

The HIGHLANDS Current

THE WEEK AHEAD
Page 12

- COMMUNITY
- KIDS & FAMILY
- TALKS & TOURS
- NATURE & OUTDOORS
- STAGE & SCREEN
- MUSIC
- VISUAL ARTS
- CIVIC

APRIL 19, 2024

NYPA News: The Year

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PLAY PATROL – Parents and children swept, raked and mulched McConville (Tots) Park in Cold Spring on April 14 to prepare for the upcoming season of outdoor fun. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

Mayors, Supervisor Oppose Trail in Cold Spring

Voice concerns in letter to state parks

By Michael Turton

The mayors of Cold Spring and Nelsonville and the supervisor in Philipstown issued a letter on Wednesday (April 17) opposing plans to start the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail in Cold Spring.

The letter, signed by Kathleen Foley of Cold Spring, Chris Winward of Nelsonville and John Van Tassel of Philipstown and read aloud by Foley and Van Tassel at meetings, is addressed to Meagan Fitzgerald, the deputy commissioner of the state parks agency and Linda Cooper, the regional director.

State parks is partnering with Scenic Hudson, an environmental nonprofit based in Poughkeepsie, to construct the HHFT, which is proposed to run from Cold Spring to Beacon along the Hudson River. It is the lead agency in the environmental review of the project.

“Having the actual trail enter the Village of Cold Spring by any route would irreversibly change the landscape, viewshed and character of the village as well as the experience of all Philipstown residents who consider Cold Spring the heart of our town,” the three elected officials wrote. “The trail’s necessary size, scale and construction requirements, particularly to meet the accessibility goal identified by the HHFT design team, would be outsized for our small residential village.”

The officials asserted that creating a gateway to the trail in Cold Spring, especially a proposed route beginning at the state-owned Dockside Park, would itself become a tourist destination, creating “an unbearable, unsustainable increase in visitor volume that no number of trash cans and toilets will offset.”

Instead, the letter advocates simple, “residentially scaled” paths and sidewalks from Cold Spring to an HHFT entrance north of the village, describing that approach as “far more appropriate to our historic, livable community.”

Foley said the letter represents the views of the three officials but not necessarily of the Village Board. (Van Tassel said the same about the Town Board.) On Wednesday, Cold Spring Trustee Aaron Freimark remarked

(Continued on Page 9)

New Limits for ‘Forever Chemicals’

First national standards for local drinking water

By Leonard Sparks

The Environmental Protection Agency last week issued the first national standards for a class of chemicals that shut down the drinking water supply in Newburgh and have been detected at lower levels in Beacon and Cold Spring.

The EPA standards issued on April 10 cap at 4 parts per trillion the legal limit for PFOA and PFOS, two types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They have been called “forever chemicals” because of their duration in the environment, and the human body.

The new maximum for PFOA and PFOS is more stringent than New York State’s 10 parts per trillion. In addition, the EPA set limits of 10 parts per trillion for three other PFAS chemicals and declared that no level of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water is without risk.

(Continued on Page 7)

Holtec Sues Over River Ban

Says feds should have final say on discharge

By Brian PJ Cronin

The company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant south of the Highlands sued New York State in federal court on Thursday (April 18), asking a judge to overturn a law that bans the discharge of radioactive

wastewater into the Hudson River.

Citing the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, its filing claims the 2023 law is a “blatant infringement on the federal government’s exclusive right to regulate the discharge of radioactive materials from nuclear power plants.”

“The failure of New York State to respect federal law and follow the facts and science of the issue left us no other means for remedy,” it said.

(Continued on Page 3)

Beacon School Budget Nearly Set

Spending plan, capital project could mean dual tax increases

By Jeff Simms

While the breakdown of state aid, property tax revenue and district funding will not be known until next week, the Beacon City School District has set its tax levy for its 2024-25 budget at \$47.68 million. That’s a 3.91 percent increase over what it collected for 2023-24 and would trigger a modest tax bump.

The levy increase is based on Beacon’s tax-base growth factor (one of the highest in Dutchess County), the consumer price index and other factors and does not exceed a state-mandated cap. Voters will consider the proposed budget on May 21.

According to the district, the annual increase for a Beacon resident who owns a home worth \$425,000, the median value in Dutchess, would be \$88. For Town of Fishkill and Town of Wappinger residents in the district, the estimated increase would be \$100 and \$106, respectively.

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a tentative *(Continued on Page 8)*

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: GEORGE WHIPPLE

By Leonard Sparks

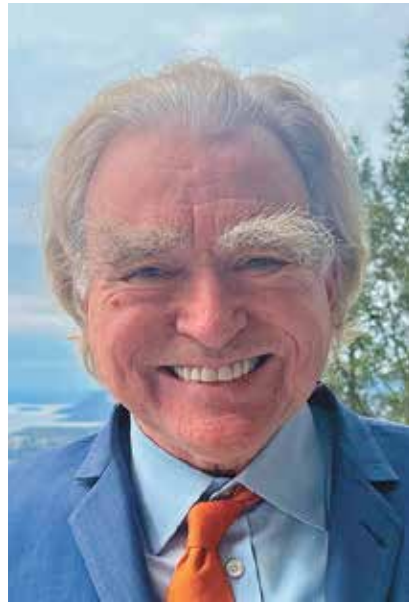
George Whipple, who lives in Philipstown, is the author of *Garrison*, a postcard history of the hamlet published this week by Arcadia Publishing.

Why did you choose Garrison as a subject?

My family has lived in Putnam County for three generations. In 1999, I set up a foundation, Preserve Putnam County, and wanted to do a few good things for my home county during my lifetime. One of them was to write a book on each of the five towns. Earlier, I wrote an illustrated history of Kent and a postcard history of Carmel. When I moved to Garrison, I said, "Let's write a postcard history of Garrison." All proceeds are being donated to the Putnam History Museum.

Where did you find the postcards?

I have a huge collection of Garrison postcards, as does [Philipstown Historian] Mark Forlow, the Putnam History Museum and David Lilburne at Antipodean Books on Garrison's Landing. All four collections are represented; between us I think we have every postcard of Garrison. They're not all in the book, of course, but we have them all.



How did you become interested in postcards?

When I was a kid, the local drugstore would sell postcards and, because the place had been around so long, some went back to the 1910s. I have always been fascinated with postcards and depictions of Putnam County. They capture a particular time and point of view. They're also an easy way to get all of the buildings and the history collected. If you started collecting ephem-

era, photographs and old newspaper ads, that would take forever. I'm a little bit of an accomplishment junkie, so I wanted to get it done.

How did you build your collection?

If you're a collector, eBay is the greatest tool ever invented. I used to collect Whipple family and Putnam County memorabilia by going through trays of postcards at flea markets. If I found one postcard a day, it was a miracle. If you go to eBay, you can find 100 postcards on Putnam County, and I can quickly look at them and say, "There's one I don't have," which probably means it's very rare.

What are your favorite images?

I like the postcard of the goats. Goats and sheep were a big thing in Putnam County. I like the one of Bosco's Folly [on Route 9D], where they used to serve hamburgers and beer. It's something you pass all the time but don't realize it was a bar in the 1940s. There were a lot of places like that in Putnam — either things you don't know what they were or things that have disappeared. Those are the things I really enjoy.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

With summer approaching, what is "hot" for you?

75. I love the heat but prefer the cold.



Erin Sheehan, Cold Spring

92. I like heat but without the humidity.



Mark Banco, Philipstown

82. I can tolerate heat but not the cold.



Juhee Lee-Hartford, Cold Spring

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NEWS BRIEFS

Philipstown Resident Wins Guggenheim

Politics professor specializes in Eastern Europe

Jessica Pisano, a Philipstown resident who is a professor at The New School for Social Research in New York City, was this week named one of 188 Guggenheim Fellows for 2024.



Pisano

The annual award honors scholars, artists, writers, historians and scientists with grants ranging from about \$30,000 to \$45,000 to provide “blocks of time in which fellows can work with as much

creative freedom as possible,” according to the Guggenheim Foundation.

Pisano’s most recent book is *Staging Democracy: Political Performance in Ukraine, Russia and Beyond*, and her current project is an ethnography of a rural street in southwestern Ukraine under fascism, socialism and neoliberal democracy.

Main Break Shuts Down Garrison’s Landing Water

Town provides bottled water, toilets

A main break forced the shutoff of water service to some residents of the Garrison’s Landing Water District, the Town of Philipstown said Wednesday (April 17).



Workers search on Dock Street for the source of a water leak at Garrison’s Landing.

Photo by Leonard Sparks

Philipstown said bottled water and portable toilets would be provided to district residents as workers with the town Highway Department and Cemco Water and Wastewater

Specialists try to locate and repair the leak. Crews dug in two spots on Wednesday afternoon: on Dock Street and outside 27 Garrison’s Landing.

Holtec (from Page 1)

The state Assembly and Senate approved the law after Holtec announced last year that it planned to discharge more than 1 million gallons of radioactive wastewater from spent fuel pools. It noted that radioactive water had been routinely discharged into the river during the 50 years the plant operated.

Although the water would be filtered, that process would not remove tritium, a radioactive isotope. According to the lawsuit, “Holtec’s plan to treat and dispose of the tritiated wastewater in the Hudson River from Indian Point fully satisfies NRC

[Nuclear Regulatory Commission] regulations and is well within federal limits on radiological discharges.”

That failed to mollify many residents, elected officials and environmentalists, who argued that, even if the effects were negligible, the perception of a “radioactive river” could harm the local economy and property values.

In the spring of 2023, Assembly Member Dana Levenberg and state Sen. Pete Harkham, Democrats whose districts include Indian Point, introduced the legislation to prohibit discharges. It passed both houses with bipartisan support.

Holtec’s lawsuit notes that the initial

version of the bill cited “the protection of drinking water and health and safety,” while the final version only mentioned economic concerns.

Victoria Leung, a staff attorney for the environmental organization Riverkeeper, said that while the federal law preempts state regulation in the field of nuclear health and safety, “it does allow for states to regulate its own interests, such as economic interests.”

“So we don’t think it comes in conflict with federal law,” she said. “We maintain that this law is an appropriate exercise of state power as it seeks to regulate the state of New York state’s economic interest, not nuclear safety.”

In a statement on Thursday (April 18), Harkham said: “Holtec’s litigation does not change these facts: The New York State Senate unanimously approved legislation to stop the dumping of radioactive wastewater into the Hudson, and the governor signed it into law because most residents want to protect this vital waterway, as well as the economic activity generated by the river.”

The next meeting of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board is scheduled for Thursday (April 25). In a statement, the board said that it did not plan to discuss the lawsuit but would continue presentations on alternative methods of wastewater removal.

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Fjord Trail

This still sounds like all that Cold Spring gets from the plan is a lot more tourists and their quotient of toilets and garbage containers embellishing Dockside Park and elsewhere in the Historic District ("Fjord Trail: Access Would Be Limited If Overrun," April 12). If we didn't have to anticipate exponentially increased tourist loads, we wouldn't need all those toilets.

Exactly how does the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail intend to "limit access" to state roads and the Village of Cold Spring while virally promoting its unbridled visitation plan? The absurd proposition that "no Fjord Trail parking is intended in Cold Spring" seems disingenuous when, at the same time, the developer plans to annex Dockside and impose a fleet of buses to carry tourists in and out of the village.

The notion that "50 percent of the hikers who now take the train to Cold Spring will instead continue to Breakneck" is speculation.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

Like many others, I am confused about HHFT's plans, and it only deepens with each public meeting. If Mother Nature doesn't kill this project soon, it could easily die by its own weight.

We are getting different responses to questions, depending on who we ask. No

endowment, but fundraising (yet without an estimated budget — what serious donor would give to that?). Scenic Hudson has veto power over HHFT, or it doesn't. There is no construction budget, but state parks has an undated one for Phase I. It is a "unique" public/private partnership but no one can define "unique." HHFT won't commercialize Dockside, but it will rent parking spaces on state land. It might use surge pricing, but it really cares about "equity." It'll be ADA-compliant, but I, for one, would not push my wheelchair-bound sister on a trail that allows bikes. It will manage the crowds but hopes Metro-North will reduce the number of trains each autumn.

How about killing the boardwalk, which appears to be 53 percent of the whole, and starting at Breakneck? Spending millions for a private park inside public land without clear roles and responsibilities hardly constitutes environmental justice.

Please don't let Scenic Hudson become the environmental equivalent of Harvard University, where a wealthy donor dictates policy and practice. It's unseemly and destroys the "brand."

Gretchen Dykstra, *Philipstown*

The addition of the Fjord Trail in the Town of Fishkill will further propel Fishkill as one of the top places to live, not only in Dutchess County and New York state but

Corrections

In "Looking Back in Philipstown" (April 12), the first two entries under 25 Years Ago should have been the last two entries under 50 Years Ago.

On the Puzzles page, the clues for the Micro Crossword were incorrect. The correct clues are posted online.

in the U.S. As a side note, Mount Beacon is not in Beacon but in the Town of Fishkill.

Ozzy Albra, *Fishkill*

Albra is the Town of Fishkill supervisor.

I can't wait to see everyone on this amazing trail. I drove down the Henry Hudson Parkway and witnessed thousands of people comfortably sharing an 8-foot-wide trail along a scenic waterway. If a trail that size can support the population of Manhattan, the Fjord Trail will look empty by comparison. There will be plenty of room to teach your children how to roller skate or ride a bike — things you can't do safely in Cold Spring — run with friends or sit on a bench and have lunch. Hurry up and finish this trail.

Travis Biro, *via Facebook*

Sadly, I haven't spent time there since the crowds came in. I'll keep my memories and you enjoy the chaos.

Christine Peterson, *via Facebook*

It sounds like when this big-old inclusive trail gets built, you'll be able to get back out there and enjoy it again.

Travis Biro, *via Facebook*

The Haldane playground is safe and empty on weekends. It's a great spot for learning to ride a bike — no traffic.

Shelley Gilbert, *via Facebook*

The out-of-towners have ruined that area. The amount of garbage they leave behind is shameful.

Tracie Gasbarra, *via Facebook*

The parking should be outside that corridor, with visitors shuttled in. There are great sites along Routes 9 or 301. In fact, the "zombie mall" next to Home Depot would be an excellent site for a visitor center, with shuttle stops between Beacon and Fahnestock State Park to spread people out.

Kimberly Sevilla, *via Facebook*

Amy Kacala, the executive director of HHFT Inc., should step down and let someone qualified reunite our town and move the project forward.

HHFT has engaged with the community

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

in a divisive and amateurish way. The volunteer members of the Philipstown HHFT Data Committee are pillars of the community. The fact that it had to issue a statement in response to HHFT is upsetting, especially when it pointed out conflicts in the data. It appears the hastily presented data is sloppy and useless and that HHFT has ignored and plowed ahead without adequate consultation, feedback or respect for the Data Committee.

I had given Kacala, whom I have never met, the benefit of the doubt, despite many examples of high-handed, tone-deaf and incompetent rolling out of the HHFT process. We need a candidate who can heal the schism that this project has created.

I want to thank the Data Committee for its outstanding work and Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel for bringing this outrageous lapse by Scenic Hudson into focus.

Ben Cheah, *via Facebook*

Cheah is a member of the Cold Spring Planning Board.

High school tuition

My Haldane Class of 1961 was one of the last with ninth graders coming to Haldane from Garrison as a rule unless they attended a parochial or private school (“Haldane, Garrison at Odds Over Tuition,” April 12). My brother Bill’s was the last, except those students were “ripped” out of the seats — so to speak — and sent across the river to O’Neill. Kids we had grown up with, played Little League, were in Scouting and just got to know were suddenly sent to unknown territory.

It seems, as with Congress lately, that the adults can’t get their act together. Given the number of individuals involved, if Haldane used the pricing other schools use, rather than a 70-year-old “formula,” this would be a simple problem.

It’s time to think of the children and the Philipstown community, not the bottom line. There just aren’t enough individuals involved to leave such a bad taste.

Anthony Merante, *Philipstown*

Arts coverage

Alison Rooney’s arts, culture and people reporting added a valuable dimension to *The Current*, one that shared a nuanced look at

the fabric of our community (“Bye Bye Byline,” April 12). She reminded us of the rich cultural landscape we are fortunate to enjoy here in the Highlands. She illustrated how every community is a collective of multifaceted personalities and diverse experiences. Thank you, Alison! Good luck in your next chapter.

MJ Martin, *Philipstown*

I would venture to say that I read and enjoyed almost all of Alison’s 1,800 articles. Thank you for sharing your talent with our community.

Margaret Parr, *via Facebook*

Thanks for many words written with curiosity and creativity.

Susan Graves, *via Facebook*

Alison, may your swim in a new ocean be refreshing and invigorating.

Anita Prentice, *Garrison*

Max’s on Main

I am sorry to see Max’s leaving (“Max’s on Main to Close,” April 12). We will miss the food and the comfort of a great neighborhood blue-collar place to unwind. Wishing you the best, Richie Kaplan.

Enrique Reynoso, *Beacon*

The Kaplan brothers were great at bringing old and new Beacon together and making everybody feel right at home. They will indeed be missed by many.

The owner of another Main Street business, Pandorica, was quoted as saying that she remembered when “no one wanted Beacon. It was a depressed city, and now, 25 years later, we can’t afford to stay.”

In fact, in an era of generally depressed urban areas, Beacon did better than most small cities, and residents largely voted with their feet by staying. The Beacon Historical Society has a 1986 shopping guide map of Main Street that illustrates the strength of the Main Street economy even when “no one wanted Beacon.”

Dick Murphy, *Beacon*

Classic VWs

Michael Turton’s article about the 1968 Volkswagen Beetle must have brought smiles to the faces of many readers (“Classic Wheels,” April 5).

Our first VW was not a Beetle but a ’60s VW bus (or Vanagon) with about 20 windows, a rollback top cover and four forward gears. When I received it, the third gear was inoperable. Going uphill, you would shift down from fourth to second. The top speed was 30 mph if you had the wind.

The motor was still good, so I took it from the bus and installed it into a Beetle I bought for \$75 that had no engine. The transfer only took about 90 minutes because the motor connected to the rear transaxle with four bolts.

We took that car to Maine, where we took out the passenger seats and hauled rocks to repair the foundation of our barn.

Later, near Philadelphia, we found a cream-colored Beetle in pristine condition with a Blaupunkt radio and European turn signals that flipped out of the body.

I don’t think any of our VWs had a gas gauge; that came with later models. When the car was running low on fuel, it would stall, but before it died completely, you pulled a lever so the remaining gallon or so would keep it running until you reached a gas station. Some Beetle owners clipped a number wheel to the visor as a reminder of the mileage.

Will Brown, *Garrison*

Garrison transfer

This is one of the most spectacular areas of the Hudson Highlands — the views of West Point alone illustrate how important it was to winning the American Revolution (“Garrison Land Being Transferred to State,” April 12). I’m glad to see it will be protected. Of all the trails I’ve hiked in the area, it’s the only one where I have found a Native American arrowhead.

Carol Wax, *via Facebook*

Because of my Scenic Hudson paranoia, I read the headline as “Garrison Landing,” thinking it was about to put another river-side trail there.

Kelly House, *via Facebook*

Why can’t it be sold and placed or kept on the tax rolls?

Jeff Phillips, *via Facebook*

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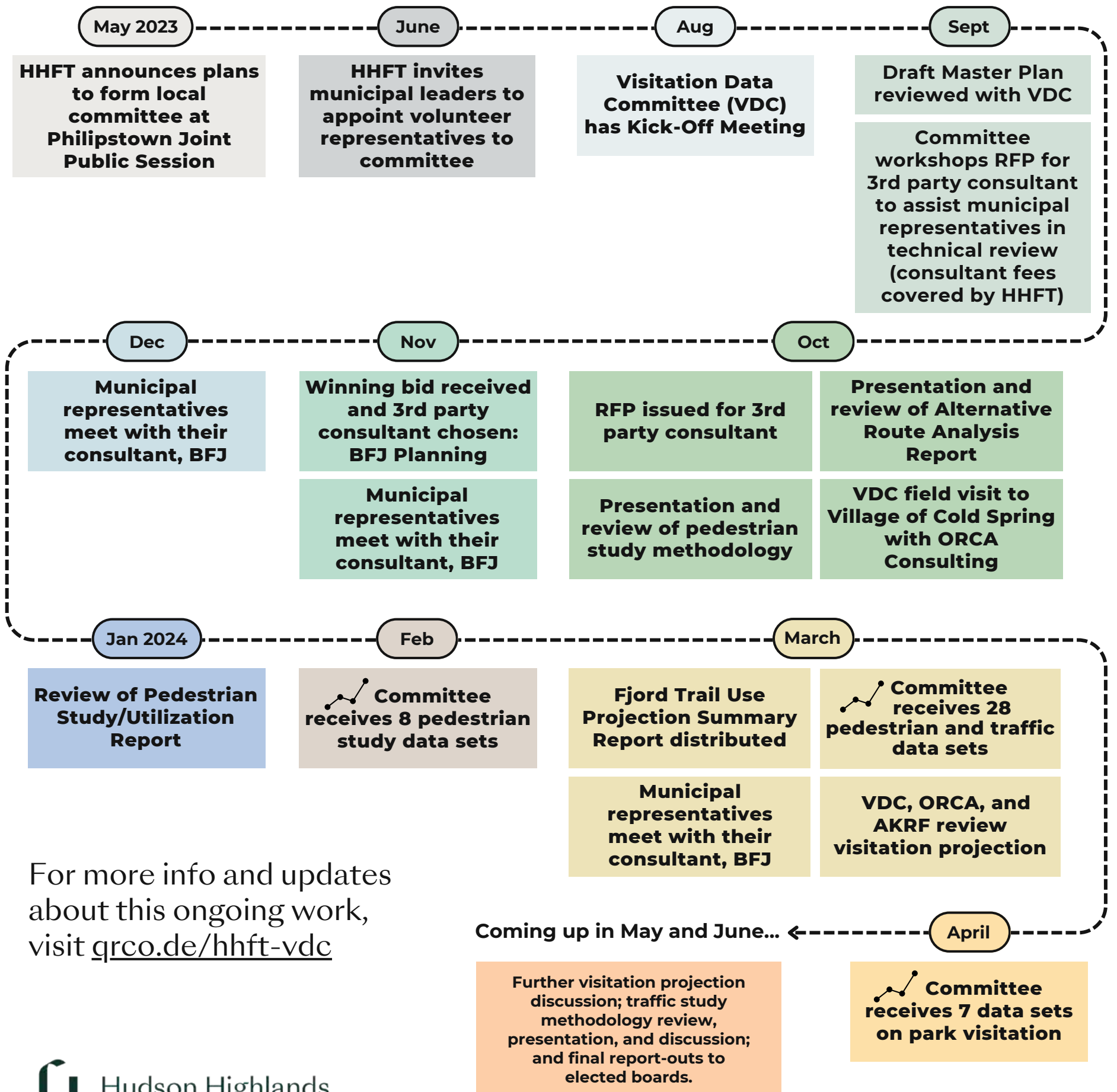
   

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Visitation Data Committee Timeline

The Visitation Data Committee (VDC) was convened by HHFT to give project area municipalities an opportunity to review data on the pedestrian counts, user projections, and traffic study that will be included in the Generic Environmental Impact Statement. The VDC is made up of representatives from Philipstown, Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Beacon, and Fishkill; HHFT staff; and consultant representatives. In addition to the meeting dates below, municipal representatives present periodic updates to their respective elected boards.



For more info and updates about this ongoing work, visit grco.de/hhft-vdc



The Future in Flooding

Dutchess identifies areas made vulnerable by climate change

By **Brian PJ Cronin**

Few Beacon residents need a report from Dutchess County to tell them the parking lot at the train station is at risk of flooding.

Over the past few months, the riverside half has flooded regularly. Many residents recall the underpass being submerged during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Beacon's two connections to Interstate 84 are also vulnerable, and rains could cause landslides that impact the intersection of Route 52 and I-84.

These are a few of the findings in a report

released last week by the Dutchess County Transportation Council as part of a project to identify and address climate change's impact on the county transportation system. The project included creating an interactive map at gis.dutchessny.gov/resilient-ways-forward that shows which roads, bridges and public transportation systems are most at risk of flooding and landslides.

Wedged between a river and a mountain and bisected by a creek, Beacon has no shortage of vulnerabilities.

The eastern edge of Main Street, past the intersection of Verplanck Avenue, is particularly at risk because it runs alongside Fishkill Creek before the water reaches the falls and drops to below street level.

The map warns that neighboring Ackerman Street, Herbert Street and Blackburn Avenue are at high risk for floods and that Beacon residents shouldn't be surprised

if Dennings Point temporarily becomes Dennings Island after a storm. Many streets in downtown Fishkill are also rated as highly vulnerable to flooding.

In addition, many neighborhoods near Mount Beacon and the Fishkill Ridge have a "very high" susceptibility to landslides. These include the stretch of Howland Avenue after it separates from Route 9D near the Mount Beacon parking lot, East Main Street after it branches off from Washington Avenue and climbs toward the mountain, and the southernmost edge of Glenham.

The Transportation Council also examined the potential effects of snow, wind, drought and extreme heat. As global temperatures rise, the county's sidewalks and network of rail trails could become unusable during the summer as the paved surfaces retain heat. Rising temperatures will mean less snow in the Hudson Valley, but blizzards will still occur, slowing down buses and motorists.

The project's next phase will identify possible responses by municipalities and

private landowners, such as an increase in shade trees along rail trails and sidewalks, more vegetation alongside streams near roads and bridges to mitigate flooding, permeable pavers that absorb water, heated bus shelters, retaining walls to fortify slopes and redirecting roads away from areas prone to landslides.

"We're trying to provide data, resources analysis and possible adaptation measures to agencies so they can implement them either holistically or on a case-by-case basis," said Mark Debald of the Transportation Council, although most highway departments in the county are already aware of the project.

Debald said the project can help direct federal grant money, particularly from the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to offset climate change. "It would require hundreds of millions of dollars for the county to become fully resilient," he said. "We know that's not possible. That's why we need to prioritize improvements, and this is a positive step in that direction."

Chemicals *(from Page 1)*

PFAS chemicals, used for decades in nonstick cookware, water-repellant clothing and other consumer products, as well as firefighting foams, have been linked to various health problems, including cancer, low-infant birthweights and high cholesterol.

The operators of as many as 10 percent of the 66,000 drinking-water systems covered by the standards nationwide may have to take action because their PFAS levels exceed the revised guidelines, according to the EPA. Based on recent tests, Beacon and Cold Spring would be exempt as of April 18.

3M announced last year that it would pay \$10.3 billion over 13 years so operators of public systems can treat contaminated water and test for the chemicals.

According to the most recent report available, the level of PFOS measured in Beacon's water supply topped out at 2.4 parts per trillion in 2022, and PFOA levels

were measured at 1.88 ppt.

The most recent report for Cold Spring, provided by the Putnam County Health Department, shows PFOA levels of 1.59 parts per trillion in the fourth quarter of 2021. Neither PFOA nor PFOS was detected in any other test that year.

Newburgh's primary water supply, Washington Lake, was shut down in May 2016 because of high levels of PFOS (140 parts per trillion); the city began buying water from New York City. Authorities said the contamination came from runoff from Stewart Air National Guard Base that contained the residue of firefighting foams.

More recently, the Putnam Valley Central School District installed a filtration system in a well that supplies its elementary school after tests showed levels of 38.3 parts per trillion for PFOS and 23.3 ppt for PFOA. The district traced the problem to the Putnam Valley Fire Department's use of foams at its firehouses.

Jonathan Jacobson, whose state Assembly district includes Beacon, is a longtime Newburgh resident who consumed the city's contaminated water before it closed Washington Lake. "The need for these new standards is not just theoretical," he said. "It is personal to me and my neighbors."

Newburgh, Putnam Valley and Dutchess County are among the municipalities suing 3M, DuPont and other companies that manufactured and used the chemicals.

3M, which said in December 2022 that it would cease making PFAS by the end of 2025, announced last year that it would pay \$10.3 billion over 13 years so operators of public systems can treat contam-

inated water and test for the chemicals. Twenty days earlier, Chemours, DuPont and Corteva said they would pay a combined \$1.2 billion into a fund to settle claims.

In addition, the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law enacted in 2021 includes \$1 billion for public water systems and the owners of private wells to test their water for PFAS and treat contamination.

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Free trolley service provided by Putnam County Transportation with stops at:

- (1) parking lot at MNR station at Cold Spring;
- (2) St. Mary's Church property;
- (3) Boscobel House & Gardens;
- (4) Rte. 9D Ballpark parking area;
- (5) Little Stony Point at Fair Street
- (6) Wave-downs permitted along the route.
- (7) Bus driver gratuity permitted



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Learn more

School Budget *(from Page 1)*

budget agreement with lawmakers on Monday (April 15); once the plan is finalized, public school districts will know how much state aid they will receive for 2024-25. According to the governor, the budget will include \$35.9 billion in school funding, including \$24.9 billion in Foundation Aid, which considers factors such as a district's relative wealth and the number of students it serves.

"It may not be a budget where we have a laundry list of things we're adding next year, but it's a budget where we're really proud to be keeping these wonderful things in place that we've fought hard to get." ~ Superintendent Matt Landahl

On Monday, Superintendent Matt Landahl told the Beacon school board that he expects the district will receive about the same amount it did last year, which was \$30.8 million.

"Everything that we're reading is that school districts in the 'save harmless' [no decrease] category, which Beacon is, should not be expecting an increase in Foundation Aid," he said. "That's been the messaging for the last several weeks."

Despite flat funding, Landahl said the district plans to maintain small class sizes, full-day pre-K, expanded extracurricular

clubs, access to collegiate and advanced coursework, and salary increases and professional development opportunities for employees. A pilot program to support reading instruction for elementary students would also receive funding.

"It may not be a budget where we have a laundry list of things we're adding next year, but it's a budget where we're really proud to be keeping these wonderful things in place that we've fought hard to get," Landahl said.

The district intends to implement a "position-control" policy to determine, case-by-case, whether to replace staff members who resign or retire. The policy isn't meant to cause panic, the superintendent said, but administrators will look "at every single aspect of the district" in trying to save money through attrition.

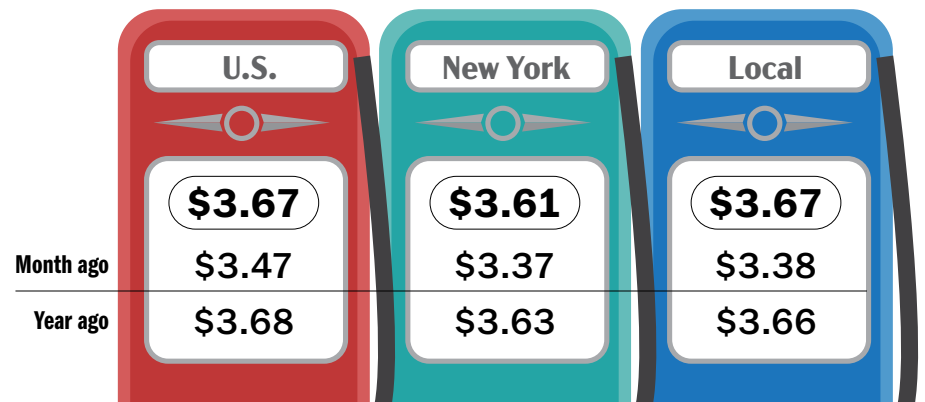
Positions funded by federal American Rescue Plan funds will be reviewed, along with contracts, most of which are for services provided by the Dutchess Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

In addition to the budget and three board seats, the May 21 ballot will include two propositions related to student transportation and one to allow the district to borrow money for a proposed \$49 million capital project.

The first proposition would allow the district to purchase a second electric school bus. Voters approved buying one electric bus last year but it has yet to be purchased. The district has received conditional approval from New York State for vouchers providing \$257,250 for each bus, which, including a charger, sells for \$495,000.

The second proposition would permit

Gas Prices



Source: gasprices.aaa.com. Prices are average per gallon for regular.

the district to spend \$485,000 to buy three 72-passenger, gas-powered buses.

(State law requires that school buses purchased after 2027 run on electricity; all 50,000 gas-powered buses in New York must be replaced by 2035.)

The third proposition asks voters to approve an initiative for capital improvements across all six district school buildings. It would include heating, ventilation and energy-efficiency upgrades, new roofs on some buildings, secure visitor entrances and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, among many other repairs.

Many classrooms will receive new flooring, ceilings, lighting, windows and doors,

while the stage and theater at Beacon High School will be upgraded and new playground equipment installed at Sargent and Glenham elementaries.

The tennis courts and baseball and softball fields at the high school will be improved and the cafeterias and gymnasiums at the four elementary schools and Rombout Middle School will be air-conditioned to create "cooling centers," the district said.

The project would come with its own tax increase, estimated at \$127 annually for a home assessed at \$300,000; \$170 for a \$400,000 home and \$212 for a \$500,000 home. Those numbers could decrease if a homeowner has a STAR or Enhanced STAR exemption.

Garrison Children's Education Fund
Invites you to

Spring Thaw

HUDSON VALLEY BREWERY
7 EAST MAIN STREET, BEACON, NY, 12508

April 27, 2024 | 7-10PM

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Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

that he would have appreciated receiving a copy of the letter before the meeting.

"It is your right to act unilaterally," he said. "But as a courtesy, we're reminded that we work together as a board."

"I accept your good feedback," Foley responded. "At some point, we need to calendar this as a public discussion."

Foley also read comments into the record from an April 3 statement by members of the HHFT Data Committee, which includes two Cold Spring residents and Winward, that was critical of HHFT.

Thanking the Data Committee for its work, Foley said: "We picked people who know their fields and bring expertise ranging from data analysis to public administration to legal perspective; I wanted that to be part of our record."

The elected officials' letter and the Data Committee statement are posted with this story at highlandscurrent.org.

In a statement on Thursday (April 18), MJ Martin, director of development and community engagement for HHFT, wrote: "HHFT, along with state parks, has been in continued conversation with municipal leadership on the project. Both the letter by the supervisor and mayors and the media statement by the Philipstown members of the Data Committee came abruptly, in the middle of an ongoing process meant to gather information and understand community members' priorities."

"It was surprising to learn municipal leadership is taking this stance, as local support for the Shoreline Trail is well documented in both a survey administered by HHFT and a recent independent survey by a Cold Spring resident. Philipstown, including the villages, is a community composed of diverse viewpoints. It is important that all voices be heard."

'Rough' debut for parking

The Village Board's meeting on April 10 included a lengthy discussion about the first weekend of the paid parking program that began five days earlier on Main Street.

The year-round meter system, along with the residential parking program being enforced on side streets, began April 5 and requires visitors to pay to park on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. At its Wednesday (April 17) meeting, the board said it would likely drop enforcement on Monday holidays because it requires reprogramming the payment kiosks each time.

Trustee Eliza Starbuck, who has shepherded both programs, said on April 10 that metered parking's first weekend produced "some rough areas" and "wasn't perfect," partly because the three parking enforcement staff are being trained. (The Village Board on March 27 approved hiring two part-time enforcement agents for \$20 per hour.) In addition, some merchants feel "threatened," she said.

"They're getting very sharp complaints

from customers, people saying they'll never come back" after receiving a \$75 parking ticket, said Starbuck.

But the program produced revenue — \$7,700 in its first six days — traffic was calmer and she received "a lot of really great feedback," Starbuck said. She said the first weekend showed that signage needs to be improved to better inform drivers of the metered parking rules.

"That's \$7,700 that we don't have to raise by taxes," Foley remarked.

The board said that, through April 28, one warning will be issued per license plate number for Main Street violations. Starbuck suggested that shop owners be asked to display posters that explain the parking rules.

Foley said that "change is always controversial" and "there is always a period where there is outrage, shock, then it becomes part of our regular routine." The cost of tourism, she said, has to be shifted to visitors. "We have to have more revenue," she said.

Village budget

A public hearing on the 2024-25 village budget opened and closed April 10 with minimal resident comments.

The \$3 million budget, which will cover the fiscal year from June 1 to May 31, 2025, includes a 3.93 percent increase in the property tax levy, the maximum allowed for Cold Spring for 2024-25 under a cap calculated by New York State.

Foley said one of the goals for the next fiscal year will be to "prioritize critical infrastructure repairs that we need to address right away," particularly the Fair Street culverts damaged by storms in July 2023.

Resident Walter Ulmer asked how the board calculated that the village will collect \$291,000 from parking fees. Village accountant Michelle Ascolillo said the amount is based on 70 percent occupancy of the 80 paid parking spaces on Main Street during the eight-month busy season and a 35 percent occupancy rate for the other four months. The revenue estimate includes fees from the municipal lot on Fair Street, she said.

The board will likely adopt the budget during its Wednesday (April 24) meeting.

In other business ...

■ Foley announced that Larry Burke, who joined the Cold Spring Police Department

Real Estate

Market Report (March)

Beacon Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	8	9
Closed Sales	3	3
Days on Market	82	24
Median Price	\$380,000	\$389,000
% List Received	97.7	92.0
Inventory	30	29

Beacon Condos

	2023	2024
New Listings	9	0
Closed Sales	4	2
Days on Market	130	71
Median Price	\$490,000	\$837,500
% List Received	103.3	92.1
Inventory	26	5

Philipstown Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	9	14
Closed Sales	4	1
Days on Market	119	15
Median Price	\$837,000	\$1,228,000
% List Received	95.0	102.3
Inventory	22	32

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.

in 2013, will step down as officer-in-charge on May 1. Burke will continue to work part-time shifts; a new officer-in-charge will be named soon. "Larry has served the village beyond all expectations," said Foley.

■ The board denied a request from John Scherer to host a Hops on the Hudson event at Dockside Park in August. Past events were held at Mayor's Park. Foley said managing such events "has been a challenge" and residents have complained about drunk attendees on Main Street. Burke noted that with only one road in and out of Dockside, large events can pose logistical problems for emergency vehicles.

■ The public restrooms at the Visitor Center reopened on April 13. They will be available Thursday to Sunday through May, and then daily for the summer.

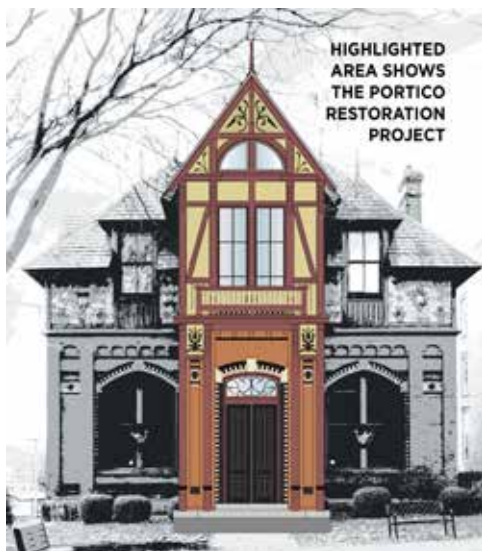
■ The board accepted the resignation of police officer George Kane. A former officer-in-charge, he had been on disability leave.

■ Cold Spring police officers answered 119 calls in March and issued 63 parking and 26 traffic tickets, including 12 for speeding. One arrest was made for driving with a suspended license.

Reserve your spot now! Howland Cultural Center GALA

Thursday, May 9, 2024 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Celebrating Our Honorees
Ed Benavente & Howland Chamber Music Circle
at The Roundhouse



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CHECKS: Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
INFO: howlandcentercenter.org

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Sightings

By Mona Z. Smith,
Directed by Traci Mariano

May 10-19

Depot Spring Benefit: Everyone Wants to Be Seen

May 19, 4:00-6:00pm

www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

AROUND TOWN



▲ **HAPPY 100!** — Aggie Hopkins of Cold Spring turned 100 on April 13. Among other surprises, she was treated by neighbors to a balloon display in her front yard. She grew up in Hyde Park and married Charles Hopkins of Nelsonville in 1958.

Photo provided



◀ **NOTEWORTHY** — Julia Yang of the Merz Trio performs at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on April 7; the other musicians in the group are pianist Amy Yang and violinist Brigid Coleridge. The trio performed works by Schumann, Purcell, Mahler and Brahms, as well as Thelonious Monk (“Round Midnight”).



◀ **MIKE & RUTHY** — Mike Merenda and Ruth Ungar played at the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley on April 13. Ungar’s parents are also a folk duo; her father, Jay, wrote “Ashokan Farewell.”

Photos by Ross Corsair



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To buy tickets go to: hvshakespeare.org/benefit or email Semra Ercin at sercin@hvshakespeare.org or call 845-809-4339.

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Spring Thrift Sale

Featuring our mending station and bake sale

Friday 4/26 - 5pm-7:30pm - Pre-sale party \$20 entry
Saturday 4/27 - 10am-11am - Early Bird \$20 entry
Saturday 4/27 - 11am-6pm - \$0 entry
Sunday 4/28 - 11am-6pm - \$0 entry
Sunday 3-6pm fill a bag for \$10
(please help us by bringing your own bag)

St. Mary's Parish Hall, 1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring

For questions about volunteering at the sale, email Darsnowden88@gmail.com



"Futurismo rivisitato a colori" (1965)



"La testa della madre 1913" (1965)



"Elemento per grande paesaggio" (1962)



"Compagni compagni" (1968)



"Particolare di propaganda" (1962)



"Grande oggetto paesaggio" (1965)

The Calendar

An Italian Visits New York

Magazzino exhibit shares 1960s work by talented, but troubled, artist

By Marc Ferris

One takeaway from the exhibit *Germinal* at Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown is how often the artist, Mario Schifano, shifted visual and technical gears over just 10 years, from 1960 to 1970.

In Italy, the groovy 1960s collided with lingering post-World War II malaise and radical politics. Schifano visited New York City three times during the period, hobnobbing with jazz masters and hanging out with Andy Warhol, Mark Rothko and Robert Rauschenberg.

A cheeky account states that "the Rolling Stones stole his girlfriend," Anita Pallenberg (who dated Brian Jones and had three children with Keith Richards). Later in the decade, Marianne Faithfull left Mick Jagger for Schifano.

One photo in the exhibit shows Jasper Johns preparing a libation as Schifano relaxes. The Italian's extensive photos and films of old New York are priceless, but he also picked up a heroin habit and did not return to the city after interest in his work waned.

He continued to create, but ill-gotten fame grew with successive arrests. After spending time in a mental institution and with a band, he died in 1998 at age 63. He had exhibited all over Europe and around the world, from Tokyo to Los Angeles and South America.

This show, curated by Filippo Fossati, reimagines and streamlines the museum's Schifano exhibition from last fall, focusing on the period when his dalliances in New York City and Italian politics informed his work.

At first, the artist's textured monochrome paintings attracted the interest of Leo Castelli and Ileana Sonnabend, among the world's most renowned art dealers at the time.

In his expansive studio at 791 Broadway, he created many large works, some of which conveyed motion as stencil-like people beat feet, hands extended as if marching down an urban street. One is clearly derivative of Da Vinci.

The works on display at Magazzino are smaller, including an installment of his recurring series *Propaganda*, which incorporated interpretations of the Coca-Cola and Esso (precursor to Exxon) logos beginning in 1962 and earned inevitable comparisons to Warhol.

His handlers wanted Schifano to keep



Mario Schifano

knocking out single-color works, but he rebelled and they dropped him. The show features abstracts, what he called "anemic" landscapes, more realistic landscapes and two loud, strident images of workers holding hammers and sickles.

There is also one painting from a series of collaborations with poet and neighbor Frank O'Hara, who wrote on the canvas: "There was a lot of static - Lately deciding to be relatively evil or not I bought a wrist radio." He added: "Images were shy and oblique and I love Federico Fellini more than grass."

Schifano overlaid several works with plastic or plexiglass, including an untitled collage with yellow strips of jagged Perspex hanging from the top and "52 Delle Grotte Alley from the Inside in the Early Morning," which depicts a window with an interior perspective but is covered by what resembles the material used to cover fluorescent lights.

Recurring motifs include words and slogans splashed across canvasses along with outlines of wood rulers and drafting tools, as if left on the table of a quasi-abstract artist.

Many works are embellished with random, geometrically rigid shapes disconnected from the rest of the image, like the red

strips punctuating "Anemic Landscape I" and a bright-green rectangle that clashes with the unfinished red, white and brown canvas in "Propaganda Detail."

Schifano painted flourishes around a photo of his artistic heroes, the Futurists from the early 1900s, although their faces are blanked out. Pieces from another series were influenced by his infatuation with television.

The exhibition's title is drawn from the artist, who claimed that there are "germinal paintings, then there are the minor, smaller paintings." His attempts to convey vibrancy and movement are crystallized by "Large Object Landscape," which features a tree that seems to burst into a fireworks display.

In an essay culled from one of several books about the artist atop a table in the lower gallery, critic Luca Beatrice summed up Schifano's output: "More than anything, his urge to experiment swept across the entire spectrum of his actions, from his materials and techniques to his composition and style."

Mario Schifano: Germinal, runs through Aug. 9 in the Robert Olnick Pavilion at Magazzino Italian Art, 2700 Route 9, in Philipstown. Call 845-666-7202 or visit magazzino.art. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday to Monday. Admission is \$20 (\$10 seniors, free for Philipstown residents).

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 20

Grove & Gather Vinyl Day

COLD SPRING

1 - 4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

There will be listening stations to share and celebrate analog sound.

SAT 20

Lights Dwn Lw

BEACON

2 - 9 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
bit.ly/lghts-dwn-lw

LotusWorks Wellness will host this festival to celebrate the launch of Beacon's first legal cannabis dispensary. It will include yoga, live music, local artists and makers, a plant sale, pottery wheels and flash tattoos. *Cost: \$21 to \$62*

SUN 21

Cold Spring in Bloom

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Main Street
coldspringnychamber.com

Merchants will have special offerings and the Putnam History Museum will share trivia and lead walking tours during this celebration of spring.

SUN 21

Walk for Housing

NEWBURGH

Noon. Washington's Headquarters
84 Liberty St. | bit.ly/walk4Habitat

This fundraising walk along routes of up to 3 miles will pass by some of Habitat for Humanity's affordable-housing projects.

WED 24

Book Sale

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Find secondhand books in all genres at this fundraiser. Daily through May 4.

FRI 26

Thrift Sale

COLD SPRING

5 - 7:30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St.

Shop for gently used adult clothing to benefit the church and Philipstown Food Pantry. There will also be a mending station and bake sale. Admission is \$20 today and SAT 27 from 10 to 11 a.m. Fill a bag for \$10 from 3 to 6 p.m. on SUN 28. See Page 15.

FRI 26

90th Birthday Celebration

POUGHKEEPSIE

5:30 p.m. Ebenezer Baptist Church
15 Smith St.

This event honoring Beacon resident and longtime barber Alvin Bell Sr. will include music by the



Ree-Play Sale, April 26

Glory Boys and the Gospel Legends.
Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)

SAT 27

Shredder Day

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. - Noon. The Nest | 44 Chestnut St.
coldspringlions.org/shredder

Residents and businesses are invited to bring documents (with paper clips and bindings removed) for commercial shredding. Donations to the Cold Spring Lions Club are welcome.

SAT 27

Prescription Drug Take Back Day

BEACON

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Beacon Rec Center
23 W. Center St.

Drop off unused or expired prescriptions for safe disposal.

READINGS

THURS 25

Glimpses

GARRISON

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

Matt Williams, a television producer who created *Roseanne* and co-created *Home Improvement*, will read from his book, *A Comedy Writer's Take on Life, Love and All That Spiritual Stuff*. Registration requested.



FRI 26

David Baldacci

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The author will discuss his latest novel, *Calamity of Souls*. *Free*

SAT 27

5 Poets

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Ruth Danon invited Jason Koo, Catherine Barnett, Tiffany Troy, Silvina López Medin and Stephen Massimilla to share their work. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 27

Colm O'Shea and David Hollander

BEACON

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

O'Shea will read from his novel, *Claiming de Wayke*, and Hollander will read from *Anthropica*.

KIDS & FAMILY

THURS 25

Sign a Story

BEACON

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

Following a story, children ages 2 to 12 can participate in a short lesson in American Sign Language.

FRI 26

Ree-Play Sale

BEACON

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave. | weeplayproject.org

This annual fundraiser for the Wee Play Project will feature children's clothing up to sizes 14/16, baby gear, books, games and recreation equipment. Bring bags. Also SAT 27, SUN 28. See Page 15.

FRI 26

Creative Canvas

BEACON

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

High school students can make art, enjoy snacks and win raffle prizes. Registration required.

FRI 26

Teen Clothing Swap

COLD SPRING

6 - 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades six and higher can drop off gently used clothing (up to 20 items) during the week and select an equal number at the event. Registration required.

SAT 27

Water Safety

GARRISON

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

Children ages 3 to 10 will learn techniques to prevent drowning. Registration required.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 20

Bird Walk

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 a.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Look for migrating birds with guides from the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. Registration required.

SUN 21

History Hike

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave.
putnamhistorymuseum.org

The Putnam History Museum will lead this guided tour of the national historic landmark and discuss its innovative role in U.S. history, including during the Civil War. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 members)*

SAT 27

Annual Plant Sale

PHILIPSTOWN

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Stonecrop
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

More than a dozen growers will have plants for sale. Admission is \$5.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 20

Buffalo Soldiers of the Hudson Valley

GARRISON

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

Carla Burns will share memories and stories about growing up in a Highland Falls neighborhood where many Black men who had served in the 10th Cavalry lived.

FRI 26

Piemonte Lunch

PHILIPSTOWN

1 p.m. Café Silvia | 2700 Route 9
845-666-7202 | magazzino.art

Chef Luca Galli will serve specialties from the Piemonte region of Italy and discuss their origins. *Cost: \$50*



EARTH DAY

SAT 20

Adopt a Highway & Beach Clean-Up

PHILIPSTOWN

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D | littlestonypoint.org

Come at 8 a.m. to pick up trash along Route 9D or help with beach clean-up from 10 a.m. to noon or noon to 2 p.m. Register online.

SAT 20

Clean-Up and Planting

BEACON

9 a.m. - Noon. Various
facebook.com/beaconrec

Volunteers will clean up or plant a pollinator garden at a dozen sites around the city. Sign up at bit.ly/beacon-earth-day-2024.

Work gloves, boots, long pants and sleeves are recommended; garbage bags and buckets will be provided. An Earth Day fair will follow from 12:30 to 4 p.m. at Hudson Valley Brewery, 7 E. Main St.

SAT 20

Earth Day Fest

GARRISON

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org

Philipstown's third annual festival will include music at 10:30 a.m. by Mark Rust and a discussion at noon between David Gelber of The Years Project and Justin Nobel, author of *Petroleum-238: Big Oil's Dangerous Secret and the Grassroots Fight to Stop It*. There will also be a mending station, a scavenger hunt and information about electric vehicles and tools and pollinator gardens. *Free*

SAT 20

Mending Workshop

BEACON

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

Annie McCurdy will provide materials and help you learn to patch and repair gently loved garments.

SAT 20

Earth Day Celebration

COLD SPRING

Noon - 4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Drop in to clean up the pollinator garden and make wildflower seed bombs.

SAT 20

Highland Lights Procession

GARRISON

8 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
2015 Route 9 | hvshakespeare.org

Email smcnull@hvshakespeare.org to carry a lighted puppet in the third annual procession, or show up at dusk to join the parade, which this year will celebrate and honor the transformative power of water.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 20

Phantom of the Opera

BEACON

1 & 7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
beaconplayers.com

The Beacon Players will perform the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, based on the 1910 French novel. Also SUN 21. *Cost: \$15 (\$5 students, seniors; \$18/\$8 door)*

SAT 20

A Wrinkle in Time

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigsides Drive
haldaneschool.org

In this play based on the book by Madeleine L'Engle, middle school drama students will portray the extraordinary travels of Meg Murry. Also SUN 21. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors free)*

SAT 27

Here. Is. Better.

BEACON

1 p.m. Beacon Theater | 445 Main St.
beaconmovietheater.com

This 2021 documentary tracks the lives of four veterans healing from post-traumatic stress disorder. A panel discussion will follow with the film's producers and the director of veterans programs for Mental Health America of Dutchess County. *Cost: \$15 (\$13 seniors, military, ages 9 and younger)*

SAT 27

Eric D'Alessandro

PEEKSKILL

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

The comedian will perform stand-up as part of his I Don't Understand Tour. *Cost: \$40 to \$75*

SUN 28

The Peekskill Riots

PUTNAM VALLEY

11 a.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Jon Scott Bennett will screen the first episode of his documentary about the racist violence that erupted outside Black singer and activist Paul Robeson's concert in 1949 in Peekskill. *Cost: \$10*



Haas Sisters, April 26

SUN 28

Hansel and Gretel

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

The Howland Chamber Music Circle will present Engelbert Humperdinck's children's opera about the classic tale of encountering a witch while lost in the woods. Local singers and the Met Chorus Artists will perform. *Cost: \$15 (children free)*

MUSIC

SAT 20

Best of The Eagles

PEEKSKILL

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

The tribute band will play the classics. *Cost: \$35 to \$50*

SAT 20

Erehwon Ensemble

BEACON

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

The ensemble, conducted by David Rudge, will be joined by pianist Sandro Russo. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 20

Van the Band

BEACON

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

Padraig Allen leads this Van

Morrison tribute band. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 21

John Gorka

BEACON

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

The singer and songwriter will play music from his latest release, *True in Time*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

FRI 26

Giacomo Gates

COLD SPRING

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

The jazz vocalist will be joined by his band to perform music from his latest release, *You*. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 26

The Haas Sisters & Bruce Molsky

BEACON

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

Natalie (cello) and Brittany (fiddle) will play contemporary string music with their mentor and friend, Bruce (fiddle). *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 27

Saints of Swing

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220
presbychurchcoldspring.org

Rene Bailey and Dale DeMarco will perform with an eight-piece band. *Free*

SAT 27

Cuboricua

BEACON

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

The ensemble plays the rhythms of the Caribbean. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SUN 28

Jessica Meyer

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

Meyer will play original works on viola and a loop pedal from her recordings, *I long and seek after* and *Ring Out*. Donations welcome.

SUN 28

MaMuse

BEACON

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

Sarah Nutting and Karisha Longaker's acoustic music follows folk and gospel traditions. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 20

RiverWinds Gallery

BEACON

1 - 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The gallery will present the works of a diverse group of 19 painters, photographers, potters and jewelers from the Hudson Valley. Through June 2.

THURS 25

Zine Night

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com

Make a one-page zine on an 11-x-17-inch piece of paper. The gallery will provide paper, scissors, markers, adhesive and pencils. *Cost: \$10 to \$30*

SAT 27

Now We Have Seen

PHILIPSTOWN

11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Magazzino
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

This symposium on women and art in Italy in the 1970s will feature five scholars and the release of a collection of essays on the topic. *Free*

CIVIC

MON 22

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 23

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 23

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Middle School Library
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

WED 24

Village Board

COLD SPRING

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

THURS 25

Mobile Office Hours

FISHKILL

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Senior Center
793 Route 52 | 845-229-0106

Rob Rolison, whose state Senate district includes the Highlands, will be available to answer questions and assist constituents. To make an appointment, call or email rolison@nysenate.gov.

THURS 25

Budget Vote and Trustee Election

BEACON

Noon - 8 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Library district residents will vote on whether to approve \$1.43 million in spending for 2024-25 and to fill four trustee seats from five candidates (David Lemon, Helen Lowery, Richard McGowan, Emily Murnane and Elizabeth Murphy).



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Statement by Visitation Data Committee Members Regarding Fjord Trail Visitation Projections Wednesday, April 3, 2024

The undersigned members of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT) Visitation Data Committee (the Committee), from Cold Spring, Nelsonville, and Philipstown, release the following statement in response to information presented on April 3, 2024 at Dutchess Manor regarding visitation projections for the Fjord Trail:

The Visitation Data Committee was announced by HHFT on June 12, 2023, with the stated goal to “help review the ongoing traffic study, pedestrian counts, and visitation projection for the project.” This Committee has dutifully spent the last 8 months reviewing these studies and projections.

At this time, we feel it is important to inform the public of significant concerns we have about one of the reports that HHFT is developing for the DGEIS submission. On March 26, 2024, the Committee met with HHFT’s consultants, ORCA and AKRF to discuss a visitation projection report [available on the HHFT website at: <https://hhft.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Fjord-Trail-Use-Projections-Report.pdf>] and their response to our prepared questions. We found the report to have several concerning elements which have not been addressed:

- The selection and comparability of parks used to project visitation was not adequately justified and key characteristics of our area such as access by train and close proximity to large cities do not appear to have been closely considered in choosing comparable parks.

Moreover, the HHFT study has chosen a composite comparable visitor growth rate of only 4.2% based on those parks.

- Actual data from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) does not appear to have been used in the visitation estimates for the project area. Currently available attendance data for the Hudson Highlands State Park from OPRHP shows a 10.7% average annual growth rate in visitation from 2016-2023. The ORCA report shows the same park with only a 7.6% annual growth rate for the same period.
- Data from surveys of potential visitors were not tested for selection bias or statistical significance.
- One survey-based estimate presents a 10% increase in potential new users under 55 years of age. This does not seem to take into account new categories of users such as families and cyclists, in addition to those who currently hike the more challenging mountain trails.
- The impact of marketing and social media was also not included in projections.

We were equally troubled that the report they shared with us was not the full report and it did not contain the full data set, citations to sources or the underlying calculations performed. As of this date, the additional data requested by the committee has not been provided.

We have also had material concerns about (i) the adequacy of the data collected by ORCA and AKRF to study pedestrian visitation to the Village of Cold Spring and the broader area and (ii) the methodology and coding of HHFT’s Alternative’s

Analysis, which omitted less dramatic options and included elements that favored HHFT’s preferred route from Dockside Park over the alternatives studied. Specific Committee questions submitted in mid-March about the possible presence of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) within the preferred route’s alignment and the lack of that SAV’s presence in the AKRF alternatives matrix have also gone unanswered.

We feel it is necessary to share this information with the public, as was the committee’s charge, because the information that is being portrayed in public meetings has not been adequately examined and does not take into account the informed recommendations of Committee members from the communities most impacted by visitation to this trail. We hope that HHFT will revise their research and analyses consistent with the Committee’s feedback in order to make the estimated projections more reliable. Until then, the public should not assume that the Visitation Data Committee is satisfied with the information and analyses presented.

Signed,

Chris Winward, Mayor of Nelsonville and Visitation Data Committee Member
Phil Cottenec, Philipstown Visitation Data Committee Member
Jeff Robins, Philipstown Visitation Data Committee Member
Henry Feldman, Cold Spring Visitation Data Committee Member
James Labate, Cold Spring Visitation Data Committee Member

The above statement was released by the Fjord Trail Visitation Data Committee on April 3, 2024 and reveals the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail’s continued unwillingness to transparently share information with the community and genuinely engage with community concerns. HHFT created the Visitation Data Committee in June 2023 to, as HHFT put it, “proactively and meaningfully inform the data collection process and visitor projection.” Protect The Highlands is calling on HHFT to give the Committee complete access to the data, information and analysis that the Committee needs to fulfill the responsibilities that HHFT assigned them.



ProtectTheHighlands.org

Ree-Play Sale Returns for 20th Year

Proceeds benefit renovations at Beacon Tot Park

By Jeff Simms

In the fall of 2005, a group of Beacon women, all with young children, organized a tag sale to raise money for the fledgling Wee Play Community Project.

In the weeks before the sale, donated items were sorted at the home of a volunteer, transported to another volunteer's garage and then sold and removed in a single day. The \$1,000 it generated went toward constructing the Wee Play Tot Park, a fenced play area in Memorial Park that opened the following spring through a partnership with the Beacon Recreation Department.

Now in its 20th year, Wee Play's Ree-Play sale will be held April 26 to 28 at University Settlement Camp, its home since 2010. It will support the rebuilding of the Tot Park, which has been closed since February but is expected to reopen in May with new fencing, play structures, benches and picnic tables.

In addition, poured rubber will replace the torn turf, a new entryway will be installed and a garden will be planted and maintained through a partnership with the Green Teen program.

The sale has grown tremendously in its two decades. After last year's event, Wee Play contributed \$31,000 to the Tot Park project and awarded grants to the Howland Public Library, Compass Arts, Fareground Food + Community and the parent-teacher organizations at all six of Beacon's public schools.

Shoppers will find gently used (and sometimes new) children's clothing, baby gear, books, games, sports and outdoor play equipment and maternity wear. The goods fill nearly every inch of table and floor space in the Settlement Camp's theater building and overflow into the adjacent lawn.

More than a dozen volunteers and the seven members of the Wee Play board have spent the last month collecting, cleaning and sorting 3,000 square feet of merchandise, said Lauren McEvoy, the sale's director.

McEvoy notes that the sale allows young parents to shop sustainably. "There is so much waste in the baby space," she said. "It's wonderful to see all this not go into a landfill."

The Ree-Play sale will be held at University Settlement Camp in Beacon from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 27 and from noon to 4 p.m. on April 28. Use the Beacon Pool entrance from Route 9D and follow the signs to the theater building.



Shoppers with their finds at a clothing thrift sale at St. Mary's

Photo by Michele Gedney

Racking Up Support

Annual clothing sale benefits church, pantry

By Erin-Leigh Hoffman

The biggest challenge of running an annual clothing sale? The amount of clothing.

Since 2021, Ivy Meeropol and Dar Williams have organized a thrift sale each spring to benefit the Philipstown Food Pantry and St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Last year's sale raised \$12,000. The three-day event, scheduled this year for April 26 to 28, is sponsored by the church, Philipstown Loop and the Philipstown Climate Smart Initiative.

The abundance of donated stock reflects the environmental impact of our consumer culture, Meeropol says. Thrift sales provide a counterweight.

Meeropol, a documentary filmmaker, and Williams, a singer-songwriter, came up with the idea for the sale after discussing their shared love of thrifting. Meeropol recalls switching in college from shopping at malls to a hospital thrift store.

"It wasn't just a financial thing," she says. "It encouraged creativity in what you wore."

Williams says she connects to thrifting through her hunt to find unusual items to wear onstage. "You're going to find the funkiest, interesting glittery stuff at thrift sales or stores, as opposed to Nordstrom," she says. "There's just a lot of good, beautiful, colorful stuff that you can create a wardrobe out of."

The women hosted their first sale in December 2021. Early on, they had to figure out how to sort and display the donations, price them and assess quality. "We had all these young people come from New York City who got so excited just filling bags and saying, 'Now, this is real thrifting,'" Meeropol says.

They also realized that four hours, including two after dark, was not enough to sell more than about a quarter of the donated clothes. This year's sale will take place over three days.

In addition to raising money, the sales have provided an opportunity to help neigh-

bors in need. "If somebody needs a winter coat, you give them a coat," Meeropol says.

Residents who donate clothes sometimes do so with a sense of closure because they belonged to a loved one who died. One shopper told Williams her mother would be happy to know that the proceeds from her wardrobe were going to the food pantry and church.

To volunteer to sort and evaluate donations, or to help at the sale, email darsnowden88@gmail.com.

How to Donate

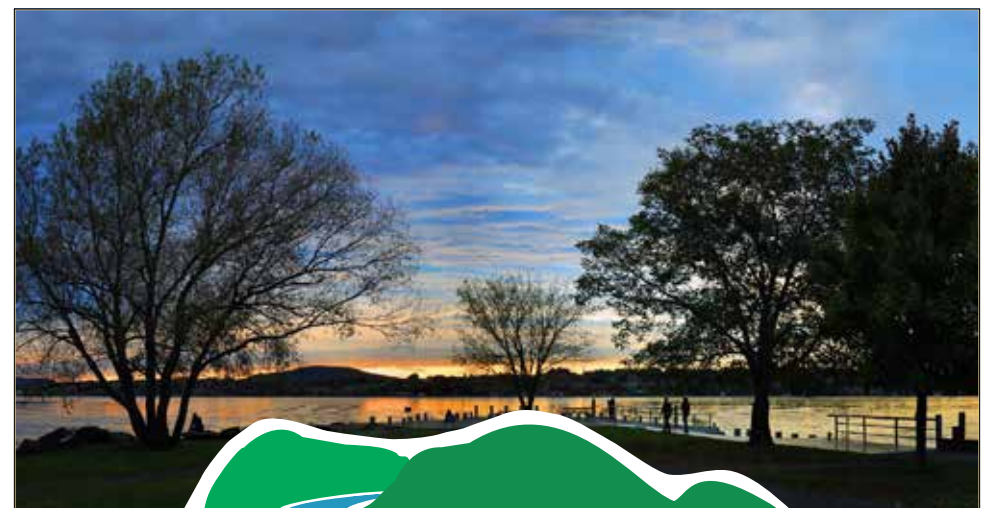
The early donation period ends today (April 19) but clothing can be dropped off (and, preferably, hung on the racks) at the St. Mary's Parish Hall from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. from Monday to Thursday (April 22 to 25). Clothing should not be dropped in the clothing-donation shed in the south parking lot.

Clothes should be in good condition in any adult size range. Jewelry, shoes and accessories are also accepted. If donating clothes in bags, include a list that specifies what garments are inside and their sizes and condition.

How to Shop

The sale will begin on Friday (April 26) from 5 to 7:30 p.m. with a \$20 admission fee. Shoppers are encouraged to bring their own bags. Non-luxury items will be priced at \$5 to \$10 each.

On Saturday, early birds can shop from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for \$20. There is no admission fee from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m., shoppers can fill a bag for \$10.



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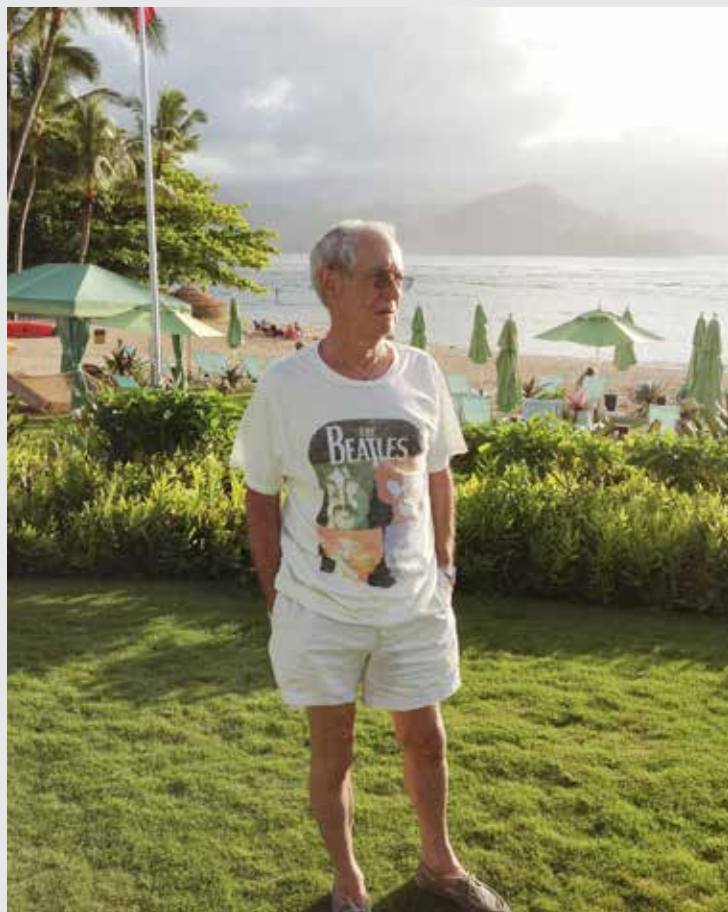
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Jay Vitale (1935-2024)

Wednesday, April 10, marked the peaceful passing of Jay Vitale in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Jay was a true Renaissance man, deeply devoted to his family, and a proud resident of Garrison for many years. Born on Dec. 17, 1935, to Italian and Greek heritage in the Bronx, Jay's upbringing as a city kid was filled with cherished memories. He often regaled others with tales of racing pigeons alongside his father, summers spent swimming at Orchard Beach, and spirited games of stickball with his cousins.

Following his enlistment in the Army during the Korean War, Jay found himself stationed in Hawaii, where he embarked on unforgettable adventures. From mastering the art of sailing, to fearlessly swimming with sharks, one of his most memorable encounters was meeting the iconic Elizabeth Taylor.

Yet, amid life's myriad experiences, Jay's heart found its truest contentment when he settled in Garrison in the early 1980s. A skilled carpenter, he undertook the monumental task of building his own home from the ground up. Living out of his VW bus for over a year, he banged nails each day after working a full day at Haldane Maintenance. Jay dedicated himself tirelessly to crafting every corner of his beloved abode. The pride he felt in the home he meticulously constructed was unparalleled, a testament to his unwavering determination and craftsmanship.

Jay's passion for his community knew no bounds, and his commitment to conservation efforts left an enduring impact. Inspired by the memory of his dear friend John Guinan, Jay founded the nonprofit organization Guinan's Aurora, dedicated to repurposing donated bikes for veterans and children in need. Over the years, he distributed over 1,000 bikes across the state, including his old neighborhood in the Bronx, spreading joy and mobility to those who needed it most.

Above all else, Jay cherished his family with boundless love and devotion. For 48 years, he shared a deeply fulfilling partnership with his beloved wife, Toni Vitale. He leaves behind Toni, his adoring daughter Jessica, son-in-law Chris, and his three doted grandchildren — Julian, Lucca and Ivy.

A private memorial for family and friends will follow later in the summer. In place of flowers, a donation to the Alzheimer's Association (bit.ly/jay-vitale) would be appreciated.

PAID NOTICE

LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (April 1874)

While Willie Van Wyck was going downhill on a trip to Newburgh, the bolts holding the tongue of his wagon came loose. He was not injured but lost his load of eggs.

Charles Wood, the school tax collector for Glenham, sold 1,000 yards of cloth to satisfy a \$2,600 judgment [about \$71,000 today] against a textile firm.

H.M. Swift of Fishkill Landing, who planned to move to a Delaware farm, put 100 residential lots at the foot of Mount Beacon on the market.

After his younger brother was bitten by a dog, Robert McKee of Fishkill Landing loaded both barrels of a borrowed shotgun. He killed the stray with the content of one barrel, but when he fired the second, the barrel exploded and tore off two fingers of his left hand.

Ambrose Hide traded a silver hunting case he stole in Fishkill Landing for a pair of pants and a vest in Cold Spring. After he was sentenced to 30 days in the county jail, his brother paid for the clothing.

Mrs. Calhoun of Fishkill Landing fell on a sidewalk and broke her hip. She was not expected to survive.

125 Years Ago (April 1899)

Crockett's Comedians, a troupe from the Davy Crockett Hose and Ladder Co. of Poughkeepsie, performed at Peattle's Opera House in Matteawan to benefit the Beacon Engine Co.

Samuel McHenry of Cold Spring survived a 40-foot fall from the New England Railroad bridge near Matteawan with scratches.

The Rev. Dr. C.W. Fritz retired after serving nearly 30 years as pastor of the Reformed Church in Fishkill Landing. The vestry offered to give him a long vacation instead, but he declined.

A judge ordered the Matteawan Board of Trustees to show why it had not reappointed Elijah Moshier as police chief. Moshier noted that, as a military veteran, he could not be removed without cause.

After the Bridgeport, Connecticut, police sent out an alert that it was looking for a murder suspect using a bay horse pulling a runaway buggy with bicycle tires, the chief in Matteawan responded with a telegram saying a man named Burlison was visiting with a bay horse and runaway made by Hall & Godfrey of Bridgeport. When the detectives dismissed the report, they were "ridiculed by some of the very clever New York papers" for not making an arrest, according

to the *New Haven Evening Register* — but, as it turned out, the chief suspect was a female physician named Guilford who was later caught and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

The Southern Dutchess Water Co. secured a shed in the Fishkill mountains for a planned reservoir.

Five "tramps" who boarded an express train at Poughkeepsie robbed two men of their expensive clothes and watches before throwing one victim from the train when he fought back. The other victim said the bandits triggered the air brakes in the New Hamburg tunnel to escape.

A geologic survey of clay deposits in the lower Hudson Valley concluded that 35 million cubic yards remained, enough to produce 30 billion bricks. The brickyards were making 900 million bricks annually and so could continue for at least 30 years.

100 Years Ago (April 1924)

A vandal did more than \$1,000 [\$18,000] in damage to the arcade, casino, hotel and cottages on Mount Beacon. The property was only guarded when the incline railway was in operation.



Mount Beacon hotel

After a battle with "organization" Republicans, independent Republicans won 12 of the 16 seats on the party's city committee.

Because of a lack of rain, the Mount Beacon reservoir was 9½ feet below the spillway, with only enough water to supply the city for four weeks.

A Brockway woman was killed while collecting coal on the tracks when she stepped out of the way of a southbound freight and was hit by a southbound passenger train.

Four boys were rescued by Beacon police officers and a state trooper after their canoe capsized in the Hudson River. Two were unconscious when pulled from the water but expected to recover.

A worker at McGrath's brickyard was mortally wounded following a dispute. According to police, Clarence Parker sampled moonshine offered by his neighbor, Perry King, but declared it "no good" and threw it to the floor. King asked Parker to leave, but when he returned, two shots were heard.

Police arrested a Dutchess Junction resident, Edward Chapel, on charges that he stabbed his neighbor. According to investigators, Chapel had beaten his wife over the head with a chair and she fled next door. She left with her husband but Chapel later returned, called the neighbor outside and slashed him across the abdomen.

Burglars took \$75 [\$1,370] from the poor boxes at St. John's Church. Police suspected teenagers.

The Beacon Police Department purchased six tear-gas canisters for use in standoffs.

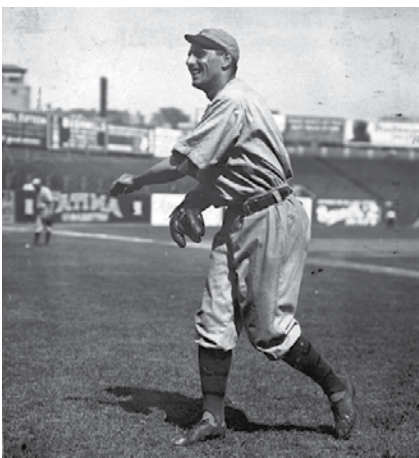
(Continued on Page 17)

(Continued from Page 16)

An Overlook Avenue woman gave birth to twin girls joined at the hip “not unlike the famous Siamese twins,” according to a news account. The babies were stillborn and the mother, 42, died a week later.

75 Years Ago (April 1949)

In an interview with the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, Elmer Steele recalled his days pitching in the semipro Hudson River Base Ball League at the turn of the century. He had moved to Fishkill Landing as a boy and became a professional at age 14, playing for teams in Newburgh and Poughkeepsie. Steele pitched in the major leagues from 1907 to 1911 for the Boston Americans/Red Sox, Pittsburgh Pirates and Brooklyn Dodgers.



Elmer Steele, who grew up in Fishkill Landing, pitched in the major leagues from 1907 to 1911.

Detroit Public Library

More than 1,500 people turned out for the opening of a \$750,000 [\$10 million] plant in Beacon for the Cold Spring Dyeing & Finishing Co. The firm renovated the former Beebe factory at Main and Ackerman streets.

A burglar stole a jar from the Mi-Ro's tavern on Main Street that contained \$60 to \$70 [\$800 to \$900] in pocket change patrons had been saving for a party.

A man accused of stealing an electric mixer, silverware, an electric train, an electric saw and a coat from a home in Poughkeepsie said he fenced the mixer at a Beacon tavern.

Emmadine Farms told police that one of its green milk trucks was stolen at about 6 a.m. on North Cedar Street. It was still missing at noon.

Two teenagers and a 19-year-old man pleaded guilty to stealing at various times from the poor box at St. John's Church.

The Beacon school district was set to receive \$209,000 [\$2.7 million] in state aid, or 18 percent more than the previous year.

Three men throwing rocks into the windows of a home on Monell Avenue fled when police showed up, so Patrolman Stella fired two shots into the air. One suspect tripped and fell, injuring his hand; the other surrendered; and the third was captured. Each was fined \$15 [\$200].

A team from the Castle Point Veterans' hospital won the Beacon dartball league. [Dartball uses a board with a pattern that resembles a baseball diamond.]

Three hours after a 5-year-old Green Street girl went missing, a police officer found her unharmed at about 10 p.m., a block from her home inside a Sunday School classroom at the Union Church.

50 Years Ago (April 1974)

Dr. Herman Snow, director of the Hudson River State Hospital, expressed confidence that the transfer of the 17 remaining mentally disabled patients from the Beacon State Institute to a medical facility in Poughkeepsie would go smoothly. A state court ordered the move, saying the men could not be imprisoned unless they were charged with a crime.

Burglars stole the change from 10 countertop jukeboxes at the Four Corners Diner at 24 Fishkill Ave.

Freda Casner, executive director of the Dutchess County Youth Board, expressed dismay that a funding request for \$12,400 [\$79,000] to launch a Spanish Center for teens in Beacon was delayed. She hoped a center would prevent the skirmishes with police that had occurred the previous summer.

Mrs. J. Lewis Bolton, the wife of a former Beacon mayor, was attempting to save Eustatia, a home at 12 Monell Place built in the style of Andrew Jackson Downing that she believed had been designed by two of his younger partners. Its first owners in 1867 were Downing's widow, Caroline, and her second husband, Judge John Monell. Bolton feared it would be lost to urban renewal. [In 1979 the home was added to the National Register of Historic Places.]

Mayor Robert Cahill said the state's estimate that federally mandated repairs to the city incinerator would cost \$1 million was off by \$1.5 million. Beacon and other cities had been ordered to meet new clean-air standards.

A contingent of residents traveled

to Poughkeepsie to protest a threat by Dutchess County Executive William Bartles to veto a measure that froze the salaries of county officials during their terms in office. When elected in 1971, Bartles won every municipality in the county except Beacon.

The school board president said that, while the city population might top 16,000 by 1990, it would never reach the “potential” 25,900 residents mentioned in the master plan because that would require filling every available space with the maximum number of people.

25 Years Ago (April 1999)

In anticipation of the millennium, students at Sargent Elementary sealed a time capsule to be opened in 2024 into the cornerstone of a new classroom wing. It included a copy of the school newspaper and *The New York Times*, a recipe and a list of the students' favorite movies and songs.

Tom Rednour published 250 copies of *Songs by Sinatra*, an alphabetical reference guide to Frank Sinatra's commercially released songs. Rednour noted that he left out EPs, foreign releases and songs performed on the radio to keep the book under 300 pages.

Beacon police reported that, in the two years since the City Council passed a noise ordinance, officers had confiscated 22 boom boxes, although most had been returned.

A 25-year-old Beacon man was arrested for stealing a bicycle so he could get to a court hearing in Newburgh, where he faced a fraud charge.

Christina Dahl, who lived in Beacon, scored the first two goals of her varsity soccer career to lead Lourdes over her hometown school, 3-2.

Peter Forman, who had been the City of Beacon attorney, was sworn in as a judge for the Dutchess County Family Court.

Ten Beacon High School students met with teachers and administrators to discuss how to help their classmates process the killing of 12 students and a teacher by two gunmen at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado.

The Glynwood Center in Philipstown invited urban and arts professionals from Japan, Wales and the U.S. to spend 2½ days in Beacon and make recommendations. They suggested the city hone its message for tourists, especially with the arrival of Dia:Beacon. “No message, no people come,” said Masara Maeno of the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music.

Joe Riley, a Beacon pet-shop owner who held the novice heavyweight title in the New York State Golden Gloves, was training at Jim Frederick's Five-Star Boxing on Mead Avenue to qualify for the national competition.

Gov. George Pataki, during an Earth Day news conference at Long Dock Park, announced a \$1 million, 1.7-mile trail that would link a chain of projects. As part of an environmental settlement, Central Hudson had agreed to build a 10-foot paved walkway from Long Dock to Dennings Point. After the event, a fisherman presented Pataki with a 7-pound roe shad.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, will hold a public hearing on the budget at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2024-2025 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2024-2025 school year (the Budget), as prepared by the Board of Education, as well as the Exemption Report, listing every type of exemption granted, as provided in Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, may be obtained by any resident of the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, commencing May 1, 2024, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at each of the District's schoolhouses, at the Administrative Offices, and on the District's website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education as follows:

Two (2) members to the Board of Education for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027; and

One (1) member to the Board of Education for a remainder term commencing May 22, 2024 and ending June 30, 2024 plus a three-year term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027.

B. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the 2024-2025 School Year (the Budget).

C. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, dated March 18, 2024 authorizing the purchase of school buses at a maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$485,000; authorizing the issuance of \$485,000 bonds of said School District to pay the costs thereof; and that such sum or so much as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law; and providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District shall be issued; determining the period of probable usefulness and maximum maturity thereof to be five years; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?

D. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, dated March 18, 2024, authorizing the purchase of two zero-emission school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$990,000; but only in the event the District receives subsidies toward such purchase of at least \$200,000 per school bus, authorizing the issuance of up to \$990,000 bonds of said School District to pay the costs thereof; and that such sum or so much as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law; and providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District shall be issued; determining the period of probable usefulness and maximum maturity thereof to be twelve years; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?

E. Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, on March 18, 2024, authorizing the reconstruction of and construction of improvements to various School District facilities, including site improvement, original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and other improvements and costs incidental thereto, at a maximum estimated cost of \$49,950,000; authorizing an expenditure of \$500,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund and the issuance of not exceeding \$49,450,000 bonds to pay the costs thereof to mature over a period not exceeding thirty years; providing that such bonds shall be payable from amounts to be levied in annual installments on taxable real property of said School District; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?

F. To vote on any other proposition legally proposed.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that for the purposes of voting, the School District has been divided into two (2) election districts and that an accurate description of the boundaries of these school election districts is on file and may be inspected at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular work hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the 2024 Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held at the following polling places in the School Election Districts hereinafter set forth;

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1

POLLING LOCATION: BEACON HIGH SCHOOL

Description: First Ward, First and Second District
Second Ward, First, Second, and Third Districts
Third Ward, First, Second and Third Districts
Fourth Ward, First and Second Districts

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

POLLING LOCATION: GLENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Description: Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County; south by the common town line of the Towns of Fishkill and Wappinger and west by the Hudson River.

Bounded on the north by the common town line of the of Fishkill and Wappinger, east by Wappinger Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Union Free School District No. 3, Town of Fishkill, south by Beacon City line and west by Hudson River.

Bounded northerly by former Common School District No. 4 in the Town of Fishkill and Wappinger, easterly by Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Dutchess County; southerly by Central School District No. 1 in the Town of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Putnam County and the Town of Fishkill in Dutchess County; westerly by the Hudson River and the City of Beacon being the former Union Free School District No. 3 of the Town of Fishkill.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M. on the 20th day preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Such petitions must be signed by at least one hundred (100) qualified voters of the District, shall state the name and residence address of each

signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, has fixed Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York, as the date on which the Board of Registration of said School District will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of preparing the register of the School District for each election district for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register if known or proven to the satisfaction of the registrars to be then or thereafter entitled to vote. Persons whose registration to vote with the County Board of Elections is current, pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law, shall be qualified to vote without further registering with the School District's Board of Registration, as well as all persons who shall have previously registered for any annual or special district meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special district meeting or election held or conducted at any time during the 2020, 2021, 2022 or 2023 calendar years.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the register of voters so prepared shall be filed in the Office of the District Clerk and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, beginning fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Said register will be open for inspection in each of the polling places during the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee and early mail ballots for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk or downloaded from the school district website. The completed application must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the election, and at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the election, if the ballot will be picked up at the Office of the District Clerk. The completed application can be sent by email, or delivered by a designated agent. Absentee ballots and early mail ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the election.

A list of all persons to whom absentee and early mail ballots shall have been issued will be available in the said Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as qualified voters of the school district. Military voters may request an application to register as a qualified voter from the District Clerk. Military voter registration application forms must be received in the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024. In order for a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the school district must have received in the office of the school district clerk a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 pm on May 7, 2024. A military voter may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail in their request for such registration, ballot application, or ballot. Such designation shall remain in effect until revoked or changed by the military voter. Ballots for military voters shall be mailed, or otherwise distributed, no later than May 7, 2024.

Dated: March 18, 2024
By the Order of the Board of Education
of the Beacon City School District
Vickie Jackson, School District Clerk

Roots and Shoots

Read the Label!

By Pamela Doan



I bought many plants before I understood the value of reading the labels and could decipher them. Now that garden centers are stocked for spring and plant sales are underway, it's a good time for a refresher.

A plant tag may contain no more than its Latin name (an international standard) and its common name, usually regional and one of many. That's fine if you know the plant's needs and habits. Otherwise, be wary of bringing it home. If there is only a common name listed, I wouldn't buy it without checking a botanical key.

I've found that the smaller the nursery, the less likely it will have helpful tags. That's because larger retailers source plants from industry growers such as American Beauties Native Plants, Proven Winners and American Meadows, which attach tags standardized across species with details about water needs, growing zones, sun requirements and height and width, as well as a description of blooms and other features.

The labels on native plants might include information about their ecological value or if they are good hosts for bugs, butterflies or



Unless you are familiar with a plant, avoid buying one without a tag that explains its growing requirements and features.

Photos by P. Doan



caterpillars. Because these are selling points for gardeners who want to create habitats, I'm seeing these details included more frequently. It's a feel-good moment to take home a plant that is beautiful and useful.

While researching this column, I came across a native grass, pink muhly, on the website of a box store and noted that the customer reviews were all negative — everyone complained about its slow growth. This reinforces the value of purchasing plants from a store where a knowledgeable staff

person can help you. Pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) is a warm-season grass that doesn't reach its full height until later in the summer and looks lovely through the fall and winter. Cool-season grasses will come up early and reach maturity in late spring or early summer. Expectations matter a lot when pursuing satisfied customers.

In 2015, the state Department of Environmental Conservation prohibited commercial sales of certain invasive species and required that labels be attached to six species that

read: "Invasive Species — Harmful to the Environment." These include Norway maple, burning bush and Chinese silver grass. All of these spread prolifically. Although I don't have burning bush, my neighbors do and I am constantly pulling seedlings. Beware of inviting plants that come with warning labels into your yard.

Last summer a bill was introduced in Congress that would address the use of pesticides on pollinator plants. Supported by the Xerces Society and other environmental organizations, it would create a USDA certification for pollinator-safe plants. If adopted, growers could satisfy requirements that their native plants are produced using organic methods that protect the health of butterflies and other pollinating insects.

Studies have shown that milkweed, a host plant for the endangered monarch, is often treated with pesticides that kill monarch caterpillars that feed on it. A well-meaning gardener trying to create a habitat for monarchs might inadvertently poison the species. The bill has not progressed, but the effort is worthwhile.

Plant sales

Stonecrop in Philipstown and the Native Plant Center in Valhalla will each host plant sales on April 27. The Philipstown Garden Club, the Master Gardeners in Putnam County and the Verplanck Garden Club in Fishkill are planning sales in May. See *The Current's* calendar online for details.

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Visit with local organizations to learn about climate solutions, pollinator gardens, composting, zero waste, lending libraries, thrift shopping, electric vehicles and lawn equipment,

Climate Smart Community programming, and more.

Bring along something to be repaired at the mini-Repair Cafe or mended at the Mending Station.

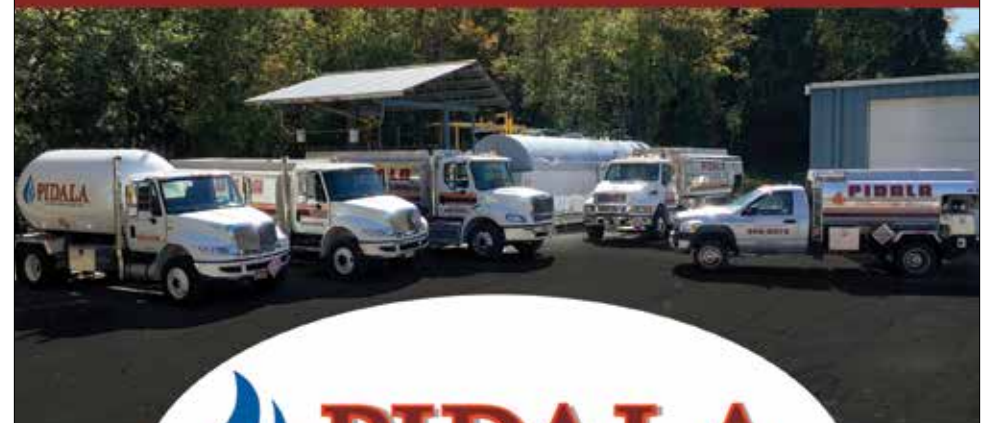
Filmmaker and climate activist David Gelber will be in conversation with author Justin Nobel to discuss his new book at 12 noon.

Enjoy a family-friendly musical performance by Mark Rust at 10:30.

Kids can enjoy a scavenger hunt with prizes, games on the Great Lawn and storytime by Butterfield Library at 11:30 and 12:30.



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EVENTS

MODERN MAKERS MARKET — 60 artisans, 3 food trucks and live music in Cold Spring at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on May 4 and 5 and June 8 and 9, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Go to HopsontheHudson.com to see who will be exhibiting, cooking and singing. Come by train and then a short walk through beautiful Cold Spring. Free admission, dog-friendly and we will be there rain or shine. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @HopsontheHudson.

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Eight-year-olds Oscar Wrafter, Owen Stanley, Zachary Ross, Flynn Spiak and Harrison Limbert pose at the April 8 tryout.

Photo provided

Sports

Two Beacon Dads Launch Soccer Academy

Total Football hopes to shorten drives for parents

By Nick Robbins

Two Beacon dads have launched a soccer academy that they hope will save parents of young players from making long drives to Westchester, Connecticut and New York City for practice and games.

Glen Wrafter and Derek Limbert, along with John Riordan, are hosting tryouts through May at Sarah Taylor Park in Fishkill for their Total Football Hudson Valley, which will compete in the Elite Development Program North Atlantic League.

The club plans to begin with boys' and girls' teams for players born in 2014, 2015 and 2016. They will play home games at a sports complex in Middletown, with most away games within an hour's drive of Beacon. Tryouts are scheduled for 5:30 to 7

p.m. on Mondays through May 27; see totalfootballhudsonvalley.com. The cost has not been determined.

Wrafter, a native of Ireland who coached the NY Shamrocks Soccer Club in Queens, left his career in finance last year to pursue soccer full-time. He is the director of coaching. Limbert, the academy director, grew up in Goshen and is an IT specialist at the American Museum of Natural History. Riordan, also a native of Ireland, is director of operations, club secretary for the Shamrocks and director of development for the youth soccer nonprofit America Scores.

Total Football pays homage to the Dutch national teams of the 1970s and '80s, whose coaches focused on attacks and tactics. Its orange jerseys pay tribute to the Dutch.

The Elite Development Program uses a system popular with European leagues: The best team in a division moves up to a more competitive level, and the last-place team shifts down.

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Haldane Students Share College Journeys

Instagram page spotlights acceptances

By Lily Zuckerman

Elise Pearsall, a senior at Haldane High School, has wanted since ninth grade to run an Instagram page of college announcements for her class.

So when the time came for the school's 70 seniors to begin receiving early admissions decisions, Pearsall volunteered to take over @haldanecollegedecisions2024.

Her growing gallery of posts, featuring childhood and current pictures of her classmates, the names and logos of the colleges they plan to attend in the fall, and their intended majors, has become a resource for younger students interested in the same schools.

The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, where some Philipstown residents attend high school, also has a page, @masters2024-collegedecisions.

Pearsall, who will attend Syracuse University to study broadcast and digital journalism and statistics, designed the posts using Canva.

"Even though Haldane is a small school, and most people have known each other since kindergarten, word doesn't spread as

quickly as one would expect," said Pearsall, who is one of the first to learn when classmates receive acceptance letters.

"I love seeing everybody support each other when they 'like' a post, and students reposting [on their personal Instagram] stories is fun to watch."

Although she is a ninth grader, Talia Hird, who lives in Cold Spring, follows the Masters page. When a new post appears, she said she sometimes researches the college, its programs and the campus. She also stays in the loop with her former school, Haldane, by following its college-acceptance page.

"I reach out to seniors from Haldane who I haven't talked to in a long time, just to let them know how proud I am of them," she said.

Arjun Bagaria, a Garrison resident and a junior at Masters, said his school's page helps relieve stress as he works on applications. He was pleasantly surprised to learn that three Masters seniors had been accepted to schools he wants to attend.

Zuckerman, who lives in Philipstown, is a senior at the Masters School and a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program. She will attend Syracuse University in the fall to study journalism.



Haldane students who plan to attend college announce their plans on an Instagram page.

Roundup (from Page 24)

TRACK AND FIELD — At the Green Dragon Relays at Cornwall on April 13, Jayden Mihalchik placed second in the pole vault at 9-6 while Jahcier Ballard placed fourth in the high jump at 5-4. The Bulldogs will compete today (April 19) in a meet at Suffern.

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' LACROSSE — After losing at John Jay Cross River, 13-3, on April 11, the Blue Devils bounced back with a 7-5 win on April 13 over the Wappinger Warriors behind three goals by Frankie DiGilio.

Haldane (2-4) was at Pleasantville on Thursday (April 18) and will host Carmel at 4:30 p.m. on Monday before traveling to Rye Neck on Wednesday.

GIRLS' LACROSSE — The Blue Devils fell April 11 at Arlington, 17-12, despite solid offense from Kayla Ruggiero (5 goals), Samantha Thomas (3) and Ellen O'Hara (2). Lola Mahoney had 13 saves in the net.

On a windy Saturday afternoon (April 13) at Dobbs Ferry, the Blue Devils had a 5-2 lead early in the second quarter before the Eagles found their groove and tied the game before halftime. Ruggiero scored six of Haldane's goals in the 13-9 loss.

At home on Monday (April 15), Haldane defeated Valhalla, 17-8, after taking a 9-0 lead in the first quarter, including three goals by Ruggiero in less than 90 seconds. "Kayla is a phenomenal player, athlete and teammate," said Coach Mary Callaghan. "It shows with her goals and her assists."

The Blue Devils (2-4) lost on Wednesday,

19-4, at Pleasantville. They host Yonkers at 4:30 p.m. today (April 19) and travel to New Paltz on Monday.

BASEBALL — Haldane defeated the Barack Obama School of Justice from Yonkers, 11-0, on April 11, in a game called after two innings because of the lopsided score and steady rain. On the mound, Jake Hotaling pitched much better than his first outing of the season against Tuckahoe.

"We took time this week to break down his mechanics," said Coach Simon Dudar. "We went over techniques to not let a few bad pitches derail his confidence."

The Blue Devils recorded their first league win on Monday (April 15), a 5-4 victory over North Salem. Jeremy Hall scored three of the five runs, including the go-ahead in the bottom of the fifth when he was intentionally walked, stole second, went to third on a passed ball and went home on a bunt by Milo Pearsall.

On Tuesday, Haldane hosted Dobbs Ferry. The Eagles took a 2-0 lead in the first but in the third, Trajan McCarthy crushed a two-out double to make it 2-1. In the fifth, after his brother, Lincoln McCarthy, led off with a single, Trajan hit another RBI double to tie the game. Hunter Erickson drove him in to make it 3-2.

In the sixth, Erickson drew a walk with the bases loaded for 4-2 lead. But in the top of the seventh, things went haywire for the Blue Devils, with the Eagles scoring six runs because of a series of Haldane errors.

The Blue Devils (3-2) hosted Poughkeepsie on Thursday (April 18) and have three home games next week, against Port Chester at 4:45 p.m. Monday, Croton-Harmon at 4:30 p.m. Thursday and Dobbs Ferry at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

SOFTBALL — After a 20-1 win over the Barack Obama School on April 11, Haldane lost to Irvington, 7-5, on April 13. Seventh grader Allegra Clementson had a strong outing, striking out 11 and going 2-for-3 at the plate.

On Tuesday (April 16) at Hastings, the Blue Devils were on the short end of a 5-3 final. Eighth grader Sophia Taylor had 12 strikeouts and Sydney Merriman and Gabby Perilli both went 2-for-3 at the plate.

On Wednesday, Haldane lost at home to Tuckahoe, 14-3, after the Tigers scored 10 runs in the third inning. Callie Sniffen went 3-for-4, including two home runs. "It's fun to watch when it goes out," said Coach Jeff Sniffen.

The Blue Devils will host Putnam Valley at 5 p.m. today (April 19) before playing two games at Croton-Harmon on Saturday. Next week they are at North Salem and Pawling.

TRACK AND FIELD — In Haldane's first meet of the season on April 10, at Valhalla, Jake Thomas threw the shot 33-1, Merrick Williams ran the 100 meters in 11.8 seconds and Jack Ilian and Owen Powers each ran the 800 in 2:15.9. For the girls, Ashley Sousa finished the 800 in 2:46.6 and Molly Bernstein ran the 100 in 14.1.

On Monday (April 15), in a meet at Hastings, Thomas won the shot put with a personal-best throw of 34-1 and was first in the discus at 80 feet. Owen Powers was the top finisher for the Haldane boys in the 800 meters, and Sousa for the girls. Max Kupper, an eighth grader, had a notable time in the 800 of 27.27.7.

Haldane will compete in a meet today (April 19) at Suffern High School and on Thursday at Pawling High School.

Renegades (from Page 24)

County, which owns the park.

In 2023, Dutchess Stadium, or "The Dutch," became Heritage Financial Park as part of a naming and sponsorship agreement.

The Renegades are in their fourth season as an affiliate of the Yankees. Founded in 1994, the team was part of the Texas Rangers organization until 1996, when it became affiliated with Tampa Bay.

More than 130 players with the team have reached the majors, including 24 on the rosters of 16 teams on opening day this year. Alumni include 2008 American League Rookie of the Year Evan Longoria, 2009 AL Rookie of the Year Jeremy Hellickson and 2010 AL MVP Josh Hamilton. The 2024 Yankees include former Renegades Austin Wells, Oswald Peraza and Anthony Volpe.

Hudson Valley plays in the North Division of the South Atlantic League with teams based in Aberdeen, Maryland; Brooklyn; Greensboro, North Carolina; Lakewood, New Jersey; and Wilmington, Delaware. Along with teams from Bowling Green and Rome, it also plays High A squads from Asheville, Winston-Salem and Hickory, North Carolina, and Greenville, South Carolina.

Heritage Financial Park is located at 1500 Route 9D in Wappingers Falls. Tickets are available for \$6 to \$17 through hvrengades.com or at the gate. The Renegades host Aberdeen this weekend and Bowling Green next week before hitting the road until the middle of May.

All 132 Renegades regular season and playoff games can be heard on Beacon radio stations WBPM 96.5 FM and WBNR 1260 AM. Minor League games are also televised via milb.tv.



Stop the Streak!

DEFINITIONS

Climepocrisy® - "The practice of advocating for policies and behaviors to reduce negative impacts to the environment, but not taking every opportunity to help reduce climate collapse."

Climepocrite - "One who virtue signals support for the environment but behaves differently."

Examples:

Global: Celebrities and world leaders taking private jets and yachts to a global climate summit.

Local: An individual with a "Scenic Hudson" bumper sticker on their car, idling the car at the end of Main Street for an extended period of time on a perfectly temperate day, while waiting for someone to arrive on an incoming train.

BACKGROUND

There is no shortage of acknowledging climate change in Cold Spring. Brian PJ Cronin's excellent March 24 piece on climate change in the Hudson Valley, "Extreme Future," paints a rather morbid picture of impending climate collapse. His series of articles, "Talking Trash," was a deep-dive into the challenges facing responsible refuse disposal. In a recent interview, the mayor of Cold Spring noted that the village board is "facing climate collapse head on." Both the mayor and trustees ran on promises to invest in a green environment. Even Cold Spring in Bloom highlights merchants using sustainable packaging, (or no packaging at all), for purchases. Climate sensitivity runs deeply throughout the village.

The elephant in the room (and on the river)

Since 2012, the Seastreak has brought visitors to Cold Spring. The Village Board contracted for these trips, partly due to the revenue it contributed to the village's general fund as "critical village revenues." Over the past few years, the village board has voted to limit passengers on each boat to 400 and has managed the schedule in an attempt to minimize impact on the village.

Nonetheless, there are increasing levels of anxiety over its docking at the village and whether or not village attempts to control crowds by limiting passengers or docking dates are working. Worries have been expressed to the village board during meetings, in letters and comments in The Current, and on social media. Problems have included the boat polluting the air and water; quality of life issues for residents, especially those who live near the river; and passengers adding to visitor overcrowding on weekends. Despite these burgeoning complaints, the Village Board is planning on continuing the Seastreak contract for FY 2024-2025.

Facts

- Since Covid, village streets have been overwhelmed (and sometimes overrun) by visitors, even on days when the Seastreak does not dock. There have been weekends where the public facilities cannot keep up, excessive wait times at eating and drinking establishments, and overflowing trash bins. We've all seen this, despite the village's best efforts to manage the crowds, facilities and trash receptacles.
- The Seastreak's carbon footprint is enormous. Even with state-of-the-art carbon emissions reduction systems, the multiple diesel-powered engines per boat spew contaminants into the Hudson Valley's air and into the Hudson River.
- To address villagers' quality-of-life concerns, especially those who live by the river where the Seastreak impedes their views when docked, previous Seastreak contracts have included provisions for docking elsewhere while visitors are in Cold Spring; once the Seastreak drops off its passengers at Cold Spring, it drives to either West Point (if the dock is operational), or as far away as Bear Mountain, to temporarily dock. This adds to its daily carbon footprint.

- Cold Spring is among the leaders in New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) clean-energy programs. Thanks to Trustee Bozzi's excellent work, the village has received grants and equipment, all of which will add to mitigating the village's carbon footprint. Interestingly, pollution caused by the Seastreak is not included in Cold Spring's clean-energy program calculations.
- Unlike the Fjord Trail construction, the Village Board has complete control over whether or not the Seastreak docks in Cold Spring.

Fiscal Realities

- Recent implementation of the residential and Main Street parking programs has added significant additional revenue to Cold Spring's FY 24-25 budget; in fact, parking meter fees alone are projected to add over \$290,000.00 to the village's coffers. These parking revenues are in addition to property tax, water and sewer increases.
- For the FY 24-25 budget, Seastreak revenue to the Village is projected to be \$35,000.00, which is less than 1% of the total general fund revenues. The case can no longer be made that Seastreak revenue to the village is "critical revenue."

Speculation

- "People either take the Seastreak or drive to Cold Spring." There has been neither a study nor data to support the assumption that if the Seastreak does not run to Cold Spring, those who would have taken the Seastreak will drive to Cold Spring anyway.
- "The new parking regulations will turn away customers." It is too early to assess the impact of the parking regulations on Cold Spring businesses; so far, there is only an anecdotal conjecture that the new Main Street parking regulations will drive away visitors in the long term and that the Seastreak will be needed to replace lost business revenue from those visitors who will no longer drive to Cold Spring.
- "There are only a few who oppose the Seastreak." Many who do oppose the Seastreak feel that their opinions have been marginalized or even ignored; others are hesitant to state their opinion for various reasons. Perhaps a survey would be helpful for capturing feelings and data about the issue.

"There is nothing permanent except change."

— Heraclitus

Sometimes, progressiveness requires returning to an earlier state, especially in the case of environmentalism, where less can be more. So it goes with the Seastreak.

It is apparent that Seastreak revenues are no longer "critical revenues;" certainly the village board can find a 1% savings somewhere in the FY 24-25 budget. This is a small price to pay for cleaner air and water, fewer crowds and the welfare of villagers, whether they be residents living by the water or businesses who are overwhelmed by the additional visitors when the boat docks.

"In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity."

— Albert Einstein

The Cold Spring Village Board has a unique opportunity to send a courageous and progressive pro-climate message in its fight against "climate collapse," as well as to set an example for other municipalities. Perhaps most importantly, the board can demonstrate that it is not only listening to, but making decisions on behalf of the broader community.

Be a climate activist! Resist the Seastreak!
Let your voice be heard!

Let your voice be heard! (always respectfully and appropriately). Even if the Seastreak docking does not affect your quality of life directly, it does for many villagers and as we all know, it "takes a village."

If you oppose the Seastreak, now is the time to let the village leadership know how you feel about the Seastreak docking in Cold Spring. Contact the mayor and trustees and encourage them not to contract this year for Seastreak docking and to Stop the Streak!

stopthestreak.org

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. Siren
- 5. Cagers' gp.
- 8. Halt
- 12. Eventful periods
- 13. Cleric's tunic
- 14. Jared of *House of Gucci*
- 15. Persistence
- 17. Privy to
- 18. Tar
- 19. Laid down the lawn
- 21. Cattle call
- 22. Crystal gazer
- 23. Not "dis"
- 26. Scale abbr.
- 28. Impetus
- 31. Crunchy cookie
- 33. Chef Garten
- 35. Faux pas
- 36. Reddish dye
- 38. PC screen type
- 40. Salty expanse
- 41. Leave an impression?

43. Gear tooth

- 45. Salsa ingredient
- 47. Chopin pieces
- 51. Say it's so
- 52. Stresses
- 54. Hindu royal
- 55. 911 responder
- 56. Tizzy
- 57. Sax range
- 58. — Angeles
- 59. JFK postings

11. Frogs' hangout

- 16. Hip
- 20. British ref. work
- 23. Homer's cry
- 24. "Right you —!"
- 25. Multi-family dwelling
- 27. NBC weekend show
- 29. Compete
- 30. Ecol. watchdog
- 32. Toronto's province
- 34. Emphasizes
- 37. Play segment
- 39. Pixels
- 42. *Monopoly* buy
- 44. Appearance
- 45. Skater Lipinski
- 46. Ellipse
- 48. Word of warning
- 49. Author Bagnold
- 50. Bygone fliers
- 53. Punk-rock subgenre

DOWN

- 1. Nov. honorees
- 2. Bailiwick
- 3. — -pedi
- 4. Sacred song
- 5. Capital of Kenya
- 6. Crunchy sandwich
- 7. Void
- 8. Small burgers
- 9. Curly strands
- 10. Oklahoma tribe

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

VOGUE

SOLVE

MICRO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. *Queen* ___ (OWN series created by Ava DuVernay)
- 6. Belly button type
- 7. City on Biscayne Bay
- 8. Time and again
- 9. "The Big Board," briefly

DOWN

- 1. *Start with Why* author Sinek
- 2. Amalgamate
- 3. Bitty biters
- 4. "Save Me" singer Mann
- 5. Free ___ (no restrictions)

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

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

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

B	R	U	T	
R	O	N	A	N
I	N	D	I	E
E	D	E	N	S
S	O	R	T	S

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Answers for April 12 Puzzles

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Sports



A fan's view from behind home plate



Renegades outfielder Anthony Hall waits for a pitch.

Photos by M. Turton

Thirty Years of Baseball

Renegades eke out win in home opener

By Michael Turton

The Hudson Valley Renegades slipped past the Aberdeen IronBirds to win their 2024 home opener, 3-2, at Heritage Financial Park on Tuesday (April 16), raising their early, 30th-season record to six wins and three losses.

Although the team, a High A affiliate of the New York Yankees, pulled it out in the bottom of the ninth, there was no dramatic walk-off hit. Instead, the victory came by a walk-off walk.

With the Renegades down 2-1, Luis Sanchez, on the mound in relief for the IronBirds, an affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles, could not find the plate, hitting two batters before walking a third to load the bases.

Renegades infielder Jared Serna drew a walk to tie the score, and catcher Omar Martinez collected the game-winning RBI when he also walked.

No one in the park enjoyed the game more than Wappinger resident John Gorman, an official Renegades "Ushertainer" who roams the stands, leading cheers, stirring up the crowd and constantly interacting with fans.

Gorman has been a Renegades superfan since sitting with his dad behind third base at the team's first home opener in 1994. He served as the team's batboy and has worked in various positions at the park ever since.

"I never thought I'd get paid to make people happy to watch baseball," Gorman said. It's grassroots and family friendly; it's seeing guys live out their dreams, hoping to get the call to be a Bronx Bomber."

The Renegades opened the season with eight games on the road, taking on the



John Gorman is a Renegades "Ushertainer" who roams the stands, leading cheers and interacting with fans.

Bowling Green Hot Rods in Kentucky (Tampa Bay Rays) and the Rome Emperors in Georgia (Atlanta Braves).

On Tuesday, Baron Stuart continued a string of strong Hudson Valley pitching performances. The 6-foot-5 right-hander struck out three while allowing two hits and one earned run in 5 1/3 innings. Through their first nine games, Renegades pitchers gave up 36 hits, the fewest in Minor League Baseball.

This year's roster includes players from 13 states and Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Cuba.

Nick Ortiz is in his first year as manager after spending four seasons as quality assurance coach with the San Francisco Giants. Ortiz, who has worked as a scout and minor-league coach for the Yankees, had a 15-year career as a minor-league infielder and played on Puerto Rico's national team.

Along with new players and coaches, the home opener featured the debut of facilities inside the left field line, including a team clubhouse, weight room and batting tunnels, along with a rooftop party deck, terrace and event space. The improvements were the second phase of \$25 million in enhancements authorized in 2022 by Dutchess

(Continued on Page 21)

VARSITY ROUNDUP

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BASEBALL — It was a phenomenal day on April 12 for Bulldog pitchers as Ryan Landisi, AC McKay and Alex Young combined to throw a no-hitter against O'Neill in a 10-1 victory. At the plate, Liam Murphy was 3-for-3 with a double and triple.

The rest of the week was more challenging, with three consecutive one-run losses. Beacon fell at Chester, 4-3, and at home

against Warwick (11-10) and New Paltz (8-7). The Bulldogs (3-3) travel to Burke Catholic today (April 19) before opening league play next week at Port Jervis and Liberty.

GIRLS' GOLF — Beacon defeated Highland, 182-191, on Monday (April 15) behind a 57 by Elizabeth Ruffy and New Paltz, 176-201, on Tuesday, again behind Ruffy, who shot a 50. In their first league game on Wednesday, the Bulldogs fell by two strokes at Millbrook, 187-185; Ruffy shot a 56. Beacon (2-1) hosted Minisink Valley on Thursday and will host

Ellenville, Red Hook and Marlboro next week at the Southern Dutchess Country Club.

BOYS' TENNIS — The Bulldogs continued to look for their first win after losing, 4-3, to Valley Central on April 11 (with victories by Beckett Anderson, Charlie Klein and Julian Rivers) and Washingtonville, 5-2, on Monday (April 15). The Bulldogs (0-4) host Minisink Valley today (April 19) at 5:30 p.m. and Cornwall on Wednesday at 4 p.m.

(Continued on Page 21)

Beacon base runner Jackson Atwell draws attention during a game against New Paltz this week. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Cadence Heeter

