Road as local actors in grades 1 to 7 transport you from Kansas to Oz and back. Also SUN 3 and SAT 9. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 youth)*

**SUN 3**  
**Joe Gatto's Night of Comedy**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
7 p.m. MJN Convention Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org  
The comedian from Impractical Jokers will do stand-up for his latest tour. *Cost: \$52 to \$74*

## VISUAL ART

**SAT 2**  
**BeaconArts Small Works Holiday Show**  
**BEACON**  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon  
6 Eliza St. | beahivebzzz.com  
The multimedia exhibit showcases work by local artists who make great holiday gifts. Most pieces are priced at \$150. Through Dec. 23.

**SUN 3**  
**Morocco: Timeless Beauty**  
**CROTON-ON-HUDSON**  
2 – 4 p.m. Croton Free Library  
171 Cleveland Drive  
Local artist Ron Hershey's photographs of his travels throughout the country will be on view through Dec. 28.

## TALKS & TOURS

**SAT 25**  
**Twilight Tour**  
**GARRISON**  
4 – 7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org  
The house, garden and grounds will be lit up for the holidays. Enjoy a stroll, refreshments and sunset over the river. *Cost: \$30 (\$25 seniors, \$18 ages 4 to 18, free for ages younger than 4)*

**MON 27**  
**Intro to Positive Psychology**  
**COLD SPRING**  
11 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Natasha Shaginian will discuss an approach to health and wellness to help you flourish. Join via Zoom or in-person. Registration required.

**WED 29**  
**Mindfulness Meditation**  
**BEACON**  
4 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Lama Aria Drolma, a Buddhist teacher, will lead a session for all experience levels. Registration required.



**THURS 30**  
**Positive Psychology and Plant Medicine**  
**COLD SPRING**  
11:30 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Natasha Shaginian and Katya Varlamova will lead a workshop that includes creating herbal tea and performing wellness exercises. Join via Zoom or in-person. Registration required.

**SAT 2**  
**Naturalization Workshop**  
**BEACON**  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Experts will assist with citizenship forms and applications, and answer questions.

**SUN 3**  
**Wreath-Making Workshop**  
**GARRISON**  
4 – 7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org  
The Parcel Flower Co. will teach participants how to make holiday décor with dried flowers, foraged materials and evergreens. *Cost: \$80*

## KIDS & FAMILY

**TUES 28**  
**Fossils**  
**GARRISON**  
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Learn how fossils are recovered and make some of your own during this family science night. Registration required.

**WED 29**  
**Dino Craft and Mini Parade**  
**GARRISON**  
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Make dinosaur masks and headbands and then show off your creations. Registration required.

**THURS 30**  
**Victorian Tea Party**  
**COLD SPRING**  
3:15 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Experience what Julia Butterfield would have done and enjoy a tea party and make Victorian-era crafts. Registration required.

**THURS 30**  
**Earring Making**  
**GARRISON**  
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Joan Lloyd will teach everyone how to make personalized beaded earrings. Participants can also make pairs to donate to a women's shelter. Registration required.

**FRI 1**  
**Teen Movie Night**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
Students in grades 6 and up can watch *Elf*. Registration required.

## MUSIC

**SAT 25**  
**Doansburg Chamber Ensemble**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St.  
doansburgchamberensemble.org  
The featured artists are Christine Smith (flute), Joy Plaisted (harp) and Ina Litera (viola). The program will include works by Diabelli, Dubois, Debussy and Buendia. *Cost: \$17 (\$14 seniors, students)*



SAT 25

**The Best of the '70s**

BEACON

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

Eric Herbst and Dizzyfish will play timeless songs from the decade. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 25

**The Fixx**

PEEKSKILL

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

The band will play music from its latest release, *Every Five Seconds*. *Cost: \$37 to \$52*

WED 29

**That's All Folk**

BEACON

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

Bard Conservatory singers Taylor Adams, Colton Cook and Emily Finke, accompanied by pianist Viktória Sarkadi, will cover the range of folk music in this recital. *Free*

FRI 1

**Holiday Fanfares**

BEACON

7:30 p.m. St Joachim's Church  
51 Leonard St. | putnamchorale.org

The Putnam Chorale will perform songs by John Rutter, Daniel Pinkham and Gwyneth Walker. See Page 14. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 seniors, free for ages 12 and younger)*

FRI 1

**Sylvia Cuenca**

BREWSTER

7:30 p.m. Uncle Cheef  
988 NY-22 Unit C | unclecheef.com

The drummer and her band will play jazz sets at 7:30 and 9 p.m. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 1

**Clare Maloney & The Great Adventure**

BEACON

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

The multi-instrumentalist and her band will play music from their release, *Daybreaker*. Michele Gedney, of Open Book, will play a solo set. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 2

**Jazz For The Season**

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St.  
stmaryscoldspring.com

Art Labriola (piano), Lew Scott (bass) and Mike LaRocco (drums) will play jazz favorites and holiday songs. *Free, donations accepted*

SAT 2

**Akiko Tsuruga**

BREWSTER

7:30 p.m. Uncle Cheef  
988 NY-22 Unit C | unclecheef.com

The organist known for her release *Sweet and Funky* will play with her band. *Cost: \$20*



The Return of the Year-End Hootenanny, Dec. 2

SAT 2

**Molly Mason and Jay Ungar with Mike & Ruthy**

BEACON

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

The family band will play holiday-themed American roots music. *Cost: \$25 (\$40 door)*

SAT 2

**Scott Bradley's Postmodern Jukebox**

PEEKSKILL

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

As part of its Life In The Past Lane tour, the band will play covers of American music from doo-wop to soul to country. *Cost: \$47 to \$79*

SAT 2

**The Return of the Year-End Hootenanny**

BEACON

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

The house band, Guthrie's Ghost, will play with special guests. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 3

**Forever Simon & Garfunkel**

BEACON

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

Sean Altman and Jack Skuller will pay tribute to the famed duo and perform their well-loved hits. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 3

**Dream Choir**

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org

The community chorus directed by Cat Guthrie and Tom McCoy will sing "happy"-themed songs. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 3

**Beatles vs. Stones: A Musical Showdown**

PEEKSKILL

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

Two tribute bands will seek to settle the question about which is the greatest rock band. *Cost: \$40 to \$70*

CIVIC

MON 27

**Dana Levenberg Office Hours**

COLD SPRING

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

The Assembly member's staff will be available to meet with constituents and help with issues.

MON 27

**City Council**

BEACON

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



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**VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING**

**Holiday  
TREE LIGHTING**

The Village of Cold Spring Recreation Commission  
invites you to this year's holiday tree lighting ceremony  
**Saturday, Dec. 2nd @ 4pm**  
(Rain/snow date: 12/3 @ 4pm)

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving by fire truck,  
courtesy of the Cold Spring Fire Company.  
Refreshments provided by the Hudson House.  
Caroling by the Hudson Highlands Girl Scouts.  
See you at the bandstand!





# Interview With a Maestro

By Leonard Sparks

Jason Tramm became conductor of the Putnam Chorale in July. The veteran music director serves as associate professor and director of choral activities at Seton Hall University, where he leads the university's chorus, chamber choir and orchestra. He will lead the chorale in two upcoming holiday performances in Beacon and Brewster.

## When did your interest in music and singing begin?

I grew up in Rockland County and was a singer since before I can remember. At 5 years old, I was a soloist for my local church in West Nyack. For me, it was just like breathing. It's never been a choice for me. I've always been a musician, and always knew I wanted to be in music. I gravitated to conducting when I was studying for my master's degree [at the University of Hartford]. Really, it's the same thing — it's expression, connecting with other people and moving hearts.

## Why the switch to conducting?

I was a high school teacher in New Jersey and I knew that something was missing. I conducted when I was teaching, but never really thought of it as a career option. One day I just decided it was something I had



to do. I founded a summer festival with a 60-voice chorus and that was a huge success. I have a friend from the Metropolitan Opera who sang. That concert led me to do my doctorate at Rutgers on a full scholarship.

“Most of my job as conductor is spent by myself at 3 in the morning studying music.

## What is the conductor's role?

If you have a coach in football, it's something like that. It's also like the captain of a ship. Most of my job as conductor is spent by myself at 3 in the morning studying music. What the audience sees is the tip of the iceberg; the rest is below the waves — picking the music, selecting the rehearsal plan. I tell my students at Seton Hall that it's like an electrical wire that goes from the composer's intentions to the audience. That's the conductor.

## Is conducting an orchestra different from leading a chorale?

They need different things. In a choral setting, you have a whole semester to work on a project. In a symphony you usually only have three rehearsals and it's a quick turnaround most of the time. We really spend the time with the chorale. We mold the sound, the vowels, the way that the choir speaks, and it's a process that takes months. We get to know each other and it's really a rewarding thing. It feels like home.

## What's special about chorales?

It's a beautiful thing; it's a unique alchemy. We're greater than the sum of our parts. We get together and make special music happen. The groups I lead tend to focus on the master-

works. So we're taking this 400 years of choral repertoire and digging in deep.

## What attracted you to the Putnam Chorale?

I knew some of the members through one of my other choruses, the Taghkanic Chorale, and they were telling me about this group. I did my research and it seemed like a great group of people who really have a commitment to making fine music. There's a great mix of people in this group, and almost every group. There's a mixture of professional music teachers who have musical backgrounds and degrees in music. There are also people who just love to sing. They represent every possible career and background, but what unifies them is their love of music.

## What can audiences expect from the upcoming performances in Beacon and Brewster?

I selected a really high-octane program with brass and organ and percussion. There's going to be thrilling fanfares and some really interesting and exciting music.

*Performances will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Joachim at 51 Leonard St. in Beacon and on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 83 Main St. in Brewster. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and free for children 12 and under. Visit [putnamchorale.org](http://putnamchorale.org).*

# HOLIDAY FANFARES

## PUTNAM CHORALE

JASON TRAMM MUSIC DIRECTOR

MUSIC OF  
JOHN RUTTER,  
DANIEL PINKHAM  
AND GWYNETH WALKER

FRIDAY DEC. 1, 2023 AT 7:30PM  
ST. JOACHIM CHURCH, 51 LEONARD STREET, BEACON, NY

SUNDAY DEC. 3, 2023 AT 3:00PM  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 83 MAIN STREET, BREWSTER, NY

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**Dec. 9 & 16**

**Wreath Workshop**

**Dec. 3**

**Holiday Tea**

**Dec. 17**

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## Roots and Shoots

# Gifts for Gardeners

By Pamela Doan

**S**kip the gloves and trowel. Every gardener already has enough supplies. To delight a gardener friend with a useful gift, check out some of these ideas, instead.

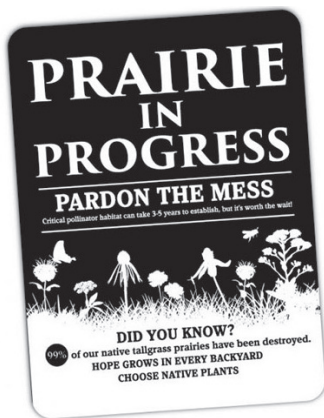


## Rain gauge

My rain gauge is very simple and tops out at 5 inches. It's stuck into a flower pot on the patio and it's an easy way to keep track of watering needs. My guide is: less than an inch in a week and new transplants will probably need supplemental water. Gauges come in many sizes and price points.

If you want to take a major step up, go for Productive Alternatives' Stratus rain gauge. It meets the standards of the National Weather Service, is precise and measures up to 11 inches at a time, which is useful given the kinds of storms we've had. Prepare to amaze your friends with highly specific data about precipitation.

[productivemn.org](http://productivemn.org)



## Pollinator plants

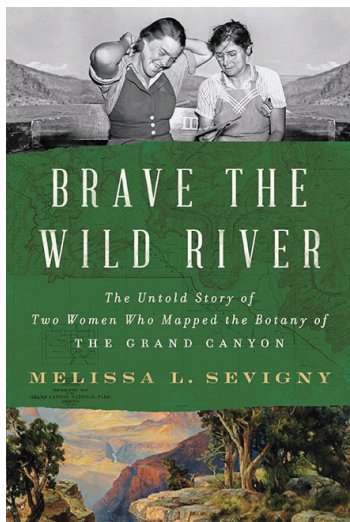
For a gardener who is ready to transform the yard into an ecological paradise, Prairie Moon's Pollinator Introduction Kit has all the important elements. The seed mix for locations that get full and partial sun will cover up to 1,000 square feet and features a diverse range of plants that are native and will grow in our hardiness zone. Instructions for site preparation and sowing are included.

The kit also includes a nesting shelter for native bees, a guide about how plants interact with and support insects, and a "Prairie in Progress" sign to share your intentions.

If that is too big of a step for you, the Wild Seed Project also has seed mixes with species that are easy to get started. For example, the sunny/dry mix includes black-eyed Susans, butterfly weed, foxglove beardtongue, smooth blue aster, spotted bee balm and an aster. Each will establish quickly and in general conditions without much fuss, and the plants will bloom from spring through the fall.

[prairiemoon.com/pollinator-introduction-kit.html](http://prairiemoon.com/pollinator-introduction-kit.html)

[shop.wildseedproject.net](http://shop.wildseedproject.net)



## Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon

In the 1930s, when this story by author Melissa L. Sevigny begins, traveling the Colorado River by boat for hundreds of miles through the Grand Canyon was like taking a trip into space in 2023. Few people had tried it (and fewer survived). When botanists Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter embarked on their six-week endeavor to collect and categorize plants, the nation's media was riveted and the odds were against them.

This story riveted me, too, and spans water rights in the West, development, women's achievements and challenges in science, while also being an adventure story about plants. Gardeners (and all of those other people who aren't gardeners) can take a vicarious journey this winter. Be prepared to want to head off to Arizona after reading this.

[melissasevigny.com/books/brave-the-wild-river](http://melissasevigny.com/books/brave-the-wild-river)

## Fedco Coloring Book and Art

Brought to you by the makers of my favorite seed catalog, this 26-page coloring book includes illustrations from past year's catalogs. Fedco uses botanical art from old seed companies intermixed with staff drawings throughout its black-and-white seed, tree and bulb catalogs.

Make them your own by coloring and framing them. There are also prints of cover art available.

[fedcoseeds.com/ogs/fedco-coloring-book-9461](http://fedcoseeds.com/ogs/fedco-coloring-book-9461)

## Membership to ...

Gardeners learn about gardening by looking at other people's plants. It's a fact. Locally, there are diverse opportunities from Stonecrop, Manitoga and Storm King across the river. Farther out, visits to the New York or Brooklyn botanical gardens are always a hit. Memberships make it easy to visit multiple times throughout the season and experience the flow of successional flowering.

Wild Ones is a grassroots organization with chapters around New York dedicated to natural landscapes. They offer workshops and resources as well as planting designs for many conditions, making native-plant gardening accessible. Consider a gift membership for someone who is eager to learn more and connect with other gardeners.

[members.wildones.org/join](http://members.wildones.org/join)



## Flower press

This wood press comes with supplies to dry and flatten favorite blooms and foliage to create your own dried flower displays. They could become a collage of seasonal highlights from the yard or a hike.

[gardeners.com/buy/heirloom-flower-press/8597440.html](http://gardeners.com/buy/heirloom-flower-press/8597440.html)

## Birdbath

I've come to accept that I can't have a bird feeder without attracting other wildlife, specifically bears. The winters have been too uneven and hibernation isn't happening consistently. To avoid creating negative interactions with bears, I'm going with a birdbath, instead. It's a way to enjoy closeups and still provide a service. The Dances With Stone carved rock birdbaths are appealing and easy to maintain.

[www.etsy.com/shop/DancesWithStone](http://www.etsy.com/shop/DancesWithStone)

## Wine Store *(from Page 11)*

To find the answers, he attended classes, organized tastings and even attended an online course in enology [winemaking] from the University of California at Davis.

The obsession grew with his career. As an attorney and investment banker, he lived for a time in Europe, where he visited vineyards. As a real estate developer, he renovated a Manhattan loft building and designed the penthouse for himself with a 2,000-bottle, walk-in cellar.

**“I never forget the simple things. It's just fermented grape juice.”**

**~Mark Mancinelli**

“The pathology of the collector is totally out of control,” said Mancinelli, who now runs an investment fund. “You become obsessed with having the most accurate representative wine from every region.”

For example, he once became fixated on a 1978 Barolo called Collina Riondo de Serralunga Speciale, which goes for \$3,500. “Does anybody need that? No,” he said. “But if you're obsessed?”

After moving to Garrison in 2010, his wife wondered “how I could ever need another expensive bottle of wine when you have a collection of over 3,000 bottles,” said Mancinelli. So, in 2013, he stopped collecting, only to feel like “I had lost a good friend.”

To fill the void, in 2016 he started Blacksmith, buying from distributors, dealers and private collectors. As the son of a Newburgh postman, Mancinelli knows many see wine collecting as elitist.

“If people want to pursue the greatest wines in the world at any cost, that's their business,” said Mancinelli, who moved to Bologna with his family last year. “But I never forget the simple things. It's just fermented grape juice.”

*Blacksmith Wines is open by appointment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 286 Main St. in Nelsonville. Call 845-666-7260 or visit [blacksmithfinewines.com](http://blacksmithfinewines.com).*

## WANTED

### VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED IN PHILIPSTOWN/COLD SPRING

Putnam County OSR and the Putnam SeniorCorps Volunteer Program needs your help in the Philipstown/Cold Spring area. If you are over 60 and enjoy driving, Putnam SeniorCorps is looking for volunteers to drive seniors to local doctor appointments.

As a volunteer driver in Philipstown/Cold Spring, you will pick up a county car at the Philipstown Friendship Center. The driver transports the client to and from their appointment and returns the County car back to the Friendship Center location. Trip times vary and are extremely flexible based on your availability.

You will be inspired to help others after just one trip! Please contact Irene Pawliczko of Putnam SeniorCorps at (845)808-1734 to volunteer.



## Mouths To Feed

Sweet  
(Potato) Talk

By Celia Barbour



In the past three days, I've had three separate conversations about sweet potatoes. I don't know if there is an upper limit on how many times sensible people ought to discuss these roots; whatever it is, I don't feel that I have come close.

No shade. This is not because sweet potatoes themselves are especially interesting. They have a typical New World backstory: Originally from northern South America, they were brought to Europe by Columbus and within a century had become a staple vegetable in China and the Philippines.

Botanically they are roots, not tubers. Dietetically, they are better for your blood sugar than regular potatoes. Economically, they are the seventh-most-important agricultural crop in the world, which, I admit, is kind of surprising.

But it's conversationally that they really shine. No, not because they can talk, but because they are so comforting to talk about. And it takes a human being with a memory rich in years to do them justice.

You know how in literature, there are only a handful of basic plots — rags to riches, hero's journey, confronting the beast, etc.? Well, food lore also has its signature plots, and the one that sweet potatoes most often turn up in is structured like this: I used to hate X because it was always made with Y, but then I tried it Z-style and now I love X! It never gets old.

Today's Y was crushed pineapple and marshmallows. Yesterday's was canned cherries. In both cases, Z — the hero who saved the day — was plain old roasting, with olive oil, salt, and pepper; but a few days ago, the heroic Z was microwaving.

Why do I love these little dramas so much? I suppose because they remind me of one of the great blessings of food: No matter how well you think you know it, food can still surprise you.

You don't even need to spend your life sampling new cuisines and ingredients to experience this phenomenon. You can simply revisit familiar dishes with a fresh eye or a new twist, or you can revive old ones you'd forgotten you once loved. And even the most routine recipe never turns out the same way twice, because you're a person, not a machine. Cooking is a never-ending journey into the familiar.

So it makes sense that this week's recipe is a rethink of three of my favorite fall dishes, recipes I've been making for years (all three have appeared in this column). I spend a lot of my downtime imagining new recipes, and that's how this one came

## Sweet Potatoes with Candied Pepitas and Pickled Cranberries



This recipe works well at room temperature, and can be served with or without the kale.

- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ¼ teaspoon each cayenne, smoked paprika and cinnamon
- 2 pounds sweet potatoes (see note 1)
- Olive oil
- Salt & pepper
- ½ cup pepitas (pumpkin seeds)
- 2 teaspoons butter
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 3 tablespoons sherry vinegar
- ⅓ cup dried cranberries
- ½ small shallot, thinly sliced
- Kale salad, for serving (see note 2)

to life, as I contemplated various tweaks and adjustments. Then, because I *almost* like dried cranberries, I marinated some in sherry vinegar and added them to the mix.

Then I went out on a walk and talked about it with one of my favorite people in the whole world. Which reminded me of something else I'd almost forgotten: That the table isn't the only place you can connect with people you love over food.

Heat oven to 400. Line a baking sheet with parchment or a nonstick pad.

In a small bowl, combine the cumin, cayenne, cinnamon and smoked paprika; divide into 2 portions and set aside.

Scrub the sweet potatoes and trim off any soft spots. Cut into 1½-inch chunks. Transfer to a medium bowl and toss with just enough olive oil to coat, plus salt, pepper and half the spice mixture. Spread on the prepared baking sheet and place in the oven. Roast 25-30 minutes, rotating pan halfway through.

Meanwhile, in a small skillet over a medium flame, heat the butter. When it foams, add the pepitas and sugar. Toss to coat, then cook about 1 minute. Add the other half of the spice mixture and continue to cook until the pepitas start to pop and turn light gold in places, watching carefully, about 1 minute more. Transfer to a plate to let cool. (You'll need about half of these for the salad; save the rest in an airtight container and use for snacking!)

Wipe out the skillet, add the sherry vinegar and cranberries, and heat to a simmer for about 30 seconds then remove from heat and add the sliced shallot and a pinch of salt and pepper. Toss well and set aside.

When the sweet potatoes are tender and golden brown, remove from oven and allow to cool slightly. Toss with the cranberry mixture and a generous drizzle of olive oil. Mix with the pepitas just before serving, over kale salad if desired.

Note 1: I like this recipe best with Japanese sweet potatoes, which have a firmer texture and a less-sweet flavor than traditional sweet potatoes but look best with a combination. Note that you might need to roast the varieties separately, as the orange ones cook slightly faster.

Note 2: For the kale salad, remove the ribs from a bunch of kale. Slice thinly crosswise and toss with olive oil, salt and pepper. Set aside, tossing from time to time, to soften the kale. Before serving, taste a few shreds and add a little more vinegar or lemon juice if needed.

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# Firefighters Answer the Recruiting Call

By Michael Turton

Members of Philipstown's four fire departments are used to answering the call to help people in need, but it usually involves a fire, motor vehicle accident or mountain rescue.

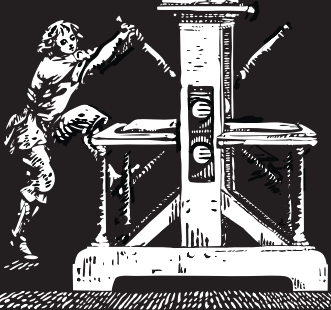
On Nov. 12, the Cold Spring, Continental Village, Garrison and North Highlands volunteer fire companies answered a call to Surprise Lake Camp, but this time it was to meet an acute need of their own — new volunteers.

They gathered for a photo shoot led by Jay Brenner, a retired professional photographer and member of the Garrison Fire Company. Brenner's photos will be used by a recruitment organization recently formed by the four companies and appear on its new website, [philipstownfire.org](http://philipstownfire.org).

"We had great individual photos but needed shots of a cross section of firefighters and apparatus from all four fire companies," Aaron Leonard, president of the Cold Spring Fire Company said, adding that the photo shoot underlined their mutual need for new volunteers.

Photos by M. Turton





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## Classic Wheels

## 1939 Ford De Luxe Coupe

By Michael Turton

“It’s just a beautiful car, great style; those were good years,” Garrison resident Jack Villette said when asked what he likes most about the 1939 Ford De Luxe coupe he acquired less than a month ago.

The restoration company Hot Rods and Custom Stuff agrees.

“The 1939 Ford ... represents what may be considered the pinnacle of ‘art deco’ design applied to the automobile ... characterized by its symmetry, elegance, glamor, functionality and modernity,” the California-based car experts wrote on their website.

Friendship was also a factor in Villette’s recent acquisition.

“A good friend of mine in Hopewell [Junction] gave it to me,” he said. That’s a good friend indeed, not to mention a good price.

Other than receiving a new layer of glossy black paint courtesy of its previous owner, everything on the car is original, Villette said, including the corduroy-fabric, single-bench seat. He is only the third owner; the odometer reads just 20,000 miles.

The car has standard features for the 1930s, such as a push-button starter, crank windows



and a front windshield that tilts outward to improve ventilation. Another standard feature apparently made it a popular choice for bootleggers back in the day: two large luggage compartments — the trunk and an additional space accessed by lifting the back of the seat.

Front and rear bumperettes, AM radio, fender skirts, fog lamps and a locking gas cap were other options available back then but not included on Villette’s car.

A 221-cubic-inch, straight eight-cylinder engine provides about 90 horsepower. Equipped with a three-speed manual floor shifter, the coupe could reach 120 miles an hour out of the factory.

“When you go 50 miles an hour in it, you know you’re doing 50; I wouldn’t take it over that!” Villette said. “It’s nice to drive but they don’t stop very well, and they float a bit.”

Asked about gas mileage he said only: “Not good; it has a tiny single carburetor.”

Gas was 10 cents a gallon in 1939 (\$2.20 in 2023).

The Ford Motor Co. considered its De Luxe line, which also included a two-door convertible coupe, sedan and station wagon, to be a bridge between basic models such as the Standard and the more luxurious Lincoln and Lincoln-Zephyr.

An advertisement in 1939 described the De Luxe coupe as “a convenient modern car



that carries three comfortably. Especially desirable for business and professional use.”

It was also a crossover year technologically for Ford, marking the end of floor shifters, though the company brought that feature back in the 1955 Thunderbird. The convertible version of the ’39 De Luxe was also the last to feature a rumble seat.

Ford introduced hydraulic brakes in 1939, a feature both Chrysler and General Motors had added years prior. By 1940, bulb and reflector lamps had given way to sealed-beam headlights.

Villette, who also owns a 1939 Ford Standard, said he would not change anything about his De Luxe. “I love it,” he said, adding that he has no plans to enter it in car shows.

## The Specs

**Manufactured:** Dearborn, Michigan

**Production years:** 1937-1940

**Model:** Two-door coupe

**Coupe production:** 37,326 units

**Coupe convertible:** 10,422 units

**Engine:** 221-cubic-inch V8

**Horsepower:** 90

**Transmission:** Three-speed floor manual shifter

**Cost:** \$790 (\$17,482 in 2023)

**Top Speed:** 120 mph

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OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

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An evening of community, candle light and supporting local

FRIDAY DEC. 8 | 4-8 PM

We invite the community to participate in the 2023 Aglow community cause benefiting the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub. Do you have a special relative you wish to memorialize—a friend or significant organization to honor? Let each candle glow in tribute.

To donate and make a tribute go to [coldspringnychamber.com/aglow](https://coldspringnychamber.com/aglow)

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- ✓ **No local tax dollars are being used to build, maintain, or operate the Fjord Trail.**  
Neither the building of the Fjord Trail, nor its maintenance and operation, will impact the municipal budgets of Cold Spring, Philipstown, Fishkill, or Beacon.
- ✓ **HHFT has secured all funds necessary to complete the Breakneck Connector & Bridge phase of the project and is successfully fundraising for future phases.**  
Though the actual capital cost of future phases can only be determined once the environmental review process is complete, the project is approved, and planning progresses beyond the conceptual design stage, HHFT has already secured pledges and contributions for these future stages.
- ✓ **HHFT will be responsible for its own operating and maintenance budget.**  
HHFT's fundraising sources will include: contributions from private donors and foundations; grants; special events; and operating revenue, including parking fees and programming at our visitor center.
- ✓ **The Fjord Trail is a public-private partnership based on a well-tested model.**  
HHFT will be responsible for maintaining and operating the trail on behalf of New York State, which will own it. This partnership will mobilize philanthropic capital and private sector management, while leaving ownership and ultimate authority in State hands. HHFT is subject to extensive financial reporting to OPRHP, which monitors its partners' financial capacity to meet their obligations. Our financial statements and annual tax returns are also available to the public.
- ✓ **HHFT has established an endowment-type reserve fund to ensure we meet our obligations to maintain and operate the Fjord Trail.**  
HHFT has already successfully raised millions of dollars in contributions from multiple sources to seed this operating reserve, which will continue to scale up as each phase of the Fjord Trail is completed.
- ✓ **Project area communities have a lot to gain.**  
The trail will be a new, convenient recreational resource for walkers, runners, cyclists, and residents of all ages and abilities to enjoy seven days a week. Additional benefits to Cold Spring residents could include infrastructure improvements in the lower village and along Fair Street, wayfinding signage, and more public restrooms and maintenance of Dockside Park, if Dockside is selected and approved as one of the six main entry points.

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

## Visit [PhilipstownAdvocatesForTrails.com](http://PhilipstownAdvocatesForTrails.com)

Join the grassroots group fostering collaborative conversation about how the Fjord Trail can best serve our community.

## Come to this Sunday's Afternoon Chat:

November 26 from 2-4 PM at Hubbard Lodge

**Email us:** [info@hhft.org](mailto:info@hhft.org)

**Visit:** [hhft.org](http://hhft.org)





## OBITUARIES

**Joe Stubblefield Jr. (1971-2023)**

Joe Lavant "Stubbs" Stubblefield Jr., 52, died unexpectedly on Nov. 11.

He was born to Joe and Willene Stubblefield on Aug. 29, 1971, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he and his sister, Keizia, were raised until they moved to New York in 1988. Joe graduated from Peekskill High School at the age of 17.

Joe is survived by his mother, Willene Stubblefield; his sister, Keizia Tamez; his seven sons, Jordyn Macaluso-Stubblefield (24), Justyn Stubblefield (18), twins Sean and Erik Stubblefield (17), Kaidyn Stubblefield (8), Joe Stubblefield III (7) and Landan Stubblefield (3); and many cousins, aunts, uncles and nephews. Joe was predeceased by his father, Joe L. Stubblefield Sr.

"Hero" is an understatement for what he has been to his mother. Joe enjoyed providing for his family and was always looking for more ways to help others. He loved a good joke yet was serious when it came to work. Joe held many jobs, from electric-stair installer to semiconductor technician to loading engineer to making truck deliveries — and so many more.

He had many titles in his life, but his favorite role was being a father. Joe and his sons had an unbreakable bond. His love, support and encouragement is something that cannot be replaced. He was their No. 1 fan and was proud of each one of "his boys."

Joe loved "setting the hook," whether it was with his fishing buddies, his sons, his mom or by himself. When he needed some time to think and relax, you could find him on the lake. If he missed your call, it was because he was on the "other line."

Stubbs was an amazing bowler, with his trick shots and curveballs, and loved to teach his sons on the lanes. There are many memories at the bowling alley, with many people, and Joe will be missed dearly.

If Joe was not watching a Pittsburgh



Steelers game, he was watching his son Erik and the Haldane Blue Devils play. He was a huge part of the football family and was always on the sidelines cheering and giving encouragement.

Joe was loved by so many, and his big, beautiful, contagious smile was enough to brighten anyone's day. While Joe was taken from us far too soon, the impact he has had on everyone's life will be felt for years to come.

We will never "get over" losing Joe or ever "finish healing." Instead, we need to learn how to grow our lives around grief. We learn to find meaning in our lives by honoring those we lost. And in some strange way, we will learn that joy and grief can coexist.

Through Jordyn, Justyn, Sean, Erik, Kaidyn, Joe III and Landan, Joe's legacy will live on, until we meet again!

His family will receive friends on Saturday (Nov. 25) from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Salem Tabernacle Church, 7 Delavan Ave. in Beacon, where a Celebration of His Life service will be held at 11 a.m. A private cremation will follow, and interment will be at the discretion of his family.

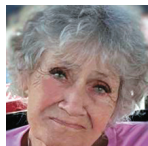
**Shirley Trimble (1939-2023)**

Shirley M. Trimble, 83, a lifelong area resident, passed away at home surrounded by her loving family on Nov. 8.

Daughter of the late Harold and Marie (Fleming) Niver, she was born in Beacon on Dec. 20, 1939. Shirley was a founding member of the Cold Spring Boat Club as well as a founding member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the North Highlands Fire Department.

She was an avid reader who loved to cook and bake and host her family on weekends and during the holidays. Her other hobbies included boating, swimming and going shopping. More than anything else, Shirley cherished spending time with her family.

On June 1, 1957, she married Kenneth A.



Trimble in Beacon. Kenneth predeceased Shirley on Dec. 3, 2019.

Survivors include her daughter, Cindy M. Trimble of Cold Spring; her grandsons, Kenneth A. Trimble III of Cold Spring and RJ Trimble-Edwards of Seagirt, New Jersey; her sisters, Barbara Niver Chain of Wappingers Falls and Linda Niver Russell of Cold Spring; her aunt, Josie Fleming; her brother-in-law, Pierre Travis; her sister-in-law, Delores "Pudgy" Zeliph Moran; her brother-in-law, Frank Righetti; and her lifelong best friend, Maria Patane Covelli.

In addition to her husband and parents, Shirley was also predeceased by her son, Kenneth A. Trimble Jr., as well as several siblings and their spouses: Dolores "Skip" Moran Doxsey and her husband Richy; Catherine "Kate" Moran Doxsey and her husband Howie; Loretta "Snooks" Moran Travis; Francis "Sonny" Moran; Harold "Butch" Niver Jr. and his wife Linda; and Patricia Niver Righetti and her brothers-in-law, Victor Chain and Thomas Russell.

A graveside service was held at noon on Nov. 20 at the Cold Spring Cemetery, 36 Peekskill Road in Cold Spring.

**Other Recent Deaths***Philipstown*

Mary Ellen De Felice, 80  
Elle Freda, 98

Anthony Phillips Sr., 83  
Robert Simpson, 64

*Beacon*

Anne Gentile, 72  
Betty Kilbride, 84

Barbara Manca, 76

**Dorothy Eleanor "Elle" Epstein Freda**

Elle Freda, 98, of Charleston, SC & Garrison, NY, widow of Joseph William Freda, entered into eternal rest Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

A service to honor her memory was held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at the chapel at Gutterman's, 8000 Jericho Tpke., Woodbury, NY at 11:00 AM. She was laid to rest at the Mount Ararat Cemetery, 1165 Route 109, Long Island, NY at 12:30 PM.

Arrangements will be made by J. Henry Stuhr, Inc., Downtown Chapel, Charleston & Gutterman's Funeral Home, Long Island.

Elle was born on April 16, 1925, in New York, NY. Daughter of the late Samuel Epstein & Sylvia Starkman Epstein. Elle & Joe founded and successfully grew their company, Pilgrim Promotions, Ltd. She loved her beautiful home in Garrison, NY and enjoyed her family, friends & travel.

She is survived by her two daughters Rhonnilynne "Rhonni" Malino (Harvey) of Charleston, SC, and Lauraine Steier Harrison of Nyack, NY; five grandchildren: Gideon Malino (Allison), Morgan Malino (Mary Jo), Jessica Venezia (Ryan), Lindsay Melvin (Jeffrey) and Dylan Harrison; five great grandsons: Marshall, Shane, Sebastian, Jeremy and Graham; four great granddaughters: Madelyn, Sabrina, Natasha & Greta.

Memorials may be made to: UJA - Israel Emergency Fund ([ujafedny.org/israel-emergency-fund](http://ujafedny.org/israel-emergency-fund)) or the ADL (Anti-Defamation League, [supportadl.org](http://supportadl.org)) in lieu of flowers.

A memorial message may be sent to the family by visiting our website at [www.jhenrystuh.com](http://www.jhenrystuh.com).

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The Blue Devils and tight end Jake Thomas proved too elusive to stop against Burke Catholic.

Photo by Skip Pearlman

## Championship *(from Page 24)*

On the second play of Haldane's first drive after the half, Brody Corless burst through a defensive hole for a 61-yard gain. A few plays later, Giachinta worked his magic and scored his second touchdown of the game.

After another two-point conversion, the Blue Devils led 23-6 a minute and a half into the third quarter. Four minutes later, Haldane's rushing attack pounced again, with Van Tassel, on a second-and-17, racing by all of Burke Catholic's defenders for a 62-yard touchdown.

But the Eagles answered immediately, as quarterback Rory Farrell lofted the ball downfield to a wide-open Benzinger, who ran it 58 yards to the Haldane 1. On the next play, the Eagles punched it in for a touchdown, cutting the lead to 29-12.

In the fourth quarter, Giachinta completed the hat trick by scoring his third touchdown of the game from 4 yards out, increasing the lead to 37-12. He finished with 33 carries for 148 yards to go with his three TDs.

Burke Catholic would score once more with 2:37 left, but the Eagles ran out of time to mount a further comeback.

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**SPANISH-LANGUAGE** — 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.

**MATH AND PHYSICS** — I have a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in applied math, plus more than 10 years working in engineering/analytics. Email samber.paul@gmail.com for info.

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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					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS
1. Squid squirt  
4. Beloved  
8. “Ditto”  
12. *The Simpsons* barkeep  
13. Killer whale  
14. Director Kazan  
15. Get older  
16. Feel elated  
18. Two-dot punctuation mark  
20. Triage ctrs.  
21. Calendar entry (Abbr.)  
24. Smiles broadly  
28. Flight costs  
32. “Phooey!”  
33. Hosp. area  
34. Rich cake  
36. Quarterback Manning  
37. Arrears  
39. NPR show hosted by Terry Gross  
41. Thoreau piece  
43. Gym site, for short  
44. Promptly
46. Film trophy  
50. Rock fan’s imaginary instrument  
55. Employ  
56. Satan’s purchase  
57. Separate  
58. Crib  
59. Ginormous  
60. Cookware  
61. Newt
- DOWN
1. Apple computer  
2. NASA scrub  
3. Fall (over)  
4. Memorized  
5. Historic period  
6. Oft-torn knee part, for shot  
7. Yard tool  
8. Had a hunch  
9. Carte lead-in  
10. Roman 1002  
11. Corn spike  
17. Sphere  
19. Klutz  
22. Campus VIP  
23. Towel material  
25. Vicinity  
26. Niger’s neighbor  
27. Swizzle  
28. Staffer  
29. Frozen desserts  
30. Abrades  
31. Goblet feature  
35. Prom dates  
38. Snarl  
40. Owns  
42. One of us  
45. Trace  
47. Rubik’s baffler  
48. “Dream on!”  
49. Monopoly payment  
50 Bonfire residue  
51. Debtor’s note  
52. Bad hairpiece  
53. Overly  
54. Illustrations

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

OWNED

ASHES

MICRO  
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Work on a manuscript  
5. R&B singer Hendryx  
6. Mary’s sister on *Downton Abbey*  
7. \_\_\_\_ diet  
8. Fashion sense
- DOWN
1. Conclude by  
2. Lacy furniture mat  
3. Brand of chips?  
4. Sierra Nevada lake  
6. Mini-albums, briefly

	1	2	3	4
	5			
6				
7				
8				

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

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

A	M	S		
N	I	C	K	S
A	R	O	O	M
G	A	R	B	O
	E	E	G	

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Answers for Nov. 17 Puzzles

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The Blue Devils and wide receiver Brody Corless ran past Burke Catholic for a regional championship.



Quarterback Ryan Van Tassel gets a boost from his teammates after scoring in Friday's win.

Photos by Skip Pearlman

# HALDANE WINS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

## *Advances to state semifinals against Stillwater*

By Jacob Aframian

**R**iding high after their sectional win over rival Tuckahoe, the Haldane Blue Devils beat Section IX winners Burke Catholic, 37-19, to take the Class D Regional Championship on Nov. 17 in an emotional game overshadowed by off-the-field tragedy.

A head-on crash on Route 9 in Philipstown on Nov. 11 killed Joe Stubblefield, the father of Haldane linebacker and kicker/punter Erik Stubblefield. The team dedicated Friday's win to his memory.

"All those guys have been friends for a very long time, and they look out for one another and support one another," said Haldane Coach Ryan McConville.

Stubblefield walked to his mother, Dana Heffernan, after the win and shared an emotional embrace. Joe Stubblefield was known to be loud and proud when watching his son play. "He would be ecstatic right now," Heffernan said. Erik added: "I would always try to show out for him. And now I'm still doing that because I know he's watching me."

If his father had been there, Erik Stubblefield said he would "give him a big hug and tell him I love him."

Haldane moves on to the state semifinals today (Nov. 24) at Middletown High School, where it will play Stillwater (Saratoga County) at 3 p.m.

Stillwater will face a Blue Devils team that scored early and often against Burke Catholic, capping their first offensive drive with a 10-yard run from quarterback Ryan Van Tassel with 8:03 left in the first quarter.



Haldane dedicated its win over Burke Catholic to the memory of Joe Stubblefield, who was killed in a car crash in Philipstown on Nov. 11 and is the father of linebacker and kicker Erik Stubblefield (bottom left in gray hoodie).

On the next possession, however, with 5:33 left in the quarter, Stubblefield suffered an injury in the middle of an Eagles drive when another player stepped on his ankle.

Stubblefield was able to hop off the field with the help of McConville and team trainer Meghan Crowe but would not return to the game. "It's hurting a lot, but I'm going to ice it as much as possible and make myself ready for the next game," he said afterward.

The Blue Devils soon found the end zone again as running back Evan Giachinta muscled his way past Eagles defenders for a touchdown from 2 yards out. With Stubblefield unable to kick the extra point, Haldane went for the two-point conversion

and got it, upping their lead to 15-0 with 9:57 left in the second quarter.

Burke Catholic looked to respond. Needing only a yard on a fourth-and-1 from the Haldane 19, a bad snap by the Eagles allowed Haldane's Michael Murray to recover a fumble. A couple of minutes later, Van Tassel returned the favor, with the quarterback's fumble giving Burke Catholic the ball around the Haldane 33.

With 1:49 left on a third-and-1 from the Blue Devils' 24, Liam Benzinger broke a tackle and scampered in for a Burke Catholic touchdown. The Eagles failed on the two-point conversion, leaving the score 15-6 at the half.

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**CROSS-COUNTRY** — On Nov. 11 in Verona, two Haldane runners — sophomore Owen Powers (left) and freshman Silas Emig — competed in the state championships. Powers finished second among the Section I, Class D runners, in 18:18.40, while Emig had his best time of the season in 19:37.

Photo provided