



Haldane, Garrison School Districts Hold the Line

Both propose budgets that match state tax cap

By Joey Asher

The Haldane and Garrison school districts have each proposed budgets for 2024-25 that match their state-mandated tax caps. If the districts had chosen to override the caps, as happened in Garrison in 2022, at least 60 percent of voters would need to approve. The tax cap calculated for each district in the state varies each year based on multiple factors. At a meeting of the Haldane school board on Tuesday (March 5), Superintendent Philip Benante proposed \$29.2 million in spending, representing a 2.8 percent tax increase. The draft budget includes funding for:

- A second English as a New Language (ENL) teacher: \$100,000
- Converting a part-time psychologist to full-time, giving the district two full-time positions: \$77,000
- A third school counselor: \$100,000
- Increased funding for professional development around literacy for elementary school teachers: \$5,000
- Professional development conferences for teachers: \$15,000
- Updated phonics resources: \$20,000
- Special education funding to expand services: \$50,000

It also cuts funding for an elementary teaching position, saving \$100,000. Benante said the district could have 17 classes instead

(Continued on Page 7)



During the public comment, audience members held signs indicating their positions on the resolution. Photo by J. Simms

Beacon Passes Cease-fire Resolution

Vote caps five weeks of heated meetings

By Jeff Simms

Sixty-eight speakers made public comments over more than 3½ hours on Monday (March 4) before the Beacon City Council at 11 p.m. adopted a resolution calling for an “immediate, permanent and negotiated multilateral” cease-fire in Gaza. The measure passed 5-0, with Jeff Domanski and Mayor Lee Kyriacou abstaining. The vote drew loud applause from one side of the City Hall courtroom; the resolution will

now be sent to President Joe Biden and other federal and state elected officials who represent Beacon and the Highlands. The council approved a resolution that differs from a version posted on the city’s website on Feb. 29. After listening to the public comment, council members announced they would be voting on a draft that had been circulated (but not posted) that afternoon. Domanski said afterward that he abstained because the resolution fell short on “more universal and Beacon-specific guidance” it could have included. He also expressed concern that the council did not

(Continued on Page 5)

Part II

The Good Death

Is there a right way to grieve?
Rather than prescribed stages, residents of the Highlands have forged their own paths.

By Joey Asher

In the late 1960s, psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross interviewed terminally ill patients and posited five stages of dying — denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. After her 1969 bestseller, *On Death and Dying*, was published, the stages also became associated with grieving. Kübler-Ross later clarified that the stages could occur in any order or not at all and suggested a possible sixth stage, “meaning,” for those grieving. For Nancy Montgomery, one stage could have been “soccer practice.” When her husband, Jim Lovell, died on Dec. 1, 2013, in a Metro-North train derailment, she didn’t have time to grieve. “I was trying to survive,” says Montgomery, a Philipstown resident who is a member of the Putnam County Legislature. “I had three kids and two jobs. We were so busy.” Indeed, Montgomery’s experience, along with others in the Highlands, illustrates what many psychologists and counselors now believe: that grief doesn’t follow any model. “There are no absolutes,” says Karla Karpowicz, a psychotherapist who practices in Newburgh. For Montgomery, life without her

husband began with help from the community and her and her husband’s friends and colleagues. “I had three months of people bringing me food every day,” she recalls. “I was carried by this community. I was held.” But for years, she didn’t grieve. “I dove into the challenges of existing life to avoid it,” she says, including her jobs, running for the Philipstown Town Board and taking her teenagers to soccer games and play practice. Her son Jack acted in Haldane’s production of *Our Town* the week after his father died. Montgomery also began to advocate improved safety at Metro-North, such as automatic brakes that might have prevented the derailment that killed Lovell and three other people. While Montgomery attended therapy, it wasn’t grief therapy, she says. “I was working through the difficulties of my current life.” It wasn’t until her sons were on their own as young adults, she says, that she felt the impact of her husband’s death. “It became crawling-on-the-floor debilitating,” she says. “The photos around my house would stop me in my tracks.”

(Continued on Page 8)



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: VAHE KEUKJIAN

By Michael Turton

Vahe Keukjian is a moderator with the Hudson Valley chapter of Braver Angels, which works to reduce political polarization. He will lead a workshop on Saturday (March 9) at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring; see bit.ly/braver-angels-CS.

Are you preaching to the converted at these workshops?

People who want to deal with political polarization show up and those who think political polarization is just fine tend not to. The group's founders — David Blankenhorn, who leans left, David Lapp, who is conservative, and Bill Doherty, a psychologist — saw how the 2016 election accelerated political polarization. The first workshop was held in New Lebanon, Ohio, in a swing district in a swing state. Ten Trump voters and 10 Clinton voters attended. When asked why they agreed to participate, they all said: "We have a community to run, schools to operate,



roads to build. We have to find a way past this rancor so we can live together."

How do you address polarization?

Many people don't want what is an increasingly intense process in the U.S. of tribal polarization, stereotyping and demonizing people. Braver Angels isn't about everyone agreeing. The goal is to help re-instill and encourage habits that nourish democracy, such as the ability to hear and respect differing opinions without trying to convert people. It's the ability to find common ground, the skills of listening and cooperation. It's learning how to make decisions that everybody can abide by, even if they don't agree, because they accept the process.

Would it be better if most voters were independent?

That assumes politics operates issue by issue. Even with independents, most of their deci-

sion-making probably falls along certain lines, beliefs they may share with a party they don't want to be associated with. It would be a lovely world if we all made our decisions on the merits of each case, but that's not how we operate. In the political world, we make affiliations.

Is extreme emotion part of the problem?

In American politics over the last 40 or 50 years, people have become more polarized and hostile over group affiliations and ideology but less polarized over issues. The hostility hides the fact that there's quite a bit of common ground. You can't have a simplistic, cartoonish view of someone else if you don't also have one of yourself. Everybody has thoughts or opinions across a spectrum of beliefs and orientations. The more people feel rather than listen, the harder it is to make democracy work. There's no guarantee it's going to work. But we do know how it's going to turn out if we don't try.

What did you take from 2020 election?

Braver Angels spent a year holding workshops on trustworthy elections, getting people from the left, right and center to discuss their concerns. There were an enormous number of points of agreement. Everyone thought there should be voter ID and that it shouldn't be impossible to get; that voting should be easy and cheating should be hard; and that voter verification systems are needed. Some people thought the election was stolen and others didn't. It was remarkable to see how deeply committed they were to election integrity, no matter their party. They believed it was essential to democracy. It was wonderful to see how respectful and imaginative they were together. These conversations are waiting to be had all over the country.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Which month would you like to eliminate?

February. Maybe it has a purpose, but I'm not there yet.



Marissa Koshy, Beacon

December. Too dark and too much pressure on people.




Chris Duffy, Nelsonville

March. My body can't take any more cold weather!



Ana Escobedo, Cold Spring



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NEWS BRIEFS

Foundation Awards Grants to Assist Seniors

Distributes \$254,000 for transportation, meals

The Field Hall Foundation, based in Cortlandt Manor, on Feb. 29 announced \$254,000 in grants to organizations that provide transportation, housing and meal services to seniors in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties.

The recipients include Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess (\$40,000), the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (\$25,000), Dutchess Outreach (\$15,000), Second Chance Foods in Brewster (\$10,000) and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (\$5,000).

The grant to Dutchess County will fund a partnership between the Office for the Aging and GoGo Technologies that arranges rides through Lyft or Uber for older adults who are not eligible for medical transportation via Medicaid and have no other way to reach non-emergency appointments or outpatient procedures.

The county also received \$20,000 from the state Office for the Aging and may expand the program to include rides to visit loved ones at hospitals and nursing homes. To learn more, call 845-486-2555 or visit dutchessny.gov/ofatransportation.

Beacon Library Seeking Trustees

Candidate petitions due by March 25

The Howland Public Library in Beacon is seeking candidates for four vacancies on its nine-member board of trustees. The election is scheduled for April 25.

Candidates must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old and residents of the Beacon school district for at least 30 days before the election. Petitions can be picked up at the library and must be returned by 5 p.m. on March 25, notarized, with the signatures of at least 25 people eligible to vote in school district elections.

Three board seats will be for 5-year terms and one for a 2-year term. They are held by Diane Landau-Flayter and Kathleen Furfey, who are not seeking re-election; Elizabeth Murphy, who was appointed last year to complete an unfinished term; and Phoebe Zinman, who is leaving the board after three years.

The other board members are Jessica Conway, Emily Pullen, Brooke Simmons, Joseph Vergolina and Jeffrey Yang.

CDC Changes COVID Guidelines

Bottom line: Stay home if you are sick

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its guidance for people who test positive for COVID-19, suggesting they no longer need to isolate at home for five days.

The guidance, which also applies to respiratory viruses such as influenza and RSV, boils down to staying home if you are sick. It was the first revision to coronavirus

guidelines since 2021.

Further, the CDC said symptoms, not testing, should determine when a person can again be in contact with others. It recommends that people isolate until they have been without fever for at least 24 hours and their symptoms improve. After their return, people should be cautious for five days, such as limiting close contact, wearing a mask and improving ventilation.

State Offers Free Tax Filing

Available to lower-income residents

New York State announced this week that it will begin offering free online tax filing as of Tuesday (March 12) to people in the lowest tax brackets.

A partnership with Code for America will allow eligible residents to file their state and federal taxes online. New York is one of 12 states participating in a pilot of an IRS program called Direct File and one of three providing integrated state filing.

After completing the federal return at directfile.irs.gov, New York residents can export their information to a state return. Those eligible to use the service will typically have income only from New York state and only from wages, Social Security benefits, unemployment benefits and/or interest and plan to claim the standard deduction.

Taxpayers whose adjusted gross income is \$79,000 or less annually also may qualify for free online software. See tax.ny.gov/pit/efile.

AROUND THE REGION

Peekskill: Shelter Renews Lease Until 2025

Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill (CHHOP), which since 1988 has been the only shelter in northern Westchester County, said on Monday (March 4) it had signed a two-year lease renewal for the facility and Fred's Pantry.

In 2023, the Jan Peek House provided shelter to 331 people, including 56 veterans. In addition, its housing programs — Turning Point and RISE — assisted 125 people. Fred's Pantry provided meals in 2023 to more than 18,000 households, including 62 percent who were new to the service. For information, see chhop.org.

Hyde Park: Committee Disqualifies Town Judge

The state Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics in December barred a newly elected Town of Hyde Park judge from hearing criminal cases because of his campaign rhetoric.

The committee of former and current judges concluded that Michael Plass, a former police officer who ran on the Republican/Conservative line, "effectively promised to aid law enforcement rather than apply the law neutrally and impartially" by pledging during his campaign to "incarcerate offenders, exclude drug dealers from the community,

ensure maximum sentencing of repeat offenders and protect victims of domestic violence."

Plass was banned from hearing "all criminal cases; cases in any court involving allegations of domestic violence; all vehicle and traffic law matters; and cases in any court involving purported drug dealers."

According to *Mid Hudson News*, Town Justice Jean McArthur has been handling her calendar plus all of the cases Plass would be hearing.

Pawling: Police Find Surprise in Basement

State troopers called to a home on March 2 to investigate a report of a stabbing found a surprise in the basement: a 4-foot-long alligator.

Following an argument over tools, one of two visitors fired several shots from a semi-automatic rifle and the homeowner allegedly stabbed the other visitor, according to the Dutchess County district attorney. After searching the home, the troopers called the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which sent an officer to remove the alligator.

The homeowner and the man who fired shots were each charged with attempted murder. The injured man was taken to Danbury Hospital.

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Written by Nan Nelson-Ewing,
Vickie Ramirez and Kate Moira Ryan

Directed by Alice Jankell

Opens **March 8-10 at**
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March 15-17 at Arts on the Lake

March 23-24
at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center

Cinema Depot: Easter Parade

March 15 at 7:30p

Cat Guthrie: 9 Lives Encore

March 16 at 7:30p [SOLD OUT]

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Good death

Your article moved me ("The Good Death," March 1). Thanks for giving language and concrete examples of how to think differently about the end of life. It doesn't have to be feared but, rather, a precious time to honor.

Vreni Hommes, Cold Spring

Thank you for printing this. It is so important.

Lillian Rosengarten, Cold Spring

Cease-fire resolution

A resolution represents collective and community activism ("Beacon Council Pivots on Cease-fire," March 1). A simple solution for City Council members would be to address this and any other local, regional, national or international issue as citizens. Unless there is a law to be changed, they can sign their names to a letter or petition just like anyone else.

Further, I don't think including a statement about climate change is appropriate. That can be another collective community action. We can use the same process to address gun violence, reparations, social equity, education, taxes, housing and jobs.

Ron Donofrio, Beacon

Gospel truth

Documentary director Leo Sacks introduced me to Raymond Myles a number of years ago ("A Gospel Star's Life, Murder and Legacy," Feb. 23). While I enjoy gospel music based in the African American community experience, I never expected the thrill I got from watching a few videos of Myles' choir. Chills raced down my neck and back!

If you have a few minutes, listen to his

music and watch some YouTube videos. The excitement, spirit and love Myles creates through his music and choir arrangements is amazing. Thank you, Leo, for doing so much to preserve this amazing American artist's work.

Lynn Miller, Cold Spring

Haldane swimmers

Angela Thomas, assistant to the Haldane athletic director, was instrumental in making these athletic mergers happen ("Haldane Swimmers Make a Splash," March 1). Thanks to her and the school district for advocating for the students in such a supportive and empowering way.

Rebecca Pearsall, Cold Spring

Fjord Trail

Although I moved to North Carolina in 2016, I was a 16-year resident of Philipstown, serving as the executive director of Hudson Highlands Land Trust for most of that time. As such, I was directly involved in early and interim efforts to plan the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. I've continued my involvement, most recently as a board member of HHFT Inc., traveling to the Highlands often to continue my work on its behalf. Not surprisingly, I'm an unabashed supporter of the Fjord Trail.

This may be the most beautiful but least accessible shoreline along the Hudson River. Echoing the eloquent comments of previous letter writers to The Current, I am convinced that when completed, it will provide a means for anyone to walk, run or ride from Beacon to Cold Spring, with many waypoints between. Once completed, this linear park, like many others in riverside communities from New York City to Albany, will be a cherished local

resource that residents and visitors alike won't be able to imagine living without.

There has been much speculation in the past year about what the Fjord Trail will or won't look like, particularly regarding the proposed shoreline section between Cold Spring and Breakneck Ridge. HHFT's talented design team has completed the concept design for this section.

In addition to getting people safely off Route 9D and directly alongside the river, the shoreline trail will restore and make a heavily disturbed and degraded river edge more resilient. Through erosion repair, invasive species removal and native species restoration, the trail will provide a true "living shoreline," with healthier habitat for flora and fauna above and below the waterline.

You have an opportunity through the HHFT website to view a series of videos at hhft.org/about-the-fjord-trail/publications that realistically show what you can expect to experience once the shoreline section is completed. I strongly encourage everyone to become better informed by viewing these videos.

Since 2020, HHFT representatives have participated in more than 90 stakeholder meetings, public presentations and visioning sessions, and monthly hold a 2 p.m. Sunday chat at Hubbard Lodge. With the state environmental quality review process slated for spring, I urge anyone with questions to seek factual answers directly from HHFT. Add your ideas for a better linear park and come out and openly express your support during the public comment period. Ten years from now you'll enjoy what you have helped make a reality.

Andy Chmar, Highlands, North Carolina



The Resolution

City of Beacon City Council

RESOLUTION NO. 30 OF 2024

CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE, PERMANENT, AND NEGOTIATED MULTILATERAL CEASEFIRE AND UNITING FOR PEACE



Call for and facilitate an immediate and permanent negotiated multilateral ceasefire, towards a formal regional peace process, as well as normalized regional relations; and

Call for the release of all hostages and those unjustly imprisoned, both Israeli and Palestinian; and

Call for the immediate increased flow of humanitarian aid into all of Gaza, facilitated by mutually-trusted third parties.

WHEREAS, all human life is precious; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beacon aspires to be a safe and welcoming community, and is committed to promoting peace, unity and respect for all of its residents and community members; and

WHEREAS, on October 7th, 2023, 1,200 Israeli citizens were killed and 240 taken hostage, and since then more than 30,000 Palestinian citizens have been killed and more than 1.5 million are at risk of starvation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beacon expresses its unwavering support and empathy for all members of the Beacon community who have been impacted by the violence happening in Palestine and Israel; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beacon acknowledges the deep personal impact that the violence in Palestine and Israel has had on numerous members of our community, and

extends its sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones and extended family members in this conflict; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beacon encourages all residents and community members to treat one another with empathy, compassion, and respect; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beacon condemns all forms of racism, discrimination, and violence (and support thereof) which target Arab, Palestinian, Muslim, Jewish, Israeli, or other communities, as well as any other form of intimidation, “doxxing,” harassment, public shaming, and hate speech, whether online or in-person; and

WHEREAS, the United States holds immense diplomatic power to facilitate an effective peace process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Beacon urges the Biden Administration to:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Beacon:

Calls for continued open, honest, respectful, and tolerant conversation among our local community in support of our common humanity; and

Recognizes the importance of addressing the root causes of crises to the development of a pathway to lasting peace and justice, and to educating the public on the interconnectedness of climate change, global conflicts, and fostering awareness and dialogues within the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon passage, a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Office of U.S. President Joe Biden, the Office of U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, the Office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, the Office of U.S. Representative Pat Ryan, the Office of Governor Kathy Hochul, the Office of State Senator Rob Rolison, and the Office of State Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson.

Cease-fire (from Page 1)

vote on the version of the document that the public was able to see and comment on. Kyriacou has opposed the resolution from the beginning, saying the City Council should not weigh in on issues outside of Beacon.

The council last month signaled that it would not address the conflict through a resolution but pivoted two weeks ago after public outcry.

On Monday, the room was sharply divided. A majority of the speakers asked the council to approve the resolution, although there were a significant number who opposed it. There was shouting from spectators, and Kyriacou made liberal use of the gavel in an attempt to keep order.

Many who opposed the measure described it as one-sided and divisive. Proponents cited the number of Palestinian lives lost in the conflict and demanded the council “be on the right side of history.”

Chaos erupted briefly at around the

two-hour mark. While speaking, a man who identified himself as a member of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance synagogue equated supporters of the resolution with “people that are terrorizing their own citizens,” prompting several audience members to object, saying he had portrayed them as “terrorists.”

Kyriacou restarted the three-minute time limit for the man after the interruption. Moments later, Neesee Lee, a Wallkill resident who said she is of Palestinian descent, came to the podium. Lee said she would not adhere to the three-minute clock because Kyriacou had “restarted a racist person’s time without calling out the racist comments he made.”

She continued speaking when her time expired and began to shout, ignoring Kyriacou’s request for her to finish her statement. As she shouted, City Administrator Chris White unplugged her microphone, but Lee stepped away from the podium and shouted louder as she continued reading her statement.

Kyriacou got up from his seat and, also without a microphone, loudly called the next

speaker’s name. The mayor and the speaker faced off for a moment until Lee finished her statement, ending it with “and you’re a racist,” as she took her coat and left the room.

Beacon police officers showed up moments later but did not stay in the courtroom for long or remove anyone.

While the majority of the speakers Monday were from Beacon, others said they had come from New Paltz, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Cold Spring, Rockland County and elsewhere to weigh in, with most favoring the resolution.

In a statement on Wednesday, Brent Spodek, the rabbi of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, said he and other residents had formed a group called the Hudson Valley Lasting Peace Coalition to advocate the addition to the resolution of acknowledgments of the Oct. 7 attack and Israeli hostages.

“We’re so grateful that the council listened to our feedback,” he said. “That said, this process did absolutely nothing for the people suffering in Gaza and Israel and did real damage to our community here.”

Poughkeepsie Chair Ends Meeting

The Poughkeepsie Common Council ended its meeting on Tuesday (March 6) after 45 minutes because some audience members refused to stop yelling at each other.

The meeting began with public comment, and most speakers offered thoughts about a resolution proposed by five council members that calls for a cease-fire in Gaza and the release of hostages.

After public comment ended, audience members continued to shout. Chair Da’Ron Wilson, who had earlier asked for spectators to remain civil, called for a motion to adjourn, which was offered, seconded and passed. No other items on the agenda were addressed.



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House Candidate's Goals: 'Save Democracy' and Defeat Lawler

Democrat hopes to oust first-term Republican from District 17

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Mondaire Jones served one term in the U.S. House before redistricting in 2022 led him to compete — unsuccessfully — for a seat from New York City instead of the nearby suburbs he had been representing.

Now the 36-year-old Democrat wants to return to Capitol Hill with a win on Nov. 5 over incumbent Mike Lawler, a Republican who represents the 17th congressional district that includes Philipstown.

Jones, who grew up in Rockland County in a single-parent family dependent on federal housing aid (and sometimes food stamps), brought his campaign to Philipstown on Sunday (March 3) in a session organized by the local Democratic committee.

Addressing about 75 people in Hubbard Lodge at Fahnestock State Park, Jones said he is seeking another House term because Lawler and fellow Republicans, who wrested control from Democrats in 2022, present “an existential threat to freedoms” and waste time on dubious pursuits such as a “sham impeachment inquiry” into President Joe Biden. “I don’t

think there’s a problem that Mike Lawler has said he is trying to solve that the Republicans hadn’t created in the first place,” Jones said.

He faulted Republicans in the House for refusing to ban assault rifles to prevent gun violence; blocking assistance to U.S. allies; torpedoing immigration reform and border control legislation; threatening health care, including legal abortion and in-vitro fertilization (IVF); and wrecking the federal budget-setting process.

“We have to take the gavel away from them,” he argued. “Lawler and the extreme MAGA Republicans can barely keep the lights on in Washington.”

(While hardly castigating his party, Lawler has criticized some GOP factions for foot-dragging on budget matters and said at a December town hall that he would prefer to have neither Biden nor Donald Trump on the ballot. “I don’t think either of them are able to do the job, frankly, at this point,” he said.)

Jones asserted that when he was in office, from January 2021 to January 2023, “we actually did things to improve people’s lives. We rescued the economy from the pandemic,” instituted major infrastructure upgrades, adopted clean-energy and other environmental initiatives, and passed a law to protect same-sex marriages. “We Democrats did that.”

He had barely arrived in Congress when then-President Trump “and two-thirds of



Mondaire Jones, who is challenging Rep. Mike Lawler, visited Philipstown on March 3. He is shown with Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

my Republican colleagues in the House were trying to overturn the election” as Trump followers attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, Jones said.

“Democracy is where your vote matters,” he said. As another Biden-Trump election looms, he advised Trump opponents to

talk to fellow citizens in friendly, informal exchanges and “keep emphasizing” that “democracy is in peril in this country. This is about saving democracy.”

Lawler won the seat in 2022, defeating Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Philipstown resident campaigning for a sixth term.

Jones had represented the district that covered parts of Rockland and southern Westchester counties, but, following a 2022 change in boundaries, entered the race for the 10th District in New York City, where he finished third in a 10-person Democratic primary.

He faces a June 25 primary against Mary-Ann Carr, a former Bedford town supervisor who reported having raised \$15,716 by Dec. 31, compared to \$2.14 million for Jones. Lawler said he had collected \$3.32 million.

In his remarks on March 3, Jones downplayed the primary. “We’re going to skip over that,” he said. “We’re just going to go straight to November.”

After earning his undergraduate degree from Stanford and a law degree from Harvard, Jones worked in private practice, in the Justice Department during the Obama administration, and in the Westchester County Attorney’s Office, where, according to his campaign biography, “he defended correctional officers and took guns away from dangerous people.”

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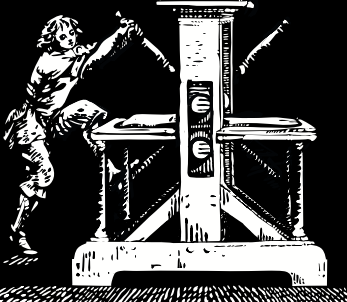
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Is Trail Connector the Key?

Group wants path from Beacon station to bridge

By Jeff Simms

A coalition of planning and transportation professionals is trying to build momentum and gain funding for a 1-mile walking and biking path that it says would promote safe, non-vehicular access to the outdoors for nearly 125,000 people in Dutchess and Orange counties.

The Regional Connector would run from the Metro-North station in Beacon to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. Closing that gap would connect Beacon and Newburgh and potentially unify a growing trails network even further, says Naomi Hersson-Ringskog, an urban planner who lives and works in Newburgh.

“We’re talking about 50 years from now having this connection that underpins all the future development,” she said. “This is something that can be integrated into community development plans.”

The potential for connectivity is significant, although many of the projects it would link are only proposals. The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, if implemented as envisioned, would connect Cold Spring and Beacon, making a bike trip from Newburgh or the Beacon waterfront to Main Street in Cold Spring much safer than Route 9D.

If a trail is built along the dormant Beacon rail line, a trip to Hopewell Junction, or the Walkway Over the Hudson, becomes possible. The Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail, which is being constructed in segments around Beacon, will also be active.

On the west side of the bridge, a network of proposed bike routes could take riders in one direction toward the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail or, along the Newburgh waterfront, to the Quassaick Creek Greenway Trail, a path in the planning stages that would extend from the Hudson River to Crystal Lake in Newburgh.

The sheer number of trails being considered demonstrates the emerging demand for a network of bike paths, says Thomas Wright, a Beacon resident and head of the city’s Greenway Committee who works in



A map created by the Regional Connector coalition shows anticipated and existing trails.

Newburgh. “This would make bike riding much safer,” he said. “It would be incredible for people on the west side.”

The idea of a regional connector is not entirely new. The City of Beacon in 2016 received a \$5,000 grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway agency to study the creation of a trail running from the Metro-North station to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

However, the city says it cannot currently back the proposal because it already has more than \$42 million in capital projects, including Beacon’s central fire station and the rehabilitation of Fishkill Avenue/Teller Avenue, on tap for this year and next.

The city is working with Scenic Hudson on the Fjord Trail and Dutchess County on the potential Beacon line trail — projects “that are more achievable,” City Administrator Chris White said. If Beacon were to invest time or funding into the Regional Connector, “it would impede our ability to do those projects,” he said.

That doesn’t mean there’s no support for a connector. Paul Steely White, the execu-

tive director of Parks & Trails New York, said “there’s probably not a more important greenway trail in the state right now. It’s a linchpin, the critical link that can unlock enormous connectivity for hundreds of thousands of people.”

By connecting to Newburgh, where, according to the city’s Transportation Advisory Committee and U.S. Census data, 30 percent of residents do not have cars and 27 percent live in poverty, the Regional Connector would provide “inclusive and welcoming access to regional trails and parkland,” said Fjord Trail Executive Director Amy Kacala.

For it to be built, the Connector would have to run through land owned by Metro-North and the New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA). Two parcels owned by the Open Space Institute and known collectively as the 55-acre Verplanck Landing site sit at what would be the northern terminus of the path.

A NYSBA spokesperson said this week that the agency “supports efforts to make

our bridges more accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists” and “looks forward to continuing discussions” on the Regional Connector proposal.

The advocacy group, which also includes Michael O’Brien, who is a member of the NYSBA Board of Commissioners, and Eleanor Peck, Beacon’s former Climate Smart coordinator, plans to hold meetings in Beacon and Newburgh this spring to gather support from community members and discuss funding sources.

Wright and Hersson-Ringskog estimate that the connector would cost nearly \$6 million. White, the Parks & Trails New York executive director, said he hopes New York State will take on the project to promote biking as the type of “bread-and-butter transportation that drives tourism and generates local spending.”

“This is, in my opinion, how tax money is well spent,” added Hersson-Ringskog. “It can make the whole region more attractive for commerce as well as quality of life.”

Budgets (from Page 1)

of 18 in 2024-25 and remain within its class-size guidelines, which are 18 to 20 students for grades K-2 and 20 to 22 for grades 3-5.

Under the state budget proposal from Gov. Kathy Hochul, the district expects to receive \$2.9 million in Foundation Aid, an increase of 5.63 percent, and total state aid of \$4.5 million. It also will collect \$22.7 million in property taxes.

In addition to the budget, the May 21 ballot will include two spending measures. The first would allow the district to borrow \$275,000 to buy a 65-passenger school bus, a 16-passenger school bus with a lift and a zero-turn

mower, while the second would permit it to spend \$815,000 from reserve funds to replace the artificial turf on the athletic field and the fence around the softball field.

The school board scheduled a hearing on the proposed budget for March 19, a board vote on April 23 and a second public hearing on May 7.

The board seats held by John Hedlund and Maggie Valentine will also be on the ballot in May.

Garrison

The Garrison School administration on Feb. 28 proposed a \$13.3 million budget, representing a 4.44 percent tax increase. It

includes funding for:

- Gym roof replacement: \$250,000
- Gym floor refinishing: \$55,000
- Gym sound-system upgrade: \$30,000
- New school sign: \$30,000
- Artwork installation for bare walls: \$20,000
- New field trip budget: \$25,000
- Annual climate summit: \$10,000
- Biodigester for environmental education: \$15,000.

Under the governor’s proposed budget, Garrison would lose \$234,000 in Foundation Aid because of a change to the formula

used to determine how much each district receives, according to the presentation. If unchanged by the Legislature, that would represent a 40 percent reduction from 2023-24. The district’s tax levy for 2024-25 is expected to raise \$11.2 million.

The school board said it will host a series of meetings before the May vote to provide more details.

The ballot in May will also include measures asking voters to allow the district to enter into multi-year contracts with Haldane and O’Neill to send students there for high school, and three board seats now held by Courtney McCarthy, David Gelber and Jennifer Harriton-Wilson.



Michele Gedney performed with her husband, Rick, who died in January 2023.

Photo provided

The Good Death

(Continued from Page 1)

By grieving, Montgomery says, she started to become comfortable. “There’s nothing to get over,” she says. “It’s part of me. I’m going to hold the grief until I die. What is grief but love persevering?”

The fact that Montgomery’s journey didn’t follow a tidy path isn’t surprising, says Saren Seeley, a professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan who studies the neuroscience of grief and trauma.

Seeley says that the scientific approach to grief has evolved since Sigmund Freud advised patients to detach and move on. “We don’t need to detach,” she says. “But that bond does need to change. We need to change our relationship with the person to accommodate for the fact that they’re no longer on this physical plane.”

Seeley says that psychologists have largely abandoned Kübler-Ross in favor of a dual-process model — “a dance back and forth between mourning the loss, looking backward and looking forward and dealing with life as it is now.”

Seeley says that grief work involves facing the reality that the person is gone. Failure to do so, she says, can lead to a disorder recognized by the psychiatry profession in 2022 as “prolonged grief disorder,” characterized by symptoms such as persistent depression. About 10 percent of people develop long-term symptoms, she says.

When grieving, therapists recommend a range of activities, from talk therapy, conversations with friends, hugging, embracing religious rituals if you have them, talking with a physician and/or



Nancy Montgomery at her Philipstown home with favorite photos of her husband, Jim Lovell, who died in 2013

Photo by J. Asher

pursuing a passion project.

Michele Gedney, the advertising director for *The Current*, whose observations following the death of her husband, Rick, in January 2023 inspired this series, says she tried to embrace the process of grieving.

“I immersed myself in it,” says Gedney, who wrote and performed music with her husband as Open Book. Two weeks after Rick died, Michele spoke at his memorial service at The Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring. Afterward, “I felt more resolved to go forward,” she says.

Gedney embraced her grief in other ways. She saw a therapist and listened to podcasts on the topic, including *Grief is a Sneaky Bitch* with Lisa Keefauver and *All There Is* with Anderson Cooper.

She also finished production on an album, *Leaning In*, that she and her husband had

recorded before he went into the hospital. At first, listening to the recordings was painful, she says. “I was sobbing the whole time. But eventually, I came through the emotional part to where I could listen to the music critically.”

Now she views the recordings as ongoing expressions of their love. “The evidence of his love for me is tangible because I can listen to it at any time,” she says. And while the pain returns often, she says, it doesn’t last.

Bill Viletto’s grief journey was different still. The Philipstown resident dealt with the pain of the loss in 1997 of his 27-year-old son, William Viletto Jr., in a car accident on Route 9D in Beacon by visiting the gravesite every day and talking to him. “He never answered, of course,” says Viletto. “But I felt like I didn’t leave him alone.”

About 60 percent of people surveyed

What is the Best Way to Grieve?

“There isn’t anything that you should never do,” says Karla Karpowicz, a grief therapist based in Newburgh. “Everyone is different in how they process grief.”

It’s not an emotion to avoid, says Jane Wilson Cathcart, a Cold Spring therapist who specializes in grief and bereavement. “You don’t get over it. You don’t get through it. You move forward with it.”

Therapists agree there is no single way to grieve. But there are some best practices:

- Seek community and therapy.
- If you have a spiritual or religious practice, use it. Rituals help.
- Talk to your primary-care physician. Physical symptoms are often symptoms of grief.
- Keep a grief journal.
- Seek out people who can listen and help you emotionally.
- Attend grief groups.
- Take care of life’s ongoing business.
- Do a passion project to remember and honor your loved one.
- Be hugged and held.
- Distance yourself from people who are impatient with you for not “being over it.”
- Anticipate that anniversaries will be hard.
- Continue personal rituals if they make you feel closer to your loved one.
- Take care of your body with activities like yoga, going to the gym and taking walks.
- Take the bereavement time from work that you’re entitled to.
- Beloved pets deserve to be grieved.

reported talking to deceased loved ones, says Angie LeRoy, a professor at Baylor University who studies the psychology and neuroscience of grief. She says it “can be incredibly healing.”

At Mount Sinai, Saren Seeley adds that conversing “can help facilitate a continuing bond. It can give you space to say things you didn’t get to say.”

That, in part, she says, explains why people often turn to psychics who claim they can make contact with the dead. In Poughkeepsie, Shaine Amour says many of her clients hope to “nurture their forever connection” with loved ones.

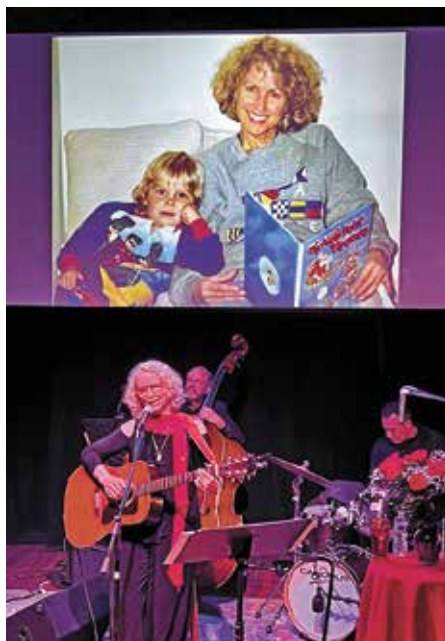
A Philipstown resident, who did not want to be named, says he took comfort from a psychic following the death of his son at age 41 from complications of addiction. The psychic quoted his late son as saying: “Make sure you tell dad that he was doing everything for me before I passed away. Make sure he knows I love him.”

(Continued on Page 9)

“There’s nothing to get over. It’s part of me. I’m going to hold the grief until I die.” ~Nancy Montgomery

"We expand. You get to the point where you can hold two different emotions at the same time: total grief and total joy."

~ Cat Guthrie



As Cat Guthrie performed her one-woman show about grief, *Nine Lives*, a photo of her and her son, Keaton, was projected behind her.

Photo provided



Bill Viletto lost his son, William Viletto Jr., in 1997.

Photo by J. Asher

(Continued from Page 8)

By contrast, Cat Guthrie, who lives in Garrison, visited several psychics after her son, Keaton, 25, died in a surfing accident in 2018 but found little value in the sessions.

She had experienced grief as a young woman when two of her four older sisters died of diseases of the nervous system and was determined to process Keaton's loss differently. When her sisters died, "I couldn't handle it," she recalls. "I shut my heart down."

After losing her son, "I made grief my job," Guthrie says. She attended retreats, read books on the topic and learned to teach "grief yoga," which is "about using yoga to work grief out of your body."

Like many parents, she honored her son, who loved the outdoors, by creating a nonprofit to improve the lives of others. Keaton's Kids funds adventures such as snowboard trips for children from low-income families.

A singer-songwriter, Guthrie also wrote and performs a one-woman show, *Nine Lives*, with songs addressing her grief.

She notes that grief never goes away. But "we grow around it," she says. "We expand. You get to the point where you can hold two different emotions at the same time: total grief and total joy."

See highlandscurrent.org for Part I of this series.

Cold Spring to Get Traffic Help

Planning organization will share expertise

By Michael Turton

Over the next few months, Cold Spring will receive professional help in dealing with its pressing transportation, traffic and pedestrian safety issues, at a cost even a municipality with a tight budget can afford: It will be free.

The details were shared at the Feb. 21 meeting of the Village Board. The Community Planning Workshop Program is provided in counties that are members of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), in conjunction with the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University.

Miriam Salerno, the senior research manager at Voorhees who has been meeting with Mayor Kathleen Foley for several months, said the program will help the village find "ways to reduce traffic and allow more free movement by pedestrians," taking into account the influx of visitors during peak seasons.

Salerno said the program will recommend improvements in four parts of the village that pose traffic and pedestrian safety problems: (1) The intersection of Routes 9D and 301; (2) Main Street at the Visitor Center; (3) Lunn Terrace at Market Street; and (4) Fair Street.

The initiative will also examine the trolley service operated by Putnam County, which for years has underperformed in terms of ridership.

The process, which Salerno expects to be completed by late summer, will include four components: (1) Development of a "story map," a website illustrating the program and related data; (2) a survey of residents and businesses; (3) facilitated workshops for residents; and (4) a summary report with detailed recommendations.

David Drita, program manager for the NYMTC, said the report will be similar to preliminary engineering being done for projects recommended in the final report. It won't provide design or construction details.

Foley said, "This is a huge capacity expansion for the village," which does not have its own planning staff. She said the report "will help Cold Spring be a competitor for state and federal infrastructure money that we've been unable to unlock in the past."

At the meeting, Trustee Aaron Freimark noted that the Village Board is planning a survey of residents about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail and asked about coordination with the NYMTC program.

The HHFT is also surveying residents in the lower village and on Fair Street, areas that could be affected by the trail's potential routes.

Foley said she hopes the NYMTC survey can go out by late April.

Trustee Tweeps Phillips Woods observed that the village has struggled to address the issues that will be examined. "These are questions we have to ask and have answers to," she said, regardless of whether the process coordinates with HHFT initiatives.

In an email, the mayor said Cold Spring is under tremendous pressure from tourism and the proposed Fjord Trail. "We need all the tools we can fit into our kit to make solid decisions," she said. "We don't have an option to sit back, let decisions be made around us and hope they serve our best interests. We have to be proactive in our planning."

NYMTC, established in 1982, is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for New York City, Long Island and Rockland, Westchester and Putnam counties. Federal law requires that all metropolitan areas with populations greater than 50,000 have an MPO to address regional transportation planning.

Foley said the village was unaware of the program until last summer, when John Tully, then the county planning commissioner, told her about it at a meeting regarding the Cold Spring Trolley, a session also attended by county Transportation Director Vincent Tamagna.

She said she decided to pursue having Cold Spring participate when she learned that the Village of Mahopac had benefited from it. It requires neither a formal agreement with NYMTC nor a resolution by the Village Board.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



If you are unable to see DIRT this weekend at The Philipstown Depot Theatre, you can try for tickets at:



— March 15, 16 & 17 —

Arts on the Lake on Lake Carmel
(artsonthelake.org)



— March 23 & March 24 —
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
in Putnam Valley
(tompkinscorners.org)

One new play, one big county.

Where to Find Help

Support Groups

- Libby Funeral Home in Beacon hosts a support group at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Call 845-831-0179 or register at libbyfuneralhome.com/grief-support/grief-resources.
- Hudson Valley Hospice offers support services. Call 845-240-7579 or email bereavementcenter@hvhospice.org.
- Heartlight Center (heartlightcenter.org), based in Colorado, offers online support groups and workshops.
- The Dougy Center (dougy.org) has resources for children and teens.

Podcasts

- Griefcast* (cariadlloyd.com/griefcast)
- All There Is with Anderson Cooper* (bit.ly/all-there-is-AC)
- Terrible, Thanks for Asking* (ttfa.org)
- Good Mourning* (goodmourning.com.au)
- Grief is a Sneaky Bitch* (lisakeefauver.com)

Books

- It's Okay to Laugh (Crying is Cool Too)*, by Nora McInerney
- When Breath Becomes Air*, by Paul Kalanithi
- The Invisible String*, by Patrice Karst

AROUND TOWN



BANNERMAN DESK — Gordon Colby and his wife, Lilly, drove five hours from New Hampshire to deliver a prize on March 3 to the Bannerman Castle Trust: a desk used by Frank Bannerman VI (right), who in 1900 purchased the Hudson River island that now bears his name. Colby, who is Bannerman's great-great-grandson, inherited the desk, which had been disassembled and stored in a barn. He is shown with Neil Caplan (left), executive director, and Kelly Ellenwood, director of development. The trust hopes to raise funds and restore the desk by September, when it celebrates its 30th anniversary. *Photo by Lilly Colby*



SINGING SENSATIONS — The Beacon Rising Choir, which began seven years ago with 14 members and now has more than 60, performed March 2 at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon under the direction of Gina Samardge and accompanied by Andy Reinhart on piano and Steph Dlugon on violin and percussion. Among other pieces, the choir sang hits by Sinéad O'Connor and Bobby McFerrin. *Photos by Ross Corsair*



BEES IN THE BARN — The Beacon band — August Eriksmoen (mandolin), Sara Milonovich (fiddle), Jordan Shapiro (guitar) and Nate Allen (upright bass) — visited the Beacon Music Factory on March 1. Along with Beatles and Grateful Dead covers, they performed originals such as "Ax in the Grass," "Chateau de Malt" and "Moose on the Loose."


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March 17, 2024 @ 3:30 - 5:30PM
St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring

Photo by Amy Kubik



The Calendar

Cold-Weather Creative

Artist travels to Arctic for inspiration

Photographs by Pilar Cruz

By Erin-Leigh Hoffman

When sculptor Ada Pilar Cruz visited the Arctic Circle for two weeks in October, her studio was her bunk on the boat — and the head.

She had opportunities to go ashore to collect kelp, which she often uses for print-making, but the limited space presented challenges to make art.

“I tried to work on the floor, but it had a rug,” she says. “I finally realized that I could print on the toilet seat.” She sat down, hung the paper on the shower wall and pressed the kelp with her hands to make prints.

Cruz was on the trip at the invitation of The Arctic Circle, an organization that organizes expeditions four times each year for about 30 artists who apply to visit Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago. Cruz held fundraisers to pay for her passage.

“When I enter a studio, wherever I am,

I immediately start working,” says the artist, who is a native of Puerto Rico. “If I’m not working, I feel like I’m not doing what I should be doing.”

By contrast, in the Arctic, “I tried to just experience it,” she says. “I was advised by other artists who had done this to just take it all in and write notes and take pictures.”

Cruz completed a two-month residency in Iceland in 2017, but the frozen scenery of Svalbard was still new to her. What stood out was the light from the October sun as it waned. “That sun never rose much above the horizon,” she explains. “It’s a light that I had never experienced.”

She observed the colors and structures of the ice but also noted its “mystery and story.” Cruz said she thought of snow queens, sorcerers and other icons embedded in the ice. “I’m moving in that direction” with the art that may be inspired by the trip, she says.

Cruz noticed that her Arctic kelp prints began to resemble maps, which felt like an “inner suggestion” that she was on the right track. “Not only do they look like maps, but they look like the map of Svalbard,” she says, although, she adds, “one looked like the map of Puerto Rico.”

At her studio in Lake Peekskill she would typically print five pieces in a single morning, but in the cramped Arctic space she printed only four in two weeks, which she framed after returning home.

She also took more than 3,500 photos, a few of which she shared on March 3 during a presentation at the Garrison Art Center, where she teaches. “You get on this ship, which is a tall ship with three masts and sails, and you sail around the archipelago for 20 days, pretty much looking at the landscape, the seascape, the glaciers, the icebergs, the fossil formation, everything,” she said.



Cruz collected kelp in the Arctic to make prints in the bathroom of the ship.



A print that Cruz made with kelp from the Arctic (right) is overlaid on a map of the archipelago.

Photos provided

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

SAT 9

Putnam Repair Cafe

MAHOPAC

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Middle School
425 Baldwin Place Road
sustainableputnam.org/repair-cafe

Fixers will help restore your broken items and save them from the landfill at this event hosted by Sustainable Putnam. *Free*

SAT 9

Parade Of Green

BEACON

Noon. Main Street
facebook.com/paradeofgreen

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at this community event, which will include local organizations, bands and festivities.

SUN 10

Daylight Saving Time

2 a.m. Set clocks ahead one hour

KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 12

Cove Care Table Talk

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Cold Spring Pizza
120 Main St. | 845-225-2700, x117
covecarecenter.org

Enjoy a free pizza dinner at this event designed to “promote resiliency and family connections.” RSVP to prevention@covecarecenter.org or by phone.

THURS 14

Sticker-Palooza

BEACON

3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Children ages 10 and older are invited to decorate a notebook. Registration required.

FRI 15

Black Panther

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Teens can watch the 2018 Oscar-winning film about Wakanda, a technologically advanced African nation, and its leader's struggle to keep it from being dragged into a war. Registration required.



SAT 16

Peter and the Wolf

COLD SPRING

1 & 3 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

An orchestra directed by Rachel Evans will perform Prokofiev's “symphonic fairy tale,” along with



Parade of Green, March 9

a crankie and puppets. The concert will be followed by an instrument petting zoo. *Cost: \$25 (\$5 children)*

SAT 16

Encanto

GARRISON

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

Watch the 2021 Disney film about a gifted family in a magical house in Colombia and sing along to the soundtrack. Registration required.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 9

Art is Elementary

BEACON

1 – 3 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Artwork created by students from Beacon's four primary schools will be on display at this annual show. Through March 31.

SAT 9

Mass Hysteria! A Cats & Dogs Group Show!

BEACON

5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 139 Main St.
212-255-2505 | clutter.co

See multiples and prints. Through April 5.

SAT 9

Goddesses, Emperors & Friends

BEACON

5 – 8 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St.
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

The paintings of Patricia Di Bella-Kreger will be on display. Through April 7.

SAT 9

Joel Brown | Elemental

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | baugallery.org

Brown's ceramic forms will be on display in the Beacon Room and *Elemental*, a group show, in Galleries 1 and 2. Through April 7.

SAT 9

Shhhh... A Secret Project

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com

According to the gallery, the artists in this interactive group show used discarded household items to “explore the things we hold on to and the things we wish we didn't.”

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 9

Depolarizing Within

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | bit.ly/braver-angels-CS

Learn techniques during this three-hour workshop “to be critical without demonizing, dismissing or stereotyping” when talking politics. Register online. See Page 2. *Free*

SAT 9

It Lasts Forever and Then It's Over

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Anne de Marcken will discuss her debut novel about a woman's experience in the afterlife.

SAT 9

Sam Rebelein and Clay McLeod Chapman

BEACON

8 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.
845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com

The writers will read from their latest horror novels and discuss the genre. *Edenville*, by Rebelein (below), is set in the Hudson Valley and *What Kind of Mother*, by Chapman, is a folk-horror classic.



SUN 10

AI: What It Means

GARRISON

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

Learn about artificial intelligence technology and what it means for our lives.

WED 13

Archiving Your Family Memories

GARRISON

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

The presentation will cover ways to preserve and share photos, slides, videotapes and other media.

THURS 14

HerStory

COLD SPRING

Noon. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Learn more from Executive Director Cassie Ward about 20 remarkable Putnam County women from the American Revolution to the present as part of the museum's Lunch & Learn series. The talk will also be streamed via Zoom. Register online. *Cost: \$5 (members free)*

THURS 14

New York Heat Act

BEACON

5:30 p.m. St. Andrew Church
15 South Ave. | bit.ly/heat-act-3-14

Beacon Climate Action Now will host this teach-in and dinner to explain how the proposed New York Heat Act can protect people from rising energy bills. The speakers will include representatives from New Yorkers for Clean Power and For The Many.

SUN 17

Death Café

GARRISON

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

This discussion group is open to anyone who wants to become more comfortable talking about death and dying.

SUN 17

Community Conversation About Visitation

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St.

Dar Williams, Evan Schwartz, Kiko Lattau and Nat Prentice will host and facilitate this discussion about visitors to Philipstown.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 9

Conserving Our Native Rabbit

GARRISON

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

Wildlife biologist Sue Booth-Binczik will talk about the declining population of the New England cottontail and conservation efforts. Registration required. The event

is co-hosted by the library and the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

SUN 10

Winter Tree ID Walk

BEAR MOUNTAIN

1 p.m. Bear Mountain State Park
55 Hessian Drive | nysparks.com

Park rangers will lead a guided hike and show how to identify trees without their leaves. Parking is \$10. *Free*

FRI 15

Community Hike

COLD SPRING

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

Meet at the West Point Foundry Preserve lot to hike the Foundry Trail. Registration required.

SAT 16

How to Create a Pollinator Pathway

BEACON

10 a.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St.

This panel discussion with Blair Patterson, Monika Aymar-Blair, Anna West and Karen Quiana will offer guidance on how to support pollinators and the importance of connected habitats.

SUN 17

Opening of the Fields

WAPPINGERS FALLS

4 p.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
commongroundfarm.org

Farm staff and community partners will lead a walk through the fields that includes reflections and readings.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 9

Met HD:

La Forza del Destino

POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Soprano Lise Daviden performs the lead in this livestream. *Cost: \$30 (\$28 members, \$23 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 9

CP2 Series Readers Theatre

WAPPINGERS FALLS

2 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countyplayers.org

This third annual mini-festival will include the reading of two plays: *Photograph 51* at 2 p.m. and *Silent Sky* at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on SUN 10. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 for both)*

SAT 9

From the Foundry Archives

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Joanna Castle Miller, Lisa Pertoso, TJ Del Reno, Don Romaniello and Michael Short will perform improv comedy with prompts from the history of Cold Spring and the West Point Foundry. *Cost: \$15*

(Continued on Page 13)

SAT 9

Red Silk

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.tix.com

This two-act play by Lois Achimovich, produced by Hit House and Beacon Litfest, is making its U.S. premiere. Directed by Bronwen Carson and starring Shane Killoran and Beacon actors John Blesso and John Hartzell, it explores the relationship between Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Anne Sexton and two of her psychiatrists. Also SUN 10. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 10

Kateri Kosek

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Kosek will read from her latest collection, *American Eclipse*, followed by a poetry open mic. *Cost: \$10*



WED 13

A League of Their Own

COLD SPRING

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

As part of the 12 Months of Tom Hanks series, watch the 1992 film about a women's baseball league in which Hanks plays a coach to players Geena Davis, Madonna and Lori Petty, among others.

FRI 15

Dirt

KENT LAKES

7:30 p.m. Arts on the Lake
640 Route 52 | 845-228-2685
artsonthelake.org

The play explores local history through the lives of Wappinger chief Daniel Nimham, an enslaved miller and an heiress from a ruling family. Also SAT 16, SUN 17. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 members, \$10 students)*

FRI 15

Easter Parade

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Enjoy the 1948 film, directed by Irving Berlin and starring Judy Garland and Fred Astaire, as part of the Cinema Depot series. *Cost: \$15*



SAT 16

The Artichoke

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | artichokeshow.com

This month's storytellers are Erin Barker, Kate Greathead, Andrew McGill, Vernon Payne, Mike Brown and Jim O'Grady. *Cost: \$20*

MUSIC

SAT 9

A Celtic Celebration

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Liz Hanley, Jefferson Hamer and the TC Ceili Band will perform. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 9

West Point Band and Westchester Symphonic Winds

WEST POINT

8 p.m. Ike Hall | 655 Pitcher Road
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

The collaborative concert will focus on the works of American composers over three centuries. *Free*

SAT 9

The Life and Music of George Michael

PEEKSKILL

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

The tribute concert will feature the late singer's music with Wham! and as a solo artist. *Cost: \$50 to \$70*

SAT 9

Tom Chapin

BEACON

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

The three-time Grammy winner will present his annual birthday concert. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 10

Daimh

BEACON

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

The five-piece Gaelic group will perform music from its latest release, *Tuneship*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 10

Hudson Valley Irish Fest Fundraiser

PEEKSKILL

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

Violinist Daisy Jopling will be joined by the Peekskill City Singers, Ovation Strings and the Narrowbacks. *Cost: \$32 to \$50*

MON 11

Dropkick Murphys

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. MJN Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org

The Boston rock group will play with guests Pennywise and the Scratch. *Cost: \$63*

FRI 15

Sharkey & the Sparks

BEACON

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

Sharkey and Ben McEwen will be joined by Quinn and Oliver Petkus, Felipe Torres, RJ McCarty, Luis Perez and Premik Russell-Tubbs. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 16

Modern Music in the Irish Tradition

COLD SPRING

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

Lindsey Horner and Timothy Hill will perform in the Parish Hall. Donations welcome. *Free*



The Jeremiahs, March 17

SAT 16

Music Collaborative

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Foundry Rose | 55 Main St.
845-809-5480 | thefoundryrose.com

Bring an acoustic instrument and join in to play or sing a favorite song with a group of musicians led by Brian Grahm and Mike Casale.

SAT 16

Joe McPhee with Strings

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
12 Vassar St. | joemcpee.eventbrite.com

Elysium Furnace Works presents the multi-instrumentalist with a group of 10 string players, including Gwen Laster, Billy Stein, Aliya Ultan and Melanie Dyer. *Cost: \$30 (\$40 door)*

SAT 16

The Best of the '70s

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Dizzyfish and the Uptown Horns will perform rock, pop and folk hits. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

SUN 17

The Jeremiahs

BEACON

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

The Celtic band will perform to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 9

Blind Date Recursive 04

BEACON

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St. | diaart.org

In the fourth of five discussions centered on Rita McBride's *Arena* (1997), a facilitator will pose a question and act as an instigator, listener and moderator as participants

create a question for the next session. Free with admission. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students, \$5 children, free for Beacon residents)*

SAT 16

Herstory

COLD SPRING

1 – 3 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

This is the opening reception for an exhibit of artwork by community members to celebrate Women's History Month.

CIVIC

MON 11

Dutchess Legislature

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100
dutchessny.gov

MON 11

City Council

BEACON

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

WED 13

Village Board

COLD SPRING

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

WED 13

School Board

GARRISON

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

THURS 14

State of the County

RED HOOK

5:30 p.m. High School | 103 W Market St.
dutchessny.gov/RSVP

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino will speak. Register by TUES 12.



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Bio Spaces for Newburgh Art

'Arts instigator' hopes to transform former bank and theater

By Alison Rooney

In the recent opening of Savaggi Gallery, an art space located in the former Newburgh Savings Bank, collaboration was key.

The cavernous space at 94 Broadway, with its arched ceilings, vaults, tunnels and marble floors, has been christened the Bank Arts Center and become the home of a nonprofit dedicated to staging large-scale, immersive installations incorporating light and sound. It will also offer live performances, artist residencies and arts education.

Rosanna Scimeca, a large-scale sculptor herself, is the founder of Savaggi Arts and director of its gallery at the Bank Arts Center. She describes Savaggi as an "arts instigator" that works with property owners to transform unused urban spaces "into beautiful, engaging art spaces that reflect and serve the local community."

Before moving to Newburgh, Scimeca lived for most of her life in Brooklyn and also spent time in Oakland, California, which has a strong community of large-sculpture artists. She said she began "a quest to figure out how to have a big space in the East." She discovered Newburgh about seven years ago and "it floated in my consciousness for a while."

When the pandemic hit, she suddenly felt her Brooklyn spaces were too small. "I knew there'd be a big building in my future," she says.

After making the move, "it started cooking" when she found the former Park Theater

at 315 Broadway, which she would like to see turned into an arts center with studios, public spaces and galleries. "I jumped on its mix of a romantic image mixed with gritty architecture," she says.

"Meanwhile, I was getting to know people in town," including Ted Doering of the Gerald A. Doering Foundation, which owns the bank building. "Ted didn't know what to do with it," she says. "It's an incredible space and I'm so glad it didn't become a drugstore."

The building had housed one of the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museums, but after founder David Karpeles died in 2022, Doering decided the building could honor his legacy if it housed innovative creativity that was shared with the Newburgh community.

Once developed, the Park Theater "will be more of the commercial side — a place to make, fabricate, install, get funding — all with the idea of big art being accessible in public spaces," says Scimeca.

Scimeca, who has a master's degree in interdisciplinary arts, has worked on many projects incorporating textures, visuals and sound. She says the gallery wouldn't have felt complete without sound, and "there

aren't many venues for ambient music artists. The sound is recorded in response to the art and becomes a part of the same exhibition that informed the performance."

There will also be chocolate — Scimeca is a chocolate maker — as well as digital art, perhaps using the outside of the building as a canvas. In addition, "the lot across the street is empty and the owner offered us space to put in a sculpture and murals."

"We're totally at the beginning," she says. "You have to be willing to dive in head first. I have tentacles out for conversations; the connections are being made. Everyone loves the idea of living in an environment of creativity, especially in the times we're in."

The Savaggi Gallery, located inside the Bank Arts Center at 94 Broadway in Newburgh, is open from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Its current exhibition, Kate Raudenbush's Inner Landscapes, runs through Aug. 10. See thebank.art.



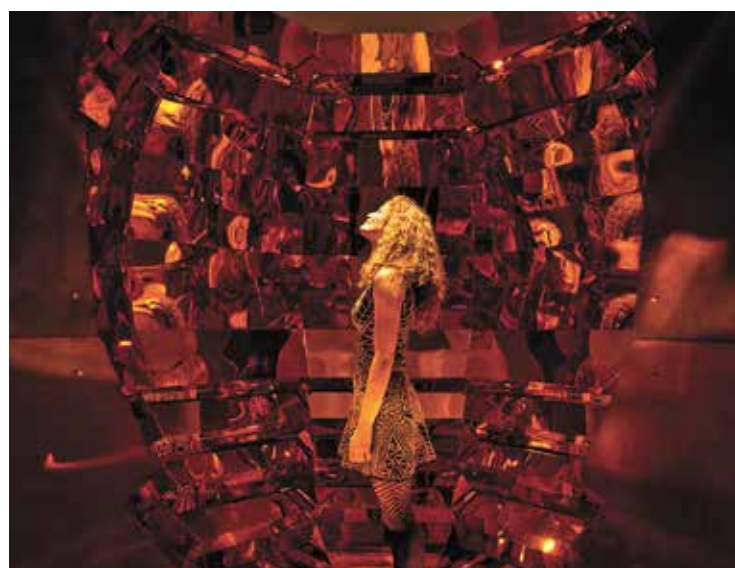
Rosanna Scimeca
Photo by Daniel Murtaugh



A rendering shows the proposed renovation of the former Park Theater in Newburgh.




The former Newburgh Savings Bank is now an art space.



Kate Raudenbush inside her sculpture, "Stadium of the Self"



"Ancestors Night," by Kate Raudenbush



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Roots and Shoots

Into the Woods

By Pamela Doan

Wooded properties are common in the Highlands, but I bet many people don't know a lot about what's growing on their land or how to care for it. To be fair, we don't have many opportunities to learn, and ecological blind spots are common.

When I moved to a forested site 14 years ago, after living for decades in cities, I couldn't identify more than a few grasses and flowers. Wanting to be a responsible steward, I became a Master Gardener volunteer through Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County. In 2021, I also completed CCE's Master Forest Owner training.

The point of the MFO program is for volunteers to visit woodland owners and point them to resources to meet whatever goals they have for the land, says Shane Stevens, the CCE regional director for our area.

It started in 1991 because Cornell University recognized that private landowners have a huge impact on the environment. Of the 20 million acres of forest in New York state, 75 percent is privately owned. "The decisions made about those acres are key to sustaining biodiversity and keeping forests healthy and resilient to natural disasters



and pests," Stevens says.

There are 140 Master Forest Owner volunteers across the state, and they have joined for many reasons. Angela Attia, who lives in Philipstown, completed the training in 2022. "I was interested in gardening and started learning about native plants," she says. "Then I wanted to understand how to better support the forest on our land. Through volunteering, I can disseminate the information and help others."

Greg Clarke, who lives near Pawling and has been a volunteer for 15 years, says that peer-to-peer learning is a key to the program's success. "When you go out into the field, there's credibility in meeting with someone who is dealing with the same challenges."

Clarke primarily visits sites in Dutchess County, where woodland owners tend to have larger tracts of land than people do in Putnam and logging is a source of income.

Janis Butler, who has been a volunteer since 2018 and lives in Mahopac, said that in her experience, people are concerned about making their properties beneficial for wildlife and habitat. She also came to the program from a personal interest in managing her forest. "There are global consequences to the choices we make about our lands," she says, adding that she's developed a greater appreciation through her site visits for the incredible amount of beautiful property in our area.

All agree, and I concur, that invasive-species management is the topic that every landowner brings up during visits. These



Shane Stevens, a CCE regional director, points out the effects of beech bark disease during Master Forest Owner training.

Photo provided

are tough plants and pests to deal with and they are impacting forest health in every way. Deer are another big part of the picture. Their presence determines what grows and if trees can regenerate. Unless you know what is missing in a forest ecosystem, you might not even know what role it plays.

For anyone interested in becoming a Master Forest Owner volunteer, the application deadline for the next training is March 19. See blogs.cornell.edu/ccemfo/program-information. It includes topics such as

understanding what makes a healthy woodland, earning income from trees through timber harvesting or food production, and how to access state and regional resources. The training can be completed online.

Volunteers can also attend field training and webinars and workshops that cover the latest research on tree diseases, invasive species and the safe use of chain saws, for example. I get a steady stream of emails from CCE.

To request a site visit from a MFO volunteer, visit blogs.cornell.edu/ccemfo.

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Dr. Susan Booth-Binczik, Wildlife Biologist for NYSDEC

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www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

eBay Finds



22 cabinet card photos of members of the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co., Fishkill Landing, circa 1890s, **\$495**



Letter with red Matteawan postmark, 1849, from Rev. J.J. Robertson: "We cannot well gather a congregation before 8 p.m. as the people are not dismissed from the factories until 1/4 past 7. This would not allow us to cross to Newburg after service in time for the steamer that touches there." **\$295**



Seven photos of an October 1897 train wreck near Garrison, **\$225**



Watercolor of Garrison's Landing, 1951, by George Franklin Heuston, **\$199**



O'Keeffe Bros. mineral-water bottle, Matteawan, **\$15**

Rescuing Highlands History

Multiple sources help build local collections

By Leonard Sparks

Alice Judson's 1920s watercolor scene of Water Street in Beacon had traveled from Troy in Rensselaer County to Delmar in Albany County and then to Florida before someone from the Beacon Historical Society saw it listed at an estate sale.

The painting by Judson, a highly collected artist born in Beacon in 1876, has now reached its forever home — joining other pieces of hers acquired by the Beacon Historical Society (BHS).

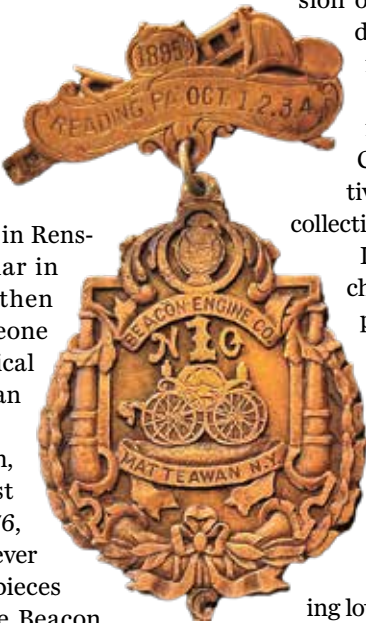
The detectives at BHS and the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring have found that digital sleuthing on eBay, Facebook and the websites of auction houses has become a valuable tool in repatriating local artifacts. They join tried-and-true methods of persuading current and former residents, or their descendants, to donate items

found in their attics, basements or garages. The Putnam History Museum took possession of historical documents, some dating to the 1700s, found stored in a dozen boxes in the attic of Philipstown Town Hall when it underwent renovations, said Cassie Ward, the museum's executive director, and John Duncan, its collections manager.

In Beacon, a woman from Massachusetts decided to research the provenance of an inflatable raft her father used for fishing. She and her husband discovered that the maker, the New York Rubber Co., was headquartered in Beacon and contacted BHS, said Denise Doring VanBuren, its president.

VanBuren met her in the parking lot of the I-84 Diner in Fishkill and returned to Beacon with a New York Rubber Co. raft from the 1950s.

Both the historical society and the museum have an army of volunteers who monitor auction sites, particularly eBay, where users can create notifications when items whose descriptions include terms such as "Philipstown," "Matteawan" and "Fishkill Landing" (the latter two merged



The Beacon Historical Society acquired on eBay this commemorative badge from an 1895 convention attended by Beacon firefighters.

(Continued on Page 17)



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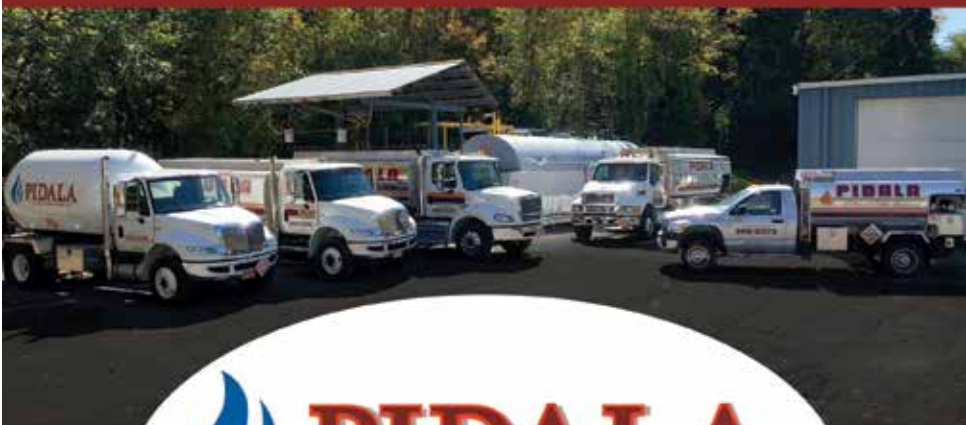
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(Continued from Page 16)

in 1913 to form Beacon) are posted.

One recent notification alerted VanBuren to the sale of a commemorative badge from a firefighter's convention held in Redding, Pennsylvania, in October 1895. The badge, stamped "Beacon Engine Co., Matteawan, N.Y.," was likely given to members who attended the convention and its parade.

(Another is listed on eBay for \$250.)

The badge seller lived in Pennsylvania, but BHS has purchased other items from Europe and as far away as New Zealand, she said. "We feel like it's our mission to rescue these things."

While the internet has enabled long-distance connections, private donations still represent the largest source of historical material, Ward and VanBuren said. Last year, a

North Carolina woman donated photographs that her late husband, a Beacon native, took in the 1980s for his master's thesis at SUNY New Paltz on how the city had decayed.

In Cold Spring, five residents pooled their money to buy for the Putnam History Museum a painting by Cold Spring artist Michael Kelly depicting a tag sale held in the 1950s on the lawn of the building that houses the museum.

Other historical sites are also a source. A two-person sled that the Craig House Hospital would tie to horses and use to ferry patients from the Beacon train station to its property found its way to the Locust Grove Estate in Poughkeepsie, which offered it to the Beacon Historical Society, said VanBuren. "It's from about 1850, and it has a Hudson River scene about a train on it," she said.

Two years ago, Ward discovered on Etsy a three-dimensional diorama of the West Point Foundry that was based on a painting by John Ferguson Weir that is in the museum's collection. The diorama "brought this painting to life," she said.

The museum lacked the money to buy the piece, but when Ward contacted the artist in Hawaii to learn more, he donated it. "He wouldn't even let us pay for shipping," said Ward. "It was so aloha."

Because the funds to buy items are limited, there are disappointments. The Beacon Historical Society bid on an early 19th-century watercolor of the Fishkill Landing by Christopher Pearse Cranch, an artist and writer. The society's trustees capped the amount they would spend, said VanBuren, and were heartbroken when someone outbid them with a \$10,000 offer.

Spirits revived when BHS received Judson's painting back from the Williamstown + Atlanta Art Conservation Center in Massachusetts, where it had been sent for restoration. A Newburgh framer is putting it into a "historically accurate" frame, which will be the first Judson piece in the Beacon collection that shows a streetscape.

"Here's the most remarkable part: Every building in the painting is still there," VanBuren said.

RECENT DEATHS

Philipstown
Frank Caccetta, 78
Glorida daCunha, 84
Peter Lovell, 74
Marilyn Mayo, 91
Johanna Mularadelis, 92
Robert Petrucelli, 82
Pierre Travis Jr., 68

Beacon
Tony Brown, 64
Dan Cable, 66
Frank Campbell Jr., 66
Earnest Carlisle Jr., 89
Carmen Drake, 74
Atiim Frett, 49
Barbara Garo, 90
Russ Gremillot, 88
Thomas Healey, 61
James Murtaugh, 76
Vanessa Reed, 70
Hector Tlatelpa-Diego, 18
Concetta Todd, 100

For obituaries,
[see highlandscurrent.org/obits](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).



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This watercolor by Alice Judson dates to the 1920s and shows Water Street in Beacon.

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Haldane High School Honor Roll

Students recognized for second-quarter grades

Grade 12

Principal's List

Penelope Andreou, Scott Bailey, Lily Benson, Vanja Booth, Alissa Buslovich, William Busselle, Liliana Cappello, Quinlynn Carmicino, Luca DiLello, Liam Gaugler, Evan Giachinta, Clement Grossman, Jeremy Hall, Colin Hopkins, Madeleine Hutz, Finola Kiter, Ronan Kiter, Helena Kottman, Amelia Kupper, Elaine Llewellyn, Gabriel Lunin-Pack, Trajan McCarthy, Camilla McDaniel, Ella Mekeel, Matthew Nachamkin, Ellen O'Hara, Percy Parker, Eloise Pearsall, Ruby Poses, Julie Shields, Nicholas Stathos, Emily Tomann, Ryan Van Tassel, Joseline Vasquez, Max Westphal

High Honor Roll

Alexandra Busselle, James D'Abruzzo, Frankie DiGiglio, Emily Gilleo, Olivia Knox, Mac Lake, Lola Mahoney, Jacqueline Muth, Henry O'Neil, Keira Russell, Olivia Scanga, Iain Starr, MacKenzie Warren

Honor Roll

Jon Bastys, Grace Bradley, Delaney Corless, Ross Esposito, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, Mary Junjulas, Isadora Kaye, Michael Murray, Simon Pieza, PJ Ruggiero, Isabella Tomizawa-Rincon

Grade 11

Principal's List

Amelia Alayon, Domenica Awananch, Dahlia Beck, Dustin Berkley, Alexandra Cairns, Judine Cox, Owin Cuite, Marc Firpo, Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Robert Freimark, Scotia Hartford, Frederick Hohenberger, Helen Hutchison, John Illian, Zohra Kapoor, Micah Morales, Gabriela Perilli, Charles Rowe, Julian Schwarz, Brendan Shanahan, Keira Shanahan, Matthew Silhavy, Caroline Sniffen, Ashley Sousa, Dana Spiegel, Nathaniel Stickle

High Honor Roll

Brody Corless, Christopher Coronel, Kira Drury, Hunter Erickson, Christian Ferreira, Andalou Frezza, Leif Heydt-Benjamin, Frank Lanza, Rain Lee, Thomas Locitzer, Lorelai Luoma, Oliver Petkus, Jake Powers,

Amelia Scarpino, Jake Thomas, Crystal Timmons, Jayden Treloar

Honor Roll

Anatoliy Alhov, Claire Bolte, Gray Cardoso, Edwin Dubroff, Louis Ferreira, Tyler Hyatt, Sophie Koch, Patrick Locitzer, Mary McBride, Brandt Robbins, Shaun Russell, Laurel Sassano

Grade 10

Principal's List

Dylan Ambrose, Ada Caccamise, Eleanor Chew, Zane Del Pozo, Louise Denehy, Leo DiGiovanni, Aine Duggan, Leo Grocott, Amelia Kaye, Sofia Kelly, Carl Kester, Nicolas Lagerman, Seth Lunin-Pack, Elliott Mahoney, Ember Mahoney, Giovannina Manfredi, Lincoln McCarthy, Anna-Catherine Nelson, William O'Hara, Marisa Peters, Maxwell Sanders, Henry Schimming, Louisa Schimming, Tomas Simko, Owen Sullivan-Hoch, Jasmine Wallis, Roth Westphal

High Honor Roll

Anthony Bailey, Philip Cappello, Lenny Chandler, Diego DiGiglio, Savannah Duggan, Vivian Eannacony, James Frommer, Ryder Griffin, Nicolo Massella, Owen Powers, Kayla Ruggeiro, Tyler Schacht, Near Sevilla, George Stubbs, Luke Tippet

Honor Roll

Luke Bozsik, Daniel Campanile, Samuel Cardona Vargas, Aine Fortuna, Genevieve Knox, Jonah Mangan, Shayla Ochoa, Lucia Petty, Giovanni Siciliano, Samantha Thomas, Ty Villella

Grade 9

Principal's List

Nadine Alayon, Alexa Arcigal, Hazel Berkley, Polina Buslovich, Marco DiLello, Frances Donahue, Ryan Duncan, Henry Foley-Hedlund, Noah Green, Lela Gurvich-Andrews, Margaret Hall, Lugh Hartford, Tess Hereford, Eva Hohenberger, Benjamin Hutz, Christine Junjulas, Nicolas LeMon, Una Lentz, Maisie Matthews, Jacqueline McCormick, Ruby McCormick, Sydney Merriman, Corinna Mueller, Lily Parker, Taya Robinson, Gemma Sabin, Oliver Sanders, Plum Severs, Delia Starr, Lincoln Wayland

High Honor Roll

Ryan Cavallaro, Cooper Corless, Juan Fajardo, Alexander Gaugler, Clara Gelber, Stella Gretina, Liv Holmbo, Connor Keegan, Griffin Lucca, George MacInnes, Milla Maxwell, Julianna Minos, Fischer Moss, Amelia Nova Martinez, Caden Phillippi, Patrick Shields, Rhys Williams

Honor Roll

Dessa Bellamy Tarantino, Julian Costantine, Joseph DeMarco, Silas Emig, Jack Ferreira, Jaiden Gunther, Rosie Herman, Elaina Johanson, Gavin Mahoney, Bianca Manfredi, Jacob Medoff, Kate Resi, Theo Sacks, Maksim Shevchyk, Kiyoshi Tomizawa-Rincon, Aaden Wik, Hudson Yeaple

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33				34					35			
36				37					38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- ACROSS
1. Manhandle
5. Annex
8. Trig function
12. Within (Pref.)
13. Ben- —
14. Toledo’s lake
15. “Sure, of course”
17. Bakery buy
18. “Yippee!”
19. Apple music service
21. Pride parade initials
24. “Let me think ...”
25. Valley in California
28. Indy event
30. Wall climber
33. Rocker Rose
34. Plains grazers
35. Formerly known as
36. Earth (Pref.)
37. Stink
38. “It’s — real!”
39. Texter’s “Enough!”

41. Bring up
43. Tell
46. Pink hue
50. Lena of *The Reader*
51. Sake, e.g.
54. Curse
55. Greek mountain
56. Zilch
57. Rosebud, to Kane
58. Camp bed
59. Flag feature
11. Congers
16. Sailing hazard
20. Subsequently
22. Party cheese
23. Stunning gun
25. Pester
26. Chopper
27. Story thread
29. Pepsi rival
31. Victory sign
32. Longing
34. Telly watcher
38. Cleveland squad
40. Like lions
42. Expert
43. Filches
44. Israeli carrier
45. Guitarist Clapton
47. Funny person
48. Visitor to Siam
49. Ogler’s look
52. Altar affirmative
53. Jazz lover

- DOWN
1. Calico’s call
2. “My Way” writer
3. Beehive State
4. Jesuit university
5. Sushi fish
6. Press for payment
7. Zwei follower
8. Blood part
9. Ore source
10. Aswan’s river

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BLAME

FLUTE

MICRO
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Pet on *The Jetsons*
6. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* author Larsson
7. Bottom-line amount
8. Fill with delight
9. *The Martian* actor Michael
- DOWN
1. Skip ____ (jump ahead)
2. Embezzled, e.g.
3. Tennessee footballer
4. *Giant* ranch name
5. Eye in a creepy way

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

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

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

H	A	N	K	
O	B	E	Y	S
L	O	R	R	E
D	A	V	I	T
S	T	Y	E	S

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Answers for March 1 Puzzles

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Sports



Ross Esposito finished with 10 points and five assists against Millbrook.



Haldane won its second consecutive sectional title on March 3 at the Westchester County Center. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.
Photos by Skip Pearlman



Millbrook had no answer for Matt Nachamkin, who scored 31 points.

The Haldane boys' basketball team advanced to the regional final on Wednesday (March 6), defeating Section IX, Class C champ Millbrook, 60-41, at Yorktown High School.

Three days earlier, the Blue Devils coasted past Leffell, 64-49, to win their second straight Section I title. Haldane (19-3) will play at 11 a.m. on Saturday (March 9) at Yorktown High School against Section XI champion Southold (12-9).

The winner advances to the state Final Four; the Blue Devils, ranked as the best Class C team by the New York State Sportswriters Association, reached the title game last year.

Haldane was led against Millbrook by senior Matt Nachamkin, who finished with

Haldane Rolls to Regional Final

Wins second straight sectional title

By Jacob Aframian

31 points, including 12 in the final quarter.

The Blue Devils dominated on both ends of the court, building a 20-point margin in the second quarter and leading 33-15 at halftime.

Although the lead ballooned to 23 points midway through the third quarter, the Blazers had 8-0 and 15-2 runs to pull within 10 with 5:39 left in the game. But Nachamkin, who will play next season for Williams College, hit three straight 3-pointers and

the contest was over.

"He showed that he's a big-time player in big-time moments," said Coach Joe Virgadamo.

Nate Stickle finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds and Ross Esposito added 10 points, five assists and four steals.

The Blue Devils had not played in two weeks while waiting for their matchup against Leffell in the Section I title game at the Westchester County Center, but there

was no rust.

Nachamkin began the game with a three-pointer from the corner and Haldane built a 19-6 lead. Leffell opened the third quarter with a 14-4 run, cutting the lead to 13, but Haldane was still leading by 16 going into the fourth, which it started with a 10-4 run. Nachamkin scored back-to-back baskets in the paint to give Haldane a 19-point lead.

It was Haldane's seventh Section I title. "I'm blessed to have a great group of guys who enjoy each other, love each other and play for each other," said Virgadamo.

Nachamkin, Michael Murray and Esposito were named to the Section I all-tournament team, and Nachamkin was named tournament MVP.



Beacon Jumper Wins Silver at States

Damani DeLoatch of Beacon High School finished second of 29 competitors on March 2 in the triple jump at the 2024 state championships.

DeLoatch recorded a jump of 46-4 in the event, in which the athlete sprints down the runway and performs three jumps in a row before landing in a sandpit. The senior finished behind Aiden Bryant, a sophomore at Midlakes High School in the Finger Lakes who jumped a personal best 49-0.5 and also won a state title in the long jump.

Two Upsets, But Not a Third

Underdog Beacon stopped by Saugerties

By Nick Robbins

The down-and-up season of the Beacon boys' basketball team came to an end at Mount Saint Mary College on March 1 when it was overwhelmed by Saugerties in the Section IX, Class A title game, 61-52.

The Bulldogs trailed for nearly the entire game and a cold third quarter put the contest out of reach. Seeded No. 5, Beacon had reached the final — its first since 2003 — by upsetting No. 4 Red Hook on Feb. 26, 56-54, and No. 1 New Paltz on Feb. 28, 61-52.

After two games in four days, Beacon

appeared to run out of gas against No. 2 Saugerties, struggling to keep up with the fast and physical Sawyers. Saugerties took a 41-26 lead into the fourth quarter after several minutes of sloppy play from the Bulldogs. Beacon's only lead came two minutes into the first quarter.

Derek Fortes led the scoring for the Bulldogs with 10 points, followed by Ryan Landisi with eight.

Beacon started the year 2-7 before winning 10 of its last 11 regular season games and two playoff games to finish 14-9.

"We are building something special, and I'm excited about the future," said Coach Patrick Schetter. The run was "unbelievable but we have set a standard now of what we want for postseason basketball, and we will be back."



Marciano Rodriguez shoots against Saugerties during the March 1 title game.
Photo by Cadence Heeter