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DECEMBER 1, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Beacon to Form Fishkill Avenue Committee

Group will study zoning, trails, streetscapes in northeast Beacon

By Jeff Simms

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou plans to create a citizens' committee to develop ideas and advise the City Council on, among other things, the potential rezoning of the Fishkill Avenue corridor.

The mayor said during the Monday (Nov. 27) council meeting that he hopes to name between nine and 11 members by next month. An application is available at beaconny.gov with a Dec. 15 deadline.

Kyriacou said he expects the committee will meet twice monthly for six to nine months. J.C. Calderon, an architect and former Planning Board member, will chair the group.

The committee can determine how it will receive community input, and the city said it will assist with timing and logistics. In a statement that he read Monday, (Continued on Page 7)

New Meeting Rules in Cold Spring Mayor cites threats, harassment

By Michael Turton

he Cold Spring Village Board on Wednesday (Nov. 29) approved policies to combat what Mayor Kathleen Foley described as harassment involving a "First Amendment activist."

Foley said that, since June, the Village Board, Police Department and village staff have been subjected to harassment that has escalated in recent weeks.

Earlier this year Leonard Filipowski, who online sources list as a 59-year-old resident of Fishkill, filed a complaint with the village, alleging he had been abused by Cold Spring police officers when he was issued a traffic ticket and during a subsequent appearance in traffic court.

(Continued on Page 7)

'TIS THE SEASON – Beacon celebrated the beginning of the holiday season at Memorial Park on a chilly Nov. 25 with hot chocolate, coffee, doughnuts, cookies and performances by students from the Yanarella School of Dance, followed by members of the Dutchess Dance Company, who presented "Waltz of the Flowers" from *The Nutcracker*. For more photos, see Page 18. Photo by Ross Corsair

How They Voted

Governor signs round of bills passed by state legislators By Chip Rowe

hrough this week, Gov. Kathy Hochul had enacted 681 bills passed during the 2023-24 legislative session. Sixty-four bills await her signature and she has vetoed 46.

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

Clean slate

On Nov. 16, Hochul signed the Clean Slate Act, which seals the criminal records of people with misdemeanors and all but the most serious felonies, such as murder and sex crimes. Sponsors say this will remove restrictions on people who find

(Continued on Page 9)

Philipstown Proposes Freeze on Large Oil Tanks

Environmental concerns drive call for moratorium By Leonard Sparks

Philipstown is moving to impose a six-month moratorium on projects storing more than 10,000 gallons of oil products as it considers zoning restrictions to protect the environment and drinking water supplies.

Members of the Town Board voted Nov. 22 to schedule a public hearing for Dec. 13 on a draft law declaring that applications for land uses that include storage of oil products will not be "accepted, processed or approved" for six months. The Town Board would be able to extend the moratorium for two additional six-month periods.

Philipstown's zoning code restricts storage tanks and facilities of 400,000 gallons or greater in environmentally sensitive areas. Those areas include the Clove Creek Aquifer Subdistrict, which was created in



The Clove Creek aquifer

2011 and prohibits certain facilities, such as gas stations and landfills, and requires (Continued on Page 7)





FIVE QUESTIONS: ALEXANDRIA GILLEO

By Mackenzie Boric

lexandria Gilleo is a makeup artist \mathbf{A} who owns My Zen Den in Beacon.

You work with many professional athletes. How did that begin?

I grew up playing sports and have always been a sports fan. About 10 years ago, I landed my first gig with ESPN and it slowly grew from there. Working with athletes and actors and other celebrities is a mix of hard work, dedication and being in the right place at the right time. I get new clients largely through word-ofmouth. I love to be a part of the hustle and the grind, and I love people.

How did My Zen Den come about?

I have always suffered from autoimmune conditions, including psoriasis and arthritis, but I didn't start to take care of my health until I was 25, when my dad passed away from a massive stroke. I started to read a lot about movement, nutrition, mental health, physical health. I started to apply all these new tools and tactics, such as red-light therapy, for my psoriasis and joint pain. I have a little red light in a room in my house that I call "my zen den," where I meditate. When the pandemic hit and I wasn't doing any makeup, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to bring my zen den to the community.

> Whydid you choose **Beacon?**

The city is nice because you can walk to everything. I don't think there's many other towns in the Hudson Valley like that. It's small, but it's big. It's also constantly growing with newcomers, people retiring or new families. I felt like it is a place with a lot of different types of people.

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Is there a connection between wellness and beauty?

In my experience, when you start doing the inner work – I'm talking about mental, physical and spiritual, those three elements - when you start nurturing yourself, eating properly, getting enough sleep, creating a skin-care routine and connecting to whatever phase is aligned with you, when you start doing all these things, it shows on the outside. You start elevating and just looking better.

What is your favorite part of running a small business?

I love everything we sell, I love everything we do, but truly, to my core, my favorite part is connecting with people. I met my boyfriend through that space, I met some of my closest friends. I love hearing other people's stories. I get to ask every single person who comes in the door, look them in their eyes: "Hey, how are you doing? Like, really? How are you?" People will just unleash. A lot of people need to talk to someone, or they're looking for a safe space. To me, it is the most fulfilling aspect of business.

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Jace Salcido, Garrison





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From New Member Greg Mercurio, Cold Spring

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FOUNDER Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR Chip Rowe editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR Alison Roonev

arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

Jacob Aframian Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong Joev Asher • Celia Barbour Brian PJ Cronin • Joe Dizney Pamela Doan • Deb Lucke Nick Robbins • Michael Turton

STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

Cadence Heeter (Beacon) Una Hoppe (Beacon) Jude Morrison (Regis) Rachel Thorne (Beacon) Clara Tripp (Fieldston) Lily Zuckerman (Masters)

LAYOUT DESIGNER Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

For information on advertising: 845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare membership@highlandscurrent.org

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon parking

Sounds like a ruse to me ("Beacon to Drop Parking Requirements?" Nov. 24). Has anyone tried to get around the Hudson Valley by public transportation? How have Hudson, Buffalo, Boston and Burlington, Vermont, fared after dropping minimum parking standards for developers? Have rents come down? (I lived in Boston ages ago — it's not a parking city.) Are parking garages coming to Beacon next?

Howard Condyles, via Instagram

Progressive communities that are thriving are realizing that developers and investors won't risk a project if they think (after careful research) they won't be able to sell or rent units without parking. I hope Beacon makes this happen and that communities like Peekskill with a surplus of parking follow suit.

Jim Striebich, via Instagram

Parking, like everything else, is a complicated issue that everyone seems to have an opinion on but few understand. There are two types of people in this context: those for whom car is king and those for whom walking is a way of life.

In the Hudson Valley, the latter is much smaller in size than the former and usually

with much less of the desire to consume. We can eliminate parking minimums for some types of developments but not for business, which is the biggest user of parking resources and the entity with the most to gain.

Parking requires planning, something most municipalities don't want to do because planning for parking simply is not sexy. It's about as uninteresting as trash, another thing that is often an afterthought. What we need are stewards of the public realm who would oversee parking facilities, dead space, potential public spaces, sidewalk life and homelessness as it manifests onto the use of our public spaces for living arrangements. Parking is psychological above all else and does not have a one-size-fits-all answer. Atticus Lanigan, via Instagram

Cold Spring parking

I don't think there is a solution to the problem of parking in Cold Spring because the nature of the village cannot be altered to accommodate the numbers of visitors we have seen this summer, or those that will show up once the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail builds its boardwalk from Dockside Park northward ("In Cold Spring, A Price on Parking," Nov. 17). Somehow, over the decades, a small



factory village became a tourist attraction. Without brutal modification, which nobody wants, the village is simply stuck. To change it to handle the ridiculous level of tourists would likely solve the problem because nobody would want to visit a village that consists mainly of parking meters and parking lots. Then they can all move to Nelsonville - maybe.

Steve Sohn, Philipstown

Four dollars an hour to park? That's more expensive than Greenwich, Connecticut! David Licata, via Instagram

Now can we get the sidewalks fixed? And street lighting?

Timothy Chevtaikin, via Instagram

In response to Bill Pugh's letter in the Nov. 24 issue: The parking-permit program is simple, and its elements have been publicly discussed and explained many times. There is no "process for deciding who gets one." There is no "selection process." There is no "process for allocating" the permits. Instead, every household in the Residential Parking Program area that submits a valid application may receive up to two permits.

When the applications are available, the village will communicate that it's time to apply via email, social media and the village website. Villagers who wish to be kept informed can subscribe to receive updates at coldspringny.gov/subscribe.

Eliza Starbuck, Cold Spring Starbuck is a member of the Village Board.

Fjord Trail data

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Data Committee was created for one reason and one reason only: for HHFT to check off another box ("Fjord Trail Data Concerns," Nov. 10). In the end it can claim it reached out to the municipalities, asking each to participate. However, the process is flawed from the start because the committee's review is based on HHFT's vision and planned boardwalk attraction.

To reflect the true needs and interests of Philipstown and Cold Spring, the Data Committee needs to focus on what the community wants. The original objective was to create safe passage for hikers from Cold Spring to Breakneck. Why not return to what the community supported and add enhanced access to Dockside Park and Little Stony Point for those with disabilities? The original goal can be achieved without creating such a massive blight on the landscape, without bringing more visitors and without turning the Highlands into the "epicenter" of outdoor recreation for the region.

If the concern is accessibility to the so-called

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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"trail" for everyone, then the committee should be asking: How this is accomplished at the other, much heralded, "seven entry points"? If HHFT has figured out how to get folks with disabilities down to the trail from the Dutchess Manor plateau and how they will traverse the other two-thirds of winding forest trail, then they can do the same from the village without using Dockside.

Pointing to HHFT propaganda does not demonstrate that the Data Committee is working in the best interest of the community. However, if readers go to the HHFT website, they will not see the reality of the proposed trail but the romantic vision. A lone person in a wheelchair, on a weathered boardwalk (note the width of approximately 5 feet), taking in the quiet and beauty of nature. Ahhh! What the photo doesn't show is a 12-foot steel- or concrete-surfaced boardwalk with hundreds of visitors, including a peloton of cyclists passing pedestrians and the person in the wheelchair at alarming speed, while a couple with a child, fearing for their lives, are pinned to the 8-foot steel chain link fence as they pass.

None of the photos or renderings shows the throngs of hikers that we now experience coexisting with bikers, families and people with disabilities. The reason is obvious, or at least it should be: HHFT is a developer trying to sell its project. HHFT has hired professional planners and designers to create an illusion — an attractive misrepresentation — to market and generate support from the community.

The "independent" consultant should have been in place for the first meeting, to counter and question information provided by the HHFT consultants.

Dave Merandy, Cold Spring Merandy is a former mayor of Cold Spring.

Does Mr. Merandy really believe he is the first person to think that perhaps HHFT could use the Data Committee to check another "go-the-extra-mile" box? Is everyone a gull or a trout to be caught by tickling?

If the consultant were in place from the first meeting, HHFT would have chosen the consultant, stripping the committee of the independence he implies it lacks. In fact, the first several meetings consisted of a vigorous effort by members to establish boundaries and clearly distinguish the committee from HHFT as an independent entity allowed to put forward its own candidates for the request for proposals and confer with the consultant privately. Since the purpose and subject of those early meetings was, by and large, the consultant selection and simple project review, not data compilation or final model-driven result decision-making, no advantage/disadvantage dynamic was in play.

Merandy's point that the committee is reviewing a HHFT-conceived plan's compilation methodologies — always ready to challenge, always seeking independent validation — is correct. His inference that the role of the committee is to draft, design and engineer an entirely new project is not correct. His further inference that all the years of village input and wishes is lost on this committee is also incorrect. His disregard of the village-defined scope of the committee (whose breadth of tasks is stated in its name) reveals either a careless oversight (in a rush to judgment) or a convenient and conscious disregard of the scope of the committee as clearly, publicly posted by the village itself this past summer.

His call-out of the old four-color brochure treatment is astute, but he is nearly guilty of the same thing at the opposite end of the spectrum with an apocalyptic Thunderdome-to-Little Stony Point scenario.

His point about full accessibility from Dutchess Manor downslope is excellent. When I raised this idea of Dutchess Manor magically being the entry point of choice, my skepticism was triggered more by the impracticality or wishful thinking of visitors "playing along" with adding the extra to-from hike just to get to their Breakneck hike in the first place. However, a one-solution-size-fits-all rationale, that whatever works at Dutchess Manor will work at Dockside, is more of a rhetorical flourish than a solution.

In the final analysis, some critics have accused HHFT of trying to make Data Committee members mouthpieces for its designs while simultaneously expecting committee members be mouthpieces for theirs.

James Labate, Cold Spring Labate is a member of the Data Committee.

The U.S. Access Board, the federal entity that sets standards for accessibility in public settings, is quite clear about not degrading natural areas to create access. Its guidelines state that creating disability access is not advised if "use of manufactured building materials or engineered construction techniques to comply with specific provisions in the technical requirements for trails could fundamentally alter the natural or undeveloped nature of the setting and change the recreational experience."

A river-edge, elevated concrete structure above the river from Cold Spring to Breakneck Ridge would, of course, "fundamentally alter the natural or undeveloped nature of the setting and change the recreational experience." It would be destruction of a natural area in order to provide access to it. Hope Scott, *Philipstown*

Fine wine

I walked past the Champlin & Son shop, now Blacksmith Wines, on the way to school in the 1960s ("Fine Wines at a Price," Nov. 24). There was much clanking of old iron and hammering and busyness.

Mellanie Longpre, *via Facebook*

This place is the best! And tons of bargains.

Craig Muraszewski, via Instagram

Opioid update

Thank you to Lillian Rosengarten for having the courage to share such a personal story and the very useful lessons she learned in the process ("My View: I Could Not Save My Addicted Child," Nov. 17). We cannot build a fence tall enough to prevent others from harming themselves. Lillian and many others did only what was

(Continued on Page 6)

My View Don't Rename Library

By Charles Rangel

T is come to my attention that the Alice Desmond and Hamilton Fish Library in Garrison is discussing changing its name, and that this is being done because of allegations that

former Rep. Hamilton Fish III, the library's co-founder, collaborated with pro-German interests before World War II, thinking that we could and should avoid entering the war.

Among his friends and supporters there were many who disagreed that America should be involved in European problems. I am not a historian, but there was a time when even the late and great Franklin Delano Roosevelt indicated that he would never send our troops abroad.

Having said that, the main thing that I can add to this discussion is that the late Capt. Hamilton Fish Ill was one damn cantankerous patriot and warrior when it came to African Americans and their performance in combat under his leadership. I know much more about racism in the U.S. than I do about fascism in the 1930s, but I can assure you when African Americans — who were known as "Negroes" at the time — needed a friend, Ham Fish III was there.

Most people don't know that our great country refused to allow Negroes to participate even as volunteers in World War I. An exception was made for the 369th Regiment in New York, an all-Black unit. They were trained in segregated facilities, and as our military refused to allow them to fight with U.S. troops, they were sent to Europe to fight alongside French troops. Not only did Capt. Fish help prove that American Negroes were capable of fighting in World War I, he brought his troops home as the most decorated American soldiers that fought in that war.

In 1950, I was a volunteer in the U.S. Army stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington, with an all-Black, 155-mm howitzer artillery unit in an all-white division, then known as the 2nd Indian Head Division. We were the first U.S.-based troops to arrive on the Korean peninsula to help halt the Communists from invading below the 38th parallel, which had been set up by the United Nations to separate North and South Korea after World War II.

By the time I was discharged in 1952, I had a Purple Heart, four battle stars and Korean presidential citations, yet I was not well received in stateside veterans' organizations, whose leadership was largely composed of white men who had served in World War I and World War II.

However, right in my community — only a dozen blocks from where I was born and raised and where I live today — stood the 369th Armory and the home of the Harlem Hellfighters of World War I. They welcomed veterans of every war, including veterans of the Korean War.

The support that I received marked the beginning of the journey of a high school dropout who went on to serve as a member of the House of Representatives for 46 years, culminating eventually in my becoming the first Black chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

> I cite this long history because the 369th played such an important role in the formation of my career and that of the many veterans of World War I who were attending meetings of the 369th Veterans Association. There I heard the stories of the 369th's role in Europe, and the legend of the courageous Capt. Fish battling racism in America

and abroad in order to give Black soldiers an opportunity to defend our great country. It made me more proud than any of the medals I had earned in Korea.

I went on to become president of the Manhattan branch of the 369th Veterans Association and I participated for decades in the parades that we held each year. Black people and Black leaders would come from all over the country to share in our pride as we marched up Fifth Avenue, just as the 369th had marched after their return home from World War I.

Each year as we passed the grandstand, there was one elderly white man, standing tall and erect and proudly saluting the veterans of the 369th. As president of the association, I would return Capt. Fish's salute, while he stood there, in his 80s and later his 90s, saluting the troops. Every year as we marched by the grandstand we could depend on one thing, that Capt. Hamilton Fish would be waiting for us.

Later on, in 1971, I was elected to the House of Representatives and appointed to serve on the Judiciary Committee under the leadership of the late Peter Rodino. To my surprise and delight, the son of Capt. Fish was already an established member of the committee. And later, when we found out that our 369th Regiment had been denied a federal charter, Ham Fish Jr. and I got together with Rodino and we brought home a federal designation for the 369th Veterans Association.

During my 46 years in Congress, I was honored to serve as a kind of political referee between father and son, Capt. Hamilton Fish and my Republican buddy, Ham Fish Jr. One thing is for certain: My hero from World War I was one of the feistiest, most irascible and argumentative conservatives I had ever met, while his son was one of the most gracious and considerate — and reformed — Republicans who sat in the House. It was a privilege for me to deliver messages from one to the other, back and forth, even though thinking back on it I wonder if I made much difference.

You may ask what has all this got to do with the controversy over the naming of the Desmond-Fish Library. I would like to say to the people of Garrison, you should know if you tear down the name of Capt. Hamilton Fish III, then you'll be tearing out the hearts of the proud 369th veterans whom he led with such courage during World War I, a war in which he and the 369th had to fight not only Germans but racism as well.

Rangel, a Democrat, represented Harlem in Congress from 1971 to 2017.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

possible and did it with a heart full of love. J. Carlos Salcedo, *Philipstown*

Clean Hudson

It's so true that people don't listen to the restrictions on eating fish from the Hudson River ("Report: Cleanup Falling Short," Nov. 17). You can cite Environmental Protection Agency data and people will still insist it's "liberal propaganda" or some other thing or another because they aren't seeing these stories in the news.

The only way to make conditions safer is not to depend on the actions of people who aren't hearing about the restrictions (from a source they trust, anyway), but to actually clean the river.

Jen Frankly, *via Facebook*

Weird Beacon

Out-of-town people make changes to make money and stay out of town ("Booming Beacon," Nov. 24). The locals have to live with the New York City influence and transplants move when they are done with Beacon. I drove down Main Street recently. Lots of weird people. Thanks, out-of-towners.

Wayne Theiss, Beacon

Haldane master plan

It is troubling that Haldane's master campus plan, which includes replacing the heating system in the main building, does not call for transitioning to a modern, clean heating/cooling system like the heat pumps installed by the Garrison and Putnam Valley districts ("Haldane Capital Plan Moves Forward," Nov. 24). I commend district leaders for responding to community concerns and agreeing to carefully consider clean-energy options. Since heating systems often last decades, the system they choose will impact the school and the community well into the future.

Electric heat pumps provide both heating and cooling and are much more energyefficient and cost-effective than oil or gas heating systems. Though the upfront cost of heat pumps may be higher, state and federal incentives can lower the price, and since they require significantly less energy to run, heat pumps result in meaningful savings over the lifetime of the equipment.

Heat pumps are also the healthiest option. They support advanced ventilation and filtration systems better than fossilfuel heating systems do and would improve the air quality throughout the building. Because they are combustion-free, heat pumps do not emit the many pollutants that result from burning fossil fuels.

Philipstown is a certified Climate Smart Community, committed to doing everything we can to reduce harmful emissions, and, as a public institution, Haldane has an obligation to help us reduce our shared carbon footprint. Beyond this, by embracing excellent, proven, clean technologies, the school can teach students firsthand about effective solutions to climate change. A school, of all places, should be a leader in the fight for a livable future.

Martha Upton, *Philipstown Upton is the Philipstown Climate Smart coordinator.*

It's great to see the school looking at sustainable heating and cooling systems. In addition, there are other ways to reduce heat loss/gain, and some are already considered in the master plan: zoned heating and cooling systems, reflective roof surfaces, Low-E double-glazed windows and doors, solar fabric window treatments, economizers and heat reclaim (recovery systems).

Before heat pump systems can be contemplated, geological borings will determine if the level of rock drilling for the heat loops is a viable investment. This is anything from a foregone conclusion. Thus there may be a practical reason why the district may be able to specify a heat pump system.

Derek Graham, Cold Spring

Is Haldane kidding? It just built the high school a few years ago [2005]. Was it so poorly planned that they did not include the space needed?

The classrooms smell? What does that even mean? They have to spend \$2.2 million to make sure no more students or teachers die from horrific accidents on school property? How many people have been injured because of poor planning at this school? The HVAC isn't adequate! Who planned this disaster? Are they even considering solar panels or heat pumps to save money? Taxes are already too high for most residents in Philipstown. This is the final reason I need to move out of this area and find a place where taxes are reasonable.

Richard Clark, Philipstown

How many more classrooms do they need? There were only 700 to 800 students even before the new high school opened and we all fit fine. Now there are only around 900.

Steve Smith, via Facebook

I graduated in 2018 and the classrooms had empty seats. This seems like yet another plan to push out the Cold Spring locals, making it impossible to live here affordably with the extra tax costs.

Luke Junjulas, via Facebook

It's disturbing that in such tough economic times the school would push out a project with this magnitude of a price tag. I hope there is a smaller-scale, more-affordable option being considered. It is already expensive to live in Cold Spring, and for good reasons, but this is completely unnecessary. Krista Manzoeillo, *via Facebook*

Absolutely insane. Good luck, people! Becky Polhemus Janes, *via Facebook*



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Meeting Rules (from Page 1)

Under the name Leroy Truth Investigations, Filipowski posts videos on YouTube that outline cases from around the country of what he portrays as egregious police misconduct. His channel has 29,000 followers; a 34-minute video about Cold Spring, posted two months ago, has been viewed nearly 51,000 times.

In another video that has received 40,000 views, he describes Foley as "the meanest mayor in America." After filming at the village's Community Day in July, he posted a video alleging "the people are scared" of local officers. He claims that Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke and Officer Kenneth Baker, who gave him the ticket, should be fired because they were named during past jobs in complaints or lawsuits.

In May, *The Boston Globe* described a scene in which Filipowski and a colleague provoked passersby outside a suburban

public library in what they called a "First Amendment audit, a kind of performative protest that tests their free speech rights by confronting government employees in public places, often provoking objections that generate viewership. For municipal workers, the stunts add to the rash of hostile behavior many face these days."

Filipowski has appeared at several Cold Spring meetings, along with supporters, shooting video, even after he was asked to leave when he became argumentative and disruptive during the public comment period. On one occasion, after a meeting, he and his supporters followed board members across the street to Doug's Pretty Good Pub, where Filipowski was asked to leave by the owner.

Foley said Filipowski's followers on YouTube are prompted to harass public employees and elected officials with aggressive, even threatening phone calls, emails and social media posts. "I have received threats on my life and threats on the lives of my family sufficient to warrant engagement by the district attorney and the FBI," Foley said. "This isn't a game; it isn't a joke. It is reckless, and frankly it's a form of domestic terrorism."

She said in the days after videos are posted village offices are inundated with what she described as disgusting, degrading messages. "The degree of misogyny, racism, sexism and violence in these contacts is simply nauseating," she said.

Under the new policies, recording video or audio anywhere in Village Hall except at public meetings will require permission.

Rules governing the public comment period will also be tightened. Going forward, a majority of the board must agree at each meeting to hear comments.

"We recognize and value a person's right to free speech," Foley said. "But there are appropriate times, places and manners in which those rights can be expressed." DON'T HIT THE DUMMY — Beacon's dummy light, said to be one of only three middle-ofan-intersection traffic lights left in the country, was hit again on

Thanksgiving. The Main Street landmark has been the site of several fender-benders over the last 18 months, so the city's Highway Department on Thursday (Nov. 30) repainted its base and striped the pavement surrounding it with bright yellow paint.

> (left) Photo by Valerie Shively (right) Photo provided

There is no law in New York that requires municipal boards to hear comments except at public hearings. Each board makes its own rules. In a follow-up email, Foley said the Village Board would "consider questions from the press and the public on a case-by-case basis." She added: "It is appropriate and lawful for the board to choose, on a meeting-by-meeting basis, to restrict comment to topics on the current agenda, so that discussions are focused and productive.

"None of us would have chosen to modify the public comment policy in the way we did had we and our staff not faced such pressing, unrelenting threats and chaos in session," she wrote. "The policy does extend flexibility and discretion to the trustees on a meeting-by-meeting basis. It is my hope that our village meetings will return to normal order so that we can continue to be welcoming to residents' desires to speak and engage."

Philipstown Tanks (from Page 1)

special permits for other uses.

But, according to the town, allowing properties to store up to 400,000 gallons of oil represents a significant danger of environmental damage from leaks, spills and the damage to tanks from natural disasters or extreme weather.

"We have identified a flaw in the zoning and are addressing it in an effort to protect the environment, specifically the Clove Creek aquifer," said Supervisor John Van Tassel.

The aquifer, which lies beneath the creek,

Fishkill Avenue (from Page 1)

Kyriacou asked the committee not just to study Fishkill Avenue (Route 52), but also to develop proposals related to a Fishkill Avenue-to-Matteawan Road connector; a possible trail running along the dormant Beacon rail line; and linkages to the Lofts at Beacon apartments, Fishkill Creek and the city's rail trail, which will start at the Metro-North station and, when complete, run along the creek.

Kyriacou said he wanted the committee, which he is calling the Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee, to consider what the Fishkill Avenue streetscape should look like, "recognizing that it is a main thoroughfare into and out of Beacon." Specifically, he asked the group to think about parallels Route 9 from East Mountain Road South to the town's border with Fishkill. Groundwater from the aquifer feeds the wells that supply residents and businesses in the highly developed northern part of Route 9, and the towns of Fishkill and Wappinger, the Village of Fishkill and Beacon.

Along with Foundry Brook, which supplies water for Cold Spring and Nelsonville, the aquifer was identified as a key water source in the most recent Philipstown Comprehensive Plan, which recommends the creation of a watershed coalition to monitor its quality.

building design standards, the proximity

Another topic will be an access route from

Fishkill Avenue to Matteawan Road, which,

if created, would connect Route 52 to Beacon

High School and Rombout Middle School,

Camp Beacon and existing senior hous-

ing developments. "That includes thinking

about bikes, pedestrians and transit along

an access road," Kyriacou said, adding: "If

any additional state land becomes available,

what might be appropriate uses," such as

Other questions for the group will include:

■ What are appropriate bike routes, and

how would they connect to commercial and

How should the proposed rail trail adjacent

light industrial or affordable housing?

residential areas?

of buildings to the street and sidewalks.

The current law applies to "a tank, holding facility, or other container for oil or petroleum of any kind and in any form including but not limited to oil, petroleum fuel oil, oil sludge, oil refuse, oil mixed with other waste, crude oil, gasoline and kerosene." The oil does not have to be for a property's main use; it can also be for "part of the main use, or an accessory use."

If the Town Board passes the version drafted, the moratorium would not apply to applications for single- and two-family housing or applications for multiple housing units "provided that the oil storage

to Route 52 be incorporated into concepts?

■ Could a pocket park be developed alongside the rail trail and where?

■ What spots along Route 52 might be appropriate as viewsheds?

Like the Main Street Access Committee that Kyriacou created in 2020, the Fishkill Avenue committee will have access to the city planner, though it's unknown who that will be. John Clarke, a former Dutchess County planner who was hired in 2016 as a planning consultant, is retiring at the end of the year.

City Administrator Chris White said Wednesday that a new consultant is expected to be hired in January.

The City Council began to discuss rezoning a mile-long stretch of the Fishkill Avenue corridor three months ago, after four sizable facility involved in the development is the minimum necessary to meet the needs of the proposed development and does not exceed 10,000 gallons."

Commercial developments would be exempt if the oil-storage facility is to be used solely for consumption on-site; the capacity is the minimum necessary for the development's needs; and the capacity does not exceed 10,000 gallons.

Property owners applying for "expansion, alteration or modification" of storage facilities that do not call for an increase in size or capacity also would be exempt.

parcels owned by the Healey Brothers auto dealerships were listed for sale. The goal, council members said, would be to encourage mixed-use development that would include affordable housing and create a more walkable, "Main Street-type" feel for the area.

As proposed, the rezoning would have affected about 30 properties between Memorial Park and Mill Street. However, a group of about 70 residents sent the council a petition asking that parcels in the corridor on Mead Avenue remain residential.

The council seemed close to scheduling a public hearing in October when Kyriacou said he thought the city might be moving too fast. The creation of a zoning district, he said, would be more appropriate to discuss during the city's next update to its comprehensive plan, which is expected in 2027.

NEWS BRIEFS

Ryan Introduces Bill to Ban Anchorages

Says language would clarify 2021 law

Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, on Nov. 16 introduced a bill that would ban barges from anchoring for extended periods on the Hudson River between Yonkers and Kingston, including locations in the Highlands.

The proposed Hudson River Protection Act, introduced with Rep. Marc Molinaro, a Republican whose district includes northern Dutchess County, would amend a 2021 law to remove "any uncertainty related to geographic definitions," Ryan said in a statement.

The 2021 law states that the Coast Guard "shall suspend the establishment of new anchorage grounds" between Yonkers and Kingston. The Coast Guard said in a July directive that, in retrospect, the law only applies to waters in the Port of New York, which extends to the Mario Cuomo Bridge at Tarrytown, and that barges were free to anchor as long as needed north of that point. Its directive has since been put on hold.

Ryan's bill would add a line to the law stating that the Coast Guard will prohibit

any vessel anchoring between Yonkers and Kingston except at anchorage grounds established before Jan. 1, 2021.

Putnam Valley Adopts Short-Term Rental Law

Regulations require permits, inspections

A fter five public hearings, the Putnam Valley Town Board on Nov. 15 approved short-term-rental regulations that include a permit system and mandatory annual safety inspections.

After a three-month grace period that ends in February, residents or companies that want to offer short-term rentals booked through sites such as Airbnb must obtain a special permit from the Planning Board and pay a \$500 fee per unit, along with \$500 in escrow and \$100 annually for inspections.

The regulations limit rentals to singlefamily homes and require a local manager who lives within 30 miles of Town Hall. The annual fire and safety inspections, conducted by the Building Department, will include any owner-occupied units.

Permits will be valid for three years. No owner can have more than three at any time

Real Estate Market Report (October)

	Dou		1 1111195				
	2022	2023	2022	2023			
New Listings	7	5	8	11			
Closed Sales	6	6	6	5			
Days on Market	46	21	38	33			
Median Price	\$550,665	\$665,000	\$657,000	\$655,000			
% List Received	99.7	106.1	98.4	97.8			
Inventory	25	22	36	40			

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



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(one owner-occupied and two non-owneroccupied). When an owner applies for a permit, the town will notify every neighbor within 200 feet of the property.

Beacon Market Gets Full-Time Manager

Common Ground expands role and fills job

Common Ground Farm, which runs the Weekly Beacon Farmers Market, on Monday (Nov. 27) announced it had expanded the role of market manager to full-time and promoted Amy Bandolik to the position.

Bandolik will assume her new role this month and continue her responsibilities as market community engagement manager at Common Ground. She is also the founder and owner of Hudson Valley Food & Farm Tours.

The market, which attracts about 2,000 visitors each week, operates year-round in the DMV parking lot at 223 Main St., rain or shine, on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Toys for Tots Underway

Local program honors Anthony Phillips

The Toys for Tots program, sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve, this year marks its 30th anniversary in Philipstown but without its longtime leader.

Anthony Phillips Sr., a Marine veteran who organized the toy drive for years, died Nov. 9 at age 83. The Knights of Columbus Loretto Council No. 536 has announced it will take over the program, which is now the Anthony Phillips Toys for Tots Memorial Drive. (Phillips was also a member of the Knights.)

New, unwrapped toys may be donated through Dec. 19 at the Butterfield Library, Downey Energy, Drug World and Foodtown in Cold Spring or Deb's Hair Design in Nelsonville.

The toys will be distributed Dec. 20 to Philipstown residents from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Cold Spring firehouse. For information, call Dan Dillon at 845-519-7769.

Boscobel in Garrison is also collecting toys. In Beacon, they may be dropped at the Howland Public Library, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Healey Hyundai, Healey Chrysler, or Chemprene Inc.; and in Fishkill at the village or town police departments, the I-84 Diner and All Sport.

Garrison Begins Superintendent Search

Will host forum on Dec. 5

The Garrison school district will host a forum on Tuesday (Dec. 5) to discuss its search for a new superintendent following the retirement in September of Carl Albano.

Albano is serving as the interim superintendent for the remainder of the 2023-24 academic year. The school board has hired District Wise Search Consultants to assist with finding his successor.

The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the school's Learning Commons. A Zoom link is also available; see gufs.org. District residents can likewise provide confidential feedback by emailing gufssuptsearch@ districtwisesearch.com through Jan. 17. Emails received after that date will be forwarded anonymously to the board.

Beacon High Will Add to Hall of Fame

Former athletes, coach and team to be enshrined

Beacon High School will induct three members of the Class of 1973 (Dave Eraca, baseball, and Rodney Paulin and Joe Simmons, basketball); two members of the Class of 2018 (Jummie Akinwunmi, track and field, and Lenny Torres Jr., baseball); the 2012 softball team, which won a sectional championship; and longtime basketball coach Randy Casale into its Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 5.

The induction ceremony will be held from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Rocco's Society, 26 South Chestnut St. To reserve a seat, email biordi.c@beaconk12.org by Dec. 15.

Gereghty Drops Out of House Race

Endorses campaign by Jones to challenge Lawler

L iz Whitmer Gereghty said on Wednesday (Nov. 29) that she is suspending her campaign for the 17th Congressional District, which includes Philipstown, and will endorse fellow Democrat Mondaire Jones for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Gereghty, an entrepreneur who is a member of the Katonah-Lewisboro school board and the younger sister of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, in April was the first declared challenger to Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican who in 2022 upset incumbent Sean Patrick Maloney.

Jones, a former congressman who represented District 17 before redistricting changed its boundaries and Maloney opted to run for the seat, launched his campaign in July.

Handling the Heat

State offers savings programs

New York State offers assistance for homeowners who struggle with energy costs over the winter. They include:

• *Home Energy Assistance Program* - HEAP provides up to \$976 to homeowners and renters depending on income and house-hold size (e.g., a family of four with a maximum monthly gross income of \$5,838, or about \$70,000 annually). See otda.ny.gov/ programs/heap.

• *Energy Affordability Program* - This initiative provides income-eligible consumers with a discount on their monthly electric and/or gas bills. New Yorkers can be enrolled automatically if they receive benefits from a government assistance program. See dps.ny.gov/winter.

• *New York Energy Advisor* - This site helps income-eligible New Yorkers locate programs to get help paying utility bills and receive offers on heating assistance. See energyadvisor.ny.gov.

How They Voted (from Page 1)

their criminal records are obstacles to employment, housing or education.

Under the law, misdemeanor convictions will be automatically sealed three years after sentencing if there are no further convictions or pending charges, while lower-level felony convictions will be sealed eight years after sentencing or the completion of a prison term, parole or probation.

The law goes into effect in November 2024; the state Office of Court Administration has until late 2027 to identify and seal existing records. By one estimate, more than 2 million convictions will be sealed, although they will be still be accessible to law enforcement, judges, prosecutors and for background checks when hiring teachers, day care workers and police officers, and for gun permits.

"The Clean Slate Act removes a huge obstacle for people who have served their time and are trying to become productive New Yorkers," Levenberg said in a statement. "I have seen firsthand how genuine rehabilitation efforts, like Hudson Link [in Ossining] prevent recidivism by helping people develop the ability to get what they need through legal means. Other states with similar legislation have seen crime rates go down and employment go up."

Rolison opposed the law, saying in a statement that it "constitutes an unbelievable new social contract in which ordinary citizens are under state-sanctioned gag orders. unable to ask basic questions of those to whom they are entrusting property such as an apartment or hiring for a job at a familyrun business." He said "the law makes no exceptions for hate crimes where the underlying offense is less than a Class A felony; no exceptions for domestic violence offenses; no exceptions for assaults on police and firefighters; no exceptions for home invasions and homicides other than murder."

Passed by Senate, 37-25 Rolison 🗵

Passed by Assembly, 82-69 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

Liquor sales

On Oct. 14, Hochul signed legislation to expand the availability of alcohol on Sundays, including:

■ Allowing liquor and wine stores to open as early as 10 a.m. (from noon) and close as late as 10 p.m. (from 9 p.m.), if a county agrees.

Passed by Senate, 59-0 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 143-3 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

Removing a restriction on retail beer sales between 3 a.m. and 8 a.m., making beer available over the counter 24-7.

Passed by Senate, 53-8 Rolison 🔽

Passed by Assembly, 143-3 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

Veterans

On Nov. 10, Hochul signed legislation that expands eligibility as of April 1 from disabled veterans to all veterans and Gold Star families for free lifetime access to parks, historic sites and recreational facil-



Jacobson

ities operated by the state. See parks.ny.gov/ admission/lifetime-liberty-pass.aspx. Passed by Senate, 62-0

Rolison 🗹 Passed by Assembly, 142-0

Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

Hochul also signed a law to establish a program called V.I.P. NY that will set aside 10 percent of paid internships in the Assembly and Senate for veterans recruited through county service agencies.

Passed by Senate, 58-0 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 149-0 Jacobson ☑ Levenberg ☑

Doula directory

On Nov. 6, Hochul signed a law that requires the Department of Health to create a directory of doulas in anticipation of birthing services being covered by Medicaid as of Jan. 1.

Passed by Senate, 61-0 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 145-0 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

MTA and disability

On Nov. 20, Hochul enacted a law that requires at least one voting member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board to be "transit dependent" because of a physical disability. The governor appointed to the position Dr. John-Ross Rizzo, a specialist in rehabilitation medicine and adaptive technology at NYU Langone Health in New York City, who has had vision loss since he was a child.

Passed by Senate, 62-0 Rolison 🔽

Passed by Assembly, 142-4

Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

AED for sports

On Nov. 24, Hochul signed legislation that requires camps and youth sports programs with five or more teams to establish automated external defibrillator (AED) guidelines and to have at every camp, game and practice at least one employee, volunteer, coach, umpire or other adult who is trained on the device. AEDs are used in response to cardiac arrest.

Passed by Senate, 62-0 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 144-5 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

Power lines

On Nov. 22, Hochul enacted a law that allows a report from a resident to trigger a 36-hour deadline for a utility to secure a



downed power line. Under the previous law, only a report from a municipal emergency official could start the clock.

Passed by Senate, 61-1 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 144-2 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

Freelance payments

On Nov. 22, Hochul signed legislation known as the Freelance Isn't Free Act, modeled after a New York City law passed in 2017 to protect independent contractors from "wage theft" by clients.

The law requires anyone paying a freelancer at least \$800 within a three-month period to provide a written contract and payment within 30 days unless agreed otherwise. The state Department of Labor will provide model contracts and an administrative process for resolving disputes, and the state attorney general can pursue legal action on behalf of freelancers.

The law excludes sales representatives, lawyers, medical professionals and construction contractors. It also excludes. as hirers, local governments.

A spokesperson for Rolison said the senator opposed the bill because it creates a "new, large-scale program" at the Department of Labor to investigate and adjust disputes but provides no funding, "which is why the governor took the correct action in 2022 to veto it."

Passed by Senate, 43-15 Rolison 🗵

Passed by Assembly, 144-1 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

Drug-testing strips

On Nov. 19. Hochul enacted a law named for Matthew Horan, a Westchester County man who died in 2020 of a fentanyl overdose. that will allow health care professionals and pharmacists to distribute up to five strips at a time that can be used to test for fentanyl or xylazine, which are often added to street drugs but are deadly in amounts as tiny as the equivalent of 10 grains of salt. Since New York State began offering test strips online earlier this year, it has received more than 3.4 million orders. The law takes effect Dec. 19.

Passed by Senate, 61-0 Rolison 🔽

Passed by Assembly, 144-1 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹

Tenant rights

On Nov. 17, Hochul signed bills that:

Require owners of apartment buildings to provide the names and contact information of residents to first responders during emergencies such as a fire, gas leak, building collapse or natural disaster. Under the law,

the list cannot be used for any other purpose. The law was prompted by a fire in 2019 in Yonkers in which emergency personnel had trouble getting a list of the 86 residents to ensure everyone had been evacuated.

Passed by Senate, 44-17 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 142-3 Jacobson 🗹 🛛 Levenberg 🗹

Ban anyone from installing a keyless security device to gain access to a common area of a residential building without the written approval of the manager or board. The law was prompted by Amazon's Key for Business program, which allows its drivers to unlock apartment-building doors with a mobile device. According to the bill's sponsors, an Amazon device was installed on a building in Westchester without the knowledge of the tenants or manager, who found it only after having problems with security access.

Passed by Senate, 61-0 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 147-0 Jacobson ☑ Levenberg ☑

■ Allow the executor, administrator or legal representative of a renter who has died to terminate the lease with written notice to the landlord and payment to date. The sponsors said the legislation will allow units to be more quickly returned to the market.

Passed by Senate, 57-1 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 139-0 Jacobson 🗹 🛛 Levenberg 🗹

Ballot measure language

On Nov. 17, Hochul enacted a law that requires proposed constitutional amendments and other ballot measures to be written using a "plain-language" standard. Specifically, the language must be at or below an eighth-grade reading level and with no more than 15 words for the title, 30 words for the question and 30 words for a statement of the practical impact of a ves or no vote.

The law also mandates that the state Board of Elections release the wording of ballot measures at least four months before the election, for public comment.

Passed by Senate, 61-0 Rolison 🗹

Passed by Assembly, 145-0 Jacobson 🗹 Levenberg 🗹



www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



AROUND TOWN

LEARNING POWER – The Beacon Elks recently recognized Rombout Middle School students and teachers for their achievements during October. From left: special education teacher Tristyn Koren, eighth grader **Gabriel Peluso, seventh** grader Divine Morris, sixth grader Regan Laug and science teacher Jennette Lynch. They are joined by Cathy Oken and Jeanine McAuley of the Elks and teachers Kristen Simms and Laura Briehof. Photo provided



▲ TURN HERE — The merchants and organizations on Garrison's Landing on Nov. 16 celebrated a newly installed sign at the corner of Route 9D and Lower Station Road that directs visitors to the Philipstown Depot Theatre, Dolly's Restaurant, the Garrison Art Center and Antipodean Books, Maps & Prints. Photo by Chloe Wareham-Gordon

◄ HISTORY AWARDS – The Beacon Historical Society presented its annual awards at the Roundhouse on Nov. 9. Honorees included volunteer firefighters from the city's three companies. Fifty-year members are seated in the first row. The society also honored the late Joanne MacDonald, who taught at Sargent Elementary and led the Tioronda Garden Club, and Ian MacDonald, who served as a city judge and county attorney, for the couple's service to the community. Photo provided



▲ SERVING SENIORS — Fifth graders at Sargent Elementary School hosted their annual Thanksgiving luncheon on Nov. 16 for Beacon seniors. Photo provided



THE COLD SPRING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS COLSSING 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

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The Calendar



Amelia Alayon

Our Small Town

Haldane Drama to present classic Thornton Wilder play

By Alison Rooney

decade ago, Martha Mechalakos, who heads Haldane Drama, chose Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* as the high school's fall play. Though perennially one of the country's most-produced high school plays, it had a specific resonance in Philipstown, to the extent that it felt almost as if it had been written here.

Her choice represented many firsts, most notably Haldane Drama's first production of "serious" literature. The success of the show "inspired me to keep bringing great literature to the students," Mechalakos says. She cites Sean McNall, a Haldane school board member and director of education at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, who said: "Plays studied as literature in school are not meant to be experienced in 'wretched isolation.' One needs to put them on the stage, and let the students experience the play from the inside out."

In the ensuing years, Haldane Drama has presented everything from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to *The Laramie Project*, about the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in Wyoming.

Within the 10-year gap, Mechalakos has seen two collective groups of students pass through the high school on the hill. "It was time to bring this magnificent play to a new group of students," she says. "I would like to think that I've learned a lot in the past nine years. Though I'm incorporating many of the same ideas, much will be new and all of it is with a new group."

Mechalakos says she particularly enjoys working on *Our Town* because the scenes are small and not peppered with too many characters, which lets her "work each scene with the students, talking about what each character is saying and doing." Once again, owing to the popularity of the school's drama program, Mechalakos has doublecast the production, which means every auditioning student gets cast.

The leading part of the Stage Manager is ambitious, with pages of uninterrupted text. The role is daunting even to experienced professional actors. Taking up the mantle will be senior Percy Parker and freshman Lincoln Wayland. *The Current* posed a few questions to them — and to junior Amelia Alayon and sophomore Molly Bernstein, who share the role of Emily — relating to Cold Spring and its fictitious equivalent, Grover's Corners.

In the first scenes, the Stage Manager conveys the setting, citing Main Street, the railway station, churches, Town Hall, the grocery store, the cemetery and "the same names as are around here now." Did that sound familiar?

WAYLAND: Yes, except for the last part. That isn't to say there aren't a lot of generational families here, but I feel that in the last 10 to 20 years a lot of "city people" have moved into the village, my family being one of them. The description of the town, however, is uncannily accurate. Especially the part about all the churches — six in Grover's Corners, five here. The parallels between our community and the fictional one are kind of remarkable.

PARKER: Cold Spring is so similar to Grover's Corners, I think it would be impossible not to think of it throughout the show. When I say, "On the whole, things don't change much around here," I picture myself at 3 years old, walking to preschool on the same road I take to rehearsal now at 17. It's such an emotional show to be doing as a senior, and I can only hope that the love I have for Cold Spring is reflected in my character's love for his small town.



Lincoln Wayland



Molly Bernstein



Percy Parker

ALAYON: Envisioning Grover's Corners as Cold Spring makes the acting part a lot easier. During *Our Town*, you see Emily grow up. I share a lot of characteristics with her, and I am seeing how she took Grover's Corners for granted in her life.

BERNSTEIN: I have always pictured Cold Spring as similar to Grover's Corners. The sun over the mountains in the morning is something that only people who live here truly understand, and it makes living here so special.

One of the Stage Manager's lines is: "You're 21 and you make a few decisions then — whisssh, you're 70 — and that white-haired lady at your side has eaten over 50,000 meals with you. How do such big things begin?" As a teenager, can you relate to that idea?

BERNSTEIN: In many ways, as a person gets older, life tends to go quicker. I've been noticing this more over the past few school years, especially high school.

ALAYON: I don't really relate to that idea yet, but I know I will. All I hear from adults is about how fast time moves! I see how quickly each grade goes by. It felt like just yesterday I

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

was a freshman, and now I will have to start looking at colleges! I try to make an effort to live in the moment, but it is difficult.

WAYLAND: I believe the decisions you make when you're young — particularly in high school and college — will profoundly affect the rest of your life. And that as you age, the years start to go by faster and faster. You can blink and it'll be over.

Thinking of *Our Town*, what would you consider the "soul" of Cold Spring?

PARKER: It's the teenagers. Maybe I'm biased, but there's something special about growing up with the same kids, making it from kindergarten to grade 12 together. We've all become vastly different. Football players, mathematicians, poets ... We'll go off on our own paths soon enough, and if we go away, each of us will have to try to explain what it was to grow up in this little village on the Hudson. The greatest part is no one but us will understand.

Our Town will be performed at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 at the Haldane auditorium, 15 Craigside Drive, in Cold Spring. Tickets are \$12, or \$5 for students and seniors online (bit.ly/haldane-our-town) or at the door.

THE WEEK AHEA

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

COMMUNITY

THURS 7

Pearl Harbor Day BEACON

11 a.m. Memorial Building 413 Main St.

The ceremony will mark the 82nd anniversary of the surprise 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that prompted the U.S. to join World War II.

THURS 7 **Butterfield History Trivia Night COLD SPRING**

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

Test your smarts about the life of Julia Butterfield, who was born 200 vears ago, in person or via livestream. The event is co-hosted by the Butterfield Library. Register online.

Writing Contest Awards & Walking Tour **COLD SPRING**

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

The library will announce the winners of its student essay contest to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of its namesake, Julia Butterfield, followed by a short walking tour related to her life.

STAGE & SCREEN

SUN 3 Joe Gatto's Night of Comedy POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. MJN Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza midhudsonciviccenter.org The comedian from Impractical

Jokers will do stand-up for his latest tour. Cost: \$52 to \$74

FRI 8

Our Town COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigside Drive haldaneschool.org

Haldane Drama will present Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prizewinning play. Also SAT 9. See Page 11. Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors)

FRI 8 **Different Johns**

PUTNAM VALLEY 7:30 p.m.

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peekskill Hollow Road tompkinscorners.org

The 2020 documentary about John Cohen – musician, photographer, filmmaker and a founding member of the cultural center - chronicles his life and projects. Cost: \$10



Tesh and his seven-piece band play hits from his holiday recordings. Cost: \$45 to \$75

SUN 10 Holiday Tours

BEACON Noon – 3 p.m. Mount Gulian

145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org Tour the historic mansion, which has been decorated for the holidays. Also Dec. 13 to 17. Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 6 to 18, ages 6 and younger free)

SUN 10

Nutcracker, **Short and Sweet** PEEKSKILL

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

This one-hour production features dancers from the Hudson Valley. Cost: \$20

SUN 10 Christmas Concert

COLD SPRING 4 p.m. Methodist Church

216 Main St. | highlandschapel.org This Highlands Choral Society concert will include Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio. Donations welcome. Free

SUN 10

Cirque Dreams Holidaze WEST POINT

4 p.m. Ike Hall | 655 Pitcher Road 845-938-4159 | ikehall.com Circus artists will combine

storytelling and choreography for this holiday performance. Cost: \$48

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SAT 2

Christmas Fair BEACON

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. St. Joachim's

51 Leonard St. | stjoachim-stjohn.org Shop for gifts, décor and jewelry. There also will be raffles, food and children's crafts. Also SUN 3.

SAT 2 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. Also SUN 3, FRI 8, SAT 9, SUN 10. Through Dec. 22.

SAT 2

Jazz for the Season **COLD SPRING**

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

Art Labriola (piano). Lew Scott (bass) and Mike LaRocco (drums) will

perform jazz favorites and holiday songs. Donations welcome. Free

SAT 2

Tree Lighting and Santa Visit **COLD SPRIN**

4 p.m. Bandstand Girl Scouts will be singing carols and there will be hot chocolate before Santa arrives by firetruck for a visit.

SAT 2 **Friends of the Library Annual Party**

GARRISON

5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org Celebrate the season and honor



Wreath-Making Workshop

GARRISON

SUN 3

BEACON

THURS 7

4 - 7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org The Parcel Flower Co. will host this workshop on how to make holiday décor with dried flowers. foraged materials and evergreens.

Cost: \$80

A Christmas Memory

15 South Ave. | bit.ly/ramsey-2023

Capote's holiday classic. Cost: \$25

Scott Ramsey will read Truman

6 p.m. St. Andrew's Church

The Nutcracker

9:45 a.m. and Noon. Bardavon

will perform the classic dance

10. Cost: \$36 (\$31 member, \$30

members). Also SAT 9, SUN

The New Paltz Ballet Theatre

Also FRI 8. Cost: \$15 (\$7 children.

35 Market St. | bardavon.org

POUGHKEEPSIE



4 - 8 p.m. Main Street

coldspringnychamber.com Enjoy a lit-up stroll with entertainment, a pop-up exhibit at the Putnam History Museum and holiday shopping.

Tree Lighting and Santa Visit, Dec.

Hanukkah Celebration

4 - 9 p.m. St. Mary's | 1 Chestnut St. philipstownreformsynagogue.org

Synagogue invites the community

6 p.m. Bardavon

35 Market St. | dutchessny.gov/show

sensory-friendly performance by the New Paltz Ballet Theatre will be adjusted to accommodate children

SAT 9 John Tesh

SAT 9

NEWBURGH

845-913-7157

Season of Light

newburghsymphony.org

4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College

Orchestra's program at Aquinas

choral music and a Hanukkah

\$30 to \$75 (students free)

song, "Eight Days of Light." Cost:

The Greater Newburgh Symphony

Hall will include Pachelbel's Canon,

- PEEKSKILL 8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
- paramounthudsonvallev.com In A Jazzy Swingin' Christmas,



An In-Depth Look at the Hudson River

Register at desmondfishlibrary.org/events/month/2023-12/

children)

with noted science educator Steve Stanne Steve has worked for Clearwater, and the DEC, and will draw on 40 years of experience to discuss ecology, tides, fish species, present areas of concern, etc. Free. Putnam Highlands Audubon

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FRI 8 COLD SPRING

The Philipstown Reform to share in the celebration.

FRI 8 **The Nutcracker**

POUGHKEEPSIE

The lighting and sound at this of all abilities. Register online. Free

SAT 9 **Carnival of the Animals COLD SPRING** 11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m. Chapel Restoration

45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org For this children's concert of Camille Saint-Saens' musical suite, violinist Rachel Evans and eight other musicians will be accompanied by a "crankie" with hand-drawn illustrations projected on the wall. Cost: \$25 (\$10 children)

SAT 9 Improv

BEACON

7 p.m. The Yard

4 Hanna Lane | bit.ly/improv-yard

Newcomers can sign up to be paired with an experienced partner and then The Bank will do a set. Cost: \$15

SAT 9

Fools Mass BEACON

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

Now it in 25th season, the Dzieci Theatre's seasonal performance is set in the 14th century during the plague; the village idiots must create their own Mass because the priest is dead. Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)

SUN 10 Sherry Vine: Oy to the World

Noon & 6 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar 173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com The half-Jewish drag performer's



TALKS & TOURS

SAT 2 **Naturalization Workshop** BEACON

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

Specialists will assist with forms and applications and answer questions.

SAT 9

An In-Depth Look at the Hudson River GARRISON

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

Science educator Steve Stanne will discuss life in the river, tides, food webs and issues of concern during this presentation hosted by the library and the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 2 **Small Works Show** BEACON

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Beahive 6 Eliza St. | beaconarts.org

The multimedia exhibit organized by BeaconArts showcases local artists. Most pieces are priced at \$150. Through Dec. 23.



Morocco: Timeless Beauty, Dec. 3

SUN 3

Morocco: Timeless Beauty CROTON

2 - 4 p.m. Croton Free Library 171 Cleveland Drive Local artist Ron Hershey's photos

of his travels throughout the country will be on view through Dec. 28.

SAT 9 Hiding in Plain Sight GARRISON

5 - 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960 garrisonartcenter.org

Jessica Brier was the juror and curator for the annual PHOTOcentric show. Sky Pape's works on paper also will be on view. Through Jan. 7.

SECOND SATURDAY

5 – 9 p.m. Clutter 139 Main St. | clutter.co

Work by more than 200 artists will be available for less than \$350. Through Jan. 5.

Studio Work

6 - 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects 484 Main St. | supersecret projects.com This exhibit will feature works by gallery members that isn't usually exhibited because it's experimental or new.

Linda Lauro-Lazin | **Forged in Fire** BEACON

6 - 8 p.m. BAU Gallery 506 Main St. | baugallery.org In Gallery 1, Lauro-Lazin's paintings in Desire Lines: Phantom Geographies respond to digital technology. In Gallery 2, works by ceramic artists Barbara Allen, Meg Beaudoin, Sarah Fox and Eileen Sackman will be on display. Through Jan. 7.

KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 5 Play-Doh Party

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

beaconlibrary.org Children ages 4 to 10 are invited to



TUES 5 **Handmade Gifts** GARRISON

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

Children can use tools in the Makerspace to craft gifts and art. Registration required.

(Continued on Page 14)



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS YOUR

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FULL CALENDAR AT BOSCOBEL.ORG

SAT 9 **Gift Wrapped**

BEACON

SAT 9

BEACON

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)

THURS 7

Hanukkah Latke GARRISON

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

Children ages 5 to 11 will learn about the Jewish festival of lights by making latkes and playing dreidel. Registration required.

MUSIC

SAT 2 **Molly Mason and** Jay Ungar BEACON

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

The family band, including Mike & Ruthy (of The Mammals), will play holiday-themed American roots music. Cost: \$25 (\$40 door)

SAT 2 Scott Bradlee'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 cultural center's house band, Guthrie's Ghost, will perform with 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

pay tribute to the famed duo. 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** PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039 paramounthudsonvallev.com In this annual "musical



showdown," tribute bands will seek to settle the question about which is the greatest band. Cost: \$40 to \$70

FRI 8 **Bell Bottom Blues** BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com This tribute band plays the music of Eric Clapton from all his bands. including Cream and Derek and the Dominos. Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)

SAT 9 Mike LaRocca Trio

BEACON 7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar 173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com The group will play jazz from

swing to ballads and blues. Free SAT 9

Sloan Wainwright & Friends BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com For her 23rd annual holiday

show. Wainwright will be joined by the Sloan Flakes and others. Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)

CIVIC

MON 4 **City Council** BEACON

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

MON 4

Dutchess Legislature POUGHKEEPSIE 7 p.m. Chambers | 22 Market St.

845-486-2100 | dutchessny.gov This will be a public hearing on the county budget for 2024.

TUES 5

Vote on Bus Transportation GARRISON 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Garrison School

1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689 gufs.org

TUES 5 Superintendent **Search Forum** GARRISON

6:30 p.m. Garrison School

1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689 gufs.org

Join in person or via Zoom.

TUES 5 **School Board**

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Auditorium | 15 Craigside Drive 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 5 Putnam Legislature

CARMEL 7 p.m. Historic Courthouse

44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800 putnamcountyny.com

WED 6

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

WFD 6 **School Board**

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

THURS 7

Town Board COLD SPRING 7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.

845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

TWO DAY EVENT OF DISCOUNTS, SPECIALS, RAFFLES, FUNDRAISERS AND EXTENDED HOURS.



THURSDAY FRIDAY 12/14 + 12/15 2023 2023





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Keep the trail on the ground & out of the river.

In 2007, Philipstown produced a feasibility study for trails leading from Cold Spring to Breakneck Ridge. That study identified two options; both are simple and on the ground. Neither require the massive construction needed for the Fjord trail plan now being forced upon our community.

As a community, let's re-examine all alternatives and build a trail system that will:

- Protect hikers, nature and our quality of life.
- Limit visitation by implementing a free hiking pass system.
- Improve access to Little Stony Point for visitors with disabilities.
- Align the new trails with existing trails for easy access.





ProtectTheHighlands.org

AROUND THE REGION

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

Dear Philipstown Residents,

HHFT is happy to share that **we have officially answered all 210 questions submitted by residents** in advance of the May 8, 2023 Joint Public Session on the Fjord Trail, hosted by The Villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville and the Town of Philipstown.

The municipalities collected the 210 questions from the community (64 residents submitted questions) and then asked community members to rank their top five priority questions. The 15 questions that received the highest ranking were given to HHFT and NYS Parks to answer at the public meeting.

HHFT wanted to ensure that all residents who took the time to submit questions would have theirs answered. We committed to answering the remaining 195 questions, and did so over the course of the 195 days that followed the event.

All questions and answers are available to view at hhft.org/frequently-asked-questions/#may8



Answers are searchable by keyword, or, if you submitted a question, you can search by your own name.

Thank you to all who submitted questions and engaged in this process! We hope you find the provided information useful.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue on the Fjord Trail project in the coming months. We know getting it right matters.

visit **hhft.org** (F) HudsonFjord (O) fjord_trail

Sincerely, The Fjord Trail Team lustrations: Donna Calcave

Kingston: Church to Music Space

A violinist has proposed transforming the long-vacant Methodist Church into a music school and performance venue. Tom Krueger shared his proposal with the city Planning Board last month, according to the *Daily Freeman*. He envisions the Kingston Music Initiative in the bacement

Kingston Music Initiative in the basement and a concert hall in the former sanctuary. "It has beautiful sound," he said of the space. He said he didn't anticipate attendance would exceed what the church had when active. The former parsonage could house musicians in residency, he said, and the church's owners said they would donate the structure to the music school if the Planning Board were open to the project.

City Planner Sue Cahill offered her endorsement: "It's an excellent adaptive reuse," she said. The church, built in 1868, formerly housed a homeless shelter and wedding space before being sold to its current owners in 2019 for \$687,500.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE – A trio from the Doansburg Chamber Ensemble – harpist Joy Plaisted of Garrison, flutist Christine Smith of Brewster and violist Ina Litera of New York City – performed works by Claude Debussy, Jacques Ibert and Sonny Burnette at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring on Nov. 25. Photo by Ross Corsair

What's Online at HighlandsCurrent.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 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.

Community Calendar

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

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.

Shakespeare Festival Unveils Theater Design



This is a rendering of the view from inside the open-air theater. For more images, see highlandscurrent.org. Studio Gang

Groundbreaking expected in 2024

By Leonard Sparks

he curtain opened Tuesday (Nov. 28) on the open-air theater that an architecture firm is designing for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's new home at the former Garrison Golf Course.

Studio Gang released designs for the curved-roof, timber-framed structure, which will replace the fabric tent that HVSF used during its run of more than 30 years at Boscobel in Garrison and for the last two seasons at the former golf course.

The 13,850-square-foot structure will be the first purpose-built theater in the country with platinum certification by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), according to HVSF. Its plans include solar panels, rainwater capture, reduced embedded carbon, and other elements. It will sit amid vegetative screening.

"Studio Gang and the team have met the moment with a design that is not only visually stunning, but also supremely functional and sustainable in every sense," said Davis McCallum, HVSF's artistic director. The stage's proscenium arch will face Breakneck Ridge, the Hudson River and Storm King Mountain, and the theater will include an outdoor space where the audience can mingle with performers.

The design also includes a back-of-house facility for actors and technicians, and concessions and bathroom pavilions.

Groundbreaking is expected in 2024 for this phase of HVSF's larger project, which calls for, within five to 15 years, the addition of 26 units of housing for visiting artists, rehearsal and administrative space, and a welcome center.

The Philipstown Planning Board completed its environmental review of the project on Nov. 16 when it approved a "findings statement" that details how HVSF will minimize traffic, noise and other impacts from the development.

HVSF still must secure site-plan approval from the Planning Board, zoning amendments from the Town Board and permits from various agencies.

HVSF Announces 2024 Shows

For the first time in its 37-year history, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival schedule will not include a play by the Bard, although Kholoud Sawaf will direct a touring production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

However, one of the three plays under the tent will be *By the Queen*, an adaptation by Whitney White of the *Henry VI* trilogy, which HVSF has never produced.

"It includes speeches and scenes from the *Henry VI* plays and *Richard III* and weaves them together with original writing from the point of view of Queen Margaret," explained Davis McCallum, HVSF's artistic director. "Shakespeare fans will love it, as I did when I saw the world premiere at Trinity Rep in Providence, Rhode Island" in 2022.

McCallum noted that HVSF "did two major Shakespeare titles last season [*Henry V* and *Love's Labor's Lost*], and Shakespeare will always remain a cornerstone of our programming" but that 2024 will be "a season curated around the theme of adaptation."

In addition to *By the Queen*, HVSF will present two world premieres:

• *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, an adaptation by Heidi Armbruster of Agatha Christie's 1926 novel starring detective Hercule Poirot. It will be directed by Ryan Quinn.

• *Medea: Re-Versed,* an adaptation of *Euripides* by Luis Quintero coproduced with Red Bull Theater and Bedlam. It will be directed by Nathan Winkelstein.



Richard Weissbrod (1946 - 2023)

Richard Stephen Philip "Dick" Weissbrod died Nov. 15 after suffering a stroke while visiting family in Massachusetts. He shared his final days with loved ones.

Dick resided in Cold Spring, New York, for 25 years with his life partner, Dianne Richey, who survives him. They moved to Cold Spring after residing in Brooklyn and working in Manhattan for many years.

He is survived by his cherished son, Philip A. Weissbrod, daughter-in-law Carolena Deutsch-Garcia, and beloved granddaughters Isabel and Nina, who reside in Encinitas, California. He also is survived by Dianne's daughter, Dianne Bauer (Edward) of Nelsonville and their children, Thomas Cunningham, Joseph Cunningham (Severine and son Liam), Katharine Cunningham, Erika Bauer and Edward Bauer, who grieve his loss.

Born May 18, 1946, Dick was the son of Philip Carl Weissbrod and Ruth Winifred McKenna. The family made their home in Lenox, Massachusetts. Dick is survived by his loving brother, David (Carol); nephew Michael (Elissa) and their children; and niece Natalie and daughter Neveah. In addition to his brother, Dick is survived by his devoted sister and brother-in-law, Kate and Russell French.

After graduating from Harvard University, Dick served in Vietnam. He then earned a master's degree and Ph.D. at Northwestern University. He joined Johns Hopkins University as assistant professor in 1974. A career opportunity in publishing brought him to New York in 1981.

Throughout his career, Dick enjoyed being a mentor to students, interns, employees, colleagues and extended family. It is a tribute to him that he maintained friendships going back many years and enjoyed regular communications with those whose lives he touched.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Richard's honor to the American Red Cross (redcross.org) or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (aspca.org).



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Beacon marked the beginning of the holiday season at Memorial Park on Nov. 25 with various methods of keeping warm, including hot chocolate, holiday hats and dancing.

Photos by Ross Corsair









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.

NOTICE

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals *will not* meet in the Month of December.

The next meeting will be January 8th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516 The Philipstown Planning Board *will not* meet in the month of December.

The next meeting will be January 18th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that sealed Bids, in duplicate, are sought and requested by the Board of Education, Beacon City School District (hereinafter called "Owner"), for the Reconstruction to: JV Forrestal ES, Sargent ES, South Ave ES, Rombout Middle School, Beacon High School, and Addition and Alterations to: Glenham ES.

Separate Bids are requested for the Prime Contracts for:

Mechanical Work MC-D1

Mechanical Work MC-D2

Mechanical Work MC-D3

in accordance with the Drawings, Project Manual (including Conditions of the Contract and Specifications), and other Bidding and Contract Documents prepared by:

Tetra Tech Engineers, Architects & Landscape Architects, P.C. d/b/a

Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers

Refer to Instructions to Bidders for special instructions for pre-bid walk through requests.

Sealed Bids will be received by the Owner until **Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 2:00 pm.,** local time at the District Office Conference Room, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York 12508 at which time and place Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

For the convenience of potential Bidders and other interested parties, the Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Beacon City School District, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, NY 12508

Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers, ,

Complete digital sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained online as a download at www.tetratechaeprojectplanroom.com 'public projects' for a non-refundable fee of \$49.00 (Forty Nine Dollars).

Complete hard copy sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained online at www.tetratechaeprojectplanroom.com 'public projects' Checks shall be made payable to **Beacon City School District** in the sum of \$100.00 (One Hundred Dollars) for each set of documents. A scanned copy of the deposit check can be emailed to projects@revplans.com. Once the scanned copy of the executed deposit check is received, Bidding Documents will be shipped. Mail checks to Lohrius Blueprint, 226 Newtown Road, Plainview, New York 11803. Plan deposit is refundable in accordance with the terms in the Instructions to Bidders to all submitting bids. Any bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with the printer and pay for all packaging and shipping costs (either by providing FedEX/UPS account number or being charged a flat rate by the printer).

Please note REV www.tetratechaeprojectplanroom.com is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information, electronic or hard copy. Only those Contract Documents obtained in this manner will enable a prospective bidder to be identified as a registered plan holder. The Provider takes no responsibility for the completeness of Contract Documents obtained from other sources. Contract Documents obtained from other sources may not be accurate or may not contain addenda that may have been issued.

All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders, regardless of receiving electronic or hard copy Bid Documents, via email and will be available at www. tetratechaeprojectplanroom.com. Registered plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use, and coordinate directly with REV for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

As bid security, each Bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond made payable to the Owner, in accordance with the amounts and terms described in the Instructions to Bidders.

The Owner requires Bids comply with bidding requirements indicated in the Instructions to Bidders. The Owner may, at its discretion, waive informalities in Bids, but is not obligated to do so, nor does it represent that it will do so. The Owner also reserves the right to reject any and all Bids. The Owner will not waive informalities which would give one Bidder substantial advantage or benefit not enjoyed by all affected Bidders. Bids may not be withdrawn before 45 days following the Bid opening thereof, unless an error is claimed by the Bidder in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.





Members of Troop 437 at the Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation in Brant Lake Photos by Tom Campanile

112 Years of Local Scouting

Philipstown troop founded in 1911 By Jude Morrison

Jaiden Gunther of Cold Spring led a recent meeting of Boy Scout Troop 437 at the Garrison Fish & Game Club focusing on wilderness survival.

Members of the troop, which is based in Philipstown, learned what to do if lost in the woods and how to build a shelter with sticks, leaves and moss.

Gunther, the troop's senior patrol leader and a freshman at Haldane High School, has been a member of the Boy Scouts for three years. He says he loves the organization because it gives him the opportunity to learn outdoor skills while having fun with his friends.

"It's not just tying knots," he said.

Scouting has a long tradition in Philipstown, dating to October 1911, when Scoutmaster Franklin Byxbe organized Cold Spring Troop 1, according to the Putnam History Museum. Its 20 scouts met on Friday evenings at Grove's Hall, at the corner of Main Street and Morris Avenue. Troop 1 eventually became Troop 37. By the 1930s, it had dissolved and reorganized. Troop 4 in Garrison was created during the same period. At some point, Troops 4 and 37 combined to form Cub Scout Troop 137 and Boy Scout Troop 437, according to records from the National Eagle Scout Association.

Leaders like Gunther and Tom Campanile, Troop 437's scoutmaster for the last three years, continue the deep-rooted tradition of Boy Scouts in the community.

Campanile, a partner with the consulting firm Ernst & Young, became an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in scouting, in 1989. He has been an adult leader with Troop 437 for 15 years and is the vice chair of the Greater Hudson Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which represents 7,000 scouts in Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties. His vision, he said, is to leave the organization as a "scout-led, adult-guided" organization.

"Every success I've enjoyed professionally I owe to scouting," Campanile said.

In the past few years, Philipstown scouts

have canoed in the boundary waters of Minnesota, traveled to South Korea to participate in the World Scout Jamboree, skied downhill at Whiteface Mountain in upstate New York, sailed in the Bahamas and backpacked in New Mexico.

The troop's members have also traveled to West Virginia for the National Jamboree, a 10-day event held every four years that draws scouts from all over the country for activities such as concerts, bike parks and ziplines.

Locally, they have organized communityservice projects, such as collecting and delivering donations for the Philipstown Food Pantry, building a drop box for old U.S. flags outside the Masonic Lodge in Nelsonville and decorating Cold Spring's Village Hall for Christmas.

Aiden Noormae, a first-year scout with Troop 437 and a seventh grader at Haldane Middle School, recently learned how to use a map and compass while completing a scavenger hunt at the Durland Scout Reservation, the Greater Hudson Valley Council's 1,400-acre camp in Putnam Valley.

Noormae, who lives in Cold Spring, described the outing, his first as a Boy Scout, as "good for the first 10 minutes," before rain soaked the campsite for the rest



Start Reading Now

December book club selections

Fiction Book Club

TUES 5, 7 P.M. *Disappearing Earth,* by Julia Phillips Split Rock Books, Cold Spring Register at splitrockbks.com.

Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club

THURS 7, 7 P.M. Lincoln's Last Trial: The Murder Case that Propelled Him to the Presidency, by Dan Abrams and David Fisher Lincoln Depot Museum, 10 S. Water St., Peekskill Email LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com.

Page-to-Screen Book Club

THURS 21, 3 P.M. *Everything is Illuminated,* by Jonathan Safran Foer Desmond-Fish Public Library, Garrison Register at desmondfishlibrary.org.

Elementary Book Club

(Grades 2-4) THURS 21, 3:15 P.M. Saving Winslow, by Sharon Creech Butterfield Library, Cold Spring Register at butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar.

of the weekend. But waking up to the smell of doughnuts and hot chocolate wafting through the cold, wet morning air made the trip worthwhile, he said.

Jude Morrison, who lives in Garrison, is a junior at St. Regis High School in New York City and a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program. He is an aspiring Eagle Scout with Troop 437.

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COLD SPRING — For a place to stay when you can't stay at home, (or when you have an overflow of visitors!): A charming fully furnished space in Cold Spring, 500 square feet, bi-level studio with pine-paneled ceilings, dressing room, laundry, good kitchen, private garden patio, in center of Village with nearby shopping, restaurants; easy walk to train, to river & hiking. Off-street parking (!). Supplies & utilities all in \$1550 monthly fee. Email villagevisits23@gmail.com.

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Out There

Vanishing Point

By Brian PJ Cronin

alloween should be pushed back by four weeks: The end of October isn't scary enough. The evenings are too bright, the

weather too pleasant, the wind too still.

Now, late November – that's scary. The sun goes down before 4:30 p.m. Because your body hasn't adjusted to the cold, the first 34-degree evening feels like 20 below. There are no leaves on the trees or bushes to block the wind or the view.

I've been trying to cram in daily visits to Denning's Point before it closes for nesting season and the green tunnel has turned into a wide-open peninsula. You can see through to the mountains on one side and the river on the other, and anything that's been hidden is again visible. "How long has that ruined house been there?" I asked myself for the 16th November in a row.

It's also louder without the leaves. Last weekend I hiked with my family while a barge headed south on the river. When the water hit the shore, it was deafening, transformed into sound waves rolling across the land. I grabbed a tree. "Why is the river being so weird?" I yelled. My wife and son looked at me in a way that said it was not the river they found weird.

There is a sense of distance in November where there wasn't before, revealing the far blue edges of the horizon that before was greens followed by yellows and oranges. One name the European settlers gave those rises to the northeast was the Blue Mountains, partly because of the way they appear to be blue as you sail up the Hudson, and partly because the name fit with others: the Green Mountains of Vermont, the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The latter two names stuck. In our case, some Dutch



"How long has that been there?"

guy saw a puma by a creek and now we call them The Catskills.

I can't help but think there was another reason to call them the Blue Mountains. Those who ventured into them had an absolutely miserable time. They named many features after the devil – the Devil's Path, the Devil's Kitchen, etc. – and described the narrow gorges of the Catskills as "cloves," i.e., the devil's cloven hooves. Given that reputation, the Europeans stayed at a distance and only ever saw them in blue.

There's a section in Barry Lopez's 2019 book Horizon, in which he discusses ways of defining the farthest thing you can see. A boundary defines the edge of where you are now. Once something happens that causes you to view that boundary as a horizon, "a world one has never known becomes an integral part of one's new universe," he wrote. "Memory and imagination come into play. The unknown future calls out to the present and to the remembered past, and in that moment of expansion, the imagined future seems attainable."

What is a mountain to you? Something that you keep your distance from or something to explore? Perhaps the most disoriPhoto by B. Cronin

enting thing about late November is when

the landscape makes that choice. The

barrier of trees becomes a horizon of forest

that goes on much farther than you real-

ized. There's a slope you didn't know about,

a rock formation you've run by every day

for months that was hidden, a stone wall

stretching outward. You don't understand

The Philipstown Conservation

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023

238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

If you are unable to join in person

Philipstown Conservation Board

but would like to watch, the

on youtube.com, search for

meeting will be livestreaming

Board will hold their regular

monthly meeting on

at 7:30 p.m. at the

December 2023.

Philipstown Town Hall,

NOTICE

This is the time of year in which we're supposed to be winding down. The darkness grows longer, we celebrate the light that remains, we throw another log on the fire

vour surroundings as much as you thought

you did. Now what?

and pour another mug of hot chocolate. But every time the leaves fall, it pulls me outside, despite the cold, to see what's changed.



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11. Former mates

16. Passing craze

20. Survivor airer

22. Sagacious

30. Skin soother

33. Tropical fruits

35. Leb. neighbor

38. Texter's chuckle

45. TiVo, for example

46. Denny's rival

49. Break suddenly

54. Santa - winds

53. Chips go-with

55. Crater part

47. Inspiration

48. Nuisance

43. "Straight Up" singer Abdul

23. Snooze

27. Misery

40. Calms

21. High-five sound

29. Crystalline mineral

31. Twinkler in the sky

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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SUDOCURRENT

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ACROSS

- 1. Microwave
- 4. Jubilation 8. Scruff
- 12. "- Believer"
- 13. Give temporarily
- 14. Big-screen format
- 15. Layered desserts
- 17. Refer to
- 18. Irate
- 19. Breaks away
- 21. Stockholm's land
- 24. JFK's veep
- 25. Fleur-de- -
- 26. Cutting tool
- 28. Parlor pieces
- 32. Now, on a memo
- 34. Luau bowlful
- 36. Karate level 37. Prison-related
- 39. Atty.'s title
- 41. Mauna -
- 42. Soda

WORDLADDER

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

SPARES



© 2023 King Features

- 44. Steering device on a ship
- 46. Leaping antelopes
- 50. Hosp. hookups 51. Donald Duck's nephew
- 52. Like a good golf score
- 56. Greek mountain
- 57. Cannes milk
- 58. Blackbird
- 59. Favorites
- 60. PC programs
- 61. Ewe's mate

DOWN

- 1. Energy
- 2. Docs' bloc
- 3. Italian cheese
- 4. Forest clearings
- 5. Tiki bar necklace
- 6. Tolkien creatures
- 7. '50s Ford
- 8. "Great work!"
- 10. Top of the head

MICRO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Singer Simone, known as the "High Priestess of Soul"
- 5. Hype
- 6. Batman's sidekick
- 8. Stud farm resident
- 9. The Handmaid's (Margaret Atwood novel)
- DOWN
- 1. All Things Considered letters
- 2. Concise admission of defeat

Answers for Nov. 27 Puzzles

- 6 8 9
- 3. Ancient Nile kingdom
- 4. "It's ____!" (birth
- announcement phrase)
- 7. Born, in Bordeaux



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For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.

9. During





24 November 24, 2023

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Sports HEARTBREAKER Haldane goes for the

win but falls just short

By Jacob Aframian

he Haldane High School football team's season ended Nov. 24 when a last-second, two-point conversion failed, leaving the Blue Devils to reflect on a hard-fought 21-20 Class D state semifinal game.

The game, played at Middletown High School in Orange County, ended a season of triumph and tragedy for Haldane, the Section I, Class D champs, who finished with an 8-3 record. The Stillwater Warriors (11-1), the Section II, Class D winners out of Saratoga County, will face Tioga in the title game on Saturday (Dec. 2). Tioga (13-0) has won the last two state championships.

The semifinal game was decided in its final minute, when Haldane quarterback Ryan Van Tassel found Evan Giachinta in the end zone for a 32-yard touchdown. With 18 seconds left and the Warriors ahead 21-20, Haldane had a decision: kick the extra point and tie the game to send it into overtime, or go for two points and the win.

The Blue Devils went for the latter, and moved almost all of their offensive linemen to the left side. The play didn't fool Stillwater, however, and Van Tassel couldn't get off a good throw.

The trick play was one that Haldane had been working on all season. "Earlier in the week, we made the decision that we were going to go for two if we were in a situation like that and we were going to play to win the football game," said Coach Ryan McConville.

When it didn't work, the Blue Devils tried a last-ditch onside kick, but it was unsuccessful. With possession of the football, Stillwater took a knee and the win.

Haldane had the ball first to start the game, and on the second offensive play, Giachinta burst through a hole and scampered 48 yards for a touchdown, giving the Blue Devils the lead 37 seconds into the game.

Once Stillwater took possession, it became apparent that the team was going to rely on the run game and attempt to wear down the Haldane defense. With 8:04 left in the first quarter, an illegal participation penalty on the Blue Devils rescued the Warriors from a fourth-and-2. Moments later, Stillwater running back Jaxon Mueller took it in from 3 yards out.

Mueller, who is listed at 6-foot-4 and 232 pounds, proved to be a wrecking machine, finishing with 32 carries for 130 yards and three touchdowns. The scoring drive took 6:41 off the clock. After a three-and-out from Haldane's offense, the Warriors marched back down the field. The drive, which began at the end of the first quarter, ended with another touchdown by Mueller, giving Stillwater a 14-7 lead with 10:35 left in the half.

The Blue Devils got the ball back and 36 seconds later the game was tied, thanks to Van Tassel's 53-yard rushing touchdown. But Stillwater would keep pounding and once again was in the red zone when Mueller barreled through for a 4-yard touchdown, making the score 21-14 with three minutes left in the half.

Stillwater started the second half with the ball and used nearly the entire quarter on one drive. With 1:40 left in the third quarter, it was fourth-and-goal from the 3 and the Warriors were lining up for a field goal.

A Haldane defender jumped offside, putting the ball at the 1-yard line. Stillwater gave the ball to Mueller on the fourthand-goal but the Blue Devils' defense held.

Haldane then started to move the ball behind Giachinta's rushing, but the drive was interrupted when a Van Tassel pass was intercepted. After trading posses-



sions, Haldane found itself with the ball at midfield with 1:41 left in the game, but Van Tassel was again picked off on a deep throw.

Haldane had only one timeout remaining, so all Stillwater had to do was run out the clock. But on its first play, a Stillwater fumble was recovered by the Blue Devils. The Haldane defense had its hands full with Stillwater, which relied on the running game.

Evan Giachinta (25) races toward the end zone against Stillwater.

> Photos by Frank Becerra Jr./ The Journal News

The season wasn't over yet.

Under pressure with 30 seconds left, Van Tassel found Jake Thomas for a 23-yard gain. After spending the team's final timeout, he hit Giachinta in the end zone on the next play, setting up the two-point conversion attempt.

