**Judge Bars Migrants from Dutchess Hotels**

86 men allowed to stay at Red Roof Inn on Route 9

By Leonard Sparks

A state judge temporarily ordered New York City to stop sending asylum-seekers to Dutchess and provide the county with the names of dozens of men the city is sheltering at a Red Roof Inn in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Judge Maria Rosa issued her ruling on Tuesday (May 23), four days after Dutchess County sued New York City and the hotel’s owner.

Rosa’s decision does not affect 66 migrants who arrived at the Red Roof Inn (Continued on Page 21)

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**Beacon: Then, Now and How**

Twenty-five years ago, the city was falling apart.

It has been revived. But at what price?

By Jeff Simms

In the past quarter-century, Beacon has transformed itself from a city of boarded-up windows and crime to a vanguard of culture and environmental sustainability. But many residents feel the resurgence has come at a steep price, criticizing the pace and scale of development and arguing that housing prices are robbing Beacon of its diversity and working-class character.

In January 2001, when then-Mayor Clara Lou Gould gave her annual state of the city address, the Poughkeepsie Journal noted that Beacon was (Continued on Page 8)

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**Can a Class Be Too Small?**

Haldane discusses optimal number of students

By Joey Asher

Is reducing class size always the right thing to do?

That’s been a topic of discussion for the Haldane school board this month, spurred by parents who lobbied for smaller classes for their rising first graders.

The district will have 38 first graders in 2023-24 and planned to divide them into two classes of 19, according to Superintendent Philip Benante. “Generally, 20 students (or (Continued on Page 7)

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**Elementary Class Sizes**

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Source: Haldane and Garrison budgets, 2022-23; *Beacon, 2020-21, data.nysed.gov

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**Remarks**

William F.X. O’Neill, the Dutchess County executive, speaks at a news conference on Tuesday (May 23). Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne stands to his right. (Putnam County photo)

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**Extra Sports Section**

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**Photo by Ross Corsair**

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**Photo by Michael Bowman**

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**Photo by Ross Corsair**
Beacon: Then, Now and How
(from Page 1)

known in the 1990s for its “empty storefronts, dilapidated buildings, inconsistent code enforcement and poor infrastructure such as sidewalks and roads, especially on the east end.”

Gould spearheaded a revitalization, expressing surprise at the pace of building rehabs and business investment. The arrival of the Dia Center for the Arts provided an “extra spur”, the Dia Foundation in 2003 opened a 292,000-square-foot gallery in a former Nabisco box factory on the shores of the Hudson.

Situated between the river and Mount Beacon, the highest peak of the Highlands, Beacon has since the early 2000s attracted a steady stream of new homeowners and visitors eager to shop its bustling, mile-long Main Street. Many retreated more recently from New York City during the pandemic shutdown, purchasing homes and moving into condo developments on Main Street and the riverfront.

Who has benefited most from this transformation? Who has been left behind? In this series, we’ll talk to people who live and work in the city and attempt to address these questions, as well as document changes over the past 25 years in housing and demographics, the arts, politics and activism.

Has Beacon Followed its Own Blueprint?

Before the pandemic, development was the issue in Beacon.

Who could forget the printout of a Facebook post and the hundreds of comments it generated attached to the temporary fencing around 344 Main St. when a support wall extended several feet into the sidewalk, out of alignment with the neighboring Beacon Natural Market? (Within weeks, the wall was removed and realigned.)

The subsequent formation of the People’s Committee on Development, led in part by Dan Aymar-Blair, now a City Council member. Two building moratoriums passed by the council, both driven by concerns about water.

More than a dozen public hearings for the Edgewater apartment complex proposal, the largest ever in Beacon, residents packed so closely that some began to shout from the lobby of City Hall. At several hearings, dueling attorneys argued over formulas for estimating the project’s impacts on the school district.

(Continued on Page 9)
(Continued from Page 8)

Since 2012, nearly 800 apartments and other housing units have been built in Beacon. At Edgewater and 248 Tioronda Ave., among a handful of others, there are more than 300 units still under construction because of pandemic delays.

Maps of projected land use in the 2017 update to Beacon’s comprehensive plan — a blueprint revised by the city about every 10 years to guide growth — indicate that the most-dense development should occur in four locations: (1) on the east side of the Metro-North station; (2) in the waterfront-to-Main “linkage” district; (3) on Main Street, in the central business zone; and (4) in spots along the Fishkill Creek corridor.

Most of the remaining land — which makes up 80 percent to 90 percent of the city — is zoned for low- to medium-density housing, such as single-family homes.

An overlay of major construction projects in the last decade shows that each occurred within one of the zones designated for high density. In addition, the city’s zoning code was amended several times after the 2017 moratorium to temper the impacts of incoming development.

In late 2017, the City Council adopted changes in the Fishkill Creek zone limiting new buildings to three stories totaling no more than 40 feet. New projects there must also include at least 25 percent commercial uses, and a parcel’s density is based on buildable (rather than gross) acreage to account for topographic features such as steep slopes.

Five months later, the council extended the “steep-slopes” measure to the largest residential districts, reducing the Edgewater project from 307 units to 246. In the creekside zone, the change downsized the 248 Tioronda development from 100 to 64 apartments.

In 2020, the city tightened its Main Street zoning by requiring four-story proposals to include one or more “public benefits,” such as increased parking, affordable housing units, green building features or public spaces.

City officials say that, dating to the 1990s, Beacon’s zoning has been corrected to funnel foot traffic toward businesses on Main Street.

“For Main Street to recover and thrive requires more nearby residents to support its businesses,” said Mayor Lee Kryiacou. “The appropriate places for additional residences are on and around Main, near the train station as a public-transit hub and on abandoned or former industrial sites along Fishkill Creek.”

Not everyone agrees. One resident, Theresa Kraft, has attended and spoken at virtually every public meeting in Beacon during its building boom. Earlier this month, she argued before the City Council that housing and development in Beacon are “in crisis mode.”

“Sadly, it’s the upheaval of what this city has allowed to be destroyed directly on our historic Main Street and the side streets abutting it,” she said. “So many of these projects are either poorly designed, out of character with the neighborhood or have seriously infringed on our protected views-heads. This rampant building spree is spreading like wildfire, and it’s got to be stopped.”

Beacon’s approach is similar to the one adopted in Somerville, Massachusetts, a city of 80,000 that undertook an urban revitalization initiative over the last decade. There, planners directed growth toward the city’s downtown core, around two public transit stations, which are “naturally plans where you want to focus your development,” according to Michael Rodriguez, an urban planner with the Smart Growth America organization.

Rodriguez noted the benefits of other recommendations in Beacon’s comp plan, such as creating what is known as “transit-oriented development” (TOD) near public transportation.

“You’re sitting on this gift, a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure asset, that gives you a nice commute if you want it, or a recreational trip to the city,” he said. “Yet very few people can use that infrastructure without getting into a car.”

In 2007, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced plans to create a TOD at the Beacon Metro-North station. A citizen group, Beacon Deserves Better, opposed the plan over a number of issues, including potential environmental impacts and the effect it would have had on the city’s Main Street, which had yet to fully rebound from the neglect and crime of the 1990s.

In addition, the MTA plan, which the agency put on hold in 2010, called for a major expansion of the Metro-North parking lot and, in a second phase, construction of a 1,000-car parking garage.

If approached differently, and with community input, Rodriguez suggested a TOD could create “hubs” of activity. “Now you become more of a job center,” he said. (Beacon’s comprehensive plan recommends development intended to guide people from the train to Main Street, but also reflects community feedback and proposes that land west of the train station remain open space that would be fed by improved connections between Riverfront Park, Long Dock Park and the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.)

In economic terms, it’s hard to argue that Beacon as a whole hasn’t benefited from development. “When we add new assessed value through new construction, nobody else’s taxes go up, but we receive added revenue,” said Chris White, the city administrator.

Beacon in 2021 hired Ambulzu, a private company, for $150,000 to provide 24/7 advanced life support emergency services, while also sending $50,000 to the nonprofit Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps, which has served the city for 65 years and provides basic life support service.

“All that was added as a new service with no impact on current taxpayers,” White said, adding that Beacon now has the ability to fund (and borrow for) projects such as its $14.7 million centralized fire station, and to make “generational” investments in its water and wastewater systems.

He pointed, also, to the addition of a mental health worker in the Police Department, a full-time human resources director and the city’s Climate Smart coordinator.

“We have the latitude to do that without creating an undue tax burden because we’ve had a trend of growth over the last 10 years,” White said.

Was Enough Done to Keep It Affordable?

While Beacon’s comprehensive plan shows — in zoning districts colored brown, red and orange — that residential development has followed guidelines approved by the City Council, it’s harder to say whether the city has made the right moves regarding affordability.

In 2017, the council upped its “inclusionary zoning” policy by requiring that new developments of 10 units or more set aside 10 percent as part of the city’s workforce affordable program. Last year, of the more than 2,200 apartments in Beacon, 851 were “affordable” (see box on Page 10) — most of them either subsidized through federal programs (commonly called Section 8), a state-funded program or part of the workforce program. The latter gives priority to applicants who are volunteer emergency responders, followed by municipal and school district employees.

The number accounts for more than 19 percent of the affordable housing stock in Dutchess County, although the city makes up only 5 percent of the county’s population. (At 60 percent combined, only the City and Town of Poughkeepsie have a greater share of the county’s affordable housing.)

At the same time, a Dutchess housing assessment released last year described “a series of long-simmering trends” that have created a significant shortage for the most vulnerable residents. Countywide, there are 2,155 more households that rent and earn less than $50,000 per year than there are affordable units available to them.

The Beacon council last year amended its zoning code to simplify the process for creating “accessory dwelling unit” (ADU) apartments, a strategy promoted by the federal government. Over the last two months, the council has discussed additional measures but has failed to reach consensus on how to move forward.

John Clarke, a city planning consultant, suggested revising a little-used overlay district that would remove zoning restrictions for developers who build housing for seniors. He also recommended that the city facilitate developments on public land that have higher percentages of affordable apartments — similar to when the council in 2016 sold land next to City Hall to a developer to create the West End Lofts apartment complex.

Clarke suggested a partnership with Dutchess County on an infill project at the DMV building at 223 Main St., a proposal that’s recommended in Beacon’s comprehensive plan. The Beacon Farmers Market, which uses the parking lot on Sundays, could be integrated into the design, along with a three-story, mixed-use building and a transit-linked public park on Main Street, with an expanded rear parking lot, he said.

The Metro-North northern parking lot was also identified in the 2017 comp plan as an excellent spot for housing, Clarke (Continued on Page 10)
Affordable (from Page 9)

noted. The site is within easy walking distance of the station and a structure would have low "view impacts." There's also the 39-acre former Beacon Correctional Facility site ("Camp Beacon"), which is owned by New York State, and is more isolated than the DMV or Metro-North lots. In 2019, state officials selected a New York City company to create a "bike farm" with a hotel and track-and-field venue at the site, but there's been no movement there since.

In a council workshop last month, Clarke said he does not recommend a further increase in the "set aside" of affordable units required of developers. With no offsetting benefits such as tax abatements or assessment reductions, "you're essentially asking a private developer to subsidize affordable housing on their own dime, without any advantages for them, other than they can get their project approved," he said.

Upriver, Kingston residents and officials are engaged in a citywide rezoning effort that is set to increase the availability of affordable housing. Mayor Steve Noble said. The city is holding a "Say Yes to ADUs!" design competition and is using $1 million of its federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to incentivize the construction of affordable housing.

It is also creating a "tiny homes community" to provide emergency housing and services to people who risk becoming homeless. Any rent would be in line with affordability guidelines established by Ulster County.

Kingston may extend its 10 percent set-aside to apply to new developments of seven units or more while requiring 15 percent or 20 percent for larger developments, Noble said. It also may offer bonuses, such as allowing construction of taller buildings, in exchange for affordable housing.

The hope with the rezoning project, which also includes environmental, mental health and downtown business initiatives, is that "you end up building a city that is reflective of the core values of your community," he said.

In Beacon, Paloma Wake, an at-large member of the City Council, said she would like to see Beacon work on "integrated" affordability. "There's value in having integrated housing, and I want to make sure whatever solutions we push forward have that vision," she said. "If we just build a building with 100 units, that isn't a win. That's segregated."

Although Beacon's affordable numbers are relatively high, Wake and Wren Longno, who represents Ward 3 on the council, have argued that the city must address the shortage of housing for households earning $50,000 annually or less.

"We want to do better than the minimum," Longno said. If a project is providing housing for lower-income residents, "many of us would be quite happy to see more density. If it's not that, we'd rather just see the meadow stay the meadow."

What is 'Affordable'? When elected officials, planners and developers talk about "affordable" housing, it is usually a reference to how much household income a renter or homeowner must commit. The assumption is that housing costs, including property taxes, should not consume more than 30 percent of household income.

"Affordable" is sometimes based on the median household income of an area. For example, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in 2022 was $1,412 in Dutchess County and $2,340 in Putnam, according to figures compiled by the National Low Income Housing Coalition. The affordable rent for a household earning 50 percent of the area median income in Dutchess ($115,700) would be $1,446 per month, according to the coalition. In Putnam, where the AMI is $94,500, the affordable rent for a household earning 50 percent of the AMI would be $1,181 per month.

Is There Room for Lower Incomes?

As Tamara Gorton says she feels invisible. Born and raised in Beacon, the 38-year-old Tompkins Terrace resident says that as the city has grown, the people she grew up with have been left behind — either priced out and forced to move elsewhere or left to live in unsafe conditions because it's all they can afford.

Indeed, much has changed in the city. No longer are there boarded-up storefronts dotting the mile-long Main Street. Nearly 800 condominiums, townhouses and apartments have been built in the last decade, with more than 300 more under construction now.

The city's population has changed over the past two decades, according to U.S. Census data. The overall population has fallen by 14 percent, to 13,769, including a 36 percent drop in Black residents. Beacon today is 62 percent white, 19 percent Hispanic and 13 percent Black; in 2000, it was 68 percent white, 20 percent Black and 17 percent Hispanic.

There also have been huge economic changes. The city's median household income has changed over the years. In 1990, it was $18,000. In 2000, it was $30,000. In 2020, it was $55,000. This year, it is estimated to be $57,000.

There is an overall shortage of housing for households earning $50,000 annually or less.

Incomes?

Incomes?

"Affordable" is sometimes based on the median household income of an area. For example, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in 2022 was $1,412 in Dutchess County and $2,340 in Putnam, according to figures compiled by the National Low Income Housing Coalition. The affordable rent for a household earning 50 percent of the area median income in Dutchess ($115,700) would be $1,446 per month, according to the coalition. In Putnam, where the AMI is $94,500, the affordable rent for a household earning 50 percent of the AMI would be $1,181 per month.

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income has risen to $83,000 annually, with about 30 percent of households earning less than $50,000. Twenty years ago, in 2000, the median income, adjusted for inflation, was $80,000 but about 75 percent of households earned less than $50,000.

“Beacon used to be a very, very diverse place to live,” Gorton says. While growing up, she had “every type of friend” at Sargent Elementary School. “Everyone was family. Everyone looked out for everyone,” she says. “But I no longer feel that. Walking down Main Street, I feel like a stranger.”

Everyone was family. Everyone looked out for everyone. But I no longer feel that. Walking down Main Street, I feel like a stranger.

~ Lastar Gorton

Gorton lived in Tompkins Terrace, a low-income apartment complex on the city’s west side, until she was 5. Her family then moved to Forrestal Heights, another low-income development managed by the Beacon Housing Authority.

She and her two sons moved back to Tompkins Terrace in 2020, but by then, Gorton says the development — which is slated for a $14.5 million renovation beginning this year — had changed.

“I call the police at least every other week,” she says. “I don’t let my younger son go outside without me.”

The City of Beacon in recent years has made efforts to increase its affordable housing stock. New developments of 10 units or more must set aside 10 percent of those units for Beacon’s “workforce” affordability program, which, for renters, is available for households making between 70 percent and 80 percent of Dutchess County’s area median income (AMI), or $80,990 to $92,560 for a household of four. It gives priority to applicants who are volunteer emergency responders, municipal employees or school district employees.

In 2016, the City Council sold a 3.14-acre parcel to a developer at less than market value on the condition that he build affordable units there. The complex, the West End Lofts, includes 72 affordable apartments, 50 of them live/work spaces for artists.

But Gorton, and many others who have spoken up in public meetings in recent years, feel that isn’t enough. The city’s workforce program and the West End Lofts both have conditions that Gorton, who works for a nonprofit agency, doesn’t meet.

The workforce program, she says, isn’t affordable for truly low-income people. Tompkins Terrace, meanwhile, restricts 38 of its 193 apartments to households earning 50 percent or less of the AMI, which, in Beacon, is equal to a four-person household earning up to $56,200. The remaining 155 apartments may be rented to households earning 60 percent or less of the AMI, or $67,440 for a household of four.

“It’s affordable to live here, but it’s not safe,” Gorton says. Referring to the West End Lofts, she says, “not everybody is an artist.”

She wants to see the city hold developers accountable to create more affordable housing for a wider range of residents — so much so that she’s considering a run later this year for City Council.

Gorton recalls diverse community gatherings such as the Fourth of July fireworks celebration at Memorial Park, or the free afternoon and summer programs at the Martin Luther King Cultural Center or the Beacon Community Center.

“People with morals, respect and dignity is who I want in this community,” she says. “I love that Beacon is thriving, but I wish the city would give back to the community. That’s the way it has always been in Beacon.”

The City Council adopts a comprehensive land-use plan, Beacon’s first since 1973... The Metropolitan Transportation Authority announces plans to develop 18 acres at the Metro-North station, but a grassroots group, Beacon Deserves Better, forms to oppose the plan.

After scrapping plans for a hotel and conference center, Scenic Hudson opens Long Dock Park, a 19-acre site designed for passive recreation and climate resilience.

The Roundhouse opens in restored factory buildings adjacent to the waterfall at the east end of Main Street.

After requesting proposals, the city sells its parcels at 344 Main St. to a developer for $5,000. Three years later, the construction of a four-story, mixed-use building (at right) on the site sparks calls to rein in development.

The City Council updates the 2007 comprehensive plan and enacts a six-month moratorium because of concerns about the water supply. (The council approved a second moratorium in 2019.)

After more than a dozen public hearings over 18 months, the 240-unit Edgewater, the largest residential development in the city’s history, is approved. The project was downsized by the developer after the City Council adopted a law reducing the number of units that can be built on sites with steep slopes.

The Beacon Theater opens, bringing first-run movies to Main Street for the first time since the 1980s.

The City Council adopts a law requiring developers to provide a “public benefit” to build four-story buildings on Main Street.

The Planning Board approves the first phase of redevelopment plans for the 64-acre Tioronda Estate site on Route 9D. Mirbeau, which bought the property for $10 million, plans to convert the former Craig House into a luxury hotel and spa.
A DAY TO REMEMBER — Military veterans, accompanied by first responders and Philipstown residents, traveled up Main Street on Monday (May 29) for a memorial service at the Cold Spring Cemetery to remember those who lost their lives during wartime.

The grand marshal was Michael Mastrolia, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Photo by Ross Corsair

It was a picture-perfect Saturday in early May when Dia:Beacon celebrated its 20th anniversary. Common Ground Farm set up a booth and prepared an educational demonstration. Other scheduled events included a zine-making workshop and a tour led by an artist who snuck into this former Nabisco factory over 20 years ago, before Dia moved in, to shoot an indie movie. There were also tours for Spanish-language speakers and

(Continued on Page 6)

Hotels Sue Counties Over Migrant Orders
Say that official actions ‘reek of discrimination’
By Leonard Sparks

After being targeted by county executives in the Hudson Valley for renting rooms to asylum-seekers from New York City, owners have responded with a federal lawsuit.

Hotel owners in Dutchess, Orange and Rockland counties filed a federal lawsuit on May 22 in White Plains, arguing that executive orders banning migrants from hotels in more than two dozen counties and towns violate their constitutional rights to enter into contracts and are preempted by federal law.

The hotels also say the orders disregard their property and due-process rights under the U.S. Constitution's 5th and 14th amendments.

The plaintiffs include the owner of a Red Roof Inn and Holiday Inn on Route 9 in the Town of Poughkeepsie and the Crossroads Hotel and Ramada by Wyndham in the Town of Newburgh. New York City last month transported 86 asylum-seekers to the Red Roof Inn and 186 to Crossroads and Ramada.

A third plaintiff is the owner of Armoni Inn & Suites in Rockland County. The county refused to renew its residence permit, which had expired, as the hotel prepared to receive asylum-seekers.

Police monitor the hotel around the clock, according to the lawsuit.

The hotels say that the executive orders "unlawfully, impermissibly and unconstitutionally stigmatize hotel owners and their customers as criminals and therefore stigmatize the residents of the counties that host them."

Environmental groups say testing is overdue, inadequate
By Brian PJ Cronin

Nearly 40 years after the federal Environmental Protection Agency designated a 200-mile stretch of the Hudson River as one of the most heavily polluted sites in the country because of chemical dumping by General Electric, the company will begin testing the water in the Upper Hudson, including in the Highlands, to determine the extent of the damage.

From 1947 to 1977, GE discharged polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from two of its manufacturing plants on the Upper Hudson. In addition to essentially ending commercial fishing in the Hudson, the discharges kicked off decades of legal battles. The EPA repeatedly dragged GE into court to force the company to clean up the river.

GE dredged the Upper Hudson for six years, from 2009 to 2015, to remove contaminated sediment, although environmental groups asserted that the cleanups were insufficient.

(Continued on Page 3)
Beacon: Then, Now and How

(From Page 1)

“Kids get it immediately,” says Jessica Morgan, executive director of the Dia Art Foundation, about the museum’s sculptures. “They intuitively respond; you don’t have to read a book to understand it.”

Beacon residents have been admitted at no charge to Dia:Beacon for years. To mark its 20th, the museum extended the offer to residents of Newburgh, in part because many Dia:Beacon staff and many local artists now live there.

Dia didn’t bring the arts to Beacon when it opened in 2003. The Polich Tallix fine art foundry was here, casting works by Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Richard Serra and others. Hudson Beach Glass had been blowing glass on Maple Street since the 1980s before buying the old firehouse on the western end of Main Street in 2001 and opening to the public a few months after Dia.

The boarded-up storefronts and empty factories left in the wake of the city’s industrial decline were like catnip to artists priced out of New York City and looking for affordable housing and ample studio space. “What some people see as terrifying, artists see as opportunity,” said John Gilvey of Hudson Beach Glass.

But Dia:Beacon did seem to accelerate the transformation the city has undergone. A wave of galleries followed, public art projects bloomed and scores of artists found community.

Twenty years later, Dia:Beacon and Hudson Beach Glass are still here. But few of the galleries and other cultural projects that opened in their wake remain. In their place is the fear that the same economic forces that drove so many artists and galleries out of New York City have followed them north, pushing them from their homes and studios once again.

“Artists can’t afford to live in Beacon now,” said Gilvey.

John Gilvey at Hudson Beach Glass

Photo by Valerie Shively

Jessica Morgan, executive director of Dia:Beacon

Photo by B. Cronin

Ed Benavente announces the arrival of Santa Claus in 2014.

Photo by Ethan Harrison

Taking a risk

The Dia Art Foundation came to Beacon for the same reasons that many artists did: It needed room.

Specializing in site-specific works, the Manhattan-based foundation didn’t have the space to display its rapidly growing collection. Morgan wasn’t part of Dia then, but she’s well-versed in the story: The director of Dia at the time, who was also a recreational pilot, loaded the president of the Dia board into a two-seater and flew up the Hudson River to check out a vacant industrial site in the Berkshires. But before they hung a right, they noticed an empty warehouse on the Beacon waterfront. (The Berkshire site became the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.)

Not every Beacon resident was thrilled about the prospect of a museum. Many hoped the site would continue to be used as a factory and provide jobs. Proposals were in the works for a fish-processing facility or a tire warehouse.

“The city, thankfully, got behind it and saw what the future could be, which was taking a risk,” says Morgan. “No one knew how it would turn out.”

Maybe one person did: Gilvey was a student at art school in the 1970s when the Dia Art Foundation set up shop in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. Many of his teachers were involved with Dia, and he saw how quickly New York’s art scene subsequently ditched SoHo for Chelsea.

Now, Dia was moving the bulk of its collection to Beacon. “It was obvious that something was going to happen,” he recalled. “It didn’t dawn on us how it would happen, but we all watched it and it was pretty amazing.”

Gilvey was part of a group of artists who created the Beacon Arts Community Association (now BeaconArts) in 2002 in anticipation of Dia and to serve as a de facto chamber of commerce. “There was no business organization at the time because there was no business,” he said.

In the winter of 2003, the organization held its first Second Saturday event. It was cold and raining, and the new Hudson Beach Glass building didn’t have heat. But Gilvey said they put out some glass, opened the doors and people filled the space.

Randy Casale, the former Beacon mayor, used to joke that you could have rolled a bowling ball down the length of the mile-long Main Street in the 1990s and not hit anything. That cold winter night in 2003, with the Dia opening just a few months away, it became clear that those days were over.

‘A pile of junk’

It was a rite of passage for New York City artists: Rent a car for the weekend, pack it with a bunch of your friends and drive in ever-widening circles from the city until you found a place you could afford. For many artists, that circle ended in southern Dutchess County.

“For the same cost as what we were spending on dog walkers, we could buy a house in Beacon,” says Ed Benavente, who arrived in 2006, as he sat around a table at Kitchen + Coffee recently with Kelly Ellenwood (2002) and Matthew Agoglia (2011). All three are board members of BeaconArts.

Benavente grew up in Los Angeles before moving to New York City; he knows a bit about how difficult and intimidating it can be to break into the art scene in a new city. With Beacon, he didn’t have that problem because it seemed like all the artists were in the same boat. “It was like the first day of college,” he recalled. “‘Hi, what’s your name? What’s your major?’"

That easygoing spirit extended to the artists’ relationship with the city. “You’d see the mayor or anyone from the city government on the street and you’d say: ‘Hey, why don’t we do this?’” said Benavente. “And they’d say: ‘Great, why don’t you do that?’ There weren’t a lot of rules and there wasn’t a lot of oversight.”

What followed was an explosion of annual citywide public art projects. There were Windows on Main, in which artists created displays for businesses; Beacon Open Studios, in which the public was invited to see where artists worked; Beacon 3-D, in which outdoor sculptures sprung up all over town; and Keys to the City, in which artists decorated donated pianos to
(Continued from Page 6)

be installed up and down Main Street, leading to countless impromptu concerts.

In 2008 and 2010, Main Street was shut down at the dummy light for Electric Windows, a block party in which artists created murals that were hung in the windows of the then-vacant electric blan ket factory at 1 E. Main. It culminated in 2011’s Electric Projected, in which animators armed with an enormous movie screen and thunderous breakbeats made it seem as if the colorful murals were coming to life, writhing and crawling over the abandoned and faded husk of the city’s industrial past.

And then there was the bicycle tree.

BeaconArts had wanted to hold a Christmas tree lighting for years, but trees cost money, which none of the artists had. During a 2010 meeting, Benavente announced that he had figured out how to get a tree that would cost nothing but elbow grease: He would build one from discarded bicycle parts.

“Reduce, reuse, recycle,” said Ellenwood.

“Also, it was during a recession.”

The group realized that a tree made of sustainable transportation parts could serve as a symbol of Beacon as an environmental vanguard. “It immediately set us apart from everywhere else,” Ellenwood recalled.

The first tree lighting was a low-key event at the vacant lot on Cross Street and Main, but it soon became a city-sponsored event complete with Santa Claus arriving on a pedicab with Benavente playing the reindeer. A bicycle menorah soon joined the festivities. One year Benavente made a miniature version for Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, who passed it on to then-First Lady Michelle Obama during a visit to the White House, along with an invitation to see the full version.

“Of course the tree was not universally loved, Some people would disparagingly tell Benavente that the tree was a pile of junk.

“And I’d say, ‘Well, yeah, it was a pile of junk. But it was the energy that people put into it that made it art.’”

The last bicycle tree was in 2018, in part because Benavente had become too busy and too exhausted to build a tree every year, but also partly because another group of Beacon residents started holding a tree lighting with an actual tree. BeaconArts felt competing trees would feed into the damaging Old Beacon versus New Beacon narrative, pulling people apart instead of bringing them together.

Other events fell by the wayside, victims of burnout and development. The Electric Windows were turned into the city’s first million-dollar condos. The artist-made “Welcome to Beacon” sign near the train station was removed to make way for other condos. Rents started rising, and suddenly it was much more difficult to maintain a gallery on Main Street by selling a few paintings per month. Artists began moving west or north, and the pandemic put an end to openings and Second Saturday. To the casual viewer, it may have seemed as if Beacon’s art scene was retreating.

Passing the torch

“That’s the ironic, sad thing,” said Scott Lerman. “The arts are such a force for economic development and success, because it attracts people. But often, those same people in those places are pushed out when they can’t afford to stay in the main thrust of a community.”

Lerman and his partner, Susan Keiser, showed their art in Beacon galleries before they moved here. But once they had relocated, the galleries they had shown in were gone.

That led them to wonder how art can thrive in a post-gentrification environment. Part of the answer was the 24-by-30-foot garage that the arts have to contribute to an art scene that she might not have had access to. “I have the opportunity to share with my community and the community has the opportunity to come and see what kind of fresh ideas are being introduced by otherwise underrepre sented people in their own spaces,” she says.

The current show at Super Secret Projects features works by Darya Gohbina, who now runs Beacon Open Studios. The torch is being passed in other ways as well: This November, the second annual Beacon Bonfire arts festival will take place, after the first brought a blast of post-pandemic energy. The affordable housing built next to City Hall in 2019 has allowed some artists to stay in Beacon; Ellenwood says that one former BeaconArts member who moved to Newburgh plans to return.

Instead of Beacon’s art scene being in decline, maybe it’s just entering a new phase. “I have a passion for Beacon’s art scene and I want to contribute to it, but it’s not based on nostalgia,” says Jordan, who moved to Beacon in 2019. “Art is the scene grows again and brings in new people, they’ll have that same experience. Because I’ve never seen anything like this.”

Agoglia, the president of BeaconArts, believes the city’s art scene has a solid foundation. “I hear a lot of sob stories: ‘Oh, it’s all going downhill. I can’t do XYZ,’” he said. “Are you kidding me? Look around. It’s different people doing different things with different resources. You can get on board or you can stay home and make.”

Maybe, as Benavente suggests, it wasn’t the art that changed Beacon.

“The arts don’t cause change,” he says. “They’re a reflection of the change, of the culture and the people who are part of it. Art just represents what’s already there, good, bad or otherwise. It’s up to individuals to make something out of it.”

After Beacon, A New Home

Former council member finds Kingston has similar challenges

By Jeff Simms

S ara Pasti in Kingston has similar challenges

Pasti has been intimately involved in Beacon’s revitalization for most of the 18 years she lived in the city. After moving to Beacon in 2002, Pasti was elected to the City Council in 2007 as a Democrat and served three, 2-year terms representing Ward 4. She also was co-chair of the committee that drafted the comprehensive plan in 2007, updated it in 2017 and was named co-chair of the Main Street committee in 2021.

But after retiring in 2019 as director of the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz, Pasti found herself ready to downsize.

A year later, she began looking for apartments in Beacon as well as Newburgh and Kingston. “It was hard to find a place because so many Airbnb were sprouting up during the pandemic and taking over the rental units in each of those cities,” Pasti said. In addition, because she was now on a fixed income, she found that two-bedroom apartments in Beacon (she wanted a home office) were too expensive.

Fortunately, Pasti stumbled onto a small house in Kingston that she could afford to buy. She said that she has something to thank for the fortuity that Beacon had when she first moved there. “I saw it the next phase of my life, and I was open to having it anywhere in the Hudson Valley.”

In Kingston, like Beacon, Pasti said she’s found a thriving arts community. She said that the arts district, which trains students in the arts and other life skills and is in the process of creating a community print shop.

She found diverse neighborhoods and housing, she said, but also a fear among residents that the city could lose its po-
June 9, 2023

Support our nonprofit: highlandscurrent.org/join

**Philipstown to End E-Vehicle Honor System**

*Also weighs more solar, approves fees for e-waste*

**By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong**

Philipstown plans to replace the “honor boxes” at its e-vehicle chargers at Town Hall with equipment that requires payment.

Town Clerk Tara Percaccio reported that drivers deposited $80 in the first month, but the monthly yield then fell to, at most, $30. At the Philipstown Town Board meeting on June 1, she and Supervisor John Van Tassel also noted that some drivers monopolize the chargers for hours, or even overnight.

Once the new chargers are in place, “nobody's going to be getting a free ride any longer,” Van Tassel promised.

At the same time, the town plans to install two new pay-per-use chargers in the parking strip at Mayor’s Park in Cold Spring.

**Beacon: Then, Now and How**

The city has long been fertile ground for community activism. Why here?

**By Brian PJ Cronin**

In 1978, Steve Schwartz ran the New York City Marathon without training. It wasn’t the most questionable thing he did that weekend.

The following day Schwartz got a call from a friend inviting him on a sailboat ride from Beacon to Cold Spring. Schwartz had recently moved to Cold Spring from New York City in order to start a family — “I came upriver to spawn,” he said — and was living near the train station. Although he could barely move, he figured he could hobble to the train, ride to the Beacon waterfront, hobble to the boat, sail to Cold Spring and hobble home.

“ar I'm thinking deck chairs and a piña colada with a little umbrella in it,” he said. “I didn't know much about sailboats, but I figured you didn’t walk much on it.”

The boat was the brand-new sloop Woody Guthrie, a smaller-scale replica of the sloop Clearwater that folk singer Pete Seeger and friends had built 10 years before. Seeger was there and, as Schwartz found out when they pushed off from the dock and discovered that there wasn't enough wind to catch the sail, he liked to do things the old-fashioned way.

*Steve Schwartz with the sloop Woody Guthrie*

*Photo by B. Cronin*

**Putnam Valley Fire Sues Over Dumping**

*Seeks at least $1.75 million in cleanup costs*

**By Leonard Sparks**

The Putnam Valley Volunteer Fire Department is suing a contractor and a materials recycler to recover the more than $1.75 million in taxpayer funds it has spent cleaning up contaminated construction fill and debris illegally dumped in 2016 at the site of its new firehouse.

The federal lawsuit, filed May 19 in White Plains, accuses John Adorno, the owner of Universal Construction in Yorktown Heights, of dumping 10,000 cubic tons of material at the fire department property at 218 Oscawana Lake Road. It also names Metro Green, which recycles construction and excavation material at a facility in Mount Vernon.

The material included asphalt, bricks, concrete and lumber. Testing by HDR Engineering, which was hired to clean

*Photo by Lucy Frelich*
Beacon: Then, Now and How
(from Page 1)

“His favorite thing about that boat was rowing it,” Schwartz said. The immaculate Schwartz and the spry Seeger spent the next three hours rowing the 9-ton sloop down to what some sailors call The Wind Gate, where the Hudson River narrows and deepens between Storm King and Breakneck Ridge. The Dutch, however, referred to that area as “the weather hole,” as Schwartz discovered when the wind and current suddenly picked up with hellish intensity, determined to sink the Woody, as they had hundreds of other boats in that spot.

Three hours of rowing at a snail’s pace were followed by 10 minutes of breakneck panic, as the sloop zig-zagged back and forth, narrowly missing the shore again and again. Finally, with Cold Spring in sight, Seeger dropped the sail and the sloop gently coasted into the dock as if being carried on a pillow.

“I turned to Pete and said: ‘What do I have to do to get back on this boat?’” Schwartz recalled. “And Pete said: ‘Show up tomorrow; we’re doing some maintenance.’”

Forty-five years later, tomorrow hasn’t ended. Schwartz is now a captain of the Woody. Jen Clapp, who arrived in September 2001 from the West Coast and said it may have to do with the city itself. Schwartz, and others activist groups and community organizations have thrived in Beacon. Schwartz, and others said the city itself.

Clearwater has endured, and that many later generations have known. Schwartz and others said the city itself.

“Suddenly Beacon Mutual Aid sprang into existence,” and I thought, “Oh, my God, I can’t believe this thing that I’ve always wanted to have happen in my community is happening and I can’t participate,” she said. “It was painful.” She changed her work schedule so that she could help with distributions, and “I just loved it,” she said.

Every other Wednesday, a crew of volunteers change the world. It’s just people working together to do something good.”

The concept of mutual aid appeals to people who might not otherwise get involved in charity groups, Clapp says, because there’s no hierarchy. “I know several people who used to be in that line of cars every week who are now in positions of leadership in the group,” she said.

A similar philosophy governs Fareground, a food insecurity group that was founded in Beacon in 2014 and works with Common Ground Farm and Beacon Mutual Aid. “A lot of our volunteers are people who have in the past, or are currently, getting free food from us,” said Jamie Levato, its executive director, who in 2021 became the organization’s first paid employee. “That’s important to us, because they know what it’s like to have experienced food insecurity, so it helps how people engage with one another. But it’s also neighbors helping neighbors.”

“Being involved and taking action is simply the character of the Beacon community, and it has been for decades,” said Brooke Simmons, who helped to create Am Beacon Capital. In 2011, the group has raised $35,000 in scholarships for Beacon High School graduates, produced 100 episodes of a podcast that features community members and organized dozens of events, including a festival devoted to expanding mental health resources and an annual 5K run.

Simmons said the group was inspired by the legacy of Peter Seeger and his shuttered community centers, the Beacon Community Center and the MLK Jr. Center, and by role models such as Carmen Johnson and Lehman Anderson.

Julie Winterbottom, who moved to Beacon in 2016, said there’s no better antidote to despair and a sense of powerlessness than working with others to actually get things done.” Last year, someone she knew invited her to the first meeting of a Beacon group devoted to addressing the climate crisis. Winterbottom insisted she was too busy but would come to one meeting. However, Beacon Climate Action Now struck a chord and she’s now involved in the meetings since.

“It’s a collaborative, democratically run group,” she said. “We figure out a concrete campaign to work on and everyone pitches in. The climate crisis breeds fear and a feeling of helplessness, and this group has beautifully counteracted that.”

The group has been working with organizations such as Grannies and Rockers, and the Beacon Alliance to collect supplies and offer outreach to the waves of asylum-seekers who have arrived in the Hudson Valley in recent years. It is also pushing for more affordable housing. Those issues may not seem to have a lot to do with the river. However, Winterbottom said community care is an integral part of addressing climate change. “As the climate crisis accelerates, we’re only going to survive and thrive if we have community connection,” she said.

The mountain and the river

When Pete Seeger moved to Beacon in 1949, he had been branded a communist sympathizer. Only three businesses in town discovered when the wind and current suddenly picked up with hellish intensity, determined to sink the Woody, as they had hundreds of other boats in that spot.

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Every other Wednesday, a crew of volunteers
Once a GOP stronghold, the city has shifted Democratic

By Jeff Simms

Clara Lou Gould’s five terms as Beacon mayor were noteworthy for a number of reasons. She was the first (and remains the only) female mayor in Beacon and the longest-serving female mayor in state history. In office from 1990 to 2007, she presided over the early stages of Beacon’s revitalization, guiding the city out of debt and helping to combat crime while ushering in an appreciation for open spaces and the arts, both of which would fuel a resurgence that continues today.

She was also a Republican — a rare breed in Beacon these days, at least in elected office. In 2003, the same year that Gould won her fifth term, Beacon voters elected four Republicans and two Democrats to the City Council. Four years later, when Steve Gold, a Democrat, became mayor, voters installed five Democrats and Randy Casale, who was registered with the Independence Party.

The next mayoral election, in 2011, would see Casale elected to the first of two terms as mayor, running as the Independence and Republican candidate. The City Council members elected that year were split evenly between Democrats and Republicans, but beginning in 2013, Democrats have taken nearly every seat, with Casale the notable exception.

By 2019, Beacon Republicans put forth only one candidate and, in 2021, six Democrats ran unopposed for six council seats. (The mayor is elected every four years and the other council members run every two. The next municipal election will be this fall.) The trend is not surprising in the context of state voter registrations. There are nearly 23,000 more Democrats in Dutchess County than there are Republicans. Statewide, Democrats outnumber Republicans more than 2 to 1.

According to the most recent data available from the county Board of Elections, Beacon in 2020 was 56 percent Democrat and other left-leaning parties, such as Green and Working Families. Twenty-four percent of voters were unaffiliated and 15 percent were registered as Republican or Conservative.

“[It’s] very hard to convince someone to run for office with those kinds of numbers,” said Peter Forman, a Republican who was Beacon’s city attorney from 1990 to 1999. Forman, who later served more than 20 years as a Dutchess County judge, recalled that in 1989, when he managed Gould’s first campaign, Beacon was closer to 40 percent Democrat, 30 percent Republican and 30 percent unaffiliated.

That split allowed Gould to build a coalition between Republican and independent voters that put her into office.

Forman cited his own loss in 2020 as a Dutchess County judge and a loss in 2021 by longtime City Court Judge Tim Pagones as the latest evidence of Beacon’s shifting political allegiance. He suggested that older city residents who may have voted Republican have died or moved away and “their houses were bought by Brooklyn, by and large.”

Gold served five terms on the City Council before being elected mayor in 2007. He remembers knocking on residents’ doors during his first campaign, in the mid-1990s, and meeting only one family that had relocated from Brooklyn. “Now, that’s impossible,” he said.

Decades ago, “when Beacon was populated by people who worked in its factories and many of the same families lived here for generations, voters backed candidates whom they knew from work, church, school and their neighborhood, rather than based on political affiliation,” he said.

It’s unclear how active the Beacon Republican Committee is these days. The most recent activity on its Facebook page was a post more than a year ago expressing support for former President Donald Trump. An image at the top of the page lists the party’s candidates for the 2017 municipal elections, and its seat at beacongop.com is not operating. Susan Pagones, the wife of the former judge who managed his campaign, said she would forward a message to the committee chair but did not provide a name, and no one responded.

Justin Riccobono, who led the committee a decade ago but no longer lives in the city, said he does not know who the party’s leaders are in Beacon, and Michael McCormack, the chair of the Dutchess Republican Committee, did not respond to an email seeking information.

It could be challenging, Gold said, for a candidate to navigate New York State’s rules for collecting voter signatures and filing nominating petitions without guidance from party leadership. “It’s not something you could approach as a layperson and overcome those hurdles,” he said. “Without a strong party behind you, it could easily collapse.”

Clara Lou Gould said she viewed her time as mayor as working for everyone in the community. “I always considered it community service, not politics,” she said recently.

Gold also noted the adage that, on the
Politics (from Page 7)

local level, there aren’t Democratic or Republican ways to pave roads.

But as national politics become more divisive, are local voters inclined to solely support the candidates aligned with their favored party?

Lisa Jessup, the chair of the Beacon Democratic Committee, and Yvette Valdés Smith, a Democrat who represents part of Beacon in the Dutchess County Legislature, each suggested that the Beacon Republicans had engaged in what Jessup called “very sly voter suppression” by not fielding candidates in the most recent municipal elections.

“It’s derailed of them not to give people in their party candidates to vote for,” said Jessup. She acknowledged that in the upcoming election, Democrat Eric Eckley will face a tough challenge in East Fishkill, where he is running for a legislative seat representing District 21. Voters there have historically supported Republicans, “but we put forth a candidate,” Jessup said.

In addition, if fewer Beacon voters turn out because Democrats are running unopposed for the City Council, “that can have an effect on the countywide races,” where Republicans and Conservatives hold 17 of the 25 seats in the Dutchess Legislature, Valdés Smith said.

In 2019, with only one Republican on the municipal ballot, voter turnout in Beacon was 44 percent. Two years later, with Democrat Greg Johnston challenging Pagones for City Court judge and the six Democrats running unopposed for council seats, turnout was 32 percent.

“It’s always good to have meaningful debate,” said Forman. “It helps to keep elected officials accountable. If you don’t feel any pressure from the other side, you’re in a different position than if you’re in a more balanced community.”

A Plague Fueled by Crack

Beacon reeled from crime in the ‘90s

By Leonard Sparks

Before Daniel Aubry began marketing real estate from the storefront at 192 Main St. in Beacon, the building became a shrine to Michael Adrian Brown.

Police found the 19-year-old sprawled on the stoop of the then-boarded-up structure on Sept. 5, 1995 — one bullet struck Brown’s left arm, the other his face. People began filling the stoop with candles, cards and flowers in honor of the former Beacon High School student.

An article in the Poughkeepsie Journal described the building as “a one-time barber-shop, now marred by graffiti and peeling paint.” For police, the corner of Main and Willow streets, where 192 Main sat, was at the epicenter of the illegal drug trade and an era.

“Weapons, armed robberies, you name it,” said Harold Delamater, a retired Beacon detective. “It was the Wild West.”

Before city officials declared a full-fledged renaissance, Beacon residents had to survive the 1990s, when the emergence of crack cocaine fueled an outbreak of drug sales, robberies and burglaries. Homicides and reported rapes remained low, according to crime data, but other violent crimes — aggravated assaults and robberies — reached highs in the 1990s, when the crack epidemic spread upriver from New York City.

Beacon averaged 110 violent crimes during the period, peaking at 173 in 1995. Brown’s death was the sole homicide that year, but the city recorded its highest number of robberies and aggravated assaults since at least 1990.

Property crimes — burglaries, larcenies and car thefts — also spiked, which authorities attributed to people addicted to narcotics searching for items such as VCRs and televisions that could be sold. The 168 burglaries recorded in 1991 was 10 times the number recorded in 2022; the city averaged 209 larcenies annually during the 1990s, nearly twice as many as the 115 from 2022.

When Clara Lou Gould defeated Jim Fredericks in 1989 to become Beacon’s mayor, she named the illegal drug problem as a priority. She still held the mayor’s seat in 2000, when the crime wave began a steady decline as Beacon drew new residents, housing and businesses.

“People did get involved,” said Gould, when asked what led to a safer city. “This is your city; you can’t leave it all to everybody else.”

Police in Beacon and Poughkeepsie first began to notice in the late 1980s the emergence of the smokeable cocaine derivative that became known as crack. According to a Poughkeepsie Journal article in November 1986, “until six months ago, many local police officers didn’t know what the new crystalline form of cocaine looked like.”

By March 1988, Fredericks and leaders of Beacon’s Muslim community gathered for a march along Main Street, where they vowed to drive out drug dealers. Before crack, Beacon officers mostly dealt with a handful of heroin addicts who largely kept to themselves; the odd person smoking a joint; public drinking; and dice games on Main Street, said Delamater.

Crack “slowly worked its way into Beacon,” he said. “When it came in, it came in with a vengeance. We were not prepared.”

Dealers selling crack dominated on the West End, along Main Street between Bank Square and Elm, and powder cocaine at the East End. Main and Cliff streets, and Main and Willow, where Brown died, were two of the hot corners, said Delmater.

The arrests during the 1990s included a man charged with chasting a woman with a knife and demanding her bank cards, car and money; three Beacon men charged with possessing 66 vials of crack after police stopped a taxi near the Edgewater apartments; and two men arrested 2½ hours apart for selling drugs at Main and Cliff.

Police raided a third-floor apartment on Cliff Street being used as a stash house and a pool hall on the East End where dealers sold cocaine, said Delmater. In July 1990, police charged six people with felony cocaine possession and sales after raiding 163 and 174 Main St. and finding 6 ounces of cocaine and $5,000 cash.

Beacon’s East End hosted most of the city’s heroin trade, he said. Police raided one house and the dealer threw 100 bags of heroin out of a window — where it landed at the feet of a police officer, said Delmater.

Beacon averaged 106 burglaries annually in the 1990s, compared to an average of 20 since 2018. In addition to VCRs and televisions, thieves looked for cash and small items of value that could be fenced, such as jewelry. In 1990, a man living at the Mount Beacon Hotel was charged with committing burglaries at 15 businesses over a three-year period. Police said he stole things he could fit in his pocket.

That same year, police said they were investigating a string of five burglaries that occurred overnight on Aug. 29, including a 1987 Iroc Z Camaro valued at $12,000 and $200 in jewelry and cash.

One serial thief had a special tactic, said Delmater: “People would leave their windows open and the guy would lift the screen or poke a hole in it and then take a stick and reach in and grab the pocketbook that was close to the window.”

Beacon, which had two armed robberies in 2022, averaged 20 annually throughout the 1990s, including 28 in 1995. The victims included pedestrians on Main Street.

A man with a pistol stuck in his belt stole $300 from Little Joe’s Corner Store at 73 Teller Ave., in March 1990. In December 1992, a
ployed another strategy, announcing in
1989, aided Beacon’s undermanned
Dutchess County Drug Task Force, formed
by state data. Police also arrested more people for violent
and property crimes between the end of the
1990s and the mid-1990s.
By January 2001, Gould was lauding
Beacon’s recovery in a State of the City
address that highlighted the coming Dia
Center for Arts, several waterfront projects
and the strengthening of the city’s code-
enforcement office.
A year earlier, larcenies were still high,
at 243, but violent crimes had fallen to 69
and burglaries to 35.
In an article about Gould’s speech, Ori
Brachfeld, then the owner of Dash Lock &
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nal that “it’s been a long struggle, but I
believe we’re heading in the right direction.”
“The future looks good,” he said.

NEXT WEEK:
A look at Beacon’s small businesses
and a roundtable discussion with
Beacon’s four living mayors.

(Continued from Page 8)

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