

The HIGHLANDS  
Current

Jazz and Ragas  
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Cold Spring  
Cuts Parking  
Fees in Half

Main Street merchants say  
meters hurt business

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board agreed on Wednesday (June 12) to halve the hourly rate for metered parking on Main Street and raise the time limit by an hour after merchants complained they were losing customers.

The five trustees agreed to lower the \$4 per hour rate to \$2 per hour and to allow drivers to pay for a minimum of 30 minutes, rather than an hour. They also said they would raise the maximum time allowed from three hours to four.

In addition, the fees at the municipal lot on Fair Street, which are \$2.50 per hour on weekdays and \$3.50 per hour on weekends, will be lowered to \$2 per hour daily. That will also be the fee for spots at Mayor's Park that will be available after the Fair Street culvert is repaired. The Fair Street lot has a 72-hour time limit.

The board kept the fine for a parking ticket at \$75.

Because raising the maximum time requires amending the Village Code, the board must hold a public hearing, which is scheduled for June 26. The board can change the fees without a code revision.

The changes will cost the village an estimated \$100,000 in revenue from parking fees, which the board has budgeted for the 2024-25 fiscal year at \$285,000. The village took in \$29,000 from the 80 metered spaces on Main Street between April 5, (Continued on Page 9)



Michelle O'Meara (left) is the director of Stepping Stones daycare in Philipstown and Denise Giannasca is its owner. Photo by L. Sparks

Special Report

Who Will Watch the Kids?

Child care shortages weigh on parents, providers

By Leonard Sparks

Kelly Hines' criteria during her long job search were simple: If an employer required even one day a week in the office, she didn't apply.

For over a year, one frustrating search stifled another for the Beacon resident, a freelance graphic designer and art director. She and her husband struggled to find affordable care for their 2-year-old daughter, floundering in a limbo faced by many families needing child care.

"We're too wealthy to get any help but too poor to afford care," said Hines.

Denise Giannasca also faces a challenging search.

Six years ago, she opened Stepping Stones Childcare and Development in Philipstown. On April 29, Stepping Stones broke ground on an expansion that will create room for additional children.

With a waiting list of three dozen families, Giannasca said the challenge isn't demand but finding qualified employees in a field where the average hourly pay is \$16.92, according to the state. "We can't pay what people are really worth," said Giannasca, who just posted four job openings for teachers.

(Continued on Page 20)

Beacon Schools  
Weigh Cellphone  
Restrictions

Superintendent says  
changes possible in the fall

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City School District is considering changes to its policy on student cellphone usage, a thorny subject that many schools have wrestled with.

Superintendent Matt Landahl said on Wednesday (June 12) that changes could be implemented in the fall to "strengthen our policy" but provided no details. Landahl said he plans to update the community this summer.

The district's existing policy, adopted in 2021, says that phones are allowed during "non-instructional time" if students follow the district's code of conduct and the acceptable use policy. According to the code, teachers and administrators can confiscate phones if students are violating the policy.

However, several parents asked the school board in April for more restrictions. One parent, Hana Ramat, a psychotherapist whose son will enter Rombout Middle School in the fall, said this week that she hopes the district will require students to turn in their phones while at school.

Echoing comments made in recent years by U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, Ramat said there's an "epidemic of mental illness" among children and teens. Research, she said, suggests that smartphones, which were introduced about 20 years ago, have been a major factor.

"Especially with young girls, the research is very clear and the impacts (Continued on Page 7)



Gregory Purdy Jr. pushes on a barricade on Jan. 6. His distinctive jacket was entered into evidence at trial. FBI

Dutchess County Brothers Guilty in Jan. 6 Attack

Uncle also convicted in  
D.C. jury trial

By Chip Rowe

Two Dutchess County brothers and their uncle were found guilty by a federal jury in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday (June 11) for their role in storming the Capital on Jan. 6, 2021.

Gregory Purdy Jr., 26, a 2016 Carmel High School graduate who lives in Hopewell Junction, faced 12 charges, including six

felonies, and his uncle, Robert Turner, 42, formerly of Poughkeepsie, faced nine charges, including three felonies. Both men were accused of assaulting police officers. Matthew Purdy, 25, faced four misdemeanor counts and was acquitted of two.

Purdy Jr. and Turner were imprisoned following the verdict; Matthew Purdy was released until sentencing for all three men, which the judge scheduled for Oct. 18.

By one estimate, about 140 police officers were injured during the Jan. 6 assault, which was an effort to prevent the certifica-

tion of President Joe Biden's election win. One protester was shot and killed by a Capitol police officer and the riot is believed to have contributed to the deaths of at least three police officers.

According to the Justice Department, more than 1,450 individuals have been charged with crimes related to Jan. 6, including more than 500 accused of felonies for assaulting or impeding officers.

The Purdy brothers are sons of Gregory Schwartz-Purdy, a Republican from Kent (Continued on Page 6)



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: BRIAN TERRY

By Leonard Sparks

The Rev. Brian Terry is finishing his tenure as minister general for the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, a Catholic congregation at Graymoor in Philipstown.

What is your background?

I was born in a small southern town called Washington, D.C. My parents moved to the Maryland suburbs and then to northern Virginia. The friars had a parish in Sterling Park, Virginia, and it seemed like a fit for me with what they were doing. I studied pre-medical psychiatry and switched to theater to scare my parents. I have, from Catholic University, a dual degree in fine and performing arts and psychology. I did some fun things when I was in theater, like work with David Copperfield and Marcel Marceau and a Kabuki theater in Japan. The friars asked me to go to Rome to study, and I got a bachelor's degree in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University.

The Society of the Atonement is celebrating its 125th anniversary. How did it come about?

It was founded in 1898 in Philipstown by Father Paul Wattson and Mother Lurana White in the Episcopalian tradition. In 1909,



17 men and women came into full communion with the Catholic Church. Canon at that time didn't allow a community to be mixed, so the church split us into the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. Father Wattson is in the process of becoming a saint. He's been named a Servant of God and we're in the process with the Vatican of doing the paperwork to go to the next level.

How is the society celebrating the anniversary?

We kicked it off in September with a visit from Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canter-

bury. Then, on Dec. 15, the day the society was established, we had a celebration at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. We kicked off this summer with a concert series, and a closing ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 15.

Where else does the society have missions?

We have a parish in Japan with a soup kitchen and a school. It's been there since World War II and was initially a high school for women. We're in Rome and Assisi in Italy. In Brockton, Massachusetts, there is a chapel with a gift shop. We have a parish in Toronto, and a new foundation in Lima, Peru, where we work with the poorest of the poor. We just received donations of a property in Monterrey, Mexico, and a 200-acre farm in West Virginia that we hope to turn into another type of farm or a halfway house.

You've been the minister general for 10 years. What's next?

That's a good question. I want to know the answer to that, too. We have to finish the transition period. It's a complex transition because we have eight corporations. I'll help through the transition and after that, most likely it's time for some renewal and sabbatical time.

ON THE SPOT

By Leonard Sparks  
and Jeff Simms

At what point do you turn on your air conditioning?

“As late as possible. I like the windows open.”



Maria Elena Hardman, Cold Spring

“I don't have air conditioning. I may have to cave, but I'm going to see if I can live with the pleasures of being one with nature.”



Ryan Stasolla, Cold Spring

“I turn on the AC when it gets too hot to sleep without it.”



Alison Spodek, Beacon

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Zhu Wei

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NEWS BRIEFS

Fjord Trail Report Delayed  
*Draft now expected in early fall*

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail said on Wednesday (June 12) that a draft of an environmental impact report for the project expected over the summer has been delayed by New York State until the early fall.

In a statement, HHFT said the delay will give the Visitation Data Committee more time to review three topics that will inform the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS): pedestrian counts, visitation projections and a traffic study. The committee includes representatives from Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Beacon and Fishkill and a planning consultant.

Once the report is released, the state will begin accepting public comments.

Beacon Man Charged  
in Shooting Death  
*Accused of 2022 killing at  
Forrestal Heights*

Beacon police on Tuesday (June 11) arrested a 24-year-old Beacon man who was charged with the 2022 murder of Lionell Pittman Jr.

Pittman, 32, was shot in May 2022 in the parking lot of the Forrestal Heights apartment complex on West Center Street. The police department said officers responded to the complex at about 6:50 p.m. after a report of shots fired.

On Tuesday, officers conducted a traffic stop on Fishkill Avenue and arrested Naije Perrette, 24, of Beacon. Perrette was charged with second-degree murder, arraigned in City Court and taken to the Dutchess County Jail.

In a statement, police said they would not release further information because of the ongoing investigation. The department credited the Dutchess County Drug Task Force with assistance on the arrest and the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office for the investigation.

Pittman's murder is one of three recent killings in Beacon. In 2021, Rene Vivo, a 65-year-old veteran known as "Scout," was stabbed on Christmas Day. In 2016, a 25-year-old man visiting the city was shot at the Davies South

Terrace apartment complex. Police have not made arrests in either of those cases.

Shakespeare Festival  
Receives Wetlands Permit  
*Philipstown Conservation Board  
clears way for site plan vote*

The Philipstown Conservation Board on Tuesday (June 11) approved a wetlands permit for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, setting up a Planning Board vote on its proposed open-air theater, concession area and restrooms.

As part of the project, HVSF plans to widen the entrance on the Route 9 side of its property, which was formerly the Garrison Golf Course. That will require encroaching into a 100-foot buffer surrounding wetlands by a manmade pond at the intersection with Snake Hill Road.

The permit allows HVSF to install a water main and excavate contaminated soil from what used to be the 13th and 14th greens. The plan includes planting native species around the pond, which has been lowered by 4 feet.

The Planning Board is expected to vote on the first phase of the HVSF project on Thursday (June 20). As proposed, the second phase would include 26 housing units for artists and guests, rehearsal and administrative space and a welcome center.

Riverkeeper Christens  
New Monitoring Boat  
*Named for founder Bob Boyle*

Riverkeeper christened a new boat this month to honor the late Bob Boyle, who founded the environmental organization in 1966 as the Hudson River Fishermen's Association. Riverkeeper purchased the 25-foot boat with a state grant and Emmanuel Morlet, a board member, paid for its scientific equipment.

Boyle, who died in 2017, was a journalist, outdoorsman, activist and author of *The Hudson River: A Natural and Unnatural History*. Riverkeeper monitors water quality at hundreds of sites on the Hudson and its tributaries.



Kathryn Belous-Boyle christened a Riverkeeper boat named for her late husband.  
*Photo provided*

The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**

The hall was full.  
The questions insightful.  
The answers illuminating.

"A Conversation  
with Nicholas D. Kristof"  
was a rewarding evening.

THANK YOU

to all who attended to hear *The New York Times* opinion columnist  
be interviewed by local resident Christopher Buck  
at the Garrison Institute on Saturday, June 8.

Amid comments on global crises and national issues at the fundraiser  
marking the start of *The Highlands Current's* 15th year, Kristof offered  
his own appreciation of the role of community journalism:

“ One of the mistakes that national journalism sometimes makes is that we’re so focused on problems that we don’t give people the perspective that there are good things happening, too. We cover planes that crash but don’t always acknowledge that, actually, a lot of planes land, too. Community papers are sometimes better at striking that balance and covering good things that are happening in the community as well as the bad things.

That’s one reason why I’m so aghast at so many papers going out of business around the country, and why I’m so glad that all of you come together and support *The Current* and are behind it. You are not only benefiting *The Current* but keeping the social fabric of the community vibrant and alive in ways that will yield a real return.



With gratitude to all members of *The Current* — the  
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# Beacon Hearings Set for Capital Projects, New Laws

City Council will hear feedback at June 17 meeting

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council has scheduled public hearings for Monday (June 17) on the city's five-year capital project pipeline, a law amending regulations for towing illegally parked cars and a law governing the use of fire hydrants.

A fourth hearing, on minimum parking requirements for new developments, is expected to be adjourned while city officials continue work on the proposal.

The capital program, introduced at the May 28 meeting, includes more than \$29 million in equipment purchases and upgrades and construction projects anticipated from 2025 to 2029. According to the city charter, a five-year plan must be approved by the council each year by July 31.

The city funds its capital projects through savings, long-term debt, state and federal grants and special accounts, such as a recreation fund that developers pay into.

The council only meets twice a month during the summer, so Monday's meeting will include a workshop followed by a regular meeting. During the workshop, Finance Director Susan Tucker will brief the council on funding and the debt schedule for capital projects, followed by the first public hearing.

Major expenses scheduled for 2025 include the purchase of a \$1.7 million ladder truck for the Fire Department; the addition of \$575,750 to the \$230,000 already approved to rehab South Avenue Park; \$1 million for repairs to the Melzingah Dam; and \$1 million to replace a century-old water main along Fishkill Avenue from Blackburn Avenue to Prospect Street.

City Administrator Chris White said that while the spending is being authorized for the ladder truck, there is at least a four-year wait for one to be manufactured. It will replace a nine-year-old truck that has been "chronically breaking down," he said.

The plan also includes estimates for projects from 2026 to 2029. In 2026 the city anticipates spending \$1.4 million to construct a water storage tank at the foot of Mount Beacon and \$2.1 million on upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant.

The reconstruction of the athletic courts and parking lot at Seeger Riverfront Park is expected to cost \$1.6 million in 2027, while playground rehab and the installation of splash pads at Riverfront and Memorial parks will cost \$630,000 in 2028. The city has \$5.3 million slated to establish a community center in 2029.

At the second public hearing on Monday, the council will hear feedback on amendments to regulations for removing illegally parked cars. The law would require owners of private lots with five or more parking spaces to display signs warning that illegally parked vehicles are subject to towing. "Booting," or immobilizing vehicles, would

be prohibited. Towing companies would have to be registered with the city and could only charge a fee established by the city administrator in consultation with the police chief. The fee would be published on the city website.

Only the parking lot owner would be permitted to have a vehicle towed, and the towing company would have to alert the Police Department before removing a vehicle.

The third hearing will be on a law requiring written authorization from the city to open public or private fire hydrants. A permit to open a hydrant would only be issued in special circumstances, such as when a property is under construction and sufficient water is not available. There would be a fee to open a hydrant as well as a meter to measure the amount of water used.

A permit would also be required before the installation of a private hydrant (there are about 65 in Beacon now), which would have to be inspected annually.

## Real Estate

### Market Report (May)

#### Beacon Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	17	17
Closed Sales	10	8
Days on Market	57	33
Median Price	\$525,000	\$482,850
% List Received	96.8	106.0
Inventory	45	37

#### Beacon Condos

	2023	2024
New Listings	1	3
Closed Sales	1	0
Days on Market	62	—
Median Price	\$229,150	—
% List Received	95.5	—
Inventory	23	8

#### Philipstown Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	13	9
Closed Sales	10	6
Days on Market	14	81
Median Price	\$562,500	\$727,500
% List Received	95.2	96.4
Inventory	27	31

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

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Jan. 6 (from Page 1)

who in 2016 challenged then-Assembly Member Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district included Philipstown, for her seat. According to a LinkedIn profile, Purdy Jr. managed his father's campaign.

Purdy-Schwartz was recorded at the Capitol confronting police officers with Purdy Jr., according to an FBI complaint, but has not been charged.

The jury on Tuesday found Purdy Jr. guilty of three counts of obstructing officers during civil disorder; two counts of assaulting, resisting or impeding officers; and two counts of engaging in violence in a restricted building or grounds.

He was also found guilty of obstructing an official proceeding; entering and remaining in a restricted building; disorderly and disruptive conduct; and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building.

Turner was found guilty of obstructing officers; assaulting, resisting or impeding officers; and engaging in violence in a restricted building or grounds. He also was found guilty of obstructing an official proceeding; entering and remaining in a restricted building; disorderly and disruptive conduct; and parading, demonstrating or picketing.

Matthew Purdy was found guilty of disorderly conduct and parading, demonstrating or picketing. He was acquitted of entering and remaining in a restricted building and disorderly and disruptive conduct.

In a court filing after Purdy Jr. was



Robert Turner

arrested in November 2021, the FBI cited videos he posted on social media and footage retrieved from body cameras worn by two Metropolitan Police Department officers who were confronted outside the Capitol at 2 p.m. by Purdy Jr. and Purdy-Schwartz, about 20 minutes before the House and Senate chambers were evacuated. According to the FBI, Purdy Jr. told the officers, "You gotta let us by," and his father said, "You're going to make a decision..."

Purdy Jr. later posted to Instagram, according to the criminal complaint: "Inside the capital getting tear gassed! My eyes and skin still are irritated! Wasn't as bad as I thought it would be." He promised to post more footage with his brother and uncle from inside the Capitol and to explain "how I got out of it with no charges and nothing on my record and got out of DC without being in a jail cell."

According to the FBI, Purdy Jr. wrote: "Our country is in major trouble! Our



Christopher Finney

government doesn't listen to its own laws. Today was about taking our democracy back. We have undisputed proof of major voter fraud ... yes, undisputable! And we have been denied the proper court proceeding and special counsel. When they don't follow the rule of the land then we have to send them a message!"

Purdy Jr.'s LinkedIn profile says he studied briefly at Liberty University, a private evangelical university in Virginia, and in 2018 founded a marketing firm, Once Upon a Time.

The brothers and Turner have been free on bond since their arrests. After dropping their court-appointed counsel, the men hired Melissa Isaak, an Alabama attorney who specializes in representing men in divorces. On March 20, Purdy Jr. and Turner hired Dylan Barket, a Miami-based lawyer.

At least 10 area men have been charged in connection to Jan. 6. Three Putnam resi-

dents pleaded guilty to entering the Capitol, one former Newburgh resident received a 4½-year sentence and a Pawling resident was given a 30-day sentence. Here is the status of three outstanding cases:

**William Pepe, Beacon**

Prosecutors allege Pepe, who was arrested six days after the riot, was among the members of the far-right Proud Boys who coordinated travel and lodging and, using earpieces and radios to communicate, dismantled barriers and broke windows. Following his arrest, Pepe was fired from his job at Metro-North in Brewster. He was indicted on four counts, including conspiracy; assaulting, resisting or impeding officers; and aiding and abetting.

Pepe, who has pleaded not guilty, is represented by John Pierce, a California lawyer who in 2021 founded the National Constitutional Law Union, which he describes as "the answer to the useless and radically leftist American Civil Liberties Union." Pierce has refuted the accusations against his client as a "giant conspiracy theory" and accused prosecutors of "campaigning for the Democrat Party." A bench trial is scheduled for Aug. 20.

**Christopher Finney, Hopewell Junction**

Finney was arrested Feb. 8 and charged with two felonies and five misdemeanors,

(Continued on Page 7)

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*(Continued from Page 6)*

according to an FBI news release.

According to the agency, Finney was recorded saying: "We're storming the Capitol right now. We just broke over the fence." He was among the rioters pushing against a police line in a tunnel on the grounds, the FBI said. His next court appearance is scheduled for July 23.

### Edward "Jake" Lang, Newburgh

Lang was arrested 10 days after the riot. According to the FBI, he can be seen in the crowd striking officers' shields with a bat.

In July, Lang petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging the charge of "obstructing, influencing or impeding an official proceeding," which carries a sentence of up to 20 years. He argued that the law only applies to destroying documents or other evidence. A jury trial has been scheduled for September but the judge is waiting for the Supreme Court decision.

Lang, who is incarcerated in Brooklyn, has made repeated motions to be released on bond. Federal prosecutors replied most recently on June 7, citing jailhouse rules violations, such as an incident in April in which Lang allegedly used deception to call his girlfriend from jail and instruct her how to solicit donations from his online "followers" and during which he recorded a statement to share with conservative internet host Lou Dobbs, who has described Lang as a "political prisoner."

### Cellphones *(from Page 1)*

are severe," Ramat said, citing eating disorders, depression, anxiety and body dysmorphia as conditions all potentially exacerbated by online culture. "The social media algorithms lead you down these roads, and it's very disturbing how fast it goes," she said.

Ramat said she and her husband don't plan to give their son a smartphone until his mid-teen years. In the interim, they're considering a phone without internet access or a device like an Apple Watch that he can use for basic communications.

Other schools in the region, both public and private, have adopted or are close to instituting no-phone policies.

Haldane High School last year introduced "No-Cell Motels" — repurposed shoe organizers in which students place their phones during class. One school year into the policy, "there are fewer distractions and the bathroom breaks are much shorter," said Tom Virgadamo, the president of the Haldane teachers' union.

The private Manitou School in Philipstown and Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon have also banned phones in class. The Kingston school board is considering a proposal requiring middle school and high school students to leave their phones in locked bags, while the Newburgh school board agreed last fall to a deal with Yondr, a company that manufactures locking phone pouches.

Something like a Yondr pouch in Beacon would free teachers of the burden of policing for phones while instructing, Ramat said. It would also restore face-to-face time, or "the precious childhood time of connecting and building relationships," during lunch, recess and in the hall, she said.

John Drew, a Beacon resident who is a digital media professor at Adelphi University in Long Island, also spoke to the school board in April. He said Wednesday that, even at the college level, many students believe they need access to their phones at all times. "It almost makes it sad to be a teacher, because the devices are more powerful than any teaching strategy I can come up with," he said.

Drew empathizes with his daughter, who will also enter Rombout in the fall, because so many of her friends have phones. "It's impossible for her to not want to have the access that her friends have" to social media and the internet, he said.

While a 2020 survey by the National Center for Education Statistics showed that more than 75 percent of schools nation-

wide have banned cellphones except for academic use, Sarah Jaafar, a Beacon High School junior who is a student adviser to the school board, offered counterpoints during the April meeting.

If the district implements further restrictions, it should start with younger students, "so when students go into the high school they're using the phone more as a tool than a plaything during classes," she said.

Jaafar also explained that she drives other students to and from school every day and often needs to communicate with them after classes have begun. "I need to know who's coming with me, who's staying after," she said. "If I'm staying after, I need to let them know ahead of time, so they can find a ride."

She also raised the issue of emergencies. "What if there's an emergency at home that I need to be told of immediately? I need to be able to get that text from my parents," Jaafar said. "I agree there are a lot of negative impacts but it's not a one-size-fits-all type of thing."

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Photos by Alison Bogart - Beacon 2023 Juneteenth Riverfront Festival

# College Dean's Lists

These local students were named to their college or university dean's lists during the 2023-24 academic year.

**Buffalo State University**  
Elliot Moreno, *Beacon*

**Champlain College (VT)**  
Thomas Rockett, *Cold Spring*

**Coastal Carolina University (SC)**  
Kate Jordan, *Garrison*

**College of Charleston**  
Anna Rowe, *Garrison*

**College of the Holy Cross (MA)**  
Liam Marrinan, *Cold Spring*

**Elms College (MA)**  
Jesse Hagen, *Cold Spring*

**Emerson College (MA)**  
Grace DiNatale, *Cold Spring*

**Hartwick College**  
Colin August, *Garrison*

**Hofstra University**  
Jacob DiNobile, *Beacon*

**Hudson Valley Community College**  
Emily Azznara, *Cold Spring*

**Pace University**  
Kat Buslovich, *Cold Spring*

**Purchase College**  
Jeremiah Gaines, *Garrison*  
Audrey Lewis, *Beacon*  
Kaelin Martin, *Garrison*  
Colin Waldron, *Garrison*

**Rochester Institute of Technology**  
Shane Green, *Beacon*  
Ysabel Heath, *Beacon*  
Nuriya May, *Beacon*

**Roger Williams University (RI)**  
Jack Marino, *Beacon*  
Reily Mowen, *Beacon*

**Sienna College**  
Nicole Carlucci, *Garrison*  
Jaeda Green, *Beacon*  
Mary Mikalsen, *Cold Spring*  
Lindsay Otero, *Beacon*  
Kaelyn Powlis, *Cold Spring*  
William Sniffen, *Cold Spring*

**Southern NH University**  
Heidi Bernhart, *Beacon*  
Bethany Comstock, *Beacon*  
Alexis Tolliver, *Garrison*

**Springfield College (MA)**  
Michael Lepere, *Beacon*

**SUNY Canton**  
Thomas Coulter, *Beacon*  
Tara Losi, *Beacon*  
Andrew Lukan, *Beacon*  
Krystal Stewart, *Cold Spring*  
Matthew Woods, *Cold Spring*

**SUNY Cortland**  
Jason Callaway, *Beacon*  
Alexandra Ferreira, *Cold Spring*

Bianca Harmancin, *Cold Spring*  
Evan Kumar, *Beacon*  
Miles McCabe, *Beacon*  
Taylor Meeuwisse, *Beacon*  
Giulia O'Connell, *Garrison*

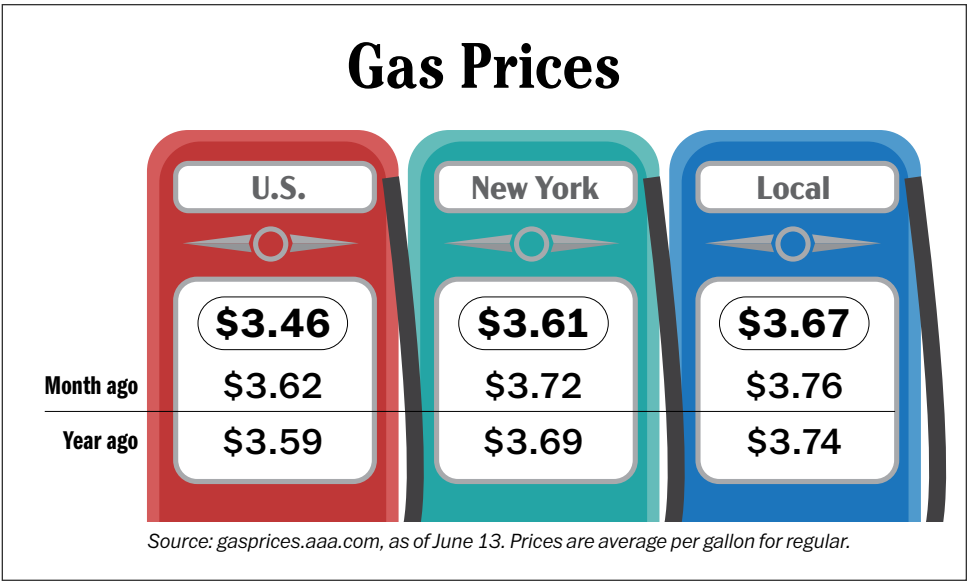
**SUNY Delhi**  
Owen Browne, *Beacon*  
Corey Murray, *Beacon*

**SUNY Geneseo**  
John Kisslinger, *Cold Spring*

**SUNY Morrisville**  
Donald Bowles, *Beacon*  
George Pinkhardt, *Beacon*

**SUNY New Paltz**  
Hanna Alfieri, *Beacon*  
Juliette Barkman, *Cold Spring*  
Rebekah Ciancanelli, *Beacon*  
Antoinette De Martine, *Cold Spring*  
Erika DeHaas, *Beacon*  
Thyra Eysselinck, *Cold Spring*  
Joanna Goldshine, *Cold Spring*  
Mason Kennedy, *Beacon*  
Liliana Kershner, *Beacon*  
Andrew Kubik, *Cold Spring*  
Jessica Mackin, *Cold Spring*  
Kaydi McInerney, *Garrison*  
Ava Muscat, *Beacon*  
Nevaeh Panko, *Beacon*  
Quinn Seetoo, *Garrison*  
Mason Sharpley, *Cold Spring*  
John Urban Quezada, *Beacon*  
Sofia Viggiano, *Cold Spring*

**SUNY Oneonta**  
Claire Derrenbacher, *Beacon*



**SUNY Orange**  
Sofia Hockler, *Beacon*  
Sandra Roldan, *Beacon*  
Myrna Tangar, *Beacon*

**SUNY Potsdam**  
Rowan Parsaca, *Beacon*

**Tennessee Tech University**  
Christopher Shenton, *Garrison*

**The Citadel (SC)**  
Caleb Wilson, *Beacon*

**Tufts University**  
Shepard Rodgers, *Beacon*

**University at Albany**  
Damon Angelo, *Beacon*  
Jill Cox, *Garrison*

Erik Greiner, *Garrison*  
Elijah McKible, *Beacon*  
Jessica Pavone, *Beacon*  
Thomas Rapp, *Beacon*  
Allison Varian, *Beacon*

**University of Alabama**  
Ada McBride, *Cold Spring*

**University at Buffalo**  
Jordan Albertson, *Garrison*  
Kate Bolte, *Cold Spring*  
Isley Gebman, *Beacon*  
Delaney Horan, *Garrison*  
Rachel Iavicoli, *Garrison*  
Hayden Mayer, *Garrison*  
Brennan Spruck, *Cold Spring*

**University of Hartford**  
Allyson Correllus, *Beacon*  
Demya Elliott, *Beacon*

**University of New Hampshire**  
Matthew McCoy, *Cold Spring*

**University of Rhode Island**  
April DiBrita, *Beacon*

**University of Richmond**  
Gaetano Cervone, *Garrison*

**Wofford College (SC)**  
Brooke Sayre, *Garrison*

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Book your appointments at barberandbrew.com



## Parking Meter Data

### How Much Parking?

80	metered spaces on Main Street, including three ADA
37	metered spaces at the Fair Street municipal lot
155	resident permit spaces; 254 permits issued to date
82	free spaces on side streets
36	free "winter lot" spaces on Kemble and The Blvd
200	free Metro-North spaces on weekends

### Revenue (through May 20)

Main Street meters:

**\$28,994**

Friday average: **\$686**  
Saturday: **\$1,927**  
Sunday: **\$1,528**

Fair Street Lot:

**\$7,560** (total)

Meter and permit revenue represented **8 percent** of general revenue

### Frequency

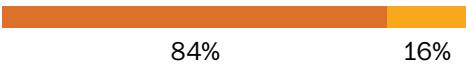
How many times individual vehicles used the meters

4,439	one time (90 percent)
375	two times
20	four times
6	five times
4	six times

### Payment Method

■ = ParkMobile app ■ = kiosk

Main Street



Fair Street lot



Source: Village of Cold Spring

## Parking (from Page 1)

when the fees took effect, and May 20.

"It's revenue we're not going to have and it will have budget impacts," said Mayor Kathleen Foley. "It could be new employees, it could be services. It's going to be painful."

The decision on Wednesday followed a discussion at the board's June 5 meeting in which a contingent of Main Street merchants asked for lower fees and longer limits, saying the meters were affecting their bottom line and frustrating customers, especially those who received tickets.

Foley noted that the debate over parking fees had been going on for decades, citing a 1989 profile of Cold Spring in *The New York Times* that alluded to the possibility of meters and resident permits.

Foley said that, in public sessions held while the parking program was being developed, the board made clear its intent to reduce traffic density, increase visitor use of public transportation and encourage parking in the municipal and Metro-North lots while preserving resident parking and village character.

Foley said parking fees allow the village to offset the cost of tourism. Village residents bear that expense because Putnam County doesn't share sales tax revenue with its municipalities, she said.

The Main Street meters, between Depot Square and Route 9D, are enforced from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The municipal lots are enforced at all times. Residents can obtain permits to park on most sections of side streets.

In a letter dated May 1, 36 merchants asked for lower fees and higher limits. They also asked the board to consider employee permits and motorcycle spaces.

Robert Le Blanc, owner of The Shoppes at 103 Main St., said at the June 5 meeting that the welcoming atmosphere Cold Spring has built over the years was being lost because of the meters. "People who received a \$75 ticket will probably never return," he said, expressing concern that Cold Spring will become known as a "tourist trap." He urged the board to make changes. "Without your help, many of us may not survive," he said.

Craig Muraszewski, owner of The General Store, was critical of parking data shared by the board, saying it "missed the human element" by dealing only with money. "What we're hearing is the discomfort, the anger from people who just got a \$75 parking ticket."

Doug Price, owner of Doug's Pretty Good Pub, complained that from Monday through Thursday, when meters are not in use, cars park all day on Main Street, which he said keeps him from opening for lunch. He also called for improved signage that explains the parking requirements.

Erin Murphy, owner of Reservoir, said her business was down 30 percent in April and May. She said Fridays have been the worst and called the slowdown in visitors to her shop after 3 p.m. "shocking."

Murphy said she moved to Cold Spring because of its charm, beauty and vibrant Main Street. "It takes a long time to build what Cold Spring created here but it takes just moments to ruin it," she said. "Once people have a bad taste in their mouth they can find

another village; they won't come back."

While Main Street business owners expressed concern, not everyone was negative about parking restrictions. Dan Valentine, who lives on Garden Street, was one of three residents who commented on the effectiveness of the resident permit program, which largely prohibits visitors from parking on side streets on weekends.

Before the permits, he said, it was not unusual for commuters to park in front of his house from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. or for others to leave their vehicles for up to two weeks when going to the airport.

"Now when we come home, there is actually a place where we can park near our house," he said.

Valentine, who served on the Parking Committee, said he felt \$4 per hour was too high but added that the time limit on meters discourages hikers from parking on Main Street for the day as they have in the past.

Trustee Eliza Starbuck, who did much of the leg work to implement the parking plan, said on June 5 that the most common model in other communities includes parking fees between 50 cents and \$2 per hour, enforced seven days a week.

The Parking Committee had recommended meters be activated only on weekends with residential parking restrictions in effect daily, she said. "We took that, and it evolved through our board process and revenue meetings," Starbuck said.

"That's scary when it's affecting your business," said Starbuck, who owns Flowercup Wine on Main Street. "Some changes

are easier to make than others."

"This puts us in a tough position; we have a budget with budget goals," including parking fees, said Trustee Laura Bozzi. "What are the options, creative solutions, other than changing the fees?"

Foley said the board made its best guess regarding revenue from fees, knowing that changes might have to be made. "We just have to find the change that's workable across the board," the mayor said, suggesting that financial modeling be done to show the impact of various price points.

"The trustees and merchants are aligned on many achievable next steps," Foley wrote in an email to *The Current* on June 6. "On our end, we need to run numbers and identify options for rate adjustments that make sense for Main Street and the village budget."

### In other business ...

■ The board agreed to a fire protection agreement with the Village of Nelsonville for services provided by the Cold Spring Fire Co.

■ The board approved an agreement with Philipstown for food scrap collection.

■ Gentech LTD was hired to repair the fire company's backup generator.

■ Arthur Mendoza and Daniel Maldonado were hired as police officers.

■ Jeff Phillips Jr. resigned from the Roadways and Facilities Department; David Capobianco was hired for \$20 per hour.

Leonard Sparks contributed reporting.



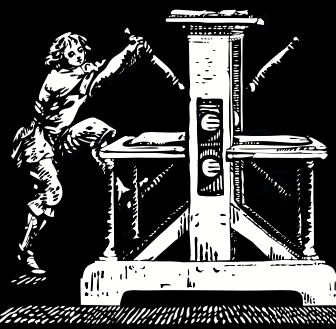
**HIGHLANDS CHAPEL**  
*Home of the Highlands Choral Society*  
**THIS SUNDAY:**  
**IRENE O'GARDEN**  
**"GLAD TO BE HUMAN"**  
**JUNE 16 @ 11:00AM**  
**FOR WORSHIP**  
**REFLECTION**  
**& SONG**

**June 23** Martha Elder  
**June 30** Fourth of July Service

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

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## AROUND TOWN



**NICHOLAS KRISTOF** — *The New York Times* columnist and two-time Pulitzer winner spoke about his new memoir, *Chasing Hope*, during a sold-out benefit for *The Current* on June 8 at the Garrison Institute. The topics ranged from farming to reporting on global conflicts to having civil discourse with people you disagree with to the importance of community journalism.

Photo by Ross Corsair



**ONE GIGANTIC TURNIP** — Students at the Foundry Montessori school in Cold Spring on June 4 portrayed a farmer, his wife and various livestock in a parable based on a Russian folktale about the value of working together. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Photo by Ross Corsair



**LIFESAVER** — Capt. Jonathan Shields, a Cold Spring resident who serves with Ladder Company 42 of the New York Fire Department, was honored on June 5 with the inaugural Battalion Chief Thomas J. Neary Medal for distinguished service in Harlem and the Bronx for saving three people on Dec. 31 from an apartment building fire. He is shown with Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh and Chief John Hodgens. Twenty-five years ago this month, Shields was awarded the Walter Scott Medal for saving a life (see Page 17).

NYFD photo

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## The Calendar

# Where Jazz and Ragas Meet

*Jog Blues ensemble will demonstrate at Magazzino*

By Marc Ferris

An eight-piece band with sitar and electric guitar that plays a mélange of jazz and Indian classical music should make strange bedfellows, yet both genres revere improvisation and share at least 60 years of intermingling.

On Saturday (June 15), the Jog Blues ensemble, which mashes the musical forms together and has performed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, will tour spiritual horizons and multifaceted musical avenues at Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown.

The group emerged in 2013 after Jonathan Rose, chair of the Garrison Institute, a retreat center that he describes as a “think-and-do tank,” met Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, at a party.

The conversation turned to the theoretical crossover between jazz and ragas, a key component of Hindu-based Indian classical music that provides a framework for soloing, similar to repeated sequences of chord progressions in a jazz or blues song.

“Jog is a midnight raga whose notes correspond with the blues scale,” the foundation of jazz, says Rose. “Ragas are related to times of the day, like a contemplative sunrise or a bright piece for a sunny afternoon. Each one has a different feel that colors the mind.”

Long a fan of free-wheeling experimentation, Rose in 1979 founded Gramavision Records, which focused on avant-garde artists like guitarist John Scofield, opera composer Anthony Davis, saxophone innovator Oliver Lake, contemporary classical unit Kronos Quartet and the jazz-funky fusion trio Medeski Martin & Wood.

“Jog Blues is certainly not the first to fuse jazz and Indian classical music,” says Rose, pointing to *My Goal’s Beyond*, a 1971 album from John McLaughlin that incorporates tabla drums and the tanpura, a drone instrument with four strings. “Indian drones, or an electric-guitar simulation of them, have infiltrated Western pop music since The Byrds and the Beatles.”

Sitar star Ravi Shankar influenced jazz saxophone icon John Coltrane, taught George Harrison how to play the multi-stringed instrument and released the album *West Meets East* in 1967 with classical violinist Yehudi Menuhin.

That same year, Shankar performed at the Monterey International Pop Festival. A live album culled from the set reached No. 43 on the pop charts. He also played at Woodstock.

After tinkering with various personnel, Rose and Mukherjee decided to counterbal-

ance the sitar and tabla with guitar, bass and drums — the key building blocks of an electrified blues band.

Mukherjee’s vocals provide additional color. Cellist Jake Charkey is trained in Western and Indian music. Andy Biskin, who adds jazzy brush strokes on clarinet and bass clarinet, worked with folklorist Alan Lomax. At the Saturday show, the group plans to play a historic American religious song.

Rose, who plays bass and harmonica, has jammed with electric guitarist Joel Blues-tein since college. “We look at each other and know what we’re going to play,” he says.

Sitarist Abhik Bhai performs with Brooklyn Raga Massive, a collective that blends the amorphous Indian classical approach with styles from jazz to world music.

For thousands of years, the Indian idiom existed as “a mixed tradition that absorbed everything, including Muslim influences,” says Mukherjee.

He showcases its diversity by presenting the Sufi mystical style known as Qawwali, whose most famous practitioner, the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, worked with Peter Gabriel.

Unlike jazz, where several soloists take turns, the historic Indian musical canon is almost always performed in a dueling duet with a melodic instrument and tabla, says Mukherjee.

Naren Budhkar, who plays tabla, is the current go-to for La Monte Young, an influential figure in New York City’s minimalist music scene since 1960 who also recorded with Gramavision.

Though jazz drummers beat their cymbals and drums with a stick, tabla players almost massage the drumheads with their hands, pressing inward to vary pitch and tone. The lurching, cyclical beats sound like a soothing, gurgling water flow.

Pheeroan akLaff brings extensive experience playing experimental music and knows how to blend in on drums rather than bash away. Also an alumnus of Gramavision, he led a session for the album *Fits Like a Glove* (1983) and recorded with Anthony Davis and Oliver Lake.

Post-Woodstock, Ravi Shankar expressed revulsion after realizing that many American fans sought to achieve a spiritual awakening by listening to his music and mind-surfing on drugs.

The intent on Saturday, says Rose, is to channel the divine — sans far-out substances (unless you count beer, wine and prosecco): “Our sets are designed to take people on a contemplative mind- and heart-opening journey.”

*Magazzino is located at 2700 Route 9 in Philipstown. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at [magazzino.art](https://magazzino.art) for \$25 (\$20 for seniors and local residents, \$5 for children and students).*



Jog Blues most recently performed at Magazzino in 2022. Photos by Alexa Hoyer/Magazzino

Jog is a midnight raga whose notes correspond with the blues scale.

Ragas are related to times of the day, like a contemplative sunrise or a bright piece for a sunny afternoon. Each one has a different feel that colors the mind.

~ **Jonathan Rose**, chair of the Garrison Institute



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 15

### Putnam Culture Fest

CARMEL

11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Memorial Park  
201 Gipsy Trail Road  
[bit.ly/culture-fest-24](https://bit.ly/culture-fest-24)

The festival will feature performers from Westchester Circus Arts, as well as music and food trucks.

SAT 15

### Family Pride

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
[facebook.com/BeaconLGBTQ](https://facebook.com/BeaconLGBTQ)

Celebrate Pride Month with music, dancing and food. A Queer Dance Party will follow at 6 p.m.

WED 19

### Juneteenth Festival

BEACON

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park  
2 Red Flynn Drive  
[facebook.com/beacon4blacklives](https://facebook.com/beacon4blacklives)

This annual celebration of Black culture will include live music, spoken word and poetry, food trucks and vendors. Rain date: SAT 23.

FRI 21

### Beacon Flow

BEACON

4 – 9 p.m. Riverfront Park  
2 Red Flynn Drive  
[bit.ly/beaconflow2024](https://bit.ly/beaconflow2024)

The solstice celebration will feature live music and sessions with wellness practitioners. At sunset, bassist and composer Dassi Rosenkrantz will perform music from her latest album, *Order of the Flow*.

SAT 22

### Food Justice is Liberation

BEACON

5 – 11:30 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | [givebutter.com/a67axM](https://givebutter.com/a67axM)

This benefit for Beacon Community Kitchen and the Learning Farm of Ithaca will honor abolitionist John Brown and five Black men who participated in his 1859 raid. It will include dinner, live music by Magpie, a dance performance by Psi Fire and a meet-and-greet with actor Danny Glover. *Cost: \$50+*

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 15

### I Am My Own Wife

PEEKSKILL

3 p.m. Museum of Contemporary Art  
1701 E. Main St.  
[studiotheaterinexile.com](https://studiotheaterinexile.com)

Doug Wright's one-person play, starring Thomas Kramer, is based on the recollections of a German transgender woman who "survived the Nazis and the Stasi in a dress." Also SUN 16, SAT 22, SUN 23. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 students, seniors, members)*



Alan Cumming, June 21

SAT 15

### Glass Ceiling Breakers

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](https://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

Theatre Revolution is hosting its fourth annual festival of short plays and films by women. Also SUN 16. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 15

### Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood

PEEKSKILL

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](https://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The duo from *Who's Line Is It Anyway?* will turn audience suggestions into comedy. *Cost: \$55 to \$75*

FRI 21

### Alan Cumming

PEEKSKILL

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](https://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The actor and singer will perform *Uncut*, his cabaret show. *Cost: \$72 to \$92*

FRI 21

### Everybody's Talking About Jamie

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](https://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

Cinema Depot will screen the 2021 film, which is based on the musical about a 16-year-old gay student exploring drag. *Cost: \$15*

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 15

### Garden Tours

BEACON

11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Mount Gulian  
145 Sterling St. | [mountgulian.org](https://mountgulian.org)

Learn about the horticultural history of gardens originally tended by James F. Brown, a formerly enslaved person. Also SUN 16. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors, \$8 ages 6 to 18, free for members and ages 6 and younger)*

SAT 15

### Tree Walk

BEACON

11 a.m. Hiddenbrooke Park  
27 Hiddenbrook Drive

Arborist Paul McWalter will identify trees and plants and share interesting facts. Rain date: SUN 16. *Free*

SAT 15

### Secret Gardens Tour

BEACON

12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Various  
The Tioronda Garden Club is hosting this self-guided tour. Rain date: SUN 16. Email [fullergeri@yahoo.com](mailto:fullergeri@yahoo.com) for tickets. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 21

### Stone Structures

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St.  
[putnamhistorymuseum.org](https://putnamhistorymuseum.org)

Rob Buchanan will discuss his research on the historical and religious significance of these Native American sites in the lower Hudson Valley. Attend in person or watch via Zoom. On SAT 22, Buchanan will lead a hike to stone structures in Putnam Valley. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 members, \$15 virtual)*

## VISUAL ARTS

SAT 15

### Wind Breath Water

BEACON

1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [howlandculturalcenter.org](https://howlandculturalcenter.org)

This sound-and-vision exhibit will include works by artists of Chinese descent. Through Aug. 4. A poetry reading is scheduled for 3 p.m. on SUN 16.

THURS 20

### Reading Circle

BEACON

6 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | [baugallery.org](https://baugallery.org)

Kelly O'Brien, whose exhibit *A Spell Against Despair* is on view, will lead a discussion of *All We Can Save*, an anthology about the climate movement with contributions from 60 women.

SUN 23

### Werner Sun

GARRISON

2:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](https://garrisonartcenter.org)

The artist will discuss his work on view in *Rose Window*.

## LITERARY

SAT 15

### Jason Koo

BEACON

8 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | [stanzabooks.com](https://stanzabooks.com)

Koo will read his long-form poems from *No Rest*.

THURS 20

### Armchair Travel Escape

COLD SPRING

Noon. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](https://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Take a virtual trip to a Caribbean island during the kickoff of the library's adult summer reading program.

THURS 20

### Lucy Sante

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](https://townecrier.com)

The author will read from her memoir, *I Heard Her Call My Name: A Memoir of Transition*, about changing her gender identity in her 60s.



SAT 22

### Gwendolyn Bounds

GARRISON

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

The Philipstown resident will discuss her latest book, *Not Too Late: The Power of Pushing Limits at Any Age*, which details how she became a champion Spartan racer. Cali Schweikhart, a fellow racer, will join her, and *Current* reporter Brian PJ Cronin will moderate.



SAT 22

### Alex DiFrancesco

BEACON

8 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | [stanzabooks.com](https://stanzabooks.com)

The author will discuss her book,

*Breaking the Curse: A Memoir of Trauma, Healing and Italian Witchcraft*, with Lisa Marie Basile.

## KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 18

### STEAM Stories

BEACON

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

Elementary school students are invited to hear a story about science, technology, engineering, arts and math, then complete a project.

FRI 21

### Teen Movie Night

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](https://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Students in grades 6 to 12 are invited to a screening of *The Hunger Games* (2012). Registration required.

## NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 15

### Beneficial Insects

GARRISON

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

Learn the roles of insects in a healthy yard and make a beehouse. Register online.

SAT 22

### Give Your Garden Wings

GARRISON

9 a.m. – Noon. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](https://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Master Gardeners and the Putnam Pollinator Committee will host this open garden to discuss plants in the library meadow.

## MUSIC

SAT 15

### Jog Blues

PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m. Magazzino  
2700 Route 9 | [magazzino.art](https://magazzino.art)

The performance will blend jazz, blues and Indian classical music. See Page 11. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 seniors and local residents, \$5 students)*

SAT 15

### Lisa Gutkin & Christina Crowder

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](https://tompkinscorners.org)

Gutkin (fiddle, guitar, vocals) and Crowder (accordion, banjo) tell stories through song. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 15

### Willie Nile

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](https://townecrier.com)

In this solo performance, the rocker will debut music from a forthcoming album. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



SUN 16  
**An Afternoon of Experimental Music**

**BEACON**  
3 p.m. Analog Diary  
1154 North Ave. | [analogdiary.art](http://analogdiary.art)  
Ellery Trafford (percussion) and Du.O (violins) will each perform to accompany an exhibit by artist Beatrice Modisett.

SUN 16  
**Oren Fader**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)  
The guitarist's program will include works by Bach, Dowland, Milan, Bogdanovic and Albeniz. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 16  
**Vance Gilbert**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
Gilbert and Julie Corbalis will play music from his new album, *The Mother of Trouble*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

TUES 18  
**True North Jazz Project**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)  
The band plays bebop, classic rock and Klezmer. *Cost: \$20*



String Revolution, June 22

FRI 21  
**Pride and Resonance**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
Key of Q, a group of LGBTQ and allied singers, will perform. *Cost: \$15 donation*

FRI 21  
**Rob Scheps Core-tet**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)  
Scheps (saxophone and flute) will play with Jim O'Connor (trumpet), Jonny King (piano), Cameron Brown (bass) and Matt Garrity (drums). *Cost: \$25*

SAT 22  
**Garrison School Jazz-Rock Ensemble**  
**COLD SPRING**  
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | [stmaryscoldspring.com](http://stmaryscoldspring.com)  
Enjoy a concert by student performers. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 22  
**Great Blue**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)  
Shiri Lawrence and Steve Kaplan play eclectic music with guitar and mandolin. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 22  
**The String Revolution**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The Grammy-winning guitar trio will play its own songs and reimagined covers. Michele Gedney opens. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 23  
**Concert & Sing-a-long**  
**COLD SPRING**  
3 p.m. First Presbyterian  
10 Academy St.  
The Dream Choir will sing love songs by the Beach Boys, Bee Gees, Simon & Garfunkel and Billy Joel, and from Broadway. *Cost: \$10 donation*

SUN 23  
**CompCord Ensemble**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
This Composers Concordance concert will include music and poetry by Degra Kaye, Gene Pritsker, Judi Silvano and Charles Coleman. *Cost: \$20 (\$10 students)*

**CIVIC**  
SAT 15  
**Early Voting**  
**CARMEL**  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Board of Elections  
25 Old Route 6 | [putnamboe.com](http://putnamboe.com)  
Anthony Franscone and Mondaire

Jones, candidates for the 17th Congressional District, are competing for the Working Families ballot line. The vote is open only to party members. Daily through SUN 23.

MON 17  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

MON 17  
**School Board**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Mattewan Road | [beaconk12.org](http://beaconk12.org)  
The board will host a commendations ceremony at 6 p.m.

MON 17  
**Village Board**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | [nelsonvillenyny.gov](http://nelsonvillenyny.gov)

TUES 18  
**School Board**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D  
845-424-3689 | [gufs.org](http://gufs.org)

TUES 18  
**School Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Middle School Library  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
[haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

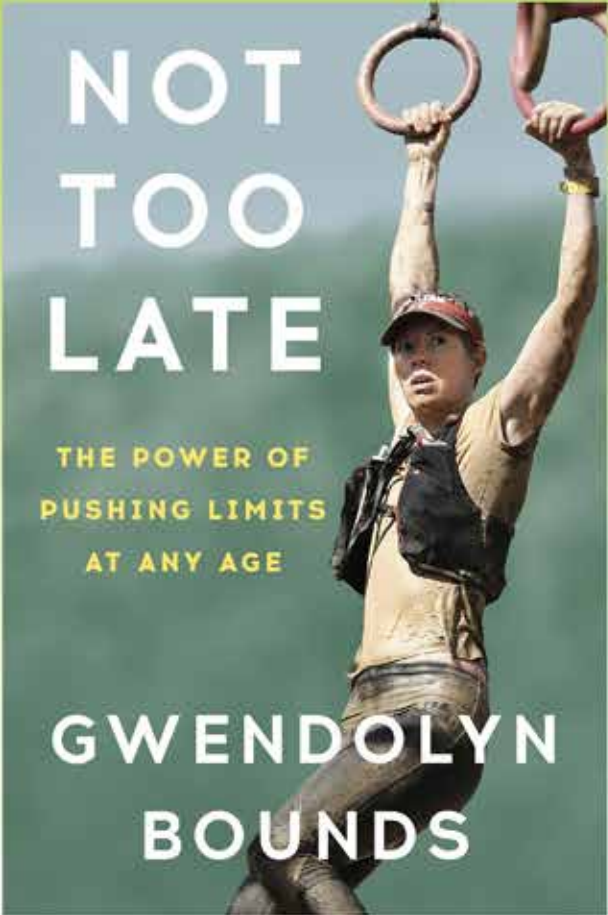
# Author Talk

*Not Too Late: The Power of Pushing Limits at Any Age*

Author Gwendolyn Bounds in conversation with elite obstacle course racer Cali Schweikhart, and Highlands Current reporter Brian PJ Cronin.

**Saturday**  
**June 22**  
**3:00 PM**

at the Desmond-Fish Public Library  
register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/events)







"After the Storm," by Barbara Smith Gioia



"Bus Stop, Readers," by David Rich



"Secret," by Alyssa Follansbee

# Next Stop: Bus Shelter Art



"Papillon," by Piet Mura



"Beacon Diversity," by Catherine Welshman

After a pandemic-induced pause, BeaconArts has revived its bus shelter art program at five stops throughout the city.

The project began in 2017 with pieces by local artists who were given the dimensions of two back panels. New artists were chosen in 2018 and 2019 and the artwork replaced with funding from the City of Beacon and Dutchess Tourism. But the shutdown derailed the project in 2020, and the 2019 panels languished. The 2024 panels — the fourth round — were recently installed.

*Photos by Darya Golubina*

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"Tipping Point"



"Squall"



"Big Pink"

# Shaun Acton's paintings almost look like something. He says that's the point.

By Joey Asher

When you look at Shaun Acton's huge paintings at Move Cold Spring, you know there's something in motion. But it's hard to say what.

"Tipping Point," which measures 5 feet by 5 feet, is grayish blues and greens with pink and white streaks that look like windblown raindrops. Or maybe they're streaking fireflies. Or a meteor shower? The white patch in the center could be a cloud or a wave breaking over a beach.

Hard to say.

"I like the viewer to bring to the work whatever they're getting from it," says Acton, who lives in Philipstown. "I like that ambiguity and openness."

He says that people have complimented his abstract landscapes, seascapes or spacescapes, the "swarms of bees, birds or insects, wind patterns, ocean currents, flight patterns, galaxies, mathematical equations."

"It's fun to guess what story the artist is telling," says Marcie Rummel, a former art

buyer for New York City ad agencies who lives in Nelsonville. "There must be one because each work is so focused."

"Squall" has a silver background and streaks of red and orange that could be the landing lights from an airplane. But if that's it, why is there a park bench? Or maybe that's a track-meet hurdle.

Katie MacInnes, who owns the exercise and dance studio, said one young boy in a Mini-Movers class said "Squall" was shooting fire, so the class created a dance, "Shoot the Fire," based on that assessment.

Acton's paintings are part of Move's *Art Movement* series. The studio at 37 Chestnut St. also has shown work by Beacon artist Elizabeth Castagna, who uses techniques like walking on the canvas with paint-covered shoes, shooting a water gun or hanging unfinished paintings from a tree.

Acton's process is more conventional: oil paint on canvas with a brush. He works on several projects simultaneously and says each can take a year to finish.

"I like the idea of freezing movement in



Shaun Acton at Move

Photo by J. Asher

Anastasi would hold a pencil and a piece of paper in his pocket and draw while walking to work. The graphite scribbles have been displayed at the Museum of Modern Art.

Acton has tried various methods to capture movement, such as drawing while listening to the idiosyncratic electronic music of Aphex Twin and "making my little staccato marks," he said.

Growing up in Colorado, Acton won a coloring contest at age 5 and took home a 6-foot version of Ernie, Bert's buddy from *Sesame Street*. After earning a bachelor of fine arts in Denver, he took up printmaking, moved to New York City to "play in the big pond" and settled in Brooklyn. For over 20 years, he has worked as a studio assistant to Pat Steir, the contemporary artist known for her *Waterfall* paintings, which feature paint cascading down the canvas.

Acton moved with his family to the Hudson Valley during the pandemic and says he loved the beauty that inspired the Hudson River School painters in the mid-19th century. His own work, such as "Big Pink," is less conventional. It's a spacescape with celestial swirls that represent stars. Or maybe they're fish.

## GOT A GRAD?

The Current is compiling our annual list of 2024 grads for the June 21 issue. We will receive lists from Haldane, Beacon and O'Neill high schools, but if you are or know a high school or college graduate who lives in Philipstown or Beacon, drop us a line at [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org) for recognition. Photos of high school grads are welcome! (Congrats to parents and guardians, as well.)



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# LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

## 150 Years Ago (June 1874)

Burglars tied up two unarmed guards at the West Point Foundry and used gunpowder to blow open and empty the office safe at 2 a.m. on a Tuesday. They took \$4,400 worth of bonds [\$121,000 today], \$250 in cash and \$200 in Treasury notes. *The Cold Spring Recorder* noted that before the foundry bought the safe, a bank messenger would walk from the train station every other week carrying a satchel with \$10,000 to \$15,000 [\$275,000 to \$410,000] in payroll cash that was left with a guard.

A burglar broke a cellar window at Coleman's grocery, emptied a jug of molasses and filled it with French brandy. John Dougherty was arrested the next day after being found drunk in a barn with the jug beside him.

A builder had finished the framework for cottages on Garden Street. "It is a

great benefit to see small, single tenements erected, the rent of which may be placed within the diminished means of our mechanics and laborers," said *The Recorder*.

An anonymous resident complained in a letter to the editor that a group of boys regularly swam nude in the foundry pond in view of young girls and middle-aged women on shore. "What sort of citizens will these young boys make?" the reader asked. "What respect will they have for women? Are they not becoming hardened in shamelessness? Will they not be likely to sympathize with vile criminals? Shall we not hear of them as the patrons of leg dramas and 'French' plays?"

*The Recorder* noted that while 100 people had been arrested at a dogfight in New York City, just as many assembled on Main Street to watch an impromptu battle between dogs belonging to Father O'Callaghan and J.H. Brewer.

Capt. C.E. Herbert, after hearing a splash at the furnace dock, saw two hands sticking out of the water and reached down to rescue young Robbie Dechauden by his hair. The boy, who was visiting relatives, walked home wet.

J.E. Dore sued the Hudson River Railroad Co. for \$500 [\$14,000] after a train killed his horse and destroyed his wagon.

The flagman at the north end of the Garrison tunnel spotted a body in the river about 10 feet from shore and waded out to retrieve it. The man had no identification other than a handkerchief embroidered "A.St., No. 10."

A jury in Carmel acquitted George Truesdell, who had been accused of stealing boxes of cigars from Seth Secor's store.

His co-defendant, Willie Spellman, pleaded guilty before trial.

Clara Louise Kellogg, the opera diva who had a home in Philipstown, drank brandy that she forgot had been mixed earlier with aconite to create a potent home remedy. She was saved by the prompt application of an antidote.

More than 100 men scoured the Highlands for John Mowatt, 30, who was said to be deranged. He was found five days later in the Dismal Swamp near Sugar Loaf and said he had not eaten anything but birch bark.

Two boys accused of stealing the cashbox from milkman Charley Warren's cart said they would return it only if they received immunity from prosecution.

A Hudson River Railroad detective sailed for Europe in search of two suspects in the theft of \$36,000 [\$992,000] from the firm's safe at Grand Central depot, including Isaac Baxter, who grew up in Nelsonville.

Three older women who hesitated before accepting an invitation to ride a railroad handcar at Garrison were injured when one of the men driving was pitched into them, knocking them on the tracks, where they were run over.

## 125 Years Ago (June 1899)

John Henderson, a former Garrison resident who was a New York City detective, was among the witnesses called by the Mazet Committee, which was investigating corruption. *The Recorder* noted Henderson "had a case of bad memory."

*The Recorder* noted that passengers could take dogs aboard the steamers New York and Albany, but only in crates.

The Nelsonville board granted a five-year franchise to Samuel Barriett to provide electric light, power and heat to the village.

A day after 11-year-old Eugene Ward of B Street died of spinal meningitis, his 4-month-old brother succumbed to "summer complaint." The boys were buried in a casket covered in flowers by Eugene's classmates at Haldane. A week later, the 4-month-old's twin brother also died.

A friend who borrowed an incubator from Josiah Ferris only got 18 chickens from 160 eggs. After Ferris showed him how to use it, he got 60 chicks from 64 eggs.

A chapter of the Ancient Order of Foresters, a fraternal organization founded in the U.K. in 1745, was established in Cold Spring.

John Bergen was being lifted by a friend as they played with the rope hoist at Coe's store when he fell and fractured both arms.

A piano was seen at the Garrison station attached to a pony that was to pull it over the mountain.

Julian Hawthorne (below), a New York City novelist who was the son of Nathaniel Hawthorne, leased the Chadwick estate for the summer.



The Rev. J. McH. Farley, a Black minister from Petersburg, Virginia, passed through Garrison while walking through the U.S. to raise funds for Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina. "He received generous assistance from some of the foremost people of Garrison," *The Recorder* reported.

A piano was placed in the Colonial Room of the Albany Historical Society that had belonged to Mrs. Beverly in Garrison, who played it to entertain Gen. George Washington and other colonial officers.

According to *The Newburgh News*, a team of men delivering pianos had to stop on the road near Cold Spring because their path was blocked by a 6-foot snake stretched across the road. They killed it with rocks and discovered two pug puppies in its belly.

Cornelius Hafkenschiel launched a boot-blackening [shoeshine] route.

Rear Adm. Francis Higginson of the U.S. Navy spent a day visiting William Haldane. Higginson commanded the battleship Massachusetts during the Spanish-American War and was chairman of the United States Lighthouse Board.

Lena Depew was confined to her room with blood poisoning after a pinprick.

The proprietor of the Hill Country Inn in

(Continued on Page 17)

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Become A Member today via our website or the QR code and be part of an exciting and vibrant artistic community, as we celebrate 60 years of memories, milestones, and art-making on the banks of the Hudson River.



Garrison Art Center's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

www.garrisonartcenter.org  
#GAC60



(Continued from Page 16)

Garrison built a water tank powered by a windmill to supply the hotel.

Cadet Corps A and B of Haldane High School were measured for uniforms, which consisted of white trousers, white negligee shirts, white belts, navy blue Windsor ties and military caps.

Two days of rain ended an 11-week drought that had reduced the hay crop by 75 percent and destroyed the oat crop.

The Putnam County Chrysanthemum Society was formed in Philipstown.

George Melville Boynton, who was walking from the *Brooklyn Citizen* offices to San Francisco, stopped at the Garrison Hotel for dinner. He was raising funds for an expedition to the North Pole.

### 100 Years Ago (June 1924)

Property owners on the proposed state road through Cold Spring and Nelsonville were advised to install sewer connections past the curb line before the streets were paved with concrete. *The Recorder* said that lead pipes made the best connection, and a reader suggested that the telephone and electric wires be buried during the work.

Mrs. Harry DeLanoy Sr. received a letter from Washington Roebling, 87, builder of the Brooklyn Bridge, who recalled his visit to Cold Spring 30 years earlier with his first wife, Emily Warren, a relative of Mrs. DeLanoy.

The Garrison School canceled its graduation ceremony because of an outbreak of the mumps.

The Philipstown Garden Club announced its annual window box competition.

Nearly 1,000 people filled Our Lady of Loretto for the first Mass by the newly ordained Rev. William Torpey of Manitou. His brother, the newly ordained Rev. John Torpey, presented his first Mass the following week.

For their annual musical, students at Haldane High School presented *The Love Pirates of Hawaii*.

### 75 Years Ago (June 1949)

*The Philipstown Times* advised: "There's no monkey business about a new hat. It either makes you look 10 times better or 1,000 times worse."

The Haldane girls' baseball team defeated visiting Beacon, 20-1.

Jack Sterling, who took over the early morning radio programs on WCBS from Arthur Godfrey, saluted Cold Spring as part of a series of profiles of East Coast villages. He called it "a little Hudson Valley town of 2,000 people and five churches."

George Perkins, newly appointed as assistant secretary of state for European affairs, and a member of the Haldane school board since 1933, spoke at the Haldane High School commencement.

The Haldane boys set six school records at the Class C sectional track meet, including in the low hurdles, high jump and 100, 220, 440 and mile races. The team finished second overall after dropping the baton in the relay race.

After 31 years at the Garrison post office, Salvatore Dahlia was appointed postmaster when Arthur Walsh retired.

J. Irving Jones Jr., of Railroad Avenue,

## The Merger That Almost Was

*In 1968, voters narrowly defeated school consolidation*

By Jude Morrison

Garrison and Haldane have had an on-again, off-again flirtation with merging their districts but the schools' leaders nearly pulled it off nearly 60 years ago, in 1968.

Four years earlier, Robert Roda, then supervising principal at Haldane, had invited officials from Garrison, Manitou and Putnam Valley to discuss their "mutual problems," according to a news account from the time.

While Putnam Valley later dropped out, the Haldane, Garrison and Manitou school boards unanimously supported a merger, as did the PTAs at Haldane and Garrison. But in a referendum held on June 17, 1968, residents rejected the "recentralization" proposal, 695-594.

Many New York districts merged in the 1960s, and a report from Haldane noted that the state Education Department had called for it to consolidate with Garrison and Manitou.

At the time, there had been a surge of families to western Putnam County but neither Garrison nor Putnam Valley had high schools. Garrison sent its students to Highland Falls and Putnam Valley to Lakeland and Peekskill.

A merger would have created challenges such as transporting students over a larger area that included dirt roads. But Haldane said studies showed that "better schools can be supported on a larger tax base."

The referendum was created by a committee of school board members from Haldane, Garrison and Manitou. It issued a statement saying it hoped residents "will agree that recentralization will provide the means toward achievement of a much improved, better coordinated system for the education of the children in our communities."

*The Putnam County News & Recorder* also backed the referendum, arguing in an editorial that it would provide students with a "superior general education" and specialized programs for the "academically talented, vocationally oriented and slower learners," without increasing taxes. The 1,311 votes in the referendum was a record turnout, according to *The PCNR*, but did not end the debate over merging.

Five years later, the state released a consultant's report recommending that the three districts merge. While Haldane and Manitou agreed, Garrison felt that "while there would be some slight financial gain resulting from the merger, their children would suffer educationally, at least for the first five years," according to a news account.

As recently as October, a study of the impact on property taxes if Haldane and Garrison merged concluded that they would rise 33 percent for Garrison residents and drop 20 percent for Philipstown residents taxed by Haldane.

"My gut tells me this is an absolute dead end," said David Gelber, a Garrison board member.

*Jude Morrison, who lives in Garrison, is a junior at St. Regis High School in New York City and a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program.*

should resign and 39 percent said he should be impeached.

Haldane voters, by a 534-328 vote, rejected a revised budget for the 1974-75 school year and proposals to purchase library books (439-435), instructional materials (452-427) and furniture and audiovisual equipment (499-373). They approved spending for transportation, building repairs and the lunch program.

The Church of Scientology, established in 1952, opened a mission in Cold Spring under the direction of Gene Hobel.

### 25 Years Ago (June 1999)

The Cold Spring Antiques Dealers Association hosted a show at the former Marathon Battery factory site on Kemble Avenue.

The Putnam County Historical Society purchased "Foundry at Cold Spring on the Hudson" (1857), by Hudson River School painter Johann Hermann Carmiencke, with a grant from resident Patricia Cloherty.

Seventy-seven Main Street merchants and residents signed a petition presented to the Village Board to protest (1) an increase in parking fines from \$15 to \$45; (2) a restriction on benches and (3) a restriction on flags. One merchant noted that other riverfront towns had parking fines of \$10 or \$15 or had installed meters. "If a customer gets a \$45 ticket, they're not coming back," said Jane Rutter, president of the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Anthony Phillips countered that, of 10 parking tickets issued in May, five had been issued to Main Street merchants.

A resident asked the board to test the sandbox at Tots Park, which he thought might contain lime.

The Town Board passed a law requiring the owners of automatic fire alarms to obtain permits and pay fines for repeated false alarms.

The Haldane baseball team won the Section I, Class D title with a 5-4 win over Blind Brook at Dutchess Stadium. The Blue Devils were down 4-3 in the top of the final inning but scored twice on a combination of walks and singles.

Chris and Sharon Davis purchased the Garrison Golf Club and said they planned to donate conservation easements on 60 of its 134 acres to the Open Space Institute to restrict development.

The Garrison school board voted to press charges against Burton Laux and trustee-elect Betsy Calhoun for allegedly trespassing to determine the location of the district's septic system and bedrock with ground-penetrating radar. The dispute was part of a larger battle over plans to expand the school.

New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Fire Commissioner Thomas von Essen presented the Walter Scott Medal for bravery to firefighter Jonathan Shields of Cold Spring for carrying a disabled 70-year-old man out of a burning building in the Bronx. [See Page 10.]

After firefighters responded to a report of a drowning at Continental Village Lake but were told by lifeguards it was a false alarm, eight divers decided to search anyway. They saved one of their own when he became entangled in the boundary ropes and lost his regulator.

moved to Washington, D.C., to join the police force. His departure was delayed by an emergency appendectomy.

*The Recorder* noted that the abandoned hilltop residence known as "Dick's Folly" was now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Anton Chmela, who had rented a sandblaster to remove years of graffiti. They hoped to heat the home with power from the property's two waterfalls.

Rep. Hamilton Fish explained at the annual Communion Breakfast of the Knights of Columbus at the Highlands Country Club how "the Red Scourge menaces Christian civilization."

The Haldane district announced that, because of increased state aid, the tax rate would drop by 2 percent, to \$18.38 per \$1,000 of assessed value, in 1949-50.

A 17-year-old Long Island teenager drowned while swimming in the abandoned mountain pool at the former Cornish Estate off Route 9D. Firefighters hauled a boat for about a quarter-mile through the terrain to reach the site.

Garrison residents gathered to discuss recommendations from a school board committee to (1) merge grades 5 to 8 with Haldane and (2) construct a new building

or expand the current one.

### 50 Years Ago (June 1974)

The Philipstown Highway Department parked a silver Army surplus trailer in a vacant lot near the Garrison station; the town hoped residents would fill with 25 tons of newspapers and magazines for recycling.

The Garrison Depot Theatre hosted its first production after adding cushions, circulating fans and metal chairs to replace the noisy wooden ones. The number of seats was reduced to 75 to provide more legroom.

Jimmy Budney, a centerfielder for the Haldane baseball team who hit .461 during his senior season, was named to the league all-star team.

Kevin McConville, the son of Village Clerk Ronald McConville, was selected to attend American Legion Boys' State in Morristown, New York.

Peggy Christiana of Clove Brook Drive underwent ear surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Rep. Hamilton Fish [son of the earlier Rep. Hamilton Fish] said that 24 percent of the 41,564 constituents who responded to his annual survey thought President Nixon





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## Roots and Shoots

# Landscape Feeders

By Pamala Doan



Bears are on the move, with one even causing a lockdown at the Haldane school.

After our first bear visit years ago, I learned my lesson and put away the bird feeder in our yard during summer and switched to winter feeding. But with this past winter so mild, even that seemed unwise.

I've resorted to plants, instead, and support birds with landscaping. There are high-impact ways you can provide food, habitat and nesting material.

The key source of nutrients for many birds are insects, followed by seeds, berries, nuts and foliage. Caterpillars are a favorite, and birds consume a lot of them. A few chickadee babies can eat up to 5,000 caterpillars before they leave the nest.

Research suggests that landscapes where 70 percent of the plants are native can support enough insects for birds to reproduce. The other 30 percent of the landscape can be ornamental plants that don't provide the same ecosystem benefits they might in native settings.

Make sure to have goldenrods, which host more than 100 types of caterpillars. Milkweed is well known as a host for the monarch butterfly, but that's it. It supports one species — an important species being pushed toward extinction — but still, just one.

There are more than three dozen goldenrod species native to New York state. (They are distinct from ragweed, the yellow-flowered species that can cause an allergic reaction.) Some goldenrods, such as Canada goldenrod, are prolific spreaders and not ideal in smaller spaces. Instead, choose blue-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*) or early goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*), which will travel less.

Asters and native sunflower species in the *Helianthus* family follow closely behind goldenrod. Smooth blue aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*) is a well-behaved flower bed plant with prolific blooms in the fall. Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*) is a valued plant in my garden. It's tall — up to 6 feet — and bushy, making it a good stand-in for a shrub.

For woody plants, *Salix* species, including pussy willow (*Salix discolor*), support diverse and prolific numbers of insects. Oaks, blueberry and dogwood also rank high, supporting hundreds of types of moths and butterflies in their caterpillar stages. All of these are sources for pollen, berries and nuts for birds and wildlife.

This spring I kept looking out the window and reminding myself to cut back the Eastern bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*) in the



Sawfly caterpillars on red twig dogwood are a bird feast.

Photo by P. Doan

flowerbed. Its leggy stems from last season aren't attractive. Then I realized there were birds collecting pieces for a nest, so I let it be.

Even the way we design landscapes can improve conditions for birds. Taller shrubs planted in clusters or thickets are handy for nests. Planting taller shrubs next to shorter shrubs can protect nests from predators.

Viburnums, which host more than 100 species of insects, have clusters of multi-stemmed branches that are ideal for many nesting birds. *Aronia* species of chokeberry

do, too. *Ilex* species like winterberry have the double impact of good growth features and berries that birds consume in winter.

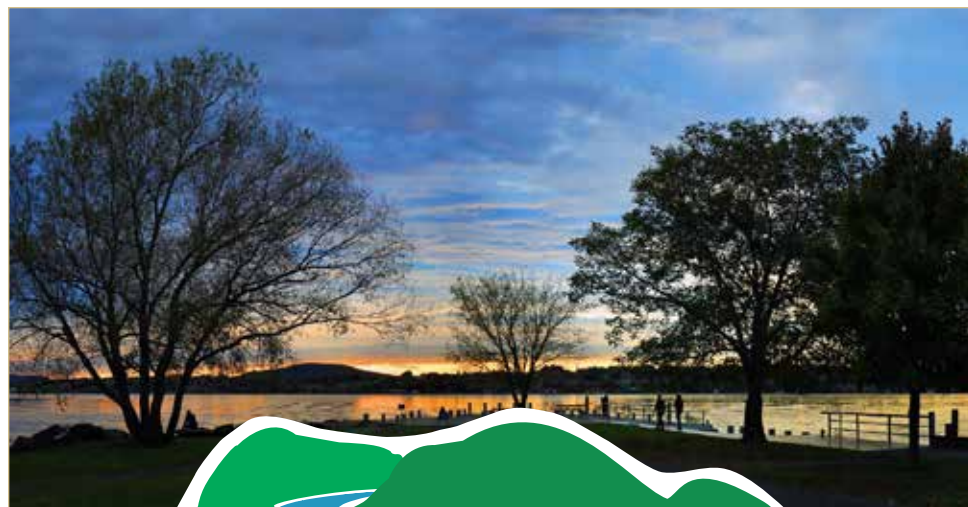
Sawfly caterpillars that feed on elderberry and dogwood are a tasty snack for birds. When I first encountered them on my red twig dogwood, it was gross and alarming. After research that took a while because the first few pages returned by a Google search all describe methods of killing them, I learned about their value for birds and didn't intervene. The dogwood was fine and I expect to see this recur.

We're all being triggered by the huge population of spongy moth caterpillars this

The key source of nutrients for many birds are insects, followed by seeds, berries, nuts and foliage.

spring but rather than browsing the pesticide aisle, let a bird take care of it.

When you have a "What's eating my plant?" moment, take a photo or a cutting and reach out to Cornell Cooperative Extension offices in Putnam or Dutchess for guidance on whether it's friend or foe. As with the spongy moth, many times the best action is to stay out of the way.



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	Dutchess	Putnam
Children Under 13	37,144	12,586
Child Care Slots	8,026	2,960
Current Programs	209	59
Closed Programs*	76	19
New Programs*	48	10

\*2020-23

Sources: NY Department of Labor; Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam

## Kids (from Page 1)

Wage and benefits support for workers and the expansion of financial assistance for parents are two key recommendations in an April report from the state Department of Labor and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), which regulates programs operating more than three hours a day and administers subsidies to qualified families.

In Putnam County, weekly costs for full-day child care range from \$245 to \$327 and, in Dutchess, from \$230 to \$343, according to the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, based in Poughkeepsie. The rates are higher for infants and can be “almost like paying for a mortgage,” said Adeline Arvidson, a counselor for the organization.

The Child Care Council assists providers and parents, offering classes on topics such as first aid, recordkeeping and active-shooter training, and guiding families through the process of finding care and financial aid for children up to age 12.

“Any family you talk to, whether it’s a single parent or a two-parent household with two incomes, child care is a burden financially,” Arvidson said.

Providers are also burdened. Despite \$2 billion in federal pandemic aid earmarked in New York for child care programs, Dutchess lost 76 programs between 2020 and 2023, and Putnam County, 19, according to the Child Care Council. “There’s been a few new ones, but not enough to compensate for the difference,” said Arvidson.

“Any family you talk to, whether it’s a single parent or a two-parent household with two incomes, child care is a burden financially.”

~ **Adeline Arvidson**  
*Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam*

Nearly half of the programs that closed in Putnam between 2020 and 2023 have not been replaced. In Dutchess, it’s more than a third.

A shortage existed before the pandemic, according to a March report by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress. It found that the roster of licensed providers fell by 33 percent in Dutchess and 34 percent in Putnam between 2007 and 2023. Beacon had four

# Weekly Rates for Full-Day Care

- = Dutchess
- ▨ = Putnam
- = Commercial
- = Home-Based
- = Before/After School Care

Source: Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam

fewer providers than the 19 from 2007, according to the report, which provided municipal-level data for the region’s 13 cities.

There would be a need even if all the programs in Dutchess and Putnam operated at the capacity allowed by their licenses — Putnam would have one slot for every 2.5 children under age 6 and Dutchess would have one slot for every 3.1 children, with the gaps widening for older children.

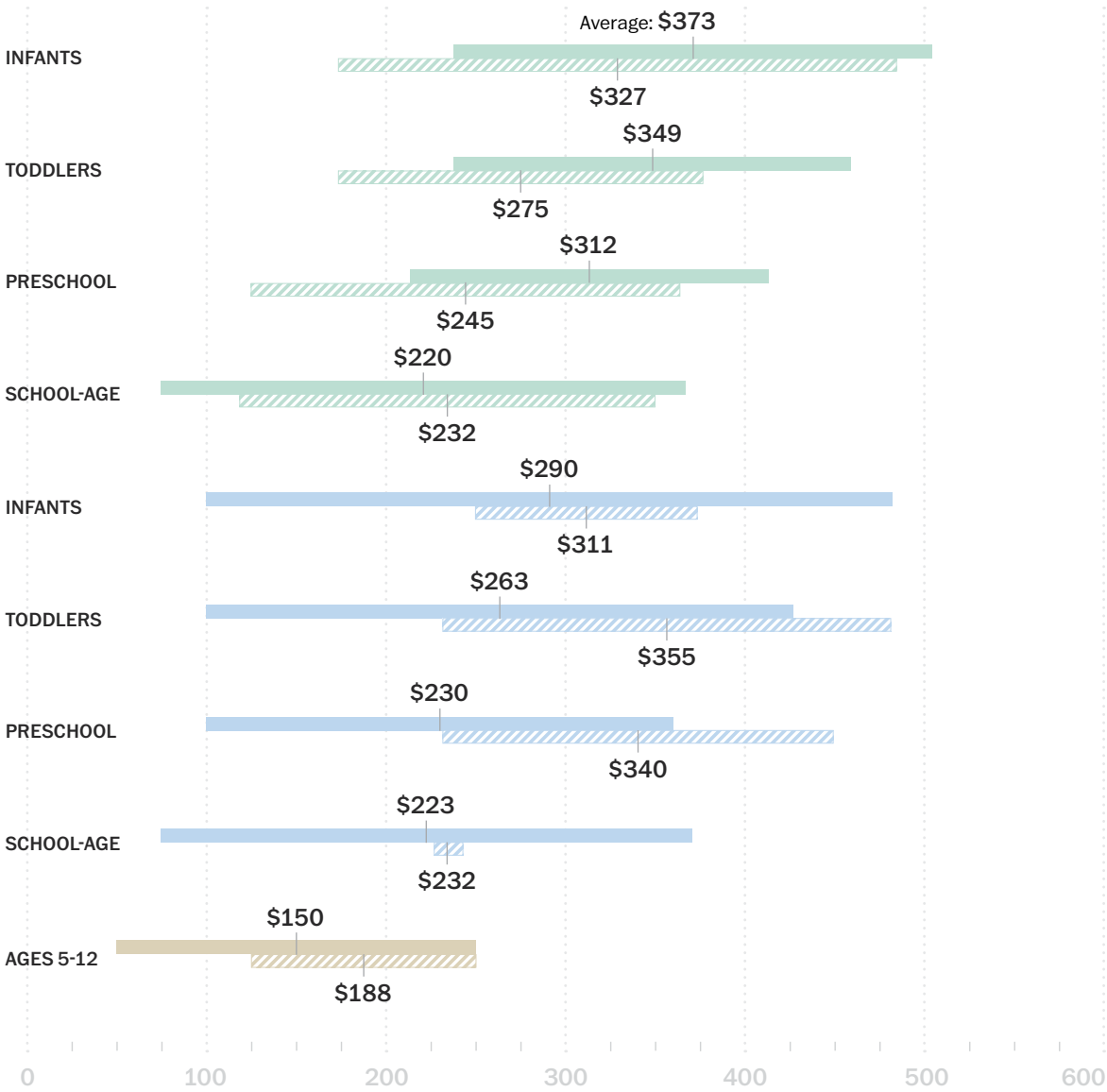
But without enough teachers to meet minimum staffing requirements, some programs are struggling to reach capacity and most have a waiting list, said Arvidson. That shortage is partly why the Child Care Assistance Program has millions in unspent subsidies for care, according to the new state report.

Dutchess spent less than half its allocation of subsidies in 2022 and Putnam less than 20 percent, according to Pattern for Progress, which said problems with marketing, ease of use and other areas have hampered the program’s reach.

“Some providers are telling me it’s a little bit better than last year,” said Arvidson. “But they’re still struggling to get to their licensed capacity because they can’t increase the number of children they care for unless they can hire someone.”

**A pandemic upsets a fragile system**

On a recent morning at Stepping Stones, one of four state-regulated programs operating within the Haldane Central School District, workers began dismantling an



outdoor playset to make room for a second building, which should be finished by September.

On another part of the property, pre-kindergarteners raced around the lawn. They then marched inside, dropped their shoes into a bin beside a classroom door and sat in a semicircle as Michelle O’Meara, the center’s director, read to them.

Artwork, games and toys filled the room. A display of flower petals made from coffee filters ran along a wall, underneath words painted in script: “Masterpieces / Every child is an artist.”

At the Child Care Council’s Champions of Child Care ceremony last month, both Stepping Stones and O’Meara received awards. When the addition is ready, the program will enroll more infants and, for the first time, young students who need care before and after school, or when schools are closed.

“We’re excited,” said O’Meara.

A similar child’s world exists inside the Tioronda Learning Center in Beacon, one of 16 programs within the Beacon City School District, including afterschool programs run by the Beacon Recreation Department at the city’s three elementary schools and its center on West Center Street.

Miniature chairs and tables fill part of Tioronda’s space, along with books, Legos, crayons and a wall painted with a sylvan scene depicting animals, grass-covered hills and a blue sea.

Meredith Hairston’s resume included 20 years at a “prestigious” preschool in Manhattan when, in 2019, she took over the half-day nursery school Christ Church United Methodist in Beacon operated out

of its building on Union Street.

She scheduled a series of open houses the following January, and learned that some Beacon parents had enrolled their children in child care programs in East Fishkill and Wappingers because they could not find openings in the city, especially for infants and toddlers.

Those conversations also revealed “an outpouring of interest for more all-day facilities in Beacon,” said Hairston.

In addition to Philipstown, Stepping Stones’ children come from Beacon, Fishkill and as far away as Mahopac, said Giannasca.

Two months after Hairston held her first open house, the pandemic shut down schools and child care. Providers had to furlough staff just when child care was still needed by emergency responders, health care workers, grocery cashiers and others whose jobs were deemed essential. Calls from those employees “flooded” the Child Care Council’s phones, said Arvidson.

Hairston closed the Tioronda Learning Center on March 13, 2020. “We Zoomed our preschoolers in for daily, routine stuff, just to kind of keep them grounded at home,” she said. “I would bring out my sock puppets and do all of the songs we did together.”

Federal funding flowed to providers nationwide. Stepping Stones and other programs in Beacon and Philipstown received, in 2021 and 2022, a combined \$1.2 million to pay rent and utilities and boost wages for employees.

There has been some relief for the parents of 4-year-olds because of pre-K programs offered by the Beacon and Garrison school

(Continued on Page 21)





Artwork is displayed on a wall at Stepping Stones in Philipstown.

Photo by L. Sparks

(Continued from Page 20)

districts. Most private programs have openings for 4-year-olds, said Arvidson.

Parents fortunate enough to win a pre-K seat avoid the cost of child care but private providers lose “an important segment” of revenue, according to Pattern for Progress. Child care programs can earn twice as much from 4-year-olds because the staff-to-child ratio can be 1-to-8 compared to 1-to-4 for younger children, the nonprofit said.

Before Beacon began accepting applications in March, Hairston said she had “families calling my phone off the hook, showing up at my door, emailing me” because they feared missing out on a spot in Beacon’s program.

Mandated staffing is part of the reason why infant openings are the hardest to find. According to the Child Care Council, Dutchess, with 361, and Putnam, with 162, have fewer slots for infants than any other age group.

“Sometimes, it’s not cost-effective, and that’s really what it boils down to,” said Hairston at the Tioronda Learning Center, which also has a waiting list. “You can’t ask people with an infant to pay double the amount that someone with a preschooler is paying.”

### A dearth of workers

At Stepping Stones, the waiting list for toddlers is “out of control,” and some of the families who use the center are expecting another child, said O’Meara. Expanding will bring room for infants, along with space for school-age children needing care before and after school.

It will also require front-line teachers, who are required by state law to undergo 15 hours of training in their first six months and 30 hours of additional education every two years on topics ranging from the principles of childhood development and nutrition to identifying abuse.

“It’s so important because the role you’re playing can impact a child for the rest of



Stepping Stones is building a second building to enroll more infants and, for the first time, school-age children.

Photo provided

their life,” said Giannasca.

That is why providers identify a shortage of teachers as their most pressing issue, and the state considers bolstering those employees as an important step in expanding child care.

A survey of child care centers and after-school programs by the Empire State Campaign for Child Care found in March 2023 that they enrolled 28,000 fewer children than their licensed capacity and had 3,800 unfilled positions and 750 unused classrooms.

Salaries that leave an estimated 12 percent of child care workers living below the federal poverty line — more than twice the rate of workers overall in New York, according to the state report — is not the only reason.

“People working 10 to 11 hours a day, in a classroom all day with 10 to 11 children, it’s a tough, tough job,” said Giannasca.

The federal pandemic funding, which expired in 2023, was “a one-shot deal” that allowed Stepping Stones to increase its pay, said Giannasca. But once the money is gone, “I can’t sustain” those increases, she said.

In 2023, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the state’s 2023-24 budget included

additional funding to underwrite bonuses of \$2,300 to \$3,000 and to help programs recruit new staff. As of January, New York had distributed \$330 million to providers, who can also use the grants to award bonuses to staff who refer new workers and to reward new hires.

Immortalizing such support is one of the recommendations from the Office of Children and Family Services and the Department of Labor, who say that a permanent funding stream will “curtail the flight of educators from the field and encourage others to enter the field.”

The agencies also recommend that the funding give providers the flexibility to not only supplement wages and give bonuses but to fund health insurance and retirement benefits.

### Expanding subsidies

An estimated 94 percent of child care workers are women, according to the state Department of Labor. Women are also most likely to own a child care center or home-based child care program and more likely

## Resources

Families can search for licensed child care programs at the state Office of Children and Family Services website ([ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/looking](https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/looking)). Search by program type, ZIP code, county or school district to view inspection results.

For information about subsidies from the Child Care Assistance Program, call the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services at 845-486-3190 or the Putnam County Department of Social Services at 845-808-1500, ext. 45304.

Residents in either county can visit [hs.ocfs.ny.gov/CCAPeligibility](https://hs.ocfs.ny.gov/CCAPeligibility) to complete an eligibility questionnaire.

to have to sacrifice work when families cannot afford or find care.

“Women have the children and, unfortunately in this country, we’re still expected to stay home with them,” said Hairston. “But we don’t have means, fundamentally, to support us to do that, so it’s a catch-22.”

In 2022, full-time care for an infant at a center cost \$21,826 annually, 155 percent more than full-time, in-state tuition at public four-year universities in New York, according to the state Department of Labor.

To make care affordable to more families, New York has been steadily expanding eligibility for its Child Care Assistance Program, which covers some or all costs for eligible families.

Under expanded income limits issued in October, a two-person household that had been limited to \$54,900 annually can now make up to \$67,400, and the ceiling for a family of four rose from \$83,200 to \$99,200, according to Arvidson.

In their report, the Office of Children and Family Services and the Department of Labor recommend that the state continue expanding eligibility, and set a goal of universal child care.

Hines priced programs in Beacon, and even in Queens, near her husband’s job, where their daughter could be dropped off in the morning. Enrolling there would have required her husband to leave home at 5 a.m. and return to Beacon, with a toddler, at 7:30 p.m., she said.

She posted about her search on a local Facebook page and someone suggested that she look for a person providing informal care in their home. That led to a woman in Fishkill who, said Hines, has years of child care experience and a large home where she looks after children for \$65 a week.

Hines said she is now working remotely full time, using the woman for three days a week and caring for her daughter at home on the other two days. “For now, we’re in a good place,” she said.



Sports



Three Beacon High School track-and-field athletes will compete in college next year: Henry Reinke for Williams College in Massachusetts, Damani DeLoatch for the University at Albany and Isabella Migliore for Wesleyan College in Connecticut. They are shown with Coach Jim Henry.



The 20-year-old track surface used by Beacon High School was scraped up earlier this month for replacement. The new track should be ready by the end of August. *Photos provided*

VARSITY ROUNDUP

**TRACK AND FIELD** — Damani DeLoatch, a senior at Beacon High School, finished third in the triple jump at the state championships on June 8 in Cicero at 47-03.50 — his third medal in the state finals in three years. DeLoatch qualified for the final on June 7 with a 47-8 jump that earned him the silver

medal in the large-school division.

**BASEBALL** — Trajan McCarthy, a senior catcher for the Haldane baseball team, was named by Section I coaches to the All-Section team.

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3			4	5	6			7	8	9	10
11			12		13					14			
15					16					17			
18				19		20		21					
			22		23		24			25	26	27	
28	29	30				31		32					
33					34		35		36				
37				38		39		40					
41					42		43						
			44			45		46		47	48	49	
50	51	52			53		54			55			
56					57					58			
59					60					61			

- ACROSS
1. Tax pro
4. Gun the engine
7. Profound
11. Pet food brand
13. Enjoy Vail
14. Doctrines
15. Lotion ingredient
16. — Talks (online lecture series)
17. Iso-
18. Media titan Winfrey
20. Brief moments
22. Barbecue seasoning
24. Texas city
28. July 4th destinations
32. Santa —
33. Foot part
34. Sailor
36. Avenue liners
37. Ceremonies
39. New Jersey capital
41. Wee
43. URL ending

44. Bleak
46. Crazy Horse, for one
50. Japanese volcano
53. Peace, to Caesar
55. Handle
56. Unsigned (Abbr.)
57. Before
58. *Baseball Tonight* channel
59. Curse
60. Melancholy
61. ID checker
19. “Say what?”
21. Public health agcy.
23. Entreat
25. Bagel seasoning
26. Wrestling style
27. Grp.
28. Homer’s son
29. New York canal
30. Part of a French play
31. Drunkard
35. Buddy
38. Old map letters
40. Hosp. sections
42. “Holy smokes!”
45. Kate of *The Martian*
47. Brewer’s kiln
48. Diamond arbiters
49. TV’s *Warrior Princess*
50. “Terrif!”
51. Italian article
52. TV bandleader Batiste
54. Deleted

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BRIDE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TRUNK

MICRO  
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Lady Gaga’s “The Edge of \_\_\_\_”
6. Google rival
7. Scuttlebutt
8. Emulate Frederick Douglass
9. Without
- DOWN
1. Sandwiches on a food truck menu
2. First lady before Michelle
3. “Dude, give me a break!”

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

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

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

J	I	B	S	
O	N	E	P	M
K	A	T	I	E
E	W	E	R	S
D	E	L	E	S

OTHER  
OTHER  
OTTER  
OUTER  
OATER  
EATER

Answers for June 7 Puzzles

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# strawberry Fields Forever

*An ode — and guide — to the sweetest season*

By Ava Fisherman



There's only one true indicator that summer has arrived: freshly picked strawberries — like, freshly picked a few seconds ago. Every so often your fingers sink into a mushy spot, but failure makes success sweeter. No two strawberries ever look alike, and they can be downright wacky. "That is the craziest strawberry I've ever seen," you tell a friend a row over. Every year there are berries shaped like cat

paws, scrunchies, kidney beans, baby hands and the occasional caboose. Some have little hats. My mother took me strawberry picking every year of my childhood. We started early in the day, following hand-painted signs to the fields, where we spent a few hours reaching into the tangle of stems and drawing out juicy berries. I felt like a bear cub. In the afternoon, we simmered the

harvest into jam, which my mother canned in Mason jars and packed away for toast and peanut butter sandwiches. Just before dinner, she turned to the day's final project: scratch biscuits, whipped cream and strawberries macerated in sugar, piled for a shortcake. June is prime strawberry season, and maybe the first 10 days of July. Here are a few local farms where you can have your own strawberry day.



 <b>Lawrence Farms Orchards</b>	 <b>Fishkill Farms</b>	 <b>Dubois Farms</b>
<b>30 FROZEN RIDGE ROAD, NEWBURGH</b> Drive: 18 minutes from Beacon, 26 minutes from Cold Spring Open daily, 9 a.m. — 4 p.m. <a href="http://lawrencefarmsorchards.org">lawrencefarmsorchards.org</a> <p>This was where I did most of my childhood picking. You don't need a reservation (although you can make one online) but there is an entry fee of \$7 per person on weekdays and \$10 per person on weekends and holidays. The orchards also have picnic tables, horses, goats and a duck pond. When you're done picking and petting, wash your hands, grab an ice cream cone at the farm store and hang out in Little Village, a miniature town square. I loved frolicking in the schoolhouse and playing mail carrier at the world's smallest post office.</p>	<b>9 FISHKILL FARM ROAD, HOPEWELL JUNCTION</b> Drive: 18 minutes from Beacon, 22 minutes from Cold Spring Open daily except Monday, 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. <a href="http://fishkillfarms.com">fishkillfarms.com</a> <p>This is one of the few farms in New York state where the strawberries are certified organic. You don't need a reservation to visit the farm store, grill or Treasury Cider Bar, but you will need one for picking, which starts at \$32 for up to five people and 2 quarts. (Additional quarts are \$10 each.) The farm posts reservation slots a few days ahead of time, e.g., on Thursday for the weekend.</p>	<b>209 PERKINSVILLE ROAD, HIGHLAND</b> Drive: 28 minutes from Beacon, 37 minutes from Cold Spring Open daily, 10 a.m. — 5 p.m. <a href="http://duboisfarms.com">duboisfarms.com</a> <p>This is where I had one of my most memorable picking experiences. A worker took us to the fields on a tractor, dropping us at the edge of a beautiful little field with a view of the hills covered in mist. I spent the next hour filling my basket with berries, peace and love. The farm has a pizzeria, bakery and ice cream shop, not to mention a tavern serving beer, wine and hard cider. Dubois also has a tiny township for the kids to enjoy.</p>
If visiting the source isn't your thing, many local retailers sell fresh strawberries, including the Glynwood Farm store and Vera's Marketplace in Philipstown; Breezy Hill Orchard and Liberty Orchard at the Cold Spring Farmers Market on Saturdays; and Field and Larder and Wright's Farm at the Beacon Farmers Market on Sundays.		

