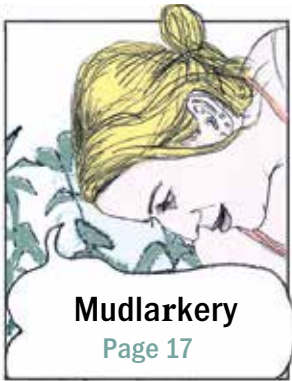


# The HIGHLANDS Current



AUGUST 9, 2024 NYPA Newspaper of the Year Support our nonprofit: [highlandscurrent.org/join](https://highlandscurrent.org/join)



**BACK IN THE DAY** — The Philipstown Depot Teens performed *Once Upon a Mattress*, a musical based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale “The Princess and the Pea” at the theater from Aug. 1 to 3. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org). Photo by Ross Corsair

## Putnam County May Rewrite Farm Rules

*Tables vote to reject additions to ag district*

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam legislators may revise the guidelines for adding farms to its Agricultural District after a committee voted to reject recommendations to add properties in Philipstown and four other towns. Established in 1971, the state program is intended to “conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement” of  
*(Continued on Page 7)*



Nobody's Deli is scheduled to open on Main Street in Cold Spring around Labor Day.

## Schumer Secures \$1.5 Million for Shakespeare Fest

*Theater groundbreaking expected next month*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York came to Philipstown on Tuesday (Aug. 6) to announce that he had secured \$1.5 million in federal funds for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's newly approved outdoor amphitheater. “Shakespeare himself, as brilliant a man as he was, couldn’t create this gorgeous scenery which will serve as the backdrop for this new, permanent anchor for the arts in the Hudson Valley,” said Schumer, standing on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River. The bluff, which was formerly the 11th hole of the now-closed Garrison Golf Course, will soon be the front row of the structure, which will be the first purpose-built Platinum LEED-certified theater in the country. Touting the arts as an economic engine, Schumer said that HVSF’s new permanent home (it has performed for decades in a



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer visited Philipstown on Tuesday (Aug. 6) to announce that he had secured \$1.5 million in federal funds for HVSF. Photo provided

seasonal tent) would not only attract tourism dollars but bolster the local workforce. “There will be good-paying construction jobs, and once construction is complete, HVSF plans to hire dozens of new staff positions,” he said. “This is a job creator in every way.” Schumer has some personal experience

with the Bard, noting he once appeared in a production of *Julius Caesar* in western New York. “Guess what part I played?” he said. “A senator!” The majority leader also has a history with HVSF, having staged a photo in 2020  
*(Continued on Page 9)*

## Movement on Main

*Cold Spring draws new projects*

By Leonard Sparks

A deli, gym and spa are among the projects the Cold Spring Planning Board has recently approved or is reviewing for Main Street. At 72 Main St., work is underway to transform the former home of Kismet into Nobody’s Deli. Brian Tormey, the building’s owner, told the Planning Board on June 27 that the eatery will offer “affordable quality foods” and “thematically focus on celebrating the local high school and college sports teams.” The deli will be operated by Tara Sweet-Flagler, who owns The Main Course and  
*(Continued on Page 9)*



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: PATRICIA PULLAR

By Michael Turton

Patricia Pullar, who lives in Newburgh, is the chief master sergeant for the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base.

Why did you join the Air National Guard?

After graduating from high school on Long Island, I joined the U.S. Army and served four years of active duty, mostly in Germany. Then I worked in marketing, public relations and banking in South Florida. But I missed the adventurous aspects of being in the military. That was 25 years ago. When I moved back to New York, I looked for a military connection and stumbled upon the Air National Guard unit at Stewart, which had an opening I was qualified to fill.

What do you do as a Guard member?

I started one weekend a month, plus training days. I'm now full time, a dual-status employee within our wing. That is, I'm a civilian during the week, running data security programs. On the military side, I'm senior enlisted leader for our operations group, which has two squadrons. My job is to make sure both squadrons are running properly, that people get what



they need to complete their training, that they get the education they need, that they develop as individuals and that they're physically and mentally fit. Sometimes it's administrative, but other times things come up on short notice, such as tasking for the aircrew or a deployment. The greatest challenge is to make sure everyone is prepared.

How often have you been deployed?

The Guard falls under the governor of the state where you're located, but when we're called to service, such as during a conflict, we are federalized. I've had two interesting deployments to Afghanistan. On the first, I was part of a training team that assisted the Afghan police and army. On my second, I was an analyst. I found it interesting, as a woman, to navigate through that culture, trying to find the best way to do the job and relay the information necessary to build the relationships we wanted to establish.

You've flown in a C-17 Globemaster transport. What's that like?

It's amazing. It's a powerful aircraft, even when full of cargo. You don't have the same comforts as a commercial airliner, obviously, but sometimes there's more legroom. It depends on where it's going, but there's

usually more than one pilot. And we have loadmasters, the aircrew members who load the jet, a complex process. There's also usually a maintenance crew member on board. No navigator is necessary.

Earlier this year, in New Mexico, you completed your fourth marathon honoring the victims of the Bataan Death March during World War II. Why do you do it?

The 65-mile death march is part of our history; it was terrible. We don't go through the same hardships in a 26.2-mile marathon, but it's good to be reminded of the blessings and freedoms we enjoy by honoring the sacrifices of those who came before us. I did it the first three times 15 years ago. When I made chief, I wanted to go back for the fourth, representing my two squadrons. I had their patches on my camelback; there's some pride in that. We run it in full uniform and boots. I had researched the best socks for hours, but halfway through the race, I couldn't feel my feet. It's just a struggle. About 5,000 people participated, mostly military. It was emotional, because we did it together, which is a big part of what the military does. It's the camaraderie, the teamwork, helping each other push through challenging situations.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What job would you be really bad at?

I'd make a terrible politician but a great diplomat.



Daniel Loxton, Philipstown

Circus tightrope walker: I lack balance, coordination and finesse.



Rai Hauer, Beacon

An ax man, going around telling people they're fired.



Matt Shackleford, Cold Spring

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Beacon Man Charged with Drug Crime

*Police allege he was dealing fentanyl*

Drug task force agents on July 31 arrested a Beacon man who was charged with four counts of dealing fentanyl and cocaine.

The Dutchess County District Attorney said undercover officers on multiple occasions purchased narcotics from Rakim Paulin, 44. After obtaining a search warrant, officers stopped Paulin on Route 82 in the Town of Wappingers and said they found fentanyl and crack cocaine, along with scales and packaging material, in his vehicle.

Paulin was sent to the county jail without bail. He was out on bail following his arrest last year on charges of attempted murder; after prosecutors failed to advance the case within a 90-day deadline, a court ruled in May that Paulin had to “be released on bail which he is capable of meeting or upon his own recognizance” under a state law related to speedy trials.

Paulin had allegedly pursued a man with a hatchet in Poughkeepsie in August 2023, then struck him with his car.

## Putnam Tax Auction Nets \$2.2M

*County has backlog dating to 2016*

The Putnam Legislature on Tuesday (Aug. 6) ratified the results of a tax

auction that netted the county \$2.2 million.

Buyers on July 10 bid on all but 14 of 161 properties that had been foreclosed because of unpaid taxes from 2014 and 2015. Fifteen of the properties were in Philipstown.

Michael Lewis, who has been Putnam’s finance commissioner since June 2023, told the Physical Services Committee on July 23 that the auction was the county’s first since 2020, when the pandemic hit. He said that the county still has an inventory of \$30 million worth of foreclosed properties dating to 2016.

“We were one of the worst counties in the state when it came to filing tax liens,” he said. “Even before COVID, we were about three or four years behind.”

## Beacon’s Latest Grants

*City institutions receive funding*

Dutchess County on Tuesday (Aug. 6) announced youth development grants for 2024-25, including \$18,500 for the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps’ program for teenagers; \$17,000 for Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Green Teen program; \$6,000 for Land to Learn’s garden classes at 10 Hudson Valley elementary schools; and \$8,000 for the Foundation for Beacon Schools’ student film festival. Dutchess also announced its youth sports grants for 2024-25, including \$5,000 for a children’s swim academy at the Beacon Pool.

In addition, U.S. Rep. Pat Ryan on

Monday announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would provide \$67,061 to purchase new radios for the Beacon Fire Department.

## Man Pleads Not Guilty in Murder Case

*Accused of murder-for-hire in death*

A Beacon resident arrested in June on murder charges has pleaded not guilty in state court.

Naije Perrette, 25, was charged with murder, contract killing, intentional murder and conspiracy in the shooting death of Lionel Pittman, 32, in a parking lot at Forrester Heights in Beacon in May 2022.

Prosecutors claim Perrette organized the killing, pointed out the victim to the gunman and paid the killer and the killer’s driver. Authorities did not release the names of the other alleged participants.

## Putnam Sales Tax Drops

*Revenue \$1M below projections*

Putnam County collected about \$1 million less sales tax than it expected during the first six months of 2024, according to its finance commissioner.

Michael Lewis told the county Legislature’s Audit Committee on July 29 that the reduction was partly due to a county sales tax exemption on clothing and footwear

purchases that began March 1. Through March 1, 2026, clothing and footwear that sells for less than \$110 is exempt from Putnam’s 4 percent sales tax. Putnam lost \$435,000 in taxes on \$11 million in eligible purchases from March 24 to May 24, said Lewis.

The amount of sales tax collected in June, however, was \$200,000 more than last year, he noted. Putnam collected \$88.4 million in sales tax in 2023 and budgeted for \$77.5 million in 2024. Unlike most counties in the state, Putnam does not share its sales tax revenues with its municipalities.

## DEC Highlights Philipstown Conservation

*State report profiles seven Hudson Valley towns*

Philipstown and six other municipalities are profiled in a new state Department of Environmental publication that highlights conservation practices.

*Natural Resources Protection in the Hudson Valley: Municipal Conservation Stories* (on.ny.gov/4dv0c3s) gives Philipstown a “high” rating for initiatives such as a natural resource inventory; special zoning districts to protect open space, drinking water and other natural resources; and hiring a natural resources officer.

The report also profiles Bedford, Beekman, Milan, Nassau, New Paltz and Woodstock.

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# The HIGHLANDS Current

## Ice Cream Passport





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THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT  
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

August 9, 2024  
Volume 12, Issue 32

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Cemeteries

We often walk in the Cold Spring Cemetery and I've wondered why it is so hesitant to allow bicycles ("Reporter's Notebook: In Praise of Cemeteries," Aug. 2). I assumed it was for liability reasons. The cemetery would make a great greenway connector from Nelsonville to Route 9D and Boscobel.

Also, in his list of notables buried at the Cold Spring Cemetery, Michael Turton forgot to mention William Van Alen (1883-1954), architect of the 1929 Art Deco-styled Chrysler Building in New York City, who is buried a short distance from the Roeblings, who oversaw the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*

Cellphones

Jonathan Haidt's research — specifically his latest book, *The Anxious Generation*, on how social media and smartphones, the loss of play and community and a culture of "safetyism" have proven detrimental to children's mental health — has been eye-opening. It is, I suspect, largely what drives these school phone bans ("Beacon Schools Dialing Up Cellphone Rules," Aug. 2).

While I support these bans, we need to educate children on how these technologies work, and how they can be leveraged for meaningful creation and communication, by establishing community spaces where they can gather, socialize and engage in cooperative activities. As columnist Stowe Boyd wrote in *The Current* in April, despite its 2023 Community Facility and Program Report citing the need for a new or expanded community center, the City of Beacon has taken no action.

At a City Council meeting on May 28, the mayor stated that, with budgeting and bonding, "one of the tactics is you take the

item that's a little bit more lower priority or optional and you just push it back some.... We actually did the same for the placeholder for the community center. You can't build a community center for \$5.2 million [right now]. The most you could do is improve what's at West Center Street. We still have it in our head what we can afford, but we just pushed it back, because we're not sure yet."

Derek Enos, *Beacon*

A parent at the July 22 Beacon school board meeting expressed concern that a ban on student cellphones would prevent her from getting in touch with her child in the event of "scary incidents" such as an intruder. But if a parent calls a child while an armed intruder is inside a school, the ringing phone could lead the attacker right to the child. Cellphones are no magic elixir for school emergencies. Districts have professionals who can best protect students.

John Burns, *Ellenville*

Pickleball

You're a good sport, Joey Asher ("Reporter's Notebook: Converting a Pickleball 'Snob,'" Aug. 2). I was in Avalon, New Jersey, last weekend, where they've replaced eight of 11 tennis courts with 24 pickleball courts. On Saturday morning at 8 a.m., there were well over 100 people of all ages playing in the advanced group. Only two of the remaining tennis courts were in use. It's a tsunami.

Bobby Clarke, *Hopewell Junction*

Aside from the injuries, pickleball is a good way to get cardio exercise. In addition, you meet nice people and have fun even if you're over 80 years old.

Gina Klein, *via Facebook*

Corn tips

The easiest way to cook corn on the cob is to cut off the husks about 1/2 inch from the bottom ("On the Spot," Aug. 2). Pour water on the exposed bottom and pop it into the microwave for 5 minutes, after which you can easily peel off the husks and silks to eat. If you cook more than two at a time, increase the cooking time by a minute for every additional piece of corn.

Katherine Gambino, *Fishkill*

Soak the cobs for 30 minutes with husks on, then grill. Or use a steam basket on the stove.

Brett Miller, *Beacon*

Leah Valentine

I love Leah's music — I always have ("Magic, Grief and Rhyme," Aug. 2). She's an amazing, intelligent songwriter who has always lit up the stage. If you haven't had the chance to see her, you should.

Jeff Battersby, *Beacon*

Arts grant

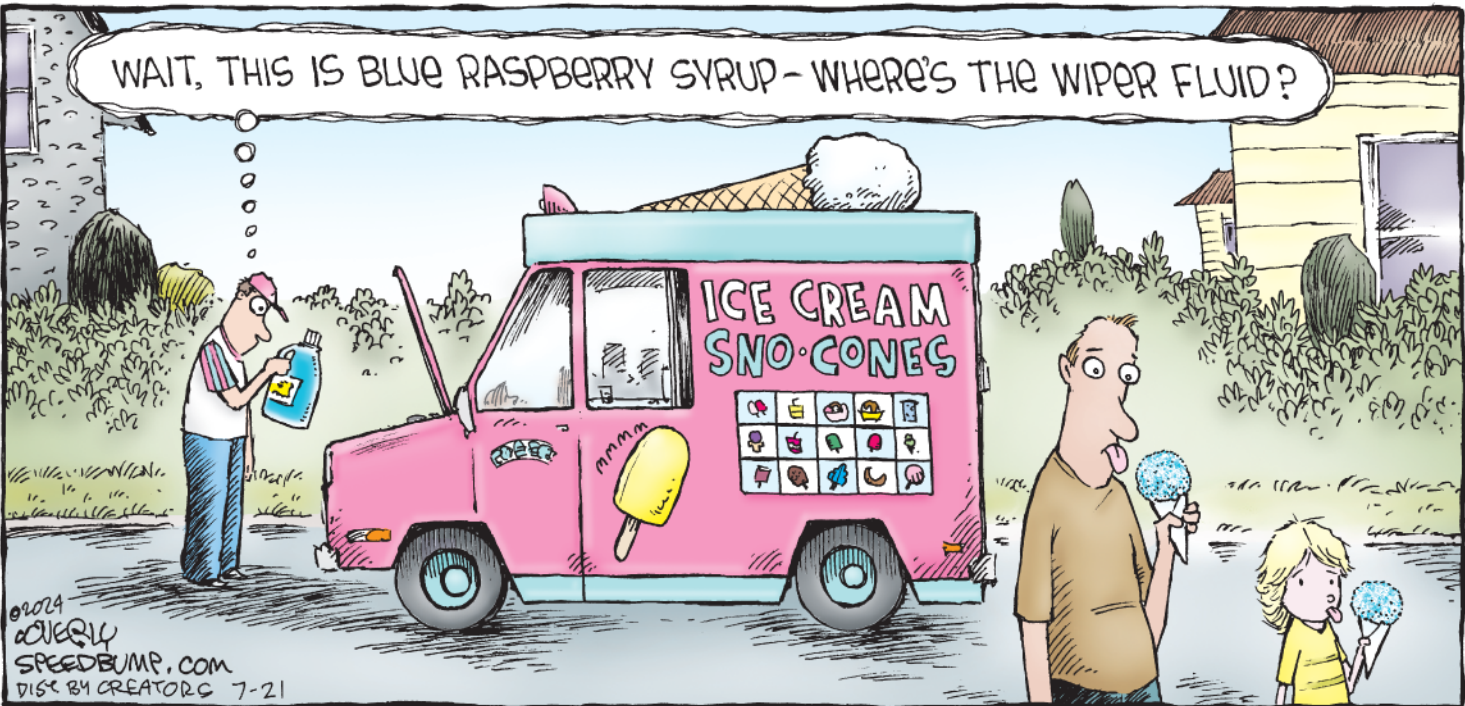
Our tax dollars should not be funding projects such as artist studios and galleries ("Beacon Project Awarded \$1 Million," Aug. 2).

Howie Dewitt, *via Facebook*

Closing time

State officials decided the fall foliage season was the most appropriate time to cut Route 9D to one lane — are they insane ("State Announces 9D Closure," Aug. 2)? When making these decisions, do they not have any advisers who are familiar with the local area?

Craig Barry, *via Facebook*







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# Central Hudson Seeks New Rate Hike

*Average monthly bill would rise \$9 a month*

By Leonard Sparks

**D**elivery costs for electricity and gas supplied by Central Hudson would each rise by \$9 a month next year under proposed rates that would follow increases approved last month by the state Public Service Commission.

In a filing with the PSC on Aug. 1, Central Hudson requested approval to raise delivery prices by 4.6 percent for electricity and 5.8 percent for gas. The higher rates would take effect on July 1 and hike the average bill for residential customers another \$9.19 for electricity and \$8.74 for gas.

Central Hudson would reap an additional \$62 million annually, which the company said it will spend to replace aging power lines and upgrade other electricity and gas infrastructure. The utility also said it would increase the capacity of its system by 449 megawatts (enough to power 75,000 homes) to accommodate solar systems, electric-vehicle chargers and heat pumps, and hire 24 employees to protect its infrastructure from cyberattacks.

The company's proposal would follow

increases the PSC approved on July 18, for the rate year ending June 30, that raised the average monthly bill by \$12.65 for electricity and \$12.25 for gas.

The increases approved last month were reduced from Central Hudson's original request, which would have resulted in an average monthly increase of \$30 for its customers, which include 6,800 households and businesses in Beacon and 5,200 in Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Philipstown and Kent.

Even the higher rates being charged now are "insufficient to sustain its financial integrity" while upgrading infrastructure, the company said in its latest filing.

State Sen. Rob Rolison, a Republican whose district includes Beacon and Philipstown, and Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, both criticized Central Hudson's latest request. Jacobson called the proposal "outrageous" and predicted it would lead to "reform legislation" from the state Legislature. "This new increase request shows once again that Central Hudson is out of touch with its customers," he said in a statement.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.



The items outlined in white would be removed as part of the project.

## State Funds Culvert Repair Sends \$200K to Hoving Home

**T**he state Department of Environmental Conservation announced on Aug. 2 that it will provide \$200,000 for a \$1.3 million project to remove a flood-prone culvert that runs across the Hoving Home property along Snake Hill Road in Philipstown.

As part of the project, three weirs and a masonry-and-concrete dam that inhibits trout and eels will be removed and Philips Brook restored, said Beth Greco, president and CEO of the Hoving Home, a residential Christian program for women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Stone walls along the culvert and two masonry footbridges — all of which were damaged by storms in 2011 — will also be removed, she said. Construction should begin in 2025.

The Hoving Home is raising funds for



A view of the culvert looking east from Avery Road

Photo provided

the project. Donate by sending a check to P.O. Box 194, Garrison, NY 10524 or at [hovinghome.org](https://hovinghome.org) and note that the funds are for the stream restoration project.

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# A Business Fair with a Twist

*This one is for kids and teens*

By Michael Turton

**J**ulie Arora is encouraging children to go into business, but not after earning a master's degree in finance. She wants them to hang out their shingles now.

The Garrison resident is organizing the

area's first Children's Business Fair, to be held on the St Mary's Church lawn in Cold Spring on Aug. 17 from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Philipstown children between the ages of 6 and 14 are invited to set up a table to promote their goods and services.

Arora said she organized the fair after realizing that financial literacy is typically not part of school curriculums. She discov-

ered a model for children's business fairs developed by a Texas firm, Acton Academy.

Thirteen entrepreneurs have already registered, she said. "One is service-based but most offer products they make and sell," Arora said. "We have a kid who will clean your screens and earbuds, a jewelry maker, a dog biscuit maker and one who has grown flowers and is selling bouquets."

"After the fair, participants can join the Young Entrepreneurs Club," Arora said. "We'll help kids understand profits and

costs and debrief their selling experiences," while enabling them to connect with other young operators.

Arora said members of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce are also lending their expertise, helping her think about follow-up events.

Booth spaces for the fair are \$15, or \$25 with a table and chair provided. Register at [childrensbusinessfair.org/garrison-ny](http://childrensbusinessfair.org/garrison-ny).

## Farm Rules *(from Page 1)*

farmland. The benefits to farmers include being exempt from "unreasonable" local laws that might restrict operations.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the nine-member Legislature, joined four colleagues on Tuesday (Aug. 6) in voting to table a Physical Services Committee resolution that would have rejected George Whipple's application to add Castle Rock and three other Philipstown properties to the district.

"There was a lengthy process that our expert volunteer board invested a lot of time and effort in. This was a democratic process that was fair."

~ Nancy Montgomery  
*Putnam Legislator*

The Putnam Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board earlier had voted 9-2 to allow the designation. The Legislature's vote also affected four other operations approved by the board: Big Red Barn Farm in Putnam Valley and Cascade Enterprises in Carmel, which board horses; and Lobster Hill Farm in Southeast and Ridge Ranch in Patterson, which breed livestock.

"There was a lengthy process that our expert volunteer board invested a lot of time and effort in," said Montgomery. "This was a democratic process that was fair."

Despite the farmland board's support, one

of its members, Neal Tomann, told the Physical Services Committee last month that the applicants failed to meet one or more of eight factors that the county determined in 2007 "shall be considered" for inclusion.

Those factors include an on-site assessment by the board, the absence of local, state or federal violations and adherence to best practices. Tomann said that none of the properties met another factor, despite not growing crops — that each must contain at least 50 percent of "prime farmland and/or statewide important soils" in one of the first six of the state's 10 classifications for soils.

Montgomery was among several legislators who asked Tomann why the Legislature should reject applications supported by the farmland board.

"It's the threshold question for anything: Do you have 50 percent of what are considered farm-grade soils?" said Tomann, who is a member of the Philipstown Planning Board and interim manager of the county's Soil & Water Conservation District.

During a public hearing that preceded Tuesday's full Legislature meeting, Jocelyn Apicello, a Philipstown farmer and chair of the farmland board, described its process. In addition, the owners of Lobster Hill Farm and supporters of the Big Red Barn Farm defended their eligibility.

Apicello noted that the county application to be included in the agricultural district does not mention soil types as an eligibility criteria, and that the 2007 resolution only directed that the board "consider" the eight factors.

In her five years on the board, Apicello said it has never denied an applicant based solely on soil type when applying Putnam's eight criteria. "We did not feel as an ag

board that one out of the eight was enough to deny all of the applicants," she said.

Whipple, whose family owns Pine View Farm in Carmel, said he plans to raise Highland cattle in Philipstown. Jessica and Andrew Jarrett raise chickens, hogs and goats at Lobster Hill Farm in Brewster.

Jessica Jarrett said the farm began as a hobby but when the pandemic hit, demand exploded for her chickens and eggs. Her family bought a larger property, and the demand continues to expand, she told the Legislature on Tuesday.

Lobster Hill would benefit from agricultural district protections from some of the Town of Southeast's zoning rules, including one that requires a minimum of 5 acres for each rooster and a limit of two birds, said Jarrett. "I have 75 acres and a flock of 200 hens," she said. "Two roosters cannot protect 200 hens."

Both Greg Ellner, who chairs the Physi-

cal Services Committee, and Paul Jonke, who chairs the Legislature, said the county's guidelines gave them no choice but to vote against the applicants.

Both also said they support revisiting the 2007 resolution. "One thing that I will absolutely do going forward is review this resolution in the future to see if it needs to be modified, but today my hands are tied," said Ellner.

The farmland board consists of six farmers and representatives from the Legislature; the Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation; Real Property Tax Services Agency; Soil and Water Conservation District; and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County.

An Agricultural District designation is separate from the agricultural assessments that lower taxes for farmland, and exclusion from the voluntary program does not affect a farmer's ability to operate.



## CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

### AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 8

*The Hudson Valley's premier chamber music event*

**FIVE PERFORMANCES | FAMILY CONCERT**

**STRADIVARIUS PRESENTATION**



**CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY**  
*at Polo Beach*

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121 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING NY

## RON ANDERSON

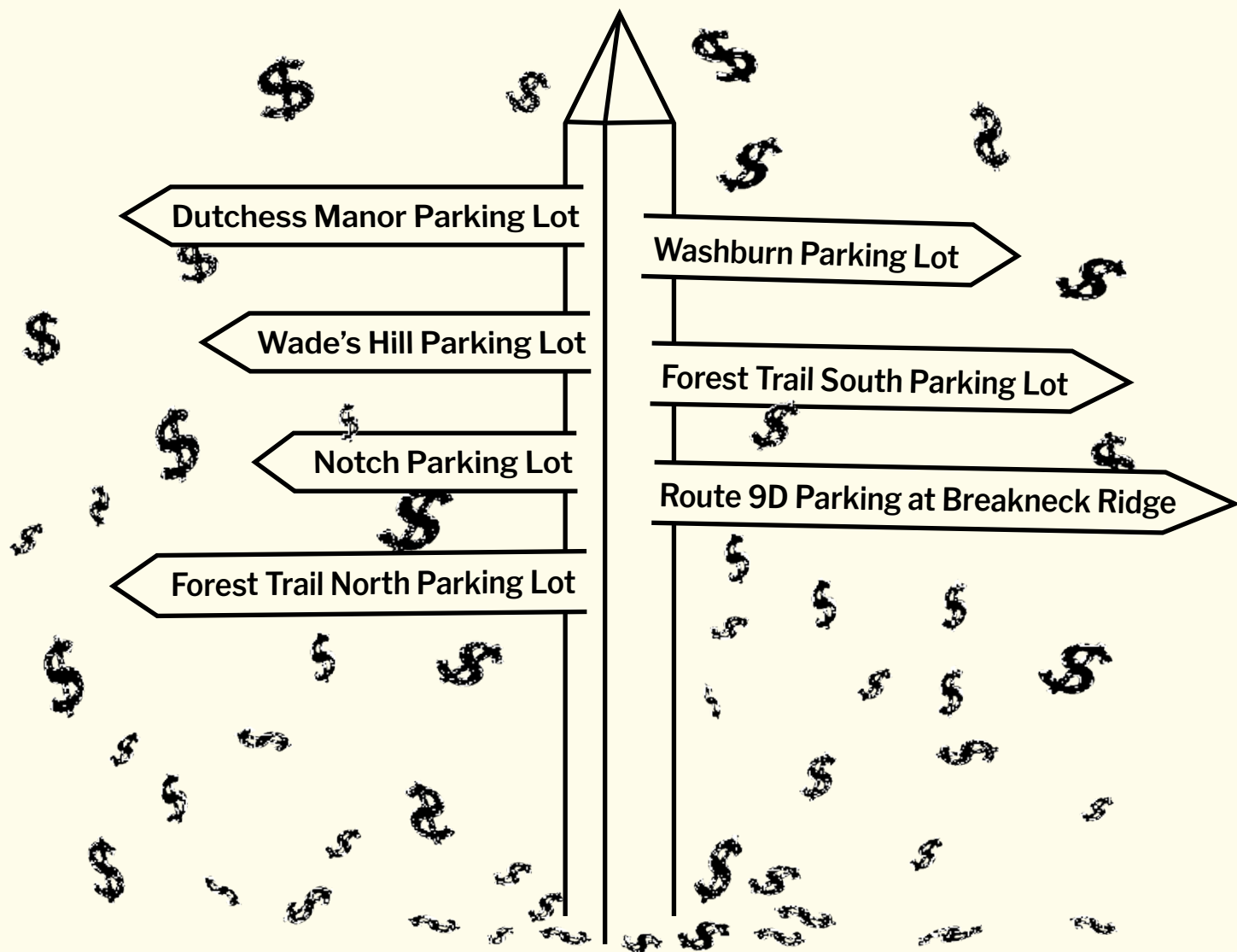
*Recent Work*

August 9 to Sept. 1, 2024

Opening Reception:  
Friday, August 9, 5pm to 8pm

**GALLERY HOURS: Sat. & Sun. 12:00pm - 5:00pm**

# The Fjord Trail’s plan for 7 paid parking lots totaling up to 654 spaces along Route 9D gives new meaning to the phrase “pay to play.”



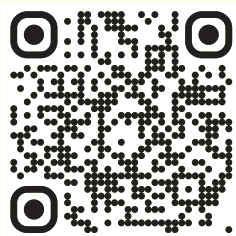
On July 9, HHFT disclosed a new parking plan for the Fjord Trail.\* Currently, there are 234 free parking spaces within Hudson Highlands State Park along Route 9D. HHFT wants to convert all free parking to paid parking and expand the total number of parking spaces to up to 654 spaces – 179% more than current capacity. HHFT is also planning to make use

of 350 planned new parking spaces at Boscobel and, on weekends, the Metro-North parking lots at Cold Spring (224 spaces) and Beacon (1,470 spaces) – with all lots connected by shuttle buses. HHFT’s plans for paid parking at priority lots will limit access to only those who can afford it and draw more traffic into congested residential areas.

## A generation from now, let’s not look back and ask why we paved over paradise in 2024.



ProtectTheHighlands.org



\* HHFT, "Request for Proposals: Parking Lot and Shuttle Bus Operation," 7/9/24.



# Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ The Cold Spring Village Board, at its Wednesday (Aug. 7) meeting, discussed the next steps to implementing a 5 percent occupancy tax. The board will likely set the date for a public hearing at its Aug. 14 meeting. Initially, the tax will apply only to hotels and bed-and-breakfast operations such as the Hudson House River Inn and Pig Hill Inn. Mayor Kathleen Foley said the village clerk has been communicating with proprietors. “They know it’s coming,” she said. “We’d like to get it on the books and rolling in September.” Short-term rentals, such as those booked through Airbnb and VRBO, which are far greater in number, will not be affected yet, Foley said. “That’s a larger pool, and we need to have systems in place for that,” she said.

■ The village plans to install security cameras at the pedestrian tunnel and riverfront bandstand to deter vandals. The cameras will be purchased with a \$55,000 grant from the federal Department of Justice that earlier paid for cameras at the entrance to Village Hall and in the courtroom. The tunnel and bandstand cameras are expected to cost \$15,000; the village will pay a maximum of \$17,948 for labor and installation.

■ As part of her update on repairs funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the wake of severe storms in July 2023, Foley said that the village is awaiting cost estimates for floodgates for the pedestrian tunnel. She said older villagers have noted that the tunnel in the past was equipped with doors. “There is hardware there, so at some point there were doors,” Foley said. “I don’t know why they were taken off.” A status report on FEMA-funded projects is available at [coldspringny.gov](https://coldspringny.gov).

■ The board approved the purchase of an electric Ford Lightning F-150 pickup at a cost of \$46,876, which was the low bid from Ed Shults Ford. Foley said the dealer honored the price originally quoted for a 2023 model. The truck, which will be used by the water and wastewater department, is the village’s first purchase using funds from a \$100,000 grant it received from the NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities Program.

■ Discussion continued with a Netflix location scout about filming in the village on Labor Day weekend and the following weekend as part of the *Knives Out* movie series. The first weekend will involve footage shot with drones; the second weekend could include brief traffic disruptions on Main Street.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

## Schumer *(from Page 1)*

at Boscobel, the festival’s former home, to promote the Save Our Stages Act, which provided funding during the pandemic to arts institutions that had to temporarily close. Davis McCallum, HVSF’s artistic director, credited the legislation with saving the festival.

The federal funding for HVSF will come from the fiscal year 2025 appropriations for the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, which also pays for development in rural communities. Schumer said that the bill already has enough bipartisan support to pass the Senate and is scheduled for a vote before the end of the year. He said that, although the bill is facing some opposition from “some intransigent folks over the Republican House side,” as majority leader, “I’ve always been able to get the budget through. And they can’t touch our earmarks.” (See sidebar.)

McCallum said that a groundbreaking ceremony for the theater, which received final approval from the Philipstown Planning Board on July 18, will take place next month, at which point HVSF will announce how much funding it needs to complete the project.

Schumer noted that for decades, New

## When is an Earmark Not an Earmark?

Technically, the \$1.5 million in federal funding for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will be included in a 2025 appropriations bill as “congressionally directed spending.” Colloquially, it’s known as an “earmark,” although as Sen. Chuck Schumer said this week, that word doesn’t quite mean what it used to.

“Earmarks were actually good until they were abused,” he said. In the past, they allowed members of Congress to direct federal spending to projects in their districts that they were familiar with. “I know what Putnam County needs more than some bureaucrat in Washington,” Schumer said. “I’ve been here.”

But the process was also secretive. “You didn’t know who was asking for what,

and many of them were going to for-profit groups,” said Schumer. Things came to a head with the infamous Bridge to Nowhere, a \$223 million structure proposed in 2005 to connect Gravina Island, which had about 50 residents, to Alaska. [That would be \$375 million today.] Although the project received an earmark, “they couldn’t tell us who put it in the budget,” said Schumer. The bridge quickly became a symbol of wasteful spending in Washington.

The earmark for the bridge was canceled, followed by the earmark program itself. “But then we all realized that we needed them,” Schumer said. “So we reformed them. Now they’re all public. They have to have a hearing. You have to stand up and say, ‘This is my earmark, and I’m proud to do it.’ It can’t go to anything for-profit. So now it works. [The HVSF theater] is one of many examples. I get more earmarks than anybody, and the whole state benefits.”

York has been what the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan referred to as a “donor state,” contributing more to the federal government than it received in return. “For

the last two years, we’ve actually gotten back more money than we sent,” he said. “It’s good to have the majority leader come from New York.”

## Main Street *(from Page 1)*

Sweet Harvest Cafe in Cold Spring, Hudson River Healing and Wellness in Nelsonville and Beacon D’Lites in Beacon. Sweet-Flagler said she is shooting for a Labor Day opening.

In addition to a counter and kitchen, a small seating area will be installed in the front of the space and outdoors in a yard between 72 and 76 Main, said Tormey, noting that the building once was home to a butcher and deli. “We are taking what was Kismet back to its roots,” he said.

Other proposed and approved projects include:

### 40 Main St.

Josiah Garetson has applied to open Foundry Fitness, an unstaffed gym with free weights and other equipment that members can access using a code or key card between 5 a.m. and midnight.

Access would be limited to three members at a time, with slots reserved via an app. Safety features would include surveillance cameras, panic buttons, defibrillators and first-aid kits.

“The idea is to create the ultimate home gym, high-intensity workout space,” Garetson told the Planning Board on June 13.

Unstaffed gyms have opened elsewhere, but some Planning Board members expressed concern about the lack of on-site staff and the ability of first responders to gain access during emergencies.

“If someone is having a heart attack, what are you going to do?” asked Ben Cheah, a board member. “If there’s physical violence between two of your members, what are you going to do about it?”

The Planning Board continued its review on June 27 and scheduled a public hearing for July 25 that was later canceled.



The Planning and Historic District Review boards approved an application to renovate 133-135 Main St. Photo by L. Sparks

### 133-135 Main St.

The building’s ground floor is divided into a commercial space and a single-family residence that includes the second floor. The Planning Board voted June 13 to approve

an application from Matthew Beachak to convert the first floor of the residence to a commercial space and the second-floor residential space into two apartments with access from new stairs and a rear deck.

Beachak also would like to replace the brick stoop and wood porch with a single covered wood porch, extend part of the rear of the building to match previous additions and possibly install solar panels.

The Historic District Review Board approved the project on July 2 following a public hearing. Beachak said on Tuesday (Aug. 6) that work will likely begin next summer.

### 143-145 Main St.

Yan Min Cao of the Good Life Wellness Spa applied on July 23 to change the second floor from offices to a spa offering acupuncture, foot reflexology, skin treatments, massage and facials. The board has not met since the submission.



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **GREEN EDUCATOR** — Rachel Arbor, the coordinator of environmental education at the Garrison School, on Aug. 1 was one of nine teachers from around the country to receive a Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators from the Environmental Protection Agency. She is shown in Washington, D.C., with Mark Rupp, an EPA administrator, and Brenda Mallory, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. “If a teacher’s role is to prepare students for the real world, shouldn’t we be helping them solve the climate crisis together?” Arbor said.



◀ **TOP TREES** — Cold Spring residents submitted 19 nominations for the Tree Advisory Board’s annual “grand tree” contest, with the American sycamore on Marion Avenue behind the home of Joe and Kathy Curto taking top honors. Linda and Roger Hoffmann, shown here, received an honorable mention for their European beech on Main Street. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).



◀ **NEW GARDEN** — The Green Teen programs of Beacon and Poughkeepsie last month held a ribbon-cutting for their 4,000-square-foot community garden at Dutchess Community College. More than 130 pounds of lettuce, yellow squash and green squash have been harvested and donated to the DCC food pantry. Shown are Matt Shayley, Lily Bartlett, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers, Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess Executive Director Mary Lou Carolan and Green Teen Program Manager Samantha Brittain.

Photos provided

The HIGHLANDS

Current

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GROWTH DIRECTOR

*The Highlands Current* is investing in its revenue operation, and we are looking for a Growth Director.

We look to hire a digitally savvy, highly motivated revenue executive to focus on building advertising across all platforms and expanding our membership roster. The Growth Director will be responsible for developing and managing a sales pipeline and building new business relationships with local advertisers throughout the Highlands, as well as regional advertisers looking to reach the desirable readership of *The Highlands Current*.

In this role, the Growth Director will be supported by the Advertising Director (handling logistics and administration), as well as the Membership Manager (handling member support systems and campaign administration). The Growth Director will work with advertisers to promote compelling solutions that best fit their marketing needs, and with members to engage them in long-term relationships as supporters of our journalism.

The Growth Director will work approximately 4 days a week or equivalent hours.

For details, see  
[highlandscurrent.org/current-jobs](http://highlandscurrent.org/current-jobs).

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Aug 10 — Sep 8, 2024  
2nd Sat. Reception 5-7pm

Artist Talk Saturday, Aug 17th, 3:00pm

162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068

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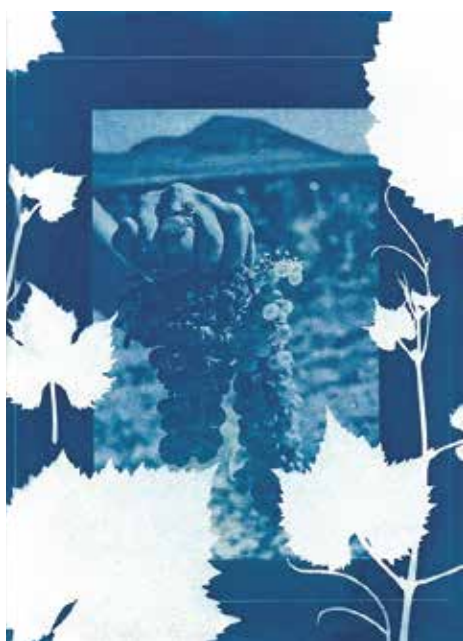




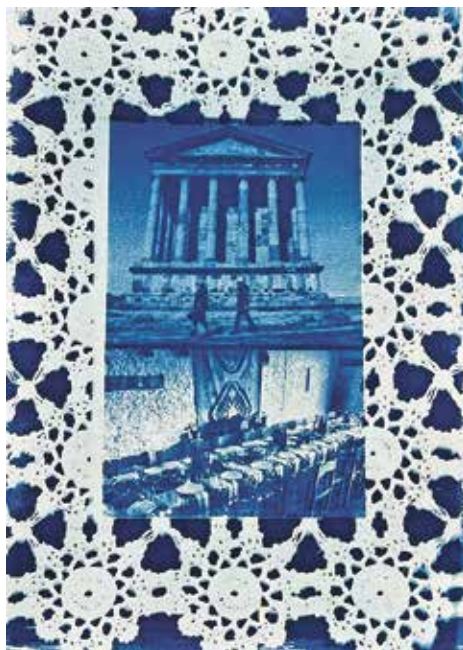
"Noor"



"They'll Say We Were Never Here"



"Ararat Valley"



"AnoushElla (May it be sweet)"

## The Calendar

# INTO the LIGHT

Beacon cyanotype artist has first solo show

By Marc Ferris

Although Kohar Minassian studied film and digital media in college, she is familiar with old-school darkrooms. But like people who take their workouts outside, Minassian stepped into the light and began making cyanotypes, a medium that dates to the 1840s and uses the sun to burn images onto fabric or high-grade paper.

"It's part magic, part science, part alchemy," explains Minassian, a Beacon resident since 2022 via Brooklyn. "I didn't love working in the dark or with such creative rigidity, so this is my simple response."

Her first solo show, *Solastagia*, opens with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday (Aug. 10) at the Beacon gallery of the collective Super Secret Projects, where she is a member.

Cyanotypes rely on a somewhat repetitious color span similar to the restrictive palette of black-and-white photography. Yet there is considerable room for creativity.

The process begins when Minassian mixes two chemicals together and paints the brew onto fabric or high-quality paper, causing it to become light-sensitive. Everything is measured carefully, down to the PH level of the water used to rinse off the abrasive substances.

Cyanotypes incorporate elements of collage and photography. A simple print might feature a deep blue background

created by the chemical reaction accented by the white outline of a leaf, flower or other object.

One of Minassian's pieces, "Knots from the Old Country," features a strip of lace passed down through her Armenian family. The image resembles wheels with elaborate spokes. Another print incorporates star-shaped pasta.

"It's like a 3-D X-ray," she says. "I coat the paper, let it dry and place anything that casts a shadow or blocks the light on top. Then I lay a sheet of glass over it to make sure things are level."

In more complicated works, such as "Gridlock," Minassian adjusts analog images and photos digitally to create dense, high-contrast negatives on transparency film. "Gridlock" is composed with a dozen squares filled mostly with photos and patterns overlaid with the outlines of seven flowers, including a dying dandelion.

In her backyard, Minassian also lays out 8-foot-high, see-through screens made from nylon blend fabric, where the patterns are much more subtle. If the sun is beaming, it takes a few seconds to etch an image. Other times, the exposure can last for days.

There's a lot of trial and error. Sometimes she will create a test strip by exposing a sheet of cyanotype paper in precisely timed one-minute intervals, but usually, she says, she can "eyeball it by the color of the paper."

Minassian put her art degree to practical use and documented Sen. Elizabeth Warren's 2019 presidential run. "It was like touring with a rock band — a different hotel and city every night," she says. After working with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Minassian is now a multimedia producer for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The show's title, *Solastagia*, refers to climate anxiety. Minassian says her Armenian heritage helped fuel a progressive political bent. The ancient country enjoyed two



Kohar Minassian

Photo provided

golden ages, the most recent ending in 1045.

For centuries it suffered under Persian and Turkish rule, culminating in a 1915 massacre by the Turks that led Minassian's ancestors to relocate to northern California. As Turkey's power waned, the Soviet Union moved in. Today, less than three million people remain in the homeland and at least as many live abroad.

In the 1990s, after the Soviet order crumbled, Armenia and Azerbaijan battled over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. Armed conflict erupted again in 2020 and 2023.

One of Minassian's prints, "White Phosphorus," depicts the ninth-century Tatev Monastery with what looks like fireworks exploding in a dark sky (due to a double exposure). But the bombs bursting in air, created with flowers, represent the type of munitions dropped by Azerbaijan, she says.

Ironically, her 1950s home in Beacon contains a bomb shelter in the basement, which she turned into a studio.

*Super Secret Projects, at 484 Main St. in Beacon, in the rear of Hyperbole, is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. See [supersecretprojects.com](https://supersecretprojects.com). All proceeds from Solastagia will be directed to Armenian and Palestinian aid organizations.*

"It's part magic, part science, part alchemy. I didn't love working in the dark or with such creative rigidity, so this is my simple response."

—Kohar Minassian



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 10

### Modern Makers Market

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | [hopsonthehudson.com](https://hopsonthehudson.com)

More than 50 makers and artists will be selling their creations, including woodworkers, potters, candlemakers, jewelers and glassmakers. Rain or shine.

SUN 11

### Corn Festival

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park  
[beaconsloopclub.org](https://beaconsloopclub.org)

Celebrate the harvest with sweet corn, lemonade and hot dogs. There will be live music, children's activities and sails on the Woody Guthrie.

SAT 17

### Phoenicia Flea

PHILIPSTOWN

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Parcel Flower Co.  
3052 Route 9 | [theparcelflower.co](https://theparcelflower.co)

Hudson Valley makers and merchants will showcase their goods. Also SUN 18.

SAT 17

### Brew, BBQ and Seafood Festival

POUGHKEEPSIE

1 – 8 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
[midhudsonciviccenter.org](https://midhudsonciviccenter.org)

More than 80 brewers and beverage makers will attend, along with pitmasters and seafood specialists. *Cost: \$12 (ages 12 and younger free)*

SAT 17

### Butterflies & Blooms Festival

WAPPINGERS FALLS

4 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane  
[stonykill.org](https://stonykill.org)

Take a ride in the butterfly wagon, do crafts, play games and enjoy the Big Band Sound starting at 5:30 p.m. *Free*

## SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10

### Pink and Blue Art Show

BEACON

1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](https://howlandculturalcenter.org)

The exhibit celebrates the environmental movement in the Hudson Valley and around the world with photography by Ross Corsair, Zinnia Gutowski, Jim Richards, Ian Hutton, Mene Liondos and Alfons Rodriguez, and paintings by Selva Ozelli, Semine Hazar, Fatma Kadir, Ilhan Sayin and Mehmet Kuran. Through Sept. 29.

SAT 10

### Alec Halstead

BEACON

4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery  
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346  
[bannermancastle.org](https://bannermancastle.org)

The Navy and Air Force veteran will share his photos of the Hudson Valley and New York City. Through Sept. 8.

SAT 10

### Betso | Snack Rabbit

BEACON

5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery  
139 Main St. | [clutter.co](https://clutter.co)

There will be figures and multiples from the artists. Through Sept. 6.

SAT 10

### The Alchemy of Water

BEACON

5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St.  
[hudsonbeachglassshop.com](https://hudsonbeachglassshop.com)

Ronnie Farley's photos will be on view through Sept. 2. The photographer will talk about her work at 3 p.m. on SAT 17.

SAT 10

### Solastagia

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects  
484 Main St. | [supersecretprojects.com](https://supersecretprojects.com)  
Kohar Minassian's images created with sunlight and without a camera explore anxiety about the environment and homesickness. See Page 11. Through Sept. 8.

SAT 10

### The Shape of Things

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | [baugallery.org](https://baugallery.org)  
Mikiko Ino curated this juried show; the winners will be awarded exhibitions in 2025. Through Sept. 8.

SAT 10

### Memor

BEACON

7 – 9:30 p.m. Distortion Society  
155 Main St. | [distortionsociety.com](https://distortionsociety.com)

Frances Segismundo's abstract paintings seem to be composed as aerial photographs and explore her emotions through observations of the natural world. Through Oct. 5.

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 10

### Summer Reading Finale

GARRISON

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

Enjoy Homestyle ice cream and meet animals from the Two by Two Animal Haven.

SUN 11

### Pinot & Augustine

BEACON

3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](https://howlandculturalcenter.org)

The Happenstance Theater performers will present a circus-inspired show with physical comedy and music. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door, ages 12 and younger free)*



WED 14

### What's the Buzz?

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | [stonykill.org](https://stonykill.org)

Children can learn about honeybees while making a craft and playing games. *Cost: \$5*

THURS 15

### Candy Salad

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](https://beaconlibrary.org)

Students in grades 5 to 12 can create a treat. Registration required.

FRI 16

### End of Summer Ice Cream Social

BEACON

3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](https://beaconlibrary.org)

Children ages 2 to 12 are invited to use kitchen chemistry to make a treat. Registration required.

SAT 17

### Children's Business Fair

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. St. Mary's Lawn  
1 Chestnut St.  
[childrensbusinessfair.org/garrison-ny](https://childrensbusinessfair.org/garrison-ny)

Young entrepreneurs will showcase their skills and products. See Page 7.

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 10

### By the Queen

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m.  
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival  
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575  
[hvshakespeare.org](https://hvshakespeare.org)

Shakespeare's story of the War of the Roses is retold through the perspective of Queen Margaret. Also FRI 16, SUN 18. Through Aug. 31. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

SAT 10

### Unforgiven

COLD SPRING

8:30 p.m. Dockside Park  
[coldspringfilm.org](https://coldspringfilm.org)

The Cold Spring Film Society will screen the 1992 film starring Clint Eastwood as a retired gunslinger who takes one last job. Bring chairs, blankets and insect repellent. Concessions will be available.

SUN 11

### Medea: Re-Versed

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m.  
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival  
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575  
[hvshakespeare.org](https://hvshakespeare.org)

This is a hip-hop version of Euripides's play with Sarin Monae West in the lead. Also WED 14, SAT 17. Through Sept. 2. See Page 16. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

MON 12

### The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m.  
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival  
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575  
[hvshakespeare.org](https://hvshakespeare.org)

This adaptation of an Agatha Christie novel features Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson in lead roles. Also THURS 15. Through Sept. 1. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

FRI 16

### Dungeons and Dragons, Honor Among Thieves

BEACON

6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](https://bannermancastle.org)

Visit Bannerman Island to see the 2023 film about trying to recover a lost relic starring Chris Pine and Michelle Rodriguez. *Cost: \$40*

SAT 17

### Cinema in Piazza

PHILIPSTOWN

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

This outdoor screening of biographical documentaries will include *ABOrismi*, *Aldo Rossi Design* and *Mimmo Paladino*. On SUN 18, the program will include Renzo Piano Building Workshop and Ettore Spalletti. *Cost: \$15 (\$40 includes barbecue)*

## TALKS & TOURS

SUN 11

### Grant Peeples

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](https://tompkinscorners.org)

The poet and singer-songwriter will read from his work, followed by a poetry open mic. *Cost: \$10*

WED 14

### Chair Yoga and Mindfulness

BEACON

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

All levels of experience are welcome.

THURS 15

### Bad Art Night

BEACON

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

Adults are welcome to be creative without pressure.

SAT 17

### Currents in the Electric City

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | [stanzabooks.com](https://stanzabooks.com)

Andrea Jade Talarico,

Joe Kraus, Mandy Pennington, Dawn Leas and Bryan and Daryl Fanelli will read their poems that appear in an anthology about Scranton, Pennsylvania.



SUN 18

### The Brainchild of Harvey Eastman

POUGHKEEPSIE

2:30 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson  
61 Parker Ave. | [walkway.org](https://walkway.org)

Learn about the mayor who envisioned the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge built in the late-19th century.

## NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 10

### Live Reporting from the Cicada Underworld

BEACON

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

David Rothenberg, a musician and writer, and Edwin Torres, a poet, will share their experience of the convergence of the 17- and 13-year cicada broods, which happens every 221 years.

SAT 10

### Evening Moth Walk

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | [stonykill.org](https://stonykill.org)

Bring a flashlight for an after-hours guided walk. *Cost: \$5*

TUES 13

### Monarch Migration

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane  
[stonykill.org](https://stonykill.org)

Learn about the endangered butterfly's eggs, larvae and habits while collecting data. *Cost: \$5*

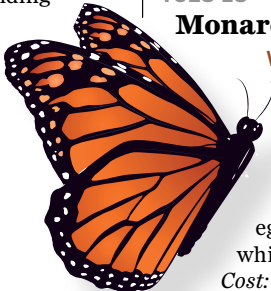
FRI 16

### Perennial Planting for Pollinators

WAPPINGERS FALLS

6:30 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | [stonykill.org](https://stonykill.org)

Help create a pollinator planting strip while learning about the plants and take some home. *Cost: \$25*





**SAT 17**  
**Guided Hike**  
**GARRISON**  
9:30 a.m. Arden Point  
96 Lower Station Road  
[cceputnamcounty.org](http://cceputnamcounty.org)  
Master Gardeners will lead a 2.5-mile easy hike that will include part of Benedict Arnold's path and river views. *Cost: \$10*

MUSIC

**SAT 10**  
**Concert Band**  
**WEST POINT**  
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point  
[westpointband.com](http://westpointband.com)  
The program will include music from *West Side Story* and Franz von Suppé's *Summer Night's Dream*. *Free*

**SAT 10**  
**Rael**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)  
The tribute band will play the early hits of Genesis and Peter Gabriel. *Cost: \$39 to \$54*

**SAT 10**  
**Christine Lavin**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
Lavin will play music from her 25th solo album, *On My Way to Hooterville*, and be joined by Buskin

& Batteau and John Forster. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



**MON 12**  
**The Triadics**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Quinn's  
330 Main St. | [quinnsinbeacon.com](http://quinnsinbeacon.com)  
Jesse Stacken (piano), Jeff Koch (bass) and Dave Tedeschi (drums) will play original music and covers.

**THURS 15**  
**Songwriting with Soldiers**  
**GARRISON**  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)  
Maia Sharp, Erin Enderlin, Terry Radigan and Jay Clementi will perform songs written by and with veterans. See Page 14. *Cost: \$40*

**FRI 16**  
**James Maddock**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
Maddock will play music from his latest release, *Night Work*, and

other songs from his decades-long career. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

**SAT 17**  
**A Celt in the Cotton Club**  
**BEACON**  
6 & 7 p.m. Boats leave dock  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org)  
Tara O'Grady and Karl Scully will perform a Celtic jazz concert on Bannerman Island. *Cost: \$65*

**SAT 17**  
**Doansburg Chamber Ensemble**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167  
[doansburgchamberensemble.org](http://doansburgchamberensemble.org)  
The string trio and flute ensemble's program will include works by Giardini, Lessel, Ben-Haim and Mercadante.

**SAT 17**  
**Benny Havens Band**  
**WEST POINT**  
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point  
[westpointband.com](http://westpointband.com)  
The program, *Dancing Under the Stars*, will get everyone moving.

**SAT 17**  
**Manticore**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The tribute band plays the music of Emerson, Lake and Palmer. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



Duo Calisto, Aug. 18

**SUN 18**  
**Emily Beck**  
**BEACON**  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bannerman Island  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org)  
Take a self-guided tour of the island and enjoy the Third Sunday Concert. *Cost: \$45 (\$35 ages 11 and younger)*

**SUN 18**  
**Duo Calisto**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)  
Soprano Danielle Buonaiuto will perform with cellist Jules Biber.

The program includes works by Debussy, Pauline Oliveros and Jessie Montgomery. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SUN 18**  
**North County Band**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The band will play music from its latest release, *Lay It on the Line*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

CIVIC

**MON 12**  
**Dutchess Legislature**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers  
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100  
[dutchessny.gov](http://dutchessny.gov)

**WED 14**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)

**WED 14**  
**School Board**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Garrison School  
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3689  
[gufs.org](http://gufs.org)

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# Songs by Soldiers

*Writers join with veterans to make music*

By Michael Turton

“Music frees your soul from the dungeon of your mind,” wrote author Wiss Auguste, who often addresses the human condition. Military veterans who’ve experienced SongwritingWith:Soldiers (SW:S) are evidence he is right.

The Nashville-based nonprofit, established in 2012, pairs veterans with professional songwriters at weekend retreats across the country. Together, they write songs that capture the veterans’ stories about war and its psychological toll.

SW:S is coming to the Highlands this week for the first time. A fundraiser concert on Thursday (Aug. 15) at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Garrison’s Landing will feature Maia Sharp, Erin Enderlin, Terry Radigan and Jay Clementi, each of whom has written songs with veterans. That will be followed by a retreat at Glynwood on Aug. 16 to 18 for female veterans from Beacon, Cornwall and other parts of New York.

Veterans often return home facing a range of problems, from physical disabilities, mental health issues and substance abuse, to

homelessness, unemployment and isolation. One national study calculated that nearly 9,000 veterans die annually by suicide and another 7,300 from drug overdoses.

The songs that emerge from SW:S help people understand veterans’ stories, and the songwriting process helps veterans heal and reconnect to their communities. A 2019 Harvard Medical School Study found SW:S collaborative songwriting significantly decreased symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression.

Josh Geartz, a former U.S. Army sergeant who once attempted suicide, co-wrote “Still on the Ride” with Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Mary Gauthier. “A lot of vets lose the ability to connect with anything, let alone people,” he says, noting that he told Gauthier things he didn’t tell his wife or therapist. “I told her all the stuff I was afraid of. She looked over at me, smiled, and said, ‘I’m really glad you’re still here.’ Something switched my brain from being hyper-focused on negativity to positivity.”

Veteran Joe Austin co-wrote “Start Over” with Steve Everett. “We come back a little jaded and hard, not able to express our emotions, full of anger and we don’t know why,” he says. “SW:S lets you know you can express yourself creatively, openly, and that the kid you used to be is still in there.”



Erin Enderlin



Jay Clementi



Terry Radigan

Austin said he was surprised his songs were so widely accepted by civilians. “I didn’t expect that,” he says. “The feedback I got filled me up.”

Christine Rem, who served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in Iraq, co-wrote “Eyes of the Deer” with Maia Sharp in 2017, a decade after her deployment. “It takes a few years before you’re ready to think about that time and how it affects you,” she says. “You may not feel there’s a song in you, but they pull it out of you somehow or other.”

Being at a retreat with other veterans, even when their ages varied greatly, was moving, she said. “We have so much in common; we saw dark things in our hearts through the same eyes,” Rem said.

Pepper Evans, who lives in Philipstown, joined the SW:S board this year and helped coordinate the local concert and retreat. “Music reaches people on an intuitive, emotional level that goes beyond word or thought,” she says. “SW:S creates the positive mindset and setting to maximize music’s impact.”

Sharp has taken part in two retreats each year since 2017, co-writing about 30 songs. “All the songs have a hopeful core — we set it up with the past and the struggle,” she says. “If I do my job, that’s the backstory to an acknowledgment of how far they’ve come and where they feel they’re heading.”

“The way they’ve shifted their perspective after what they’ve experienced, their bravery and vulnerability, is inspiring every time,” she adds. “It keeps me grounded and grateful; I’m wrung out and filled up every time I walk out of those rooms.”

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Phil-



Maia Sharp (left) wrote a song with Iraqi war veteran Christine Rem at a SongwritingWith:Soldiers retreat in 2017.

Photos provided

ipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the Putnam County Legislature, said she has dreamed of bringing SW:S to the area since learning about it from Sharp. But it wasn’t until last year, while attending a concert with Evans, that the women decided to make it happen.

The retreats are not typically paired with a concert, she says. “But I wanted the public to learn about the program and it seemed the perfect way to raise awareness,” including by giving tickets to veterans. She hopes to have SW:S return annually.

For tickets, see [philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org). To learn more or donate, visit [songwritingwithsoldiers.org](http://songwritingwithsoldiers.org).



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# An Artist, a Chef and a Gleaming Trailer

*Glenham couple caters to creative and French tastes*

By Marc Ferris

When Laura and Georges Goba-Byrne at Oui Oui Cuisine cater outdoor events, like the one last month when they served 1,400 people over two days at the Amazon warehouse in Fish-kill, their airy green and pinkish-purple food trailer makes a striking impression.

"Food trucks can be dark and closed off, with the people toiling in the back, so we wanted to have something open, where people can see the food being prepared and we can interact with them," says Laura.

Built in Amsterdam, the trailer still gleams because it's only been rolled out five times, including stops at Two Way Brewery and The Yard during Beacon Open Studios.

The curved windows that wrap around the narrow rectangle are difficult to get in the U.S., she says. When the front panels are open, the ledge serves as a buffet serving station. The fryer, grill and bain-marie, used to keep food hot, are from Japan.

Born in Ireland, Laura came to New York in 2012 on a still-open artist visa and created the trailer's look. Georges is a trained French chef from the Ivory Coast who worked in Paris and customized the interior. The couple met at Barcade in the East Village, where he ran the kitchen and she tended bar.

They often visited Dia Beacon and became enamored with the surroundings, so after deciding to get married and start a family, they moved from Brooklyn to Glenham in 2021. (On Aug. 2, they welcomed their first child, Georges.) Happy suburbanites, they only go into the big city for gigs.

Laura has worked in the service sector since she was 13 but still pursues her artistic muses, including painting, creative book-making and experimental photography.

Her forte, which brought her to New York City, is a specialized subset of publishing called artists' books, which showcase a visual creator's concept in book form and are designed to be works of art in themselves rather than a collection of works.



Georges and Laura Goba-Byrne with their Oui Oui Cuisine food truck

Photo provided

She arrived in the city under the tutelage of the Ellen Frank Illumination Atelier, which led to a gig with Printed Matter, a nonprofit that promotes and advocates artists' books. Then came a year-long scholarship with the Center for Book Arts in Manhattan and the founding of Potatoe

Press, which spotlights projects by female artists and bookmakers.

Its titles stretch the boundaries of what a book can be: *Forgotten Memories* serves as a creative way to showcase old photos. *Salvation Mountain* binds around two dozen Polaroid photos and *My Mother*

*Told Me... [sic]* is a small, round showcase of painted works devoid of text.

For Chef Georges, his art is food and as the name Oui Oui suggests, the main focus of the rolling mini-restaurant is French cuisine. Yet orthodoxy is lax, and Americanization is imperative.

Menu staples include a classic croque monsieur sandwich (ham) and waffle fries/frites with herbs de Provence and remoulade dipping sauce. They offer crème brûlée for dessert but also cannolis.

Other diversions include a Bavarian pretzel with beer cheese and Parisian Cheesesteak Eggrolls, a fried nod to the Philadelphia mainstay with gruyere cheese.

"I'm trying to find a balance between the French connection and the demands of American palettes," he says.

Coming soon: French tacos, hand-held street food that stuffs a tortilla with meat, cheese, french fries and other items, like a wrap or a panini.

"I live here now, so I have to adjust the cuisine, and I always want to have a twist, like using brioche buns instead of rolls and substituting gruyere for American cheese," he says. "French tacos are wildly popular in Europe, and I think they'll make the jump to Beacon."

Oui Oui Cuisine can be contacted via [ouiouicuisine.com](http://ouiouicuisine.com).



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Jacob Ming-Trent portrays Creon and Ageus



Luis Quintero during a performance of Medea.

Photos by Gabe Palacio/HVSF



Sarin Monae West in Medea

# A War of Words

*HVSF veteran recasts tragedy as 'hip-hopera'*

By Marc Ferris

In 2017, at the opening night cast party for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival production of *Twelfth Night*, troupe member Luis Quintero grabbed the microphone and busted out a rap delivered in character that made wry references to obscure lines in the text.

"The company fell over," recalls Artistic Director Davis McCallum. "It wasn't just Luis, it was Sebastian [his role in *Twelfth Night*], and he put it over in such a brilliantly funny and revealing way. Now, it's a tradition every time we open a show."

The response also led Quintero, 30, on a years-long journey to rework an ancient Greek play as a battle rap and compose a 200-page score for basic rock trio and vocals. He calls *Medea: Re-Versed* a "hip-hopera," which McCallum rates on par with *Hamilton*.

"Luis is a generational talent, and it's only a matter of time before fans of his work will be saying 'We knew him when,'" says McCallum.

The world premiere in Philipstown is underway through Sept. 2. Ten days later, the production will move to off-Broadway

in conjunction with partners Bedlam and Red Bull Theater in Manhattan.

Quintero modernizes the 2,500-year-old story of *Medea* — a fierce woman who demands respect but also commits terrible deeds — in captivating, downhill prose that shifts between forceful rap, frantic spoken parts and harmonic singing.

Propelled by beatboxer Mark Martin, guitarist Siena D'Addario's spidery riffs interlock with the syncopated lines of bass player Melissa Mahoney, who sometimes bobs her head to the beat like a bird. As *Medea* lurches toward the avoidable yet inevitable final crime, the soundtrack subtly jumps to rap-metal and gooses the suspense.

In this guise, the title character, which became a feminist icon in the 1960s, is all-out fury. Played to the hilt by Sarin Monae West, she ignores the call of Quintero's

Chorus Leader to choose a different course than stabbing her children and taking her own life as she burns down the house.

At first, the narrator feigns disinterest: "I don't know your pain, I just came to do the play." But as the terror unspools, he implores her to stop. "Warn the children now get out of the house," he says. "*Medea*, is this the right thing?"

Quintero equates this hero/villainess with Susan Smith and Andrea Yates — quoted in the script's epigraph along with Duke Ellington — who turned reality into a horror flick by killing their kids.

Yet he does examine ethical ambiguities. "I like my villains nuanced," he says. "People like Hitchcock and other scary movies because they go into darkness in a safe place with other people to open the door and see monsters in a controlled way.

It's an imaginative exercise."

The taut 74-page script demands that actors remember a barrage of rhythmic phrases and render them with precision, bouncing words back and forth like jazz musicians soloing for a short bar or less. Cast members get a report card after every show and can be fined for blowing lines.

One of the nuanced work's virtues is its stripped-down production: A small band and four players perpetrate the action. Stephen Michael Spencer as Jason, *Medea*'s adulterous husband and father of the murdered children, and Jacob Ming-Trent as Creon and Ageus, foils for the lead, round out the cast and switch between the comedic and dramatic with seamless flair.

At first, says Creon before banishing *Medea*: "I was open-handed/I offered you a pomegranate/Now I see you took these palms for granted/I'm here to crush the seedy thoughts/Your plans."

The Duke Ellington quote in the script's epigraph is apt: "Art is dangerous. It is one of the attractions: When it ceases to be dangerous, you don't want it."

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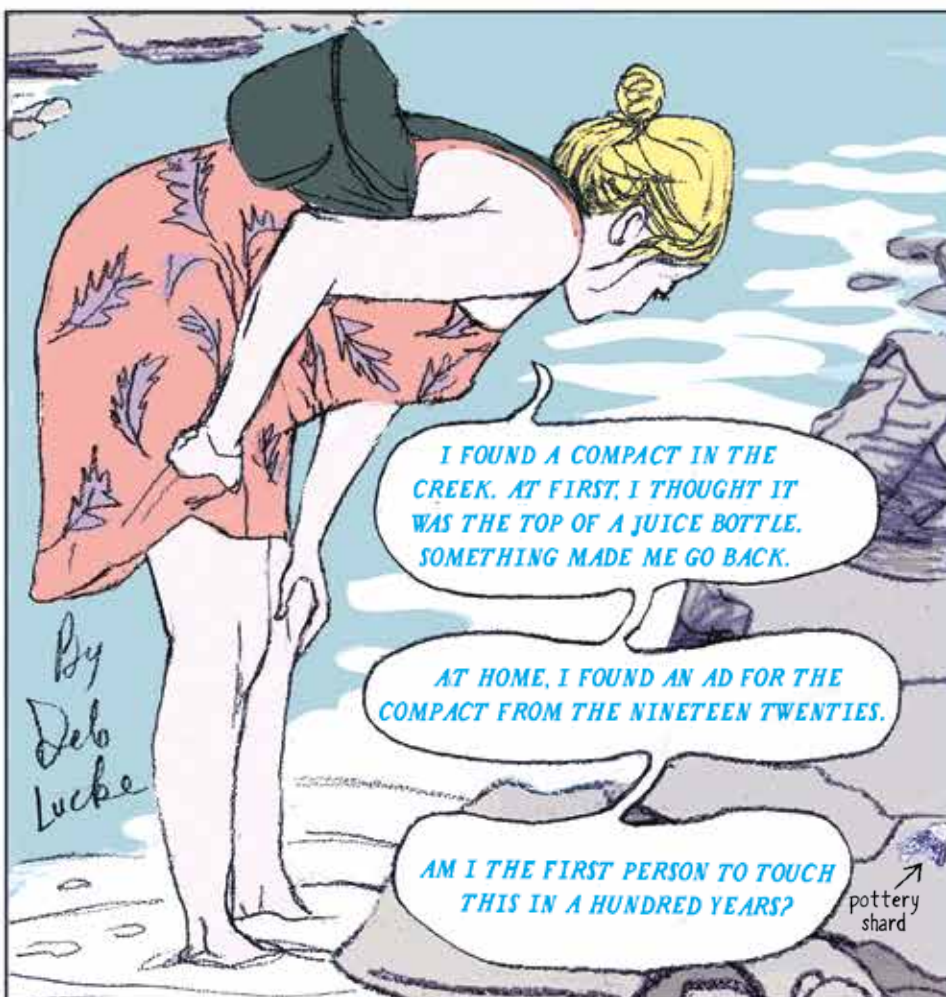
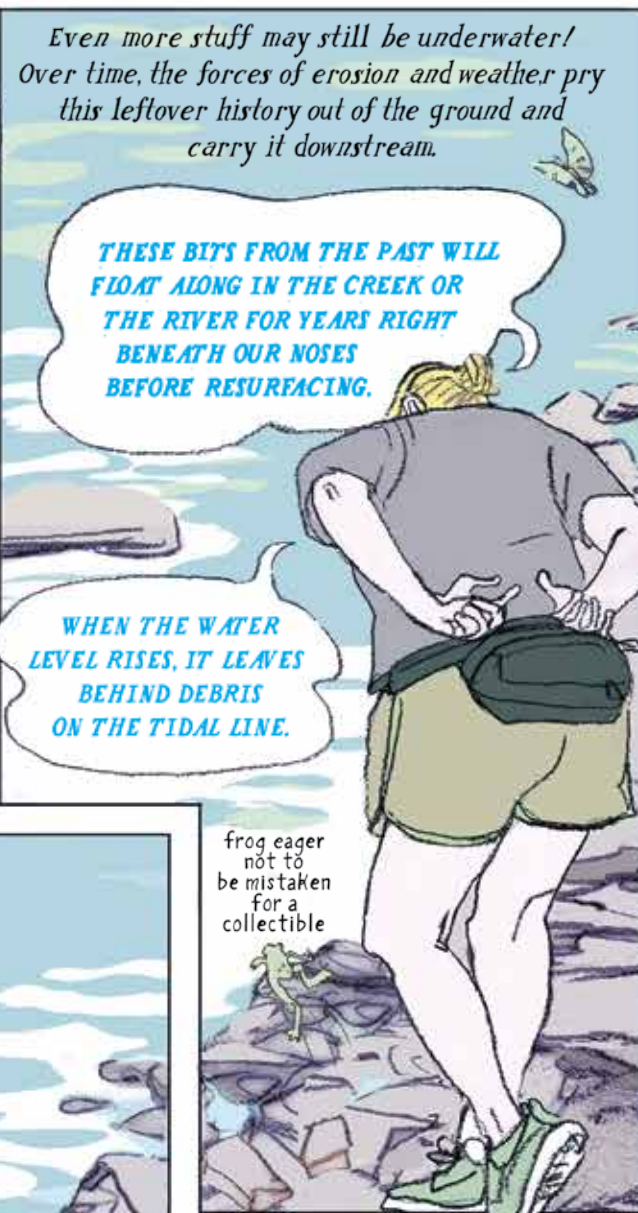
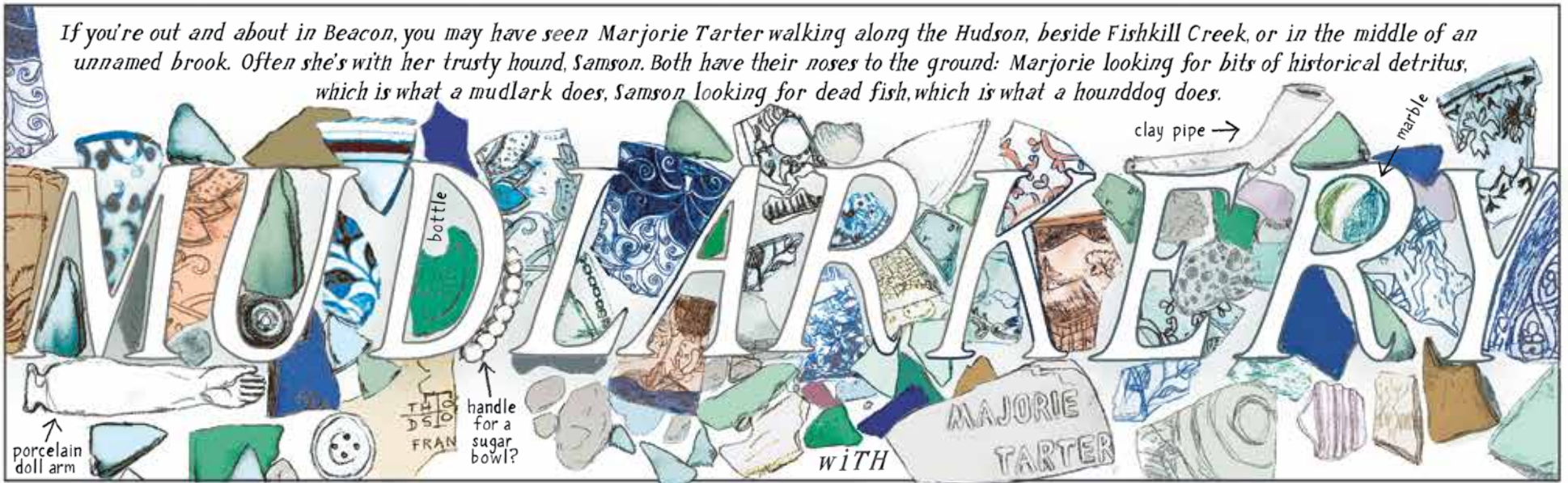
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Ralph Carlson (1945-2024)

Ralph R. Carlson Sr. of Cold Spring passed away peacefully on Aug. 1, 2024, at home with his family by his side after a two-year battle with cancer at the age of 79.

Ralph was born on Aug. 22, 1945, at Harlem Hospital in Manhattan to Levi Carlson and Elin (Anderson) Carlson. Ralph grew up in Manhattan before moving to the Bronx in 1963. Ralph was the youngest of seven children.

He married his first love, Teresa (Boesch) Carlson, and moved to Cold Spring from the Bronx in 1974. Ralph is survived by his wife of 54 years and two sons, Ralph Jr. and Kenneth, as well as his brother Harold Carlson and wife Theresa, brother Karl Carlson and wife Janet, sister-in-law Gloria (Boesch) Murray and husband David, and brother-in-law Henry Boesch and wife Elaine.

Ralph was predeceased by his sisters, Lillian (Carlson) Morales, Vivian Carlson and Julie (Carlson) Falcone and husband Louis, and brother Richard Carlson. Ralph is also survived by a large family of cousins, nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Ralph was a graduate of Samuel Gompers' Technical Institute where he learned engineering, plumbing, carpentry and electrical before attending the IBEW Apprenticeship Training Program for eight years. Ralph was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, where he served from 1965 to 1969 during the Vietnam War before receiving an honorable discharge in 1969. Ralph was a retired electrician of the IBEW NYC Local 3 Electrical Union and was a former volunteer member of North Highlands Fire Co.

Ralph enjoyed building things for his home, family and the Our Lady of Loretto's annual Christmas pageant, as well as spending time with his family, watching the New York Mets and political news. He was always there to help anyone in need.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 6 at Our Lady of Loretto, followed by interment at Cold Spring Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Our Lady of Loretto ([ladyofloretto.org](http://ladyofloretto.org)), the North Highlands Fire Co. ([bit.ly/northhighlands-fd](http://bit.ly/northhighlands-fd)), Northwell Health hospice care ([northwell.edu/hospice-care](http://northwell.edu/hospice-care)) or the American Cancer Society ([cancer.org](http://cancer.org)).

PAID NOTICE



Donald "Bud" Clarke Jr.

Don passed away at Westchester Medical Center on Aug. 6 after a long illness. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Don lived in Lake Carmel, New York, with his wife Maureen, who survives. Don was 60 years old and was the only boy in the family, with three older sisters. Don was the son of the late Donald and Peggy (Lyons) Clarke and the grandson of the late Walter and Elizabeth (McCreary) Clarke and Gordon and Rose (Landolfi) Lyons.

He was born at Butterfield Hospital and raised in Cold Spring. He had wonderful memories of growing up on Church Street with many friends and family and so many fun times.

Don attended Haldane School. After school, he worked for the Carpenters Union Local 19 for 25 years and for the last 16 years he worked for the New York City DEP at various positions and locations, lastly at North River, New York.

He was married to the love of his life, Maureen Hansen, on Sept. 23, 2017, at Our Lady on the Lake in Carmel. He was a loving husband and will be greatly missed.

Don was an avid golfer and excelled in sports, especially in his youth and in high school. He also competed in many 5K races and triathlons. One of his fondest memories was in 1987 when Carolyn's Pansies won the PSL Championship. If you lived in Cold Spring at that time, you knew men's softball was a big deal! Don enjoyed watching the Yankees, Giants and Knicks and especially golf.

Don is survived by his loving wife Maureen, his sisters, Liz Mancari, Donna Steltz (David Moroney) and many loving nieces and nephews, as well as his cats, Murphy and Maggie.

He was predeceased by his parents, grandparents, his sister Mary Hale and his niece Ellen and nephew Richie.

A graveside service will be held at Cold Spring Cemetery on Monday (Aug. 12) at 12:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cold Spring Fire Co., 154 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516 ([coldspringfireco.org](http://coldspringfireco.org)) or the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852 ([kidneyfund.org](http://kidneyfund.org)).

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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. through October. 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 the train to this event. Just a short walk through Cold Spring. Dog friendly and rain or shine. For more info, go to [HopsontheHudson.com](http://HopsontheHudson.com) and click on Modern Makers Market.

FREE STUFF

**LOCAL HOPS** — Free local hops (Cascade) are available at Davoren Farm in Garrison. Email [davorenfarm@gmail.com](mailto:davorenfarm@gmail.com).

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 email to [communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com](mailto:communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com).

**GROUNDSCKEEPER** — The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown is looking for a part-time groundskeeper. The position requires weekly cleaning of the church interior and outside maintenance of the building and grounds. 15 hours per week at \$20 per hour. Interested parties are requested to email [1presbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:1presbyterian@gmail.com) or call the church office at 845-265-3220.

FOR RENT

**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.

**COLD SPRING** — Office space at Philipstown Square, 3182 Route 9, 200 to 1,500 square feet, private bathroom, parking, security, furnished or unfurnished. Call Ron at 914-490-9606.

**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](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).**

Community Nursery School and Learning Center

NOW OFFERING AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS!

Now accepting applications for the Sept.-Dec. 2024 school term.

Visit our website at [www.cnscoldspring.com](http://www.cnscoldspring.com) and/or Email us at: [communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com](mailto:communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com)

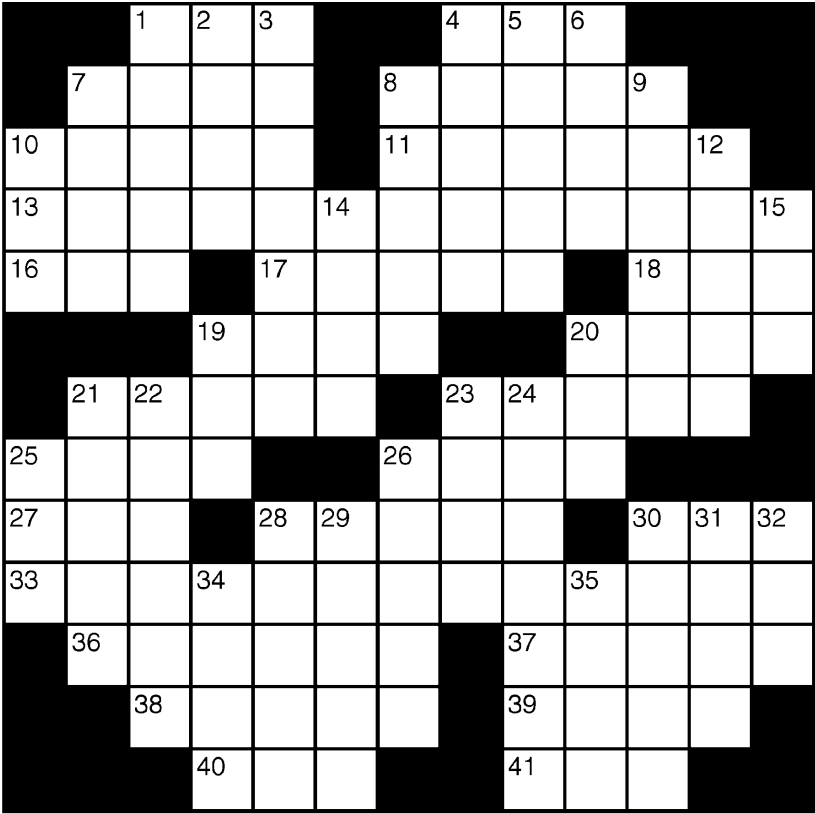
The Happiest Place in Town!





Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT



- ACROSS
1. "Bow-wow!"

4. Dol. fractions

7. Ornamental jug

8. Ballet bends

10. Resident of Tabriz

11. Limber

13. Goes on

16. Sault – Marie

17. Quarterback Tom

18. La-la lead-in

19. Cat call

20. Antelope's playmate

21. Map feature

23. Goethe play

25. Thor's father

26. Sax range

27. Consumer protection agcy.

28. Ryan's daughter

30. Ninny

33. Refuses to answer

36. Italian ice cream

37. Paris school

38. Turkish coins

39. Modern money

40. Lith., once

41. Compass dir.
- DOWN
1. Not dozing

2. Actress Russo

3. Thrown beach toy

4. Tipped off, with "in"

5. In one's cups

6. Aug. follower

7. Part of Q.E.D.

8. "Hogwash!"

9. Schedules

10. "— a deal!"

12. Heron's kin

14. Jog

15. Listener

19. ISP choice

20. Pair with an air

21. Luggage attachment

22. Jefferson's coin

23. Chimney part

24. Withdrawal charges

25. Frequently

26. A Musketeer

28. Despots

29. Perfume ingredient

30. Earlier, in verse

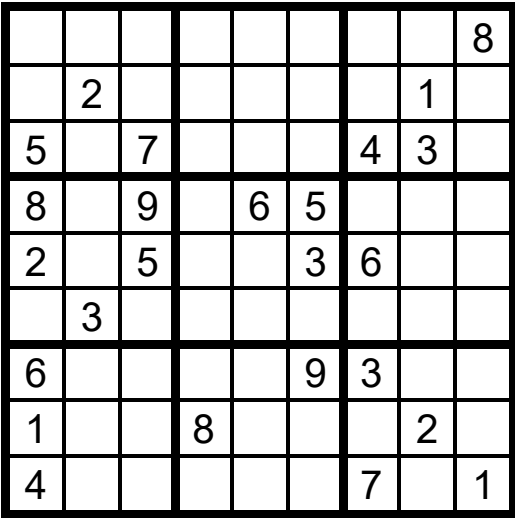
31. Normandy battle site

32. "Thar — blows!"

34. Yale students

35. Hosp. areas

SUDOCURRENT



WORDLADDER

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

YOLKS

WARMS

WORDSEARCH



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

Answers for Aug. 2 Puzzles  
W T E R R I E R P F  
M C F Q C L W O H W  
X O A N U U O O R  
Y L K B R O U D H E  
X L I G L N Y A T X  
V I T E D F G K O O  
U E A J P D Y I J B  
H U S K Y F D D V O  
L Q E L G A E R J I  
T R W Z G D I M M D

SUAVE, SHAVE, SHADE,  
SHADY, SHAKY, SHAKE

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

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Race director Katharine Spector at the starting line of last year's races.



The starting line of last year's Fabulous Fahnestock.

Photos by Shamala Kandiah



More than 200 people took part in 2023.

## Out There

# The Fabulous Fahnestock Returns

By Brian PJ Cronin

For a 14,000-acre state park, Fahnestock can be surprisingly easy to overlook.

Summer brings the crowds to Canopus Lake for swimming and paddling, and thousands of hikers pass through each year on the Appalachian Trail. But the rest of the park is oddly quiet, perhaps because it lacks river views and you need a car to reach the trailheads.

As a result, people miss the many landscapes that Fahnestock provides: the open plains around Glynwood, the sweeping views on Candlewood Hill, the pine trees and mountain laurel corridors that lead to Earl's Chimney, the hidden lakes, the misty wetlands, the abandoned mines. Rocky climbs give way to wide farm roads which give way to mossy creek crossings.

For seasoned trail runners, the park is a stark contrast to the buttery, single-track trails of California or the notorious ascents and descents of the Rockies. Fahnestock's trails demand versatility and focus.

"It's a nice blend," said Katharine Spector earlier this week while clearing encroaching bushes on the Charcoal Burners trail. "It's a great way to introduce people to what trail running on the East Coast is really like."

Spector introduced a lot of people to Fahnestock in 2023 when she helped create the Fabulous Fahnestock Trail Races, which are routes of 5.5 miles, 25 kilometers and 50 kilometers. Half the proceeds go to Fahnestock. The race returns on Aug. 17; register at [fahnestockraces.com](https://fahnestockraces.com).

An interior designer who lives in Kent, Spector took up trail running in 2018. She's a fast learner and a fast runner. In October

2021, she became the first person to run the New York section of the Appalachian Trail in one continuous push, covering 85 punishing miles in 26 hours, 24 minutes and 4 seconds.

She didn't do it alone. She had a support crew of 15 people, including runners who had failed to set the record themselves. "It's important to have a community that supports you, and to support others as they try to achieve their own goals," she said. "Even if you're a runner who goes on every run by yourself, at some point you're going to encounter this community." Spector went on to help found the Hudson Valley Trail Runners group, which holds weekly runs on Tuesday mornings in Beacon and Thursday



evenings in Philipstown. (See [instagram.com/hudsonvalleytrailrunners](https://instagram.com/hudsonvalleytrailrunners).)

The local trail-running community was also responsible for the creation of the Fabulous Fahnestock.

During the pandemic shutdown that began in 2020, races were canceled and many outdoor spots, such as Mount Beacon, were closed. But Fahnestock was open, and Spector took on a project to run on every trail.

Then Christopher McGovern, who lives in Nelsonville, created his own ultramarathon by plotting out a 50K course that traces Fahnestock's circumference. He uploaded the course to the ubiquitous fitness app Strava, and soon other runners were taking on the challenge and refining the route.

"It's a great way to introduce people to what trail running on the East Coast is really like."

~ Katharine Spector



Runners gather for the beginning of the 2023 Fabulous Fahnestock races.

For the inaugural Fahnestock race, the McGovern course was revised a bit. It avoids the Appalachian Trail and Canopus since they are likely to be busy on a summer Saturday. However, during the 2023 race, on a blessedly cool day in the middle of a brutal heat wave, I hardly saw anyone on the trails who wasn't racing.

Two hundred people took part last year, including many from outside the Hudson Valley. The 50K was won by Shannon Capps of Philadelphia and the 25K by Kyle Boykin of Georgia. Beacon's Eric Diehl won the 5.5-mile by six seconds.

Spector is hoping the 2024 race will attract more locals and designed the event to appeal to curious outdoor enthusiasts who would enjoy a leisurely day in a beautiful place, not just those looking to blast through the 50K in six hours. The cutoff times are generous enough that the 25K and 5.5 miles races can be done by hikers.

There are prizes for the winners but also for the runner who gets lost the most and the last runner to finish within the cutoff times. (Full disclosure: In last year's inaugural 50K, I banged my knee coming down Round Hill and "won" that prize.)

"It's not a huge commitment," Spector said of the shorter distances. "It's a fun day out. A lot of local people have said to me, 'Oh, Fahnestock, I don't know anything about the trails there.' Well, here's a route we've marked out for you. We're showing you where to go, so that you won't be intimidated. And maybe later you'll come back on your own, explore a little more and realize what a great place this is."