

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Tough Winter Ahead?

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DECEMBER 8, 2023

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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## \$15 Toll for Lower Manhattan

*'Congestion pricing' expected to begin in spring*

By Leonard Sparks

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority board on Wednesday (Dec. 6) voted to begin public review of a first-in-the-nation program that will charge passenger and commercial vehicles to enter Manhattan below 60th Street.

If the agency's "congestion pricing" plan survives a lawsuit filed by New Jersey, car drivers entering the Central Business

District would be charged a daily toll of \$15. Trucks and private buses would pay \$24 or \$36, depending on size or type.

The tolls would be in effect from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends, with a rate outside those hours set at \$3.75.

Transit and commuter buses would be exempt, and motorcyclists would be charged \$7.50. FDR Drive, the West Side Highway and roadway portions of the Hugh Carey Tunnel would be excluded from the toll, and there would be other credits,

(Continued on Page 9)

## Beacon's 'Good-Cause' Law Struck Down

*City judge rules measure is unconstitutional*

By Jeff Simms

City Court Judge Rebecca Mensch has ruled that Beacon's "good-cause" eviction law is unconstitutional, invalidating the fifth of five such laws to be adopted in New York state over the last two years.

Mensch issued her ruling Nov. 17 as part of a denial of a Main Street resident's motion to dismiss an eviction proceeding. The landlord, identified in court documents as 201-211 Main St. LLC, went to court in July when the tenant refused to vacate his apartment after being given 90 days' notice that his lease would not be renewed.

The Nov. 17 decision provides no further details on that dispute. While some details are similar, this is not the case that first challenged the good-cause eviction law in City Court. That case, also filed in July and involving a 73-year-old Main Street tenant, is pending.

Because of Mensch's decision, neither tenant (nor others in the future) will be able to use the good-cause law as a defense against eviction. The attorneys in both disputes are scheduled to meet with Mensch on Dec. 12. Nancy Brodey Koch of the nonprofit Legal Services of the Hudson Valley represents both tenants.

Beacon is not the only municipality to have adopted a good-cause law that was challenged in court. Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Albany all passed similar laws in the same timeframe, as the

(Continued on Page 6)



**KISS FOR SANTA** — The Animal Rescue Foundation held its annual holiday pet photos fundraiser on Dec. 2 at Happy Valley Arcade Bar in Beacon, and everyone was very appreciative. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Putnam Awards Opioid Settlement Funds

*Money to benefit three Philipstown agencies*

By Leonard Sparks

Three programs in Philipstown will benefit from \$719,000 in opioid settlement funds the Putnam County Legislature approved on Tuesday (Dec. 5) for

distribution to five organizations.

People USA, a mental-health organization that is planning to open a crisis center in Putnam County, received the most funding, \$245,000.

The award will be used to improve services at Rose House, a short-term residence in Garrison for adults experiencing mental or emotional distress; and to

hire a full-time "peer navigator" to help people manage their recovery, according to County Executive Kevin Byrne.

The CoveCare Center, a mental-health counseling and substance-abuse treatment program based in Carmel, received \$209,000 to develop a training center for clinicians, medication prescribers, care

(Continued on Page 6)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: TOM LUCCHESI

By Jeff Simms

**T**om Lucchesi was named the Beacon fire chief in April and began the job full-time in October.

## Why did you decide to become a firefighter?

I had a few friends who were volunteer firefighters, so I start hanging around the firehouse when I was 12 and got hooked at a young age. I started as a career firefighter in the City of Newburgh in 2007, was promoted through the ranks and retired as an assistant chief there. When there were layoffs, a couple of guys came to the Beacon department, and they're the ones who reached out to let me know that Chief [Gary] Van Voorhis was retiring. Beacon is a great city. It's a tight-knit community and we have a great group of firefighters to work with.

## What can you tell us about the central fire station being built on South Avenue?

We started with three fire houses and we're consolidating into one. As we're transitioning from what was a fully volunteer force to primarily a career force, we're bringing the four career firefighters [who are on a shift together] into one facility for the first time. It's going to be a state-of-the-art facility that will hopefully last well over 50 years.

It will allow us to respond more effectively because we'll arrive on the scene as a group, as opposed to one apparatus arriving and then another and then another. We're going to be able to arrive with four firefighters ready to provide service immediately.

## What is a typical day like for a Beacon firefighter?

Firefighters are assigned a 24-hour shift. They work one day on and three days off, with the shift changing at 7 a.m., but it's common for firefighters to arrive early to relieve the previous shift. When they get into the firehouse in the morning, the first thing they are doing is checking equipment. They talk with the other crew to find out what their shift was like — what tools were used, any problems they encountered. They're checking their personal protective equipment, their self-contained breathing apparatus, checking all the tools on the apparatus that day, because you never know when you're going to go out the door. Usually by 7 a.m. they've already checked everything and are ready to go for the day.

Then there's housework. Just like you have to do chores at home, they're sweeping floors and cleaning the bathrooms, because this is where they live for the next 24 hours. We eat meals together for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We do training a couple of times a day, whether it's in-house or going out to get to

a different neighborhood, throwing ladders or pulling fire hose. It's also good to be out in the community interacting with people. Between responding to calls and training, that will take us right through the evening, when they do house chores again.

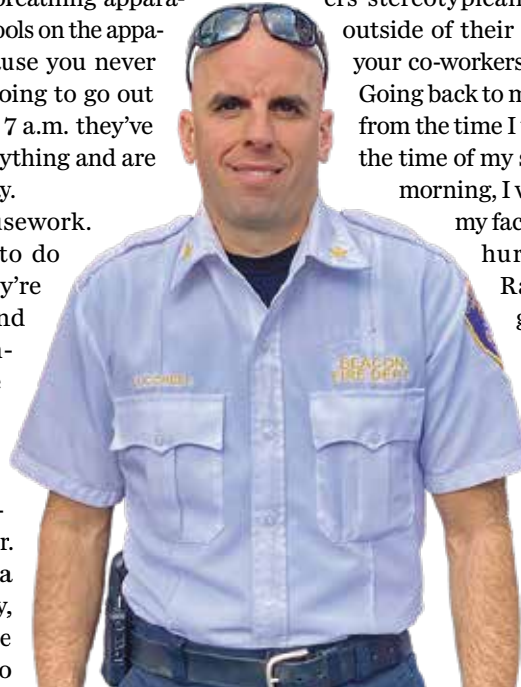
## Is every shift the same?

It's dynamic. You could have a "slow" day with two or three medical calls. Or you could be 15 calls deep and see every variety, from a house fire to delivering a baby or, unfortunately, someone losing their life.

## What do firefighters do to relieve stress?

What helps are the four or five other firefighters that you're working with on a shift. In my career, the only people closer to me have been my family members. If you have a bad call, you can talk about it. Firefighters stereotypically don't like to talk outside of their circle, so relying on your co-workers is a big stress relief. Going back to my time in Newburgh, from the time I walked in the door to the time of my shift change the next morning, I would have a smile on my face. My stomach would hurt from laughing.

Race, color, religion, gender orientation — that does not exist to a firefighter. You're brothers and sisters at the firehouse because your life can depend on each other. You see stuff that normal people don't see, and you see it day in and day out.



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## An In-Depth Look at the Hudson River

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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## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What temperature is cold weather to you?

32 degrees. I just tolerate winter.



Lisa Sjoholm, Beacon

30 degrees. Winter's my favorite, because I'm not sweating.



Adriel Rodrigues, Fishkill

20 degrees. I'm a cold-weather person.



Tara O'Sullivan, Cold Spring





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*Photo by Tom Moore*

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Stephen and Jennifer Clair, Beacon**

**"Local journalism is important."**

**From New Member Gail Small, Putnam Valley**

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The HIGHLANDS  
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## Tell us what you think

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

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Dutchess pay raises

A vote was scheduled for Dec. 7 by the Dutchess County Legislature to consider a 2024 budget that includes hefty 68 percent raises for county legislators and other officials such as the county executive and county clerk ("Dutchess Committee Approves Large Raises," Nov. 24).

Republican Legislator Will Truitts' insistence that higher pay will attract good candidates is a load of you-know-what. It doesn't work that way and history can prove it. This seems more like tax 'n' spend, even more so since the current budget proposal includes an increase in the county sales tax rate to 4 percent.

What the arrogant Democrats, the majority in Albany, did in securing a 29 percent pay raise for themselves in 2022 is no different than what the Dutchess County Republican majority is proposing. As chair of the Conservative Party, this concerns me and my committee.

Although it's understandable that the part-time legislators may be due for a modest raise, it's reprehensible that they're looking at such an increase, especially during these economic times.

We endorsed most of these Republicans for re-election because we thought they had conservative values, including fiscal

responsibility. I ask the county Republicans: "Are these your true colors?" On a positive note, we're pleased to hear that some Republican legislators are against this ridiculous pay hike.

Don Minichino, *Poughkeepsie*

This huge increase cannot be justified. If I had known this before, I would not have voted for the Republican ticket.

Daniel Pena, *Wappingers Falls*

This is not a great way for [incoming County Executive Sue] Serino to start things off.

Peggy Hill, *via Instagram*

The raises are appropriate for the role and the market.

Nancy Drew, *via Instagram*

Republicans are all in favor of tax cuts for the rich and pay cuts for the working class, unless it benefits them.

Harper Sanchez, *via Instagram*

### Haldane master plan

This seems like a prudent, taxpayer-funded project ("Haldane Capital Plan Moves Forward," Nov. 24). As with taxpayer-funded transit jobs, it's necessary.

Joe Hyatt, *via Facebook*

Just a 10 percent tax increase! Maybe the superintendent's salary should be predicated on continued excellence in education and cost savings; then we might see some reasonable thinking.

You will find no community prouder of its students or supportives of its faculty. But this plan pits the community and taxpayers against each other. Many taxpayers walked the same halls now deemed antiquated, which makes one wonder if the current matrix is actually part of Haldane's success.

I also would like to see the projected increase in traffic and visitor numbers from the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail included in the overall plan. Will Haldane still be able to continue with an open campus with hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors daily? The community should not even discuss opening its checkbook until Albany forces the amalgamation of the Haldane and Garrison districts.

Gordon Robertson, *Cold Spring*

This is the precise time to get the ball rolling for extensive and much-needed projects like this. The economy is doing well, by all indicators. It's time to show our youth some commitment, and this project seems reasonable and imperative, especially Phase 1. The STEAM classroom should be fast-tracked. Hopefully, the project will give parents and students incentive to forgo private schools such as Hackley and Masters, and it would be a good opportunity to attract more diverse residents.

In addition, lauded school districts, with high-value tax rates, like this area, positively influence home values. I'm a taxpayer who considers others, like students and their education. This is a well-resourced community that can absolutely afford to fund Haldane's future.

Woody Turbeaux, *via Facebook*

### Dutchess comptroller

Sheriff Butch Anderson backed Robin Lois before he passed, and I've always found her to be held in high regard. It's a great pick-up by [state Comptroller] Tom DiNapoli ("Dutchess Comptroller to Resign," Nov. 24).

Kevin Byrne, *via Facebook*

Byrne is the Putnam County executive.

### Dummy light

I grew up in Beacon and, in all those years, I don't remember anybody hitting the dummy light ("Don't Hit the Dummy," Dec. 1).

Sandy Joan, *via Facebook*

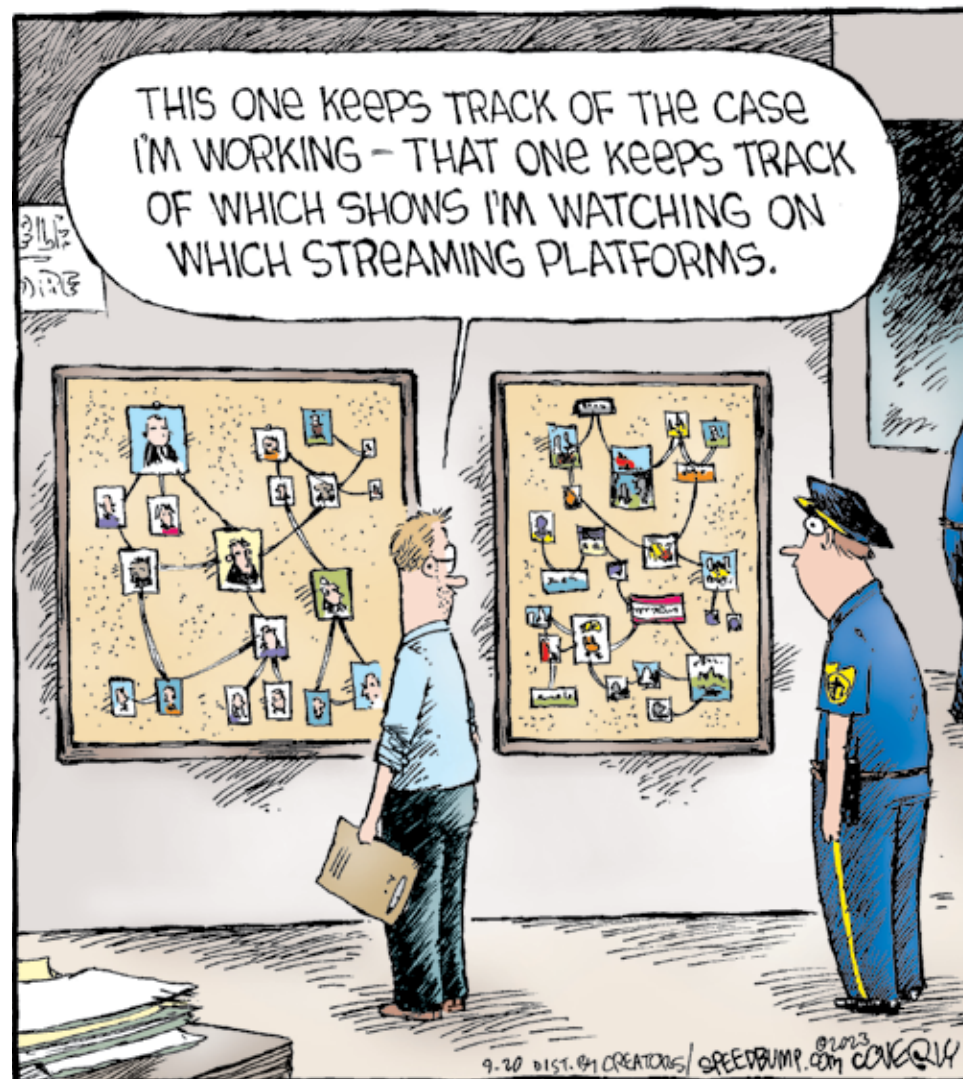
Watch for it in the next season of *Severance*.

Anthony Grillo, *via Facebook*

Even with the changes, people are still going to hit it.

Rachel Carhart, *via Facebook*

(Continued on Page 5)





Q

Why is One Lane Always Closed on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge?

Why is the right lane on the Newburgh-Beacon bridge usually closed, with a red “X” over the lane instead of a green arrow?  
~George Gannsle, Nanuet



A screen shot from a dashboard video made by Roadway Wiz in 2010

**A:** The right lane allows drivers to pull out of traffic in emergencies, said Chris Steber, a representative of the New York State Bridge Authority. These breakdown lanes also allow emergency vehicles to cross the bridge quickly. When traffic is unusually high, the Bridge Authority will sometimes open the lanes, he said.

Over the last few years, work being done on the bridge has required the closing of the left and center lanes, meaning the breakdown lane has been used for traffic, which may have caused confusion, Steber said. But that work is now complete.

**Have a question we can answer?**  
**Email:** [question@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:question@highlandscurrent.org)

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Hitting it must be a form of protest to get rid of it.  
Louis Henry, *via Instagram*

Let’s stop pretending that this is a functional traffic signal. It’s a historical artifact, more like a public sculpture. Build a pavilion or move it out of the road.  
James Case-Leal, *via Instagram*

**Library letter**  
Thank you for printing the beautifully written and powerful argument by Charles Rangel, himself an impressive figure (“My View: Don’t Rename Library,” Dec. 1). I’m glad to know more about both him and Hamilton Fish III. Don’t rename the Desmond-Fish library!  
May Brawley Hill, *Garrison*

**Scouting**  
Jude Morrison captured the spirit of Scouting and how our Philipstown units are thriving into a second century (“112 Years of Local Scouting,” Dec. 1).  
I want to note that, in addition to the help from many parents who volunteer their time as leaders and committee members, these programs benefit from the support of the Little Stony Point Citizens Association and the Garrison Fish & Game Club, which have both been long-term charter partners that enable the pack and troop to operate.  
Tom Campanile, *Nelsonville*

**Correction**  
A story in the Dec. 1 issue said that *By the Queen*, which will be presented by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival during its 2024 season, is an adaptation by Shana Cooper of the *Henry VI* trilogy. In fact, Cooper will be the director. The adaptation is by Whitney White.


**Visitor booth**  
Let’s not overlook the dedication of the caring volunteers from all parts of Philipstown who provide staffing for the Cold Spring Visitor Center booth every weekend from May through November, through floods, heat waves and the cold of late fall (“Reporter’s Notebook: Visitor Center Confidential,” Nov. 24).  
Organized by the all-volunteer Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, these men and women create a warm welcome for all who visit, and often answer questions for local residents, as well. They are the kind face of the town, motivated only by love for where they live.  
Anita Prentice, *via Facebook*

**Beacon development**  
I was very happy to hear that the factory bordering Madam Brett Park is to be  
(Continued on Page 6)

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

re-developed (“Environmental Cleanup Set for Site,” Nov. 24). I am also happy that Rodney Weber will be the developer, as he always does a wonderful job of tying build-

ings with the surrounding environment as well as creating beautiful interior spaces. I am sure this project will be no different, and become another jewel in Beacon’s crown.

I am also hopeful that this will move the city

to complete the restoration of the old suspension bridge close by. It is of great historic importance and so far, little has been done to restore it. Pieces of this bridge lie in weeds at Beacon’s transfer station. Surely some of the

tax money pouring into Beacon could be set aside for this purpose? If not, then grant writing should be undertaken. It’s a terrible shame this bridge still awaits resurrection.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

Opioid Funds (from Page 1)

managers, peers and other staff who work at community agencies, including the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub in Cold Spring, which will soon be opening a location on Route 9 in Philipstown.

Putnam also approved \$80,600 for St. Christopher’s Inn, a treatment program for men run by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison. St. Christopher’s Inn will use the funding to hire a part-time psychotherapist and a part-time specialist, according to Byrne.

In addition, the Prevention Council of Putnam received \$135,000 to reduce overdoses by improving residents’ access to naloxone, peer-support services and strips that test drugs for fentanyl and xylazine.

The final recipient, Brewster-based Green Chimneys, plans to use its \$50,000 in funding on a “substance-misuse” program for ages 10 to 21.

New York State is receiving more than \$2 billion from opioid manufacturers and distributors to settle lawsuits over their role in drug overdoses. In November 2022, the state’s Settlement Fund Advisory Board

recommended that awards from the first-year spending of \$192 million go to programs that prioritize harm reduction, treatment, hard-hit populations such as Blacks and Latinos, and housing and recovery.

Dutchess County

A third of that first-year spending (\$64 million) has been distributed to counties for “regional abatement,” including \$2.1 million to the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health. Dutchess also received \$306,000 designated for street outreach.

On Oct. 10, the Dutchess Legislature

approved spending \$551,250 through 2025 to support recovery coaches, public health education coordinators and its Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) team.

County Executive William F.X. O’Neil said Dutchess is working with Oxford House Inc. to open self-run and self-supporting recovery houses.

The state also announced in July an award of \$800,000 in settlement funds over four years to the Council on Addiction, Prevention and Education of Dutchess County (CAPE) to combat fentanyl, opioid and prescription-drug abuse.

Good-Cause Law (from Page 1)

state’s moratorium on pandemic-related evictions was expiring.

Like the others, Beacon’s law, enacted in March 2022, required landlords to demonstrate “good cause” before a judge could begin eviction proceedings. It set forth a number of situations, including nonpayment of rent or violation of the terms of tenancy, as valid causes for eviction. It also set conditions that must be met before a landlord could increase rent by more than 5 percent.

It is unclear whether the City Council will rescind the law. According to court docu-

ments, city attorneys were notified of the challenge to the good-cause legislation but did not file any arguments on the city’s behalf supporting its constitutionality.

Beacon attorneys warned the council last year that the good-cause measure was superseded by New York’s landlord-tenant regulations, and said they would not defend the law if it was challenged in court.

Albany’s law, the first in the state, also was the first to be challenged when a group of landlords sued the city. They, too, argued that state laws preempt local legislation. A state Supreme Court judge agreed and struck down the measure; the decision was

upheld by an appeals court in March.

Landlords also sued in Newburgh. Last year, a state judge in Orange County declared that law invalid for the same reason, although the city has appealed. Poughkeepsie’s law fell in March. Kingston officials, in response to the lawsuits, repealed their law in April.

Mensch’s decision notes that those “nearly identical local laws” have already been struck down and acknowledges that trial courts such as Beacon’s must follow those precedents. In addition, the Beacon judge recognized that the city’s law includes the same language that the appellate court ruled in the Albany case is preempted by state law.

The appellate court also found that the good-cause requirements contradict state property law by imposing restrictions other than the written notice the state requires a landlord to give a tenant for a lease that is not being renewed.

As in the other Beacon case, the tenant argued to Mensch that the landlord’s notice was defective because it did not cite a cause for the decision not to renew the tenant’s lease. But Beacon’s good-cause legislation “does not supplement state law, instead it places greater restrictions on property owners seeking to evict a tenant,” rendering it unconstitutional, null and void, Mensch wrote.

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My View

# Tough Winter Ahead

By Jim Witt



Heavy clothing and a good snowblower will be useful items during the winter of 2023-24. Most of the Northeastern section of the U.S. will experience below-seasonal temperatures and above-normal snowfall.

During the last several winters, there were La Nina conditions in the oceans off the coast of South America. Generally, the storm path with a La Nina scenario has storms moving across the northern tier of the U.S. and then up the St. Lawrence River Valley. The center of these storms was then passing to our west.

This is not conducive for causing snowstorms. Actually, in advance of each storm, warm air is pushed into our area, along with some rain. As the storm moves northeastward up the St. Lawrence River Valley, a cold front passes, the precipitation ends and cold air plunges into our area. Bottom line: no snow.

This winter is going to be different. We are dealing with an El Nino winter and it looks like it will be a strong El Nino. Storms will enter the West Coast. Some will move

	Temperature Anomaly	Precipitation Anomaly	Snowfall Anomaly
Dec 2023	-5.3	0.08 inches	2.8 inches
Jan 2024	-7.15	0.22 inches	11.9 inches
Feb 2024	-1.6	0.16 inches	1.1 inches
March 2024	1.85	-0.11 inches	-3.9 inches
Averages	-3.04	0.05 inches	2.98 inches/month

11.9 inches/season

north into western Canada. We don't have to worry about them. Our concerns are the storms that dive into the Gulf of Mexico. Here they gather a great deal of moisture and warmth. These storms begin to move northeastward and redevelop along the southeast coast of the U.S. It is here they strengthen rapidly and move northward.

We call these storms nor'easters. If cold air is present when the storm arrives locally, we get slammed with strong winds, extreme cold and heavy snow.

What are the chances? Over the past 73 years, between 1950 and 2023, we've had 33 major snowstorms along the East Coast, or one every 2.2 years, on average. Of those storms, 28 occurred with either an El Nino or neutral phase of Enso (El Nino - Southern Oscillation). Only five have occurred with La Nina. Major East Coast snowstorms are more likely during an El Nino or neutral winter.

Other factors called "teleconnections" are important. One is called the Pacific Decadal

Oscillation (PDO). This can be negative or positive. When the PDO is negative, more often than not, another teleconnection, the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), is negative. This is important because a negative NAO has been found to cause a blocking situation, resulting in cold and snowy winters in the Northeast. Both the PDO and the NAO are expected to be negative this winter.

Also, I have found that when El Nino extends from the South American coast westward past 180 degrees longitude (the international date line), it is called an "El Nino West situation." Snowstorms and cold weather are prevalent during those years.

*Jim Witt, who lives in Philipstown, is the former "weather guy" at WHUD Radio in Beacon and webmaster of TheWeatherWiz.com. Each year he creates a Hudson Valley Weather Calendar to benefit the Hope for Youth Foundation. Now in its 38th edition, it is available at local merchants or at [hfyf.org/calendars](http://hfyf.org/calendars).*



## Cornwall: Senator Secures Funds for Road Repair

State Sen. James Skoufis secured \$125,000 to repave Muser Drive, the mile-long road that leads to the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum.

"Last spring, the potholes were so deep that after it rained, snapping turtles would come to lay their eggs in them and ducklings would swim," said Jessica Oliver, the museum's executive director, in a statement. "Everyone was strictly obeying the posted 15 mph speed limit out of necessity — any faster would surely result in a blown tire or bent rim."

## Peekskill: City Faces Second \$1 Million Judgment

The Common Council, which on Nov. 27 voted to pay a \$1 million settlement in a case handled by the city's former attorney, faces the possibility of default in a second federal lawsuit that could cost another \$1 million.

The earlier lawsuit involved a man injured in a crash with an off-duty Peekskill police officer in 2016, according to the

*Peekskill Herald.* The city's lawyer failed to respond in time to the complaint and the city was found in default.

Now Peekskill faces a second defaulted case that was recently discovered. Filed in October 2022 by the owners of 104 S. Division St., the suit claims that work on the building has been delayed by the city's "unlawful, unequal and arbitrary" enforcement of its building code because they are Hasidic Jews.

The city's attorney at the time didn't respond to the complaint and an entry of default was filed in February and finalized in May. The city will argue at a hearing scheduled for Jan. 4 that the default judgment should be overturned.

## Kingston: Ryan Honors Couple Killed by Hamas

In a speech to the U.S. House on Nov. 30, Rep. Pat Ryan, whose district includes Beacon, remembered Margit Silverman, the sister of Maurice Shnaider, a native of Kingston, who was killed Oct. 7 with her husband, Yosi. The Silvermans' daughter, Shiri Bibas; son-in-law, Yarden; and grandchildren, Kfir, 10 months, and Ariel, 4, were kidnapped by Hamas from their home in a southern Israeli kibbutz.

Hamas has claimed Shiri and her children were killed by an Israeli airstrike, while other reports state the Bibas family is being held by another group. According to the *Daily Freeman*, in late October, family members, friends and political leaders gath-

ered at Congregation Agudas Achim Chabad in Kingston to support the Shnaider family.

Ryan noted in his speech that Judih Weinstein Haggai, 70, of Goshen is still being held by Hamas, and said that her husband, Gadi Haggai, 73, is believed to be dead.

## Ulster: Can We Recycle Mattresses?

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency hopes to find a better way to dispose of mattresses than dumping them in a landfill, according to the *Daily Freeman*.

"When you have to recycle the mattresses, they have to be loaded onto a 53-foot trailer in a certain order, which means you get [a maximum of] 77 mattresses," said Anna Roppolo, the agency's interim executive director, at a recent meeting.

Separating mattresses would eliminate about 20 trailers annually making the 240-mile trip to a landfill in Waterloo. But it would add about 200 trailers making the 100-mile trip to a recycling plant in Queens.

County Legislator Manna Jo Greene told agency officials that lawmakers would like to have a recycling facility in the region to eliminate the drive to Queens.

"My understanding is that in some cases, the mattress actually gets sterilized and reused ... in a warehouse and not used by people," Greene said, according to the *Daily Freeman*. "In most cases, they simply dismantle. They take apart and recycle the contents [such as] the box spring and metal."



## The Season of Advent & Christmas 2023 at First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown

*The Church of the Open Door*  
REV. BRIAN MERRITT, INTERIM PASTOR

### DECEMBER 10 Second Sunday of Advent

Worship service at 10:30 a.m. and a luncheon in celebration of the 195th Anniversary of our church's founding! Also on December 10 at 3:00 p.m. join our friends The Dream Choir for their Concert and Sing-Along. Directed by Cat Guthrie and accompanied by our own Tom McCoy!

### DECEMBER 16 Jazz Nativity 5:30 P.M.

Tom McCoy will be at the piano and has invited some of our favorite musical guests — vocalist Goldee Greene, instrumentalists Richard Charney and Dale DeMarco on sax, Lew Scott on bass, and Mike LaRocco on drums. Join our spirit of Christmas Joy — and stay for a festive reception to follow! In person only.

### DECEMBER 17 Third Sunday of Advent

Worship service at 10:30 a.m. includes Our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant! Don't miss it!

### DECEMBER 21 Longest Night Service 7:00 P.M.

Join us as we observe that some have a need for shared silence, readings, prayers, music, and meditation amid the activity of the Season. In person only, in our candle-lit sanctuary.

### DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Candlelight Christmas Service at 7:00 p.m. Lessons, Carols, and guest musicians!

### DECEMBER 25 Merry Christmas!

### DECEMBER 31 New Year's Eve

Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. and Labyrinth Walk. In person only.

(Zoom available for services except where noted.)  
PAID NOTICE



# Beacon Council to Vote on Budget, Consider Raises

*Also, moratorium proposed, but not likely yet, along Fishkill Avenue*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon residents will have a second chance to comment on the city's proposed 2024 budget on Monday (Dec. 11), when the City Council reopens a public hearing on the \$35 million spending plan, which includes about a \$100 property tax increase on the average home and \$1,000 employee-retention raises for city staff.

After the hearing, the council is expected to vote on the budget.

The plan proposes a decrease in the residential tax rate for the third straight year and a decrease in the commercial tax rate for the second consecutive year. While residential property taxes are likely to see the modest increase because of rising assessments, a \$500,000 commercial parcel would see a 14 percent decrease, or \$760, in its tax bill.

The budget would use \$250,000 from savings to balance the \$25.4 million general fund and \$96,500 in savings for the \$4.2 million water fund. The \$5.3 million sewer fund would not be supplemented by savings. Water and sewer fees would increase for city residents by 4 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

Only one new municipal position, a part-time police dispatcher, is proposed for 2024. Two positions created this year — a recreation assistant and deputy building inspector — are retained in the budget. The recreation assistant will allow the Recreation Department, which is slated for a 20 percent funding increase, to expand its afterschool programming from three to four sites in early 2024. The department's summer camp at University Settlement will also expand by two weeks.

Council members decided during their Dec. 4 workshop to schedule another public hearing, this one for Dec. 18, their final meeting of the year, on a proposal to increase the salaries paid to council members and the mayor. The pitch, made by outgoing Council Member Justice McCray in October, would raise council members' salaries from \$9,000 to \$11,000 annually and the mayor's from \$25,000 to \$29,500.

The reasoning, said McCray, who did not seek re-election last month and will be replaced in January on the council by Jeff Domanski, is to adjust the salaries for inflation and potentially remove one of the barriers that may keep some candidates from running for the office.

“The plan proposes a decrease in the residential tax rate for the third straight year and a decrease in the commercial tax rate for the second consecutive year.

“There are a lot of people in the city who are passionate about making Beacon better” but do not have the resources to run for office and devote time to the position, McCray said in October. The last time the elected officials' benefits were adjusted was in 2017, when the council voted to give its members the option of a \$2,500 payment if they choose not to enroll in the city's health insurance plan.

If the council adopts the salary increases following the hearing on Dec. 18, they would take effect in 2024. In essence, the council could adopt the 2024 budget on

Dec. 11, hold a public hearing on the raises a week later and then vote to amend the 2024 budget following the hearing.

If approved, the amendment would require using an additional \$16,500 — \$2,000 each for six council members and \$4,500 for the mayor — from savings to balance the budget.

Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair said Dec. 4 that he believes the stipend paid to council members “is disproportionate to the amount of work” the job requires, “but I'm very wary of using this position to give myself an increase.” Mayor Lee Kyriacou said he had at different times voted for and against salary increases during his nine terms on the council.

## Fishkill Avenue moratorium?

During the Dec. 4 workshop, Aymar-Blair and Council Member Paloma Wake proposed a moratorium on new development in the Fishkill Avenue corridor while a committee that's expected to be named next month studies the area.

Since the council began discussing the potential rezoning of a mile-long stretch of the corridor, Aymar-Blair said he has heard from constituents who want to see smaller buildings, affordable housing and bike lanes — measures not necessarily supported by current zoning — in the area. Kyriacou last week announced that he will soon appoint a citizens' committee to study the corridor and advise the City Council, but that group, once formed, is not expected to complete its work for six to nine months.

John Clarke, a planning consultant, and City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis both said that a moratorium would probably not withstand legal scrutiny at this point.

Development moratoriums are usually reserved for emergencies, such as in 2017 when the council enacted one while consultants studied Beacon's long-term water supply. In this case, Kyriacou has said he hopes the Fishkill Avenue committee can complete its work within nine months, “but there's no guarantee you can stick to that,” Clarke said on Monday, noting that the Main Street Access Committee needed two years before it made its recommendations to the council.

Ward-Willis said a moratorium would be appropriate to “preserve the status quo”

while a committee examines changes to a law, such as the zoning code. But because the Fishkill Avenue committee has yet to begin its work, the situation does not meet that threshold, he said.

However, if a development project that conflicts with the council's vision for the corridor is submitted to the Planning Board, a moratorium could then be used. “If there was a proposal made that you thought was at odds with the revisions being fleshed out [by the committee], you would have the ability to adopt a moratorium to stop the ‘rush to the gates,’” Ward-Willis told the council. That scenario would support a freeze “because you have a concrete example of something that is being proposed that would be at odds with what you're hoping to accomplish.”

In the meantime, Clarke said the city could revise its parking standards in the general business district, which includes the Fishkill Avenue corridor. That move would allow the city to require parking behind new buildings, for example, which would protect against the “worst” types of projects in the corridor, such as fast-food restaurants, “without short-circuiting the work of the committee.”

Regardless, it will be important for the committee to meet frequently and complete its work as quickly as possible, “so bad projects don't sneak in the back door,” Clarke said.

## Internal subdivisions

The City Council could vote on Monday (Dec. 11) on a zoning amendment to allow developers of residential and mixed-use projects with multiple buildings to “internally” subdivide so that individual buildings are recorded as separate lots.

Internal subdivisions allow developers to separate construction loans for one lot, for example, from long-term financing for the remainder of a site to make a project more viable. The law governing such subdivisions currently applies only to commercial developments.

The amendment was requested by the developer of the Edgewater apartment complex, which was approved in 2018 and when complete will include seven buildings. If the council approves the amendment, any lots “newly created” by internal subdivision would still be bound by special-use permits, if applicable, and zoning restrictions as if they were part of one cohesive site.

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## For Whom Congestion Pricing Tolls

- **Cars, SUVs, vans:** \$15
- **Trucks:** \$24 or \$36 (based on size)
- **Transit and commuter buses:** exempt
- **Other buses:** \$24 or \$36 (based on type)
- **Motorcycles:** \$7.50
- **Vehicles using the Queens-Midtown, Carey, Holland or Lincoln tunnels:** \$5 credit for cars, \$2.50 for motorcycles, \$12 for small trucks and intercity/charter buses, \$20 for large trucks and tour buses
- **Taxis and for-hire vehicles such as Uber:** exempt, but would charge passengers (\$1.25 taxis, \$2.50 for-hire) for rides to, from and within the Manhattan Central Business District
- **Specialized government and emergency vehicles such as garbage trucks, and vehicles transporting people with disabilities:** exempt
- **Low-income drivers who register:** 50 percent discount on daytime toll after the first 10 trips in a calendar month
- **All drivers outside peak hours:** \$3.75

## Congestion Pricing *(from Page 1)*

discounts and exemptions.

Recommendations issued by the MTA’s Traffic Mobility Review Board said the program will shift some of the 900,000 drivers who enter the area each weekday to public transportation and generate \$15 billion in capital funding for the MTA, whose Metro-North commuter rail stops at Beacon, Cold Spring, Garrison and Manitou.

Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents Putnam County on the MTA board and chairs its Finance Committee, said the tolls are necessary to help fund the agency’s infrastructure needs.

“Ultimately, no one wants to pay more,” said Zuckerman on Wednesday. “But someone has to pay.”

Janno Lieber, the MTA’s chair and CEO, said congestion pricing will spur “less traffic, cleaner air, safer streets and better transit.”

The Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority (TBTA) will lead the monthslong process to finalize the rates. That process will involve in-person and virtual public hearings in early 2024 and a 60-day period for residents to comment on the plan.

The MTA board will then vote on authorizing the TBTA to adopt the rates, with tolling to begin by late spring. As of Nov. 30, contractors had installed 60 percent of the infrastructure needed for collecting tolls,

according to the MTA.

Lieber said during a budget discussion in December 2022 that the MTA faced an “existential crisis,” with forecasts concluding that ridership would remain below pre-pandemic levels and that the agency’s deficit would reach \$3 billion by 2026.

In August, the MTA resumed fare and toll increases for Metro-North, and its buses, subways, bridges and tunnels after suspending hikes during the pandemic. The increases are expected to generate \$117 million this year and additional hikes are planned for 2025 and 2027, the agency said on Nov. 29, when it released a draft budget for next year.

The MTA also said that the \$19.3 billion spending plan for 2024 will save \$427 million from “operating efficiencies” and is projected to be just the second balanced spending plan in five years.

The savings were required as part of a funding boost from the state that includes an increase in the Payroll Mobility Tax, which is assessed on businesses in New York City, as well as Dutchess, Putnam and the five other counties served by the MTA.

The state raised the tax on New York City’s largest employers to generate an additional \$1.1 billion annually for the MTA.

“I am proud of the work that has been done,” said Zuckerman during a Finance Committee review of the budget on Nov. 29. “It’s an extraordinary document.”

## What’s Online at Highlands Current.org

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

### Local Officials

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

### Local Government Video Guide

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

### How They Voted (Congress)

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

### Storm Updates and Resources

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

### Community 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.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Garrison Bus Referendum Passes

*Authorizes all students to be picked up*

A proposal to authorize the Garrison school district to transport all students by bus regardless of how far they live from the school, at an additional annual cost of \$16,200, passed overwhelmingly on Tuesday (Dec. 5).

The vote was 173-15.

The measure formalizes a policy that allows children who live within 2 miles of the school to take the bus. The school has provided the service for years but never received approval from voters as required by law, explained Carl Albano, the interim superintendent.

### Dutchess Launches Online Zoning App

*Provides interactive map of land uses*

The Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development on Monday (Dec. 4) announced the release of an online application that enables users to select any of the county’s 30 municipalities, including Beacon, and view an interactive version of the zoning map or a county-wide view of land uses.

The application, available at [gis.dutchessny.gov/zoning](https://gis.dutchessny.gov/zoning), allows users to identify the zoning districts of a parcel; reference zoning changes; check the zoning of proposed developments; and ask the department questions about zoning.

Before the release, zoning maps were only available in PDF or paper form, which the agency said made it difficult to zoom in to see individual properties. In addition,

overlay zones often needed to be viewed on maps that are often buried in municipal codes and difficult to find.

### Fewer Rescues on Breakneck Ridge

*Numbers fall from 2021, 2022*

The number of rescues at Breakneck Ridge by first responders since March was 70 percent lower than in 2022 and 80 percent lower than 2021, the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail noted in a news release, attributing the change in part to upgrades made to the trail and train station.

According to the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services, there have been three calls on Breakneck Ridge in 2023. Although the trailhead was closed for four months, the Wilkinson, Nimham and Washburn/Cornish trails remained open.

The Fjord Trail also noted that more state park staff and New York-New Jersey Trail Conference stewards were stationed at Breakneck to assist hikers and direct them to designated loops and alternative hikes.

The Breakneck Ridge and Wilkinson trailheads, as well as the Metro-North station, will close in early 2024 for about two years because of construction of a connector path and bridge that is part of the first phase of the Fjord Trail park.

### Lions Club Inducts Five

*Also selling 2024 discount cards*

The Cold Spring Lions Club recently inducted five members — Susan Freeman, Beth Horan, Lesley Robertson,

Kristen Peparo and Josiah Peparo — and launched its 2024 discount-card campaign.

The cards, which offer savings at local businesses, are \$20 each. They are available on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Foodtown, from any Lions member or at Zara’s Cleaners on Route 9 in Philipstown.

Funds raised by the sale of cards are used to provide scholarships to high school seniors and to support organizations such as the Philipstown Little League, Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, Philipstown Food Pantry, Putnam History Museum, Chapel Restoration, Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center, Guiding Eyes for the Blind and the Lions See vision-screening program.

The Lions also have a Leo Club, formed by Haldane High School students, that makes blankets for the Linus Project.

## NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will **not** meet in the Month of December. The next meeting will be **January 9th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.**



AROUND TOWN



▲ **SANTA VISIT** — Mr. and Mrs. Claus stopped by the Cold Spring riverfront on Dec. 2 to greet children, courtesy of the fire company. Girl Scouts led the crowd in carols and the Hudson House provided cookies and hot cider. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).  
*Photo by Ross Corsair*



◀ **MAGICAL SHOW** — The Depot Youth troupe, consisting of actors in grades 1 to 7, presented *The Wizard of Oz* at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison on Dec. 2 and 3, and will perform again on Dec. 9. The show is directed by Sarah Law and choreographed by Elaine Llewellyn, while Robert Freimark oversees the music. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).  
*Photo by Ross Corsair*



◀ **HELP FROM HUMANA** — Melissa Lahey of Cold Spring works for Humana, which recently donated \$4,000 to the Philipstown Food Pantry, where she volunteers.  
*Photo by Michael Turton*

**THE PERFECT TREE** — ▶ Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne and his son selected their Christmas tree in Garrison on Nov. 27. “Thank you Cockburn Farm for another great experience,” Byrne wrote online. “Braeden absolutely loved seeing Santa, picking out the tree and watching his old man get mud on his pants as he cut down the tree.” *Photo provided*





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## The Calendar

# The Guitar Was for Photo Shoots. Then She Learned to Play.



Photo by Jeff Beasty

## Influenced by jazz and Joni Mitchell, Beacon singer releases debut EP

By Alison Rooney

At a certain juncture, songwriter and singer Rose Stoller knew she had to confront what was becoming a looming stumbling block: learning to play the guitar. Though she was crafting songs, she lacked the ability to perform them for others.

"Many people took guitar lessons when they were 7 years old, or even 14, while here I was trying to learn guitar, write songs and jump-start performing them," says the Beacon resident. "I wanted to share the songs but I was still learning how to play the instrument and holding the guitar awkwardly."

"Ambition made it stressful, but I think you have to go through this learning curve, whether you're an artist, a knitter, anything," she says. "The only way to get past it is to go through it. I do feel I'm on the other side, but that doesn't mean the growth is over."

It seems to be working. Stoller recently released her debut EP, *Rose Stoller: Live at Guava*, a Pawling music studio. It features five acoustic tracks, including those inspired by Brazilian popular music,

"Laurel Canyon folk rock," rhythm and blues and contemporary jazz.

All showcase Stoller's creative phrasing and inflections — her Instagram handle, chosen a while back, she notes, unsure that it still reflects her music, is @WeirdSound-Girl. The EP is accompanied by videos of live performances of each song.

"I don't think I sound very conventional and I was playing on that when I chose that name," she explains. "The sounds I make are super-organic and always changing. I open my mouth and see what happens, and there's something fun about that."

Stoller, 26, grew up in New York City, in a household where her father wrote songs as a hobby. "My dad is an undiscovered talent and his songwriting was a big inspiration to me, though I didn't participate in it growing up — I was shy," Stoller recalls. "I went to a competitive arts high school, which I found detrimental to the growing brain. Art is supposed to help you express yourself, but for me it was the opposite because I wasn't expressive in theater spaces."

It was in high school that Stoller first heard the music that captivated her. "In junior year, one of my friends played some music on her phone, and I nearly fell on the floor, hearing those notes. It was 'Waters of March,' by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Elis Regina."



"That song opened my eyes and put jazz on my radar," she recalls. "It was, 'So, that's Brazilian jazz. What's American jazz?' Soon, burning through things, I knew all the songs and began recognizing voices. I got into a contemporary singer, Gretchen Parlato, along with Shirley Horn and Billie Holiday. That same energy carried me through college at SUNY New Paltz, experiencing music independently — on my own little jazz journey."

"As I was transitioning out of jazz, a huge bridge for me was and is Joni Mitchell. I can sing every single part of every single record of hers. It's that kind of coagulation, mixing songwriter and jazz, which has inspired me. My song 'Frankie' comes from getting that repertoire under my belt, then being bitten by a Joni bug."

During her last year of college, in 2019, she picked up a guitar with purpose. "I had only used it for photo shoots," she says, with

chagrin. "I didn't have a relationship with the instrument. I knew I had to learn how to play if I was to give songwriting a shot."

"This EP is the result of that first exploration. I'm self-taught and have approached songwriting experimentally. This is my first little phase of it. It is something I was thinking about and feeling from an early age. Songwriters were my people. I just was discouraged when I didn't write something beautiful. I didn't want to mess up, so I kept the guitar on the wall."

"With 'Frankie,' the second full song I wrote, it came so fast. It was you sit down, you have the instrument in your hand and you write the song. That was a beautiful feeling: to be a vessel, the story coming through me. It was amazing to create something and not be banging your head over it. That gave me some faith that maybe this is a muscle I can sit with and keep growing."

Stoller often opens for friends and contemporaries at venues such as The Sultan Room and The Owl in Brooklyn, the Graveside Variety Art Space in Woodstock and the Avalon Lounge in Catskill. Next up is a Dec. 25 performance at City Winery Hudson Valley in Montgomery for a Songwriters Round with Annalyse & Ryan and Lauren Magarelli, and Feb. 15 at the Root Cellar at Bard College with Glenn Echo and Dirty Bird.

*Rose Stoller: Live at Guava* is available through Spotify and Apple Music.

“That was a beautiful feeling: to be a vessel, the story coming through me.”



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see [highlandscurrent.org/calendar](http://highlandscurrent.org/calendar).

## KIDS & FAMILY

### TUES 12 Arctic Animals

**BEACON**  
4:15 p.m. Howland Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

Children ages 4 to 7 are invited to enjoy stories and a craft. Registration required.

### THURS 14 Retro Candy and Board Games

**BEACON**  
3:45 p.m. Howland Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

Children and teens ages 11 and older can sample candy from the 1970s to 1990s and play classic board games. Registration required.



### THURS 14 All Aboard the Polar Express

**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

After reading the story, take a trolley ride and come back to the library for cookies and hot chocolate. Registration required.

### FRI 15 Cinnamon Salt Dough Decorations

**GARRISON**  
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Learn how to make ornaments using fragrant gingerbread. Registration required.

### FRI 15 DIY Ugly Sweater

**COLD SPRING**  
6 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Students in grades 6 and up are invited to bring a sweater or sweatshirt to decorate. Registration required.

### SAT 16 Teen Hike

**COLD SPRING**  
10 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Students in grades 8 to 12 can take a guided hike on the short loop of Bull Hill. Registration required.

## STAGE & SCREEN

### SAT 9 Carnival of the Animals

**COLD SPRING**  
11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://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 Victorian Reverie

**COLD SPRING**  
1 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Enjoy tea and sandwiches and poetry readings by Rain Lee, Irene



Our Town, Dec. 9

O'Garden, John Pielmeier, Candace Coates and Laurence Carr. *Free*

### SAT 9 Our Town

**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigside Drive  
[haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

Haldane Drama presents Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors)*

### SAT 9 Improv

**BEACON**  
7 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | [bit.ly/improv-yard](http://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](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

Now it is 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

**BEACON**  
Noon & 6 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar  
173 Main St. | [reservabeacon.com](http://reservabeacon.com)

The half-Jewish drag performer's show includes naughty humor, parodies and costumes. *Cost: \$50*

# REAL ESTATE MARKET

## HOME SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE LAST 30 DAYS

### BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPERTIES	CITY	BEDS	BATHS	SQ FT	SOLD!
79 Old Glenham Rd.	Fishkill	2	1/0	980	\$275,000
61 Howland Ave.	Beacon	3	2/0	1,624	\$385,000
1 Goodrich St.	Beacon	3	2/0	1,124	\$460,000
85 Lincoln Ave.	Beacon	3	2/0	1,800	\$525,000
71 Wilson St.	Beacon	3	2/0	1,540	\$547,500
39 Glenford Ave.	Beacon	2	2/0	2,648	\$680,000
253 Old Castle Point Rd.	Fishkill	4	3/1	4,156	\$850,000
30-32 Cobblestone Rd.	Wappinger	3	1/1	4,032	\$930,000

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12 Monell Place, Beacon  
5 Bed | 3 Bath | 5,016 Sq Ft | \$2,190,000



THE  
GATE HOUSE  
TEAM

COMPASS



WED 13  
**Ultimate Christmas Variety Show**

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The Edwards Twins impersonate Vegas performers, including Neil Diamond, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler and Tom Jones. *Cost: \$30 to \$50*

THURS 14  
**The Artichoke**

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [artichokeshow.com](http://artichokeshow.com)

Sign-up begins at 6 p.m. for anyone who wants to share a six-minute story at this open mic. *Cost: \$5*

FRI 15  
**Anthony Rodia**

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
[midhudsonciviccenter.org](http://midhudsonciviccenter.org)

The comedian, a Westchester County native, will perform as part of his Totally Relatable tour. *Cost: \$55 to \$98*

SUN 17  
**Little Women**

COLD SPRING

12:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Watch the 2019 version of the film in honor of library founder Julia Butterfield’s 200th birthday. Registration required.

SUN 17  
**Penelope**

GARRISON

4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

Christine Bokhour will star in this one-person show; she was the understudy for the 2023 performances at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. *Cost: \$35*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 9  
**Doctors Without Borders Benefit**

BEACON

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. The Landmark  
139 Main St. | [theoganzstudio.com](http://theoganzstudio.com)

Artists have donated work that will be sold to benefit the international crisis healthcare organization.

SAT 9  
**Between Facing Mirrors**

BEACON

11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Distortion Society  
155 Main St. | [distortionsociety.com](http://distortionsociety.com)

These works by Michelle Silver examine physical and metaphysical space through the lens of motherhood as the artist emerged from the postpartum depression for the second time to discover everything about her was illuminated. Through Feb. 3.

SAT 9  
**Blind Date Recursive 02**

BEACON

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon  
3 Beekman St. | [diaart.org](http://diaart.org)

In the second of five discussions

that take place on Rita McBride’s modular *Arena* (1997), a facilitator will pose a question and act as an instigator, listener and moderator as participants create a new question for the next session. The second question is, “Where to facilitate energy to give life?” Free with admission. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students, \$5 children, free for Beacon residents)*

SAT 9  
**Gift Wrapped**

BEACON

5 – 9 p.m. Clutter  
139 Main St. | [clutter.co](http://clutter.co)

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

SAT 9  
**Animal Tales**

BEACON

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St.  
[hudsonbeachglassshop.com](http://hudsonbeachglassshop.com)

Alison Palmer will exhibit her stoneware clay. Through Jan. 7.

SAT 9  
**Studio Work**

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects  
484 Main St. | [supersecretprojects.com](http://supersecretprojects.com)

This exhibit will feature works by gallery members that isn’t usually exhibited because it’s experimental.

SAT 9  
**Linda Lauro-Lazin | Forged in Fire**

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery  
506 Main St. | [baugallery.org](http://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.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 9  
**Hiding in Plain Sight**

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://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.

MUSIC

SAT 9  
**Mike LaRocco Trio**

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar  
173 Main St. | [reservabeacon.com](http://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](http://townecrier.com)

For her 23rd annual holiday show, Wainwright will be joined by the Sloan Flakes and others. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

(Continued on Page 14)

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SAT 9  
**Visit from Santa**

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638  
[boscobel.org](http://boscobel.org)

Santa will visit the back porch of the mansion to greet children and pose for photos. Free with grounds admission. Also SAT 16. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 senior, \$4 ages 4 to 18)*



SAT 9  
**Holiday Gift Show & Sale**

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St.  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

Find crafts, jewelry, ceramics and artwork by regional artisans at this annual sale. Also SUN 10, FRI 15, SAT 16, SUN 17. Through Dec. 22.

SAT 9  
**The Nutcracker**

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 & 7:30 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

The New Paltz Ballet Theatre will perform the classic dance. Also SUN 10. *Cost: \$36 (\$31 member, \$30 children)*



SAT 9  
**Season of Light**

NEWBURGH

4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College  
845-913-7157  
[newburghsymphony.org](http://newburghsymphony.org)

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra’s program at Aquinas Hall will include Pachelbel’s *Canon*, choral music and a Hanukkah song, “Eight Days of Light.” *Cost: \$30 to \$75 (students free)*

SAT 9  
**Twilight Tours**

GARRISON

4 – 6:20 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D | [boscobel.org](http://boscobel.org)

Experience the house and gardens lit by candlelight and decorated for 19th-century holidays, with live music, mulled cider, hot chocolate and cookies. Also FRI 15, SAT 16. *Cost: \$30 (\$25 seniors, \$18 children, member discount)*

SAT 9  
**Holiday Sing and Fundraiser**

BEACON

5 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club  
2 Red Flynn Drive | [beaconsloopclub.org](http://beaconsloopclub.org)

This community sing-a-long will

include a potluck with appetizers and desserts. Donations welcome to benefit Common Ground Farm.

SAT 9  
**Bicycle Menorah Lighting**

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Ave.  
[beaconhebrewalliance.org](http://beaconhebrewalliance.org)

Join the community for a nightly candle lighting at the menorah made out of bicycles during the celebration of Hannukah. Continues each evening through THURS 14.

SAT 9  
**Christmas by Candlelight**

COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)

Singer and songwriter Natalie Forteza will be accompanied by Akie Bermiss (piano), Anthony Candullo (bass) and Erik Perez (drums). *Cost: \$25*

SAT 9  
**John Tesh**

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

In A Jazzy Swingin’ Christmas, Tesh and his seven-piece band play hits from his holiday recordings. *Cost: \$45 to \$75*

SUN 10  
**Holiday Tours**

BEACON

Noon & 1 & 2 p.m. Mount Gulian  
145 Sterling St. | [mountgulian.org](http://mountgulian.org)

Tour the historic mansion, which has been decorated for the holidays. Also WED 13 to SUN 17. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 children)*

SUN 10  
**Nutcracker, Short and Sweet**

PEEKSKILL

3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://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](http://highlandschapel.org)

This Highlands Choral Society concert will include Saint-Saëns’ *Christmas Oratorio*. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 10  
**Cirque Dreams Holidayze**

WEST POINT

4 p.m. Ike Hall | 655 Pitcher Road  
845-938-4159 | [ikehall.com](http://ikehall.com)

Circus artists will combine storytelling and choreography for this holiday performance. *Cost: \$48*

SUN 10  
**Menorah Lighting**

BEACON

4:30 p.m. Polhill Park  
Main Street and South Avenue

Chabad of Beacon will host this Hannukah celebration.



MON 11  
**Menorah Lighting**

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Depot Square  
[putnamchabad.org](http://putnamchabad.org)

The festivities, hosted by the Putnam Chabad, will include hot latkes and cider.

THURS 14  
**Hop + Shop**

BEACON

[hopandshopbeacon.com](http://hopandshopbeacon.com)

The directory of participating stores, discounts, raffles and extended hours for this annual holiday event, established in 2017, will go online on SUN 10. Also FRI 15.

FRI 15  
**Winter Market**

PHILIPSTOWN

2 – 6 p.m. Glynwood Center  
362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338  
[glynwood.org](http://glynwood.org)

Find local artisans and goodies at the Farm Store.

SAT 16  
**It’s A Wonderful Life**

PUTNAM VALLEY

2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

A cast of nine actors and musicians will perform the classic story as a radio broadcast. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 16  
**Winter Solstice**

CORNWALL

3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive  
845-534-5506 x204 | [hhnm.org](http://hhnm.org)

Celebrate the longest night of the year and the return of the light. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 children, members \$10/\$8)*

SAT 16  
**Jazz Nativity**

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
10 Academy St.  
[presbychurchcoldspring.org](http://presbychurchcoldspring.org)

Tom McCoy, Goldee Greene, Richard Chaney, Dale DeMarco, Lew Scott and Mike LaRocco will perform.

SUN 17  
**Holiday Tea and Music**

GARRISON

1 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | [boscobel.org](http://boscobel.org)

Mark Rust will perform multi-cultural holiday music while guests enjoy tea. *Cost: \$65 (\$55 children)*



THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)

**FRI 15**  
**Lotus**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The tribute band will play the hits of Santana. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**SAT 16**  
**A Celtic Christmas**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
7:30 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | baradavon.org  
A Taste of Ireland's tour includes music and dancing as star-crossed lovers find their way to each other. Also SUN 17. *Cost: \$45 to \$65*

**SAT 16**  
**A Very Slambovian Christmas**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The Slambovian Circus of Dreams will perform its annual holiday show. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

**SAT 16**  
**Joe Fiedler**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
8 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center  
12 Vassar St. | joefiedler.eventbrite.com  
The trombonist and composer will play music from his latest recording, *The Howland Sessions*.

*Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

**SUN 17**  
**Holiday Hoot**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org  
Miss Willa Bugnon and Tom McCoy will host this celebration of Hannukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa with music by G.G. and the Shades, the X-Tremes and the LuvBugs, as well as poetry and a sing-a-long. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door, \$10 children)*

**SUN 17**  
**The Costellos**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Lynn and Bob will be joined by Scott Ramsey, The Flurries and Dimitri Archip for their annual Christmas show. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**CIVIC**  
**MON 11**  
**School Board**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

**MON 11**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov  
The meeting will include a public hearing on the 2024 budget. See Page 8.

**WED 13**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

**TALKS & TOURS**  
**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.

**TUES 12**  
**Pet First Aid Training**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
6 p.m. Dept. of Emergency Response  
392 Creek Road | dutchessny.gov/mrc  
Members of the Dutchess County Medical Reserve Corps will teach skills that can save the lives of pets and livestock. Register online.

**WED 13**  
**Lt. Lemuel Snow, Patriot and Pioneer**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010  
putnamhistorymuseum.org  
Kirk Moldoff will discuss Snow, who served for eight years in the Hudson Valley during the Revolutionary War. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*



A Very Slambovian Christmas, Dec. 9

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIP'S

Saturday, December 16:

12:00 PM - Wreaths Across America

Please join us for a short ceremony followed by the laying of wreaths on the gravesites of those who served in our nation's Armed Forces.

Wednesday, December 20:

7:00 PM - Longest Night service

A service to mark the longest night of the year.

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve:

8:00 AM - Spoken Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM - Spoken Holy Eucharist

4:30 PM - Christmas Pageant with carols

9:00 PM - Christmas Eve Eucharist with carols

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day:

10:00 AM - Christmas Holy Eucharist with carols

Come worship with us

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH  
IN THE HIGHLANDS

1101 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524  
845-424-3571 [stpphilipshighlands.org](http://stpphilipshighlands.org)  
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Penelope

with Christine Bokhour

December 17 at 4pm

CINEMA DEPOT

Irving Berlin's  
White  
Christmas

December 22 at 7:30pm

DEPOT DOCS

After the Bite

January 5 at 7:30  
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All tickets available at  
[www.philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://www.philipstowndepottheatre.org)

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# Let each candle glow in tribute

As part of Cold Spring Aglow, taking place today, December 8, from 4–8pm, residents lit up Main St. with candles and tributes, some of which are shared here.

In memory of my Dad,  
Brian Stachitus. Let  
your wisdom shine on.

In loving memory of  
Jane St. Aubin and  
Muriel Stanley

Tom D. Fuller Dorothy  
Maggio

In loving memory of  
Angie and Tony  
D'Amato and Maria  
and Philip Percacciolo

Michael 'Daddio'  
Panasci

With love in memory of  
Stephen Rutkowski and  
Anthony Dato. Always  
in our hearts.

In honor of our Dad,  
Grandfather and Great  
Grandfather; James  
Helbock

The Late Ernest  
Forcello

My sister Emily,  
we miss you

In Memory of Jim  
Farnorotto

In loving memory of  
my grandmother Elsie  
Cornwell

In memory of the most  
incredible mother, and  
Nanniebug — Joan  
Murphy Walsh. Never a  
love could glow  
brighter than the one  
you shined upon us.  
You are dearly missed.

In memory of our  
beloved frenchie, best  
boy, Hamilton

A light for refugees,  
near and far

Grandma Kay,  
we love you

In honor of our  
Philipstown veterans

Melissa Santos,  
remembering your  
beautiful smile and  
indomitable spirit. You  
were, and continue to  
be, an inspiration for  
us all. Rest in peace,  
my friend.

Peace for this world

For all the volunteers  
that make our  
community glow

Honoring this  
community and the  
people that make it

Our teachers

Jack Goldstein

In loving memory of  
Lisa Pitre, aka Gramms

Thank you to our town  
board and village  
trustees for doing the  
often thankless work  
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## Mouths to Feed

## Holiday Stars

By Celia Barbour

December is a sweet, strange land, full of unforeseen temptations. It's wise to approach the month with a strategy in mind. Otherwise, you could wind up wandering from cookie to candy to brownie to bar, from eggnog to toddy to glogg and back again, and find yourself lightheaded before you're halfway to the big jamboree.

Yesterday, while contemplating my own need for a plan, I remembered the Michelin Guides. They have been helping people to plot courses through unfamiliar regions, and to plan and prioritize what to eat while there, for more than 100 years.

These days, I hardly pay attention to Michelin's restaurant stars. The older I've gotten, the more I've realized that delicious, beautifully made food is just one small part of what makes a meal great — and that dining in certain high-end restaurants



## Pecan Bars



2 cups all-purpose flour	¼ cup honey
⅔ cup confectioner's sugar	½ cup brown sugar
3 sticks plus 3 tablespoons butter, at room temperature, divided	3 tablespoons heavy cream
¼ cup maple syrup	3½ cups pecans, roughly chopped

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter an 8x12-inch brownie pan, line the bottom with parchment paper, then butter the parchment.

Sift together the flour and confectioner's sugar, transfer to the bowl of a food processor and pulse to blend. Cut two sticks of butter into pieces, add to the food processor and blend about 10 seconds, until crumbly.

Turn the mixture into the prepared pan (don't worry; it will look dry) and press gently into place. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, then remove from oven.

Meanwhile, prepare the topping: In a medium-large saucepan, melt the remaining 11 tablespoons butter. Add the maple syrup, honey, brown sugar and cream and whisk until evenly blended. Heat the mixture over medium-low until it is hot, though not bubbling, about 3 minutes. Add the chopped pecans and stir until well coated.

When the crust is pre-baked, spread the pecan mixture over the surface. Return to the oven and bake an additional 25 minutes. Cool completely in the pan before cutting into bars.

simply isn't very fun.

I do, however, love the way that the Michelin system rates things according to whether

they are *worth it*. "Worth a trip," "worth a detour" and "worth a stop" are their descriptors for their three-, two- and one-star ratings. Should you book a trip to Kyoto just to eat in a certain restaurant? Yes, absolutely in the case of a three-star recipient, they claim. But, for the two-star joints, only if you're already in Osaka, and only if you happen to be down the block, for the one-stars.

"Worth" is a wonderful yardstick, more relevant to how we humans actually value things than price. It acknowledges that the same thing can be a rip-off or a bargain depending on context; that \$2 is too much to pay for a dud while \$100 can be a steal for something that will make you happy for decades to come.

When it comes to navigating holiday food, perhaps the secret is to follow our inner Michelin star system. But instead of rating dishes in terms of trips and detours, we consider things like: Is it worth the calo-

ries and/or regret? Is it worth the time and care to cook it? Is it worth the effort if no one raves? And — for some of us, when it comes to certain ingredients — is it worth the subsequent tummy ache?

This week's recipe has already proved its three-star worthiness on all counts. It has been one of my mother's go-to autumn and winter holiday recipes for nearly four decades, and it's the thing my husband, kids and in-laws ask after most when they know she'll be coming to a gathering: "Will she be bringing her pecan bars?" They disappear first at dessert-time, usually soundtracked by a chorus of I-really-shouldn'ts, as folks help themselves to seconds and thirds before cutting the bars in half for their fourths and fifths. Clearly, they showed up at the cookie plate without a strategy.

December may be a tricky month when it comes to eating wisely, but it's also full of guiding stars, of all kinds.

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## Roots and Shoots

## Mild Winter Rules

By Pamela Doan

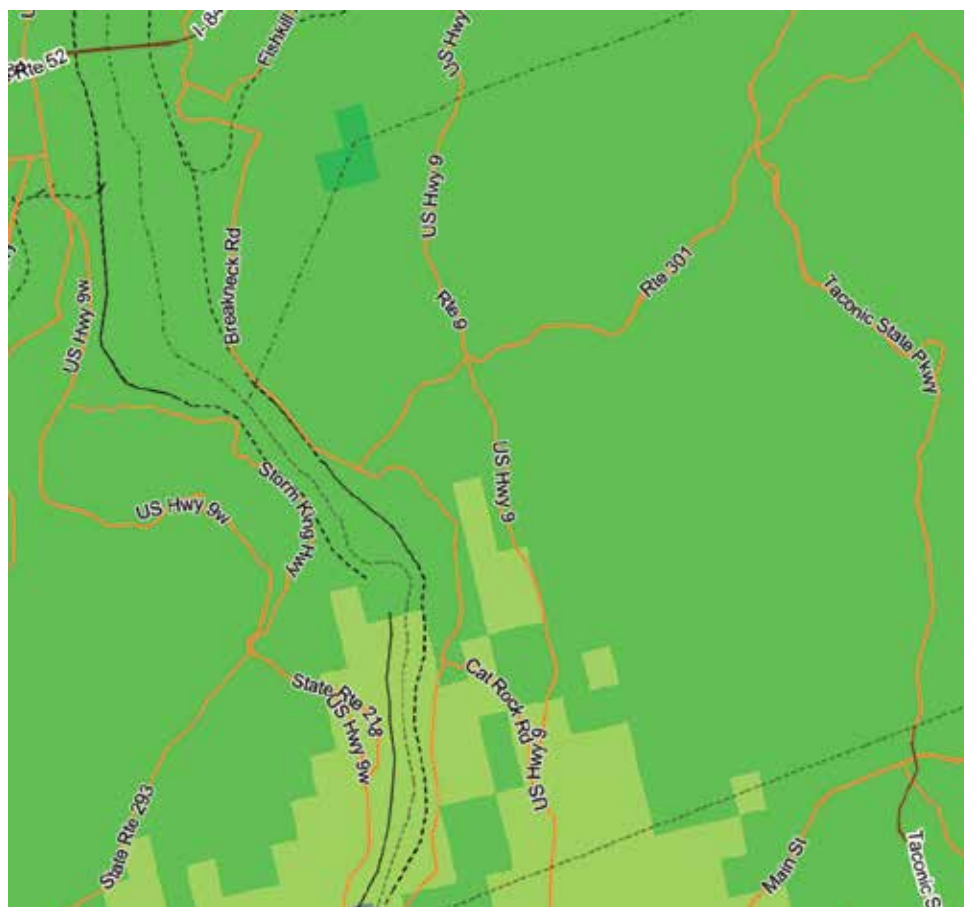


This weekend I'm finally going to plant garlic. Ideally, it would have gone in the ground sometime between mid-October and Thanksgiving, but here we are. Even though flurries are flying past my window this morning and it's in the mid-30s, my weather app says it will be 60 degrees this weekend. The worst thing that will happen is that my garlic harvest comes in later in the summer and I lose the opportunity to plant something in its spot in the garden in July.

Recently I've seen forsythia blooming and daffodils shooting up. I've been told about roses and lilacs blooming again in November and fall-planted garlic bursting through. This is called "breaking dormancy," and it happens when plants are triggered by temperature and environmental conditions to develop buds for leaves and flowers and for new growth to occur. In our climate, that should happen in the spring after a seasonal period of rest when no growth occurs for plants, woody plants and trees. Here that period is fall and winter. This is not a typical habit for our local foliage.

The newly revised hardiness zone climate map was released this fall by the U.S. Department of Agriculture ([planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov)). As I've written before, this is a guide for plant survival by modeling the coldest temperatures the plants have to survive. It was last updated in 2012 and demonstrates that overall temperatures are 2.5 degrees warmer since then. About half the zones in the country moved up half a zone.

Locally, Cold Spring, Garrison and Beacon are all listed in Zone 6b, which indicates the coldest temperatures should be in the minus 5 to zero range. In 1990,



Most of the Highlands are in Hardiness Zone 6b, which indicates the coldest expected winter temperatures are just below zero, although some spots are in the slightly milder 7a (light green). USDA

Cold Spring and Beacon were in Zone 6a, with the lowest temperatures dropping to between minus 5 and minus 10 degrees. Garrison has been in Zone 6b since 1990.

Within these zones are microclimates in which it will be warmer or colder depending on environmental and geographic features, such as proximity to water, elevation, ground surface and the direction a slope faces. Take the hardiness-zone information as a guide, then factor in your observations for a closer understanding. For a fuller discussion, see [highlandscurrent.org/your-zone](http://highlandscurrent.org/your-zone).

What I found particularly interesting was an explanation of hardiness-zone shifts in a discussion about climate change published

by Yale Environment 360. Its research showed that plant zones are changing at a pace of about 13 miles per decade. Consider, for example, that Croton-on-Hudson, which is 25 miles south of Cold Spring, is Zone 7a, meaning the coldest temperatures are zero to 5 degrees. If this pattern holds, Cold Spring will be in the warmer Zone 7a within 20 years and Croton will be in the warmer Zone 8a.

These changes mean there is an opportunity to expand the growing season and types of plants that can thrive. At the same time, it means that some plants and trees won't get enough cold days at low enough temperatures to survive. Episodes like breaking dormancy and blooming off-season



Milder December temperatures are conducive to planting garlic. Photo by P. Doan

— that forsythia I saw is blooming four to five months early — will be more common.

In addition to garlic, unfrozen ground can be planted with other bulbs, and certainly broadleaved trees. Avoid planting evergreens until spring because they are more prone to drying out in winter, and if temperatures are shifting up and down, dormancy will be harder to evaluate.

According to Shane Stevens, the master-forester volunteer coordinator for our Cornell Cooperative Extension region, best practices are planting trees in dormancy. We most typically think of that as spring or fall but the unfrozen soil has created a longer opening. "When I planted trees with the Greene County soil and water conservation district, it was less stressful for the tree if it was being manipulated during dormancy," he said. "Our success rate was lower for trees planted in mid-summer and we tried to avoid it."

Follow all the usual best practices for planting and be prepared to water it and continue watering during a dry spell if the temperatures rise. Mulch is especially important during winter planting because it will help maintain the soil temperature as air temperature fluctuates.

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16			17					
18				19								
20			21		22				23	24	25	26
			27	28			29	30				
31	32	33						34				
35					36		37					
38					39	40			41	42	43	44
				45				46		47		
48	49	50	51						52			
53						54			55			
56						57			58			

- ACROSS
1. "Kapow!"
4. British ref. work
7. Holler
12. Director Spike
13. Chemical suffix
14. Fall sign
15. Nest egg acronym
16. Large, luxurious car
18. Brooch
19. Range
20. Collections
22. — tear (raging)
23. First lady of scat
27. Earth Day mo.
29. Transparent
31. Dolphins' home
34. Traces of smoke
35. Agile
37. Obtained
38. Bygone Peruvian
39. Flamenco cheer
41. Vacillate

45. Quick trip
47. Shoe width
48. Pungent cheese
52. Aachen article
53. Sports figures?
54. Zsa Zsa's sister
55. Speck
56. Dunkable treat
57. River blocker
58. Actor Brynner
21. Ballroom dance
23. Radiates
24. Vinyl records
25. Back talk
26. Billboards
28. Picnic dessert
30. — Jima
31. Roman 1051
32. "There's no — team!"
33. *Better Call Saul* network
36. Bellow
37. Swiss metropolis
40. Sledded in the Winter Olympics
42. Like a neglected garden
43. Vowel group
44. Streisand title role
45. Equitable
46. Streetcar
48. Leary's drug
49. Jurist Lance
50. Fortify
51. A/C meas.

- DOWN
1. Radar dots
2. High nest
3. Signified
4. Fixes a squeak
5. Newspaper chief
6. Fiend
7. Pivot
8. That guy's
9. Kimono sash
10. Samovar
11. — kwon do
17. Ellipse

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

STORE

AMONG

MICRO  
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. \_\_\_ Anthony (Season 20 winner of *The Voice*)
4. Underground explorer
6. Group of lions
7. Big-ticket watch brand
8. Call to a shepherd
- DOWN
1. Chocolate substitute
2. Teresa of \_\_\_ (Spanish saint)
3. Tragedy by Euripides

	1	2	3	
4				5
6				
7				
	8			

4. Lifeguard's skill, briefly
5. *Toy Story* dinosaur

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

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

N	I	N	A	
P	L	U	G	
R	O	B	I	N
	S	I	R	E
	T	A	L	E

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SLIDES  
GLIDES  
GLADES

Answers for Dec. 1 Puzzles

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## Sports

# VARSITY ROUNDUP



Jack Antalek (23) battles for a rebound. Photo by Cadence Heeter



Marisa Peters makes a pass during the Blue Devils' loss to Woodlands. Photo by Skip Pearlman

## BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — The Bulldogs kicked off their 2023-24 campaign under second-year coach Patrick Schetter on Monday (Dec. 4) with a 67-59 win over Washingtonville but followed that on Wednesday with a hard fall, 95-33, at Lourdes. Beacon (1-1) travels to New Paltz today (Dec. 8) and to Port Jervis on Tuesday. The team was 15-7 last season, losing in the Section IX, Class A semifinals to Goshen, but lost nine seniors to graduation.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon hopes to improve upon its 15-5 record from last season, when it finished as the No. 1 seed in the Section IX, Class A tournament before being upset in the first round by Franklin Roosevelt. The team is led by juniors Reilly Landisi and Daveya Rodriguez. The Bulldogs opened this season on Tuesday (Dec. 5) with a 54-13 home win over Goshen behind 18 points from Landisi and nine from Rodriguez. The Bulldogs (1-0) travel to Burke Catholic today (Dec. 8) and to Cornwall on Monday.

**BOYS' SWIMMING** — Beacon began its season finishing third in a meet against Valley Central and Marlboro but taking home three first-place wins: Ronnie Anzovino in the 50-meter freestyle in 24.95; ninth grader Fionn Fehilly in the 100-meter freestyle in 57.45; and Bryce Manning in the 100-meter breaststroke in 1:12.48. Beacon

hosted Rhinebeck on Thursday (Dec. 7) and will host Lourdes on Tuesday.

**WRESTLING** — The Bulldogs kicked off the 2023-24 campaign by hosting Valley Central on Wednesday (Dec. 6). They will travel to Rye on Saturday for the eight-team Bernie Miller Duals.

**VOLLEYBALL** — Lila Burke was named to the second team of the Section IX, Class A team and Daveya Rodriguez and Allie Thomas received honorable mentions. The Bulldogs finished 14-4 and won the league title.

**FOOTBALL** — Mason Supple of Beacon was named to the Section IX, Class B team and Supple and Mercer Jordan were named all-league.

## HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — After going 3-18 last season, the Blue Devils look to start anew under first-year Coach Carlos Martinez. The team lost seven seniors to graduation; this year's squad has only nine players on the roster, including two seniors, Camilla McDaniel and Ruby Poses. The Blue Devils began the season Nov. 30 with a win in a tournament in Rye Neck over Keio Academy, 59-28, behind 23 points and seven steals from Kayla Ruggiero. Marisa Peters added 13 points and five steals and McDaniel scored 11 points.

Against host Rye Neck, the Blue Devils fell, 47-40. McDaniel led the way with 18 points and Peters had 11 points, five rebounds, five steals and four assists. Ruggiero contributed nine points.

On Tuesday (Dec. 5), Haldane hosted Woodlands; Peters and McDaniel hit three-pointers to start the game with a 6-0 lead before the Falcons went on a 9-0 run behind a swarming defense. The first quarter ended in a 16-16 tie and Woodlands took a 27-20 lead into halftime.

Thanks to three-pointers by McDaniel and Peters, the Blue Devils claimed a 39-38 lead in the fourth quarter before Woodlands went on another run to secure a 59-48 win.

Peters ended with a career-high 19 points, and McDaniel had 15. Poses added six points and eight rebounds.

"They kept fighting," Martinez said of his team. "They kept playing well, they found their rhythm, they started running our offense. We did a better job in the second half of boxing out" on rebounds.

Haldane (1-2) travels today (Dec. 8) and tomorrow to Carmel for a tournament before hosting Briarcliff on Tuesday and taking on Rye Neck again in a tournament at Croton-Harmon on Thursday.

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — Coming off a 21-5 season in which they reached the state Class C title game, the Blue Devils return with a team that is battle-tested and experienced. Ten of the 13 players on the roster are seniors, and seven are 6 feet or taller,

including 6-foot-6 senior Matt Nachamkin, who will play next year for Williams College.

The season began on Thursday (Dec. 7) when Haldane hosted Pleasantville. The Blue Devils host Blind Brook at 6:15 p.m. on Monday and travel to Briarcliff on Wednesday.

**FOOTBALL** — After a stellar season that ended in the state Class D semifinals, seniors Ryan Van Tassel and Evan Giachinta were named to the Section I team and Coach Ryan McConville was named the Section I, Class D coach of the year. Giachinta was also named the best defensive player in Class C/D. The position awards for Class C/D went to Giachinta at defensive back and senior Erik Stubblefield at linebacker.

Stubblefield and senior Jack Hartman received all-conference honors.

Haldane had nine players named to the all-league team: Van Tassel, Giachinta, Stubblefield, Hartman, Brody Corless, Michael Murray, Dylan Rucker, Fallou Faye and Luca DiLello.

On Nov. 30, Van Tassel was named the New York Jets High School Player of the Week for his performance in the state quarterfinals, when he had 248 total offensive yards and two touchdowns in a win over Burke Catholic. Van Tassel will be recognized at the Jets' game on Sunday (Dec. 10).



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