

# The HIGHLANDS Current

AUGUST 30, 2024

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

Support our nonprofit: [highlandscurrent.org/join](https://highlandscurrent.org/join)



Bringing Portraits to Life  
Page 9

## Beacon Police to Get Raises

*City tries to match better-paying departments*

By Jeff Simms

As of Sunday (Sept. 1), every Beacon police officer will receive a 5 percent raise to bring the department's salaries more in line with neighboring jurisdictions, according to the city.

A rookie officer who would have been paid \$61,683 annually under the city's contract with the police union will now receive \$64,767 under the amended agreement. In addition, increases already negotiated in the four-year contract, which expires at the end of 2025, will bring the starting salary to \$66,062 beginning Jan. 1.

The department, budgeted for 36 officers, including Chief Tom Figlia, has been short-staffed off and on for years. But with seven openings and officers collectively working as many as 80 hours of overtime each week to meet the contractual requirement of four officers on each shift, the shortage has become a crisis, Figlia told the City Council on Aug. 19.

Of the 31 police officers hired in Beacon since 2014, 12 have left for better-paying jobs elsewhere, Figlia said.

According to figures provided to the council, a patrol officer in Poughkeepsie reaches his or her top pay of \$106,414 after four years of service. In the Town of Poughkeepsie, it's \$113,300 after five years. In Beacon, a patrol officer hits the ceiling of \$98,553 after six years. The 5 percent raise, which the council approved unani-

(Continued on Page 7)



Joseph Bertolozzi sits behind the organ at St. John the Evangelist in Beacon. Photo by B. Cronin

## Free Pipe Organ\*

*Touring the vanishing instruments of Beacon*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Some people take their hats off before entering a house of worship. Joseph Bertolozzi puts on his shoes.

"They're like dance shoes," he said while standing outside St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon on a recent afternoon, holding up a pair of shiny black leather shoes with chunky heels but no welt, the skinny strip of leather that attaches the upper part of

\*Some Restrictions Apply

the shoe to the sole. This makes it easier to play two notes with one foot while working the pedal board beneath a pipe organ.

"Some people play in their bare feet or socks," he said. "I use organ shoes."

Most people know Bertolozzi as a composer. In 2004 he turned the Mid-Hudson Bridge in Poughkeepsie into the world's largest percussion instrument for *Bridge Music*, a piece he composed by recording himself "playing" parts of the structure. The success of *Bridge Music* helped him convince the mayor of Paris to allow him to record himself whacking on the Eiffel Tower with mallets, which became *Tower Music*.

(Continued on Page 18)

## Beacon Schools Ban Phones During Class

*District stops short of all-day ban on devices*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board on Monday (Aug. 26) unanimously approved a policy designed to keep cellphone use out of classrooms at Rombout Middle School and Beacon High School.

It requires the 1,400 students attending the two schools to place their phones in "designated areas" at the beginning of each class but stops short of the full-day ban some parents had requested. Students will have access to their phones between classes and at lunch and recess but not, for example, during bathroom breaks in the

(Continued on Page 7)

## Counties Face Deadline for Federal Funds

*Must 'obligate' pandemic money by Dec. 31*

By Leonard Sparks

With a Dec. 31 deadline to "obligate" funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, a \$1.9 trillion pandemic-relief bill enacted by President Joe Biden in 2021, Putnam and Dutchess counties are joining other municipalities in a mad scramble to avoid losing some of the millions they've received.

Putnam received \$19 million and Dutchess \$57 million from the \$350 billion appropriated for state and local governments. In addition to being obligated — meaning "contracts, sub-awards and similar transactions that require payment," according to the federal government — ARPA money must be spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

On Aug. 12, the Dutchess Legislature approved a resolution to reallocate to the 2024 budget \$10.7 million in unspent ARPA funds that had been designated for parks, a Poughkeepsie youth center, sheriff's vehicles and other projects that will instead be paid for using reserves.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Battery Storage Faces Backlash

*Safety concerns spur Putnam moratoriums*

By Leonard Sparks

A surge in moratoriums approved by municipalities in Putnam and other counties is sapping the energy from the state's quest to deploy lithium battery systems to store electricity for periods of high demand.

The Carmel Town Board on July 10 approved a six-month moratorium on applications for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), along with a temporary pause on

proposals for commercial solar installations.

New York State considers battery technology important to achieving its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because the systems can store excess electricity from solar and wind and feed the power to the grid during periods of low generation.

But fires at storage facilities in Orange County and elsewhere in the state have alarmed residents and public officials concerned about explosions and toxic fumes.

Mahopac residents angered by an East Point Energy proposal to build a 116-megawatt BESS on the hamlet's border with Somers packed Carmel Town Hall in June



The aftermath of a battery fire in Warwick, Orange County Photo by Scott Rausenberger

for a public hearing. Spectators applauded on July 10 when the board voted unanimously to institute the pause, which East Point said it is "assessing."

On the same day, Putnam Valley approved

(Continued on Page 8)



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: KAYCEE SALMACIA

By Joey Asher

Kaycee Oakes Salmacia, who lives in Philipstown, is the head of partnerships and strategy for the teachers' college at Arizona State University, where she leads efforts to introduce a team-based staffing model for K-12 education.

What's wrong with K-12 classes?

We ask teachers to be alone behind a door, teaching all subjects to all levels of students and to meet all the health, social and emotional needs of all their students. When I was a novice sixth grade teacher, it was sink or swim. No one walked into my room for two months. As a result, teachers are leaving the profession and fewer teachers are entering. There's tremendous burnout. The issue shouldn't be framed as a teacher shortage. We think the job isn't designed correctly.

What can be done?

We should move to team teaching, allowing deeper and more personalized learning. We call it Next Education Workforce. Instead of one teacher for 20 students, you could have four teachers for 80 students; it's cost-neutral. For instance, with a math lesson, the teacher will say, "OK, turn to



Page 56. We're working on fractions." You're teaching to the "middle," but you may not be helping many kids. With a team approach, you can divide students into groups based on needs and interests. Some students get the basics from one teacher while others get more advanced ideas from another teacher.

Has this been tested?

Last year, the ASU models were implemented in 13 states, 34 districts and 97 schools, including two in Dutchess County. For teachers, it fosters growth and provides a way to advance without having to move into administration. If I'm a 20-year veteran teacher, my job looks the same as the novice. Who wants to do the same thing day after day for 20 years? Team teaching provides more opportunities for educators to learn and support one another. You can grow from a novice

to a team leader and set the agenda for the classroom. The leaders coach the novices. For the students, they get to work in more thoughtful and challenging ways with their peers and teachers. And it's working. Students enjoy the experience. We're seeing improved academic outcomes, including higher attendance rates, algebra passing rates and reading growth.

You're also a proponent of the Wait Until 8th movement. What is that?

It's an initiative where parents pledge not to let their children have smartphones until the end of eighth grade. It lessens peer pressure. There's lots of data that proves smartphones are addictive, just like alcohol, drugs and gambling. They're an academic distraction. They interfere with relationships. They increase the risk of anxiety, depression and eating disorders. I wouldn't let my child smoke. I wouldn't let my child drive a car without a license. Giving a child a smartphone puts them in harm's way. We need 10 Garrison School families in one grade level to take the pledge to be listed at waituntil8th.org. We have a handful.

What do you tell your fourth grader when she asks for a smartphone?

I tell her that when she's in middle school she can have a simple phone. But I tell her that smartphones can harm her. I try to explain it in ways that resonate, such as how some things are fun but not always good for you — like how eating too much candy can cause a stomachache. We discuss fun things you can do instead of playing with smartphones, like going to movies or having sleepovers with friends.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's left on your 2024 warm-weather bucket list?

Counting the days 'til cooler weather and leather jackets.



Tarran Mariah, Beacon

Heading to the Outer Banks in my Jeep to see the wild horses.



George Lippold, Beacon

Just a nice walk and picnic at Innisfree Gardens in Millbrook.



Gayle Hamilton, Cold Spring



WE ARE OPEN!!!

GIVE US A CALL AT  
845-265-4366  
TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT!

BUSINESS HOURS :

MONDAY	9 AM - 5 PM
TUESDAY	9 AM - 5 PM
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	9 AM - 5 PM
FRIDAY	9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY	9 AM - 1 PM

We accept all major credit/debit cards!

In case of an emergency please call our main number 845-265-4366 and we will help you if you're an existing client. So it's important to register your pets with us.

If you can't reach us, call or go to an emergency clinic:

- Guardian Veterinary Specialists in Brewster 914-704-3400
- Veterinary Emergency Group in White Plains 914-949-8779
- Guardian Veterinary Emergency Clinic in Middletown 845-692-0260

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!



[www.artisanwineshop.com](http://www.artisanwineshop.com)

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

your source for organic, biodynamic & low-intervention wines, ciders & spirits since 2006



# The HIGHLANDS Current STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

**The Current is looking  
for a few good high  
school journalists.**

Now in its fifth year, our *Student Journalists Program* provides an opportunity for students who attend high school in Philipstown and Beacon to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website.

The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org) and select stories will be printed. The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

Students will be expected to submit photos and video (when applicable) as part of their assignments. Due to the generous support of our *Highlands Current* members, correspondents will be compensated for the stories and photos that we publish online and/or in print. If you are interested in becoming a student correspondent, you can review the requirements and apply at:

**[highlandscurrent.org/sjp](https://highlandscurrent.org/sjp)**

*Chip Rowe*

Chip Rowe, Editor  
The Highlands Current



To help support our Student Journalists Program, see [highlandscurrent.org/donate](https://highlandscurrent.org/donate).







NEWS BRIEFS

Man Charged with Stealing \$2,900 Bike

*Allegedly snatched while boy was fishing in Philipstown*

The Putnam County Sheriff’s Office said on Aug. 19 it had arrested a suspect in the theft of a bicycle at a Philipstown park.

The office said a deputy was dispatched to the North Highlands following a complaint that someone had taken a boy’s \$2,900 YT Jeffsy mountain bike while he was fishing.

The next day, investigators interviewed Roy J. Bishop, 61, of Fishkill, who they said admitted to stealing the bicycle, which he returned. He was charged with grand larceny and issued a summons to appear in the Town of Philipstown Court.

CCA Members Notified of Settlement

*Energy company agrees to pay \$1.5 million*

Residents in Philipstown and Beacon were notified this week by postcard of a settlement in a lawsuit involving an energy supplier who abandoned a contract to provide renewable electricity at a fixed rate, costing consumers an estimated \$30 million.

Cold Spring, Philipstown and Beacon approved the settlement with Columbia Utilities over the summer. The company was sued by 10 municipalities that jointly purchased energy under a community choice aggregation (CCA) program called Hudson Valley Community Power. Columbia denies any wrongdoing.

Columbia agreed to pay \$1.5 million. Up to \$300,000 can be used for legal and administrative expenses, and the balance will be distributed equally to customers enrolled in the CCA as of July 18, 2022. Officials expect the payout will be around \$50 per customer.

Residents who agree with the settlement can enter the notice ID and pin from the postcard at [cupccaprogramsettlement.com](http://cupccaprogramsettlement.com) to verify their address and select a payout option. Call 844-804-4105 with questions.

Students Must Be Vaccinated

*Health department reminds parents*

The Putnam County Health Department reminded parents this week that state law requires that students in pre-K to 12th grade have up-to-date vaccinations before school begins.

Unvaccinated children must receive at least the first dose of all required vaccines within the first 14 days at public, private and religious schools, it said, unless a student has a medical exemption. The state ended non-medical exemptions in 2019.

Vaccination rates among 2- and 3-year-olds in Putnam fluctuate from year to

year, the agency noted. Since 2016, the rate has ranged from a low of 59.7 percent in 2018 to a high of 70.8 percent in 2019. In 2022, the most recent year with data, the rate was 67.8 percent, below the state-wide benchmark of 70.5 percent set in the New York State Prevention Agenda. In Dutchess, the rate was 64.8 percent.

“A decline in vaccine rates makes outbreaks of diseases like measles more likely,” said Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, Putnam’s interim health commissioner. “This is exactly what happened during the 2018-19 school year when the largest U.S. outbreak in recent times happened here in the Hudson Valley.”

The health department can provide the five vaccinations required for daycare, pre-K and school attendance (diphtheria and tetanus; hepatitis B; polio; measles, mumps and rubella [MMR]; and varicella or chickenpox) plus two additional vaccines required for daycare and pre-K. Call 845-808-1332. In Dutchess, call 845-486-3535 for guidance. For a list of required vaccinations, see [health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf](http://health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf).

The school-based flu vaccine program in Putnam will begin Sept. 25.

Current Youth Journalist Program Opens

*Beacon, Philipstown students invited to apply for 2024-25*

The Highlands Current has opened applications for its 2024-25 Student Journalists Program, now in its fifth year.

The program allows high school students who live in Beacon and Philipstown to be mentored by editors and reporters at the weekly newspaper and have their work published in print and online. Students primarily cover their high schools and issues related to young people and are paid for their work. To apply, see [highlandscurrent.org/sjp](http://highlandscurrent.org/sjp).

Update on Beacon Schools Capital Projects

*As summer ends, upgrades are nearly complete*

The bulk of the summer capital work being done at Beacon’s public schools is expected to be finished by Saturday (Aug. 31), with some punch list items to be completed at night or on weekends after school begins on Sept. 4.

Orientation for incoming sixth-grade students at Rombout Middle School, originally scheduled for Aug. 30, was moved to Sept. 3 to accommodate electrical work being done Friday with Central Hudson.

Glenham Elementary will feature a new entryway while Sargent Elementary will unveil a new library next week. New playground equipment for South Avenue and Forrestal elementaries has been delivered but will be installed after school begins.

The final stages of surfacing and painting lanes on the Beacon High School track at Hammond Field will happen next week.

Federal Funds *(from Page 1)*

Those funds, along with \$9.3 million originally destined to replace reserves used for Dutchess’ Housing Trust Fund and \$5.7 million that had yet to be allocated, will instead be used by Dutchess Community College and for the county’s share of a preschool special education program.

In recent months, Putnam legislators have voted on a flurry of requests to reallocate ARPA funding, including \$370,000 Philipstown had planned to use to buy water for the Garrison Landing Water District. Water purchases were deemed ineligible, so the money will instead be used on a public works project in the town.

On Monday, the Putnam Legislature’s Rules and Audit committees approved redirecting to the county clerk’s office \$31,000 from \$300,000 in ARPA money for highway infrastructure studies.

Michael Bartolotti, the county clerk, said he will use the funding to purchase laptops, printers, barcode scanners and other equipment from the state Department of Motor Vehicles so that staff from the DMV office in Brewster can hold regular mobile office hours in Philipstown and other parts of the county.

Being able to process DMV transactions at sites outside of Brewster has been “definitely a vision and has become a priority of mine,” said Bartolotti. He named the Friendship Center in Cold Spring, the William Koehler Memorial Senior Center in Mahopac, town offices and nursing homes as potential locations.

“It’s a really good opportunity for our DMV to extend its footprint throughout the community and get to citizens instead of always having citizens come over to us,” he said.

Less certain is the fate of Sheriff Kevin McConville’s request to reallocate half of the \$2 million in ARPA money the Legislature approved in 2022 for infrastructure projects to improve school security. In a letter to County Executive Kevin Byrne, McConville said the security projects will not meet ARPA’s deadlines “because of delayed responses from vendors and manufacturers.”

The Rules Committee voted Monday to table a resolution shifting \$1 million of the funding to construct a new building at Camp Herrlich, which a nonprofit operates on county-owned property in Patterson.

The ARPA funding would be used to replace a rundown building with a dining room and kitchen that caters to Camp Herrlich’s summer program and before- and after-school programs for students in the Carmel school district.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino, who represents Patterson, said that although she has supported Camp Herrlich, she was “taken aback” when the request appeared on the Rules Committee’s agenda and “was never brought into the fold and knew nothing about what was being considered.”

Nacerino, before asking to table a vote on the request, said she had “many questions” about the project, including how it relates to school safety, a dearth of details and whether the money will be spent before the federal government’s deadline.

“I would think a sitting legislator who represents the Town of Patterson would have some knowledge about this before it hit the agenda,” she said.

Where the Money Has Gone

DUTCHESS COUNTY

\$57,148,397

*ARPA funds received in 2021-22*

\$31,397,264

*Spent by June 30, 2024*

\$57,148,397

*Included in budgets*

Spending

Education	\$25.8M
Rehiring public sector	\$4.7M
Youth Opportunity Center ( <i>Poughkeepsie</i> )	\$4.5M
Emergency communications system	\$4.6M
Learn, Play, Create	\$3M
Agency partner grant	\$2.9M
Housing Support Center	\$2.3M
Premium pay	\$1.7M
Stadium addition	\$1.4M
DCC/Workforce Investment	\$1.2M
Parks project	\$1.3M
Municipal grants	\$939K
Stadium land purchase	\$634K
Administration	\$500K
Homeless housing/management	\$389K
Micro-marketing program	\$284K
High-speed internet	\$271K
Build Now NY	\$246K
Leisure & Hospitality Training	\$150K
Behavioral health RV	\$150K
Drug task force vehicle	\$103K
Summer youth employment	\$100K

PUTNAM COUNTY

\$19,097,507

*ARPA funds received in 2021-22*

\$4,664,089

*Spent by Aug. 28, 2024*

\$8,313,810

*Included in budgets*

\$6,119,607

*Not yet obligated*

Spending

Towns/Villages	\$5M
Cold Spring Water Treatment	\$102K
Nelsonville Sewer Study	\$16K
Nelsonville Village Hall HVAC	\$16K
Stabilization Center	\$2.5M
Sprout Brook Road Bridge	\$1.5M
Dispatch/records system	\$1.5M
Police/fire radios	\$1.4M
Fire Training Center	\$1.1M
Peekskill Hollow Road	\$1M
School safety	\$1M
Sheriff life safety systems	\$720K
Fair Street ( <i>Carmel</i> )	\$667K
Highway infrastructure	\$650K
Highway equipment	\$600K
Golf course clubhouse renovation	\$400K
Unallocated highway	\$272K
Stoneleigh/Drewville intersection	\$211K
Highway infrastructure studies	\$203K
Drewville Road bridge	\$191K
Sheriff boiler replacement	\$155K
Mobile Food Pantry	\$130K
Sheriff gate improvements	\$125K
Administrative	\$100K
Bridges/culverts	\$33K
DMV mobile equipment	\$31K
Refrigerators ( <i>Second Chance Foods</i> )	\$25K



# NEW! Fjord Trail Monday Chats *at Butterfield Library*

Swing by to talk about project plans, share ideas, and get your questions answered by HHFT staff.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**



**Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library**  
10 Morris Ave in Cold Spring

**ft** Hudson Highlands  
Fjord Trail

MORE INFO AT **HHFT.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS**



## Cellphones *(from Page 1)*

middle of class.

Students at the middle school will also be required to place smartwatches and earbuds in their backpacks while in class, while high school students will have to keep earbuds in their backpacks during class. At the district's four elementary schools, cellphones, smartwatches and earbuds "should never be out" of a student's backpack or storage during the day, according to the policy.

Students who use smartwatches for medical reasons that require them to contact their parents will be accommodated, Superintendent Matt Landahl said. The restrictions go into effect when school begins on Wednesday (Sept. 4).

The designated spaces for phones will likely resemble the repurposed shoe organizers introduced last year at Haldane High School as "no-cell motels." Locking cases with slots for each phone are on backorder and could arrive in October, Landahl said.

Students who do not comply will be referred to an administrator. Consequences will be progressive and include a combination of loss of phone privileges and lunch detentions, Landahl told the board. Parents will also be notified.



Many schools use Yondr pouches, which lock until tapped against a base. *Yondr*

Dozens of Beacon parents organized over the summer and appeared at school board meetings advocating a full-day phone ban using something like the locking pouches made by a company called Yondr. Members of the group said Monday that they had created a form at [bcstdphones.com](https://bcstdphones.com) through which students, parents or teachers can anonymously report harassment, filming without consent and other incidents involving phones.

"Our growing working group will not cease until the entire Beacon City School District achieves a full-day phone ban,



Julia Sniffen, the principal of Haldane High School, posed last year with a no-cell motel. *File photo*

as this is the only phone policy that sufficiently protects our children's well-being," said one organizer, Hana Ramat, who spoke during the meeting.

In addition, the board on Monday approved a handful of changes to the district code of conduct, some of them related to phones:

- Using a phone when permitted but in a prohibited way was added as a first-level (out of four) violation of the code, while refusing to put a phone in the designated area during class will be a second-level offense.

- Creating or disseminating profane, harassing or discriminatory images (real or fake) of students or staff was added as a third-level infraction, and removal of phone privileges was added to a list of more than a dozen potential consequences for code violations.

Along with Beacon and Garrison (see sidebar), the Wappingers Central School District over the summer adjusted its cellphone policy, which prohibits high school students from using the devices on campus unless approved by a teacher. Once school begins next week, students who violate the policy must store their phones in locking pouches for the day.

Such restrictions are part of a nationwide trend to limit classroom distractions and protect students from the dangerous impacts of social media while encouraging face-to-face interaction with peers.

In California, the Los Angeles school board voted in June to restrict students in the country's second-largest district from

The city can handle the wage adjustment, "although it will tighten our budgets up," Mayor Lee Kyriacou said. He said to expect the 2025 budget, which the council will be asked to approve in December, to be close to the state-mandated tax cap.

"We're going to have to do this for all three of our collective bargaining agreements," Kyriacou said, referring to the firefighters' union and the Civil Service Employees Association, which represents city employees. He noted that development in Beacon, which last year added \$27 million to the tax rolls, will need to continue to sustain the pay increases.

Municipalities in Dutchess County can

## Garrison Plans Cellphone Ban

### *Proposal would revise code of conduct*

By Joey Asher

The Garrison School, which spans pre-K through eighth grade, would no longer allow cellphone use by students during the school day under a proposed revision to the district code of conduct.

"Anytime that students have their cellphones, there's the potential to disrupt the educational process," said Superintendent Gregory Stowell.

The revision requires that during the school day (8:30 a.m. to 3:14 p.m.), students must store their turned-off or silenced phones in their lockers or an area designated by the teacher.

Before the change can be adopted, the board must hold a public hearing, which is scheduled to take place during its Wednesday (Sept. 4) meeting. The board will vote after the hearing, Stowell said.

At Haldane, school board President Peggy Clements said that the district code of conduct allows principals to set the policy. Students in the elementary and middle schools must keep their cellphones turned off and stored

during school hours, she said, while high school students place their phones during class in shoe organizers dubbed "no-cell motels."

After the high school system was put in place last year, teachers and staff found students "are more engaged in class, there were better discussions and the pedagogical environment benefited," Clements said.

Garrison began prohibiting the use of cellphones during class last year, but enforcement was uneven, a point discussed at the board's Aug. 14 meeting. Stowell noted that the code of conduct already provides for discipline for repeated violations of cellphone rules, including banning a student from bringing their phone to school.

Catalina Hussung, 13, a rising eighth grader, said that middle-school students often peek at their phones during class. She called the ban "a good rule" because "we shouldn't be on our cellphones all day. It could be bad for you."

"It's a no-brainer," said Kaycee Oakes Salmacia, a Garrison parent with a fourth grader at the school (see Page 2). "Why would a child need to be texting or on Facebook or Instagram or Snapchat or TikTok while they're in class?"

using smartphones during the academic day. New York City schools are expected to implement a similar policy, but Mayor Eric Adams said this week that the district is "not there yet" logistically.

Gov. Kathy Hochul has indicated that a statewide policy could be coming. She began a "listening tour" on phone usage in schools last month in Albany County and has held roundtable discussions in Erie County, Long Island and Yonkers.

In Beacon, most teachers at Rombout and the high school want a cellphone-free classroom, Landahl said during the school board's Aug. 19 meeting. The district plans to review compliance data monthly and create focus groups of teachers and students. It will adjust the policy if necessary, he said.

Because the district did not implement a full-day ban, Landahl said teachers will

be responsible for enforcing the classroom restrictions. The difference, he said, between Beacon's schools and others in the region that utilize all-day locking pouches is that students at other schools must walk through a metal detector and undergo a bag search as they enter the building, so putting a phone in a pouch is "just a part of entering school," he said.

With most conflicts involving students and social media occurring at night or when school is not in session, Landahl said the district will hold educational sessions for students and parents on Sept. 23 and 24 with Richard Guerry, the founder of the Institute for Responsible Online and Cellphone Communication. He will speak about safe digital communication, online empathy, safe gaming and dealing with cyber cruelty. More dates may be added.

## Police Raises *(from Page 1)*

mously, brings the number to \$103,481. The ceiling rises to \$106,068 next year.

"We're getting to a point where we're no longer competitive with the departments around us," said City Administrator Chris White. "When I negotiated the last [union] contract in 2021, inflation was 2 percent, so the raises, which were 2 or 3 percent, looked pretty good."

The increases are "crucial to making sure the great staff that we have don't go elsewhere because of the pay disparity," he said. "We don't get all the way, but it sends a message that we value the work they do."

The city can handle the wage adjustment, "although it will tighten our budgets up," Mayor Lee Kyriacou said. He said to expect the 2025 budget, which the council will be asked to approve in December, to be close to the state-mandated tax cap.

"We're going to have to do this for all three of our collective bargaining agreements," Kyriacou said, referring to the firefighters' union and the Civil Service Employees Association, which represents city employees. He noted that development in Beacon, which last year added \$27 million to the tax rolls, will need to continue to sustain the pay increases.

Municipalities in Dutchess County can

only hire police officers from a list of candidates who have passed a civil service exam. Isabella Nocerino, a patrol officer sworn in Aug. 19, was Beacon's sole hire from the last civil service list, while Poughkeepsie hired six officers, White said.

Figlia said that, in some recent years, more than 1,000 applicants have taken the civil service exam for police. But last year, fewer than 400 people did. Among those who pass, only one in four usually makes it through a rigorous background check, the chief said. He recalled taking the exam in 2004 in a Dutchess Community College cafeteria "chock full of people."

Nationally, 47 percent more officers

resigned in 2022 than in 2019, the year before the pandemic began and the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, according to a 2023 survey by the Washington, D.C.-based Police Executive Research Forum.

"We need to recognize that the last four years have been really hard on policing," White said, recalling the retirements in July 2020 of Chief Kevin Junjulas and Capt. Gary Fredericks. "That wasn't because of pay; that was because of anti-police sentiment. That's played a role with all of this."

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



AROUND TOWN

Local Real Estate Pros

Contact these top agents to see the latest listings, or to sell your home.



**Bill Hussung**  
BROKER / OWNER | ROBERT A. MCCAFFREY REALTY  
917.715.2610 | bhussung@mccaffreyrealty.com  
mccaffreyrealty.com



**Donna Francis**  
ASSOCIATE BROKER | K. FORTUNA REALTY, INC.  
845-522-1298 | donnafrancis451@gmail.com  
www.kfortunarealtyinc.com



**Claudia Dizenzo**  
ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY  
646-354-9842 | claudia@hudsonriverlinerealty.com  
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com



**Ana Silverlinck**  
LICENSED REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY  
917-279-1831 | ana@hudsonriverlinerealty.com  
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com



**Mindy Jeseck**  
REALTOR | AGNES I. WAGER REALTY INC.  
914-552-1136 | mindyjeseck65@gmail.com  
www.wager-realty.com



**Charlotte Brooks**  
OWNER & PRINCIPLE BROKER | HOUSE FINCH REALTY  
917-951-2241 | Charlotte@HouseFinchRealty.com  
www.housefinchrealty.com



**Ann McBride-Alayon**  
PRINCIPLE BROKER, OWNER | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY  
718-637-3143 | ann@hudsonriverlinerealty.com  
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com



**Abbie Carey**  
ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER | HOULIHAN LAWRENCE  
845-661-5438 | acarey@houlihanlawrence.com  
www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com

Advertise your real estate business here. Contact Michele Gedney.  
845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org | highlandscurrent.org/ads



**PICKLEBALL —** The Cold Spring Recreation Commission announced the arrival of a new pickleball court at Mayor's Park. The multi-use court was repaved last year and sealed this year.  
*Photos provided*



**NEW OFFICER —** On Aug. 19, Isabella Nocerino, the evening dispatcher for the Beacon Police Department, was sworn in as a police officer. She had been part of the Fishkill Cadet Program for eight years. *Beacon PBA*



**HAPPY 100! —** Sister Loretta Bezner of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement is celebrating her 100th birthday on Saturday (Aug. 31). Born in Lindsay, Texas, she entered the community at Graymoor in Philipstown as a teenager. Send her a card at 41 Old Highland Turnpike, Garrison, NY 10524.

Batteries (from Page 1)

a moratorium of up to one year on BESS facilities and wind-power projects so that its Building and Zoning Department can work with the Planning Board on regulations.

Kent and Mount Kisco also have passed moratoriums, and Yorktown is considering one.

“Renewable energies are going to be a bigger part of our life,” said Jacqueline Annabi, the Putnam Valley supervisor, last month. “I don’t think it’s going to be 100 percent, but it is a trend that is getting bigger, and we have to do something.”

New York has set a goal of 6,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030 to support the state’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. Renewable energy is expected to fully power the state’s homes and businesses by 2040.

Overheating can cause lithium-ion batteries to enter a phase called “thermal runaway,” leading to fires and the release of fumes containing chemicals. Incidents at commercial battery-storage facilities are infrequent, according to the nonprofit Energy Power Research Institute.

But some of the Mahopac residents opposing East Point Energy’s plan to build its Union Energy Center at a 94-acre property in the hamlet cited a fire that occurred in Warwick, Orange County, in June 2023 at a newly opened BESS installed on land belonging to the Warwick school district.

Convergent Energy installed three 4-mega-watt systems, including two on school district property, to supply 7,500 customers of Orange & Rockland Utilities. An executive with

Convergent told the school board in October that water seeping into a battery container caused an electrical short that started the fire.

Two other fires, in Jefferson and Suffolk counties, took place in the summer of 2023, prompting Gov. Kathy Hochul to announce the formation of an Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group to investigate the safety and security of the systems.

Initial findings from the group, released in December, found “no reported injuries and no harmful levels of toxins detected” in air, soil and water. Hochul also said that the state would be inspecting operating commercial-scale storage systems with a capacity above 300 kilowatts.

Recommendations issued by the Working Group are the basis for draft updates to the state’s fire code released last month. The recommendations include regular inspections, requiring developers to pay for independent reviews of their projects and removing an exemption to the fire code for systems owned or operated by utilities.

According to the Working Group, its recommendations would apply to BESS systems with a capacity of more than 600 kilowatts, the same size facilities covered by Putnam Valley’s moratorium.

Judy Allen, a member of Sustainable Putnam, warned the Town Board against “an outright prohibition” on renewable projects. “Balanced regulations” on the permitting of projects are a better approach than an outright ban, she said.

“Rejecting all clean energy projects across the board would be shortsighted and harmful,” she said. “Everything we construct has some negative ecological impact.”





From left, Feff Zezza, Jessica Jelliffe and Jason Craig at a Banana, Bag & Bodice performance  
Photo by Robin Kidde

# HOME SHOW

*Performance artists celebrate 10 years in Beacon*

By Marc Ferris

The tandem behind the Banana, Bag & Bodice theater company may not take themselves too seriously and their work can be absurdist and avant-garde.

But after 25 years working and living together (and now raising a young person), Jason Craig and Jessica Jelliffe continue to explore philosophical questions about creativity and the purpose of art in the world and in their lives — until they stop, which could happen soon.

**“We used to treat our art more like a job. But having to describe your work over and over again is demoralizing.” ~Jessica Jelliffe**

The couple is celebrating 10 years in Beacon, where they oversee the B House Performance Garage/Shack, an informal gathering spot for bands, authors and other artists.

So the B stands for the theater company? “Yes,” says Jelliffe. Or is it for Beacon? “Yes,” she says.

After adopting an artistic lifestyle, Craig and Jelliffe got priced out of Brooklyn and chose Beacon for its beauty. “We looked north, south, east and west,” says Jelliffe. “North has the mountains, the river and the artist community. Plus, it’s a nice place to raise a kid.”

A new work called “Hubris Always Gets You in the End” is a cautionary retrospective that begins in their basement, unfolds inside the house and commences in the backyard, where the party (or is it a play?) continues. Attendance is limited to 15, which sometimes includes the neighbors.

(Continued on Page 13)

## The Calendar



Katherine Potter

Photo by M. Ferris

### The Artist Next Door

# Katherine Potter

By Marc Ferris

If called upon, Katherine Potter can create a painting that looks like a photo. But, she says, that’s a parlor trick.

“You might as well take a picture,” she says. “The goal is to convey the subject and express yourself. The artist has to be present in the painting.”

Potter finds it more interesting to turn photos into portraits that will never be mistaken for camera shots. A freelance illustrator and graphic designer for 25 years, she’s now semi-retired. For the past decade, she’s been painting portraits in oil.

“There’s nothing more interesting to paint than the human face,” she says. Potter searched the internet for less-familiar photos of rock stars before rendering a pudgy Jimi Hendrix. In another portrait, Jimmy Page leans on his left elbow.

Johnny Rotten’s visage differs from his typical public image. “Usually, when you see him, he’s like a wife-beater and all messed up,” Potter says. “Here, it looks like he’s going to the prom.”

She also uses family members and acquaintances as subjects and is particularly proud of capturing the phone held by a young man named Tommy.

“I liked the angle, his position and the way that the smoke curls from the joint, but I find reflective hard metal surfaces to be challenging,” she says. “I did capture that highlight on the end [a light reflected in the phone’s corner] and got the screen down pretty well.”

To drum up business and explore other personalities, Potter tried social media, but disliked it. Then, she placed flyers and stickers around town advertising her portraiture services but only one person called.

“I figure people think, ‘Does that mean I have to sit in some stranger’s house?’ ” she says. “And also, ‘It must be expensive.’ But by following some vague guidelines, I came up with \$500 for an 18-by-24 frame.”

Potter lived in Washington Heights for years before relocating to Iowa City to be with her daughter during the pandemic. “I had a portable job and Manhattan was like a morgue. It was creepy.”

After her Midwest sojourn, she planned to move to Harlem but drove through Beacon while visiting family in Garrison last year and decided to forgo the big city.

“I’m not usually this impulsive, but my brain did a 180,” she recalls. “It’s a cool thing to have that kind of freedom. I was like, ‘Whee!’ ”

Potter has since shown her work at The Yard and met people through her hound, Fern.

“I’m so relaxed — it’s way different than my 20s or 30s,” she says. “I’ll never be the star of the talent show and have no driving ambition. I’m just trying to please myself, not a client or judges at a particular show.”

Earlier in her career, Potter designed newspaper ads and worked in the children’s book industry, writing and illustrating two titles for Simon & Schuster (*Spike* and *My Mother the Cat*). Instead of a photo for the dust flaps, she drew self-portraits.

“I’m impressed by artists who can talk or write about their work in smart, esoteric ways,” she says. “But that’s not me. I’m always going for a feeling first.”

The “softer, rounder” style she used for the children’s book illustrations informs her portraits, though her daughter’s hard

(Continued on Page 13)



“Tommy”



“Little Joe”



“Johnny Rotten”

**“The goal is to convey the subject and express yourself. The artist has to be present in the painting.”**



“Tween”



# 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 31 Book & Media Sale GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](https://desmondfishlibrary.org)

The library's annual secondhand book and media sale includes books, CDs and DVDs in all genres. Through WED 4.



### SAT 31 Luminaria COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Bandstand | [philipstownhub.org](https://philipstownhub.org)

The Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub organized this memorial for International Overdose Awareness Day.

### SAT 7 Modern Makers Market COLD SPRING

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

Dozens of artisans and artists will be selling their work. Find original jewelry, art and crafts along with food trucks. Rain or shine. Also SUN 8.

## KIDS & FAMILY

### SAT 31 Play Sets BEACON

10:30 a.m. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St.  
845-231-0811 | [diaart.org](https://diaart.org)

Families with children ages 5 and older are invited to explore the galleries; in this session, Dia educators will focus on the work of Michael Heizer. On SUN 8, Mary Heilman will be the focus. *Free*



Incorruptible, Sept. 6

### FRI 6 Crafters Corner GARRISON

10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](https://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Fiber artists are invited to bring or start a project.

### SAT 7 Makerspace Open House COLD SPRING

Noon – 2 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](https://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Children can make and decorate school supplies.

## STAGE & SCREEN

### SAT 31 By the Queen PHILIPSTOWN

2 & 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. These are the closing performances. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

### SAT 31 Cinema in Piazza PHILIPSTOWN

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

This rescheduled outdoor screening will include short films about Achille Bonito Oliva, Aldo Rossi and Mimmo Paladino. On SUN 1, the program will include films about Renzo Piano and Ettore Spalletti. *Cost: \$15 (\$40 includes barbecue)*

### SUN 1 The Murder of Roger Ackroyd PHILIPSTOWN

5 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. This is the closing performance. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

### MON 2 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. This is the closing performance. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

### FRI 6 The Ghost and Mrs. Muir BEACON

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

Visit Bannerman Island to watch the 1947 film about a widow who moves to a haunted cottage by the shore and develops a relationship with the ghost. *Cost: \$40*

### FRI 6 Lit Lit BEACON

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

This month's edition of the literary open mic will feature Eileen Kelly. *Cost: \$5 donation*

### FRI 6 Incorruptible WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
[countyplayers.org](https://countyplayers.org)

This dark comedy by Michael Hollinger, set in France in 1250 AD, explores death and faith. Also SAT 7 and weekends through Sept. 21. *Cost: \$26 (\$24 military, seniors, students and ages 12 and younger)*

### SAT 7 One-Act Play Festival GARRISON

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

Watch five one-act plays as part of the 18th Annual Aery Theatre Festival and vote for a favorite. Also SUN 8, FRI 13, SAT 14, SUN 15. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 students, seniors)*

## VISUAL ARTS

### SAT 31 Collaborative Concepts BREWSTER

1 – 4 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm  
100 Route 312  
[collaborativeconcepts.org](https://collaborativeconcepts.org)

This is the opening reception for the annual show of outdoor sculptures, which this year includes works by 25 artists. Daily through Oct. 27.

## TALKS & TOURS

### SAT 31 The Snarling Girl

BEACON  
8 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | [stanzabooks.com](https://stanzabooks.com)  
Elisa Albert will read from her new book of essays.

### THURS 5 More to Our Story GARRISON

3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](https://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Kate Czajkowski will introduce a storytelling series for seniors sponsored by Philipstown Aging at Home. Email [info@paah.net](mailto:info@paah.net) with questions. *Free*

### SAT 7 Stradivarius PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | [boscobel.org](https://boscobel.org)

Carlos Tome of Tarisio Fine Instruments & Bows will discuss the influence of the luthier Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737) and demonstrate various of his fine instruments. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 ages 5 to 18)*



## MUSIC

### SAT 31 Pop-up Concert PHILIPSTOWN

10:30 a.m. Boscobel | 1601  
Route 9D | [boscobel.org](https://boscobel.org)

As part of its annual Chamber Music Festival, Boscobel will host a concert at the Cold Spring Farmers Market. *Free*

## NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Wednesday, September 11th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://youtube.com), search for Philipstown Conservation Board September 2024.

## NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, September 9th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://youtube.com), search for Philipstown Zoning Board September 2024.

# Music Lessons

Instruction in guitar, bass, saxophone, woodwinds, piano, jazz, Irish music

40+ Years Experience; Beginners to Advanced • My studio or your home

Call or text  
Lindsey Horner, 917-846-7020



SAT 31  
**The Dark Horses**

**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The band will play the music of George Harrison. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 1  
**Last Minute Soulmates**

**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The band's Russ St. George, Carla Springer and Rik Mercaldi will play a range of originals and covers. \$15 minimum purchase.

MON 2  
**Concert on the Lawn**

**PHILIPSTOWN**  
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org  
As part of Boscobel's annual festival, the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach will perform a program that includes works by Mozart, von Weber and John Ireland. *Cost: \$55 (\$25 ages 5 to 18, free ages 4 and younger)*

**FRI 6**  
**Daniel Kelly Group**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com  
The pianist will be joined by Jesse Lewis (guitar), Ike Sturm (bass), Jared Schonig (drums) and David Gonzalez (spoken word). Kelly's

compositions incorporate influences from modern jazz, classical, film and electronic music. *Free*

**FRI 6**  
**Dori Freeman**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org  
The Appalachian-American singer will perform songs from her latest release, *Do You Recall*. *Cost: \$25*

**FRI 6**  
**Bossa Blue**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The band plays the music of James Taylor. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SAT 7**  
**Schubert's Trout Quintet**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org  
As part of Boscobel's annual festival, the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach's program will highlight piano and strings. The performance will also include Farrenc's *Piano Quintet*. *Cost: \$65 (\$45 ages 4 to 18, free ages 3 and younger)*

**SAT 7**  
**Jay Strauss**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org  
Strauss will debut his latest



Dori Freeman, Sept. 6

album, *Based on a True Story*, with Andy Stack, Shauna Ward, Randy Bennis and Glenn Sacchi. *Free*

**SAT 7**  
**Ellis Paul**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The singer and songwriter will play music from his latest album, *55*. Marc Von Em will join him. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**SUN 8**  
**The Hoot**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
Noon – 6 p.m. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D  
facebook.com/littlestonypoint  
The annual music festival inspired by Pete Seeger will feature local musicians and groups. Rain date: SUN 15. *Free*

**SUN 8**  
**Family Concert**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
2 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org  
To conclude Boscobel's annual festival, enjoy a chamber music performance suitable for all ages. *Cost: \$40 (\$20 ages 5 to 18, free for ages 4 and younger)*

**SUN 8**  
**Down Hill Strugglers**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org  
The string band, whose latest release is *Old Juniper*, evokes field music of the 1920s. *Cost: \$25*

**SUN 8**  
**Jeremy Schonfeld**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The Beacon-based singer, songwriter and filmmaker (*The Father Who Stayed*) will perform. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**CIVIC**  
**TUES 3**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconnny.gov

**TUES 3**  
**Putnam Legislature**  
**CARMEL**  
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800  
putnamcountyny.com

**TUES 3**  
**School Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Middle School Library  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org

**WED 4**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

**WED 4**  
**School Board**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D  
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

**THURS 5**  
**Town Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.  
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com



Cleanwater Sloop by Semine Hazar

**Sat + Sun. Aug 31 + Sept 1 – 1-5 PM**  
**PINK & BLUE Art Show**  
Celebrates the environmental movement beginning in the HV and spreading around the world. Works by artist who have exhibited at museums and United Nations Environmental & Climate Change Conference.  
*Sept 22 - Special Event at HCC - opening day of CWNYC with artist talks and videos from around the world*  
**Sat. Sept 14 – 8 PM**  
**The Adult Puppet Theater of CABOT PARSONS**  
International Artist / Local Resident with special musical and puppetry guests Matt Sorenson and the Bryce Edwards' Frivolity Hour Tri-OH!  
For info & tickets: bit.ly/CabotParsonsHCC  
Sept Tues - Free TANGO at LONG DOCK  
Sept 4 - UNESCO STORY CIRCLES  
Sept 6 - LIT LIT  
Sept 7 - JAY STRAUSS Album Release Party  
Sept 18 - HIT HOUSE Presents: MONARCHS  
Sept 20 - DAN GARCIA Music from Spain & Latin America  
Sept 21 - ARTICHOKE Storytelling Series

**HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER**



Visit, website + social media for more events, info + tickets



**HIGHLANDS CHAPEL**  
*Home of the Highlands Choral Society*

**THIS SUNDAY:**  
**BRYAN DUNLAP**  
**“THREE-PIECE MIND”**  
**SEPT 1 @ 11:00AM**  
**FOR WORSHIP REFLECTION & SONG**

**Sept 8** Goldee Greene  
**Sept 15** Diane Flayter-Landau  
**Sept 22** Fred Osborn III

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

**216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY**  
**HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG**



**Aery Theatre Co.**  
**20/20 One Act Play Festival**  
**Sept. 6-15**

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00pm  
Sundays at 4:00pm

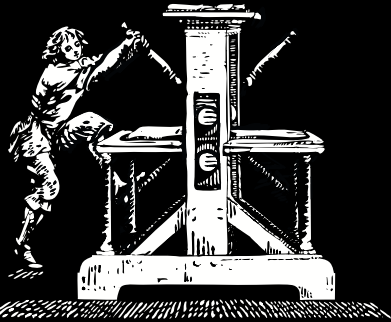
**DEPOT MUSIC**  
**Goldee B. Greene:**  
**Viva the Divas!**  
Women of Song in Theatre  
Hollywood Golden Age,  
Jazz and Opera  
with Music Director, Tom McCoy!  
**Sept. 20 at 7pm**

**DEPOT DOCS:**  
**ENO**  
Followed by Q&A and reception at Dolly's  
**Sept. 27 at 7:30pm**

**DEPOT MUSIC**  
**Jenni Muldaur & Teddi Thompson**  
“Warm, crystalline vocal harmony held aloft by acoustic guitars and mandolin”  
**Sept. 29 at 8pm**

[www.philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://www.philipstowndepottheatre.org)

**HIGHLAND STUDIO**



**PRINTMAKERS**  
**FINE ART PRINTING SCANNING LARGE FORMAT**

**HUDSON VALLEY'S ARCHIVAL PRINTING SINCE 1997**

**PICTURE FRAMING print & map gallery**

**845-809-5174**

**31 STEPHANIE LANE COLD SPRING, NY**  
[www.thehighlandstudio.com](http://www.thehighlandstudio.com)



# EXPLORE THE GROUNDS OF GRAYMOOR

Explore the history, mission and grounds of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. Based in Garrison, New York, our grounds and chapels are open daily to the public from dusk to dawn, and Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 11am.



## San Damiano Farmers Market

Open every Friday  
June - September  
10am - 2pm



## "That Nothing Be Lost" Thrift & Antique Shop

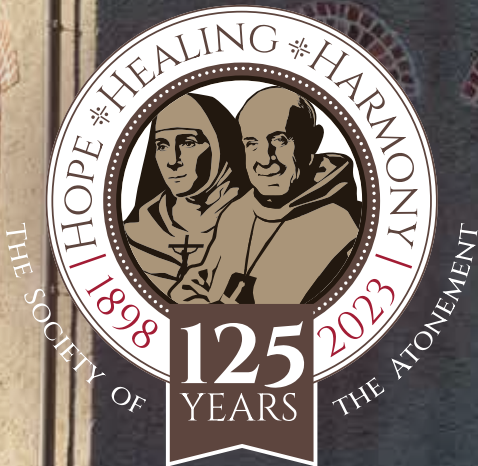
Open Wednesday - Sunday  
10am - 5pm

Explore antiques, art, home decor, glassware, and more!

## Graymoor Book & Gift Center

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

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





## Home Show *(from Page 9)*

One of the play's acts pays homage to a 2003 work, "Sandwich." The vignette unfolds in the kitchen and centers on making a BLT. The scent of bacon lingers and the scene could be interpreted to symbolize the mundane domestic acts we perform every day to survive.

The couple saved the original production's bodices, which are outfitted with exaggerated padded breasts. They also donned bright red hats that resemble fezzes. A friend, Feff Zezza, strummed a guitar and sang. At one point, his dissonant approach mirrored an argument.

"Hubris" hints at the tempests animating these walls and admits that sometimes Jelliffe and Craig "can drive each other crazy." When voices carried, their dog looked perplexed. Going forward, decisions must be made whether to cease the artistic endeavors or keep on keeping on — *sturm und drang* guaranteed.

The company's biggest hit, a 2008 retelling of the epic poem "Beowulf," subtitled "A Thousand Years of Baggage," receives a short reprise in the piano room off the kitchen (book by Craig, music by David Malloy).

The couple's seven-year bout with writer's block might have reflected something else, according to the play, like a desire to retire or a lack of motivation. But for now, the ball is still in the air. They plan more performances in the coming months.

After meeting in San Francisco, Craig and Jelliffe produced 15 works, mostly plays and performance pieces. After touring the world with "Beowulf," the hoopla subsided. Then, they're back at home frying bacon, slicing a tomato and assembling a sandwich.

Elevating domestic life by sharing their space with others, they enjoy presenting "The Perfect Play," a musical nativity story.

"We've performed it with people in the community for the last eight years or so with a different Mary and Joseph every time," says Craig. "It's a silly musical we wrote for Trinity Church in the city with a simple format that's easy to rehearse and get going super-quick."

The company's alliterative three-B name refers to objects the couple held for a photo to support their first grant application, a grind that evolved into a dreadful treadmill.

"We used to treat our art more like a job," says Jelliffe. "But having to describe your work over and over again is demoralizing. Now, we're focusing on performing for the community and creating for fun and entertainment."

At the bottom of their email to ticket-holders for the "Hubris" show is a quote pulled from a *New York Magazine* review: "They're looking back on the stuff they've made together and asking the scariest question an artist can ask: Is this ... it?"

*For more information on the company, see [bananabagandbodice.org](https://bananabagandbodice.org).*

## Artist Next Door *(from Page 9)*

edges step forth in the work titled "Tween," where anger and attitude boil over. With head cocked and hip protruding, the kid looks like she's getting ready to ball her fingers into fists and mix it up.

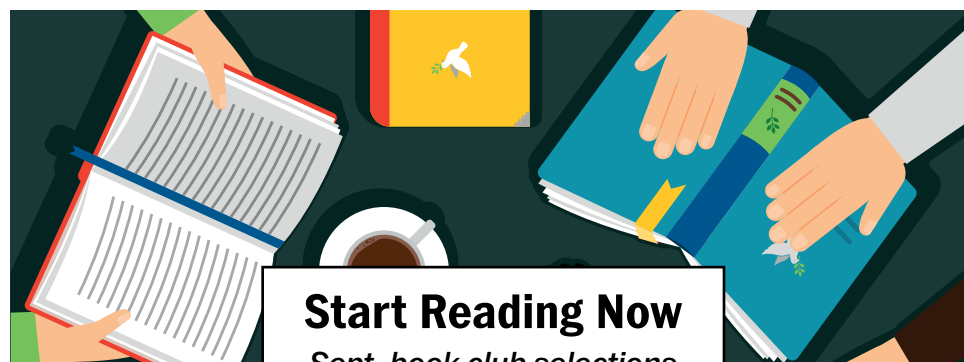
"Really, it's, 'Come on, take the picture already,'" says her mother. "She's still like that, but deservedly so."

Though Potter eventually grew jaded in the children's book world, she invokes Picasso's observation that it took him "four years to paint like Raphael but a lifetime to paint like a child."

"Four years to paint like Raphael but a lifetime to paint like a child."

She, too, is "trying to enter the zone when things are going well, and you're on autopilot. Like with the phone [in "Tommy"]. I stepped back and thought, 'Wow, I did the phone.' I was so happy."

*For more of Potter's work, see [katherinepotter.com](https://katherinepotter.com).*



### Lit Book Club

**TUES 3, 7 P.M.**

*Chain Gang All-Stars*, by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah  
Stanza Books, Beacon  
Register at [stanzabooks.com/events](https://stanzabooks.com/events).

### Fiction Book Club

**THURS 5, 6 P.M.**

*The Beach at Summerly*, by Beatriz Williams  
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison  
Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](https://desmondfishlibrary.org/events).

### Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club

**THURS 5, 7 P.M.**

*Antietam: The Battle That Changed the Course of the Civil War*, by James McPherson  
Lincoln Depot Museum,  
10 S. Water St., Peekskill  
Email [LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com](mailto:LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com).

### Graphic Novel Book Club

**MON 9, 3:30 P.M.**

*The Vision*, by Tom King and Gabriel Hernandez Walta  
*Fence, Vol. 1*, by CS Pacat  
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison  
Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](https://desmondfishlibrary.org/events).

### Fantasy Book Club

**TUES 10, 7 P.M.**

*The House in the Cerulean Sea*, by TJ Klune  
Stanza Books, Beacon  
Register at [stanzabooks.com/events](https://stanzabooks.com/events).

### Helen Savoit Book Club

**TUES 17, 2 P.M.**

*Sea of Tranquility*,  
by Emily St. John Mandel  
Howland Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](https://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

### Sci-Fi Book Club

**TUES 17, 7 P.M.**

*Lord of Light*, by Roger Zelazny  
Stanza Books, Beacon  
Register at [stanzabooks.com/events](https://stanzabooks.com/events).

### Page-to-Screen Book Club

**THURS 19, 3 P.M.**

*The Wonder*, by Emma Donoghue  
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison  
Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](https://desmondfishlibrary.org/events).

### Mystery Book Club

**TUES 24, 7 P.M.**

*Inspector Imanishi Investigates*,  
by Seicho Matsumoto  
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring  
Register at [splitrockbks.com/event](https://splitrockbks.com/event).

### Biz Bzzz Book Club

**WED 25, 6:30 P.M.**

*Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action*, by Simon Sinek  
Beahive, 6 Eliza St., Beacon  
Register at [bit.ly/biz-bzzz](https://bit.ly/biz-bzzz).

### Beacon Book Club

**THURS 26, 7:15 P.M.**

*A Council of Dolls*, by Mona Susan Power  
18 North Grill, Fishkill  
Register at [meetup.com/beacon-bookclub](https://meetup.com/beacon-bookclub).

### Butterfield Book Club

**MON 30, 7 P.M.**

*All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto*, by George Johnson  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](https://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).

**FIRST TIMERS  
FIRST LESSON  
FREE**



**BEACON  
MUSIC  
FACTORY**



**Have yourself one 30-minute lesson  
on any instrument we offer.  
Lesson must take place in September 2024.  
Available only to first-time BMF students.**

**[play@beaconmusicfactory.com](mailto:play@beaconmusicfactory.com)  
[www.beaconmusicfactory.com](https://www.beaconmusicfactory.com)**





The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**

presents a special fundraising event

**A conversation with**  
**KATHRYN**  
**GRODY**  
**&**  
**MANDY**  
**PATINKIN**

**Moderated by their son**  
**Gideon Grody-Patinkin**

**She's an award-winning actress and writer.**  
**And he's a star of TV, stage and film.**

Together on social media,  
**KATHRYN GRODY** and **MANDY PATINKIN**,  
interviewed by their son Gideon, shared hilarious nuggets  
of their "uninterrupted togetherness," thoughts on  
40+ years of marriage and hundreds of other topics,  
entertaining millions during the COVID shutdown.

**Now they are coming to the Hudson Valley.**

**Saturday, Sept. 21 at 7p.m.**

**Pete and Toshi Seeger Theatre**  
**at Beacon High School**

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit  
**[highlandscurrent.org/grody-patinkin](https://highlandscurrent.org/grody-patinkin)**



## Roots and Shoots

# Labor Day in the Garden

By Pamela Doan



Get your vegetable garden ready for fall harvests. It's not too late. Labor Day is six weeks from the average first frost date for our area, Oct. 15. That means a quick turnaround for fall vegetables.

I've done a roundup of plants that don't mind cooler temperatures and some that tolerate frost. Many fall veggies are the same as spring veggies going in reverse. Instead of germinating in cold soil that warms up, they germinate in warmer soil that grows cooler. This can affect the flavor in good ways, with the sugar content rising.

## How to prepare

Plants can be started from seed or as transplants. Many nurseries have fall vegetable starters now. Read the label and pay attention to these details:

**Days to Maturity** — This number indicates how quickly you can harvest the produce.

**Germination Temperature** — This range shows the minimum and maximum at which the seeds can begin to grow. The range is for soil temperature optimization. Air temperatures can go warmer or cooler by at least 10 degrees. Skip the peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers, which thrive in hotter temperatures. Also, skip plants that need longer to reach maturity, such as squash and melons.

While Oct. 15 is our first average frost date in this area, it can vary within micro-

climates based on altitude, sun exposure, rocky areas, proximity to a body of water and other variables that make your site warmer or cooler than the average.

Be aware of warnings as fall advances. These range from frost (which can cause minor damage at 33 degrees, with wind gusts influencing the impact), freeze (below 32 degrees, which will damage plants that aren't protected) and hard freeze (below 28 degrees, which will kill plants that aren't protected).

To extend the growing season into late fall and maybe winter, set up a row cover or hoop house. Supplies are available from nurseries. You'll need a special cloth that allows light, water and air to filter through, a structure that holds up the fabric and gives the plants room to grow and fasteners that create a seal by pinning the fabric to the soil. This protection holds in heat, keeping the soil warm for an extended period. It's possible to find kits that contain all the supplies.

## What to plant

*Note: I used the Fedco seed catalog and made myself both hungry and eager to plant the garden.*

**Spinach:** With six weeks to maturity, you can enjoy it by mid-October. It prefers cooler temperatures and won't bolt in the fall like in summer.

**Beets** (Early Wonder): These sweet and large beets are ready to pick in 48 days. Cooler temperatures make them sweeter.

**Cabbage** (Murdoc): This cabbage is best grown in the fall and, like beets, the cool temperatures make it taste sweeter. This



Harvest individual leaves of loose-leaf lettuce throughout the fall and it will keep growing even after a hard frost.

Photo by P. Doan

variety is ready to harvest in 40 to 60 days.

**Chard:** Fall cooking means hardy greens in my house and this chard is ready in around 55 days.

**Kale:** Crinkly kale leaves are ready to harvest in 55 to 62 days and will grow through November in the right conditions.

**Arugula:** This is my favorite salad green, and it delivers in five weeks. It's by far the easiest and quickest turnaround for fall growing.

**Lettuce:** There are so many good choices for salad greens, including red leaf, butter and oak leaf. Try a few for variety. Lettuce will tolerate a hard frost and is ready to start harvesting in a month or two, depending on what you plant.

**Scallions:** This onion cousin will spruce up fall dishes. Look for a hard variety that

might overwinter and begin growing in the spring, too.

**Radish:** Add some to that salad; they're ready in three to four weeks. Although they are not as pungent in cooler weather, the speedy return is worth the space.

**Snow peas:** The best time to plant was a few weeks ago, but it's still worth a try. It's typically 60 days to maturity but frost will stop production. The vines are nitrogen-fixing for the soil and a good compost addition if the weather doesn't cooperate. With our warmer climate, fall pea harvests will become more common.

**Carrots:** Harvest times can vary from six to 10 weeks. Fortunately, there are flavorful options with shorter growing needs. Look for those labeled as "early season" rather than "main season" for the best luck this fall.

## Current Classifieds

### 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.

### BOUTIQUE PILATES & WELL-BEING

**COACHING** — Elevate your well-being in the breathtaking, lush Hudson Valley. Experience expertly tailored private and semi-private sessions in Balanced Body Reformer Pilates, yoga, well-being strategies, mindfulness and breathing practices. Embrace a multi-dimensional approach to human health, emphasizing simplicity, consistency, and

mindful movement. Studio Una caters to pre- and postnatal health, women's health, injury recovery, and more. All bodies and levels of experience are warmly welcomed. See [studiouna.co](http://studiouna.co).

### EVENTS

**JEREMY SCHONFELD BAND** — Come see celebrated singer/songwriter, composer, filmmaker and [beaconbonfire.com](http://beaconbonfire.com) co-founder Jeremy Schonfeld perform his tunes at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8, on the main stage at The Towne Crier in Beacon. Special guests include vocalists Jen Malenke, Chris Ams, Caroline Sottile, Gus Schonfeld, guitarist Tony DePaolo and sax player Brad Hubbard.

**LOOKING FOR MAKERS!** — We are looking for designers, makers, artisans and artists to exhibit at our Modern Makers Market in Cold Spring. Our dates are Sept. 7/8, Oct. 5/6 and Nov. 9/10. There is no reselling at our

markets. You can attend any weekend. If you are interested, please email us your business info. and we will get back to you in a timely manner. You can always see our events at our Instagram or website at [hopsonthehudson.com](http://hopsonthehudson.com).

### HELP WANTED

**CHURCH GROUNDSKEEPER** — 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.

**BEACON** — Light-filled studio space available at KuBe (the old Beacon High School), home of the Ethan Cohen Gallery, a vibrant source of events and exhibitions. Join other creative artists renting studio space in the building. The studio has clean white walls, large windows, high ceilings, good lighting and air conditioning. Rent the entire studio (550 sq. ft.) for \$1,200 monthly or rent half of the studio (225 sq. ft.) for \$650 monthly. Please text 206-465-1629 for more information or to view the studio.

**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** — Beautiful, bright, one-bedroom plus office, original hardwood flooring. 1st floor consists of eat-in kitchen, living room, full bathroom, 2nd floor has spacious bedroom, sitting room and office. Perfect place to live/work, private backyard with views of mountain. Walk to town, shops and restaurants. Great commuter location access to Metro-North, I-84, Route 9. No pets, smoking. First month plus security. Tenant to pay all utilities. Good credit and references. Email [kleinchristine7@yahoo.com](mailto:kleinchristine7@yahoo.com).


**TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](https://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).**



# Always Present, Never Seen: A Response

Born in South Carolina, Daniel Pruitt attended school in Brockway, Beacon and Glenham before graduating from Beacon High School in 1965 and earning degrees from SUNY Stony Brook and The New School for Social Research in New York City. Retired from IBM, he lives in Dunedin, Florida.

Below are excerpts from an article that Pruitt researched and wrote in response to our five-part series on the history of Black people in the Highlands, *Always Present, Never Seen*, published in 2022. Pruitt felt the series, available at [highlandscurrent.org/always-present](https://highlandscurrent.org/always-present), could have included more about local Black history from 1850 to 1930. "I felt a personal need to connect the present, which I knew, with the past, which I did not," he wrote. "This past history was never present and never seen as such over my lifetime." His full report, which he describes as part memoir and part scholarship, is posted at [highlandscurrent.org/pruitt-response](https://highlandscurrent.org/pruitt-response).



My parents were South Carolina emigrants to Beacon, arriving in 1946. I thought the history of the local Black community had come with us from the South. No anecdotal evidence or civics lessons suggested we weren't the first Black inhabitants of Beacon. I wasn't alone in thinking this.

Although most of my friends were born in Beacon, they all had families from somewhere else, predominantly the South. Until recently, Mickey Reed thought his sister, Dot, was in the first class of Beacon High School in 1951 that had Black graduates. In truth, the first Black graduate was William Howes Jr. in 1925, but he lived in Baxtertown, according to census records, which was in the Town of Fishkill. Were Mickey's sister and her classmates the first Black graduates who lived in the city proper?

I had heard that the kids from Baxtertown walked to the Little Red Schoolhouse for their primary education — not the easiest of treks but not the miles more required to reach Beacon High. Howes had to *want* that degree, even if it probably was of no use to him, as a Black man, finding a job. So kudos to William Howes, Class of 1925, and Dorothy Reed, Audrey Myrick, Leonard Morgan and Eugene Sims in 1951.

When I was growing up, the Black community lived in Brockway, the brickyard

community in the Town of Fishkill, or in the west end of Beacon, formerly part of Fishkill Landing (which merged with Matteawan in 1913 to form Beacon). My family lived in both. We followed the Germans, Irish, Jews and Italians into the West End, not necessarily in that order. Nothing came after us except urban renewal.

The river baptized, fed and played with us. The dump was always on fire; a southeastern wind brought it to the front door like the mail. There were as many as five beer gardens in the 1950s between Bank Square and Beekman Street. Few white people walked through the West End. City parades bypassed us, starting at the fire station a block east on Main Street.

Surprisingly, the Black churches were elsewhere until Springfield Baptist opened in the former Central Hudson gas building on Beekman Street in 1946 under Mattie Cooper, formerly an associate pastor at Beulah Baptist in Brockway.

Black people filled the homes and apartments on Beekman, River and Ferry streets and Wolcott Avenue. There were a few white families still living in the West End into the 1950s: the Cimorellis and Cervones on lower Ferry; the Russells, Gromkos and Petterossis on Chandler; and the Carmichaels on Beekman. But they were not there long, and Black families lucky enough to get the few available IBM jobs left, too. However, unlike white flight, Black flight didn't have the East End as a destination. They moved outside the city limits.

Bank Square — more like a tuning fork than a square — was the hub of the West End, what we called "up the street." The white-owned businesses weren't going anywhere. Two beer gardens, Bank Square Tavern and Modern Cafe (Vinnie's and Jimmy's) were anchors. There was Ike's, a grocer who begrudgingly gave credit and kept a watchful eye with his charge, known

(Continued on Page 17)



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Historic District Review Board for the Village of Cold Spring will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider the application by Juhee Lee Hartford and James Hartford, 5 Furnace Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 to add a two-storey rear addition to an existing two-storey residential building.

The subject property is **5 Furnace Street, Cold Spring, New York, 10516**, designated as Tax Map Section 48.8-6-34. The property is located within the R-O Zoning District as well as the National Register and Local Historic Districts.

Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516, by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment.

Application materials are also available to view on the Village website: <https://www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board/pages/current-applications>

Written comment on the application can be mailed or hand-delivered to Village Hall, or emailed to the Village Clerk, [vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov](mailto:vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov). Written comment must be received by **Monday September 2, 2024** to be included in the public record.

The public is welcome to join the hearing via videoconference: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85246257150?pwd=SHlaMm5rbTRVaVpVS0F1UzlGeFhwZz09>

**Join by phone:** +1 646-876-9923  
**Meeting ID:** 852 4625 7150     **Passcode:** 005635

BY ORDER OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD  
ALBERT ZGOLINSKI, CHAIR  
Sean Conway, Vice Chair  
Lauren Wallis Hall, Todd Seekircher, Kathryn van Voorhees

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact – Putnam County Riparian and Watershed Ecological Restoration Project - Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Project

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Finding of No Significant (FONSI) for public review and comment for 30 calendar days before making the decision on whether, and if so how, to proceed with a proposed action. The EA evaluated the issuance of a Community Grant award to Putnam County for Riparian and Watershed Ecological Restoration Project or the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) Project. The project includes the development of an existing former golf course into a permanent site for the HVSF. Project components funded by the EPA grant include wetland mitigation, stormwater management infrastructure, landscaping, green infrastructure and wastewater infrastructure. Congress appropriated \$3.5 million earmarked for Putnam County under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117 – 103) to Riparian and Watershed Ecological Restoration.

EPA considered two alternatives for the Proposed Project: the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, which are analyzed in this EA pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and EPA's NEPA procedures under 40 CFR part 6. The EA did not identify significant effects to resources as a result of implementing either the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative. However, EPA will consider public and agency comments prior to making its decision regarding implementation of the proposed project. After evaluating any comments received, EPA will make a final decision. The preliminary decision and finding will become final after the 30-day comment period expires if no new significant information is provided to alter this finding.

The Draft EA and Preliminary FONSI is available for download from EPA's NEPA Compliance Database at <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-II/public/action/nepa/details?nepald=482081>. Questions and public comments may be sent to: [Region2\\_EnvReviews@epa.gov](mailto:Region2_EnvReviews@epa.gov), on or prior to **September 30, 2024**.





Brickyard workers in an undated photo



The Beulah Baptist Church at Brockway

Beacon Historical Society (3)

(Continued from Page 16)

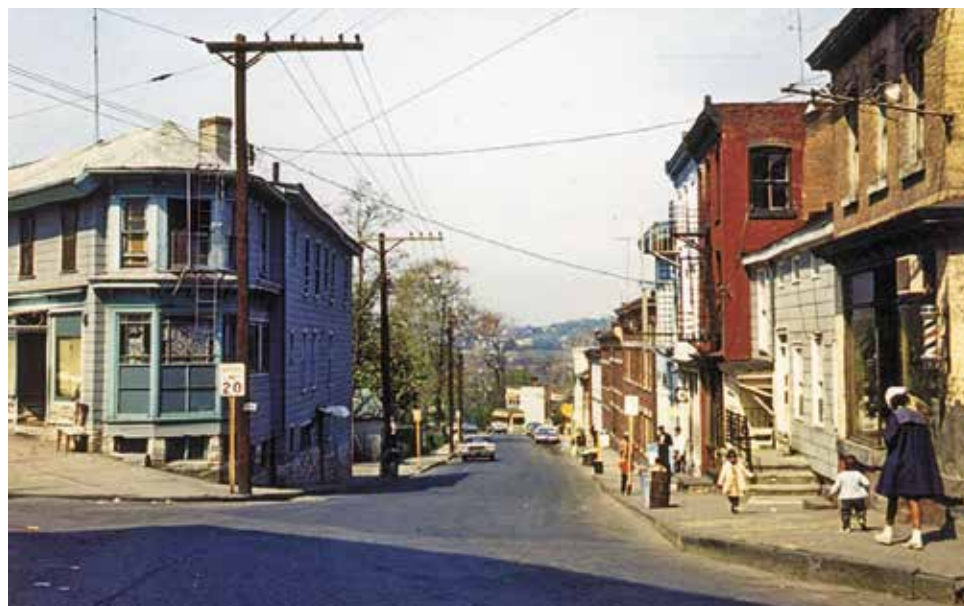
affectionately as Lil White Bobby, on the penny candy. There was Jimmy Johnson's pool room and Mr. Lewis' Fish and Chips, both Black-owned. Klay's gas station had a busy milk machine and phone booth. My dad bought his first car, a light green 1951 convertible, at Hoffmann Ford, across North Avenue from Klay's.

Lower Main, known as "Back Street," was home to factories. Over time, they filled with Black and then Puerto Rican employees. Most Black folk worked at the Brockway brickyard or Castle Point, the veterans' hospital in Chelsea, both on Route 9D just outside the city.

In 1941, Manet Helen Fowler, the first Black woman to receive a doctorate in cultural anthropology, visited Beacon to interview Black residents. I believe she stationed herself at the Beacon Inn (later Davis' Bar and Grill), a fixture on Beekman Street. Halfway "up the street," at the top of Beekman, was the Bluebird Lounge (aka Horton's), which Fowler dubbed the Congo Inn. It appealed to a younger crowd and was the second of two Black bars on Beekman, which Fowler referred to as the "Negro" street.

As *The Current's* series documented, the history of Black people in Beacon began with slavery. I was surprised to see that, in the 1790 federal census, New York had 21,324 slaves, compared to Georgia's 29,264 — much closer than I imagined. My primary education suggested that slaves, cotton and the bright bandanas worn by the women were a product of the South, but it was the slaves in New York who cleared the fields of trees that created postcard views of the Hudson, cultivated those fields, built the stone walls and harvested the crops.

Slavery in New York ended early in the 19th century. Beginning in the 1830s, an important source of jobs in the Hudson Valley for Blacks was the manufacture of bricks. As Martha Collins Bayne writes in *County at Large*, before the introduction of steam machinery in the early 1840s, bricks were "mixed by mules and pressed by hand" and the industry "employed entirely Negro labor at extremely low wages." In *Within These Gates*, Daniel DeNoyelles notes that "to do this with any degree of rapidity, it required great strength." There would



The Ferry Street intersection in the West End in the 1960s

soon be competitors for these low-paid and exhausting jobs: Irish immigrants.

By 1880, there were seven brick manufacturers in the Town of Fishkill. Twenty years later, there were 38 along the six-mile stretch between Dutchess Junction and Chelsea. The Dennings Point Brick Works and Brockway were the largest. Brockway hired seasonal and local Black workers even when white immigrants were available. By the turn of the century, the brickyard had housing, the school that I attended in 1952, a company store and a post office.

In 1897 Brockway extended its holdings to Dutchess Junction, buying a yard there and naming it and the original site as the Brockway Brothers Co. Next door to the original site was a brickyard owned by J. Martin. This brickyard had vanished by the time my family reached Brockway in the 1940s, but the Black community of Martin Yard was still there, taking advantage of the cheap housing. The children were among my classmates.

I suspect the brickyard owners realized that these Black workers from the South were the long-term solution to their labor needs. I also suspect they realized that these men, for all the wrong reasons, would make bricks their life's work, that they would be tied to bricks in the North like they were tied to the land belonging to Southern planters. In the 1910 census, there were 27 Black miners (waterworks),

mostly from Virginia and North Carolina, who were probably employed to build the aqueduct project between the Catskills and New York City. It wasn't just the brickyards looking southward for cheap labor.

The original Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, founded in 1900, sat uncomfortably on North Cedar Street in a white community farther away than a Sunday morning walk from the West End. The early Black residents were primarily Methodists. I suspect the Baptist faith came with the seasonal brick workers; the Beulah church in Brockway opened around 1920. The first Baptist pastor I knew, the Rev. E.B. Carpenter, preached Sunday mornings and earned a living Monday mornings setting bricks.

There were no Black voters in the presidential election of 1916, the first vote to include the newly created city of Beacon, or 1920, the first for women. The local Black community appears to have settled for what historian Michael Groth calls "life on the margins." For the seasonal workers from the South, this would be business as usual. They would have never really known the taste of citizenship.

By 1930, the Black population was on the rise in the Town of Fishkill, which included the villages of Brockway, Chelsea, Dutchess Junction and Glenham. Brickmaking jobs were no longer seasonal and, on Sept. 15, 1924, the Castle Point Veterans Hospital opened in Chelsea. Both Castle Point and

the Brockway brickyard actively sought Black employees, but brickwork was dirty, dusty, hot and dangerous, not to mention the low pay and the less than reputable activities of the employed, on and off the job. The VA hospital cared for veterans with tuberculosis. The threat of catching TB in the greater community left open the door for Black workers from the South. They did not hesitate to come.

The daughter of my mother's midwife, Georgia Thompson, found her way to Chelsea from our birthplace in Helena, South Carolina, through her husband's acceptance of a VA offer. The Morgans, the Whitners, the Pickens, the Bryers, the Pruitts and the Galloways all reach back to South Carolina via Castle Point.

In 1930 there were 105 Black brick workers in the Town of Fishkill, and the VA employed 102 Black people. There were nine Black gardeners, including William Howes Jr., the first Black graduate of Beacon High, who had joined his father in the endeavor. Finding the families of many of my Black friends in the 1930 census brought elation. It was like a time capsule.

Their world crashed with the stock market, leaving the Black brick workers stranded and as wards of the state when Brockway filed for bankruptcy. The lucky few found jobs at Castle Point. The unlucky found ways to return to the South, but most were captive to bricks no longer being made. They bet their lives and their families' lives on a career in bricks in the North and lost.

Henry MacCracken, who wrote a history of the county, called this one of the most distressful episodes in Dutchess history. Eleanor Roosevelt was summoned to gather support for the plight of these Black families marooned in Dutchess Junction and Brockway. A few folks I knew called the abandoned brickyards in Dutchess Junction home through the 1950s.

I began this endeavor after reading *The Current* series; I thought some precipitous event had caused the lightening of Beacon's complexion before my family arrived in 1946. I suppose the flood of white immigrants could be that event. Beacon is undergoing a second lightening as the number of Black residents slowly recedes from census to census, but bricks and TB won't add color this time.





The keyboard of the organ at the St. Lawrence Friary



A historic photo of the organ at Gen. Joseph Howland's estate Tioronda, later known as Craig House Photo provided



The pipe organ at the St. John the Evangelist in Beacon Photos by B. Cronin (2)

Pipe Organs (from Page 1)

Given his experience with making music emerge from large, ungainly structures, it's unsurprising that his expertise extends to pipe organs, which he has composed for and played worldwide, including at the Vatican. In 2013, to celebrate Beacon's centennial, he compiled a guide to the city's 11 pipe organs and led tours in which he would play some of them.

Bertolozzi once arranged a meeting at Max's on Main to organize a larger Hudson Valley Pipe Organ Trail that he envisioned starting at the West Point Cadet Chapel, which has the largest church organ in the world, with 23,500 pipes. In Europe, he knew, organists led tourists around town as they played the same pieces at various churches.

But the number of potential stops in the Highlands is plummeting. The instrument at St. Lawrence is scheduled to be removed next month. Development at Craig House, the potential sale of St. Andrew Episcopal Church and relocations at the Carmelite Monastery have put their organs in limbo.

At the former Reformed Church, now a performance space known as Prophecy Hall, the owners are discarding its 1895 Geo. H. Ryder & Co. organ because it interferes with the accessibility of the restroom. The organ is free for the taking, although it will cost

about \$20,000 to move it, according to the Organ Clearing House in Newcastle, Maine.

For Bertolozzi, Beacon's vanishing pipe organs represent receding history. "It's an audible link" to the past, he said. "Music is so ephemeral. You play it, it's gone and it's never there again. But if you could bring those people back and play the organ for them, it would be the same sound that they remember. This is the history of Beacon. And it's being ransacked."

In the days before radio, many homes had a music room with a piano and other instruments. You flaunted your wealth with a pipe organ and perhaps a dedicated organist. The wealthiest of the wealthy had organs built for their yachts with metals that didn't oxidize in the salt air.

Ostentatious wealth was how the 58-pipe organ built by Johnson & Company in 1873 came to be installed in Tioronda, the sprawling mansion owned by the Civil War general Joseph Howland on the outskirts of what was then called Fishkill Landing. In 1915, Tioronda was purchased by two doctors and became the psychiatric hospital known as Craig House. On the hospital's last day in 1999, Bertolozzi played a farewell concert for its employees.

The former Craig House is being converted into Mirbeau Inn & Spa, a luxury resort. Bertolozzi said the owners plan to

restore the facade but not the organ itself, which he guesses would cost \$500,000.

The oldest organ in the city is at St. Andrew. It was built by George Jardine & Son and predates the Civil War and the building. Bertolozzi believes it was relocated around the turn of the 20th century from a chapel on DeWindt Street or a carriage house chapel on South Avenue, both of which are gone. The church has put the building on the market and, separately, would like to sell its Tiffany windows. "What will they do with the organ if they're selling the windows?" said Bertolozzi.

At the same time, Bertolozzi is practical. Even if these historic organs were restored, who would play them? And who would listen? For years, he's been the only person to play the instrument at St. Lawrence. Even a skilled piano player will not be familiar with the keyboards, foot pedals and racks of buttons and knobs.

"There's no such thing as a bad pipe organ, only bad organists," said John VanDerlee, dean of the Central Hudson Valley chapter of the American Guild of Organists. "A good organist knows how to make even a bad organ sound good. But the problem is that there's not many pathways to become a good organist."

Bertolozzi used to give lessons to the

nuns at the Carmelite Monastery at Hiddenbrooke, but the remaining sisters were moved this month. The Archdiocese of New York has not announced plans for the building.

VanDerlee and Bertolozzi met in the 1990s when the Bardavon in Poughkeepsie found a pipe organ in storage. Bertolozzi led a campaign to have it restored and reinstalled. The men work to find homes for wayward organs or save their parts for scrap. VanDerlee doesn't play but appreciates the instruments' complex mechanics, comparing his interest to people who love classic cars.

Electronic pipe organs take up far less space but are soulless in their perfection, VanDerlee said — although he noted they can be programmed to simulate the random quirks of traditional pipe organs.

"This one has trumpets," said Bertolozzi at St. John the Evangelist before he played a piece he composed for a friend's wedding. Earlier in the day, he had played the piece on the smaller organ at St. Lawrence, but it sounded more triumphant in the cavernous interior of St. John.

The organ is fairly new, from 1989. The church has kept it and the organ at its sister parish, St. Joachim, in working order. "I couldn't believe it when I heard they were restoring their organs," Bertolozzi said.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Lillian Rosengarten, LCSW

Compassionate Psychotherapy

Grief, Anxiety, Depression, Aging and Loneliness  
Individual and Couple

298 East Mtn Rd South, Cold Spring 10516, NY  
lillirose@optonline.net | (845) 265-2856

RON ANDERSON

AUGUST 9 to SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

BUSTER LEVI GALLERY

121 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York

Saturday|Sunday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM

DR. K

IMPORTED CAR SERVICE & REPAIR

15 TIORONDA AVE.  
BEACON, NY 12508  
DrKImportedCar.com

Phone/ 845.838.0717  
Fax/ 845.440.7541  
E-Mail/ drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com

ALLENS DUMPSTER SERVICE

LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY

(646)772-2673

allens-dumpster-service.business.site

Lynne Ward, LCSW

Licensed Psychotherapist

Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children

Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation

Addiction Counseling

75 Main Street  
Cold Spring, NY 10516

lynneward99@gmail.com  
(917) 597-6905

GOT RUBBISH?

10-30 YARD DUMPSTER RENTAL  
RUBBISH REMOVAL SERVICES  
DEMOLITION SERVICES

37A Albany Post Rd. Ossining, NY 10562  
MrCheapeeInc@aol.com

914-737-0823

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1994

www.MrCheapeeInc.com



Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Costa —

5. Crib cry

9. Gal. fractions

12. Colorado resort

13. Russian river

14. Motor City labor org.

15. Alike (Fr.)

16. Eyelid woe

17. Lyricist Gershwin

18. Santa’s runway

19. Sly chuckle

20. Per person

21. British verb ending

23. Right angle

25. Exaggerated pride

28. Affliction

32. Look of disdain

33. Edition

34. Agreed silently

36. Goddess of wisdom

37. Half of bi-

38. Mont. neighbor

39. Army transport

42. Cagers’ gp.

44. Till bills

48. Internet address

49. Eye drop

50. Bryant of hoops fame

51. Three, in Rome

52. Saharan

53. Japanese noodle

54. Computer key

55. Pixels

56. Cooped (up)
- DOWN
1. KOA patron

2. Shakespeare villain

3. Pisa farewell

4. Super-motivated

5. Urges dogs on snow

6. Museo display

7. Chaos

8. Ginger —

9. Witticism

10. Poi base

11. Trade

20. #1 Elvis Presley song

22. Ambulance sound

24. Non-clergy

25. QVC alternative

26. Popular card game

27. Nap site

29. Enzyme suffix

30. Press for payment

31. Verily

35. Moolah

36. Prizes

39. Burlap fiber

40. Messes up

41. Power co. supply

43. Lure

45. Central point

46. Black, in verse

47. Dispatched

49. Smidgen

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

SWAMP

PLUMB

WORDSEARCH

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

© 2024 King Features

AC S POLE ALTO  
NRA EGAD REID  
DUL LARDS REND  
VICE HIKE S  
CRASH SAAB  
LEDA MUSTARDS  
EDO PEEKS HIE  
FORWARDS REST  
HIVE MITCH  
SWAIN IAGO  
THIN BUZZARDS  
LINE AROD IOU  
OPTS ALDA CON

Answers for Aug. 23 Puzzles  
P H V A L A O K K G  
I L B E A R U B E C  
E Q I R P H I Y D J  
F O M O E X Z R A M  
F V K N N G K L G H  
A Z E B R A I H Y F  
R U Z Q O C Z T H U  
I P F W B A D N A P  
G I E U C R D W B R  
G Q Q M O N K E Y L

COVEY. COVER, MOVER,  
MOWER, POWER, POKER

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

BEACON  
FINE ART  
PRINTING

Specializing in digital fine art, large format and display printing, mounting, scanning, retouching and framing for artists, photographers and all fine art professionals.

BEACONFINEARTPRINTING.COM | 914 522 4736

A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO



## Sports

# VARSITY PREVIEW

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**FOOTBALL** — Last year, the Blue Devils had one of their best seasons in school history, winning a Section I, Class D title and a regional championship before losing 21-20 in the state semifinal to Stillwater — a two-point conversion away from the state title game. They finished 8-3.

Although they lost 12 seniors to graduation, this year the team will look to repeat as Section I champions for the first time.

The Blue Devils have three offensive and four defensive starters returning from 2023, but departing quarterback Ryan Van Tassel (now at Hobart), running back/defensive end Evan Giachinta (playing lacrosse for High Point University), wide receiver Michael Murray, linebacker Erik Stubblefield (King's College) and lineman Jack Hartman left holes to fill.

Key returning starters include wide receiver Jake Thomas, defensive back Fallou Faye, running back/free safety Brody Corless and linebacker/offensive lineman Nate Stickle, all seniors.

Van Tassel's successor at quarterback remains uncertain, although sophomore David Powlis is a leading candidate, said Coach Ryan McConville, who is in his 11th season. "David has taken some great steps to assert himself," he said. "He's taken the lion's share of the snaps."

Powlis said he's ready to meet the moment. "I feel a little bit of pressure, and pretty big shoes to replace," he said. "But I have a lot of good people around me."

The battle to succeed Giachinta at running back is between sophomore Alex Gaugler and junior Merrick Williams, said McConville, although the coach said he may rely on both players, depending on the situation on the field.

Gaugler, Williams, junior Tomas Simko and senior Julian Schwarz are expected to take big leaps this season, according to McConville. Sophomores Ryan Cavallaro, Jayden Luoma and Nick Lemon will lead the offensive line.

Haldane opens the season with two games on the road, at Dover on Sept. 6 and Woodlands on Sept. 14, before hosting Valhalla on Sept. 21. It also will take on Tuckahoe, Peekskill, Putnam Valley, Hastings and Dobbs Ferry. Select games will be broadcast online at [team1sports.com](http://team1sports.com) and [locallive.tv](http://locallive.tv).

**GIRLS' TENNIS** — The Blue Devils, who finished 9-7 last season, lost five seniors (Camilla McDaniel, Ellen O'Hara, Julie



Richie Omira makes a catch for Beacon during an Aug. 12 workout.



Brody Corless of Haldane eludes the grasp of a Beacon defender.

*Photos by Cadence Heeter*

Shields, Jacqueline Muth and Lily Benson) to graduation but have three returning players and three new ninth graders.

Ninth grader Ellie Dubroff and seniors Mary McBride and Sophie Koch are back, and ninth graders Silvia Hardman, Sachi Starbuck and Aisling Stathos are new to the team. The key to success is simple, said Coach Simon Dudar: "Consistency."

The team is also hoping to add another member to the team this year: Lights. Some matches have been suspended because of darkness, said Dudar, so he and parent Alex Dubroff have launched a campaign to raise \$15,000. "A lot of the girls who were not the first- or second-seeded players wouldn't get to play at home, which was a real bummer, because we'd run out of daylight," said Dubroff.

The lights they have in mind "are designed to have the light just stay on the

focus point," without spillover that might affect neighbors, said Dudar, who has been the Haldane coach for 15 years.

The Blue Devils begin their season on Thursday (Sept. 5) at Westlake. Their first home match will be Sept. 11, hosting Tuckahoe.

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**FOOTBALL** — Coach Jim Phelan, who stepped down during the offseason after the Bulldogs finished with a 2-7 record and a first-round playoff exit, was succeeded by the junior varsity coach, Gerald Ryan, whose squad finished 3-5. Phelan had coached the Bulldogs since 2018.

Ryan will have talent to work with on both sides of the ball, including quarterback Jazziah Whitted and linebacker Mercer Jordan, both seniors. Whitted, who has a strong throwing arm and good field vision as a runner, will rely on wide receivers Giovanni Bowley and Jadon Jones as targets. He will share the backfield with running back Elijah Epps, who jumps up from junior varsity.

On defense, Jordan will be joined at linebacker by Kevin Beal at defensive tackle.

Beacon opens its season with three road games — at Red Hook, New Paltz and Kingston — before its home opener on Sept. 27 against five-time Section IV, Class B champions Port Jervis. Port Jervis defeated the Bulldogs last season, 61-20.

After visiting Saugerties on Oct. 5, Beacon will close its season with three home games, hosting O'Neill (Oct. 10), Liberty (Oct. 18) and Marlboro Central (Oct. 25).

**GIRLS' TENNIS** — Beacon went 5-5 last year but returns a strong squad. Bethany Rudolph, Addison Miller and Willa Freedman are back at singles and Isabella Baffuto, Ave Marie Gianna, Brenna Rudolph, SaraLynn Jaafar and Megan Nicholson return at doubles.

The team adds four seniors who will make their varsity debut in doubles play: Mehr Sangri, Angelina Bottiglieri, Sally Betterbid and Fallon Groza.

The Bulldogs open the season on Wednesday (Sept. 4) at Monroe-Woodbury before hosting Valley Central on Friday.

**GIRLS' SWIMMING** — Beacon returns nine swimmers, including seniors Christine Robinson and Holly Whittemore. Robinson will compete in freestyle and backstroke and Whittemore in butterfly, backstroke and freestyle.

They are joined by juniors Mira Bagriyanik and Sofia Domanski and sophomores Lakota Newman, Abigail Haydt, Madison Flagler, Charlotte Bowen and Lauren Antonucci. Beacon kicks off the season by hosting Lourdes and Spackenkill on Sept. 9.



## ADDING PROTECTION

*Parent would like Haldane football to have caps*

By Michael Turton

The deaths this month of prep football players in Alabama and West Virginia have brought attention to how best to protect players from head trauma.

Some area high school teams, such as Dover and O'Neill, provide players during practices and scrimmages with soft Guardian Caps that fit over their helmets to provide cushioning. But Haldane and Beacon do not use the caps, which cost \$70 to \$125 each and reduce the impact of hits by up to 33 percent, according to their manufacturer.

Tom Corless, whose sons Brody and Cooper play football for Haldane, said he is talking with the Cold Spring Fire Co. about a fundraiser to purchase caps for both the modified and varsity teams.

Tom Cunningham, Haldane's athletic director, said the feedback he's heard from players and coaches at schools who use the caps has been "overwhelmingly positive," adding he will request funding for the caps as part of the next budget cycle.

According to Guardian Sport, its cap is used by more than 500 colleges, 5,000 high schools and every NFL team. The NFL mandates their use in contact practices, and some players wear them in preseason games.

Robert Zayas, the executive director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, said the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) allows the Guardian Cap but does not require it. "NFHS can't say whether wearing the cap will void the manufacturer's warranty on the helmet," he said. "School districts need to be aware of that."