

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Beacon  
Band  
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JANUARY 12, 2024

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## Beacon Council Member Shuffle

*Resignation, seat changes  
among moves*

By Jeff Simms

**T**wo months after being elected to a second, 2-year term, Wren Longno resigned last week from the Beacon City Council.

Longno, who represented Ward 3, submitted her resignation to Mayor Lee Kyriacou on Jan. 3. It was announced on Monday (Jan. 8), during the council's annual organizational meeting. In response, the council voted to move Pam Wetherbee, an at-large representative elected in November, to Ward 3 and appoint Amber Grant, a former two-term council member, to the at-large seat.



Longno



Wetherbee



Grant

Longno said she was leaving for personal reasons. "If it wasn't crucial I wouldn't do it," she said on Tuesday.

Wetherbee served as the Ward 3 representative from 2014 to 2017.

On Monday, after Kyriacou explained the moves, which he said were dictated by the city's charter, she resigned from the at-large position and was immediately appointed to Ward 3, which covers Beacon's northeast quadrant.

Moments later, Grant, who served from 2018 to 2019 as the Ward 4 representative and 2020 to 2021 as an at-large member, was appointed to the council's second at-large position. (Paloma Wake holds the other.)

Wake and several residents questioned the shuffling of members, with Wake saying that, while she has no issue with Wetherbee or Grant, she would rather see Longno's seat advertised publicly so that interested candidates could submit applications to Kyriacou.

"I would really like to see this be a more open and public process," such as when the Beacon school board or Howland Public Library board have filled vacancies, she said.

The difference between those boards and the City Council is that only the council has an elected chief officer in the form of the mayor, said City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis.

*(Continued on Page 6)*



**WINTRY MIX** — Snow falls, and then it melts, and then it floods, sometimes in the same week. A weekend storm that dropped about 6 inches of snow on the Highlands, and more upstate (above, Angelo Broccoli of Cold Spring Pizza clears the sidewalk on Sunday, Jan. 7) melted under 2 to 4 inches of rain overnight on Tuesday, resulting in widespread flooding, including at the Beacon train station on Wednesday morning (below). Heavy rain and wind is again predicted for tonight (Jan. 12). Photos by Michael Turton and Tom Bregman



## Local Sewage Tests High for COVID Virus

*Beacon, Cold Spring  
collecting samples for state*

By Leonard Sparks

**W**hat Beacon and Cold Spring residents flush down their toilets is not a total waste.

The treatment plants in the city and village have, since last year, been part of a statewide network of 206 wastewater facilities whose employees are collecting samples of untreated influent and shipping them overnight to laboratories, where they are tested for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

With many infections going unreported because of the widespread use of home tests, those samples have become a key tool for measuring outbreaks, including one now driving up admissions to NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley and other area hospitals, along with statewide increase in deaths.

Results from samples collected after Thanksgiving from Beacon's plant on Dennings Avenue and Cold Spring's facility on Fair Street show sharp increases in concentrations of SARS-CoV-2, according to data from the New York State Wastewater Surveillance Network ([bit.ly/sewage-testing](https://bit.ly/sewage-testing)).

Beacon and Cold Spring are among 115 facilities whose detection levels are at the top of a scale that ranges from low and moderate to four higher levels.

The program adjusts for fluctuations in the volume of influent and fecal matter entering a treatment facility, and considers two weeks of samples more reliable than a one-day measurement, explained Dan Lang, deputy director of the Center for

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## Lawler Ends Restrictions at 'Town Halls'

*Congressman faced  
criticism over press policy*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

**M**ore than four months after barring journalists from his "town hall" constituent forums, Rep. Mike Lawler, whose U.S. House district includes Philipstown, last week abruptly changed course.

Lawler, a Republican who took office in

January 2023, explained in a Jan. 5 news release that he had instituted the restrictions because he wanted to make the events "as hospitable and welcoming as possible," use them for "hearing directly from constituents with serious questions or concerns," and protect them "from being hijacked by out-of-district political grandstanders."

While he claimed in his statement that the ban had only applied to reporters who did not live in the district, the ground rules for a

*(Continued on Page 6)*



Rep. Mike Lawler addresses constituents at an Aug. 22 town hall in Carmel. Photo provided



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FIVE QUESTIONS: **BONNIE CHAMPION**

By Jeff Simms

**B**onnie Champion is a longtime organizer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade in Beacon, which takes place on Monday (Jan. 15).

**How did the parade get started?**

In September 2013, Pete Seeger, then 93 years old, came to a Beacon Sloop Club meeting. He was worried that Martin Luther King Jr. Day was becoming a day off from school or work and that no one was recognizing such an incredible man who had changed the world. That was coming from the mouth of an incredible man who changed the world! I remember his exact words: “I’m going to have a parade.”

I had just retired after 33 years as a teacher, so we worked together. He asked me to start with the Black Baptist churches, because they already had a community celebration and we added the parade. He actually lived so he could see the parade. He was very sick that morning but he wanted so badly to be there. His daughter was driving him but had to bring him back home. He died a week later.

**Did Pete see the parade as something more than a parade?**

It’s actually a civil rights march — people standing up for what they believe in, march-

ing peacefully and singing — in the same way the march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery was a civil rights march. There’s a new documentary, *Down by the Riverside*, in which Pete explains why he sang: It was to support the causes that he believed in. It wasn’t for fun but to get those ideas across about peace, caring for other people and taking care of the world. But singing is a lot of fun, too!

**The day includes a student essay contest. How did that begin?**

I suggested the contest, because that way teachers will be teaching about Martin Luther King Jr., the kids will be writing about him and they will come and participate in the parade. Each year we find a quote from Dr. King and ask the students to write about what was going on in the world at that time. Why did Martin Luther King say that? What does it mean to you? The winners are judged by the content of their essays, not sentence structure, spelling or punctuation.

**What does Dr. King’s message mean to you?**

A student last year wrote, “Martin Luther King wanted to change the world. That’s a



big job!” Isn’t that amazing? He was a winner. It’s terrible how Black people were treated and are still treated. My son is a chef in Savannah, Georgia, and when I visit, I see that prejudice is still there. People are not treated according to their character. What Dr. King went through and how he was treated — the kids are appalled when they learn about it. He also pairs well with Pete Seeger, because Pete changed the world, too. He fought for women, unions, civil rights, the environment. He worked for peace. I have tremendous respect for both of them and I try to live my life the way they did.

**We hear you’ve swum across the Hudson River 14 times. True?**

Yes! It’s a mile and a quarter, but you swim more than that because you’re dealing with the tide. One of Pete’s dreams was to have a floating swimming pool, because the river is so much cleaner now. There is a floating pool at Pete and Toshi Seeger Park and it’s free, Tuesdays through Sundays, in the summer, and the annual swim across the Hudson supports that. This year would have been my 15th year, at age 76, but I fell and broke my hand. I’m back to 100 percent, but I couldn’t swim.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What’s your favorite winter fragrance?

“ I have four winter perfumes, all vanilla. ”



Shania Green, Beacon

“ The smell of a wood-burning fireplace. ”



Arnold Rufino, Philipstown

“ Oranges pierced with cloves. ”



Lynnette Rajala, Cold Spring

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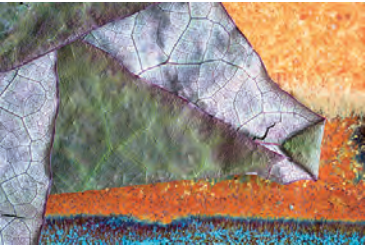
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Jane Soodalter

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Jan 14 - HCMC - Johnathan Biss - Piano

Jan 17 - Artichoke Presents Open Mic Night

Jan 24 - KEY of Q, LGBTQ+ and Allied A Cappella Singers

Jan 26 - OPEN MIC NIGHT

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# Beacon's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Drop 10%

## City releases updated greenhouse-gas inventory report

By Brian PJ Cronin

Greenhouse gas emissions from the City of Beacon's operations fell 9.8 percent between 2019 and 2021, according to an updated greenhouse gas inventory released Jan. 5.

It's the fourth inventory of the production of greenhouse gas, which contributes to global warming, released by the city;

previous reports tallied emissions in 2012, 2018 and 2019. The report is posted at [bit.ly/BeaconGHG21](https://bit.ly/BeaconGHG21).

The total of estimated carbon-dioxide equivalent emissions, or CO<sub>2</sub>e, not including the capped landfill at Dennings Point, was 1,943 metric tons, the equivalent of driving a gas-powered passenger car for 4.9 million miles. The landfill is the site of the city's solar panel array, which offset 341 of those metric tons.

This year's inventory is the first to include methane being released by the capped landfill, which was closed in 1968. The report estimates that the landfill

released 1,138 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021, making it the city's biggest emitter, by far. Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, although it breaks down much more quickly. As the waste in the landfill continues to erode, the amount of methane emitted will slowly decrease.

Other than the landfill, the city's biggest emitters are its facilities that treat drinking water and wastewater, its vehicle fleet and municipal buildings.

The city has made several changes since 2021 that should decrease its greenhouse-gas emissions even further, including the introduction of a drop-off composting

program and the Police Department replacing five vehicles with electric or hybrid vehicles, with three more patrol vehicles expected in 2025.

Beacon's new fire station, now under construction, will be all-electric with geothermal heating and cooling. The city is also planning a solar array at the Highway Garage.

The report suggests that the city should improve its record-keeping of fuel and energy usage, partly because the 2024 report was hampered by incomplete data that required estimates. It also recommends that the city examine how the emissions from the capped landfill could be reduced further.



## Around THE Region

### Holmes: Lawler Proposes Anderson Post Office

Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes Philipstown, has introduced legislation that would designate the post office in Holmes, a hamlet of the Town of Pawling, as the Sheriff Adrian "Butch" Anderson Post Office Building.

The Dutchess County sheriff died suddenly in September 2021 at age 73, during his sixth term. He began his career with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as a deputy in 1970 and was elected sheriff in 1999. In 1983 he was elected mayor of the Village of Pawling, a position he held for eight years.

Anderson lived in the Village of Pawling, but Lawler's office said the U.S. Postal Service prefers that only buildings it owns be renamed, and the Pawling facility is leased.

### Poughkeepsie: Philharmonic Wants Out

After 25 years, the musicians who perform as the Hudson Valley Philharmonic want to split from the nonprofit that runs the 944-seat Bardavon and the

Ulster Performing Arts Center in Kingston.

In a statement, the orchestra members cited a lack of concert dates, the cancellation of Young People's Concerts and auditions and not filling the role of its late music director Randall Craig Fleischer, according to *The Daily Freeman*.

Bardavon officials say they cannot afford to expand the orchestra's programming because it runs six-figure deficits each season. Bardavon Executive Director Chris Silva said the nonprofit's offer in early 2023 of a three-year contract with salary increases but a reduced number of concerts was rejected, which led to the cancellation of the 2023-24 season.

In their statement, the musicians said "the ballot vote to reject the management's offer for three concerts for the next three years was nearly unanimous." The orchestra has 51 members and 10 open positions.

### New York City: State Will Test Floating Pool

As part of a New York State initiative to increase access to swimming, a floating pool will be tested this summer in the East River. If the \$16 million self-filtering pool is a success, it will open to the public the following summer and the state will consider deploying +POOLS across the state, including by the Beacon-Newburgh Bridge.

The state swimming initiative also includes \$90 million in grants for municipalities to deploy other temporary pools;

free sunscreen at state park pools; and funding to address a lifeguard shortage and expand free swim lessons at parks.

In addition, it includes the reopening of Lake Sebago Beach in Harriman State Park in 2027, following two years of repairs and reconstruction after damage in 2011 by Hurricane Irene, and transforming Quarry Lake at the Sojourner Truth State Park in Kingston into Quarry Lake Beach for a 2026 opening.



A rendering of a floating pool near the Beacon-Newburgh Bridge

### Poughkeepsie: Legislators Elect Chair

The Dutchess County Legislature voted 16-9 at its Jan. 3 meeting to name Will Truitt as chair.

Truitt, 28, who represents Hyde Park,

succeeds Gregg Pulver, who lost his bid for election to a sixth term representing Pine Plains. The outgoing county executive, William F.X. O'Neil, appointed Pulver as the county comptroller to succeed Robin Lois, who had been hired by the state comptroller's office.

Truitt, a Republican and Marist College graduate who was elected at age 20, spent the last two years as the majority leader. He received all 15 Republican votes plus one from a Democrat from Poughkeepsie. The other eight Democrats voted for Minority Leader Yvette Valdés Smith, whose district includes part of Beacon.

### Kingston: Two Students Killed in Crash

Two Kingston High School juniors died on Monday (Jan. 8) in a crash on Route 28 in the Town of Shandaken.

Jack Noble, 17, and Dillon Gokey, 16, were killed about 9 a.m. when a tractor-trailer rear-ended a Honda waiting to turn and crossed the center line, hitting their Hyundai Santa Fe head-on.

The boys were pronounced dead at the scene, according to the New York State Police. A passenger, Joseph Sepesi, 17, also a junior, was flown to Westchester Medical Center with serious injuries but was expected to survive.

The driver of the truck, Ramon LunaLuna, 54, of the Bronx, was taken to Kingston Hospital for evaluation, according to the state police.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Free Meals Available to Beacon Students

*Breakfast and lunch program began this month*

The Beacon City School District is providing free breakfasts and lunches to all students as of Jan. 3.

The meals are funded by the state Education Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although the district qualified for the program because of the number of students who live in lower-income house-

holds, all students are welcome to participate, district officials said.

### Putnam Needs Park Volunteers

*Accepting applications for advisory board*

Putnam County is accepting applications for seats on its Veterans Memorial Park Advisory Board.

The board provides guidance on the use and operation of the park, which is located in Kent. For details, see [ecode360.com/6607046](https://ecode360.com/6607046).

Applicants should submit a brief cover letter and resume to [countyexecutive@putnamcountyny.gov](mailto:countyexecutive@putnamcountyny.gov). The deadline is Jan. 30.

### State Awards Trail Grants

*Little Stony Point, Bannerman receive funds*

New York State on Jan. 5 announced a round of grants for parks and trails.

The Little Stony Point Citizens Association will receive \$30,593 to create safer access to the Hudson Highlands State Park

Preserve. Its projects include revamping the gateway trail at Fair Street, installing interpretative signage, providing access that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and resurfacing the parking lot and bridge ramp entrances.

The Bannerman Castle Trust received \$107,100 to repair trails from the waterfront dock to a new section of the North Trail. It also plans to replace two floating docks, repair steps, install an outdoor classroom/multi-purpose deck, replace the concrete sidewalk and install railings on the middle section of the North Trail.



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Puppeteer

This short, wonderful cartoon captured the genius of Cabot Parsons in a magical way, just as his puppetry does ("Cabot Parsons, from the Elbow Down," Dec. 29). Well done, all!  
Jurian Hughes, *Pittsfield, Massachusetts*

Local boundaries

The Q&A "Where Do I Live?" in the Jan. 5 issue was fun to read and showed I don't know our municipal lines nearly as well as I'd thought — I could have sworn Graymoor was in Garrison. It also speaks to a bigger issue: What's the point of all those lines? Maybe it's time to redraw them in the name of unity (and clarity). Do we need one town, two villages and who knows how many hamlets to see to the affairs of just 10,000 people?

We all get along for the most part; we share common interests; we depend on each other regardless of ancient boundaries. So let's erase the divisions, scrap a layer of government and become one big village, or a town with no villages, or New York's newest (and smallest) city.

Yes, it'd take a fair bit of thinking, debating and doing to pull it off, but we're capable of all that. We could finally speak with one voice to the Putnam County Legislature — and maybe claw back some of our sales tax revenue in the process. As a Garrison

resident — actually, I think we might live in Forsonville — I'm ready to shout it from the hills: One love, one gov!  
Ned Rauch, *Garrison (?)*

HVSF zoning

This proposed Philipstown law to amend the zoning at the former Garrison Golf Course seems to be a layup and a gift from the Town Board to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival ("Shakespeare Festival Hearing Set," Dec. 22).

There is a lack of clarity regarding the amount of artist and guest "tiny home" lodging, number of parking spaces and their locations and actual usages of the proposed Garrison Cultural Conservation Planned Development District.

I have said it before, both here and at the Planning Board meetings, that a new neighbor should have to adapt to the neighborhood and not the other way around.

I'd love to know who wrote this proposed law that will possibly and probably alter Garrison forever. I'm not against the HVSF being our new neighbor. What I'm writing about is a plan that is completely over the top. I'm counting on the Town Board to bring this proposed district down to size and have some better protections for our

Correction

In the Jan. 5 issue, we stated that Tallix Foundry in Beacon cast the 176 bronze panels that surround the two reflecting pools at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City. But Chris Powers, who worked at Tallix for 20 years before starting KC Fabrications in Gardiner in 2006, said his firm created the panels using a technology that uses plate instead of casting, "saving time and money. To this day, we still proudly work at the memorial, assisting on names panels and other projects, as well."

community. We could end up with something that completely overwhelms us if the Town Board doesn't have our backs.  
Stephen Wallis, *Garrison*

Fjord Trail

Please make the trail between Beacon and Cold Spring happen ("Fjord Trail Unveils Preliminary Shoreline Design," Dec. 22). We love the trails in Dutchess and Ulster counties.  
Bill Orcutt, *Beacon*

I recently had the opportunity to walk along a portion of the Dutchess County rail trail. It was a lovely walk, even under a gray sky when trees are barren of leaves. Before moving to Cold Spring 20 years ago, our family frequently rode our bikes along the Bronx River greenway from Bronxville to the Kensico Dam. Our 6-year-old loved doing the 10-mile roundtrip and we could ride safely as a family.

When we moved here, we attempted to ride our bikes to Little Stony Point and the Cold Spring dock with our young son. We never attempted it again; it was not safe to do so. Even as an adult, I felt I was taking my life in my hands on the narrow roads and streets. Additionally, everywhere you may want to go is up a steep hill — a total drag of a ride.

In my hometown, a public greenway was met with hostile resistance during early planning stages, but, when built, was embraced by the community and expanded — by resident request — every few years or so.

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is a wonderful opportunity for the residents of Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown and will strengthen the connection between residents and the scenery that surrounds us. I like to walk at Dockside, but it's a measly adventure at best. It would be wonderful to start in the village and walk or ride my bike to Beacon on a relatively level path.

I'm disappointed and dismayed by the level of negativity, gross exaggerations and

(Continued on Page 5)





LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

misrepresentations lobbed at this project by people I’ve come to love and respect. It seems that people are determined to undermine and ignore all the potential benefits the HHFT can provide for residents, not least of which are additional public restrooms, better recreational access for those with limited mobility and enhanced safety for walkers, hikers and cyclists.

For all those who complain about tourists crowding the sidewalks and taking up all the parking, over the past spring, summer and fall season I’ve noted that congestion on weekends and holidays only occurs between about 10:30 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. Outside of those times, it’s easy to get around and enjoy the village and parks. I made a few quick counts of available parking spots at around 2 p.m. on Mothers’ Day weekend, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day and a few other nice weekends. I counted no less than an average of 12 to 18 available spots, not counting the Metro-North lot, the Fair Street lot and side streets.

The constant complaining about tourists, congestion and the HHFT will not solve the problems brought by tourism and only delay the benefits and enhanced river connection that residents will enjoy.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*

As a landscape architect, and having grown up along the Hudson’s shores, I think there is a lot of room for improvement, particularly in the place where the modern environmental movement began at the foot of Storm King Mountain. Access and prox-

imity are directly related to preference and care of places. It’s frustrating that we can’t seem to come together toward making important places accessible to people who need them.

Greg Mercurio, *Philipstown*

If you ignore the incredibly vocal minority screaming about the Fjord Trail, I bet at least 90 percent of people are in favor of it. Now we just need to get the Tioronda Bridge in Beacon repaired.

Harper Langston, *via Instagram*

The Fjord Trail plan is exciting. My family and I came out for the first-day hike at Little Stony Point and I got my Families for Fjord Trail window cling. It was great to see the display that HHFT shared of the complete plan. I am happy to share my positive message as I drive past all of the negative signs along Route 9D.

Thank you to Fjord Trail architect Kate Orff (“Q&A: Kate Orff,” Dec. 22) for addressing, in a straightforward way, that the backfill for the road is all devastated post-industrial land. There are so many photos around Cold Spring that show the industrial history of that area as a mine/quarry. I understand that the point of reference is farther along the tracks, but it’s mostly all the same. Unfortunately, humans will have to step into these environments and landscape, reform the land and replant native plants to combat the invasive plants and help the environment heal. It cannot heal from that amount of degradation.

The trail is going to help mitigate the effects of the changing planet. I see no

validity to any argument against it.  
Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*

I suspect there may be some differences between the Lexington, Kentucky, Town Branch Trail and the proposed Fjord Trail. It would be helpful if the interviewer could ask Ms. Orff to compare and contrast them, and *The Current* could publish the answers.

David Limburg, *Nelsonville*

I met Kate when I was a graduate student at Columbia University — she is quite sensitive, intelligent and very talented. I am excited about the Fjord Trail and hope that some of the fears are placated as people start to experience so much of the good it is going to do.

Lauren Wegel, *via Instagram*

I’m glad that the High Line and Walkway Over the Hudson have motivated people. I hope the Fjord Trail is an accessible walkway for the public. It looks nice in the design photo. Wishing you success with the project.

Sandra Clarke, *LaGrange*

### Follow the votes

Your online coverage of how our representatives in Congress voted is a tremendous service to residents. Very often the politicians will say anything to get elected but the real test comes when they get into office and are actually able to vote on these measures.

Often I am shocked by how some of my representatives voted, especially Rep. Mike Lawler, who has turned out to be rather a disappointment. On the other hand, I have been pleasantly surprised at state Sen. Rob Rolison, whose voting record is more in

keeping with his election promises. Keep up the good work!

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

### Right to die

We do more for the care and love of our animals than for ourselves (“My View: The Right to Help in Dying,” Jan. 5). It’s a crime. I will have to find another way to end my life!

Kim Pitt-Foster Bjorge, *via Facebook*

### Cold Spring comments

For the third week in a row, the agenda for the Jan. 3 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board did not include time for public comment. While, according to *The Current*, the justification offered by the mayor for this move involves something about dealing with outside agitators, it is the residents of the village who are being hurt (“New Meeting Rules in Cold Spring,” Dec. 1). They find themselves unable to ask questions of their representatives or to raise concerns during board meetings, as had been customary.

Why didn’t the board find another way to deal with outside agitators that did not involve curtailing the ability of constituents to be heard at meetings? And, how long will village residents tolerate this silencing of their voices?

Gaston Alonso, *via Facebook*

### Hubbard loop

Yay, the Hubbard Perkins Loop Trail returns (“Around Town: New Bridge,” Dec. 29)! I feel honored to have gotten to hike through Hubbard when it was swampy bogs back in the day, but much prefer the bridges.

Tara Carroll, *via Instagram*

## By the Numbers

The Legislatures in Dutchess and Putnam counties faced criticism when they amended the 2024 budgets proposed by their county executives to raise salaries for some elected officials.

In Dutchess, outgoing County Executive William F.X. O’Neil raised concerns but did not intervene. In Putnam, County Executive Kevin Byrne vetoed the raises but a majority of legislators overruled him.

Here is a snapshot of salaries for elected officials in Dutchess and Putnam, how they have risen and how they compare to neighboring counties.

#### Dutchess County

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Increase
County Executive	\$144,065	\$148,387	\$152,839	\$152,839	\$185,500	29
Sheriff	\$129,434	\$133,317	\$137,316	\$141,436	\$145,679	13
District Attorney	\$207,937	\$200,400	\$200,401	\$200,401	\$200,402	-4
County Clerk	\$109,204	\$112,480	\$115,854	\$119,330	\$150,000	37
Comptroller	\$102,935	\$106,023	\$109,204	\$112,480	\$115,854	13
Legislature Chair	\$33,949	\$34,967	\$34,967	\$34,967	\$54,500	61
Majority/Minority Leader	\$24,401	\$25,133	\$25,133	\$25,133	\$45,500	86
Majority/Minority Whips	\$20,157	\$20,762	\$20,762	\$20,762	\$36,500	81
Legislators	\$15,914	\$16,391	\$16,391	\$16,391	\$27,500	73

#### Putnam County

County Executive	\$162,271	\$166,125	\$170,070	\$176,022	\$176,022	8
Sheriff	\$152,862	\$156,492	\$160,209	\$165,816	\$170,376	11
District Attorney	\$202,800	\$202,800	\$202,800	\$202,800	\$202,800	0
County Clerk	\$133,067	\$136,227	\$139,462	\$144,343	\$148,312	11
Legislators	\$40,839	\$41,809	\$42,802	\$44,300	\$45,518	11
Legislature Chair Stipend	\$8,959	\$10,452	\$10,701	\$11,075	\$11,380	27

#### How They Compare

	Putnam	Ulster	Dutchess	Orange	Westchester
Population	98,045	182,319	297,545	405,941	990,427
County Executive	\$176,022	\$148,572	\$185,500	\$193,802	\$160,760
Sheriff	\$170,378	\$116,709	\$145,679	\$170,500	\$245,940*
District Attorney	\$202,800	\$202,800	\$200,402	\$200,356	\$218,314**
County Clerk	\$148,312	\$116,709	\$150,000	\$122,441	\$213,150
Legislators	\$45,518	\$16,000	\$27,500	\$35,582	\$75,000

\*Westchester’s sheriff also serves as the commissioner of public safety.

\*\*2022 compensation, per seethroughnny.net

Sources:  
County budget documents,  
Census Bureau



# Beacon Shuffle *(from Page 1)*

Kyriacou said he agreed that appointing public representatives is “one of the least democratic things we can do,” but noted that Wetherbee and Grant had both won contested elections in recent years and had experience in the positions to which they were appointed.

“It would be extremely unfair for me to consider people who had not held office or not participated directly in the electoral process,” Kyriacou said. “Ordinarily I would agree that we should have some period of time” for applicants to come forward, “but I just do not see anyone, anywhere” more qualified to serve than Wetherbee and Grant.

Both appointments will be contested in November in a special election for a one-year term lasting through 2025.

Wake abstained from the votes moving Wetherbee to Ward 3 and adding Grant to the council, and Wetherbee abstained from the vote that shifted her from at-large to the Ward 3 seat. Once the moves were official, the council agreed to discuss at an upcoming workshop whether to amend the charter’s guidelines for filling open seats.

The council members’ moves were the most significant in an organizational meeting that typically includes a slew of committee appointments and contract renewals.

In this year’s meeting, the council approved a four-year contract for \$175 per

# Beacon City Council

The mayor serves a 4-year term and council members serve 2-year terms.

**Mayor Lee Kyriacou**  
Elected 2019, 2023

**Molly Rhodes, Ward 1**  
Elected 2021, 2023

**Jeff Domanski, Ward 2**  
Elected 2023

**Pam Wetherbee, Ward 3**  
Appointed 2024

**Dan Aymar-Blair, Ward 4**  
Elected 2019, 2021, 2023

**Amber Grant, At-large**  
Appointed 2024

**Paloma Wake, At-large**  
Elected 2021, 2023

hour with KARC Planning Consultants to replace John Clarke, the planning consultant who had worked with the city since 2016 and retired at the end of 2023. Natalie Quinn, who worked for the Poughkeepsie Planning & Zoning Department from 2018 to 2022, will be the firm’s primary liaison with the city. KARC was one of six companies that responded to the city’s request for proposals to replace Clarke.

The council also approved four-year renewal agreements with Lanc & Tully (\$125 per hour, with some projects priced differently) for engineering services and Keane & Beane (\$16,100 per month) for legal services. Rebecca Mensch was appointed to a fourth 6-year term as the assistant City Court judge, and Faye Leone was appointed to a four-year term as the city’s Climate Smart Coordinator.

Jackson Heichel was appointed as a municipal secretary, filling the last open position in City Hall. Len Warner was reappointed to the Planning Board; Jordan Haug and Judi Smith were reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals; John Berry was reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review; Thomas Wright was reappointed and Marisa Lomonaco appointed to the Conservation Advisory Committee; and Ethan Skuches was appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee.

The council also agreed to shrink from five to three minutes the amount of time residents may speak during public comment. The change aligns with the time limit for public hearings.

Finally, it approved a resolution opposing Central Hudson’s proposed increases to its delivery charges for hundreds of thousands of natural gas and electric customers in the Mid-Hudson Region, including the Highlands.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.



A photo of the audience at Lawler’s Aug. 22 town hall provided by his staff shows reporter Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong taking notes, at far left. Photo provided

# Lawler *(from Page 1)*

Dec. 17 event at a public school in Westchester County said that “members of the press who are residents of the 17th Congressional District may attend in their capacity as a constituent, not as a member of the press.”

Lawler introduced the restrictions on Aug. 22, when his staff prevented me from photographing or recording a town hall held inside a Carmel public school. I was able to register and attend the event as a constituent and took notes for a story; Lawler’s office later provided photographs.

Citing *The Current’s* subsequent coverage, Common Cause New York, which describes itself as a nonpartisan organization that promotes good government, launched a petition urging the public to “tell Congressman Lawler: open your town halls to the press.” In addition, the U.S Press Freedom Tracker created by the Freedom of the Press Foundation and the Committee to Protect Journalists listed the Aug. 22 incident in its database of obstacles to news coverage.

“For any reporter to somehow suggest that I’m not available” or willing to talk “is a joke. It’s a joke.”

~ Rep. Mike Lawler

At Lawler’s Dec. 17 town hall, Margaret Yonco-Haines, a Philipstown resident, challenged the ban. At the onset of the town halls, she told Lawler, “many of us were just astonished that you did not allow” media access, even though the events were “financed by the taxpayers and held in a public location” and coverage can tell those who could not be present “what happens” at such meetings. “Why are these not allowed to be covered by the press?”

Lawler replied that his town halls were “actually about engaging in conversations,” not about having his remarks taken “out of context or mischaracterized.” He emphasized his willingness to accept questions and “engage in discussions and debate. I have done more interviews than any member of the New York delegation,” he

asserted. “So for any reporter to somehow suggest that I’m not available” or willing to talk “is a joke. It’s a joke.”

Although Yonco-Haines questioned Lawler’s ban, another attendee on Dec. 17 praised it. The news media “have been pushing back,” he told Lawler. “You wouldn’t be represented fairly” in coverage.

As discussion ensued, Lawler incorrectly claimed that his predecessor, Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whom Lawler defeated in 2022, “would not go to communities that did not support him or vote for him.” In fact, at an outdoor town hall in Carmel in 2021, Maloney drew — and responded to — strident criticism; he similarly fielded hostile questions on other occasions.

Sam Silverman, press secretary for Rep. Pat Ryan, a first-term Democrat whose district includes Beacon, said on Wednesday (Jan. 10) that the press is welcome at Ryan’s town halls and other public gatherings.

“I don’t think it’s anything we really thought about” until Lawler was criticized, he said. Ryan’s office sends out notices about pending events “and the press shows up — or doesn’t show up, frankly. I’d like them to show up more.”

Less than three weeks after his Dec. 17 defense of his ban, Lawler rescinded it. Going forward, he said, “officially credentialed members of the press will be allowed” into town halls with cameras and recording devices, if they register. They do not have to be residents of the district, he added.

He also pledged, “at the conclusion of each town hall, and after I have had an opportunity to engage with all constituents seeking to speak with me, I will hold a press gaggle and take questions.”

Whether an elected official can legally restrict journalists at public events held in public buildings “is a trickier question to answer than it seems,” said Michael Higgins, an attorney formerly with the Civil Liberties & Transparency Clinic at the University at Buffalo. He said a judge would have to determine if an elected official holding a town hall acted in an official capacity or was conducting a campaign event. “What is clear is that the best practice is to have a robust public debate with the press present,” he said.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.



**HIGHLANDS CHAPEL**  
*Home of the Highlands Choral Society*

**THIS SUNDAY:**  
**“REMEMBERING MLK”**




**JAN 14 @ 11:00 AM**  
**FOR WORSHIP REFLECTION & SONG**

**Jan 21** Pete Salmansohn  
**Jan 28** Richard Gerber

The Highlands Choral Society is a nonprofit organization offering nondenominational services and community.

**216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY**  
**HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG**







Wastewater from the Beacon treatment plant is being tested for the virus that causes COVID-19. *File photo*

Sewage *(from Page 1)*

Environmental Health at the state Department of Health. “It is a good measure of the level of virus in the community,” he said.

Wastewater surveillance has a long history. Scientists recognized in the 1850s that sewage could be analyzed for bacteria and viruses, and public health officials tested wastewater in the 1940s to identify outbreaks of polio, an intestinal virus.

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established a national program. New York’s program became widespread in 2022.

“What’s new about wastewater surveillance since COVID is that we realized that respiratory viruses can be shed in fecal matter,” said Lang.

The most recent surge in COVID cases has been attributed to a variant called JN.1, which is better at infecting people and evading the immune system. Between Nov. 4 and Dec. 6 it grew from being identified as the cause of 2.6 percent of infections in the state to 41.7 percent.

Under the state wastewater surveillance program, the laboratories identify variants present in the local samples. While the state does not have variant information for Cold Spring, as of Dec. 17, JN.1 represented 76 percent of the variants found in Beacon’s wastewater.

Although scientists initially thought JN.1 did not make people sicker than previous variants, recent reports from Europe suggest its potency has been underestimated, said Lang.

A slew of newly admitted hospital patients can testify to its impact. New York hospitals reported 3,137 COVID patients on Wednesday (Jan. 10), which is below last winter’s peak of 4,350 but more than double the 1,427 patients reported on Dec. 1.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor reported 17 COVID patients on Jan. 5, its highest one-day total since Jan. 31, 2023. The number of patients fell to 13 on Tuesday (Jan. 9), but the hospital reported five deaths between Jan. 5 and that day.

Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital in the City of Newburgh reported 14 COVID

Intensity Tests

Below are the results of tests for the virus that causes COVID-19 on samples collected at Beacon and Cold Spring’s wastewater treatment plants. A reading of 0.3 or more is considered high.

BEACON	
Nov. 2	0.1963
Nov. 16	0.1836
Nov. 30	0.2574
Dec. 7	0.3568
Dec. 14	0.1344
Dec. 28	0.6122
Jan. 4	0.3521

COLD SPRING	
Nov. 7	0.2435
Nov. 21	0.1476
Dec. 5	0.2749
Dec. 20	0.2326
Jan. 2	0.4534

Source: NYS Department of Health

patients on Tuesday, and Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel reported 11, its highest daily total since Jan. 6, 2023.

On Monday (Jan. 8), the state Department of Health advised hospitals and other health care facilities to require staff and volunteers to wear masks to protect themselves from sharp increases in COVID and flu cases.

The simultaneous outbreak of COVID, the flu and another respiratory illness, RSV, has led to more COVID data, said Lang. People unsure of what they have are getting tested for all three at health care facilities.

The results those facilities report to the state are enabling it to capture COVID infections that may have previously gone unreported. “We’re starting to see in the last few months that our case numbers are improving a little bit,” he said.



Baby and Dog

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Willa Hine and David Dumas of Garrison shared this photo of their daughter, Esme Grace, with Brady. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org). *Photo by Erin Wik Photography*



VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING ANNOUNCEMENT

RESIDENT PARKING PROGRAM BEGINS MARCH 1

Resident Parking Permits Now Available

- Timeline**
- Resident Parking Permits are now available for purchase at Village Hall by residents of certain streets.
  - Signage for the Resident Permit Parking will be installed over the next several weeks.
  - Enforcement will begin March 1.
  - Main Street parking meters will be installed in the Spring at a later stage.

**Permits**

Households on eligible streets may purchase up to 2 permits each. For a list of eligible streets and the permit process, please visit [coldspringny.gov](https://coldspringny.gov).

*The Village of Cold Spring’s Residential Parking Program addresses a growing parking shortage for residents on residential streets around Main Street.*

*We are implementing the program in stages. At each stage, the Village will communicate with the public through the Village’s website, social media pages, street signage, newspaper ads, and by village email.*

*Sign up to receive our emails at: [coldspringny.gov/subscribe](https://coldspringny.gov/subscribe)*





Sal Pidala and Caden Philippi  
Photo by M. Turton

# More Snow, Please

*Young entrepreneurs  
shovel for bucks*

By Michael Turton

When it comes to winter storms, Sal Pidala and Caden Philippi strongly prefer snow over rain. The white stuff makes them money. Rain does not.

The entrepreneurs, who are both ninth graders at Haldane High School, established SDC Lawncare last summer, cutting grass, raking leaves and doing yard work for six or seven residents in Cold Spring and Nelsonville.

That customer base expanded considerably after the first snowstorm of the season this past weekend.

“We went out at about 6 a.m.” on Sunday (Jan. 7), Pidala said. By the time they finished just over eight hours later, they had shoveled or plowed snow at 25 houses, earning \$30 to \$50 per job.

Philippi said they took care of their summer clients first, adding customers as the day wore on, sometimes by knocking on doors. Their smallest jobs took 10 to 15 minutes, but having a four-wheel all-terrain vehicle equipped with a blade enabled them to handle driveway jobs that took up to a half-hour.

The work became a bit harder as the day went on. The light, fluffy snow became heavier as the temperature rose and it began to rain.

Weekends are the optimum time for snowstorms, Pidala and Philippi said, because they can work longer on Saturdays and Sundays when there is no school. Haldane snow days also work well; the teens closely track the forecast via phone apps. They expressed optimism that more snow is on the way.

Both hope to pursue a trade after finishing school, Philippi as an electrician or welder and Pidala as a mechanic.

SDC Lawncare can be reached by phone at 845-301-2421 or by email at sdclawn-care23@gmail.com.



Photos by M. Turton (2)



Photo by Brian Cookstra

# Here Today, Gone Tomorrow



Photo by Paul Cox





"Carl Lewis," by William Snyder



"Village Halloween Parade NYC 1986," by Tony Cenicola

### The Calendar

# PHOTOS TO REMEMBER

By Alison Rooney

**F**ocus on Photographers is a new, potentially annual exhibit that opens at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Saturday (Jan. 13) with a reception from 1 to 5 p.m.

Curated by Larry Kershberg and Ronnie Beth Sauers, the exhibit will begin in a big way, with free talks by photographers William Snyder and David Burnett.

Snyder, who will speak at 2:30 p.m., is the director of the photojournalism program at the Rochester Institute of Technology and a four-time Pulitzer Prize winner. His subjects have included an exposé on the deplorable conditions in Romanian orphanages, a National Transportation Safety Board crash investigation, Hurricane Katrina and athletes at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Snyder also was the official photogra-

pher for The Who for 19 years, has shot the Rolling Stones, Foo Fighters and Pink and is the co-author, with Eddie Vedder, of *Join Together (With The Band)*.

"I'm not interested in basic, good-looking, clean, safe, predictable photographs," Snyder has said. "I want what it feels like. I don't always get it, but it's my goal."

He will be followed at 3:30 p.m. by Burnett, whose work has been published

in *National Geographic*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *LIFE*, *STERN* and *Paris Match*, among other publications. He also has published collections of his work such as *44 Days: Iran and the Remaking of the World*; *Soul Rebel: An Intimate Portrait of Bob Marley* and, most recently, with Raymond Depardon, *September in Chile 1971-1973*, which documents the coup against Salvador Allende.

(Continued on Page 12)



"Collage," by Jane Soodalter



"Ruth Bader Ginsburg," by David Burnett



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 13

### Focus on Photographers

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St.  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

Works by Sandra Belitza-Vazquez, Jane Soodalter, Pierce Johnston, David Burnett, William Snyder, Tony Cenicola and William Loeb will be on view. (See Page 9.) At 2:30 p.m., Snyder, who has won four Pulitzer Prizes, will speak on “Moments in Photography,” and at 3:30 p.m., David Burnett, a co-founder of Contact Press Images, will present “The Butterflies Never Go Away.” The exhibit continues through Feb. 25.

SAT 13

### Mary McFerran | Olivia Wargo

BEACON

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

McFerran’s show, *Cords and Knots*, will be on view in Gallery 1, while Wargo’s drawings and paintings in *Spur* are planned for the Beacon Room and smaller works by BAU members are in Gallery 2. Through Feb. 4.

SAT 13

### Visual Memoirs: Portraits, Self-Portraits and Selfies

BEACON

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

The group show of portraits, self-portraits and selfies was curated by Diana Vidal and Darya Golubina.

SAT 13

### Color

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Big Mouth | 387 Main St.  
[supersecretprojects.com](http://supersecretprojects.com)

This Super Secret Projects exhibit will highlight the most colorful and vibrant works of its members.

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 13

### Nabucco

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

Watch a live stream of the Metropolitan Opera’s performance starring Liudmyla Monastyrskya (soprano), Maria Barakova (mezzo-soprano), SeokJong Baek (tenor) and Dmitry Belosselskiy (bass), set in ancient Babylon. *Cost: \$30 (\$23 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 13

### Hudson Valley Comedy Festival

PEEKSKILL

8 & 10 p.m. Factoria  
5 John Walsh Boulevard  
[gleasons.ticketleap.com](http://gleasons.ticketleap.com)

The festival includes the Secret Comedy Show and the Comedy Dating Show at 10 p.m., as well as the Time to Kill Sunday Night (6 p.m.) and the Comedy Fest Finals (8 p.m.) at Gleason’s (23 S. Division St.) on SUN 14. *Cost: \$20 to \$35 per show (\$50 pass)*

WED 17

### Storytelling Open Mic

BEACON

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

Sign up to read a six-minute personal story at this event sponsored by The Artichoke series and hosted by Eli Walker. *Cost: \$5*

FRI 19

### Boogie Nights

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Beacon Music Factory  
333 Fishkill Ave.  
[storyscreenpresents.com](http://storyscreenpresents.com)

Story Screen will show the Oscar-winning 1997 film starring Heather Graham and Mark Wahlberg about a young man’s developing career in the adult movie industry. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 20

### Nate Bargatze

POUGHKEEPSIE

4 & 8 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
[midhudsonciviccenter.org](http://midhudsonciviccenter.org)

The comedian recently hosted *Saturday Night Live* and has appeared 10 times on *The Tonight Show*. *Cost: \$74+*



## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 13

### Learn Latin

COLD SPRING

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

Students in grades 4 to 7 can join this language program led by Nina Hackley that will meet twice a month. Registration required.

SAT 13

### SEL Storytime

COLD SPRING

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

Children in kindergarten through second grade are invited to participate in the new social and emotional learning series. This session will focus on managing the grumpies. Registration required.

THURS 18

### Switch Bowling Tournament

BEACON

5 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

Children and teens ages 11 and older are invited to demonstrate their bowling skills. Registration required.

FRI 19

### Minions: The Rise of Gru

COLD SPRING

3:15 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Children can bring snacks and watch the 2022 animated film about young Gru. Registration required.



MLK JR. DAY

MON 15

### Celebration and Parade

BEACON

9 a.m. Springfield Baptist Church  
8 Mattie Cooper Square

After an opening ceremony, the parade to honor civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will begin at 9:30 a.m. (see Page 2) followed by a program organized by the Southern Dutchess Coalition. Banners and signs are encouraged.

MON 15

### Health, Injustice, Life, Death and Dr. King

GARRISON

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

Virginia Brown (right), a bioethicist and research scholar at the Hastings Center, a think tank based in Garrison, will speak at this annual event.



TUES 16

### MLK Storytime

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Children ages 4 to 7 are invited to learn about Dr. King’s work and legacy.

SAT 20

### Frozen

GARRISON

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

Watch the popular film about sisters Elsa and Anna as they go on an epic journey to save their kingdom and sing along with the soundtrack. Registration required.

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 13

### The Gee’s Bend Quilting Tradition

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 p.m. First Congregational Church  
269 Mill St. | [mhahp.vassarspaces.net](http://mhahp.vassarspaces.net)

Lisa Gail Collins, a professor at Vassar, and Narcita Medina of the Mid-Hudson Anti-Slavery History Project will talk about the narratives created in quilts from a small Alabama town. *Free*

THURS 18

### Competitive Rowing in the Hudson Valley

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club  
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660  
[beaconsloopclub.org](http://beaconsloopclub.org)

Bill Davies will discuss the history

of competitive rowing on the river, which dates to the 18th century, and Poughkeepsie’s one-time role as the site of the largest one-day racing event in the country. *Free*



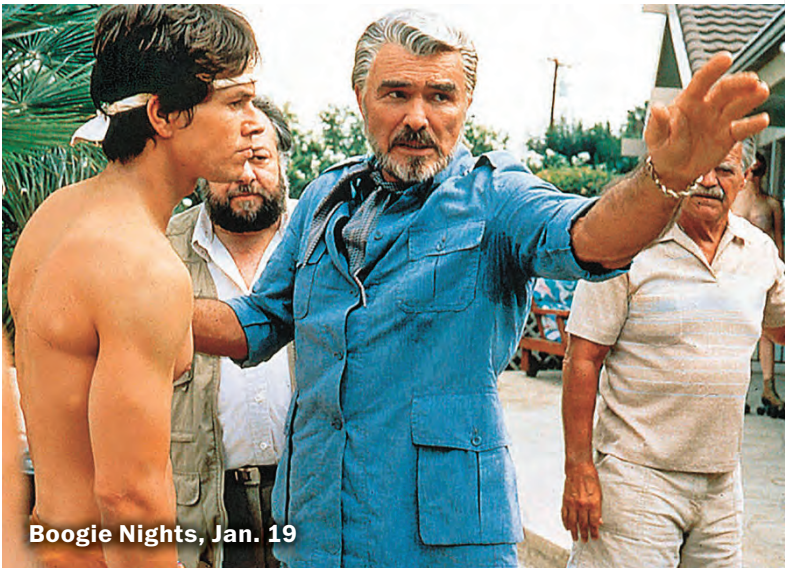
SUN 21

### Singing the Body

COLD SPRING

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

Francesca Genco will lead exercises paired with songs that engage the body and mind. Registration required.



Boogie Nights, Jan. 19



VISUAL ARTS

SAT 20  
Allie Tepper and  
Maren Hassinger

**BEACON**  
2 p.m. Dia:Beacon  
3 Beekman St. | [diaart.org](http://diaart.org)  
Tepper, joined by artist and curator Jordan Carter, will discuss Hassinger's work that is on view at the museum. Free with admission. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students, \$5 children ages 5 to 11, Beacon residents free)*

SAT 20  
Wanted Dead AND Alive

**BEACON**  
4 – 8 p.m. Changolife Arts  
211 Fishkill Ave. | [changolifearts.com](http://changolifearts.com)  
The Cuban artist Sheyla's first solo show will include mixed technique works. Sheyla, 20, is a graduate of the Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes San Alejandro in Havana.



SAT 20  
**Member Show**  
**GARRISON**  
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

During this annual show, see work in all mediums by artists who are members of the art center. Through Feb. 4.

MUSIC

SAT 13  
Chris O'Leary Band

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The former singer for the Barnburners will play music from his latest release, *The Hard Line*. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 13  
Westchester Jazz  
Alliance Quartet

**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
Charles Krachy (saxophone), Dave Frank (piano), Stan Fortuan (bass) and T-kash Inuoe (drums) will perform. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 14  
**Beacon Jazz Lab**  
**BEACON**  
2 p.m. St. Andrew's | 15 South Ave.  
The local jazz group will perform.



Tony McManus and Bruce Molsky, Jan. 20



Donations welcome to benefit the church. *Free*

SUN 14  
**Last Minute Soulmates**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The local band plays covers and originals. *Cost: \$15 food/drink purchase*

SUN 14  
**Watson**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.  
The local band, with Jameson Stark, Sam Callen and Skylar Clair, will perform. See Page 13.

FRI 19  
**SoulShine**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The tribute band will play music by the Allman Brothers. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 20  
**Tony McManus and  
Bruce Molsky**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The musical reunion will feature McManus, a Celtic guitarist, and Molsky, known for his interpretations of Southern Appalachian music on fiddle, banjo and guitar. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

CIVIC

TUES 16  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

TUES 16  
**School Board**  
7 p.m. Middle School Library  
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254  
[haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

TUES 16  
**Village Board**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
7 p.m. Village Hall  
258 Main St. | 845-265-2500  
[nelsonvilleny.gov](http://nelsonvilleny.gov)

WED 17  
**Superintendent Search**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Via Zoom  
[gufs.org](http://gufs.org)

See the website for details on how to participate in this community forum organized by the school district.

WED 17  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall  
85 Main St. | 845-265-3611  
[coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)



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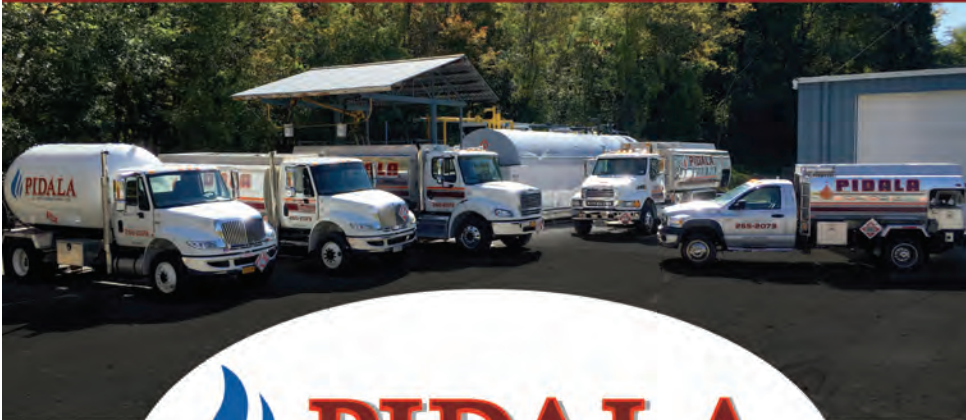
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"Rifton Nightlife," by Pierce Johnston



"Avalon," by William Loeb



"Face to Face with a Blue-eyed Black Lemur," by Sandra Belitza-Vazquez

Photos (from Page 9)

Burnett is also co-founder of Contact Press Images, a longstanding New York agency, and was on *American Photo*'s list of the 100 most important people in photography. In recent years, he has worked with

Photographers for Hope to create a workshop for homeless news vendors in Glasgow, Scotland; in 2017 the group visited Newburgh for two weeks to shoot and mount a show that also became a book, *Newburgh Rising*. Today, Burnett has a studio in Newburgh. Other photographers participating in

the exhibit are Sandra Belitza-Vazquez of Newburgh, who specializes in nature and travel; Tony Cenicola of Beacon, a staff photographer for *The New York Times*; Pierce Johnston of Beacon, who shoots the Hudson Valley; William Loeb of Beacon, who uses Photoshop to enhance and modify

his images; and Jane Soodalter of Cold Spring, who focuses on macrophotography.

*The Howland Cultural Center, at 477 Main St. in Beacon, is open most Saturday and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. The show will continue through Feb. 25.*

WANTED

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED  
IN PHILIPSTOWN/COLD SPRING

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

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

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

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of new commercial windows. Selection criteria will be based on installation experience, competitive pricing, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting [rfp@edenvillagecamp.org](mailto:rfp@edenvillagecamp.org).

Bids will be accepted until February 1, 2024 and installation must be completed by May 31, 2024 at the latest.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of an outdoor campus PA system throughout the physical campus. Selection criteria will be based on experience, competitive pricing, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting [rfp@edenvillagecamp.org](mailto:rfp@edenvillagecamp.org).

Bids will be accepted until February 1, 2024 and installation must be completed by May 31, 2024 at the latest.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of street and perimeter lighting throughout the physical campus. Selection criteria will be based on experience, competitive pricing, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting [rfp@edenvillagecamp.org](mailto:rfp@edenvillagecamp.org).

Bids will be accepted until February 1, 2024 and installation must be completed by May 31, 2024 at the latest.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A nonprofit organization in Putnam Valley, NY is seeking sealed bids for the installation of an entrance barrier gate, prefabricated guard shelter, and access control. Selection criteria will be based on knowledge of security protocols, installation experience, and adherence to preferred schedule.

Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting [rfp@edenvillagecamp.org](mailto:rfp@edenvillagecamp.org).

Bids will be accepted until February 1, 2024 and installation must be completed by May 31, 2024 at the latest.





Jameson Stark, Sam Callen and Skylar Clair in their rehearsal space at the old Beacon High School

Photo by M. Turton

# BEYOND THE GARAGE

*Families a big influence on young Beacon band*

By Michael Turton

The neighbors were undoubtedly mortified, but hundreds of musical groups destined for fame and fortune began as garage bands, from Nirvana, the Ramones and The Who to the Amboy Dukes, Weezer and Buddy Holly.

Fortunately for three young Beacon-area musicians, they have found a place to play loudly without causing the neighbors a moment's grief.

Watson isn't a garage band; it rehearses deep in the basement of the old Beacon High School. Jameson Stark, a junior at Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls, and Sam Callen and Skylar Clair, sophomores at Beacon High School, formed the band eight months ago. Jameson and Skylar first pondered the idea at an elementary school reunion; a text message to Sam sealed the deal.

Naming the band proved a bigger challenge than forming it. Its members would not divulge all the names they considered, although Tumor Dog was a contender.

"I was whining to my mom about how hard it is to choose a band name," Jameson says, recalling his suggestion to use a TV show character. He likes the series *Sherlock* and suggested Watson rather than the more famous detective. "We're named after a sidekick," he said.

Skylar said while the band sometimes has disagreements, "it's not like we spend days on end fighting." Jameson agreed, noting that it was closer to "blatant honesty" than intense arguments.

"We're not the Ramones," he said. "We're

more functional!"

Watson's wheelhouse is punk rock, but its members also stress other influences, such as jazz drummer Art Blakey for Sam, who is Watson's drummer. He also cites Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the late Taylor Hawkins from Foo Fighters as influences.

Nirvana, Mudhoney, Jimi Hendrix and Black Sabbath are among Jameson's musical heroes.

Skylar named Pinegrove, Black Country and Jeff Buckley, as well as her father, Stephen Clair, a guitarist and songwriter who owns the Beacon Music Factory.

Jameson's father, Josh Stark, is also a musician, singer and songwriter who plays with The Nighttimes. Sam's mother loves to sing, and his siblings sing and play multiple instruments.

"I had a bongo class in third grade," Jameson recalls, "but I learned mostly from my dad teaching me and from playing."

Sam took lessons and was doing concert percussion by age 10. When he was about 12, his mom bought him a drum kit.

Skylar benefited from six years of piano lessons and played percussion in her elementary school band. "My knowledge of guitar is mostly from experience and my dad giving me tips and tricks," she said.

Watson has played about 10 local gigs over the past year at The Pines Festival, Dogwood, the Beacon Music Factory, Spirit of Beacon Day and the Bonfire Festival. It also has performed in backyard and basement shows and at Cabernet Frank's, which

Jameson describes as "a cool spot in the middle of nowhere" in Sullivan County.

Jameson and Skylar share vocals and alternate on bass and guitar. They also write Watson's songs, although they have different approaches.

"Sometimes I just have one line and a guitar part I came up with four months ago," Skylar says. "I'll put them together, then come up with some other chords."

Jameson's guitar tends to lead his writing. "I'll be sitting in the basement and it's like, 'That sounds cool,'" he said. "Let me write some words, something random."

He says "Wacky Packs," the second song he wrote, may be his best so far. "It's weird satire about uncomfortable stickers that my mom and dad used to like," he says.

Skylar rates "Yellow Pizza" as one of her best. "It's about a place where my grandma lives in the middle of Pennsylvania, how it's such an uninspiring, depressing town."

One of Skylar's hopes is that more local bands emerge. "I don't know any other teen rock bands in Beacon besides Entropy," Skylar says.

In February Watson will head into the recording studio and plans to release an EP this spring.

After that, who knows? "I'm going to college at the end of next year; that will potentially be what breaks up the band," Jameson says. "But I'd still want to play over Christmas breaks. I don't see any limits to what we could do."

*Watson will perform at Quinn's, at 330 Main St. in Beacon, on Sunday (Jan. 14) at 8 p.m.*

## What's Online at Highlands Current.org

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

### Local Officials

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

### Local Government Video Guide

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

### How They Voted (Congress)

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

### Storm Updates and Resources

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

### Community Directory

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

### Shop Local Online

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

### Community Calendar

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

### Real-Estate Data

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

### 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.





# BREAKING BEACON

Eight times each year, the members of Kelly Hamburger and Jacob Arbor's newspaper club at Beacon High School publish *Breaking Beacon*, the first student-run publication at the school in more than 30 years. Here, we share excerpts from the November, December and January/February issues.

**Editors:** Rubio Castagna-Torres, Lani Lopez, Rachel Thorne, Roque Vianna

**Contributors:** Madison Abrahamson, Nadeen Ahmed, Kiera D'Ippolito, Damani Deloatch, Marisah George, Cadence Heeter, Evan Lombardo, Ela Lyons, Annabelle Notarthomas, Mikaela Sanchez, Kayla Selander, Jonathan Trentacosta

## Terrific Teachers

BY ANNABELLE NOTARTHOMAS



**Mr. Hammond**

Mr. Hammond has been a foreign language teacher at Beacon High School for 13 years, teaching Spanish I and II. Interestingly, he attended BHS himself, graduating in 1988. "Mr. Hammond is the definition of a kind and loving man, not only was I lucky enough to be taught by him but he also is my coach that helped me grow as one of his athletes and as a person," shares Noah Spiak, a sophomore. "He's so nice and understanding and he can be really funny," says another sophomore, Anajah Lamb.

So what makes Mr. Hammond's class so unique? To start the year off, his students' only assignment is to play board games. He claims that this first week is crucial for student-teacher bonding. "A class should be like a family and community," he said. Throughout the year, he takes a unique approach, setting aside days for what he calls Real Talks, completely curriculum-free class periods where students are encouraged to have a group discussion about out

(Continued on Page 15)



The Chance, circa 2008

Dtobias/Wikipedia

## The Chance is Closing, But Not Permanently?

BY RACHEL THORNE

After months of rumors, The Chance Theater officially announced its intention to close its doors in November 2023, putting an end to nearly 54 years of performances in this iconic Poughkeepsie hall — but only temporarily.

Built in 1912, The Chance opened as a space for vaudeville performances and movie screenings in 1926, then, after serving decades as a storage facility, was revived in the 1970s when it switched to a hard-core space for metal and rock. Such legends as David Bowie, Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, Wilco, Ozzy Osborne and Guns & Roses performed here in the 1970s and '80s before going on to stadium shows, and many major community events have been housed in these walls in recent years including the 1st Annual Rock

Against Child Abuse Concert.

Sadly, the owner of The Chance since 1997, Frank Pallet, passed away in 2021, and the COVID-19 crisis hit the business hard, which caused the theater to fall into financial difficulties.

After spending over a year on the market, The Chance was sold to Chai Developers, a company primarily based in Poughkeepsie, in August. But statements from the owners suggest that this closing is merely temporary and that The Chance will be up and running once again after a pause for renovations. This new phase for The Chance will be different, as Chai Developers plan to turn the theater into a more accessible entertainment space, shifting away from exclusive rock and metal into a greater variety of performances for a greater variety of audiences.



## Opinion: End Student Hunger with PB&J

BY NADEEN AHMED

Some students may have a hard time choosing their lunch because they do not find any of the options offered appealing to them. Every day students have to choose between getting a sandwich, hot lunch, a salad, a panini/pizza (depending on which they're offering that day) or no lunch at all.

It is just about time to introduce a sixth option: peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, which are offered at Beacon elementary schools and — if my memory serves me right — were a very popular choice.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are something that most students can enjoy. Not only are they delicious, but they would also please our picky-eaters, vegetarians, halal and kosher eaters. For the good of our school and students, it is time to introduce delicious PB&J sandwiches as one of our school lunch options.

## Game of the Year 2023

BY EVAN LOMBARDO

The annual Game Awards is both a celebration of the gaming medium and a glorified commercial for upcoming releases. The year 2023 was chock-full of big-name releases, making the 6 nominees for Game of the Year (GOTY) the most competitive in some time.

While I'd only played two of the nominees: *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom* (TOTK) and *Super Mario Wonder*, my prediction was for the latter title taking home the trophy. While I absolutely loved my experience with TOTK, I was rooting against it because it is a sequel to *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*, which won GOTY in 2017, and reuses the same map and many

(Continued on Page 15)

## Artist of the Month: Savannah Brace

BY MIKAELA SANCHEZ

Congratulations to Savannah Brace, who was voted Artist of the Month by the art teachers of Beacon High School.

Savannah is excited to begin her high school journey at Beacon High School as a freshman. Savannah shared in an interview that Mr. Perez is one of her favorite teachers. She appreciates having a calm and peaceful place to draw and Mr. Perez does an excellent job of creating a welcoming environment that allows her to express herself.

Savannah enjoys listening to music while working on her art, especially her favorite band BABYMETAL. The piece of art here was an assignment that she particularly enjoyed. "I liked how it was simple and straightforward, so I had a structure to work off," she said.





# BREAKING BEACON

## Did You Know...

BY NADEEN AHMED

- Ms. Marinaccio lies about her height! She says she is 5-foot-7 but she is actually 5-foot-6.
- In 2006, Ms. Hamburger made the final table for a World Poker Tour Tournament.
- Mr. Newman used to work for *The Wall Street Journal*.
- Ms. Elsasser is in the Beach High School Athletic Hall of Fame and has dual citizenship with the U.S. and the U.K.
- Ms. Luc has nine siblings, a motorcycle license and was trained in ballroom dancing. She even did the jitterbug at Ms. Elsasser's, Ms. Alvarez's, and Ms. Mullin's weddings.

## Teachers (from Page 14)

of school topics within their community.

Each classroom has its own set of rules and regulations, keeping the conversation respectful and comfortable. Students ask questions and their peers answer. It is a truly intimate and bonding experience for all those involved.

"The most important thing we can teach a student is how to be a functioning member of a community," Mr. Hammond shares.



**Ms. Marinaccio**

Ms. Marinaccio has worked at BHS for 15 years, teaching human anatomy, marine biology and lab skills. She makes science fun, assigning many hands-on activities, such as aquatic animal dissections in marine biology. "She is fun, caring and makes learning hard topics easy the way she breaks down every detail and her style of teaching is very effective," says student Kyla Richardson.

Ms. Marinaccio brings good vibes and laughs to the learning environment, describing herself as a very funny person (or so she likes to think, she adds). Outside of school, Ms. Marinaccio continues

to spread her positivity caring for her beloved dog, Annalise.



**Mr. Kotchie**

Mr. Kotchie has worked at BHS for 19 years, currently teaching Global I, Global II and Psychology. He knew he wanted to be a teacher as early as 7 years old, revealing that he would play "school" when he got home and act as a teacher.

Showing parody informational songs or tacky videos is a go-to in his teaching. Possibly the most memorable and unique activity is his Julius Caesar play. In Mr. Kotchie's Global I class, each period performs a play of Julius Caesar's assassination in front of their class. "I have multiple students wanting to be Caesar for the epic death scene," Mr. Kotchie observed through the years; rightfully so because, who wouldn't want to be Caesar?

As for his life outside of school, Mr. Kotchie enjoys attending concerts, comedy and Broadway shows, and traveling with his family. He is a devoted Metallica and Yankees fan. He expresses his admiration for Metallica, displaying a book about the band in his classroom.

*Sea of Stars* won best independent game (it could have won for the art style alone) and *Pikmin 4* won best real-time strategy game, which felt like the perfect gift for Pikmin fans (including myself) who have waited a decade for *Pikmin 4*.

Aside from the winners themselves, I thought that the show could have done a better job pacing the awards. It felt like, at times, four to five awards were rapid-firing out in less than a minute and then they were followed by a random game trailer that took up three minutes. The long trailers made the show feel more like an endless commercial. What saved the show in the end though was the Game Awards Orchestra; the medley of songs from the six nominees was beautiful as always.

## Game Awards (from Page 14)

elements from the original. Picking it for GOTY would feel anticlimactic and, in a way, like cheating.

*Super Mario Wonder* would feel like a bigger win for Nintendo and also the 2D platformer genre. However, my prediction is that *Marvel's Spiderman 2* will secure the victory. Like TOTK, it is also a sequel to a previous nominee, *Marvel's Spiderman*, which was released in 2018 and lost the GOTY race.

Later...

It became clear early on that *Baldur's Gate 3* was coming out swinging. I was happy to see it didn't run away with each award like *The Last of Us, Part 2* did in 2020. TOTK won best action-adventure game,

# LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

## 150 Years Ago (January 1874)

The editor of *The Cold Spring Recorder*, citing the burglary of Seth Secor's store on New Year's Eve and "satanic" vandalism inside the Rock Street schoolhouse, lamented: "Our village had a most unenviable reputation between the years 1865 and 1870; but, for several years past the public order has been comparatively well preserved. We regret to be compelled to record our conviction today that we, as a community, are relapsing into the former lawless and shameful state."

The three young men accused of breaking into Secor's store offered to meet with an informant at the depot to sell the looted cigars, but only one showed up and was arrested. A second was arrested five days later in Dutchess County; the third remained at large.

A resident who wrote an anonymous letter to the *Recorder* claimed he had opened the door of the saloon that doubled as the entrance to the courthouse and encountered three officers and the suspect arrested at the depot standing at the bar. The prisoner, in handcuffs, was sipping from a glass of rum.

After transporting the two burglary suspects to the county jail in Carmel, Officer Morrison and Undersheriff Dykeman had a chilly return. Their driver, after leaving the turnpike, made a wrong turn in the dark and the officers didn't arrive home until 4 a.m.

Brian Dailey, coming out of Patterson's store with a paper bag of flour, had confidently swung it over his shoulder when it burst.

After three boys, ages 6 to 11, were convicted of stealing brass from Paulding, Kemble & Co., a judge sentenced them to nine days in the Town Hall jail.

A police officer from Boonton, New Jersey, visited the village looking for a house painter who fled in a stolen horse and buggy valued at \$300 [about \$8,000 today].

Detectives from Dutchess County traced Thomas Hicks, accused of robbing and killing his employer, to Cold Spring. Hicks was arrested while waiting for his breakfast at Mrs. Welch's boarding house on Market Street. Police said he had the victim's pocketbook with \$120 [\$3,100] inside.

An 18-year-old student was arrested at the schoolhouse in Fort Montgomery and taken to Albany to face charges by a 28-year-old woman that they had been married in 1872 and he was obligated to support her. He provided an alibi and was released.

*The Recorder* reported: "The regular, weekly deposit of mud has again made itself manifest upon the boots of our men and

boys and upon the shoes and dresses of our mothers and our village. Indeed, the same omnipresent stickiness is distributed upon every threshold, tracked through kitchen and parlor, and lies in brown flakes by the bedside when we wake in the morning."

Petitions circulated for and against a proposal by residents who lived south of Indian Brook to secede from Philipstown.

## 125 Years Ago (January 1899)

The directors of the Cold Spring National Bank declared a semiannual dividend of 2 percent.

Mr. Muller of Hoboken, New Jersey, leased the saloon and cigar store from the estate of the late G. Snider.

*The Recorder* opined about Gov. Theodore Roosevelt, who took office on Jan. 1: "The new executive has been called erratic, but if he lives up to his message New York State will have a fair governor and the charge will fall."

The temperature on Monday, Jan. 2, fell to 16 degrees below zero, the coldest day recorded since Jan. 30, 1873, when it reached 28 degrees below, and a day in 1835 when it hit 29 degrees below.

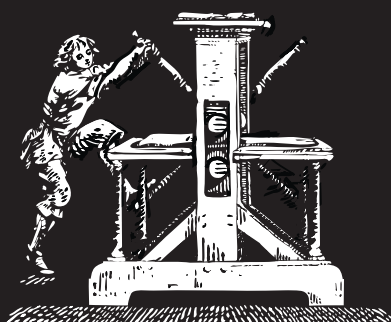
After John Delaney fell ill with the gripple [flu], Frank Early filled in for him as the Main Street railroad gate tender.

*The Recorder* noted a state court ruling

(Continued on Page 16)



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## Looking Back *(from Page 15)*

that allowed people to keep dairy cans if they were so old or worn they could no longer be used to store milk.

Dr. John Holland, a graduate of the University of Munich in Bavaria who had worked at hospitals in St. Petersburg, London and Paris, joined the practice of Dr. G.W. Murdock. Dr. Holland was also said to be a talented violinist and pianist.

Navigation of the Hudson River between Newburgh and New York City closed for the season because of the ice.

Caroline Augusta Mekeel of North Highlands developed the gripe and three weeks later was dead of pneumonia at age 45. Her husband, Harrison Mekeel, was too ill to attend the graveside service.

The body of Franklin Williams, a member of Company E Engineers of the 5th Army Corps, who died of a fever contracted in Cuba while fighting in the Spanish-American War, arrived for interment at Cold Spring Cemetery. Sixteen of the surviving members of Company E, based at West Point, marched over the soft and spongy river ice to attend the service. After a procession up Main Street, Williams was buried with Masonic and military honors.

Samuel Sloan, who lived in Garrison, retired as president of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. At 81, he was the country's oldest railroad president.



Samuel Sloan

Howard Treat, who was working for Ferris Jaycox, resigned to become a full-time dog trainer. He had his own pack of 37 animals.

Speed skaters Howard Mosher and Al Morgan were training on the ice south of the Foundry Dock for an upcoming race in Cleveland. Soon after, they nearly lost their lives while sailing off Storm King. A rope became caught in the boom of the main sail and they lost control; when the boat plunged, they were thrown 50 feet, landing in the water close to the edge of the ice. Morgan climbed onto the ice and pulled out Mosher with his overcoat.

Sheriff Donohue discovered that an old building owned by Jacob V.B. Olcott had been claimed by squatters who had installed a stove. The sheriff had the structure torn down and its contents discarded.

Town Justice John Riggs heard the case of a woman who allegedly threatened to shoot a man, but since she had moved away, he dismissed it.

G.W. Mosher was the first person of the season to cross the river ice with horse and sleigh when he drove to West Point on a Wednesday afternoon.

Rep. John Ketcham, whose district



In 1999, the Nelsonville Fire Department donated a pumper to Santa Bárbara, Honduras.

Facebook

included Philipstown, was one of two members of Congress from New York to employ a secretary, whom he paid \$1,200 annually [\$46,000].

A widow reached a settlement with the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Co. over the death of her husband in a wreck on Oct. 27, 1897, near the Garrison station. Algernon McKay was the stenographer to the railroad superintendent and riding in the cab of the engine. Sarah McKay had asked for \$50,000 [\$1.9 million] in damages.

The tax rate for the Town of Philipstown was 73 cents per \$100 [\$3,800] of assessed value and 66 cents per \$100 in the villages.

John Mullin, the landscape gardener at the Rhinebeck estate of magnate John Jacob Aster, visited his daughter in Cold Spring. [Aster died in 1912 in the sinking of the Titanic.]

William Jaycox, who suffered from lung trouble, returned from a trip to Colorado where he had gone to convalesce. He died soon after. After graduating in 1887 as valedictorian of Union College in Schenectady, Jaycox worked for two years as a lawyer in Brooklyn before his health declined.

The New York Board of Health added typhoid fever and chicken pox to the list of infectious diseases that must be immediately reported by physicians to the state to avoid a \$10 fine. They joined Asiatic cholera, yellow fever and diphtheria.

Frank Johnson of the West Point Band, who had recently married a Cold Spring woman, rigged up a bicycle to ride on the river ice. He removed the tube from the rear wheel, inserted a rope and drove a number of nails through the wooden rim so the points protruded.

Soon after competitive bicyclist Will Ladue rode from Cold Spring to Fishkill Landing on the river ice in 40 minutes, he left for an extended vacation in Jacksonville, Florida, taking his bike with him.

Haldane was designated by the state Board of Regents as a high school.

The Haldane Board of Education thanked Capt. Metcalfe for paying half the cost of repairing the school microscope.

George Livingston, a Cold Spring native, was re-appointed as New York City's school commissioner.

While the river was frozen solid north and south of Cold Spring, line work by the Highlander crew managed to keep a ferry channel open to West Point.

The Haldane school held state Regents exams in the cafeteria for German, algebra, English, rhetoric, geography, civics, economics, writing, geometry, New York history, spelling, bookkeeping, American literature, trigonometry, U.S. history, Latin, drawing and physical education and hygiene.

George Stapf of Continentalville was admitted to the Helping Hands Hospital in Peekskill for the treatment of an eye that had been badly affected by the gripe.

James Carrigan, an employee at Charles Miller's meat market, nearly lost his thumb while cutting up a beef carcass.

Patrick O'Donnell, a native of County Limerick who settled in Cold Spring in 1855, died at age 73. For 30 years he ran a grocery store at the corner of Main Street and Kemble Avenue, along with a milk route.

### 100 Years Ago (January 1924)

James Bailey, a Cold Spring attorney, represented William Russell, a former auto dealer, in a Poughkeepsie lawsuit against Stuart Bates for alleged "alienation of Mrs. Russell's affections." Bailey told the court that he wanted to depose Bates to ask about a locket owned by Mrs. Russell that had his photo inside.

Janet Fish, who served in the Red Cross in France during World War I, was named superintendent of nurses at St. Mark's Hospital on the Lower East Side in New York City. The 6-foot-tall former socialite was the daughter of Hamilton Fish II, former speaker of the state Assembly.

The Board of Education apologized and rescinded a Dec. 27 resolution that named the boys accused of breaking the gate on the Haldane property on Paulding Avenue after evidence emerged pointing to others.

The Rev. Elbert Floyd-Jones, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, reported that he had only three copies left of his book, *A Relic of the Highway: The Origin and Use of Mile-Stones*.

Ling, the Cold Spring laundry man, announced he had changed his mind about returning to China and would remain in business.

Beverly Robinson, who ran a taxi service based in Garrison, purchased a seven-passenger Buick sedan.

R.M. Fleming left the J.T. Robinson & Son button factory after eight years as superintendent.

The Cold Spring National Bank began

offering American Express traveler's checks.

The Cold Spring Fire Co. purchased a set of Presto chemical fire extinguishers manufactured in Beacon.

The Philipstown board was asked to consider an expansion of Town Hall to include an auditorium on the ground floor and a dance hall upstairs.

### 75 Years Ago (January 1949)

A 66-year-old Philipstown man was killed when he was struck by a car while walking across Route 9 after retrieving his mail.

### 50 Years Ago (January 1974)

Jimmy Budney of Nelsonville received an appointment to West Point.

A bill sponsored in the state Assembly by Willis Stephens, whose district included Philipstown, would allow schools to cut 10 days from the 1973-74 academic year because of gasoline and oil shortages. However, schools would be required to make up the time by extending the length of other days.

The Zoning Board of Appeals received a petition from 275 residents objecting to an application from the Leemac Sand & Stone Corp. to construct a hot-mix asphalt plant on its Route 9 property.

A 6-year-old Philipstown girl was killed when her mother skidded into a parked tractor-trailer at a highway rest stop in Sullivan County.

Three storms that hit 24 hours apart forced Haldane to close school on Wednesday and Friday and dismiss students early on Thursday.

Phil Cotennec scored 22 of his 26 points in the second half as the Haldane boys' basketball team came back from a 15-point deficit to defeat Millbrook, 67-64.

### 25 Years Ago (January 1999)

Ken Tomann, the town building inspector for 12 years, and Pauline Constantino, the clerk at the assessor's office for 33 years, each retired.

The county Department of Health held a hearing in Brewster to allow Philipstown to respond to alleged violations involving a temporary, above-ground supply pipe that froze at Garrison's Landing, but no town officials showed up. County officials said they would issue a subpoena; the town said it did not own the Garrison's Landing water supply and had no responsibility for it.

A 5,000-gallon water truck was brought to Garrison's Landing by the New York Army Reserve National Guard at Camp Smith to bypass the frozen pipe and allow residents to fill their storage tanks. The water lasted about three days.

The Nelsonville Fire Department donated its 34-year-old "Old 09" pumper as the first piece of equipment for a fire department being created in the community of Santa Bárbara in northwest Honduras. The shipment was arranged by the Salvation Army.

Garrison residents delivered a petition to the Philipstown supervisor seeking a referendum on incorporating as a village. The signatures had been gathered by members of the Garrison Village Association.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.



## Roots and Shoots

Looking Back  
to Move Ahead

By Pamela Doan

2023 was the year that climate change models and forecasts became real to me in the most vivid way: the lack of stability and predictability in weather; the sharp discrepancies between what I thought would happen and what did happen; and the story of water and heat making me feel like I was in a science-fiction movie about trying to live on a planet with weather that made it uninhabitable. I realized there was a vast difference between knowing the planet is warming and experiencing it.

Now that 2023 has been confirmed as the hottest year on record — a record that has been repeatedly shattered since 2000 — it's difficult to keep absorbing what that means. Yes, the atmosphere is heating faster than scientists anticipated. Yes, extreme weather is more common. Yes, it's expensive, uncomfortable and deadly, especially for people without money and power. The rest of non-human life — plants and trees, animals and birds — are either the focus of extraordinary conservation measures, or not.

In my own landscape, this meant that I saw many soggy yards and broken trees. I answered many questions about what to plant and when, and why and how to care for it, during unpredictable seasons. After a spring drought, then a summer and fall of rain that exceeded 500 percent of normal at times, where was winter in all of this? Iris bloomed on Main Street in Cold Spring around Christmas. The honeysuckle and yarrow, the forsythia, the periwinkle all bloomed in my yard in December, too. Honey-



A snow-covered garden is lovely in winter and another reason not to cut back plants in the fall.

Photo by P. Doan

suckle flowers are still there, popping out in the recent snowstorm.

There was good news, too, about the trend toward native plants and yards with meadows instead of turf grass. Locally, gardeners were involved in planting more pollinator gardens in public spaces, highlighting both the need for and the beauty of plants that do more than produce flowers. In the U.S., emissions were lower because

there was less coal-burning for energy.

It's clear that as we go deeper into the climate crisis, the main thing that will make a difference in how our gardens fare is political. Continue to do all the other things that make your yard sustainable — stop using pesticides and herbicides, compost your food scraps, add native plants that support birds and insects and wildlife. We know this is necessary, but how unpredictable our world

becomes is going to depend on communities acting together to stop burning fossil fuels, i.e., voting.

What we do in our own landscapes won't make a difference unless we elect leaders who take climate change seriously and do everything in their power to mitigate the impacts we have already triggered. Sitting here 11 years into writing a column that has involved observing my environment closely and researching best practices, this is what I have to offer: Vote for your plants.

**A note about ice-melt products**

When the snow appeared last weekend and I was tagged in our family to pick up ice melt, I took a closer look at the products and what they do in the environment.

The most useful resource I found was a table in a road maintenance department manual from Minnesota (see [bit.ly/salt-impacts](https://bit.ly/salt-impacts)). Not surprisingly, the rock salt I brought home (sodium chloride) has negative impacts on soil, breaking down its structure and stability.

By contrast, calcium chloride products can be beneficial to soils, building structure and permeability. Both products are pollutants for waterways, with sodium chloride being slightly worse with the addition of ferrocyanides. Both are toxic to plants and damage leaves and roots.

The acetate-based products, including calcium magnesium acetate and potassium acetate, have low or no impact on soil and plants but worse impacts than the chloride-based products on waterways. All of the choices are effective at temperatures ranging from minus 20 to 20 degrees.

Choose a product that meets the needs of your particular situation and where plantings are located. The Environmental Protection Agency lists sodium chloride as the most commonly used product by road maintenance crews. Use that knowledge when considering plants near roadways or ones that can be affected by runoff.

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benefit from having a trustworthy caretaker for different kinds of non-medical help. You never know what ends up being a perfect fit! I have a beautiful, quiet 13-year-old Siamese who comes with me. Looking between Ridgefield, Conn., North Salem and Cold Spring. Besides long-term renting, I've property managed, house sat long-term and can provide glowing reports and impeccable references, including local ones! Email [leslieflemingmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:leslieflemingmitchell@gmail.com).

**GARAGE** — Looking for a garage in the Cold Spring / Garrison / Nelsonville / Philipstown area to store antique car. Please call me at 646-207-5746.

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**DULY SWORN** — Newly elected or re-elected officials were sworn in this past week in Poughkeepsie, Philipstown and Beacon, including (1) Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi, who succeeds William Grady, who held the position for 40 years; (2) Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, formerly a state senator whose district included the Highlands; (3) Town Supervisor John Van Tassel, sworn in by Town Justice Camille Linson for a second, 2-year term, being congratulated by his son, Ryan; and (4) Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou, sworn in at the Memorial Building by Rep. Pat Ryan for a second, 4-year term. Ryan, while making remarks before the ceremony, was interrupted by protestors (5) demanding that he support a ceasefire in Gaza. Below right, City Administrator Chris White (center) and local veterans (right) grip a protest banner so that it cannot be unfurled.



Photos by Una Hoppe

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Muscat’s land

5. Droid

8. — Romeo

12. Squid dish

14. Crowd noise

15. Earring shape, often

16. Rock’s Motley —

17. Little louse

18. Great —

20. Spiral

23. Cannon of film

24. Sofa brand

25. Cake mixes

28. Links org.

29. Los —, California

30. Satisfied sigh

32. “Say something!”

34. “Alfred” composer

35. Flower part

36. Run-down

37. Sudden bursts
40. Aachen article

41. Dog’s bowlful

42. Fly at a low altitude

47. Grate

48. Points of view

49. Pro votes

50. Bit of butter

51. Regimen
- DOWN
1. Calendar abbr.

2. Actress West

3. Pie — mode

4. Land created by C.S. Lewis

5. Lisa’s brother

6. Spanish gold

7. Apex

8. Esoteric

9. Chicago’s Mayor Lightfoot

10. Mythic man-goat

11. War god

13. 1509, to Cato
19. Back muscles, for short

20. Trendy

21. Heart charts

22. Bound

23. Fact

25. Pastry store

26. Scarce

27. Hourglass fill

29. Portal

31. “Psst!”

33. Prevents, legally

34. Virgil epic

36. Billboard

37. Poet Teasdale

38. Theater production

39. Church section

40. Work on proofs

43. Clean air org.

44. — polloi

45. Single

46. Calif. clock setting

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

PLOYS

SHIPS

MICRO  
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Brazilian ballroom dance

6. “Give me a break!”

7. Juan’s mom

8. Part of a school uniform

9. First lady?
- DOWN
1. Waterston and Raimi

2. No longer dozing

3. Roman 2504

4. Ballet studio rail

5. Grateful Dead’s “Without —”

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

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

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

O	S	A	K	A
G	C	L	E	F
R	A	T	E	R
E	L	O	P	E
S	E	N	S	E

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HARPY  
HARDY  
HANDY  
HANDS  
LANDS

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## Sports

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — The wins keep coming for the Blue Devils, who defeated North Salem on Jan. 4, 62-43, for their fifth straight victory and their first in league play. Matt Nachamkin, a senior who has committed to Williams College, scored 31 points to lead Haldane, including 11 in the first quarter.

On Wednesday (Jan. 10), the team made it six in a row, winning at Sleepy Hollow, 77-45. The Blue Devils have been playing tough defense, giving up fewer than 50 points by their opponents in five of their most recent six games.

"They're enjoying playing defense because it translates into our offense," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "Deflections and steals turn into wide-open dunks, layups and threes, and they're buying into it."

Against Sleepy Hollow, Michael Murray hit three straight three-pointers in the first quarter to take Haldane's lead to 21-10. (He finished with 15 points.) Nachamkin scored 17 on a mix of shots including threes, a dunk and mid-range jumpers.

Toward the end of the game, with a big lead, Virgadamo cleared his bench; the starters erupted when Erik Stubblefield hit back-to-back three-pointers for his first points of the season.

Haldane (7-1) will host Pawling at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 16) for senior night and travel to Putnam Valley on Thursday.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Haldane lost at Yonkers Montessori Academy, 55-32, on Jan. 6, to fall to 5-5 on the season. Kayla Ruggiero scored 14 points and Camilla McDaniel had 11.

The Blue Devils host Alexander Hamilton today (Jan. 12) at 6:15 p.m. and travel to Irvington on Monday.

**WINTER TRACK** — The Blue Devils competed on Jan. 4 in a Section I tournament at Rockland Community College in Suffern.

For the boys, Rhys Williams qualified for the 55-meter dash finals in a field of 200 runners, then finished sixth in 7.17; Merrick Williams was first among 43 athletes in the long jump in 19-09.25, third in the triple jump at 36-10.50 and seventh of 169 runners in the 300 meters in 39.19; Owen Powers was 12th of 46 runners in the 600 meters in 1:41.01; and Jack Illian was third of 18 competitors in the 3,200 meters in 10:41.97.

For the girls, Samantha Thomas was 20th of 127 competitors in the 300 meters

in 49.7 and Ashley Sousa was 16th in the 600 meters in 2:04.90 and 13th in the 1,000 meters in 3:50.98.

The Blue Devils will travel to The Armory in New York City today (Jan. 12) for the Steve Borbet Invitational hosted by Warwick Valley.

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon knocked off Liberty on Monday (Jan. 8), 74-37, for its third win of the season. The Bulldogs (3-7) hosted Pine Bush on Thursday (Jan. 11) and will host Port Jervis on Tuesday (Jan. 16) at 4:45 p.m. before traveling to O'Neill on Thursday.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon visited Hyde Park on Wednesday (Jan. 10) and defeated Franklin Roosevelt, 49-28, behind 12 points by Reilly Landisi and nine from Lila Burke. The Bulldogs (7-1) travel to Liberty today (Jan. 12) and O'Neill on Tuesday.

**BOYS' SWIMMING** — The Bulldogs defeated visiting Franklin Roosevelt on Jan. 5, 110-58. Fionn Fehilly won the 200 and 500 freestyle races in 2:11.01 and 6:10.84, respectively; Alistair Cunningham was first in the 200 individual medley in 2:39.69; and Bryce Manning won the 100 breaststroke in 1:08.34.

Beacon (2-4) hosted New Paltz and Kingston on Thursday (Jan. 11) and will travel to Warwick Valley on Tuesday.

**WINTER TRACK** — Beacon competed at The Armory Hispanic Games on Jan. 5 in New York City.

For the boys, Henry Reinke was the top finisher for the Bulldogs in the mile in 4:53.23, followed by August Wright in 5:13.36; Noah Spiak recorded a time of 9.06 in the 55-meter hurdles; Damani DeLoatch hit 20-09 in the long jump; Zachary Schetter scored 39-03 in the triple jump; and Jayden Mihalcik jumped 9-06 in the pole vault.

For the girls, Christine Robinson ran the 55 meters in 8.43; Stella Reinke ran the 1,500 meters in 6:20.52; Mira Miller finished the 55-meter hurdles in 13.16; and Mikaela Sanchez threw the shot put 18-03.75.

**WRESTLING** — Beacon fell to Newburgh Free Academy, 60-6, on Wednesday (Jan. 10) in the Section IV Duals at Newburgh. The Bulldogs scored with a 5-2 decision by Avery Davis at 170 pounds and a 3-0 decision by Owen Lynch at 285 pounds.



Matt Nachamkin goes in for a dunk against North Salem. He finished with 31 points.



Fallou Faye eludes a North Salem defender in Haldane's win.

Photos by Skip Pearlman (3)



Khordae Facey competes for Beacon in a victory over Franklin Roosevelt on Jan. 5.



Jack Antalek scores for the Bulldogs against Liberty on Jan. 8.

Photos by Cadence Heeter (2)