State Judge: Cell-Tower Firm Can’t Dig
But allows other changes to Nelsonville road
By Chip Rowe

A state judge on Monday (Dec. 11) ruled that Homeland Towers cannot dig up an access road to bury utility lines for a planned 95-foot cell tower overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery in Nelsonville.

But she said the company can make other changes to the road, subject to a building permit Nelsonville issued in 2020 to settle a federal lawsuit.

Judge Gina Capone discounted claims by neighbors that the right-of-way shared by property owners only allows the company to enter and exit its 9.6-acre parcel at 15 Rockledge Road, and that the commercial use of the property is incompatible with a residential subdivision.

Neighbors have battled Homeland and its partners, Verizon and AT&T, for more than three years over the proposed tower.

Deceased Veteran Gets a Marker
But many other memorials were never installed
By Michael Turton

Carl Hansen, who served as a private first-class in the U.S. Army, died in 2012, but a bronze marker honoring his military service was not added to his grave in Cold Spring Cemetery on Peekskill Road until Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

“Dad always told my mother and I that we wouldn’t have to worry about a grave marker,” said his daughter, Lillian Moser, who lives in Cold Spring. She added that her father had assumed the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs would take care of the marker and expenses.

That was a reasonable assumption. The VA provides markers for veterans at no cost, but it only covers the installation of Veterans Affairs would take care of the additional fee, which at the Cold Spring Cemetery is $500.

Last May, while placing flags on veterans’ graves for Memorial Day, Aaron Leonard realized Hansen’s grave was unmarked. Leonard is president of the Cold Spring Fire Co., where Moser is a firewoman.

Can Everyone Shop Main Street?
Disability access lacking at many stores
By Joey Asher

When Lisa Tarricone rolled down Main Street in Cold Spring in her wheelchair recently, she became upset at how few stores she could access.

“It’s discrimination,” said Tarricone, a Fishkill resident who is executive director of Taconic Resources for Independence, which advocates for the disabled in Dutchess County. “Would you discriminate against someone who is of color? It’s the same issue. We are invisible.”

Tarricone has been irritated on many Main Streets; she said small businesses in Cold Spring and Beacon are like many others in the historic villages of the Hudson Valley, in the widespread failure to provide access to the disabled as required under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

The ADA, enacted in 1990 by the first President George Bush, requires that any business open to the public, including retail stores and restaurants, provide “reasonable accommodations” for the disabled, including wheelchair users. Among other requirements, this typically means providing a ramp if the entrance is not at sidewalk level.

Two More Big Buildings for Beacon?
Mixed-use project proposed for congested intersection
By Jeff Simms

A developer has submitted plans to build two four-story, mixed-use buildings at one of Beacon’s busiest intersections, the corner of Wolcott Avenue (Route 9D) and Beekman Street.

If the project is approved, the developer would demolish a three-story commercial building — the former site of the Beacon Popmart, an art event space — and merge its lot with two vacant parcels. The two buildings would include 14,000 square feet of commercial space and 65 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

The project also includes 89 parking spaces, some of which would be located beneath one of the buildings.

The site is almost entirely within Beacon’s Linkage District, a zone that the 2017 comprehensive plan says should promote residential development that reinforces connections between the Main Street and waterfront areas. Specifically, it instructs mixed-use development to be allowed adjacent to the intersection of Route 9D and Beekman Street to create “a more inviting and active pedestrian gateway between the Linkage District and Main Street.”

Developments such as the River Ridge townhouses, The View condominiums and the West End Lofts have been added to the area in recent years. A year ago, the Planning Board also approved the Beacon Commons, a 62-unit building that will be constructed at the corner of West Main and Bank streets, and the 246-apartment Edgewater complex is under construction a few blocks away.

(Continued on Page 21)
James Yap is the director of innovation and learning for the Garrison school district.

How did you get into teaching?
At age 13, I began working summers at a camp for the deaf near my home in Toledo. I earned my master’s degree in deaf education and went on to earn a doctorate in educational technology instruction, data and anything to do with security on campus, such as key fobs and cameras.

What are your responsibilities in Garrison?
I help students and teachers with technology instruction, data and anything to do with security on campus, such as key fobs and cameras. We send students, such as Haldane, O’Neill and Putnam Valley. We have also done a lot of technology upgrades and installed more security on campus, such as key fobs and cameras.

What is your experience with deaf students translate at all here?
I taught a professional development class in American Sign Language for the teachers. Many of them use it in different ways in the class. For example, the sign for “I agree” or “same thing” is to make a fist and extend your pinky and thumb. It’s a quiet way for students to agree with each other without interrupting the speaker. At the lower elementary level, teachers are using the “bathroom” sign, where you make a fist with your thumb tucked under your index finger and wag your fist from side to side. When the teacher sees the sign, he or she can dismiss the student to go to the bathroom instead of interrupting the class.

What new tech is being used in classrooms?
One thing new this year is a program called Reflex Math, which helps students learn how to quickly and automatically answer simple math problems so that they can get to more complex and higher-level ideas. It teaches addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. It’s not “drill and kill.” It’s fun and interactive.

Another example is the Hatch Learning Table, which helps pre-K and kindergarten students with executive function and social-emotional learning. It’s like a large iPad where the students play games. One is a farming game where they interact with the tablet by planting a seed, watering a seed, harvesting the carrot and putting it in the barrel. It’s a four- or five-step process in which they learn to follow directions.

What’s the latest technological trend impacting schools?
Artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT are huge. I’m constantly showing teachers software and websites and how to use the technology appropriately. AI can be helpful, especially in lesson planning. You can go to ChatGPT and ask, “Can you give me a lesson plan on the American Revolution?” And it will give you a plan immediately, written in easy, readable prose. Then you can refine it through conversation with the tool. Eventually you have to take it offline and customize it for your students. And, of course, nothing can replace the excellent Garrison teachers!
Now is the Best Time
To Become a Member!

Your membership gift will be doubled …
Thanks to the national program NewsMatch and a
group of community residents dedicated to The Current’s
independent nonprofit journalism, your gift of up to
$1,000 will be matched through Dec. 31 to a total of
$50,000, meaning $100,000 for our newsroom. You can
join for as little as $2 a month. There are many benefits —
see highlandscurrent.org/membership!

… And there’s a bonus for The Current!
If The Current adds 50 members before the end of our
yearend fundraising appeal, NewsMatch will award the
paper a $500 bonus. Today we are welcoming 28 new
members since Nov. 1.
Please help us meet our "50" goal by Dec. 31!

JOIN NOW at:
HIGHLANDSCURRENT.ORG/JOIN

Thank You!
The HIGHLANDS
Current

“A great source of local news and terrific journalism.”
From New Member Ellen Raphael Collins, Cold Spring

You’ll be in great company as a Current member!
WELCOME to all who have joined since Nov. 1!

FRIENDS
Anonymous
Ann LaCoy
Bettyann Lopate
Carol Powell
Erica Hughes
John Beale
Joyce Hanson
Lisa Sabin
Lynnette Rajala
Margot Steinberg
Martin Anderson
Robert Witty
Patricia Klubnick

PARTNERS
Anonymous (2)
Ed Neumeister
Gary Kuehnlenz
Heath and Hannah Salit
Jake Marchman
James Dye and Tyler Issacson
Janet/Louis Tullo
Jennifer and Stephen Clair
Jinny St. Goar
Joe Perry
Marina Pasina
Maureen Tompkins
Micah Brown
Sven Allebrand
Santa’s best friend

Thanks for featuring ARF Beacon on the front page of the Dec. 8 issue, and for the adorable photos online (“Kiss for Santa”). Hopefully, it will remind everyone how lucky we are to have ARF Beacon and Mid Hudson Animal Aid serving the homeless animals of our communities, and to “adopt, don’t shop” this holiday season.

Shelley Simmons-Bloom, Beacon

Cold Spring parking

This is a business killer for sure (“In Cold Spring, A Price on Parking,” Nov. 17). It’s sad for the antique-store and boutique owners who built Main Street and put Cold Spring on the map. Why would anyone pay $4 an hour and risk a ticket so easily when they can shop online? I hope residents will be happy with a ghost town on Main Street.

Jessica Dieckman, Croton

Beacon rents

This is ridiculous. Renters need protections, because everywhere the rent is too damn high (“Beacon’s ‘Good-Cause’ Law Struck Down,” Dec. 8).

Donna Minkowitz, via Instagram

Newburgh-Beacon Bridge

The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge isn’t as bad as the Throgs Neck (“Q: Why is One Lane Always Closed on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge?” Dec. 8). Daytime, nighttime, weekends – I’ve never crossed it with all lanes open. Sometimes there are a bunch of trucks parked in the closed lane and not a human in sight. Will they ever finish it?

Nancy Drew, via Instagram

That lane should not be closed. There is a very heavy merge coming down from Route 9D. Tons of accidents happen there from vehicles trying to merge. With the lane open, there is no merge required.

Steven Saltzman, via Facebook

Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Read our full press release with quotes from local emergency response personnel [which were not included in the news brief].

Lori Moss, via Facebook

Moss is the communications manager for the Fjord Trail. We have added a link to the press release to our story online.

Beacon rents

This is ridiculous. Renters need protections, because everywhere the rent is too damn high (“Beacon’s ‘Good-Cause’ Law Struck Down,” Dec. 8).

Donna Minkowitz, via Instagram

This is a real bummer. The cards are heavily stacked against renters trying to live their lives in their homes without fear.

Martin Fowler, via Instagram

Maybe there should be buildings that apply to be good-cause buildings as a marketing tactic, but the law was government overreach.

Nancy Drew, via Instagram

Newburgh-Beacon Bridge

The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge isn’t as bad as the Throgs Neck (“Q: Why is One Lane Always Closed on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge?” Dec. 8). Daytime, nighttime, weekends – I’ve never crossed it with all lanes open. Sometimes there are a bunch of trucks parked in the closed lane and not a human in sight. Will they ever finish it?

Patricia Kennedy, via Facebook

If they closed one lane on the George Washington Bridge, you’d have traffic backed up from Connecticut to halfway down the turnpike.

Zep Thomassell, via Facebook

The lane is closed because they don’t want to wear it out!

Glenn Smith, via Facebook

That lane should not be closed. There is a very heavy merge coming down from Route 9D. Tons of accidents happen there from vehicles trying to merge. With the lane open, there is no merge required.

Steven Saltzman, via Facebook

Corrections

A story in the Dec. 8 issue reported that the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub was moving from Stone Street in Cold Spring to a location on Route 9 in Philipstown. In fact, the Hub plans to open a second location on Route 9.

A Facebook comment printed in the Dec. 8 issue was misattributed to Joe Hyatt. In fact, it was a response by Woody Turbeaux to a comment posted by Hyatt.
**Why Does Cold Spring Fire Have So Many Elevator Rescues?**

Earlier this year, the Cold Spring Fire Co. reported to the Village Board it had completed 10 elevator rescues in the previous month. Could that possibly be true?

A: Blame the Metro-North elevator. Chief Jeff Phillips said that an influx of calls in July was caused by an ongoing electrical problem that would cause the car to get stuck between floors. He said a firefighter typically would go to the elevator room at the station and flip a switch to reset the power and get it running again.

While there were 10 elevator rescues in July, the number fell off in August after Metro-North fixed the elevator, Phillips said. There are 10 to 15 other elevators in the fire district; most rescues take about 15 minutes and none this year have involved medical emergencies.

In Beacon, the fire department has averaged about four elevator rescues annually since 2017, according to Chief Tom Lucchesi, who said they account for less than 1 percent of calls.

**The Philipstown Food Pantry**

The Philipstown Food Pantry is extremely thankful this year for our local farmers and businesses. With your generous donations and support we can provide healthy nutritious food to over 70 families in our community.

**Angie’s Bake Shop** – Angie and Ken & their team

**Davoren Farm** – Stacey, Peter, Max, Lauren & their team of volunteers

**Citrine Cafe** – Brad & his team

**Glynwood Farm** – Kathleen, Leah, Ryan & their entire team

**FoodTown** – Mike, Jessica, Mackenzie, Kristin, Dan, Deb & Shane

**Longhaul Farm** – Jason, Jocelyn & their team

**Second Chance Foods** - Martha, Ellen & their team

**Signal Fire Bread** – Erin, Liz & their team

We are especially grateful for our drivers who pick up the bread, food from the Food Bank, the milk run, veggie run and all the volunteers who have helped with the setup and distribution; whether you were there once, twice or every week your hard work is truly appreciated.

Allison, Andrea, Andy & Sandy, Andy & Laura, Ann Marie, Candace, Christine, Carolyn, Cary, Chris, Danny, David, Debbi, Delaney, Diana, Dion, Elizabeth, Ellyn, Jean, Jeff Barbara & Leo, Jessi, John, Johnny & Theo, Josh, Julie, Karen Kathy, Kelley, Matty, Pat, Patricia, Patrick, Peg, Peter, Rick, Ron, Sally, Sara, Sue, Susan and the Girl Scouts and Brownies.

**Thank you everyone!**
Hopewell Junction, which serves 
gov/publictransit or call 845-473-8424. 
station, will be expanded to 10 p.m. 
9 in Fishkill and the Beacon train 
and iPark in East Fishkill, the Dutchess 
stops such as a new Amazon facility 
the system, according to the agency.
route, which are the most traveled in 
with eight additional trips on each 
Beacon) will increase to hourly service, 
through Saturday and add Sunday 
become a Main Street shuttle Monday 
and to Fishkill/Poughkeepsie, will 
changes to its bus routes, including the 
Main Street shuttle

Beacon Buildings (from Page 1)

However, on weekday afternoons the area 
also easily Beacon's most congested, as 
vehicles leaving the Metro-North station 
and iPark in East Fishkill, the Dutchess 
Community College campus on Route 
9 in Fishkill and the Beacon train 
station, will be expanded to 10 p.m.

For more information, see dutchessny. 
gov/publictransit or call 845-473-8424.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring has submitted three grant 
applications, totaling $25,000, to the state 
to pay for four electric-vehicle charging 
stations, a food-recycling program 
and 10 shade trees to plant on village-
owned properties.
The annual reorganization meeting 
scheduled for Dec. 13 was postponed until 
Wednesday (Dec. 20).

www.thehighlandstudio.com

-----

Cell tower approved

The Planning Board on Tuesday approved 
an application by Verizon to erect a 120-foot 
cell tower in the Fairview Cemetery, about 
400 feet from residences on Helen Court. 
Approval was granted despite protests from 
neighbors, who cited health concerns and 
its effect on property values.

A Verizon attorney, David Brennan, told 
the board that the structure is necessary 
because a tower on Mount Beacon that 
provided coverage in the 1990s, when few 
people used cellphones, is no longer feas-
ible. “It’s too far away, it’s too high up and 
it’s too far from the population it’s serv-
ing,” he said.

The new tower will have three “sectors,” 
each with an antenna, plus three boxes that 
include overvoltage protectors and other 
equipment. Other wireless carriers could 
install antennas on the tower if there is a 
need, Brennan said.

Verizon’s lease on the site is for five 
years and will automatically renew, unless 
canceled by the company, for up to 25 years.

409 Fishkill Ave.

Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist 
organization, has submitted plans to repur-
pose 409 Fishkill Ave., a parcel owned by 
the Healey Brothers auto dealership, as a 
worship center that would accommodate 
up to 200 people. The parcel is one of four 
being vacated by Healey, which moved its 
Ford dealership to Route 9 and is building 
a Hyundai facility on Route 52 in Fishkill.

Project officials told the Planning Board 
on Tuesday that they are leasing the site 
from Healey. SGI is not planning new 
construction, only a new facade on the 
existing building. The group also plans to 
add lighting and landscaping.

This building will be demolished if the 4S Beekman St. project is approved. Photo by J. Simms
Budget Ideas, Round Two
Beacon students return with participatory pitches
By Jeff Simms

F or the second year, Beacon High School students from Participation in Government classes have made suggestions to the City Council on how to spend $10,000 in “participatory budgeting” money.

The council last year included funding in its budget for the initiative, which asks students to craft detailed presentations on “how to improve Beacon.” Students made their pitches to the council on Dec. 4, and on Monday (Dec. 18), in their final meeting of the year, council members will discuss how to divvy up the money.

“The students are seeing it work,” said Erin Haddeland, a teacher who is one of the organizers of the program. “Last year’s ideas were so tangible. That’s good for us as a program because they can see it directly in front of them.”

The 2022 proposals saw two basketball backboards and rims installed at South Avenue Park and water-bottle refilling stations added at Memorial and Green Street parks. The city did not financially support an idea to clean up the African American Union Cemetery on North Walnut Street, but staff from the Department of Public Works have assisted as volunteers.

Implementation of the fourth idea, repairs to the municipal swimming pool, will be completed in the spring.

Every senior at Beacon High School takes Participation in Government, so all 180 members of the Class of 2024 had the opportunity to submit ideas. Teachers received about 100 pitches, Haddeland said, and from there it was up to the students to “see who would be willing to put in the time and effort to complete the project.”

Here are the ideas that students proposed on Dec. 4:

- Jaidev Galvin and Vanessa Murphy asked the council to make improvements to the skateboarding park at Memorial Park. The concrete foundation is filled with cracks, which can cause accidents, they said, and the placement of ramps is disjointed and pushes skaters or BMXers in a linear direction, rather than a square or circular path.

- If the council chooses to fund the repairs, it will show “that we care for the kids, our youth — it shows a lot,” Galvin said. Murphy included a list of materials needed to repair the foundation and estimated it would cost $1,150.

- Isabella Amundson asked the council to consider emergency blue-light phones in places where people may feel isolated, such as Memorial Park and where the Klara Sauer and Dennings Point trails meet near the Hudson riverfront. “More secluded” neighborhoods, parking lots and other trails were also mentioned as possible sites.

- Elle Cason proposed a pollinator garden with three to four native flowering plants near the Recreation Department offices at 23 West Center St. Cason noted that pollinator gardens at Glenham and JV Forrestal elementary schools have thrived, and the Recreation Department would be a good site to allow the Beacon High School nurse to distribute condoms to students. The board has not acted yet.

- Mia Nelsen-Cheyne presented an idea that she and Cason also pitched to the Beacon school board: making contraceptives available to the community. (The students asked the school board in October to allow the Beacon High School nurse to distribute condoms to students. The board has not acted yet.)

Nelsen-Cheyne spoke about the growth of sexually transmitted infections and teen pregnancy and said that sexual health “shouldn’t be taboo. It is something we should be working toward making safe.”

She suggested the Recreation Department as a possible site for a vending machine that would provide free condoms. That would cost between $1,400 and $2,000, though a cart or bins “would be just as effective,” Nelsen-Cheyne said. She said the high school’s Students for Gender Equity club could help with maintenance.

Two thousand condoms would cost about $140, “which is something that a bake sale can take care of,” she said.

- Sylvia Jaidev and Jaidev Galvin asked the council to add restrooms at the skateboard park at Memorial Park. The city did not financially support an idea to install emergency blue-light phones at the park.

- Arely González and Mia Nelsen-Cheyne proposed adding a list of materials needed to repair the skateboarding park at Memorial Park. They estimated it would cost $1,150.

- Isabella Amundson asked the council to consider emergency blue-light phones in places where people may feel isolated, such as Memorial Park and where the Klara Sauer and Dennings Point trails meet near the Hudson riverfront. “More secluded” neighborhoods, parking lots and other trails were also mentioned as possible sites.

- Elle Cason proposed a pollinator garden with three to four native flowering plants near the Recreation Department offices at 23 West Center St. Cason noted that pollinator gardens at Glenham and JV Forrestal elementary schools have thrived, and the Recreation Department would be a good site to allow the Beacon High School nurse to distribute condoms to students. The board has not acted yet.

- Mia Nelsen-Cheyne presented an idea that she and Cason also pitched to the Beacon school board: making contraceptives available to the community. (The students asked the school board in October to allow the Beacon High School nurse to distribute condoms to students. The board has not acted yet.)

Nelsen-Cheyne spoke about the growth of sexually transmitted infections and teen pregnancy and said that sexual health “shouldn’t be taboo. It is something we should be working toward making safe.”

She suggested the Recreation Department as a possible site for a vending machine that would provide free condoms. That would cost between $1,400 and $2,000, though a cart or bins “would be just as effective,” Nelsen-Cheyne said. She said the high school’s Students for Gender Equity club could help with maintenance.

Two thousand condoms would cost about $140, “which is something that a bake sale can take care of,” she said.

The Highlands Choral Society is a nonprofit organization offering voice-ensemble services, fully-staffed Children’s Hour, youth choir, and community.
Dutchess Passes Contentious Budget

Elected officials to receive healthy pay boosts

By Leonard Sparks

The Dutchess County Legislature on Dec. 7 adopted a $601 million budget for 2024 that lowers property taxes, raises hotel and sales taxes, and boosts pay significantly for the county executive, legislators and other elected officials. The 15-9 vote ended with three Republicans joining six Democrats in opposing the budget, an unusual level of disunity in a Legislature where the 17 Republicans and eight Democrats often split along party lines. The disunion represented the conflict over the increases in salaries and sales taxes.

With the raises, which were not part of outgoing County Executive William F.X. O’Neil’s original budget but passed as an amendment proposed by the Legislature’s Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, incoming Executive Sue Serino will receive $186,500 next year, instead of the current $157,424.

County Clerk Brad Kendall will be paid 26 percent more ($150,000 versus $119,330) and the Legislature’s chair 56 percent more ($54,450). The budget also contains a 68 percent increase for legislators ($27,500) and an 81 percent boost for the majority and minority leaders ($45,500).

Assistant party leaders would receive a pay hike of 76 percent, to $36,500. Committee chairs, currently unpaid, would receive $3,000 stipends beginning next year.

Dutchess legislators also passed a resolution requesting state approval to raise its portion of the sales tax to 4 percent, a 3.75 percent beginning in June 2024. Only six counties, including Dutchess, have sales taxes below 4 percent, according to the state Department of Taxation and Finance. Putnam raised its sales tax in 2007 from 3.5 to 4 percent.

The higher tax will reap an estimated $8.3 million for the county and $1.7 million for Beacon and other municipalities, which receive a share of what the county collects. The increase will not affect purchases of clothing and shoes, but it will continue to be exempt from sales taxes in 2024.

“We cannot do this [raise sales taxes] at the same time we have just proposed raising salaries for officials here in Dutchess County,” said Legislator Yvette Valdes Smith, a Democrat whose district includes Ward 4 in Beacon and is the minority leader.

Visitors staying at county hotels will pay more under the budget, which raises the tax on lodging to 5 percent from 4 percent. The change is expected to generate $4.8 million in 2024, O’Neil said in a statement on Dec. 8.

O’Neil, who will leave office on Dec. 31, highlighted cuts in the property-tax rate and levy. Property owners will pay 26 cents less ($2.23) per $1,000 of assessed value next year, and the overall levy of $99.4 million is the lowest in 15 years, he said.

“This is a reasonable budget that not only takes into consideration the needs of all our residents, but funds them in the most responsible manner possible,” he said.

Along with the tax proposals, O’Neil said the budget includes cost savings and new spending. He said the new contract for Public Safety in Poughkeepsie, the Justice and Transition Center, will save $1.8 million in overtime and another $5.5 million through “staffing efficiencies” and policies adopted by Sheriff Kirk Imperati.

O’Neil also said the county would save more than $200,000 on its public bus service by making changes to routes. (See Page 6)

The budget adds eight positions for a planned homeless shelter and two deputy sheriffs trained as “community resource officers” to work in the City of Poughkeepsie.

The county will support Hudson River Housing with an additional “housing navigator” and a vehicle for outreach to homeless people, and create a $200,000 grant program to expand composting by residents, with a matching grant program to help municipalities install and operate composting equipment.

Retail Pot Coming to Newburgh

State reviewing other Highlands applications

By Leonard Sparks

A firm in Newburgh received approval on Dec. 8 to sell recreational marijuana while the state reviews more than 1,850 applications to operate cannabis businesses, ranging from two small to four large.

The disunion represented the conflict over the increases in salaries and sales taxes.

With the raises, which were not part of outgoing County Executive William F.X. O’Neil’s original budget but passed as an amendment proposed by the Legislature’s Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, incoming Executive Sue Serino will receive $186,500 next year, instead of the current $157,424.

The higher tax will reap an estimated $8.3 million for the county and $1.7 million for Beacon and other municipalities, which receive a share of what the county collects. The increase will not affect purchases of clothing and shoes, but it will continue to be exempt from sales taxes in 2024.

“We cannot do this [raise sales taxes] at the same time we have just proposed raising salaries for officials here in Dutchess County,” said Legislator Yvette Valdes Smith, a Democrat whose district includes Ward 4 in Beacon and is the minority leader.

Visitors staying at county hotels will pay more under the budget, which raises the tax on lodging to 5 percent from 4 percent. The change is expected to generate $4.8 million in 2024, O’Neil said in a statement on Dec. 8.

O’Neil, who will leave office on Dec. 31, highlighted cuts in the property-tax rate and levy. Property owners will pay 26 cents less ($2.23) per $1,000 of assessed value next year, and the overall levy of $99.4 million is the lowest in 15 years, he said.

“This is a reasonable budget that not only takes into consideration the needs of all our residents, but funds them in the most responsible manner possible,” he said.

Along with the tax proposals, O’Neil said the budget includes cost savings and new spending. He said the new contract for Public Safety in Poughkeepsie, the Justice and Transition Center, will save $1.8 million in overtime and another $5.5 million through “staffing efficiencies” and policies adopted by Sheriff Kirk Imperati.

O’Neil also said the county would save more than $200,000 on its public bus service by making changes to routes. (See Page 6)

The budget adds eight positions for a planned homeless shelter and two deputy sheriffs trained as “community resource officers” to work in the City of Poughkeepsie.

The county will support Hudson River Housing with an additional “housing navigator” and a vehicle for outreach to homeless people, and create a $200,000 grant program to expand composting by residents, with a matching grant program to help municipalities install and operate composting equipment.

Highlands Districts to be Redrawn

Court ruling affects Lawler, Ryan, Rolison

By Leonard Sparks

New York’s highest court first gave two gifts to Republicans, ruling in 2022 that legislative districts approved by Democrats for Congress and the state Senate constituted gerrymandering and allowing a special master to draw new boundaries.

On Tuesday (Dec. 12), the court handed down a third ruling on Dec. 8. The Court of Appeals decision means the district boundaries used in 2022 will be redrawn by a judge in Albany who dismissed a lawsuit filed by five voters seeking redrawn districts before the 2024 elections.

Those voters, in addition to challenging the validity of the maps drawn by a special master, argued that the state Constitution requires the Independent Redistricting Commission to submit a second plan if state legislators reject its initial submission.

Gov. Kathy Hochul and Attorney General Letitia James, two of the three districts in the 2024 elections.

The Court of Appeals upheld that decision, and a special master was appointed to redraw the boundaries. He estimated that his work increased the number of competitive congressional seats from three to eight and competitive state Senate seats from six to 10.

The maps Democrats created for the state Assembly were not challenged in court. They were used for the 2022 elections but redrawn this year and approved by Hochul.
Still No Plan for Indian Point Wastewater

Holtec says it didn't think legislative ban would pass

By Brian PJ Cronin

A month after announcing an eight-year delay in the decommissioning of Indian Point, the company doing the work said at a Dec. 6 meeting that it is no closer to determining what to do with the nuclear plant’s radioactive wastewater. Holtec representatives who attended the meeting of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board blamed the delay on recent state legislation that prevents it from discharging radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River. They said the firm has not ruled out suing the state.

The legislation was sponsored by State Sen. Pete Harckham and Assembly Member Dana Levenson, whose district includes Philipstown. Both sit on the oversight board.

Companies decommissioning other nuclear plants have found ways to dispose of wastewater besides discharging it into a body of water, but those solutions have encountered pushback with Indian Point. Boiling the water away, as was done at Yankee Pilgrim plant in Vermont, is considered to be an environmental justice issue since the region would simply be dumping its problem into someone else’s backyard. And storing the wastewater in tanks on-site for 12 years — the time it would take for the tritium to decay to half its current potency — has been criticized because the tanks are notoriously leaky, and would have to be ventured, allowing some of the tritium to escape.

Theresa Knickerbocker, the mayor of Buchanan, where Indian Point is located, has refused to grant the permits required to store the wastewater on-site because of fears of leakage, evaporation or accidents. Knickerbocker has criticized the anti-discharge legislation for delaying the decommissioning and when the site will be given to the village.

She also criticized members of the board for not discussing the legislation with her while it was being developed, although she noted that before Gov. Kathy Hochul signed the bill in August, she called Knickerbocker to hear her concerns.

Knickerbocker also asked why, if the discharge of tritium into the Hudson is so problematic, the issue hadn’t come up during the time that the plant was operational and discharged into the Hudson on a routine basis. “I have been saying for the past 20 years that the nuclear plant has been discharging to the air and the water,” said activist Marilyn Ellie during the meeting. “And nobody really took that seriously.”

Holtec has begun examining other options. A company called Viola has proposed using a modular detritiation system to remove the tritium, although the technology has not been used at a commercial site in the U.S., would require an enormous amount of energy and take 10 years. Holtec also entertained a proposal from a company offering to use the water to irrigate hemp grown on-site, which would suck up the tritium.

Holtec is not seriously considering this option, as they would need clearance from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grow hemp at the plant, and because the tritiated hemp would then have to be disposed of. Presumably, the tritiated hemp would also release tritium into the air while photosynthesizing.

Until the wastewater issue is resolved, Holtec said that its work will be severely hampered because it can’t determine which buildings on the site can be taken down since it’s not known which ones may be needed. When asked why the company did not have a backup plan for the wastewater, Holtec’s Frank Spagnuolo said it “did not believe this law would pass because it’s unreasonable.”

Levenberg said that, between the public opposition to the discharge in the Hudson Valley as well as opposition to discharges in Cape Cod and at the Fukushima plant in Japan, the company should have prepared alternatives. “Within the world of nuclear power plants, you always have to have those backup plans,” she said.

“There are 500,000 people who have signed a petition in New York State about this,” added Harckham. “This was not Pete and Dana and a couple of tree huggers. This was something bigger than all of us.”

Later in the meeting, while discussing the process of segmenting the reactor heads, the topic of the plant’s refueling gate14 entertained discussion on what the term might mean. Knickerbocker also asked why, if the company could segment the reactors without any fear of a leak, why can’t they do it with the spent fuel pool water?” asked Levenberg.

“Because you wouldn’t fully be able to decommission the facility,” said Holtec’s Patrick O’Brien.

The next meeting of the Decommissioning Oversight Board on Feb. 29 is scheduled to include a presentation by Arnie Gundersen, a former nuclear engineer and nuclear industry executive turned whistleblower who proposes storing the wastewater in tanks but with a balloon-like apparatus over the vents to trap the tritium that escapes.

---

Bicentennial Celebration brought to you by the Butterfield Library & Putnam History Museum.

You can also celebrate Julia’s 200th Birthday with delicious specials at local restaurants, bars, & eateries from December 19 - 24!

Buon Natale & Buon Anno!

Romeo & Juliet
Salon and Verona Spa

Welcomes you to indulge in a unique European Experience.

For all of our wonderful clients, we are offering the following specials:

• A complimentary 15 minute reflexology with any specialized facial of your choice.

• A complimentary aromatherapy foot masque with any pedicure selection.

• A complimentary hair masque with any hair styling.

Tina, Elsa, Dawn, and Christina invite you to indulge with us and enjoy all of our delicious Italian specialties.

1 Furnace Street, Cold Spring
845-265-3238

Buon Natale & Buon Anno!
▲ MOVING ALONG — Rachel Evans of Garrison (violin), Gareth Guest of Cold Spring (clarinet), Eva Gerrard of Beacon (viola) and six other musicians performed Carnival of the Animals, by Camille Saint-Saëns, at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring on Dec. 9. The music accompanied scenes on a “crankie” theater, a box with a moving, illustrated scroll, a backlight and shadow puppets.

Photo by Ross Corsair

▲ ORATORIO — The Highlands Choral Society (including Michael McKee, shown here) and Highlands Chamber Ensemble performed Oratorio de Noël, by Camille Saint-Saëns, at the Highlands Chapel in Cold Spring on Dec. 10.

Photo by Ross Corsair

▲ WINTER CONCERT — Students at Rombout Middle School in Beacon performed their annual show on Dec. 7 at the school.

Photo by Una Happe

CR Properties Group, LLC

The Cast Iron Building
Artist Space Available

Located in the historic district and heart of Downtown Poughkeepsie the Cast Iron Building was built in 1872. The historic building’s central location is perfect for any new or existing business. The high ceilings and natural light make it the perfect artist studio space for all artisans. Area restaurants include King’s Court Brewing Company, Brustoria 292, and Mill House Brewing Company. Located in Dutchess County’s Central Business District, there are community happenings such as The Chance Theater, Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Middle Main, and Walkway Over the Hudson, to name a few. Neighboring offices, for example, The Poughkeepsie Journal, NY State Offices, Poughkeepsie City Court, and Dutchess County Court House are in close proximity as well. 3 Minutes away is the Metro-North Train Station, Hudson Line to Grand Central Terminal is 1 hour and 59 minutes Poughkeepsie Amtrak to Penn Station is 1 hour and 25 minutes.

For more information:
Thomas M. Cervone
Ph: (845) 486-3400
E: marketing@crproperties.com
Web: www.crproperties.com
“How do we deal with irregularities within a generally orderly system?”

“Why does our mind try to fix the thing that’s wrong?”

Those questions have dogged artist Sky Pape for years. “Patterns can grab your eye or elude your perception,” she notes.

Looking at Pape’s body of work, particularly her latest, gathered together under the banner Beauty Marks, and Blemishes at the Garrison Art Center, one might perceive symmetry and repetition. That’s not what Pape is seeing. “Blemishes and anomalies are always part of the process of the work,” she says.

Pape, whose work is owned by many museums, including the Guggenheim and the Museum of Modern Art, started off as a painter, working primarily with oil. After a period of “extreme loss and difficulty,” she switched to drawing, and from representational work to abstraction on paper. “Something about the new materials, plus starting to use repetitive actions, helped me understand things emotionally and provided me with a different way to interpret the world around me.”

Her art is informed by a parallel career as a scientist — she spent 14 years conducting research in schizophrenia, genetics and traumatic brain injury. “I’m drawn to cross-pollination of disciplines, including math, physics, biology, astronomy and social sciences — all things I’m always looking at,” she says. “Art and science art give me a way to understand a lot of things.

“I begin a piece by starting with paper on the floor and getting down for this body of work; I don’t map the whole thing out,” she explains. “I start with some idea or repetitive mark, and as that’s happening things get off-kilter, and some irregularity in the pattern will start leading the dialogue I have with the piece.

“If the pattern gets disrupted, will this bring it to a tipping point? I begin from a place of not knowing and I try not to jump to conclusions. There are also intentional decisions on where to break a pattern, using intention and intuition. I will start seeing unexpected connections. That’s the ‘Aha!’ moment: Will it completely fall apart? It’s a period of peril.”

When is it finished? “Tickling a work to death stays in my mind,” she says. “My creative path is spiral, needing a period of gestation of weeks to years, and some works take me over 10 years to complete. I set them aside, then bring them out again, repeatedly. There’s finally a do-or-die moment when you’re like: ‘I would rather go all the way with the piece or ruin it and come out of the process.’ If it’s mediocre, I’d rather destroy it, so I run with it and bring it to fruition or set it aside.”

The Garrison Art Center, located at 23 Garrison’s Lending, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Monday. Beauty Marks, and Blemishes continues through Jan. 7. See garrisonartcenter.org and skypape.com.
COMMUNITY

SAT 16
Wreaths Across America
FISHKILL
2 p.m. Fishkill Rural Cemetery
801 Route 9
wreathsacrossamerica.org

As part of a national campaign, Libby Funeral Home is organizing volunteers to place more than 600 wreaths on the graves of veterans and say each name aloud. Events will also take place at noon at St. Philip’s Church in Garrison and West Point.

TUES 19
Narcan Training
BEACON
12:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Learn how to recognize the signs of an overdose and administer the opioid antidote. Registration required.

TUES 19
200th Birthday Celebration
COLD SPRING
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

The library and the Putnam History Museum will host this all-ages party with cake, games and a craft, followed by a walk to the museum at 63 Chestnut St. to view its exhibition about Julia Butterfield and share a champagne toast.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 16
Teen Hike
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

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

TUES 19
Escape Room
BEACON
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Children and teens ages 11 to 18 can use clues to get out in an hour or less. Registration required.

WED 20
Winter Picture Frame Craft
BEACON
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Children ages 4 to 10 can decorate seasonal crafts to take home. Registration required.

VISUAL ART

SAT 16
Maren Hassinger
BEACON
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org

The artist’s 1983 work, “Field,” made of 182 components, will be exhibited for the first time in its entirety. Cost: $20 ($18 seniors, $12 students and people with disabilities, $5 ages 5 to 11, Beacon residents free)

STAGE & SCREEN

SUN 17
Penelope
GARRISON
4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
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

MUSIC

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

Enjoy your vacation without worry.

We offer out-of-area travel protection plans.
- Easy, convenient process
- Provide protection when traveling 75+ miles from home

CALL TODAY TO LEARN MORE:
(845) 831-0179

PIDALA OIL CO. IS FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED, SERVICING THE COLD SPRING, GARRISON AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR NEARLY FOUR DECADES.

- Automatic Oil & Propane Deliveries
- Budget Plans - Service Contracts
- Furnace / Boiler Installations
- 24-hour Emergency Service
- BBQ tanks filled at our site
- Licensed Technicians

PIDALAOIL.COM | 845.265.2073

Libby Funeral & Cremation Services
55 Teller Ave. Beacon, NY 12508
LibbyFuneralHome.com
**HOLIDAY EVENTS**

**SAT 16**

**Visit from Santa**

**GARRISON**

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Boscobel

1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638

boscobel.org

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

**SAT 16**

**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 17, FRI 22.

**SAT 16**

**Holiday Tours**

**BEACON**

Noon & 1 & 2 p.m. Mount Gulian

145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org

Tour the historic mansion, which has been decorated for the holidays. Also SUN T. Cost: $12 ($10 seniors, $6 children)

**FRI 22**

**Songs of Peace and Cheer**

**COLD SPRING**

4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church

4 Chestnut St.

stmaryscoldspring.com

$65 ($35 children)

**SAT 16**

**Holiday Tea and Music**

**COLD SPRING**

11:30 a.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

10 Academy St.

philipstowndepottheatre.org

Multiple performances. Cost: $15

**SAT 16**

**Twilight Tours**

**GARRISON**

4 – 6:20 p.m. Boscobel

1601 Route 9D | 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. Cost: $30 ($25 seniors, $18 children, member discount)

**FRI 22**

**Christmas Services**

**COLD SPRING**

4 p.m. 1 South Main St.

stjoachim-stjohn.org

A Spanish-language mass is scheduled for 6 p.m. On Christmas Day, Mass will be held at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

**SAT 16**

**Our Lady of Loretto**

**COLD SPRING**

4 & 8 p.m. 51 Leonardi St.

ladyofloretto.org

Mass will be held at 8:30 a.m. and noon on Christmas Day.

**FRI 22**

**First Presbyterian**

**COLD SPRING**

5 p.m. 10 Academy St.

presbychurchcoldspring.org

The service will be hosted with the Highlands Chapel.

**SAT 16**

**St. John the Evangelist**

**BEACON**

8:45 a.m. Lady of Loretto

360 Main St.

ladyofloretto.org

A Spanish-language mass will be held at 8:45 a.m.

**SUN 24**

**ST. PHILIP’S**

**GARRISON**

10 a.m. 108 Route 9D

stphilipshighlands.org

A service is scheduled for 10 a.m.

**SUN 24**

**Our Lady of Loretto**

**COLD SPRING**

9 a.m. 10 Academy St.

ladyofloretto.org

Mass will be held at 9 a.m.

**SAT 16**

**White Christmas**

**GARRISON**

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900

philipstowndepottheatre.org

Watch the 1954 classic starring Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen and Danny Kaye. Cost: $15

**SAT 16**

**Winter Solstice**

**CORNWALL**

3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center

120 Muser Drive

845-855-1300 | haldaneschool.org

Celebrate the longest night of the year and the return of the light. Cost: $22 ($20 children, members $10/$8)

---

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**SUN 24**

**Our Lady of Loretto**

**COLD SPRING**

8 a.m. 51 Leonardi St.

ladyofloretto.org

Mass will be held at 8:30 a.m. and noon on Christmas Day.

**SUN 24**

**ST. PHILIP’S**

**GARRISON**

10 a.m. 108 Route 9D

stphilipshighlands.org

A service is scheduled for 10 a.m.

---

**A Purr-fect Gift for Young Readers**

**HELLO BUNNY BLOOM**

1101 Route 9D

bunny@hellobunnybloom.com

*Shipping address must be in Beacon, Fishkill, Cold Spring, or Garrison to meet the guaranteed delivery date.*
Super Secret Projects in Beacon is revealing a few secrets in its latest group show, which opened last week in the gallery at the back of Hyperbole at 484 Main St.

The twist for Where Art Finds a Home, which runs through Jan. 7, is that the artists are sharing a piece that might not otherwise be seen because it is a one-off, experimental or part of a series in progress.

We asked some of the artists involved to provide a quick explanation of their work that appears in the show. The gallery is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**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 (Philpstown) 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.

---

**“I Didn’t Know I Needed That,”** by Ian Wilson Clyde, is about “the volume of products consumed every day.”

**“Sketch Vessel,”** by Laura Holmes McCarthy, “represents an experimentation with bringing drawing into my ceramics work.”

**“Rooted,”** by Kohar Minassian, a “local family of trees was cast on film, then handprinted — an ethereal reminder of how to thrive in community.”

**“Haystacks,”** by Alyssa Follansbee, is “about the private world you create within a relationship.”

**“Baba Lost at Sea,”** Elin Lundman “upcycled art, adding a radical new layer to a traditional maritime scene.”

**“Black Sand Lovers,”** Tom Stringer “composed the photo — made on my honeymoon to Iceland — just as the couple in the right side of the frame began holding hands.”

---

For “Rooted,” by Kohar Minassian, a “local family of trees was cast on film, then handprinted — an ethereal reminder of how to thrive in community.”
Fred Astaire Cold Spring
3182 Route 9 Cold Spring, NY 10516
(845) 424-6353 | www.fredastaire.com/cold-spring

Two private lessons for $99.

Hudson Beach Glass
Locally Blown
162 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508  (845) 440-0668
Open daily 10AM - 6PM, Sunday 11AM - 6PM
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

Joseph’s Fine Jewelry
BUYING GOLD | Highest price for Gold, Diamonds, Silver, Coins, etc. We buy to resell, not to scrap. We specialize in estate jewelry.
171 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516
By appointment only.
STORE
845-265-2323
CELL
914-213-8749

Kringle’s Christmas House
Bringing you the finest in Europe heirloom ornaments
134 Main St Beacon
765-0444

CATHRYN’S Tuscan Grill
91 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516
845-265-3582
www.TuscanGrill.com

Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles for the Whole Family
Shop in store or online at www.gifthut.com
86 Main St, Cold Spring, NY 10516
Instagram the_gift_hut
Facebook @UniqueFamilyGifts.Toys

Shop Local
Cassoulette
Serves 4 to 6

1 1/4 pound dried white beans (tarbais or cannellinis), soaked overnight
2 onions, peeled, cut in half, one half reserved, the remainder cut into a large dice
6 whole cloves
2 bouquet garni (each containing 1 bay leaf, 1/4 teaspoon thyme, 5 sprigs parsley and 10 black peppercorns)
2 carrots, peeled, cut into rough 1/2- to 3/4-inch chunks
2 tablespoons tomato paste
6 to 8 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed
1/2 pound lamb shoulder, cut into a 1-inch dice
1/2 pound pork, cut into a 1-inch dice
1 piece duck confit (about 5 or 6 ounces)
1/2 cup rendered duck fat
1 quart rich chicken stock
1/4 pound garlicy pork sausage (in one piece)
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1/4 cup panko or toasted breadcrumbs
1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Soak beans overnight in cold water. To cook: in a pot large enough to fit, add the beans and their soaking water; one half of an onion (in one piece, studded with the cloves), 1 bouquet garni, 1/2 of the carrots and 3 smashed cloves of garlic. Add additional water to cover by about 1 1/2 inch. Bring to a medium boil for 15 to 20 minutes, skimming off any foam. Lower heat to a simmer, add 1 tablespoon salt. Cook until the beans are not quite done, which could take from 40 minutes to 1 hour, depending on the beans and their condition. Add more hot water as necessary to maintain level.

2. While beans cook, in another large saucepan or Dutch oven, heat 3 tablespoons duck fat over medium high. Brown the lamb cubes in individual batches, salt to taste and add duck fat if necessary. When browned, remove with a slotted spoon to a bowl.

3. In the same pan, saute the diced onion until barely colored. Add remaining garlic and saute for 1 minute. Add 1 teaspoon thyme and carrots; cook for another minute. Add 2 cups of the chicken stock and the remaining bouquet garni. Bring to a low boil. Add the browned meats and their juices, the whole piece of garlic sausage and the confit. Add enough stock to just cover, reduce to a simmer and cook for at least 1 hour, and up to 1 1/2 hours.

4. When the beans are not quite done, remove and discard the clove-studded onion and bouquet garni. When the meats are done, take off heat, remove bouquet garni and discard. Remove confit and garlic sausage from the pot and reserve to a bowl to cool. With a slotted spoon, add beans and their cooking vegetables to the pot with the lamb and pork. Return pot to a low simmer.

5. When cool enough to handle, clean the duck meat from the confit and shred or cut into bite-sized pieces. Slice the garlic sausage into 1/4-inch slices and halve each slice. Add the duck and sausage to the beans, lamb and pork; stir all to incorporate. Add more stock or bean cooking liquid to achieve a slightly soupy consistency. Maintain simmer for another 5 to 10 minutes, then remove from heat.

6. Transfer everything to a casserole or a large deep casserole, cover and refrigerate 2 hours to overnight, depending on whether you’re eating it today or tomorrow.

7. When ready to cook, bring the cassoulet to room temperature. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Combine breadcrumbs, paprika, 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper in a small bowl. Heat remaining duck fat (about 5 tablespoons). Sprinkle breadcrumbs evenly over the cassoulet; drizzle with duck fat. Bake about 2 hours on a rack in the middle of the oven. After 2 hours, roughly break the breadcrumb crust with a spoon and return to the oven for another 1/2 hour. Serve hot.

---

Pork & Lamb & Duck & Beans

By Joe Dizney

I can’t remember the first time I had cassoulet, the storied southern French casserole of beans, duck (or goose), seemingly every form of pork known to man and (in some fiercely debated cases) lamb, but I did know it wouldn’t be my last. I remember the first time I made it: It was during a cold, wet early winter on a New Hampshire lake, and I had too much time on my hands, i.e., the three days the recipe I had at the time (now lost to time) insisted it took to make an authentic cassoulet. The first day was reserved for cooking the beans, with clove-studded onions, carrots, bouquet garni and some fumbling around with salt pork that had to be poached and drained before being first added to the pot and later discarded.

Day Two was reserved for processing the various meats — fresh and smoked, pork sausages, pork belly, chunks of lamb shoulder and, of course, duck confit, all ultimately stewed in wine and stock, with vegetables (onions and lots of garlic, carrots and tomatoes) that would be strained out, pureed and returned to the pot and combined with Day One’s beans to rest overnight in the refrigerator.

Day Three was spent bringing the cassoulet (named for the traditional, slightly conical earthenware casserole, not pot, le casselet, it was baked in) to room temperature, baking it in a low oven for a couple of hours, topping with a layer of bread crumbs and drizzling with more duck fat, placing in a hot oven to brown and crust over, the crust being “broken” with a spoon and returning to the room oven for another 1/2 hour. Serve hot.

---

MOUNT GULIAN HISTORIC SITE

Wednesday, December 27, 12 - 2:00 p.m.

CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY TEA

An event for children & adults that combines fun and good manners in an authentic setting where social teas were once standard fare.

Prepaid reservations due by December 19th
For reservations call 845-831-8172 or info@mountgulian.org
$25 Adults | $18 Children

Mount Gullian Historic Site, 145 Sterling Street, Beacon, NY 12508
845.831.8172 | www.mountgulian.org

---

The Highlands Current

Support our nonprofit. Become a member!
Remembering Julia

Butterfield Library sponsors essay and poetry contest
By Alison Rooney

As part of a series of programs honoring the 200th anniversary of the birth of Julia Butterfield, whose bequest funded the Cold Spring library built in 1925 that bears her name, the staff decided to hold a poetry and essay contest for students.

Rena Corey, an author and historian who is on the bicentennial planning committee, came up with the idea of a writing contest.

Katherine Latella, the head of children’s services, and Director Johanna Reinhardt decided on an essay contest for older students and a poetry contest for younger ones.

Latella, a former middle school English teacher, suggested using a painting as a prompt for the poem: specifically, an 1863 Thomas Rossiter canvas, “A Pic-Nic on the Hudson,” that hangs in the library and shows prominent citizens of the time posing on Constitution Island.

The younger students were asked to imagine they had attended and what they would have talked about, seen and eaten. Older students were asked: “Imagine you were Julia and you were presented with a world problem today. How do you think she would handle it? Consider her character, values and accomplishments.”

The judges were Corey; Latella; Reinhardt; Kimberly Sabatini, a writer who lives in Garrison; Cassie Ward, director of the Putnam History Museum; and me. The middle/high school winner was sixth grader Yasabella Jung (Haldane) and the elementary winner was fifth grader Jesse Pirraglia of the Garrison School. Each received $100. Second place among the elementary students went to Pippa Daisley and third place to Zephyr Wayland, both fifth graders at Haldane; each received a library swag bag.

All of the writers were honored at a reception at the library on Dec. 8 in which the winners read their work, without coaxing. Maybe it was the lure of hot cocoa and treats served afterward.

The proceedings concluded with historic songs sung by young carolers who then made their way down Main Street to perform at Cold Spring Aglow.

My Race to My Special Place
By Zephyr Wayland

I hear the laugh of the mayor’s daughter
As I rush ever closer to the water,
I feel the wind against my face,
But I will continue to race,
I can smell the fresh bread in the clearing,
I am nearing, nearing, nearing
I can almost taste the tea,
Then finally
I can see
The water grounds
Filled with mounds and mounds
Of food—all free.
And I can see
The mayor’s daughter
Sitting next to the water.
The Hudson River’s rush
Fills my ear,
Everything else a hush,
Because I am here
I have completed my race
To the picnic place.

A Future Changed
By Yasabella Jung

Although the world is big and bright, poverty is always there. It plagues people, making them not even have the necessities needed to help them, causing them to fall into despair. Children can’t even experience the childhood they deserve and have to work as hard as their parents do. Many are unable to receive a proper education.

This shows that even though just waking up in the morning and going to school seems normal enough, it is a privilege that some people do not have. Though you might be tired of your parents saying it, it is a sad truth. We need to help the people who are affected by poverty and there are so many people that could help with this situation. However, one stands out from them all: Julia Butterfield.

Julia Butterfield was a dedicated, faithful and highly influential woman who contributed to building the Butterfield Library. What she would do to fight poverty is to gather all the neighborhood together to her house. It is said that she loved to host parties and once invited the Duke of Russia and the Count of Paris to her gorgeous house. She would also tell about the situation to the Putnam Historical Society. Even though her neighbors and people might shrug it off, at least some people would know and would be willing to stand up for this cause.

It is also said that Julia contributed tons of money to her community, and once, she built a hospital, when there were so few in the rural areas. She would donate and have different charities that would support and help the people. She would probably try and make as many shelters as she could, giving the poor a place where they can actually live. Additionally, she would give the children a school so that they could receive an education. At last, their futures would be changed for the better.

In conclusion, Julia would use her high status to her advantage. She would bring attention to the issue, donate to charities, make shelters and provide education to the children. This shows that she cares about the people and her community. Even if this only helps at least a few people, to them, it’s like a miracle.

Georgiana’s Lament: or, Why I’m Preoccupied
By Jesse Pirraglia

I hate my cat, I hate my dog, I hate my dress, I want a frog!
Julia is well-to-do, my father wishes I was too.
I want to go out and play, at this picnic I’d rather not stay.

The mayor’s daughter
Sitting next to the water.
The Hudson River’s rush
Fills my ear,
Everything else a hush,
Because I am here
I have completed my race
To the picnic place.

Gathering on the Hudson
By Pippa Daisley

The sun peeking through the trees as I reach for another strawberry
my horses for my carriage neigh and whinny as they impatiently wait for food.
I run over and gift them a sugar cube that was meant for tea.
I am sweating in all these layers of my dress.
It takes an effortful amount of time just to get dressed in the morning.
Meanwhile all the men laugh and clank beer glasses together.
The other ladies gossip and fan themselves but I just sit with my friend and read my book.
It’s about a girl who can fly.
I don’t usually like fantasy but I’ll make some exceptions once in a while.
James Swan, a Philipstown papermaker, lost a judgment of $178.35 (about $4,600) by default when he failed to appear in court. He had not paid two rag dealers. When the plaintiffs took the court order to the mill, Swan settled by giving them a ton of paper.

The Charles Spear, traveling south on the river to New York City, was delayed in thick fog, and when the passengers awoke in the morning they found themselves docked at the West Point Foundry. Some came ashore and took the 7:58 train.

An engraved gold ring lost nearly 50 years earlier following her death was found on Market Street and could be claimed at its office for the cost of a notice.

Isabella Boyd, the widow of druggist Charles Boyd, who had taken over his business, died at age 76. To celebrate the birth of his child, barber Raymond Lorentzen offered free shaves and haircuts.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors, a motion to remove $7 ($435) from a bill submitted by the jailer for nursing sick prisoners was approved. However, a motion to strike $19 from his bill for policing services was defeated, as were motions to remove $12, $10, $6, $12 and $18, before it was set aside.

In other businesses, the supervisors approved a bounty of $3 ($76) for every wildcat killed and 50 cents for every fox, to be paid with presentation of the carcass to the sheriff. The Ladue stables on Stone Street purchased a machine powered by compressed air to shave its horses, leaving them resembling “smooth mice,” according to The Recorder.

An engraved gold ring lost nearly 50 years earlier by a member of the Conklin family was discovered on its farm in Putnam Valley while digging potatoes. The state superintendent of public instruction sent a circular to school trustees alerting them that smallpox was spreading in central New York and noting that no child could attend school unless vaccinated.

Through the efforts of Rep. John Ketcham, an iron mailbox was installed outside the Garrison post office.

In Continentalville, Ebenezer Pratt sold one of his cows and William Scofield installed a heater in his home. The Haldane Debating Club met to address the question, “Resolved: That New York State should be divided into two states, with the northern boundaries of Putnam and Orange as the dividing line.” The Recorder noted that “there seems to be no doubt that the arguments have perceptibly changed within the past 30 or 40 years,” with summer weather continuing into the fall and fall weather into the winter. Haldane High School received a full-size skeleton for its physiology class.

Etta Jaycox opened a store opposite her father’s in Nelsonville that sold holiday goods, notions, fruits, candies and nuts. The electric streetlights installed below the railroad tracks were turned on.

Mrs. Nicholas Fish, the mother of Sgt. Hamilton Fish, who was killed in action in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, presented each man who had been under her command with a pearl-handled knife inscribed “Las Guasima, June 24, ‘98” and “Souvenir of Sergt. Hamilton Fish to his comrades in Troop I, R.R.R.,” or Rough Rider Reserve.

Osborn “Ossie” Mekel, a former shopkeeper and postmaster in Nelsonville, died at 70. He lived with Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Fleming on Morris Avenue.

After its Christmas concert, the Philipstown Chorale made a tour of Cold Spring and Nelsonville to sing carols, ending at Butterfield Memorial Hospital.

A memorial for the veterans of Nelsonville was dedicated at the corner of Division and Adams streets.

The water board installed a 12-inch line on The Boulevard and a 6-inch line and hydrant on B Street.

The Hudson Theatre on Main Street changed its movie every two days: In December it screened Lost Horizon, with Ronald Coleman and Jane Wyatt; The Luck of the Irish, with Tyrone Power; Julia Misbehaves, with Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon, Peter Lawford, Cesar Romero and Elizabeth Taylor; Big City, with Margaret O'Brien and Danny Thomas; That Lady in Ermine, with Betty Grable and Doug Fairbanks, in a double feature with Night Time in Nevada, featuring Roy Rogers and Trigger; Luxury Liner, “M.G.M.'s nautical musical”; and Four Feathers, starring “3,000 fighting men and a girl.”

The Haldane cheerleaders hosted a basketball game in the auditorium with faculty and students riding donkeys. The event included the “world-famous” donkey known as Honey Pot.

Among the advertisers in The Philipstown Times: W.A. Scullion Funeral Home at 30 Morris Ave.; Collins' Restaurant & Bar at 187 Main St.; the Haar Agency at 159 Main St.; Zahner's Bar & Grill at 129 Main St.; Rose's Luncheonette at 120 Main St.; Nathan Glick's store at 93-97 Main St.; Purity Market at 92 Main St.; Coleman Funeral Home at 4 Rock St.; Southard and Covert Insurance at 73 Main St.; and Strickland's Liquor Store at 62 Main St.

Joseph Percaccio purchased a lot adjoining Kemble's Field and planned to build four homes.

The Cold Spring Drum & Bugle Corps hosted a chicken dinner at Scalzo's for the girls of the Minstrel Show Troupe to thank them for a benefit performance.

A standout baseball player for Haldane and the Poughkeepsie Jewish Center.

The Fishkill National Bank broke ground for a branch at Chestnut and Oak streets.

The Haldane wrestling team opened its season with a 60-12 victory over Dover Plains in which Blue Devils won 10 of the 15 bouts, including nine by pins.

Samuel Scalzo, a plumber for the Capuchin Monastery in Garrison who later operated the Riverview Inn on Main Street, died at age 66.

Jurgen Monastery in Garrison who later operated the Riverview Inn on Main Street, died at age 66.

Bertha Selleck of Cold Spring visited with elementary teachers at Haldane during a workshop to share what was described as her “unique reading technique.”

Adrian Haar, who moved to Cold Spring from Ohio and joined the James E. Bailey & Son insurance agency, died at 64. The business became known as Bailey & Haar and then, in 1945, as Haar Insurance Agency. Haar was a director of the National Bank of Cold Spring and the first president of the Philipstown Rod & Gun Club.

25 Years Ago (December 1998)

Five Philipstown authors held a joint signing at the newly opened Salmagundi Books: David Landay, the founder of Broadway Cares (Be Prepared); Sara Dulaney (The Complete Idiot's Guide to Single Parenting); Gail Reichstein (Wood Becomes Water: Chinese Medicine in Everyday Life); Michael Kahan, a professor of political science at Brooklyn College (Media as Politics); and Elizabeth Kimmel (Stone Circle). Michael Semo, a member of the Putnam County Legislature for 16 years, resigned as its chair four weeks before his term was to end after he damaged a county-owned car. The Patterson resident sideswiped a utility pole on Route 301 while returning from a Putnam Women's GOP dinner at the Plum Brush Restaurant in Philipstown. He said he lost control while reaching for an item in the back seat.

The Trust for Public Land and the Open Space Institute announced the preservation of 800 acres of woods straddling Patterson and Kent. Known as Wonder Lake, it had been the summer home of actor Elizabeth Montgomery, star of the television series Bewitched, who died in 1995, and her father, actor Robert Montgomery.

After taking off from Goshen, a two-person balloon made an emergency landing in a parking lot in Nelsonville. The flight nearly ended on the Haldane campus before the pilot spotted what he thought was a better spot to land.

The Hudson Theatre on Main Street

Go to highlandscurrent.org/join

To celebrate the 99th anniversary of the opening of the Bear Mountain Bridge, more than 100 people gathered on its deck on Nov. 17 to pose for the recreation of a recently discovered 1924 photo taken of the workers who constructed it.

The more recent photo was taken by Scott Snell of SDS Imagery, a Beacon film production company hired by the nonprofit Historic Bridges of the Hudson Valley. Snell has been working with HBHV on a documentary about the bridge’s history. Traffic was stopped for about 15 minutes.

The bridge opened to the public on Nov. 27, 1924 (Thanksgiving Day), after being dedicated the day before, according to HBHV. It was the first vehicular bridge over the Hudson River south of Albany and the first suspension bridge with a concrete deck. For a brief period, it was also the bridge with the longest suspended span in the world.

For more information on the centennial, see bmb100.com. HBHV is creating a database of laborers who worked on the bridge; email kburke@hbhv.org with names.

Photos courtesy of Frank Goderre and Scott Snell
December 5, 2023

Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees
85 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Dear Mayor Foley and Village of Cold Spring Trustees,

I am writing to clarify some points about the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail plan as it relates to Dockside Park and the Village of Cold Spring. I have been specifically authorized by the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT) Board of Directors to write this letter.

As you know, we have stated in various public forums that, whatever the final routing of the Fjord Trail, HHFT will defer to the Village of Cold Spring in regard to what, if any, programming and events occur at Dockside Park.

Should the final routing of the trail include Dockside, HHFT would build the actual trail, as well as public restrooms, and may also build and maintain a visitor information kiosk to help orient hikers and provide essentials, like maps and a water refilling station. The design for this phase of the plan is still in the conceptual stage. As part of HHFT's ongoing operations, Fjord Trail stewardship staff would then maintain the park, and manage trash and recycling collection and maintenance of the restroom facilities.

Some residents of Cold Spring have expressed concern that Fjord Trail revenue generating activities could occur at Dockside and adversely impact the Village—as one resident put it in a recent letter, "holiday stalls at Dockside to compete with local businesses." They have suggested that we formally confirm in writing the assurances previously made on this subject, which I am pleased to do.

**HHFT has no intention to plan or allow commercial activities or events (including by Fjord Trail concessionaires, sponsors, or donors) in Dockside Park.**

Additionally, there has been much public comment on a rumored traffic circle, or roundabout, at the intersection of Routes 9D and 301, being a part of the Fjord Trail proposal. **I’d like to clarify that HHFT has never proposed such an idea and has no intention of recommending or advocating for a traffic circle at the 9D intersection, nor do we have any jurisdiction to do so.** As you know, such a plan would be up to the NYS Department of Transportation in collaboration with you, the Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees, and Putnam County.

As the Fjord Trail plan continues to be refined, we look forward to updating you on our progress, and hope that you and local residents will continue to share your input on the plan.

Sincerely,

Amy Kacala
Executive Director
Accessibility (from Page 1)

A survey by The Current found that 42 percent of 66 storefronts on Main Street in Cold Spring (including the newspaper’s office) are inaccessible to wheelchair users. In Beacon, 41 percent of 214 storefronts are inaccessible. Usually the problem is a step or two acting as a barrier.

Despite a popular conception, renting or owning a building that dates from before the ADA does not exempt or “grandfather” businesses open to the public. Instead, they must do whatever is “readily achievable” to remove barriers, explained Michael Hellmann, a disability rights attorney based in Hartsdale.

Many business owners fail to provide access, he said, in part because there is no enforcement. The U.S. Department of Justice could enforce the ADA but lacks the resources to pursue millions of noncompliant small businesses, said Michelle Uzeta, deputy legal director of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, based in Washington, D.C. Often a building is updated only when it is built or being renovated, when it must comply with state building codes, which require disability access.

At the local level, “the village cannot force business owners to make their entrances ADA-compliant,” noted Eliza Starbuck, a Cold Spring trustee who owns Flowercup Wine at 82 Main St. Chris White, the Beacon city administrator, added: “We’re not making people change elevations to building entrances.”

The lack of enforcement has led many people to dismiss the ADA as toothless, said Uzeta. Disabled individuals can bring federal lawsuits citing the law, but that’s uncommon. “The average person with a disability doesn’t have the resources or strength to file a lawsuit,” she said.

As a result, enforcement sometimes falls to self-appointed “civil-rights testers” who identify small businesses that are out of compliance. That’s what happened in Achehson Hotels, LLC v. Laufer, a case decided last week by the U.S. Supreme Court. Deborah Laufer, a Florida resident who uses a wheelchair, filed more than 600 federal lawsuits citing the law, but that’s not making people change elevations to building entrances.

Laufer, a Florida resident who uses a wheelchair, filed more than 600 federal lawsuits citing the law, but that’s not making people change elevations to building entrances.

The issue before the court was not the validity of the allegations but whether Laufer could identify small businesses that are out of compliance. The ADA’s alteration requirements to the community rather than being out of compliance. The ADA’s alteration requirements to the community rather than being out of compliance.

Due to its size, Uzeta said, “You can work with your business community toward compliance, instead of saying it is up to them.”

Two years ago, the length of an ADA-compliant ramp complicated plans for the Cro’ Nest Wine Bar in Cold Spring when its owners planned to open in a renovated storefront at 15 Main St. The required length would have put the end of the ramp on the sidewalk, which is village property. The conflict was resolved when New York State approved an exemption to the building code that allowed the ramp to be slightly steeper and shorter.

Stable, portable ramps are OK when other options aren’t “readily achievable,” said Uzeta. Ideally, they should have railings and a non-slip surface.

Flowercup has a step that blocks wheelchair users. When Tarricone arrived outside during a visit, Starbuck immediately brought out a small plastic ramp. Tarricone said she appreciated that but urged Starbuck to consider a sturdier, foldable “suitcase ramp,” readily available on Amazon and other sites. (The Current, which has a 4-inch-high step, purchased a 4-foot suitcase ramp this week for $125.)

While local officials cannot compel businesses to comply with the ADA, they can enforce the state building code, said Hellmann, the Hartsdale lawyer. As an example, the new Edgewater apartments in Beacon provide access for wheelchair users, said White, the city administrator. In Cold Spring, in addition to the wine bar, Starbuck said that local officials oversaw wheelchair access to the building that houses The Endless Skein when it was constructed in 2018.

Local officials said they are improving access in other ways. White said Beacon has replaced 60 sidewalk curb ramps over the last three years and Starbuck noted that Cold Spring has improved sidewalk ramps, added ADA-compliant parking and exempted cars with disability stickers from upcoming restrictions.

But she acknowledged there is work to do. “We are a teeny-tiny village with a budget that is tiny and we don’t have the funds to make the entire village ADA-compliant,” said Starbuck, adding that she believes many business owners fail to comply only because it’s not “on their radar. With any issue where it’s serving a smaller portion of the community, it becomes a low priority, which is absolutely unfair.”

During her visit to the Highlands, Tarricone said she would like to see access become a priority. “If you want to include people with disabilities and not discriminate, you can do that,” she said. “You can work with your business community toward compliance, instead of saying it is up to them.”

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 Pawlczko of Putnam SeniorCorps at (845) 808-1734 to volunteer.

ADA FAQ

What disabilities are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act?

All disabilities, mental or physical, temporary or permanent, severe or mild.

Who must provide access?

Any person who owns, leases or operates a place of public accommodation, including most places of lodging, recreation, transportation, education and dining, stores, care providers and places of public displays.

Are any businesses open to the public exempt?

No. All businesses must remove barriers when it is “readily achievable,” meaning compliance is “readily achievable without much difficulty or expense.”

Are historic properties exempt?

No. Historic properties are required to remove barriers to access where it is readily achievable and must comply with the ADA’s alteration requirements to the “maximum extent feasible.”

Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

Gergely Pediatrics

Dedicated to keeping your child healthy & thriving

- Collaborative practice for children & adolescents
- Board Certified Pediatricians & Licensed Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Welcomes patients with developmental or behavior issues

Meet with us for a FREE first time consultation

34 Route 403, Garrison, N.Y. 10524

tel: (845) 424-4444 fax: (845) 424-4664
gergelypediatrics.com
Cell Tower (from Page 1)

which would be disguised to look like a fir but rise over the tree line.

“Our argument is that the scope of what Homeland proposes for the right-of-way is necessary only because it’s a commercial activity,” which shouldn’t be allowed, said Mark Blanchard, an attorney who represents the neighbors. “If Homeland were building a single-family home, it wouldn’t have to do anything to the road.”

Blanchard said that the issue may come down to whether Nelsenville’s building inspector decides that overland commercial electric infrastructure requires Homeland to submit a new site plan to the Planning Board, or if he simply revises the permit to allow the utility lines over the right-of-way or over or under private property with a neighbor’s consent.

Kelly Aran, an attorney for Snyder and Snyder, who represents Homeland, did not immediately respond to an email or phone call seeking comment.

After hearing arguments from the Rockledge neighbors, state Judge Thomas Davis issued a preliminary injunction in February 2022 that prevented Homeland from altering the right-of-way, such as widening or paving it to bring in construction equipment. On Monday, Capone kept that preliminary injunction in place for 30 days to allow challenges to her decisions with the state appeals court.

Nelsenville initially refused to grant a building permit for the tower. But after Homeland sued in federal court, the village in 2020 issued one as part of a settlement. The permit allows Homeland to widen the driveway, remove trees and resurface the road. Before Capone’s decision, it also allowed Homeland to dig trenches for cables and conduits.

As Davis had ruled in 2022, Capone said the legal definition of “right-of-way” is over, not under, land. The neighbors also charged in their lawsuit that Homeland trespassed and created a nuisance, and that a surveying company spray-painted and drilled boring holes on their properties in January 2020. And they claimed that Nelsenville’s permit was obtained fraudulently because the former landowner, Doug Logan, did not tell the building inspector he was not the road’s owner. Capone dismissed those claims.

The judge noted testimony affirming past changes to the right-of-way “in a manner consistent with permitting construction, utility and large delivery trucks to access the properties” and to allow for emergency vehicles, which she said should be able to reach every address on the road.

Veterans (from Page 1)

fighter. He is also the executive director of Another Summit, a branch of the Beacon-based Guardian Revival, which supports veterans and first responders who are dealing with post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Guardian Revival and the American Legion Post 275 Auxiliary in Cold Spring teamed up and quickly raised the $500; Hansen’s marker was dedicated in a ceremony on Veterans Day. “It was very nice,” said Anthony Calabrese, the funeral home’s manager.

He added that for a funeral, Calabrese said the family we’d hold onto it until it was installed, “We tell families upfront that the cemetery, not the funeral home, requires a $500 fee,” Calabrese said. Most families accept it as part of the burial cost.

He said that for a funeral, Calabrese said the family may be eligible for a financial allowance toward other expenses such as the funeral, cemetery plot and burial. Claims for a non-service-connected burial must be filed within two years of the internment. There is no time limit for filing a service-related claim.

Service-connected burial allowances range from $734 to $948 for the graves of more than 1,000 veterans dating back to the Civil War. Ed Archer, who retired recently after serving as manager there for more than 10 years, said he knows of no markers ever being returned to the VA. The cemetery itself does not install markers; the funeral homes handle the paperwork, collect the fees and work with the installer. Fairview Cemetery in Beacon uses the same approach. The cemetery was established in 1894 and a spokesperson said the only time a veteran’s burial plot might be unmarked is if the grave is extremely old.

Marker List

Several calls to two members of the Cold Spring Cemetery board, Paul Kinkel and Donald Hustis, to ask about the cost of installing the markers and the reason for sending them back to the VA, were not returned.

Calabrese said Calabrese’s store a marker if the family requests it but that markers delivered directly to the cemetery, the Cold Spring Cemetery for decades, had been requested by funeral directors and received from the VA but not yet installed. It asked the families to contact the cemetery before the markers were returned to the agency. The names are below, although some may have had their markers installed in the five years since..

In May 2018, the Cold Spring Cemetery compiled a list of 27 veterans whose bronze markers had been requested by funeral directors and received from the VA but not yet installed. It asked the families to contact the cemetery before the markers were returned to the agency. The names are below, although some may have had their markers installed in the five years since:

- Martin R. Adams (1948-2004), Navy, Vietnam
- James W. Austin (1921-2003), Army, WWII
- Thomas F. Bradley Jr. (1941-2008), Army, Vietnam
- Anthony Constantino (1916-2003), Army, WWII
- Frederic E. Cunningham (1914-1994), Army, WWII
- Robert L. Daniels (1921-1970), Army, WWII
- William Daniels (1920-1996), Army, WWII
- Paul M. Fazio (1921-2005), Army Air Forces, WWII
- Robert L. Ford (1927-1996), Navy
- Robert R. Colbert Jr. (1935-2003), Army
- William R. Collet Jr. (1935-2003), Army
- Anthony Constantino (1916-2003), Army, WWII
- Robert L. Daniels (1921-1970), Army, WWII
- William Daniels (1920-1996), Army, WWII
- Paul M. Fazio (1921-2005), Army Air Forces, WWII
- Charles E. Hustis Sr. (1921-2003), Marines, Korea
- Homer A. Jaycox (1921-1997), Army, WWII
- William Kent (1903-2003), Army, WWII
- Joseph Papula (1925-1997), Army, WWII
- Andrew Patiniello (1913-2004), Army, WWII
- Daniel P. Moore (1918-2013), Navy, WWII
- William-Ken Koyne (1904-2000), Army
- John A. LePore (1912-1990), Army, WWII
- David Lyons (1934-2011), Army, Korea
- John R. Lefevre (1918-2008), Army, WWII
- Helen Adams Marchettera (1918-2004), Army, WWII
- Mario R. Valenti (1931-2005), Army, Korea
- Helen Adams Marchettera (1918-2004), Army, WWII
- Robert L. Ford (1927-1996), Navy
- Robert R. Colbert Jr. (1935-2003), Army
- Andrew Patiniello (1913-2004), Army, WWII
- Edward Somers (1925-2014), Army, WWII
- Frank Ruzich (1926-2000), Navy, WWII
- Dominika Sokol (1925-2005), Army, WWII
- Lawrence J. Turner (1945-2012), Navy, Vietnam

In Beacon, St. Joachim Cemetery includes the graves of more than 1,000 veterans dating back to the Civil War. Ed Archer, who retired recently after serving as manager there for more than 10 years, said he knows of no markers ever being returned to the VA. The cemetery itself does not install markers; the funeral homes handle the paperwork, collect the fees and work with the installer. Fairview Cemetery in Beacon uses the same approach. The cemetery was established in 1894 and a spokesperson said the only time a veteran’s burial plot might be unmarked is if the grave is extremely old.
Puzzles

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. North —
5. Green prefix
8. Oodles
12. Writer Kingsley
13. As well
14. Capri, e.g.
15. Souvenir seller
17. Move like a butterfly
18. Tours season
19. Snaky fish
20. Ceases
21. Solidify
22. Twitch
23. Shroud city
26. He can hold his head high
30. “Dream on!”
31. Zero-star review
32. Santa’s runway
33. Old English Sheepdog feature
35. Skilled
36. Tramcar contents
37. “— the season ...”

DOWN
1. Leaf
2. Skip
3. Biography
4. Ballpark fig.
5. Lucy’s pal
6. “Neato!”
7. “Alley —”
8. Prepaid stocking stuffers
9. Capital on a fjord
10. Radar image
11. Collections
16. Beheld
20. — Lancelot
21. Elloquent person’s talent
22. Can metal
23. Indent key
24. GI entertainers
25. Tease
26. Cowboy’s sweetie
27. Nemesis
28. Dandy guy
29. Newt
31. Bakery purchase
34. Canine cry
35. — Misbehavin’
37. Squabbles
38. Diner orders
39. Cash advance
40. Loosen
41. Motion picture
42. Folksinger Guthrie
43. Saintly ring
44 Bridge
46 “My word!”
47 Pallid

WordLadder

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

PILLS

HULKS

CrossWord

ACROSS
1. Far from colorful
5. ____ McCall (Queen Latifah’s role on The Equalizer)
7. Emanate
8. Distributes, with “out”
9. Steakhouse staple
12. Writer Kingsley
13. As well
14. Capri, e.g.
15. Souvenir seller
17. Move like a butterfly
18. Tours season
19. Snaky fish
20. Ceases
21. Solidify
22. Twitch
23. Shroud city
26. He can hold his head high
30. “Dream on!”
31. Zero-star review
32. Santa’s runway
33. Old English Sheepdog feature
35. Skilled
36. Tramcar contents
37. “— the season ...”

DOWN
1. Leaf
2. Skip
3. Biography
4. Ballpark fig.
5. Lucy’s pal
6. “Neato!”
7. “Alley —”
8. Prepaid stocking stuffers
9. Capital on a fjord
10. Radar image
11. Collections
16. Beheld
20. — Lancelot
21. Elloquent person’s talent
22. Can metal
23. Indent key
24. GI entertainers
25. Tease
26. Cowboy’s sweetie
27. Nemesis
28. Dandy guy
29. Newt
31. Bakery purchase
34. Canine cry
35. — Misbehavin’
37. Squabbles
38. Diner orders
39. Cash advance
40. Loosen
41. Motion picture
42. Folksinger Guthrie
43. Saintly ring
44 Bridge
46 “My word!”
47 Pallid

MICRO

ACROSS
1. Far from colorful
5. ____ McCall (Queen Latifah’s role on The Equalizer)
7. Emanate
8. Distributes, with “out”
9. Steakhouse staple
12. Writer Kingsley
13. As well
14. Capri, e.g.
15. Souvenir seller
17. Move like a butterfly
18. Tours season
19. Snaky fish
20. Ceases
21. Solidify
22. Twitch
23. Shroud city
26. He can hold his head high
30. “Dream on!”
31. Zero-star review
32. Santa’s runway
33. Old English Sheepdog feature
35. Skilled
36. Tramcar contents
37. “— the season ...”

DOWN
1. Leaf
2. Skip
3. Biography
4. Ballpark fig.
5. Lucy’s pal
6. “Neato!”
7. “Alley —”
8. Prepaid stocking stuffers
9. Capital on a fjord
10. Radar image
11. Collections
16. Beheld
20. — Lancelot
21. Elloquent person’s talent
22. Can metal
23. Indent key
24. GI entertainers
25. Tease
26. Cowboy’s sweetie
27. Nemesis
28. Dandy guy
29. Newt
31. Bakery purchase
34. Canine cry
35. — Misbehavin’
37. Squabbles
38. Diner orders
39. Cash advance
40. Loosen
41. Motion picture
42. Folksinger Guthrie
43. Saintly ring
44 Bridge
46 “My word!”
47 Pallid

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

By Nick Robbins

WRESTLING — After starting its season with a home loss to Valley Central, 46-24, on Dec. 6, Beacon fell at Kingston on Wednesday (Dec. 13), 45-19. Jude Betancourt won at 152 pounds (30-1), Aiden Buggs won at 160 pounds (6-1) and Nixon Salinas Jr. at 190 pounds by pin.

Earlier against Valley Central, Betancourt won by pin at 152 pounds and Charles Flynn won by pin at 285 pounds. The Bulldogs open league play on Monday (Dec. 18), hosting Goshen.

BOYS’ BASKETBALL — After winning their home opener on Dec. 4 over Washingtonville, the Bulldogs have lost three in a row on the road, defeated at Lourdes, 95-33, and New Paltz, 74-69, last week and at Port Jervis, 50-47, on Tuesday (Dec. 12). Beacon (1-3) will travel to Monroe-Woodbury on Thursday (Dec. 21) before heading to a tournament at Lourdes on Dec. 27.

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL — Beacon moved to 3-0 on the season behind strong defense. The Bulldogs knocked off Burke Catholic, 62-19, on Dec. 8 behind 14 points from Reilly Landisdi, followed by Shadaya Fryar (10), Rayana Taylor (10, plus 30 rebounds) and Rory LaDue (5).

On Monday (Dec. 11), Beacon won at Cornwall, 53-33. Landisdi had 17 points and five steals; Daveya Rodriguez added 12 points, 10 rebounds and five steals. The girls will host Chester on Tuesday (Dec. 19) and Sullivan West Central on Thursday. Both games start at 4:30 p.m.

WINTER TRACK — It was a productive day at West Point for the Bulldogs as they competed Dec. 9 in a meet organized by the Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association. For the girls, Kyla Richardson grabbed 16 rebounds on her way to being named the tournament MVP. Peters added 22 points, five rebounds and three steals. Elaine Johanson had five points and 10 rebounds. McDaniel was named with Ruggiero to the All-Tournament team.

“We made a concerted effort to get inside more and get to the foul line,” Coach Charles Martinez said after the game. “We did a good job of communicating on defense, containing their shooters and their best player.”

On Tuesday (Dec. 12), Haldane traveled to Briarcliff Manor, where, with 5:58 left in the game, the Blue Devils found themselves down by 20 points. But the team went on an 11-0 run behind back-to-back threes by McDaniel, another by Peters and a floater by McDaniel. It wasn’t quite enough and the Bears held on to win 43-36.

Haldane (3-3) played Rye Neck on Thursday (Dec. 14) in a tournament at Croton that continues on Saturday. Next week the team travels to Irvington on Monday (Dec. 18) and Brewster on Tuesday before hosting the Barack Obama School for Social Justice of Yonkers on Thursday at 6:15 p.m.

WINTER TRACK — Haldane competed in a Section I tournament on Dec. 10 at The Armory in New York City. For the boys, the top finishers were Merrick Williams, who was seventh in the 55-meter dash in 7.08 seconds and eighth in the long jump at 16-11.5; Milo Pearsall, who was 12th in the 300-meter dash in 41.20; and John Illian, who was sixth in the 1,600-meter run in 4:59.74. For the girls, Ashley Sousa placed 16th in the 1,500 meters in 5:53.78.

The Blue Devils return to The Armory for a meet today (Dec. 15) and will compete in the Pearl River Holiday Festival on Dec. 27 in Suffern.

FALL HONORS — A number of athletes were recognized for their play during the fall season. Ronan Kiter was an All-Section pick for the boys’ soccer team, and Clen Grossman received an honorable mention. Kiter, Grossman, Matt Nachamkin, Brandt Robbins, Max Westphal and Ty Villella were named to the All-League team. For the girls, Josie Foley-Hedlund, Finola Kiter, Ruby Poes and Ashley Sousa were named to the All-League team.

In cross-country, Penelope Andreou, Hazel Besley, Owen Powers and Tyler Schacht were named to the All-League team, and Slas Emig was an honorable mention. In tennis, Ellie Dubroff, Camilla McDaniel, Ellen O’Hara and Julie Shields were All-League, and in volleyball, Emily Tomann received the honor.