

The HIGHLANDS Current



Rock 'n'
Grandma
Page 11

JULY 19, 2024

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Fjord Trail Shares Dutchess Manor Plans

Also, warehouse proposed for Route 9 golf course

By Leonard Sparks

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail last week briefed the Fishkill Planning Board on its plans for transforming a former grand home on Route 9D into a visitor's center for the proposed 7.5-mile linear park between Cold Spring and Beacon.

The board also heard from a developer who hopes to construct a 388,000-square-

foot warehouse on the site of the Fishkill Golf Course on Route 9 behind the former Dutchess Mall.

During the HHFT presentation on July 11, Executive Director Amy Kacala said one goal is to restore some original features to the historic Dutchess Manor, which was built in 1889 as a home for Frank Timoney, an Irish immigrant who grew wealthy operating three brickyards at Dennings Point. George Coris, a furrier from New York City, bought the property at a tax sale in 1944,

(Continued on Page 9)



Dutchess Manor was built as a home in 1889.

Photo by Daniel Case

Changes Ahead for Route 9 Roundabout

Annsville Circle rezoned for housing and retail

By Leonard Sparks

The Town of Cortlandt is laying the groundwork to redevelop a mostly barren stretch of Route 9 just south of Philipstown with housing, businesses and a promenade along Annsville Creek.

Cortlandt last year approved zoning for the Annsville Waterfront Enhancement District, which has 38 parcels on 41 acres along Route 9 north of Annsville Circle, the roundabout that connects Route 9 (Albany Post Road) and Routes 6 and 202. The district extends along Highland Avenue to the town's border with Peekskill.

On Route 9 north of the Table 9 Restaurant and Mobil gas station, the roadside is lined with empty buildings with for-sale signs. There is also an auto-repair center and a maintenance facility used by the state Department of Transportation.

(Continued on Page 7)

Good Cause, Take Two

Beacon plans to opt into state legislation

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council intends to opt into New York State's good-cause eviction law, but council members are at odds over the two exemptions to the statute that the city can control. A public hearing is scheduled for Aug. 5.

The council adopted its own good-cause legislation in 2022, although city attorneys advised that the measure was superseded by state regulations and probably unconstitutional. Beacon was one of five municipalities in the state to adopt a local act; all were struck down in court or repealed.

Housing advocates increased their calls for a statewide measure after a moratorium on pandemic-related evictions expired in January 2022. The state law was passed in April as part of the 2024-25 budget.

The law is designed to protect tenants by
(Continued on Page 20)



WHAT DO YOU SEE? — Each Saturday morning, Dia Beacon offers a class for parents and children that focuses on an artist whose works are in its collection. On a recent Saturday, the subject was the late Robert Irwin, who lived in Beacon from 1999 to 2003 while he helped get the museum off the ground. In one exercise, participants looked through a mat to “frame what you see” in nature. On July 20, the subject will be Rita McBride and on July 27, it's Max Neuhaus.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Beacon Unveils New Climate Plan

Hopes to reduce emissions by 31% by 2030

By Brian PJ Cronin

When it comes to mitigating the effects of global warming, the City of Beacon has been a trendsetter.

Beacon is one of just 14 municipalities in New York to achieve “silver” certification in New York's Climate Smart program, and its electrification building codes passed last year anticipated state laws and will be implemented sooner.

The city's Climate Action Plan, scheduled to be presented to the City Council on Aug.

5, pushes the envelope further. It lays out a roadmap to reduce the city government's 2021 emissions levels by 31 percent before 2030, which is in line with the state goal of a 40 percent reduction by 2030 over 1990 levels.

“Beacon is committed to achieving our climate goals,” said Ben Swanson, the secretary to the mayor and one of the plan's authors. “This plan gives us a structure to do so and a way to strategically time and

(Continued on Page 21)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: CECILY HALL

By Leonard Sparks

Cecily Hall, who lives in Nelsonville, is the new director of the Philipstown Recreation Department.

How long have you been with the Recreation Department?

Ten years. As a recreation leader, I organized programs for seniors, children and adults. I also was able to integrate my background with fitness and wellness and develop my own classes. During the pandemic, I worked for a school in the city doing event and program coordinating and continued to teach here. Then, in 2022, I was pulled back in as interim director. You come here because you want to work with people. Each day, I say hello to the preschool kids, get to teach with the adults, get to see my seniors in their art classes and get to teach them as well. That's the reward.

What's your most popular program?

Summer camp has always been our biggest draw. Typically, we have 200 kids, but we expanded because of demand, so it's 225 to 240 this year. The price is the best around, there's so much activity and we're all outdoors. We're in the sprinklers, we're out playing gaga, they do gym time. The



teen travel group goes to the city, plays paintball and goes to the movies. That demand is higher because more teens want in and parents love the idea of their teens being here. It's safe, they're busy and not home on their electronics all day, and they're with peers.

With the expansion, do you still have a waitlist?

Not so much early in the summer, but

later. Many families know that our last week of camp has a big carnival with waterslides and games, so there's a huge waitlist that week. But we've culled that down. As the summer progresses, people make changes in their travel plans, so they'll take their kids out of camp and kids on the list will move in.

Any other changes?

There are more families with young children, so Lindsay, our office manager, spearheaded a huge social media push for family events. Family movie night was huge in the spring. We do a family dinner and bingo. We're excited about the new pavilion [at the town park]. We're waiting now to drill water lines. We want to have a community event where we can celebrate the opening. We've also started pushing more park usage. People know about the soccer fields, but we also have football and, on the south side, basketball and pickleball.

How does the recreation director recreate?

What's most important to me is being active with my two kids. We hike, we walk, we exercise together each week. I also hike, run and teach my classes. That's my therapy.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Have you ever gone swimming in a pond?

No, but once I accidentally fell in one while hiking.



Lisa Silvestro, Cold Spring

No, but I'd love to swim below a glacier.



Nick Dechristopher, Cold Spring

No, but I swam in cool lakes in Poland.



Magdalena Gombiner, Beacon

July 21

Guillermo Klein Quinteto

Guillermo Klein, pianist, composer

Rodrigo Recabarren, drums

Vinicius Gomes, guitar

Rogerio Bocatto, percussion

Sebastian de Urquiza, bass

Sun. July 21 – 4 PM

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Tix: bit.ly/guillermo-quinteto

Thur, Fri, Sat. July 18, 19, 20 – 8 PM

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Thur, Fri, Sat. July 18, 19, 20 – 1-5 PM

WIND • BREATH • WATER - Exhibit

Sound & Vision by Artist of Chinese Decent

Fri. July 26 – 7 PM

HOWLAND OPEN MIC NIGHT

Lottery Sign-up 6:15 - 6:45

Sat. July 27 – 8 PM

Salsa y Plena - Cuboricua & Christine Alicea

Tix: bit.ly/SALSAyPLENA

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Songwriters With: Soldiers
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NEWS BRIEFS

State Approves Central Hudson Rate Hikes

Higher bills for electricity, gas begin in August

Monthly electricity bills for the average Central Hudson residential customer will rise by \$12.65 and gas charges by \$12.25 under one-year delivery rates approved Thursday (July 18) by the state Public Service Commission.

The PSC's decision, which will raise monthly bills by 7.9 percent for electricity and 9.2 percent for gas and be in effect until June 30, 2025, represents a reduction in Central Hudson's original rate request in August 2023.

Under that plan, the utility's customers, including 6,800 households and businesses in Beacon and 5,200 in Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Philipstown and Kent, would have seen their monthly bills rise by an average of \$30 for each service.

The new rates mirror those recommended by two administrative law judges assigned to mediate negotiations over the proposal. The judges also rejected the size of the increases sought by the utility, along with demands by elected officials, advocates and customers to deny any hike due to billing problems.

Those billing issues, which began with the company's switch to a new customer service system in September 2021, will cost

Central Hudson \$63 million under a settlement the PSC approved on June 20.

Joe Hally, Central Hudson's vice president of regulatory affairs, said the additional revenues will allow the company to "make critical investments" in new employees, infrastructure and equipment upgrades to meet renewable energy goals, and responses to extreme weather.

New rates to take effect once the ones approved on Thursday expire will be proposed "in the near future," said the company.

Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, called the new rates "an unaffordable insult to all customers, given Central Hudson's track record with its billing fiasco." He added: "The entire rate-setting formula must be reformed."

Airlines Announce New Stewart Routes

Will fly to Vero Beach and Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Breeze Airways, which offers service from New York Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, announced July 8 it will begin offering twice-weekly flights to Vero Beach, Florida. Service will begin Nov. 21 on Thursdays and Sundays.

In March, the airline said it plans to offer service on Wednesdays and Saturdays to Fort Myers, Florida, beginning Oct. 2. It

already flies from Stewart to Charleston, South Carolina, and Orlando, Florida.

On Tuesday (July 16), Allegiant Air announced it will begin service from Stewart to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, beginning Nov. 15. It already flies from Newburgh to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Orlando, Punta Gorda and St. Petersburg / Clearwater / Tampa, Florida, while Play flies to Reykjavik, Iceland, and Atlantic to the Faroe Islands.

Two Men Accused of Stealing Mail in Philipstown

Arrested after complaint in Continental Village

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office said on July 11 that it arrested two Bronx men on suspicion of stealing mail in Continental Village.

The sheriff said that a resident had seen someone taking mail from their mailbox on Steuben Road. A deputy was dispatched and, based on the witness description, made a traffic stop and found mail in the vehicle.

Deputies arrested Devonte A. Hamilton, 22, and Kadon J. Jackson, 22. Hamilton was charged with felony criminal possession of stolen property and petit larceny, criminal impersonation (for using a fake name) and unlawful possession of personal identification and aggravated unlicensed operation, all misdemeanors.

Jackson was charged with petit larceny, criminal possession of stolen property and unlawful possession of personal identification. Both received appearance tickets to return to the Town of Philipstown Court.

Sheriff's Office investigators said they have consulted with U.S. Postal inspectors to identify additional victims because the suspects were found in possession of multiple checks.

Welcome Center Needs Help

Volunteers assist visitors to Beacon

Dutchess Tourism and the City of Beacon are looking for volunteers to staff the recently reopened Welcome Center at Polhill Park.

Volunteers are needed mostly during weekends. Dutchess Tourism offers training. Email jessica@dutchesstourism.com or call 845-204-9425 for information.

Beacon Pool Opens Admissions

Reservations can be booked in advance

The Beacon municipal swimming pool is selling single-session day passes for \$10 (\$5 for Beacon residents) and season passes for city residents for \$20 per household or \$10 for individuals.

Reservations for two-hour swim sessions are required and can be made at beaconpool.org up to a week in advance.

Part challenge,
part contest,
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Here's the Scoop.
Supporting local businesses has never been sweeter!
From July 15 to August 15, we invite you to explore new and favorite flavors around Beacon and Cold Spring.

This is the best kind of competition: the more ice cream you eat, the more chances to win. Pick up your passport card at any of the participating shops below. Share photos along the way with [#icecreampassport](https://twitter.com/icecreampassport) for extra entries!

Three winners will take home gift card prizes worth \$100 from our participating stores.



For more details
scan the QR Code or visit
highlandscurrent.org/icecream

The HIGHLANDS
Current
Ice Cream Passport



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

me, as are two 1980s Citroen diesel station wagons that get 42 mpg. But I read and enjoy your reporting on cars and local matters!

William Harris, *Cold Spring*

Constitution Island

Can we access the island without taking a tour (“Constitution Island to Reopen,” July 5)? I used to enjoy just walking the road.

Mary Peck, *via Facebook*

Reporter Michael Turton responds: *Metro-North prohibits walking on the road next to its tracks. Transportation to the tours, which begin in August, will be provided.*

Presidential politics

Does Rep. Pat Ryan understand how primaries work (“Ryan Asks Biden to Bow Out,” July 12)? Did he watch President Joe Biden last night [at a July 11 news conference]? Or at the AFL-CIO on July 10? This is a pitiful response by Ryan. But that’s OK. We will win in November anyway.

John Plummer, *via Instagram*

It’s sad how many Democrats are against Biden compared to how many Republicans are against Donald Trump.

Sandy Joan, *via Instagram*

Community Day

I was so excited to march in the Community Day parade in Cold Spring on July 6

JUNE Real Estate Market Report

Beacon Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	18	10
Closed Sales	11	9
Days on Market	61	67
Median Price	\$550,000	\$505,000
% List Received	102.9	98.4
Inventory	49	29

Beacon Condos

	2023	2024
New Listings	2	3
Closed Sales	1	2
Days on Market	48	187
Median Price	\$235,000	\$687,500
% List Received	90.7	92.6
Inventory	18	9

Philipstown Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	19	17
Closed Sales	7	11
Days on Market	75	29
Median Price	\$900,000	\$695,000
% List Received	96.1	102.5
Inventory	36	39

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

with the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band. It was my first time since before the pandemic, when Leonora Burton [the former owner of The Country Goose on Main Street] judged the pet parade. It was ironic that I was playing a “goose” (i.e., bagpipes) instead of toting one or two of the Main Street geese of Nelsonville.

Holly Mentzer, *via Facebook*

I just wish I had been there to see you guys.

Leonora Burton, *via Facebook*

Foodtown

Foodtown supports local organizations, offers excellent customer service and its

bakery cupcakes are birthday party perfection (“The Folks Behind Foodtown,” July 12).

Stephen Pavlopoulos, *via Instagram*

Congratulations to the Foodtown employees. They did a great job during the pandemic and a shoutout to manager Mike Wilson, who

never stops working.

Patricia Yeager, *via Facebook*

We’re halfway between Foodtown and bigger stores in Fishkill, but we always go to Foodtown because of the amazing folks there.

Brian Cookstra, *via Instagram*

Community Nursery School and Learning Center

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BEACON OPEN STUDIOS

BOS PARTICIPATING ARTIST GROUP EXHIBIT:

JULY 13-AUGUST 4

HUDSON BEACH GLASS GALLERY

162 MAIN STREET

SCAN QR CODE ABOVE FOR FULL SCHEDULE OF JULY 19-21 WEEKEND EVENTS AND TICKETS.

Hudson Beach Glass

BEACON ARTS

WILD CUBE

BEACON OPEN STUDIOS

The Current Wins 18 National Awards

Honored by National Newspaper Association

The Highlands Current on (Monday) July 15 won 18 awards from the National Newspaper Association for work published in 2023.

The Current was among 92 newspapers in 32 states to receive recognition. The weekly has won 127 NNA awards since 2016.

Among all papers, The Current won second place for best headlines. Among smaller papers, Brian PJ Cronin and Michael Turton won first place for both agricultural and environmental coverage for "Dire Warmings," a look at the effect of climate change on local crops.

Among smaller papers with circulations of at least 3,000, Joey Asher won second place for his sports column, "Trout Still Live in Clove Creek"; Leonard Sparks won second in breaking news for "Train from Poughkeepsie to Croton in Eight Hours"; Cronin took third among serious columns for "The Buried Streams of Beacon"; and The Current

won third for local news coverage.

Among small non-daily papers, Jeff Simms won first place for education reporting for "Confusion in the Classroom" and Pierce Strudler received second for best small ad for "Get It Done Now."

Among non-daily papers with circulations of 4,000 to 5,999, Alison Rooney won first place in feature stories for "Born to Be Wild"; Simms, Cronin and Sparks won first for reporting on local government for *Beacon: Then, Now and How*; Asher took second for his business story, "Can Everyone Shop Main Street?" and Strudler won third for front-page design.

The paper also received honorable mentions in the serious column, sports photo, investigative story and sports story categories, and for its website.

In addition, Cronin was a finalist in the annual column contest organized by the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors for "The Buried Streams of Beacon."

The Current to Expand Staff

New role will focus on ad sales and membership

The board of directors of Highlands Current Inc., which publishes The Highlands Current, this week began the search for a growth director, a newly created position focused on supporting the nonprofit organization's long-term goal of financial sustainability.

Growth in advertising and in memberships is seen as a prime opportunity to increase revenue, allowing more investment in the core newsgathering that makes The Current so valuable to the community.

"Editor Chip Rowe has done great work managing both the newsroom and the business operations of The Current," said Todd Haskell, co-vice chair of the board, noting the paper's designation this year as Newspaper of the Year by the New York Press Association for the third year in a row. "By investing in a growth director to serve as the editor's peer and partner, we want to create more bandwidth for the editor to oversee the kind of journalism that has made The Current the award-winning newspaper it is, while building a business operation that reflects the maturity of The Current as it enters its 15th year."

The new role — more details can be found at highlandscurrent.org/current-jobs — will focus on two areas: advertising growth, both in print and on The Current's website, and membership operations. Working with the advertising director, the role will be responsible for ad sales, developing more frequency-based opportunities for local and regional retailers and expanding outreach into new categories and products.

The growth director will also oversee membership operations, working with the membership manager and the board to expand the number of loyal paying members who serve as the foundation of The Current's budget. This will include exploring ways to increase membership while also overseeing the administrative functions that are crucial for members to have a rewarding experience.

The board is seeking candidates with experience selling media, establishing a growth strategy and achieving goals. "But, most important," said Haskell, "we are looking for a sales leader who deeply believes in the importance of local journalism and in the key role The Highlands Current plays in this community."

Candidates who are interested in the role can submit a cover letter and resume to jobs@highlandscurrent.org.

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER & UPSTATE ART WEEKEND

JULY 18-21, 2024

July 21

Guillermo Klein Quinteto

Guillermo Klein, pianist, composer
Rodrigo Recabarren, drums
Vinicius Gomes, guitar
Rogerio Bocatto, percussion
Sebastian de Urquiza, bass

STEVE BURNS ALIVE

Steve from TV's Blue's Clues

July 18, 19, 20

We are thrilled to be taking part once again in the Upstate Art Weekend. Established in 1979 as a hub for art, culture, and history in the historic 1872 Richard Morris Hunt building designed originally as a library, known today as the 'Jewel of Beacon'

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Annsville (from Page 1)

Under the revised zoning, residences, restaurants, retail stores and hotels will be allowed in the district and, with special permits, developers will be able to build mixed-use residential projects. Cortlandt is requiring projects having more than five units of housing to designate 10 percent as “affordable” under Westchester County guidelines.

Property owners will be given incentives to build a 10- to 15-foot-wide promenade for pedestrians and bicyclists along Annsville Creek, which passes under the Jan Peeck Bridge and connects to the Hudson River.

“There’s talk about building a hotel,” said Richard Becker, the Cortlandt supervisor. “And we have three developers interested in developing significant apartment-style housing because there’s such a housing shortage.”

Cortlandt is nearly finished with a design for a water and sewer district covering the area, where properties rely on wells and septic systems, said Becker.

Westchester County has allocated \$7 million to the \$14 million project and Rep. Mike Lawler recently announced \$1 million in federal funding, said Becker. Cortlandt has applied for a grant to cover the balance.

“We’ve met with many of the property owners and there’s tremendous interest because many of their septic fields are failing and the properties can’t be redeveloped without adequate water and sewer,” he said.

Another problem, flooding, is supposed to be addressed by a \$26 million, two-year



This is the view of Route 9 headed north toward Philipstown from Annsville Circle. Annsville Creek is at right.



North of Annsville Circle, the road is lined with properties for sale.

Photos by L. Sparks

project to raise Annsville Circle by 4 feet and a half-mile section of Route 6 by 7 feet. Gov. Kathy Hocu announced the launch of that project on Monday (July 15).

Those areas, which are increasingly vulnerable as climate change drives the Hudson River higher, will be raised with fill made from recycled glass, an environmentally friendly alternative that will reduce by a year the project’s completion, according to the governor’s office.

The plan includes a path connecting Paddlesports Park with the Jan Peeck Bridge, new crosswalks and landscaping at the center of the roundabout. Contractors are nearly finished replacing a culvert over Putnam Creek on Route 6/202.

“It’ll be more compact, a smaller circle,

and designed in a more modern fashion so there’ll be less merging of traffic,” said Becker. “It’s a dangerous intersection now.”

He called the area the “gateway” to northern Westchester and an opportunity to fulfill the state’s goal of building more housing, which is facing resistance in some municipalities.

Cortlandt has submitted a letter notifying the state of its intention to seek certification under its Pro-Housing Community program. Certified communities, such as Beacon, receive preference for housing grants.

“You don’t want to change the nature of existing residential areas, so this is a way of putting some apartments into the community without impacting other communities,” Becker said.



The newly rezoned area is along Route 9 (Albany Post Road) north of Annsville Circle.

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The Cary Brown Quartet

featuring Andy Stack

Playing a lively mix of Gypsy jazz, bebop, and Caribbean favorites.

Saturday, July 20, 2024 @ 2 PM

Free - donations accepted

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church • Corner of 9D & Main Street • Cold Spring, NY
On the lawn, weather permitting

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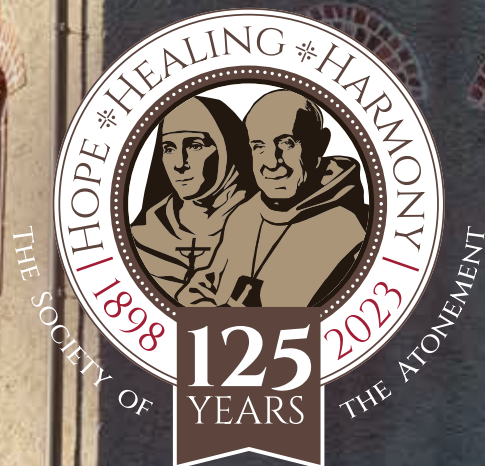
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Open Wednesday - Saturday
9am - 5pm | Sunday 9am - 3pm

Shop our wide selection of books, greeting cards, gifts, devotional items and recovery support materials.





A rendering of the proposed Fishkill Commerce Center

Lincoln Brown

Dutchess Manor *(from Page 1)*

according to the Beacon Historical Society, and operated it as a hotel, restaurant and bar until the early 1970s.

The 1,979-square-foot former home is encircled by additions erected in 1947, 1989 and 2007. HHFT purchased the estate, which covers 12 acres on two parcels and is on the National Register of Historic Places, for \$3.4 million in 2020 from the Coris family. The two parcels will be merged, Kacala said.

Exterior renovations include reviving the original structure's slate roof and rear patio, removing paint to expose the brickwork and rebuilding trim, according to Kacala. Inside, HHFT would create first-floor spaces for a welcome desk and interpretive exhibits, upper-floor offices and meeting space, and install an elevator.

A parking area for up to 200 cars would be carved from the grounds, along with public restrooms, lawn space and a drop-off area for buses and shuttles ferrying visitors to the Fjord Trail.

Plantings at the property's entrance and parking lot would replicate the "palette" of the mountain across Route 9D from the property, Kacala said, with red oak and tulip trees mixed with columbine, witch hazel and low-brush blueberry. Construction would take about a year, she said.

HHFT plans to submit a formal application before the board's August meeting.

Route 9 warehouse

Following the HHFT presentation, developer Scannell Properties introduced its application to construct a 388,000-square-foot warehouse that would replace the Fishkill Golf Course, a 12-hole property with a driving range behind the remnants of Dutchess Mall and bordering Clove Creek.

Scannell's \$63 million proposal for its Fishkill Commerce Center includes 70 loading docks and 221 parking spaces for employees and 81 for tractor-trailers. To accommodate traffic, the company would ask the state Department of Transportation to install a signal on Route 9 and widen the access road to create right and left turn lanes onto the highway.

Dan Madrigal, development director for Scannell, said the company specializes in distribution and manufacturing facilities, as well as cold storage, data centers and truck terminals. "Over 79 percent of our projects are with repeat clients," such as Amazon, Best Buy, Lowe's and Walmart, he said.

Along with site-plan approval and authorization for water service from the Village of Fishkill, the project would need wetlands permits from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Scannell designed the project "to avoid those wetlands and their buffers," said Jennifer Gray, a project attorney. One buffer will be disturbed to install infrastructure for a 16,000-gallon septic system, and "a small area of wetland" to widen the access road, according to the company.

Scannell said that, because the project is within the 100-year floodplain of Clove Creek, which runs along the property's western edge, the firm would use fill and grading to raise its elevation. Runoff from stormwater would be captured and treated by bioretention basins and a wet pond.

While the Planning Board review is just beginning, Chair Jonathan Kanter expressed some initial concerns: the potential for downstream flooding from stormwater runoff and the board's approval in February 2023 of a 350,000-square-foot warehouse with 78 loading docks and 209 parking spaces at the adjacent Dutchess Mall site.

Hudson Properties LLC, which owns Dutchess Mall, notified the board late last year that the warehouse developer, Crow Holdings, had terminated its contract to build. Kanter asked if Scannell had approached Hudson Properties about building its warehouse on the former mall site.

Madrigal said the company was interested in pursuing both projects and had engaged multiple times with Hudson Properties but "as of now, [they] don't seem very open" to the company's involvement.

Gas Prices

	U.S.
	\$3.51
Month ago	\$3.44
Year ago	\$3.56
	New York
	\$3.63
Month ago	\$3.59
Year ago	\$3.67
	Local
	\$3.64
Month ago	\$3.66
Year ago	\$3.69

Source: gasprices.aaa.com, as of July 18.
Prices are average per gallon for regular.



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL
Home of the Highlands Choral Society

THIS SUNDAY:
OUTDOOR SERVICE & BARBECUE AT GARRISON FISH & GAME CLUB
183 S HIGHLAND RD, GARRISON
JULY 21 @ 11:00AM
FOR WORSHIP REFLECTION & SONG

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

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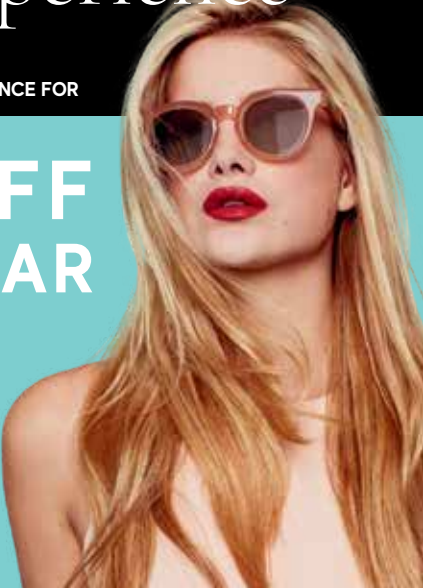
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GREATEST HITS —
For its annual July 4 concert at Boscobel in Philipstown, the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra performed movie scores by John Williams and patriotic pieces such as “Fanfare for the Common Man” and “Stars and Stripes Forever.” The orchestra is conducted by Russell Ger.



MAGIC! —
Steve Johnson, who has been a magician for more than 30 years, entertained parents and children on July 13 at the Howland Public Library in Beacon.



POW WOW —
The Redhawk Native American Arts Council held its annual celebration on July 13 and 14 at the Anthony Wayne Recreation Area near Bear Mountain.

Photos by
Ross Corsair



Cornell Cooperative Extension
PUTNAM COUNTY











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The Calendar

NANCY DOLIN IS A ROCK 'N' GRANDMA

And Beacon's champion band-camper

By Joey Asher

Nancy Dolin has three grandchildren, stands 4-foot-8 and often adds streaks of blue and purple to her hair. She is also the queen of rock 'n' roll fantasy bands.

"I belong in rock 'n' roll," says Dolin, 74. "It's part of me."

On July 27, the Newburgh resident will play bass for the Van Halen boot camp graduation concert at the Beacon Music Factory at 333 Fishkill Ave. The free show begins at 6 p.m. Groups playing songs by The Police and The Killers will also perform.

It will be Dolin's 41st rock-camp concert, the most of any performer since Beacon Music Factory launched the popular program in 2011, says Stephen Clair, who owns the school. Dolin is such a prolific performer that in April, Clair renamed one of the practice rooms from Tonic (a reference to a now-defunct avant-garde music venue on the Lower East Side) to Nancy.

A rock camp pairs a band with a professional. It typically focuses on a group or theme, meets eight to 10 times over two months, costs \$650 and concludes with a performance. Beacon Music Factory offers as many as 18 per year; *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, Warren Zevon and Dolly Parton camps begin in September.

Clair says the camps started slow but "caught fire" in 2012 when he offered one focused on David Bowie's 1972 album, *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*.

Dolin was in those first groups and has since done camps based on the music of Queen, Jimi Hendrix, Fleetwood Mac, Aerosmith, the Beatles, Buddy Holly and Prince's *Purple Rain*. Her basement is a shrine to her rock career, with posters from performances and electric basses.

"It gives me deep satisfaction to play the music that I've loved all these years," says Dolin, who has attended countless live concerts, including the two recent Rolling Stones shows at MetLife Stadium.



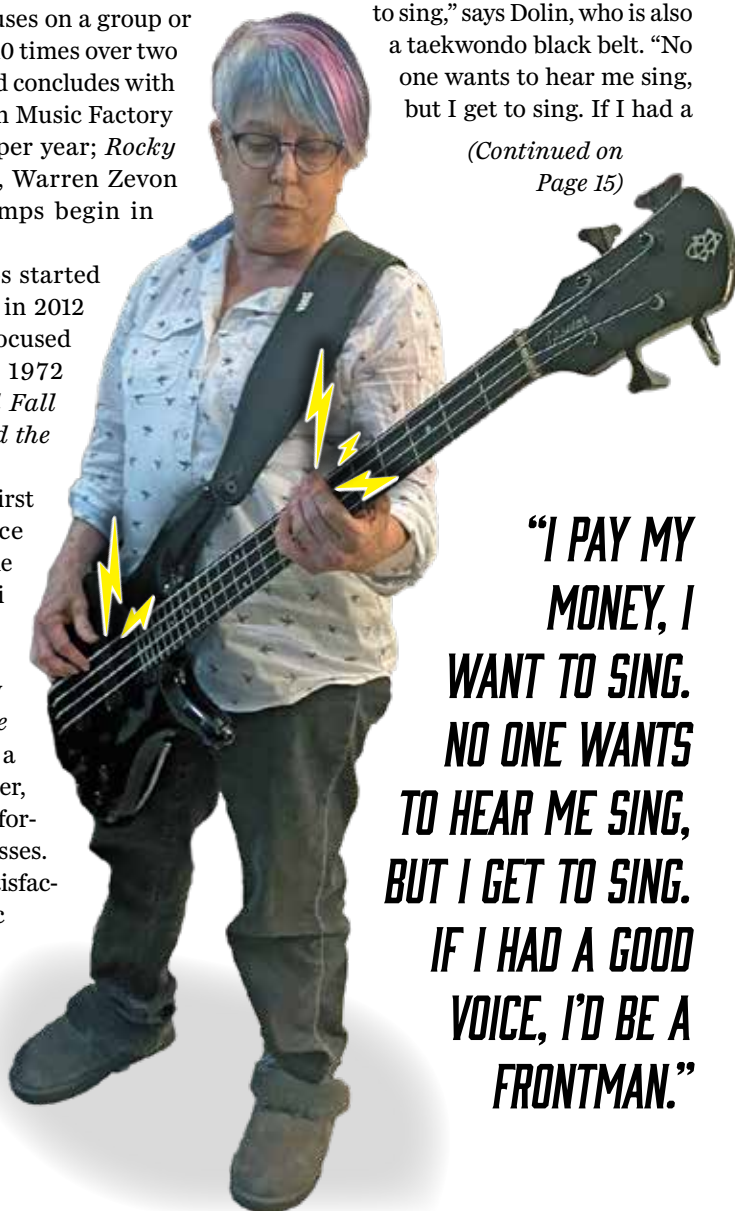
Nancy Dolin belts out "Highway to Hell" by AC/DC.

Photos provided

Dolin took up the guitar at age 60 but switched to the bass at 63 because it was easier on her wrist. She wishes she had started sooner. "If I had started when I was 15, by the time I was 26, I would have been world-famous," she says.

She is making up for lost time and tries to sing at least one song in every performance. "I pay my money, I want to sing," says Dolin, who is also a taekwondo black belt. "No one wants to hear me sing, but I get to sing. If I had a

(Continued on Page 15)



"I PAY MY MONEY, I WANT TO SING. NO ONE WANTS TO HEAR ME SING, BUT I GET TO SING. IF I HAD A GOOD VOICE, I'D BE A FRONTMAN."

Patsy Cline, with a Beacon Twang

Bannerman Island to host tribute to country singer

By Marc Ferris

The production *Always . . . Patsy Cline* is a staple on the regional theater circuit in large part because it requires only two actors, a small band and a director.

The talent marshaled to present the musical play on Bannerman Island seven times beginning Wednesday (July 24) includes its author, Ted Swindley, who moved to Beacon in February, and director Neil Caplan, who is the founder and executive director of the Bannerman Castle Trust. The stage director, Sue Regan, is from Kingston and the music director, Tom McCoy, from Fishkill.

Jessica Welch, a Beacon resident who portrays Cline, has performed the role more times than anyone. She sings 27 tunes in each show, from deep cuts to all the hits. Emily Clare Zempel, who plays Cline's pen pal, Louise Seger, nails the Southern accent, although she hails from Wisconsin.

Swindley followed Welch to Beacon. "Jessica is like a daughter to me, so why not move here?" he says. "I wanted to get out of Houston anyway."

There are plans to take the show off Broadway in 2025. During a recent rehearsal, Swindley sat in a padded, high-backed chair and tweaked the script. "It's not the Constitution," he quips.

Unwittingly, Swindley helped create the "jukebox musical" — an easy go-to for Broadway producers. When his Stages Repertory Theatre in Houston faced financial woes in the late 1980s, Patsy saved the place.

"A member of our troupe wanted to sing Patsy Cline songs and I was looking for a 'review-sical,' not a biography or straight-up song showcase," explains Swindley, who grew up in South Carolina. "This all started with a simple question: 'Did Patsy Cline ever play in Houston?'"

In fact, not only had Cline performed at a local honky-tonk in 1961 as she was gaining traction on the pop and country charts, that night she met Seger, a divorced housewife who had arrived early and started a conversation.

Cline came to the gig by cab. After the show, Seger offered her a ride to the hotel. Instead, they stopped at Seger's home and



Jessica Welch, who lives in Beacon, has portrayed Patsy Cline (left) in more than 3,000 performances.

Photos provided



talked about life and love for hours. The rising star stayed the night and dropped by a radio station in the morning before heading to a show in Dallas.

This relaxed encounter, where the two strangers bonded over troubled marriages and motherhood issues, makes up most of Act Two.

Cline wrote many letters to fans relating her loneliness on the road and connected with Seger, who was a single mother of two. After the night in Houston, they spoke on the phone and exchanged a volley of letters until Cline's death in a 1963 plane crash.

The title adapts Cline's signature ending to her correspondence: "Love always, Patsy Cline." Toward the end, the play includes a reading of the first missive Cline sent to Seger, in which the singer writes about having to iron a pile of clothes.

Welch has performed the role more than 3,000 times. She also performed in *South Pacific*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Pump Boys and Dinettes*. Despite missing out on the Broadway run of *Always . . . Patsy Cline*, she took a long ride on the first national tour in 1995.

The Arkansas native, who scrubbed her Southern accent, ticks off longstanding residencies in major markets, including a stint at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nash-

(Continued on Page 15)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 20
Rabies Clinic
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 a.m. – Noon. Town Hall
1 Overocker Road | 845-452-7722
dcspca.org
Dutchess County residents can register for a free vaccination for a dog, cat or ferret older than 3 months. Pets must be leashed or in a carrier. Shots are \$10 for non-residents.

THURS 25
Bird Watching
PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. Little Stony Point | 3011 Route 9D
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Take a guided walk and learn how to use apps and books to assist with identification.

SAT 27
Community Cookout
BEACON
10 a.m. – 8 p.m. South Avenue Park
facebook.com/beaconannualcookout
Meet neighbors and enjoy a summer day. Volunteers and donations of food, paper products, drinks or cash are welcome.

SAT 27
Putnam County Fair & 4-H Showcase
CARMEL
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Memorial Park
201 Gipsy Trail Road
cceputnamcounty.org
This annual fair will feature live music, a magician and other children’s activities, a car show, food and a showcase for 4-H projects and animals. Also SUN 28.

SAT 27
Great Newburgh to Beacon Swim
BEACON
riverpool.org
While registration is closed for swimmers at this 20th annual fundraiser for the River Pool, spectators can cheer from the waterfront. Rain date: SUN 28.

SUN 28
Slammedenuff Car Show
POUGHKEEPSIE
1 – 6 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Admire hundreds of flashy cars.
Cost: \$30

KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 23
Cardboard Kingdom
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Students in kindergarten through fifth grade can make puppets and

improvise a show. Registration required.

WED 24
Princess Bride
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Watch the 1987 film about true love and never giving up starring Robin Wright as Buttercup and Cary Elwes as Westley.

WED 24
Shrek
BEACON
8:30 p.m. South Avenue Park
facebook.com/beaconrec
Watch the 2001 animated film about an ogre who just wants to be left alone but must rescue a princess with a donkey and a cat. Bring chairs and blankets.

THURS 25
Page Rangers with Jess & Ness
COLD SPRING
3 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Check out a cookbook from the library, then make a dish or bake something to share.

THURS 25
Drawing Workshop
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Cartoonist and artist Summer Pierre will show students ages 8 to 18 how to create their own comics. Registration required.

FRI 26
Mary Poppins Jr.
GARRISON
4:30 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
A Depot Kids cast of 26 actors in grades 4 to 7 will perform the magical story about a practically perfect nanny who brings a family together. Also SAT 27. *Cost: \$12*



FRI 26
After Hours Teen Night
BEACON
6 – 7:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Students in grades 5 to 12 can play trivia and games, make things and win prizes. Registration required.

SAT 27
Mr. Kurt
BEACON
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Kurt Gallagher will perform an interactive show and invite children to play instruments along with him. Registration required.

TALKS

SAT 20
A Thousand Times Before
BEACON
8 p.m. Stanza Books
508 Main St.
845-440-3906
stanzabooks.com
Asha Thanki will introduce her novel with a reading and discussion with Daniel Varghese.



SUN 21
H.R. Webster
PUTNAM VALLEY
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The author of *What Follows* will be the main event at the monthly Poets’ Corners series. An open mic follows. *Cost: \$10*

THURS 25
Hudson River School of Art and its Ice Age Origins
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St.
putnamhistorymuseum.org
Johanna and Robert Titus, the authors of five books on local geology, will discuss the glaciers that shaped the landscape of the Hudson Valley and the Catskills. Attend in person or watch via Zoom. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 20
The Murder of Roger Ackroyd
GARRISON
2 & 7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
This adaptation of an Agatha Christie novel features Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson in lead roles. Also WED 24, SUN 28. Through Sept. 1. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SAT 20
Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B
WAPPINGERS FALLS
2 & 8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countyplayers.org
Enjoy a modern retelling of a Sherlock Holmes mystery by Kate Hamill with female leads. *Cost: \$26 (\$24 seniors, students, military, children)*

SAT 20
Alive
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Steve Burns, a former host of *Blue’s Clues*, will perform his one-man show about handling celebrity. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*



SAT 20
Cinema in Piazza
COLD SPRING
8 p.m. Magazzino
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art
This outdoor screening will include two documentaries, *Marinella Senatore: The School of Narrative Dance, Napoli* and *Arte Povera, Notes for History*. The program on SUN 21 will include three films: *Carlo Scarpa: Timeless Masterpieces*, *Pino* and *Luciano Fabro*. *Cost: \$15 (members free, \$25 with barbecue)*

SUN 21
Medea: Re-Versed
GARRISON
5 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
This is a hip-hop version of Euripides’s play with Saren Monae West in the lead. Also FRI 26. Through Sept. 2. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SUN 21
Film Screenings
BEACON
7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
beaconopenstudios.com
As part of Beacon Open Studios, watch screenings of *Transition* and *45 Degrees*, followed by a Q&A.

MON 22
By the Queen
GARRISON
7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org
Shakespeare’s story of the War of the Roses is retold through the perspective of Queen Margaret. Also THURS 25, SAT 27. Through Aug. 31. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

THURS 25
Always ... Patsy Cline
BEACON
6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
Jessica Welch will play the country singer in a show on Bannerman Island that includes 27 of Cline’s songs. Also FRI 26, SAT 27, SUN 28. See Page 11. *Cost: \$75 or \$80*

FRI 26
Peekskill Film Festival
PEEKSKILL
6 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | peekskillfilmfestival.org
The program will include shorts, feature films, animation and documentaries. Also SAT 27, SUN 28. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 27
Holiday
COLD SPRING
8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org
The Cold Spring Film Society will screen the 1938 comedy-romance starring Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant about a man pressured to wed a woman from a rich family. Bring chairs and insect repellent. Snacks available for purchase.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 20
Upstate Art Weekend
upstateartweekend.org
This annual artfest will feature 145 exhibitions and events throughout the Hudson Valley. Local participants include Studio Tashtego, Magazzino, Manitoga, Garrison Art Center, Dia Beacon, Howland Cultural Center, Ethan Cohen Gallery at Kube, Beacon Open Studios, Analog Diary, Distortion Society, Howland Cultural Center and the Dutchess Experiential Art Hotel. Also SUN 21. See Page 16.

SAT 20
Beacon Open Studios Exhibit
BEACON
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
See work by four local artists exhibited in the community room.

SAT 20
A Net for String
BEACON
2 – 5 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art
See video installations by 11 artists with accompanying works on paper curated by The Sphinx, a project led by Kari Adelaide and Max Razdow.

SAT 20
Indivi Sutton + Edith Baumann
BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Analog Diary
1154 North Ave. | analogdiary.art
The cross-generational show of paintings creates a dialogue between the artists’ minimalist works.

SAT 20
Susan Keiser | Scott Lerman
BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Garage Gallery
North Elm Street | garagegallery.com
In *Frozen Beauty*, Keiser's photographs show flowers caught between ice and flowing water. In *Main Street*, Lerman's photographs of buildings along Beacon's central thoroughfare connect the past and the future. The gallery is opposite 11 N. Elm St.

SAT 20
Seminal Works from Contemporary Africa and Its Diaspora
BEACON
5:30 – 7 p.m. KuBE
211 Fishkill Ave. | ecfa.com
The *Out of Africa* group show includes works by 11 artists: Olasunkanmi Akomolehin, Armand Boua, Gerardo Castro, Òmó Oba (HRH) Adetomiwa Gbadebo, Innocent Nkurunziza, Catheris Mondombo, N'Dorah, Aboudia, Bob Dilworth, Kiné Aw and Gonçalo Mabunda. Through Oct. 1.

MUSIC

SAT 20
Cary Brown Quartet
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com
The group, with guitarist Andy Stack, will play jazz, bebop and Caribbean hits. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 20
Beacon Open Studios Concert
BEACON
7 p.m. The Yard
4 Hanna Lane | beaconarts.org
Dani Murcia, the Joe Fiedler Quartet and Ghost Funk Orchestra will play sets, followed by a dance party with DJ Causelost. *Cost: \$35 (\$25 concert, \$15 party)*

SAT 20
The Black Feathers
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
Ray Hughes and Sian Chandler play Americana, folk and acoustic indie rock originals. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 20
Benny Havens Band
WEST POINT
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com
The band will play classic rock and pop hits to get everyone dancing. *Free*

SAT 20
Boy Bands vs. Girl Bands
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The tribute bands will face off with hits from NSYNC, the Backstreet Boys, 98 Degrees, the Spice Girls, Destiny's Child and the Pussycat Dolls. *Cost: \$45 to \$60*

SAT 20
Broken Arrow
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The tribute band plays the music of Neil Young. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 21
Jasperoo
BEACON
11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Boats leave dock
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
Take a self-guided tour of Bannerman Island and enjoy the musical duo. *Cost: \$45 (\$35 children)*

SUN 21
Euntaek Kim
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The pianist's program will include



Out of Africa, July 20

works by Prokofiev and his own composition, *Sonata for Piano*, inspired by the beauty and history of Cold Spring. Donations welcome. *Free*



SUN 21
Guillermo Klein Quinteto
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The pianist will be joined by Rodrigo Recabarren (drums), Vinicius Gomes (guitar), Rogerio Bocatto (percussion) and Sebastian de Urquiza (bass). *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

THURS 25
Natalie Forteza
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Move | 34 Chestnut St.
facebook.com/movecoldspring
The songwriter and singer will play a set with blues guitarist Dylan Doyle. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 26
Forever Simon & Garfunkel
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Sean Altman & Jack Skuller will play a tribute set of the duo's hits. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 27
Symfunny Circus
NEWBURGH
4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra's concert at Aquinas Hall for children and families will include circus performers. *Cost: \$30 to \$75*

SAT 27
Ray Blue Jazz Quartet
PUTNAM VALLEY
6 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The award-winning saxophonist will be joined by Brad Whitley (organ), Jeff Barone (guitar) and Diego Lopez (drums). *Cost: \$25*

SAT 27
Concert Band
WEST POINT
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com
The band's program, *From the Mountains to the Prairies*, will include works by Beethoven and Benjamin Britten, as well as modern classics. *Free*

SAT 27
Salsa y Plena
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Cuboriqua will play music inspired by Cuba and Puerto Rico accompanied by dancer Christine Alicea. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 27
SoulShine
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The group will play the hits of the Allman Brothers. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 28
Acoustic Alchemy
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The three-time Grammy nominees play contemporary jazz. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

CIVIC

MON 22
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

WED 24
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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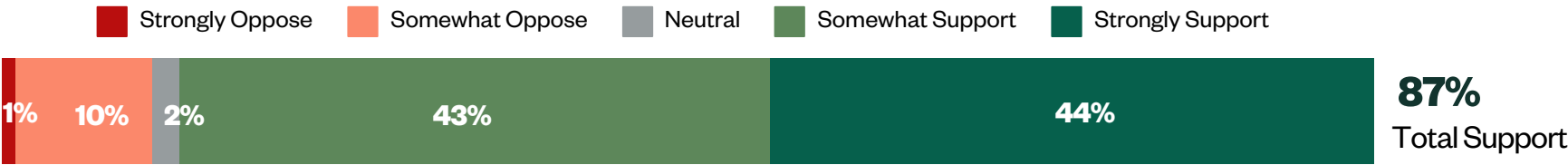
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Excited about the Fjord Trail? You're in good company!

87% of residents in the project area (Cold Spring, Philipstown, Beacon, Fishkill) who have heard of the project support it.

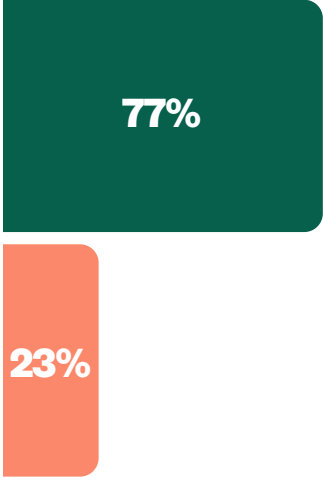


Asked to select which statement best describes their point of view, 77% of residents agree that the Fjord Trail will be beneficial.

"I believe the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is **a solution to better manage tourism** for the Hudson Highland State Parks to ensure no one community bears the burden of visitors."

VS.

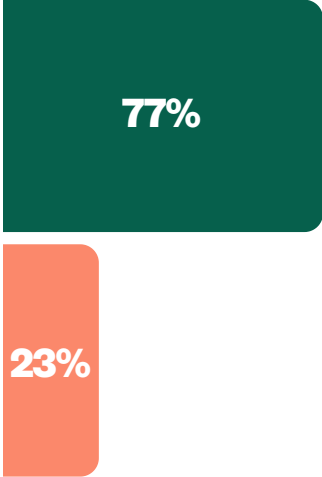
"I believe the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will attract even more visitors to the region, **overburdening an already stretched community.**"



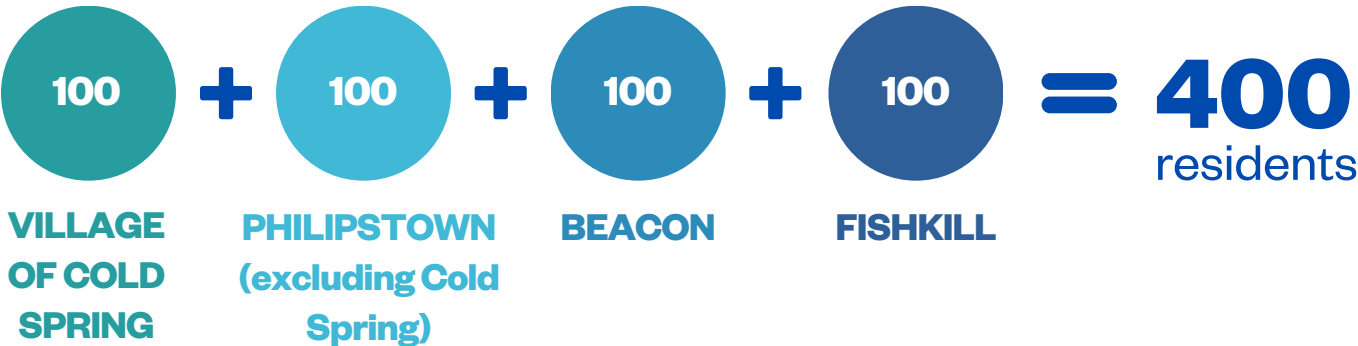
"I believe the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is designed to **protect the local environment**, ensure the waterfront is resilient in the face of rising water levels, and remove invasive species."

VS.

"I believe building the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is going to **harm the local environment** by encroaching on environmentally sensitive areas and displacing vulnerable species."



400 residents in the project area were surveyed.

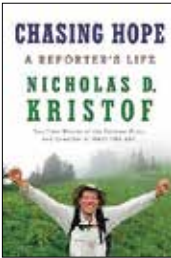


Want more results? Visit hhft.org/news/announcements/

HHFT commissioned a professional poll as part of ongoing efforts to gain a clear and full picture of area residents' sentiments about the Fjord Trail and current challenges associated with outdoor recreation in the area. The Harris Poll conducted this research. Founded in 1956, The Harris Poll is one of the nation's leading and longest running surveys, trusted by partners like Harvard University and the MacArthur Foundation.



PAID NOTICE



Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for May and June at Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.



ADULT

- 1

Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life by Nicholas Kristof
- 2

Not Too Late: The Power of Pushing Limits at Any Age by Gwendolyn Bounds
- 3

Garrison (Postcard History Series) by George Whipple
- 4

All Fours by Miranda July
- 5

Funny Story by Emily Henry

CHILDREN

- 1

Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder by Dav Pilkey
- 2

Snake Zine by Zephyr Wayland
- 3

Always Anthony (Emmie & Friends 8) by Terri Libenson
- 4

Local Baby Hudson Valley by Nancy Ellwood
- 5

Animals in the Sky by Sara Gillingham

Patsy Cline (from Page 11)

ville. She met her husband in Cleveland.

Cline, the first woman inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, battled with record company executives over touring, repertoire and other issues. “She worked in a man’s business back then and had to kick doors open,” says Welch. “She lived hard and fought hard for what she wanted.”

Over the years, Welch immersed herself in Cline’s world, visiting the singer’s hometown (Winchester, Virginia), studying her songs and reading everything she could about the icon, who died at 30.

“If I ever get kidnapped, I could just keep talking about Patsy Cline and they’d let me go,” she says. “Beekeeping, too.”

Welch’s goal is to narrow her wide vocal

range to a husky alto and sing the melodies in Cline’s style. “I’m trying to honor the recordings, but I’m not an impersonator,” she says.

Though this is the role she’s played the most, Welch keeps things fresh. “The moment I got bored, I’d quit,” she says. “Every show, I’m thinking, ‘I’m here with *this* Louise, *this* band and *this* audience,’ and it’s never, ever the same.”

Always ... Patsy Cline will be performed on Bannerman Island between Cold Spring and Beacon from July 24 to 28 and Aug. 2 and 3. Boats leave the Beacon dock at 6 and 7 p.m. and the shows begin at 8 p.m. There are 72 steps from the dock to the event space, which is outdoors. For tickets, which are \$75 or \$80 each, visit banner-mancastle.org or call 845-831-1001.

Nancy Dolin (from Page 11)

good voice, I’d be a frontman.”

In addition to being heard, Dolin strives to be seen. During a performance in 2016 of songs by The Cars, she stood on an amp so that she wouldn’t be lost amid seven bandmates crowding the stage at Quinn’s. The point, she says, is “to be a rock star. If I could be anything, that’s what I would be.”

One of Dolin’s regular bandmates is John Allison, 67, a Cold Spring resident who has participated in at least 25 camps. Allison started playing guitar as a young man and once tried playing with friends from work.

But keeping a garage band together is hard, he says. The Beacon Music Factory camps are easier. “It’s just plug-and-play,” he says. He’s been part of camps on Elvis Costello, The Strokes, Blondie and the Beatles’ *Abbey Road*.

Dave Hyatt, from Hopewell Junction, will play drums for the Van Halen performance. He has done about 30 camps, including the Sex Pistols and Black Sabbath. He played congas in the Billy Joel show.

Hyatt says that, before he retired, the camps were a nice stress release from managing technological systems for PepsiCo. He loves the applause, he says. “You get that adrenaline rush.”

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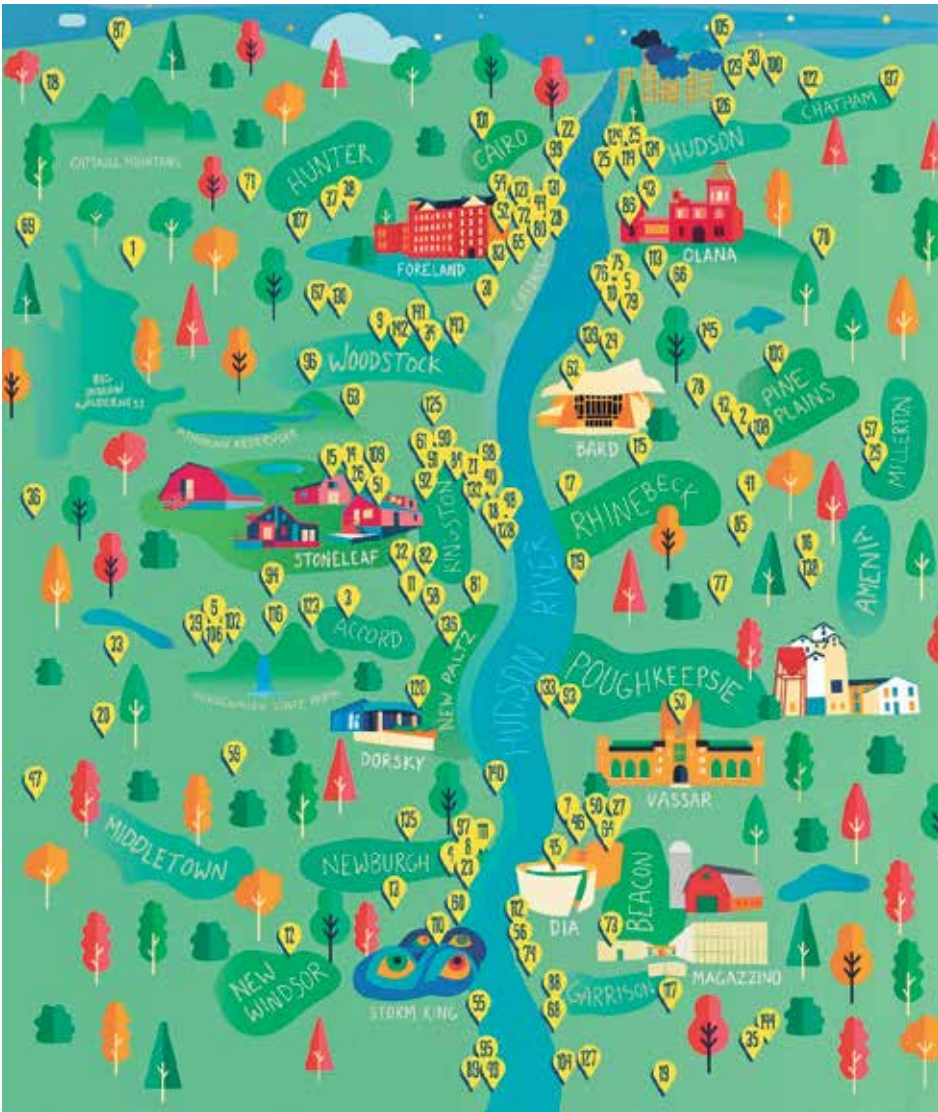


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Upstate Art Weekend extends from Philipstown to Hudson.

Arts Convergence

Open Studios and Upstate Arts in one weekend

By Marc Ferris

This weekend, two colossal forces in the regional art scene collide as Beacon Open Studios coincides with Upstate Arts Weekend. Mapping out a plan to sort the overlapping events and cover all the ground takes some work but is worth it (see right for highlights).

Regional cross-pollination is a new feature. Under the aegis of Upstate Arts Weekend, the “itinerant curatorial project” Sphinx sets up camp at Mother Gallery and Beacon Open Studios is importing Hudsy TV, a community-based Kingston nonprofit, to show two short films at The Yard.

Also this year, Beacon Open Studios director Darya Golubina expands the artistic offerings by presenting the Skyla Schreter Dance Company, helmed by a co-owner of LotusWorks in Beacon.

“Two years ago, we added music to the visual arts, last year we brought in film and now we’ve added dance,” says Golubina, 37, in her third year as director after reviving the nearly moribund event that skipped 2021 because of the

pandemic.

This year, about 100 artists are participating by opening their studios to visitors, contributing works and performing onstage. Those without formal creative spaces will be showing at The Yard and Hudson Beach Glass Gallery.

As curator, Golubina mulled submissions by artists sans studios, then paired the work with retailers around town, turning their walls into a sprawling gallery.

To ease the logistical load, Golubina recruited Julia Zivic to serve as director of music. Zivic is — surprise — the events booker for The Yard and assembled a motley yet harmonious crew of acts to present various moods.

The three bands on the ticketed main bill fit together well, she says. “We start with something chill to ease into the night, then get into a trombone virtuoso-led jazz quartet and end with an uplifting 12-piece band with horns that represent the community well and are generating some buzz.”

Recognizing that Beacon is becoming a northern outpost of Broadway talent, and with a veterans’ repertory company moving into the former Beacon Savings Bank, Golubina is hyped to further expand the arts umbrella. “Maybe next year, we can add theater,” she says.

UPSTATE ARTS WEEKEND

- ◆ **Kube Art Center.** The former high school has many artist studios to explore. On July 19 at 7 p.m., Changolife will host a presentation about Cuban murals. On July 20, there will be a discussion of *What Matters* from 4 to 10 p.m. and a *Summer School* bash from 7 to 10 p.m. 211 Fishkill Avenue, Beacon
- ◆ **Analog Diary.** Works by Indiri Sutton and Edith Baumann. Noon to 6 p.m. Reception July 21, 4 to 6 p.m. 1154 North Ave., Beacon
- ◆ The enigmatic Sphinx art group takes over **Mother Gallery.** *A Net for a String*, consisting of videos by 11 artists and a selection of small works on paper, investigates “sleight of hand, experimental poetics, assemblages and simulations.” Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 1154 North Ave., Beacon
- ◆ **Magazzino** will offer free admission to its galleries, as well as a ticketed outdoor film series on July 20 and 21, *Cinema in Piazza*, that includes a barbecue and bar. See magazzino.art. 2700 Route 9, Philipstown
- ◆ **Garrison Art Center** will host an outdoor life drawing session with costumes from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 23 Garrison’s Landing
- ◆ **Dutchess Inn Experimental Art Hotel** will celebrate the conversion of a 25,000-square-foot former garment factory into a wing that features rooms designed as galleries, each with a motif. There will be an artists’ reception from 5 to 10 p.m. on July 19 and a juried art fair on July 20 and 21 from noon to 5 p.m. Some workshops are ticketed events. 151 Main St., Beacon



left Ghost Funk Orchestra will perform July 20 in Beacon.



right Skyla Schreter Dance will perform on July 19 at The Yard with music by Anima Arcana.

BEACON OPEN STUDIOS

Studios are open from noon to 6 p.m. on July 20 and 21.

Location: The Yard, 4 Hanna Lane, Beacon

Friday (July 19)

- ◆ An **opening reception**, with live music by Leah Valentine and Lila Blue, begins at 6 p.m. At 8:15 p.m., **Skyla Schreter Dance Company** will perform *Love is an Action [2.0]* with musicians Joshua Geisler, a former bandleader with Cirque de Soleil, and Inana Lu Rose, a Mongolian throat singer. The musicians will aim to channel “ancient futuristic minimalism.”

Saturday (July 20)

- ◆ **Live painting** by Daniel McDonald all afternoon. From 2 to 4 p.m., Elizabeth Castagna presents an outdoor **movement drawing performance** “amongst and in collaboration with a circle of trees.” Ghost Funk Orchestra, Joe Fiedler Quartet and Dani Murcia will perform beginning at 7 p.m., followed by an after-party DJ set by **Causelost**.

Sunday (July 21)

- ◆ At 7 p.m., **Hudsy TV** will screen *45 Degrees* and *TRANSition*, followed by a Q&A with its subject, Stella Rose.



Dayan Arantes makes the pour at the Roosevelt Bar in Beacon.



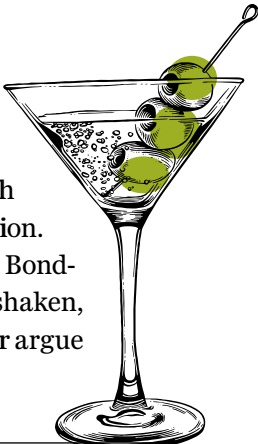
Devin Gell gives it a shake at Dolly's in Garrison.

Photos by E. Kater

It's 9 p.m. on a Friday night. Where can I find a martini that takes me seriously?

By Eric Kater

At the end of a challenging week, martini aficionados expect the details of their order to be carefully enacted. Regardless of the choice of gin or vodka, the amount of vermouth requested or even if dirty with olive brine, this most elegant cocktail requires proper attention. Here are five local spots where martini fans can have a James Bond-worthy experience. (Bond, of course, preferred his martinis shaken, not stirred, as do I, because the drink is colder. Those who stir argue that shaking dilutes and “bruises” the cocktail.)





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🍷 **Apropos at The Abbey Inn** (PEEKSKILL)

The request: A dry (I specified this meant “a few drops of vermouth”) martini made with Grey Goose vodka, served up (chilled), with a twist of lemon.

The result: The martini arrived nicely chilled with a thin film of Boissiere Extra Dry vermouth from Italy, providing a delicate infusion of elderflower, chamomile, iris and bitter orange peel.

🍷 **Bird and Bottle Inn** (PHILIPSTOWN)

The request: A dirty martini. Feeling liberated like a schoolboy with the arrival of summer, I let bartender Connor Mercaldo-Bernard do his thing.

The result: A surprisingly smooth and balanced martini stirred with 2.25 ounces of Botanist gin, 0.75 ounces of Queen Elizabeth green-olives brine and Dry Dolin vermouth.

🍷 **Dolly's** (GARRISON'S LANDING)

The request: Again, riding the wings of early summer, I gave bartender Devin Gell free rein on my gin martini order.

The result: An ultra-smooth martini shaken with 2.5 ounces of Gin Mare from Barcelona and 0.5 ounces of Dry Dolin vermouth from France. Gin Mare, with arbequina olive, adds a Mediterranean twist. Highly recommended for those getting their start.

🍷 **The Roosevelt Bar** (BEACON)

The request: Continuing the summer theme, bartender Dayan Arantes suggested Listening Rock gin from Wassaic. Per usual, I ordered it well-chilled, dry and garnished with olives.

The result: Surprise. Who knew that the town at the end of the Harlem line could produce such a citrus-forward, floral gin? It arrived very chilled, thanks to Dayan's technique of keeping a metal shaker buried in ice.

🍷 **Wonder Bar** (BEACON)

The request: After spying an unopened bottle of Monkey 47 Schwarzwald dry gin behind the bar, I requested a well-chilled martini made with one bar spoon of Dolin dry vermouth and garnished with olives.

The result: Bliss. Monkey 47 — a reference to its claim of 47 ingredients — produces a complex but balanced martini. A third of the ingredients are said to be sourced from the Black Forest and are atypical for gin, e.g., angelica, verbena, camomile, acacia flower, bramble leaves, spruce shoots and lingonberries.

What Does “Dry” Mean?

A dry martini traditionally meant adding a splash of vermouth, and a bone-dry martini was a coating on the glass. Today, however, use the word *dry* at the bar and you may get a glass of chilled vodka or gin. Martini lovers are best served by interrogating bartenders on how they understand the term. As one bartender noted: “You can always add vermouth. You can't take it out.”

What's Online at Highlands Current.org

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

Local Officials

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

Local Government Video Guide

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

How They Voted (Congress)

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

Storm Updates and Resources

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

Community Directory

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

Shop Local Online

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

Community Calendar

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

Real-Estate Listings

Browse properties for sale in Philipstown, Beacon and Putnam Valley as part of our partnership with Koto Homes, or cast a wider net by location name or ZIP code. We also have data on new listings, sales and median prices.

Obituaries

We don't have room to publish most obits in print, but we post them online.

Back Issues

This is an archive of our past issues, in PDF format, from June 2012 to date, except for the latest issue, which is emailed to *Current* members on Friday morning.

Podcast Archives

Here are links to all the episodes of our podcast, for easy listening. The three most popular downloads so far have been interviews with a barefoot Ironman competitor; Dinky Romilly of Philipstown, who discussed her civil rights work and her famous mother; and the author of a book about stone walls.

LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (July 1874)

A brickyard laborer at Fishkill Landing, while drunk, went into a home and tried to steal clothing. The woman of the house caught and beat him.

Fishkill Landing implemented a license fee of \$5 [about \$138 today] for hack drivers, \$10 for stage drivers and \$10 for peddlers.

The Newburgh Telegraph reported: "The boat race and foot race that was announced to take place at Fishkill Landing did not come off. It is said that the announcement was made to get a crowd of people over there. It was a complete humbug."

A horse owned by Lewis Tompkins at Fishkill Landing was "sun struck" [suffered heat stroke] and died in great agony.

A drunk couple stopped at the Fishkill Landing home of Miss Newlins selling what they said was soap. Miss Newlins told them to leave, but the man lingered until a neighbor, Mr. DeWhittemore, took him by the shoulders to guide him away. At the same time, the wife struck Miss Newlins over the head with a branch, knocking her down. Husband and wife were each sentenced to a year in jail.

John Seeley, while drunk, jumped 25 feet from the Fountain Street bridge into the creek but was not hurt.

The assets of the Sluthoun & Son's Circus were seized at Fishkill Landing by Andrew Tubbs of Schuylerville, to whom the concern owed a great deal of money. Tubbs had learned the circus was leaving horses behind to pay its bills, so he came to Fishkill Landing to secure the remaining property.

A former captain of the ferryboat Union was declared the champion clam-eater of the central Hudson Valley after a competition at Denning's Point. He ate 160. The current captain of the Union was second with 147.

The steamer William Baxter, built at Fishkill Landing, made 16 stops over six days during an efficient delivery run to Buffalo from New York City. Powered by coal, its fuel cost was calculated at 4 cents [\$1] per mile.

While Misses LaForge, dressmakers at Fishkill Landing, were engaged in their work, a man walked into the parlor, picked up a roll of silk from a table, neatly wrapped it in paper and walked out.

125 Years Ago (July 1899)

Leonard Livingston, a hatter in Matteawan, inherited \$25,000 [\$946,000] as the sole heir of a wealthy aunt.

After "a bitter canvass," according to the *New-York Tribune*, a vote on whether to merge Fishkill Landing and Matteawan failed with 65 percent against. The *Tribune* said Fishkill Landing residents didn't want to live in a village called Matteawan and Matteawan residents didn't want to live in a village "with people who would let a name stand in the way of improvement." The vote was 164-72 in Matteawan and 91-65 in Fishkill Landing.

Edith Ramsey, who killed her husband at the Garden Hotel in New York City while he slept, was committed to the Matteawan Asylum for the Criminal Insane. She said she cut his throat because of his snoring. A jail physician testified that Mrs. Ramsey danced a jig and asked if she would be electrocuted.

Walter Keene, of the Leader Baseball Club of Glenham, broke his arm while throwing a curveball.

After a riot involving about 200 Black and Arab brickmakers at Freeman & Hammond's in Dutchess Junction, the sheriff organized a posse to prevent further violence. The brickyard owner, Michael Freeman, said the trouble began when two Black workers hit an Arab peddler over the head with a brick. The Arabs, he said, skipped work the next day to buy guns, which they fired that night into the Black shanties. In the morning, most of the Black workers left to find work on Long Island. The Arabs, however, thought they had gone for their own guns and prepared for a showdown, while the Arab peddler boasted that he was a former circus strongman and could

lick every Black man in town if no bricks or razors were allowed. Freeman thought he might just hire a whole new crew. The sheriff warned that his officers would shoot to kill anyone who started trouble.

The cornerstone was laid for the St. Francis Catholic Church at Timoneyville, the home to workers at Francis Timoney's brickyard. Timoney donated the plot and materials to St. Joachim's Church in Matteawan, which built the structure.

100 Years Ago (July 1924)

Two hundred people celebrated at a Victory Supper after raising \$113,244 [\$2 million] to expand Highland Hospital to 75 beds.

A crowd of 3,000 people gathered at the Workmen's Cooperative Association camp in Dutchess Junction for a campaign stop by Communist presidential candidate William Z. Foster (below) but he had been delayed in Boston. [Foster, the author of *Toward Soviet America*, received a state funeral in Red Square when he died in Moscow in 1961.]



While at summer camp, two Boy Scouts from Beacon, Happy Mayen and Robert Gage, helped rescue a swimmer in Lake Walton in East Fishkill who had gone under three times. The Scouts encouraged her to go back into the water so she didn't develop a phobia about swimming.

Clarence Baring of White Plains arrived at the Matteawan asylum after being arrested on a complaint by his wife that he was feeding her arsenic because he felt it would make her younger. A doctor noted that Baring's parents, two siblings, an aunt and a cousin all had been committed to institutions.

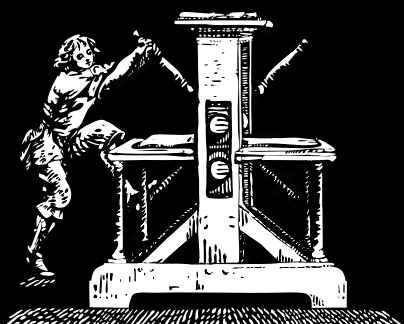
More than 1,000 Elks from around the region descended on the Holland Hotel for a ceremony led by James Hallinan, the Exalted Ruler of New York state, to open a Beacon lodge.

Sgt. Gilbert of the state police shot a prisoner in the back as he attempted to escape. Harry Tuttle, who had been accused of abandoning his family, jumped from a squad car at Elm and Main streets and ran. When Tuttle ignored a command to halt, Gilbert fired. Tuttle was at Highland Hospital with a bullet lodged near his liver but was expected to survive.

John Lisko was struck and killed near his home in Groveville by a truck driven by Elmore Tallmadge that had been commandeered by a Beacon patrol officer to pursue a drunken driver. The death was ruled an accident.

(Continued on Page 19)

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(Continued from Page 18)

Five Beacon men were charged with manslaughter following a collision that killed a Wappingers Falls man. The men conceded a hubcap found at the scene matched one missing from their Durant but denied involvement.

75 Years Ago (July 1949)

The Beacon Theatre hosted a Saturday morning, all-Technicolor cartoon festival with 17 features. Admission was 25 cents [\$3].

William and Anne Hussey of Cairo, Egypt, were spending several weeks with her parents on Lafayette Avenue. William worked for TWA Airlines.

Robert Pendell, the chair of the Beacon Democratic Committee, issued an appeal for candidates for the November election, conceding he had only one name for 10 open positions. Three days later, at a heated committee meeting, Pendell said he had managed to recruit a full slate, but one was a Republican and others insisted they would only run if the Democrats didn't challenge Mayor Lewis Bolton.

The committee instead endorsed Ennis Skelton, who was on vacation in Texas, for mayor. When Skelton returned, he turned down the nomination, so the Democrats recruited Arthur Seal, a retired accountant. The next day, Seal withdrew, expressing concerns that the job would be too taxing for a 71-year-old.

Notably, the Democratic slate included a woman: Lillian Hassett, the widow of Judge Thomas Hassett, for commissioner of public safety.

More than 90 Girl Scouts from Beacon, ages 7 to 15, were attending Camp Foster, with swimming, cookouts and crafts such as mat weaving, cork work, basketry, Aunt Jemima dolls and finger painting.

Officer Cruzie was on patrol when he saw a man and two boys breaking into the former Paragon Theater. He grabbed the boys but Alfred Conley, 19, took off, stopping only after Cruzie fired a shot into the air. While arresting Conley, he let go of the two boys, who fled. They were later picked up at their homes.

50 Years Ago (July 1974)

A group of parents petitioned the City Council for a lower speed limit in the Mount Beacon Park development, noting that the residents included 174 children.

More than 800 people participated in the Elks' 50th anniversary parade.

Firefighters from Beacon and Glenham spent a good part of the night battling a brush fire on a steep incline on Mount Beacon, 300 feet below the trolley building.

Officer Herbert Snook was assigned to transport a snake that had bitten a 16-year-old girl at Fishkill Rural Cemetery to a veterinarian. He placed the limp snake in a plastic bag and drove off. En route, the snake crawled from the bag. Startled, Snook parked, got out and called for backup to remove the snake from his patrol car.

25 Years Ago (July 1999)

Robert Polhill, a former resident who had been held hostage in Beirut for more than three years, died at age 65 of throat



An advertisement from July 1949

cancer. The 1952 Beacon High School graduate was an accounting professor at Beirut University when he and three other faculty members were kidnapped on Jan. 24, 1987, by members of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. He was released in April 1990 and returned to Beacon that fall. In 1993, Polhill attended the signing at the White House of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. "Even people who have fought for centuries have to stop fighting sometime," he said.

The City Council approved a permit for Scenic Hudson to build a trail and 20-car parking lot and install kiosks and a portable toilet at the base of Mount Beacon.

City Administrator Joe Braun suggested three changes to the city charter: (1) Hire an administrator for the fire department, (2) require a majority vote by two consecutive councils to amend the charter and (3) allow the city administrator to hire and fire city staff.

"E-sau jud," a German slur that translates as "a pig Jew," was painted in large white letters on the Beacon Hebrew Alliance. It was first spotted by Dr. Simon Gottfried, who said he had seen the same graffiti when he was growing up in occupied Poland. He considered not reporting the vandalism to avoid giving it publicity but decided that "waking people up is better."

In a letter to the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, a Garrison resident recalled a similar incident in 1965 that occurred shortly before her Beacon High School prom. For some reason, she said, the school district said the prom would be canceled unless the graffiti was cleaned up. "I don't know who the culprits were, or what the graffiti said, or how the school administrators decided the perpetrators were Beacon High School seniors," she wrote. "But, much to my shame, it was the Jewish kids who cleaned up the temple so we could all enjoy our prom."

Beacon was told that, because of technology upgrades, firefighters would lose the ability to hear emergency calls through speakers at the firehouse. But searching online, Chuck Pisanelli, 14, the son of the city attorney, discovered that firefighters near Boston had managed a workaround with a signal booster.

on Main Street between South Avenue and East Main. It removed a two-hour limit on Main between North Avenue and Herbert Street, where there were no businesses.

The Philip Morris tobacco company provided a \$26,000 [\$49,000] grant to the Martin Luther King Cultural Center to purchase a 12-passenger van for seniors.

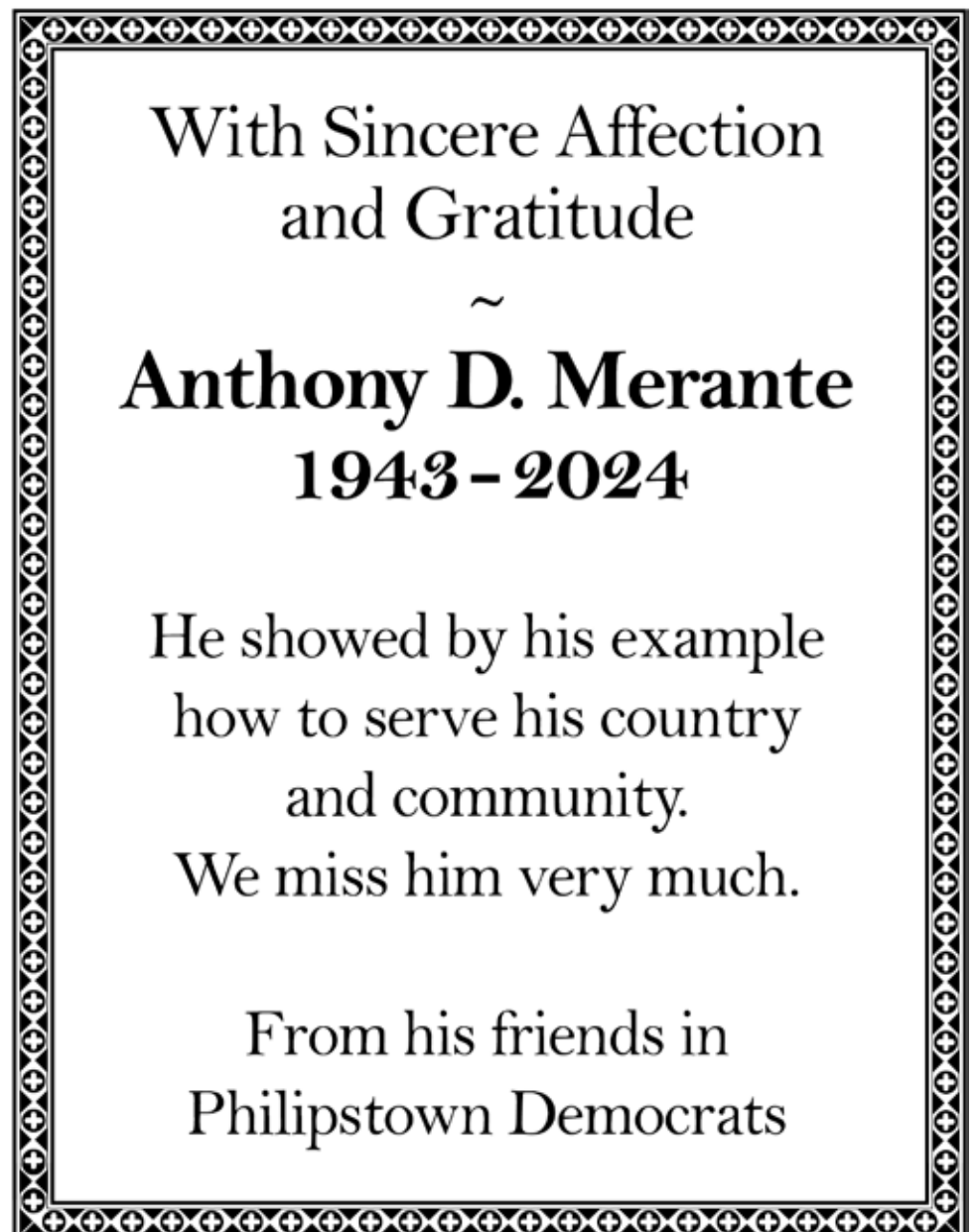
The city held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for four buildings redeveloped by Doug Berlin on the east end of Main Street. The \$1.3 million project was funded by the city, county and Community Preservation Corp., a consortium of banks and insurance companies. A fire had gutted the buildings in 1995.

Six weeks after a woman reported being raped at 2 a.m. inside her car in a parking lot on Main Street, police asked for assistance identifying two suspects. The 27-year-old victim said the men followed her out of a bar.

John Walls, 55, competed in bowling, shot put, discus, javelin and archery at the 19th National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Puerto Rico. It was his 15th year at the games.

The City Council planned to ask 35 residents who lived on Wolcott Avenue between Fishkill Creek and Prospect Street whether they would be willing to pay to connect their homes to buried utility lines. The city said it was concerned because the poles were unusually close to the road.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



More Vet Banners on the Way

Beacon plans to hang additional in the spring

By Jeff Simms

More banners honoring military veterans from the Revolutionary War through the modern era are planned for utility poles in Beacon, although they're not likely to appear until next spring.

There are 60 banners honoring veterans along Teller and Wolcott avenues but the City Council has received many requests

over the past six weeks to hang more, specifically about 40 in storage at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street.

The program is organized by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The city hangs the banners on Central Hudson poles, with permission from the utility, before Memorial Day. They are taken down after Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

They honor veterans from 20th-century wars as well as Maj. Gen. Alexander Hamilton and Maj. Henry Schenck, who fought in the Revolutionary War and lived in the

area, and James Forrestal, a Beacon resident who served as secretary of the Navy during World War II and later as the first secretary of defense.

During the July 1 council meeting, resident Tom DiCastro Sr. called the banners "one of the greatest things I've seen done in this city. I would like to see it continue until you run out of poles."

The banners have been hung since 2021, when the DAR approached City Administrator Chris White with the idea. "We didn't know what the reaction was going to be and we didn't know how much time it would take," White said on July 1. "At that time, we had a lot of other things going on and it

wasn't even worth bringing to City Council because it wasn't on city property."

The city installed 15 banners in 2021, 30 in 2022 and 15 more last year. It takes two Highway Department employees about 90 minutes in a bucket truck to install the brackets to hold them, White said.

Although the city has no official policy, the council decided to cap the banners at 100. White said he would direct Highway Department workers to begin hanging the remaining 40, but with construction ongoing at the city's \$14.7 million fire department and a \$9 million project to repave Fishkill and Teller avenues just starting, it's "more realistic" that they'll begin in the spring, he said.

Tioronda Project Could Change Again

Beacon development would drop office space for housing

By Jeff Simms

The owner of a mixed-use development at 248 Tioronda Ave. in Beacon wants to nix the "mixed."

Bernard Kohn had planned for a two-story, 25,400-square-foot office building but asked the City Council on Monday (July 15) to let him instead build more apartments. Two residential buildings on the 9-acre tract between Tioronda Avenue and Fishkill Creek are nearly complete. The council

referred the request to the Planning Board to make a recommendation.

The request is the latest twist for the project, which was approved in 2015 as a 100-unit complex. Construction had not started by 2017, when the city rezoned land surrounding the creek, ruling that steep slopes and wetlands could not be counted when calculating a parcel's density. It also required developments in the creekside zone to include at least 25 percent commercial space.

That sent the developer back to the drawing board. In 2020 the city approved amended plans for 64 apartments over two buildings, along with the commercial struc-

ture. The apartment buildings will soon be ready but Kohn told the council on Monday that there's "almost zero interest" in the office space.

"The most we had was somebody who wanted to take 2,000 or 3,000 square feet, which is a non-starter for a 25,000-square-foot building," he said. "It's almost guaranteed to fail as a commercial building."

Kohn said he would like to include 36 apartments in the third building and raise it from two to three stories. He also asked the city to issue certificates of occupancy for the 64 apartments. If approved, the changes would return the complex to its original planned density of 100 units.

The revised Fishkill Creek zoning allows the City Council to waive the commercial component if the development includes "environmental, transportation or other substantial public benefits which would not otherwise be required of the project."

Kohn said Monday that he believes a

segment of the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail running through the property, which will include access to a small island in the creek, along with a "tree-house" for trail users to use as an overlook and four dedicated parking spaces, should suffice as public benefits.

In addition to those elements — which he committed to months before asking the council to approve the new plan — Kohn said he is planning to build another trail amenity. "It's not something we've put on paper yet, but we think it's something that the public will have a great benefit from," he said.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou seemed amenable to Kohn's request, noting the statewide housing shortage. Council Member Molly Rhodes asked Kohn if he would be willing to build more affordable units in the third building than the four required by city zoning.

Kohn responded that he is spending "a couple hundred thousand dollars" on the greenway. "Even with 100 units it's still a challenging project to 'pencil out,'" or turn a profit, he said. "Nevertheless, I'm here to make it work, not to not make it work."

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The HIGHLANDS
Current



Good Cause (from Page 1)

regulating when landlords can evict them or decline to renew a lease. For instance, it prevents evictions unless tenants owe back rent that is not due to an "unreasonable" increase, which the state defines as 5 to 10 percent, based on the consumer price index. (For 2024, an unreasonable increase in Dutchess County is 8.82 percent or more.)

According to the state law, tenants may be evicted if they violate lease conditions or cause substantial damage; commit or permit a nuisance; or if the landlord wants to convert the property to personal use.

Notably, the law exempts for 30 years buildings for which a certificate of occupancy was issued on or after Jan. 1, 2009. That means nearly all apartments constructed in Beacon during its recent development boom are exempt.

The law also exempts housing units for which the rent is 245 percent above a county-determined fair-market rate. For Dutchess in 2024, that's \$3,031 per month for a studio, \$3,477 for a one-bedroom, and so forth.

The state gives municipalities the option to adjust the percentage, so if Beacon opts in, the council could set the figure as low as 101 percent.

If the City Council votes to opt into the law, as expected, the state legislation will negate and replace the Beacon statute, which remains in effect but is not enforced because of a November ruling by a city judge.

During its Monday (July 15) meeting, Council Member Paloma Wake said she believes all units should be subject to the law. "I'm concerned that by having the [rent] cap we're incentivizing landlords to only build luxury housing because they're slightly less regulated," she said.

"I don't see that in the least," responded Mayor Lee Kyriacou. He argued that forcing luxury apartments to abide by the standards could stunt housing growth.

"I would much rather see us provide that sort of limitation to get more housing at the right price point," he said. "If someone builds a few luxury apartments that are high price points in the same building, they might come back and say, 'I can afford to do 20 percent [below market rate], because I can make the numbers work.'"

The state law also exempts "small landlords" who own no more than 10 units but allows municipalities to change that number. Wake said the city should not exempt any landlords who own more than one unit; Kyriacou said he preferred 10.

Dutchess Goes for Silver

County restarts Climate Smart Task Force

By Brian PJ Cronin

Late last month, Dutchess County was re-certified at the bronze level as a Climate Smart community, a designation given by New York to municipalities that have taken concrete steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

But the county isn't stopping there: Dutchess recently applied to be certified at the silver level, where it would join a select group of 14 other communities, including Beacon.

In addition, County Executive Sue Serino has approved a Climate Action Plan for Government Operations that builds on the county Department of Transportation's recommendations for adapting to a planet

rapidly getting warmer and wetter.

Climate action in the Dutchess government had stalled under Serino's predecessor, William F.X. O'Neil. In his 2023 State of the County speech, O'Neil urged residents to appeal to God to overturn New York's pioneering climate legislation.

After her election, Serino appointed Devin Rigolino as environmental program director and charged him with restarting the Climate Smart Task Force. He said that while mitigation work never stopped at the county level, "what's different now is that we're doing a better job of telling the story."

Rigolino said that the flurry of announcements over the last few months coincided with a surge in state and federal funding. "The county has quite a long track record of environmental work," he said. "In the 1980s and '90s, it was more about natural resource conservation and agriculture. We're still

doing that, but now we're talking a lot more about sustainability and climate action."

The state Climate Smart Communities program was launched in 2009 to encourage municipalities to publicly commit to addressing climate change. It developed into an elaborate system in which communities can earn points for actions such as tracking greenhouse-gas emissions, installing solar panels and even hosting farmers markets. The points translate into priority for state grants.

After also stalling on its climate progress, Putnam County was certified bronze last month, along with the Village of Cold Spring. Beacon was certified as silver in 2020. The state is developing criteria for a gold level.

At least 300 points are required to qualify as silver; Rigolino said that the county's application includes 367, for actions such as installing geothermal in three buildings, setting up a fund for renewable energy projects and installing a solar panel array to

power the Hudson Valley Regional Airport. The county is also hoping to earn credit for its rail trails, sidewalk repairs and shuttle buses and a waste-reduction education campaign.

The waste-to-energy facility in Poughkeepsie, which incinerates 150,000 tons of garbage every year, is operated by an independent board and not considered part of the county's operations. Dutchess does hope to reduce emissions from its capped landfills, which are typically the largest producers of greenhouse gases because of the methane they release as garbage decomposes. The county and Beacon are each applying for a federal grant to install biofilters.

If that grant comes through, Rigolino said the county would be on track to reduce total emissions by 40 percent by 2030 as compared to its 1990 levels, in line with a New York law that sets that goal for the entire state.

"We're quite excited about the progress we've made," he said.

Beacon Plan *(from Page 1)*

take on new projects."

Beacon has taken the first steps toward its goal by installing a solar array over the former landfill at Dennings Point, converting street and traffic lights to more energy-efficient LEDs and launching a community solar project that provides lower-income residents with up to 20 percent off their electric bills (see bit.ly/beacon-community-solar).

The solar program's energy comes from arrays in the Mid-Hudson Valley at closed landfills and other brownfields, similar to the installation at Dennings Point.

"There's a direct relationship between subscriptions to a community solar project and the construction of new renewable energy projects in the area, making our electricity a bit cleaner with every participating household," said Faye Leone, Beacon's Climate Smart coordinator. The city plan says community solar will be crucial in reducing emissions because Central Hudson's default energy mix includes a lower percentage of renewable

sources than other New York utilities.

Another of the plan's projects is nearly done and hard to miss. Except for its emergency generator, the central firehouse across from City Hall will be powered by geothermal. The city is also installing another batch of EV chargers at the station and considering other sites for private and city-owned vehicles.

The plan calls for installing solar panels on the firehouse's roof after it opens in the fall. Panels are also planned for the Highway Department garage and wastewater administrative building. Heat pumps will be installed at the wastewater building and treatment plant next year.

The largest reduction in emissions will come from biofilters installed at the former Dennings Point landfill to mitigate the 1,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases it emits every year. If federal funding is available, the filters are scheduled to be installed by 2029.

The plan is not legally binding and can be amended. "It needs to be flexible, because a lot can change between now and 2030," Swanson said. "It's more like a mechanism

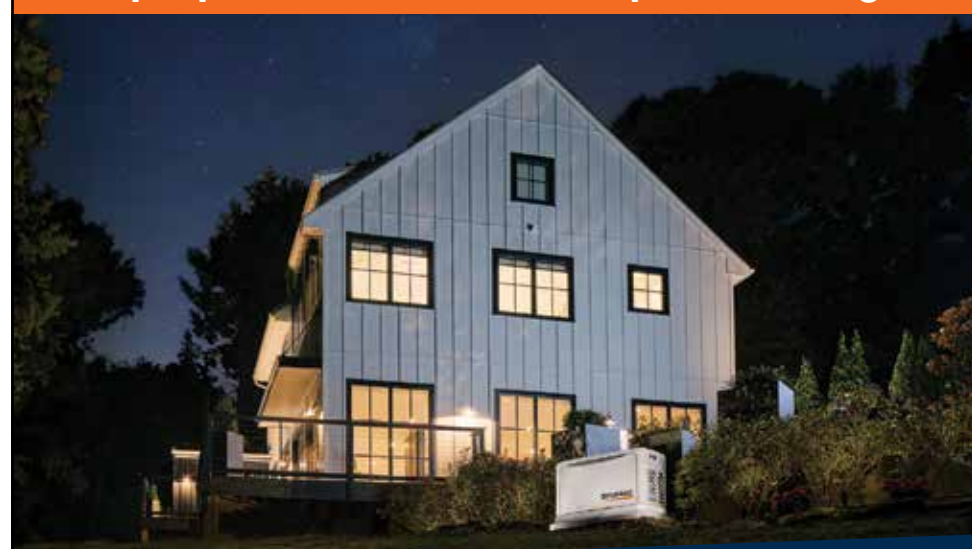
for restructuring our thinking and planning in the short, medium and long term, and how we go about projects and initiatives to make sure that we're achieving the goals that were already set. It's better to under-promise and over-deliver."

Even if the city only undertakes the projects outlined in the plan, Leone said that

everyone's daily lives will be better because of the improvement in air quality.

"Beacon has a problem with air pollution, and it's not just wildfires from hundreds of miles away," she said. "It's also from Interstate 84. Making it easier for people to drive electric vehicles, starting with the city's fleet, is an important step."

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Learning on the Job

Haldane seniors required to complete internships

By Clara Tripp

In their final weeks of high school, Haldane seniors are required to participate in ASPIRE, aka A Senior Program for Internships, Research and Enrichment.

The students choose an organization to intern with and spend 20 hours each week working alongside their supervisor, an experience that culminates in a presentation to their peers. The internships often align with professional goals or personal interests. This year, Vanja Booth, Elaine Llewellyn and Emil Schweizer each pursued distinct paths.

Booth interned with Mary-Clancey Pace at Hen's Tooth Productions, a broadcasting and media production company in New York City. In addition to "office days," Booth attended three shoots — for Meta, Marli jewelry with model Taylor Hill and *Port Magazine* with actor and playwright Colman Domingo.

Booth says she arrived on set at 8 a.m. to unfold chairs and tables, organize craft services (food and beverages) and assist with lighting, wardrobe and styling. As a production assistant (PA), she ventured out on Starbucks runs, untangled cords and says she may have set a record by assembling a folding table in less than 10 seconds.

"Basically, I would do whatever they wanted me to do — focusing on the small details that create a nice atmosphere," she says.

Booth, who this fall will study business and entertainment at American University in Washington, D.C., says she looked for an internship that would provide her with PA experience. She saw it as an opportunity

to develop a better understanding of the profession's demands.

"As a PA, you can't stick to yourself," Booth says. "The biggest thing I learned was how to be present and available, how to be comfortable and willing to work with anyone." She has continued working with Hen's Tooth over the summer.

Elaine Llewellyn interned at The Foundry Montessori, a Cold Spring preschool owned by Karen Kapoor. Llewellyn has been employed as an aftercare provider at the school for the past two years, so a transition to the classroom was natural. The assignment was hands-on — helping children with their work, taking them on walks and assisting them with their shoes and bags. She has experience in theater and helped direct the students' end-of-year play, *The Gigantic Turnip*.

Like Booth, Llewellyn's internship aligned with her career path. Working at the school has inspired her to attain Montessori certification in addition to the theater and education degree she will pursue at Colby College in Maine.

Llewellyn says she was pleasantly surprised by the children's independence. "A lot of the time the teachers can just step back," she says. "The children are very self-confident."

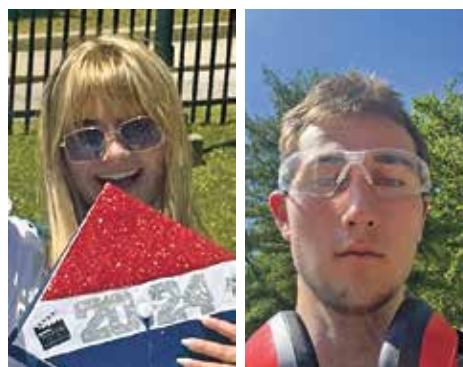
She noted how connected the school was to local businesses, from dentists to pizza restaurants. "When we walk them up Main Street, they know so many of the people we pass," she says.

Emil Schweizer interned at Fahnestock State Park, where he spent most of his time preparing the grounds for opening day on June 17. Daily maintenance included weed whacking, picking up trash on the beaches and tidying up campsites and bathrooms. Although he says he doesn't plan to work in parks and recreation, the skills may prove



Elaine Llewellyn at The Foundry Montessori school

Photos provided



Vanja Booth

Emil Schweizer

handy. Schweizer is taking a gap year after graduation at Fosen Folkehøgskole, a "folk school" in Norway focused on self-sufficiency and organic living.

"What I did at Fahnestock is going to translate to what I'll be experiencing in Norway," he says. "Maybe not weed whacking, but getting comfortable outside, using your hands in the dirt, touching things you

don't want to touch, being accustomed to the outdoors and doing labor."

Schweizer says he appreciated the opportunity to connect with his supervisor, a fellow intern from Croton-Harmon High School and employees not much older than himself. "They're focused on what they're doing when they're working," he says. "But during lunch or while riding in the truck together, we had great conversations, and they had a great sense of humor."

All three graduates say they found the experience worthwhile. "It's so beneficial for seniors, especially for people who maybe haven't worked many hours at a job," says Schweizer. "It helped me get accustomed to the working environment."

Tripp, who lives in Garrison and is a rising senior at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in the Bronx, is a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program.

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

TEACHER ASSISTANTS — The Community Nursery School and Learning Center (10 Academy St., Cold Spring) is hiring teacher assistants and substitutes for the upcoming school year. School hours are mornings beginning mid-September. All interested parties are asked to reach out by e-mail to communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com.

CARPENTERS — Immediate full-time employment for experienced and skilled carpenters. Good pay and a great work environment for the right candidate. Looking for someone who has experience working with layout, blueprint reading and working with high-value materials. Positive attitude and good physical condition are a must. Starting salary \$45/hr. Please send resume to: Maggie@rrshea.com.

EVENTS

BEACON JAZZ LUNCH — Mo Morgen (aka "Miami Mo"), a South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame inductee, performs on keys/vocals/sax at Carter's Restaurant, 424 Main St., Mondays through Fridays from noon to 2:30 p.m. Spontaneous jazz, vocal standards, Brazilian/Latin, Flamenco, classical. "Mo is wonderful," wrote Tony Bennett (1998). Free street parking. Carter's is famed for its pub menu. Google the menu and great reviews. Casual, no reservations.

MODERN MAKERS MART — Over 60 designers, makers, artisans and artists will be displaying and selling their amazing work in Cold Spring on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission! Live music, food trucks and all happening on the beautiful grounds of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1 Chestnut St. You can take

SERVICES

HEALING BODYWORK — Featured in NY Magazine as "one of the 15 best massage therapists offering CranialSacral Therapy," with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish massage incorporating CranialSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupuncture, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years' experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit Joymatalon.com.

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designed to deliver optimal results. Visit us on Instagram @kierskin_(845-968-6222) and @prohealthnpway (914-705-1207). Philipstown Square, 3182 Route 9, Suite 209, Cold Spring.

COLD SPRING — Looking for a turn-key place to stay in the Hudson Valley? We offer furnished rentals in the heart of Cold Spring village. 2- and 3-bedroom units; WD/AC/DW; 4-minute walk to train; off-street parking available; 1 month security deposit; discounted utilities; no smoking. Call/text Jim at 917-348-3300.

BEACON — Studio space available to share at KuBe. Artist with large studio is looking for reliable person to share the space. You will have 225 square feet of private space. KuBe (Beacon's old high school) is filled with creative individuals and the Ethan Cohen Gallery, which hosts events throughout the year. \$625 monthly covers utilities, including air conditioning. It is a great place to work and be inspired. Text 206-465-1629 for more information or to schedule a visit.

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13					
14							15					
16					17	18				19		
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42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

- ACROSS
1. Ganges garments

6. Stern and Asimov

12. Raging rant

13. Seafood soup

14. Foolish talk

15. Guarantee

16. Faction

17. Overdue

19. Days of yore

20. Entryway

22. Bankroll

24. Billboards

27. Mooches

29. Plunks (down)

32. Wake-up calls

35. Gambling game

36. Poet Teasdale

37. Water tester

38. Tummy muscles

40. Iditarod terminus

42. Jazz lover

44. Ballet attire

46. Slightly

50. Loves to pieces

52. Cancel out

54. Some beers

55. Of France

56. Constitution writer

57. Upright
- DOWN
1. iPhone voice

2. Desert-like

3. Carried on

4. Chemical suffix

5. Traitors

6. "Yeah, right"

7. Tendon

8. Ninny

9. Water conduit

10. Ringlet

11. Feeder filler

12. Pro Bowl stats

18. Marching insect

21. Kimono sash

23. Chest-beating beast

24. Canine greeting

25. Narc's org.

26. Revolutionary War battle

28. Forage for food, say

30. Ring decision

31. Away from NNW

33. High tennis shot

34. Deli meat

39. Cubic meter

41. Aerie builder

42. Young whale

43. Purim's month

45. Cold War initials

47. Body powder

48. Bickering

49. Calendar abbr.

51. Sleep acronym

53. Corn unit

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

SPURT

SHADE

WORDSEARCH

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

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T	I	N	T				E	D	E	N		B	A	R

Answers for July 12 Puzzles

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

MONEY, HONEY, HONED, HOPED, HYPED, TYPED

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

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Out There

We're in the Right Place

By Brian PJ Cronin

In 1962, the modern environmental movement was born.

On Sept. 27, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was published. Her book led to the banning of the pesticide DDT, which contributed to the preservation of the bald eagle, then facing extinction, and caused many Americans to reconsider their relationship with industrial chemicals that were increasingly becoming part of everyday life.

That same day, *The New York Times* reported that Con Edison, the largest power company in the country, was planning to build a hydroelectric plant inside Storm King Mountain. The battle over that plan saved the mountain and led to the concept of environmental law and the formation of at least four organizations (Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, Clearwater and the Natural Resources Defense Council), and laid the groundwork for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

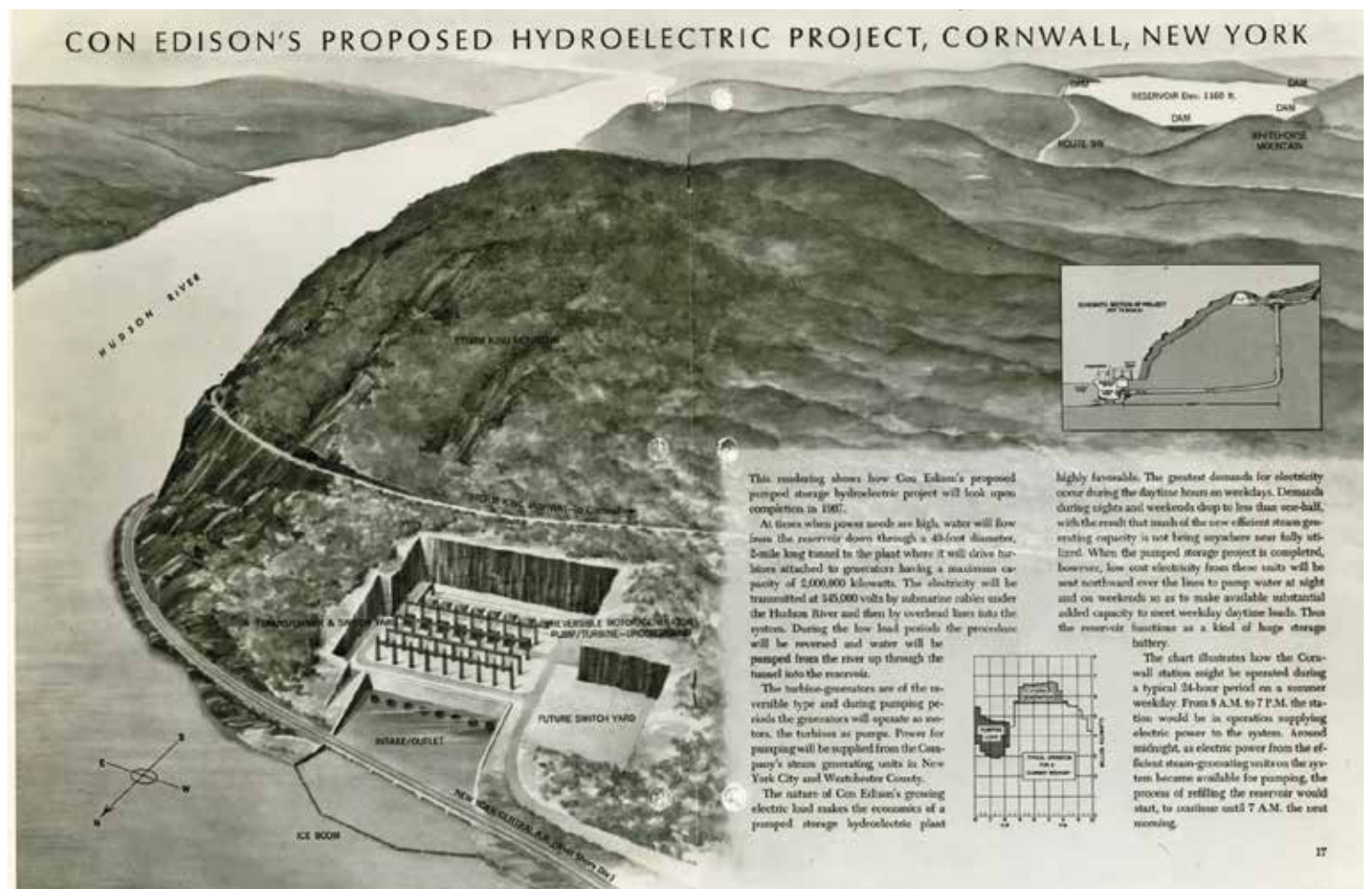
Sure, our corner of the world deserves credit. But what have we done *lately*?

That question was on my mind as I reported on two stories that appear in this week's issue about climate action plans for Dutchess County and Beacon. They come a few weeks after Leonard Sparks' look at the new Climate Smart certifications and planning efforts in Putnam County and Cold Spring. It's not a coincidence that these local plans all came out about the same time: They each received funding from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

The Hudson Valley is one of the top four regions in the U.S. when it comes to local climate plans, according to the ICLEI. (The others are the Bay Area, Chicago and Miami/Dade County.) Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis may have removed most references to climate change from state laws, but the Sunshine State is chockablock with climate plans from Pensacola to Key West.

"The difference between the Hudson Valley and the other three hot spots is that, in the Hudson Valley, it's primarily small towns, villages and rural counties that are climate leaders," says Kale Roberts, the ICLEI deputy director. "The other hot spots are more urbanized, with well-resourced cities" that employ full-time planners. In the Hudson Valley, it's more likely a few employees leading volunteers.

Roberts has personal experience with



A Con Edison rendering from the mid-1960s of its proposed Storm King plant

Scenic Hudson



Storm King with Bannerman's Castle in front of it instead of a power plant Photo by B. Cronin

this: While he works with municipalities all over the country, he happens to live in the Hudson Valley.

The most common answer I get when I ask people why the Hudson Valley has been such an outsized contributor to the national environmental movement is that it's astonishingly beautiful and full of people who deeply appreciate that beauty. From personal experience, the same can be said of Athens, Georgia, inland Maine and the entire state of West Virginia, but there's not a climate

action plan to be found among them.

Roberts thinks New York's state and local governments play an outside role. At the state level, the Climate Smart program is unusual, he says. Other states are not encouraging municipalities with expertise and grant money to develop climate action plans. "It's allowed cities and towns across the state, and particularly in the Hudson Valley, to show a level of national leadership that we only see in a few other pockets across the country," he says.

New York also has an unusual layered structure of local government. Villages are located within towns and each has its own authority. But this plethora of legislative bodies means that local government is far more accessible than in other states, Roberts says.

"We have a long history of residents being close to the government and having many more opportunities to participate in how their community is run," he says. "That has created a culture of civic engagement that makes people feel empowered to work on climate issues in a way that others across the country don't feel."

Sixty-two years after *Silent Spring* was published, as we struggle with regulating and mitigating PCBs, PFOS and other "forever chemicals," Rachel Carson's book is as relevant as ever. In December 1963, a few months before she died



Carson

from breast cancer, Carson gave a speech to the National Audubon Society and noted a movement that had begun to swell. "There is more organized effort; there are many more individuals who are conscious of conservation problems and who are striving, in their own communities or on the national scene, to solve these problems," she said.

Here in the Hudson Valley, long after the Battle for Storm King, locals are still striving and leading the way.