

The HIGHLANDS  
Current

Flowers  
Forever  
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**MAKING HIS POINT** — A knight in shining armor at the 47th Renaissance Faire in Tuxedo — a quick jaunt southwest of the Highlands — challenges an opponent on Aug. 31. Riding horses at full gallop, the knights joust by attempting to shatter each other's wooden shields. The festival, which continues weekends through Oct. 6, also has fairies, falcons, contortionists, glassblowers, living chess pieces, sorcery and costume contests. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org). *Photo by Ross Corsair*

Fjord Trail  
to Delay Cold  
Spring Link

*Says it will assess after  
first projects open*

By Leonard Sparks

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is delaying a decision on a segment of its 7.5-mile linear park between Dockside Park and Little Stony Point, which has drawn backlash from some elected officials and residents who fear a surge of new visitors to the Village of Cold Spring. Chris Davis, HHFT's chair, and Amy Kacala, its executive director, revealed the long-rumored decision in an Aug. 16 letter to Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel, Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley and Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward. In April, the three officials had jointly declared their opposition to a Cold Spring portion of the trail, which will extend to Long Dock Park in Beacon.

HHFT said the preferred route from Cold Spring remains an elevated multi-use path skirting a half-mile stretch of the Hudson River between Dockside Park and Little Stony Point. It would represent the southern section of the Shoreline Trail, which pedestrians and bikers would use to travel along the river between Cold Spring and Breakneck Ridge. Dockside is a state park maintained by the village.

(Continued on Page 20)

Restart Indian Point Plant?

*Six state lawmakers  
propose study*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Six Republican state senators introduced a bill on Aug. 30 that, if passed, would establish a commission to exam-

ine reopening Indian Point. The nuclear power plant south of Philipstown closed in 2021 and is being decommissioned. The bill also would reclassify nuclear energy and natural gas derived from trash and manure as "renewable energy" and authorize a feasibility study of small modular nuclear reactors. None of the lawmak-

ers are from the Hudson Valley. Any effort to reopen Indian Point would face significant hurdles. For starters, the reactors have been dismantled, and Holtec, the firm hired to decommission the plant, has sent the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission a "certificate of permanent cessation of operations" that states that it would be impossible to restart. Holtec is attempting to reopen a nuclear (Continued on Page 10)

Reporter's Notebook

Change in the Air

By Jeff Simms

It was gorgeous in Beacon this week. August's suffocating humidity passed and, at my house, we threw open the windows and let the breeze do the rest. But does anyone remember Valentine's



Day? It was bitterly cold that week, with temperatures in the 30s and a relentless wind that felt like it could cut you in half. That was the week the heat went out at my house. My wife and I had central air conditioning and a gas-powered boiler installed in 2011, 18 months after we bought our 1,850-square-foot home, and we fought both systems for the next 12 years, dumping money we couldn't afford into repair after repair. It was 42 degrees inside the house when the heat came on at the end of that week in February. We had wonderful friends who fed us and kept us warm in the interim, but the

extended outage was the last straw. In May, we converted to air-sourced ductless heat pumps (aka mini splits), a high-efficiency, fossil fuel-free heating and cooling setup. Using wall-mounted units called evaporators paired with outside condensers, the technology transfers heat from the house in the summer and brings it inside, even in sub-freezing temperatures, in the winter. Because they move energy instead of creating it by burning oil or gas, heat pumps are far more efficient than traditional heating and cooling systems. (Continued on Page 8)



A rendering of a section of the Shoreline Trail HHFT



KATHRYN GRODY & MANDY PATINKIN

The HIGHLANDS  
Current  
Sept. 21, Beacon  
TICKET INFO PAGES 12-13



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: ERIC TIPLER

By Michael Turton

Eric Tipler, who lives in Cold Spring, is the author of *Write Yourself In: The Definitive Guide to Writing Successful College Admissions Essays*.

What did you write about in your essay for Harvard?

I spent the summer before my senior year in high school at Interlochen, a big arts camp in Michigan. I thought I'd apply to a music conservatory and become a professional musician. I spent eight weeks practicing the bassoon and hated it. That's what I wrote about: Although I wanted to study music, I didn't want to be a bassoonist. I'd give my essay a B. Being an all-state bassoonist, valedictorian and having great SAT scores from a rural Virginia school played a bigger role in my being accepted than my essay.

What's different about your book?

I started writing it five years ago. I was moving from helping kids with writing to coaching them on the college application process. There are so many books and websites trying to sell a product or service, I wasn't sure where to turn. I wrote the book I wish I'd had as a kid and 10 years ago when I started helping students.

What's the key ingredient in an admissions essay?

There's no secret ingredient. By 17, every kid has developed skills and abilities and has something that colleges are looking for. The process is more about figuring out what the student has so they can put their best foot forward. People stress about picking a topic, and that matters, but an Ivy League admissions officer once told me topics matter less than voice. They're looking for a sense of who the writer is as a person: intellectual curiosity, community engagement, leadership, passion and achievement. They're not looking for clones. They want to assemble a class of students who will contribute different things.

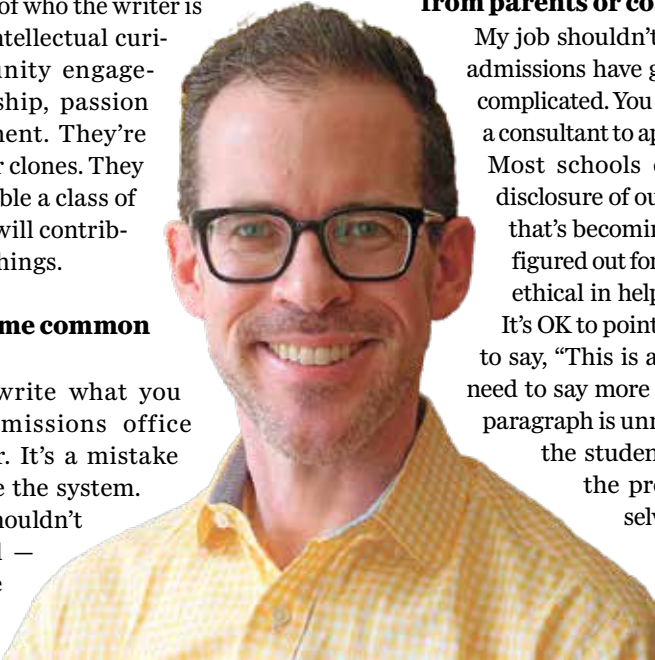
What are some common mistakes?

One is to write what you think an admissions office wants to hear. It's a mistake to try to game the system. Also, essays shouldn't be too formal — they should be written in a serious but

conversational tone. That's hard for kids. For 11 years they've been taught not to write in the first person, to support everything with evidence, talk about facts, not feelings. Sometimes it can be a mistake to write about someone who has inspired you. It needs to be about *how* that person impacted you, and how you took what they gave you and ran with it.

Can students get too much help from parents or coaches?

My job shouldn't exist; college admissions have gotten way too complicated. You shouldn't need a consultant to apply for college. Most schools don't require disclosure of outside help, but that's becoming a trend. I've figured out for myself what is ethical in helping a student. It's OK to point out problems, to say, "This is an issue," "You need to say more here" or "This paragraph is unnecessary." But the students need to fix the problems themselves.



ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

As a kid, did you like going back to school?

I liked seeing my friends after being in Virginia all summer.



Thomas Green, Beacon

I remember feeling the butterflies, the anxiety. It was a challenge.



Carol Banker, Nelsonville

I hated it until fifth grade and Poughkeepsie Day School. They taught me to think.



Jan Thacher, Cold Spring

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## Around THE Region

### Peekskill

## First Cannabis Shop Opens

Valley Greens, the city's first legal cannabis shop, opened Aug. 24, according to *The Peekskill Herald*.

It is operated by three childhood friends from Cortlandt who received a state license last year and a permit from the Peekskill Planning Commission in May.

The store, at 939 Central Ave., is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A week earlier, on Aug. 15, Shortrope Prime LLC of 2785 Route 9 in Philipstown

appeared before the city's Zoning Board of Appeals with a plan for a hydroponic growing business on the second floor at 1698 Main St. The cannabis would be sold from a licensed dispensary in Sleepy Hollow.

The business, Quality High, would join a pasta company and a food distributor in the building, according to *The Herald*. It would be required by state law to have an odor mitigation plan.

### Southeast

## Doctor Pleads Guilty to Sexual Abuse

The former chief anesthesiologist at Putnam Hospital in Carmel pleaded guilty on Aug. 22 to felony sexual abuse and felony assault.

Prosecutors said Dr. Paul Giacomelli, who was arrested Dec. 30, used a chemical to

render his victim unconscious before sexually abusing her. He will be sentenced to four years in state prison on Nov. 20 and must register as a sex offender.

"I'm very proud of the work of the Sheriff's Department and Assistant District Attorney [Melissa] Lynch, but I'm mostly proud of the victim's courage in going through this process," Robert Tendy, the Putnam County district attorney, said in a statement.



Giacomelli

### Cortlandt

## Landscaper Pleads Guilty to Bribery

The owner of a landscaping company pleaded guilty on Aug. 26 to federal bribery charges, according to *The Peekskill Herald*.

Glenn Griffin, 55, of Cortlandt Manor, faces up to 10 years in prison. He will be sentenced on Dec. 5.

At the same time, Robert Dyckman, 52, of Verplanck, pleaded guilty to mail fraud. He was the former assistant general foreman for Cortlandt and had been employed by the town for 28 years. He faces up to five years in prison.

According to prosecutors, from 2018 to February 2020, Griffin bribed Dyckman for access to a Town of Cortlandt facility on Saturdays and after hours to secretly dump concrete, cement with rebar, tiles, bricks, rocks, soil and other waste. Griffin was then paid by the town to remove the debris.

The two men were ordered to pay \$2.4 million in restitution.

Along with Griffin's Landscaping, Griffin operates Hilltop Nursery & Garden Center in Croton and Diddell Farms in Wappingers Falls and owns 11 properties in Peekskill, *The Herald* reported.

### NEWS BRIEFS

## Beacon Climate Action Plan Approved

*Strategies will guide continued emissions reduction*

The Beacon Council on Aug. 19 adopted the city's 2021-2030 Climate Action Plan, a 37-page document filled with strategies for reducing the government's 2021 emissions levels by 31 percent before 2030 to stay in line with state goals.

Its plans focus on four areas of operations: buildings, vehicles, solid waste and water and wastewater treatment. Some of the projects are already in motion, such as the launch of a community solar program that provides lower-income residents with up to 20 percent off their electric bills and the construction of the all-electric central fire station.

The plan also calls for installing solar panels on the firehouse roof and on the Highway Department garage and wastewater administrative building. The largest reduction in emissions will come from biofilters to be added by 2029 at the former Dennings Point landfill to mitigate the 1,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases it emits annually.

## Putnam Authorizes Rescue Team

*Will aid police with evacuations*

The Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (Sept. 3) authorized the creation of a task force of firefighters and ambulance corps members who will help evacuate and triage victims in emergency situations.

Legislators voted unanimously to approve the task force at the request of Robert Lipton, commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services. Its members will receive training from the Sheriff's Office.

Lipton told the Legislature's Protective Services Committee last month that the task force will take directions from the police agency in command at rapid-response incidents, such as a shooting. When cleared by police, the task force

members will remove victims, said Lipton. "This way, they can start triage and start delivering them to hospitals," he said.

## Putnam Gets \$300K for Fire Training Center

*State senator secures funding for new facility in Carmel*

State Sen. Pete Harcham, whose district includes eastern Putnam County, announced on Aug. 29 he had secured \$300,000 in grants for a \$1.3 million firefighter training center under construction in Carmel.

The previous center, which was demolished, was in poor shape; its tower had not been used in 10 years because of safety concerns. The facility will be available to municipal departments in Putnam County and the region.

The Putnam Legislature approved funding the project a year ago with \$1 million in pandemic relief funds that had been earmarked for police and fire radios; \$50,000 in federal aid; \$50,000 from the Bureau of Emergency Management; and \$200,000 in savings that it hoped to recoup in grants.

## Putnam Renovates Board of Elections

*Upgrades include new roof, siding, drainage and security*

Putnam County completed renovations at the Board of Elections building in Carmel last month that include a new roof, landscaping, siding, drainage, security,



The Putnam Board of Elections building in Carmel received a facelift. Photo provided

Americans with Disabilities accessibility and signs.

The upgrades were made with money from a \$2 million facilities fund created by the county last year.

"The improvements made to the BOE are a crucial step in ensuring that our electoral system is safeguarded," Legislator Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley,

said in a statement. "Thank you to all the hardworking Department of Public Works crews and Information Technology Department employees who made this possible, and to the county executive for prioritizing infrastructure investments."

The building is named for the late Robert Bennett, a Kent resident who was the Democratic election commissioner for 37 years, from 1976 to 2013.

# 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](http://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](http://highlandscurrent.org/sjp)

*Chip Rowe*  
Chip Rowe, Editor  
The Highlands Current



The HIGHLANDS  
Current

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

September 6, 2024  
Volume 12, Issue 36

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

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**NYFA\*** Winner: 139 Better Newspaper Contest Awards  
**NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR** (2021-23)

\* New York Press Association, 2013 - 23

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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Always present

Congratulations to Daniel Pruitt for his excellent historical article on Beacon and the surrounding area's Black population ("Always Present, Never Seen: A Response," Aug. 30). It provides informative details as a precursor to what would eventually lead to the implementation in the 1960s and 1970s of urban renewal.

I would add one important local history note: By far the oldest Black church in the area is St. James African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, which was established in 1847 by free Blacks in the community. St. James still stands on Academy Street in Beacon, and I am a lifelong member and its historian.

Connie Perdreau, *Poughkeepsie*

We as a people were always left out of history but people like Dan Pruitt are a wonderful breath of fresh air. Keep up the good work, my friend, and God bless.

Sylvia Roosa, *Poughkeepsie*

Thanks to my college friend, Danny Pruitt, for his great article. I'm motivated to visit Beacon and Fishkill and to imagine various neighborhoods and factories from his childhood. Coincidentally, Steve Welner, a good friend who died in October, used a shot of Main Street to open the video for his song

"Sweet Simple Life." While Steve was a huge fan of Beacon and had his ashes spread nearby, I wonder if he knew how life was back then.

Bill Stellwagen, *Seaford*

That was a great article by Dan (a fellow graduate of Beacon High School, 1965). Since I live on North Cedar Street and attended the South Avenue school, the names he mentioned from the West End were familiar to me as classmates. I will always consider them friends and hope those still with us are doing well. Take care, my friend!

Jerry Fezza, *Kingwood, Texas*

This research and memories should be part of the record — and now they are, thanks to Mr. Pruitt.

Steve McCorkle, *Cold Spring*

Organs

Pipe organs are beautiful works of art ("Free Pipe Organ," Aug. 30). Their music is like no other — organic and heavenly, with vibrations to lift the soul and spirit. Thanks for the wonderful article.

Anita Cashman, *Poughkeepsie*

The First Reformed Church in Fishkill has a pipe organ moved from elsewhere about 30 years ago and we have employed

an organist since. One of our longtime members put in a great deal of work getting it in and keeping it up.

Karen Twohig, *Fishkill*

Battery storage

Thank you for your article on Battery Energy Storage Systems ("Battery Storage Faces Backlash," Aug. 30). Do you have any data on the odds of an accident happening at a BESS facility compared to other forms of energy generation and storage, e.g., methane (natural gas), hydropower, coal, wind, solar, nuclear, etc.? It's hard to understand the relative pros and cons of battery facilities without knowing how they compare to other options.

Roberto Muller, *Putnam Valley*

The editor responds: We haven't seen any comparisons like that, only studies on the risks associated with BESS. An industry group, the American Clean Power Association, argues that battery storage is relatively safe based on statistics that compare its rapid growth to the less rapid growth of incidents such as fires.

Helmets

I'm surprised, with all we know about head trauma, that football is still such a popular sport in high school ("Adding Protection," Aug. 30). Having played the game, it is nothing but head trauma. No helmet can protect you from that. I say bring back rugby and lose the pads.

Sean Breault, *via Instagram*

The editor responds: We reported on this issue in 2022 and its effect on participation. See [highlandscurrent.org/future-football](https://highlandscurrent.org/future-football).

Documentary

I enjoyed Peter Sanders' documentary, *On the Shoulders of Giants: The History of NYU Langone Orthopedics* ("Inside the Operating Room," Aug. 23). It wasn't as gory as you might expect, especially if you consider it part of the process the remarkable surgeons and orthopedists must employ to affect a good outcome. It was refreshing to see their camaraderie.

Kelly House, *Nelsonville*

KuBe

Maybe the owners could put some money into the building ("KuBe Gets New Director," Aug. 16). I love having a place to create and become inspired, but the building is falling apart. The rent ain't cheap, either.

Andrew Gipe, *via Facebook*

Cellphones

Every other school district around us seems to have full-day bans on student cellphones. It's confusing why Beacon is the outlier ("Beacon Schools Ban Phones During Class," Aug. 30).

Stacie Merrill, *via Instagram*





# Editorial Standards

Below are excerpts from our editorial standards, which are online at [highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards](https://highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards). If you have questions or feedback, contact Editor Chip Rowe at [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org) or 845-809-5584.

## About *The Highlands Current*

We are a reader-supported, nonprofit media organization that serves the New York communities of Philipstown (Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Garrison, North Highlands and Continental Village) and Beacon. The Hudson Highlands are mountains on both sides of the river; on the east side, they stretch from Fishkill Ridge to Anthony's Nose, or roughly the northern edge of Beacon to the southern edge of Philipstown, about 13 miles.

## How We Report

Since September 2020, *The Current* has been a member of The Trust Project ([thetrustproject.org](https://thetrustproject.org)), a consortium of news outlets that has adopted standards to allow readers to assess the credibility of their journalism more easily.

## Ethics Policies

### *Expectations for our journalists*

- Our journalists may not own interests in the businesses they write about.
- Our journalists cannot accept gifts from subjects or potential subjects of their coverage. If gifts sent to journalists cannot be returned, we will donate them to charity.
- Our journalists may accept free admission to events they have been assigned to cover but cannot accept free or discounted tickets for family or friends.
- Our journalists will disclose any gifts they receive with the editor and discuss whether something needs to be returned, disclosed, paid for, donated to charity or handled in some other way that protects the paper's integrity.
- Our journalists may accept small gifts in cases where people are being kind and clearly not trying to influence them, such as a cup of coffee or holiday edibles.

### *Political involvement*

- We ask that our journalists avoid political involvement such as running for or holding elected office, volunteering for campaigns, serving on municipal boards, donating to campaigns or displaying campaign materials on their property or persons. If a family member's political involvement calls into question the integrity of a journalist's coverage, the journalist will not be assigned to cover that issue or campaign. If avoiding such a family conflict is impossible, the family member's involvement will be disclosed in our coverage.
- Our journalists will avoid community group affiliations in areas that they cover. Journalists will tell the editor about their involvement, and they will not be assigned to cover those stories. If a conflict can't be avoided, our coverage will disclose it.
- Our journalists will disclose community and political involvement, particularly those involving topics they may cover, in statements on our website and in stories related to their involvement.
- *The Current* does not endorse political candidates.

### *Social networks*

- Our journalists should avoid expressing opinions on social media about politics but are free

to express opinions on cultural areas such as sports, entertainment or technology if they do not cover those areas and are not likely to cover them.

- Our journalists should avoid sharing social media posts without providing context that indicates they are not endorsing the content.
- Our journalists should always identify themselves by their full names in social media profiles, and, if they are using the profile for professional purposes, identify themselves as reporters for *The Current*.
- When contacting a potential source online, such as through Facebook Messenger, our journalists will always identify themselves and their affiliation.

### *Awards and contests*

- We accept awards only from journalistic organizations, with judges who are journalists. If we win a contest we did not enter, such as recognition from another nonprofit organization, we will assess whether accepting the award would compromise our independence.

### *Freelance work*

- We prohibit our journalists from working for competing media organizations, as defined by the editor, or for a political organization, elected official, government agency, candidate for office or a nonprofit agency with a cause agenda, such as a legal or environmental group. Reporters will disclose to the editor any potential conflicts from their work outside *The Current* and will not be assigned stories related to their involvement.

## Diverse Voices

Inclusiveness is at the heart of thinking and acting as journalists. The complex issues we face as a society require respect for different viewpoints. Race (ethnicity), class, generation, gender and geography all affect point of view. Reflecting these differences in our reporting leads to better, more nuanced stories and a better-informed community. This news organization aims to reflect the diversity of the communities it serves in its staff and contributors, its editorial choices and priorities. Please let us know about stories in your neighborhood.

## Diverse Staffing

We will seek diverse pools of candidates for all positions and will always seek to hire the most qualified candidate. Our masthead lists 13 editorial employees and regular freelancers, of whom 11 are men and two are women. Most of the people on our masthead are white. They range in age from their 20s to their 70s.

## Corrections Policy

- We are committed to telling you when an error has been made, the magnitude of the error and the correct information, as quickly as possible. If you spot an error in print or online, email Editor Chip Rowe at [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org).
- Our news organization strives to publish accurate information across all its content. We take many steps to ensure accuracy: We investigate claims with skepticism, question assumptions, challenge conventional wisdom, confirm information with subject-matter experts, and seek to corroborate what sources tell us by talking with other informed people or consulting documents.
- We verify content, such as technical terms, statistics, etc., against source documents or make clear who is providing the information. We may share relevant story components with a primary source or an outside expert to verify them.
- We stand by the information as accurate, and if it's not, we will change it as quickly as possible and be transparent with our readers about the magnitude of the error. We guide our journalists to ask the following questions when

they double-check information in a quest for the truth: How do you know? How can you be sure? Where is the evidence? Who is the source, and how does the source know? What is the supporting documentation?

- If a factual mistake is made in a social media post — other than typos, grammatical fixes or misspellings — we will correct the post and indicate that a correction has been made, typically in the comments section.
- We will note significant corrections in print and update, whenever possible, the archival PDFs of our print paper. We also will correct any errors we learn of in our stories online and note the corrections.

## Ownership Structure

### *Funding and Grants*

Highlands Current Inc. is a New York State not-for-profit news organization founded in July 2010 as Philipstown.Info Inc. Through its print edition, *The Highlands Current*, and its website, [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org), it is dedicated to providing balanced reporting of the news in the communities of Philipstown (Cold Spring, Garrison, Nelsonville, North Highlands and Continental Village) and Beacon in the Hudson Highlands region.

Highlands Current Inc. is governed by a volunteer board of directors responsible for the financial health and mission-driven activity of the organization.

To provide our content free, we rely on the generosity of members who believe in our mission. Our corporation has tax-exempt status as a federal 501(c)(3) enterprise, and donations to it are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. As a nonprofit that operates as a public trust, we do not pay certain taxes. We also may receive funds from government programs offered to nonprofits or similar businesses.

Highlands Current Inc. is a member of the Institute for Nonprofit News and subscribes to the guidelines it sets forth. We retain full authority over editorial and advertising content to protect the best journalistic and business interests of our organization. We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not based on support from any donors or other revenue sources. Acceptance of financial support does not constitute an endorsement of donors or their products, services or opinions.

Consistent with INN guidelines, our organization makes public the names of all donors who give \$5,000 or more annually. We will accept anonymous donations for general support below that threshold only if sufficient safeguards have been implemented to ensure the donation expenditure is made independently. No more than 15 percent of our annual revenue may come from anonymous sources.

As a news nonprofit, we do not accept donations from any source that, as deemed by our board, presents a conflict of interest with our work or compromises our independence.

Our website contains links to our annual 990 tax filings with the Internal Revenue Service. A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty St., New York, NY 10005. You also may obtain information on charitable organizations from the New York State Office of the Attorney General at [charitiesnys.com](https://charitiesnys.com) or 212-416-8401.

## Mission/Coverage Policies

Our mission is to be a trusted, independent and nonpartisan source of information on topics of importance to our Hudson Highlands communities. Through both our print edition and website, we seek to provide a vital forum for wide-ranging views and to reflect the diverse interests, concerns and experiences of our readers.

## Verification and Standards

### *Telling the truth*

- We strive to be honest, accurate, truthful and fair. We do not distort or fabricate facts, imagery, sound or data.
- We strive to provide accurate context for all reporting.
- We encourage staffers to seek diverse sources. We believe in covering not only the most powerful voices on an issue but also those who are not normally heard.
- We attempt to ensure that sources are reliable. To the extent possible, we make clear what motivations our sources may have, and any conditions people have set for giving us information.
- If a report includes criticism of people or organizations, we allow them to respond.
- We clearly distinguish fact from opinion online with labels such as “News” and “Opinion.” Columns that express opinions are identified in print and online with tags such as “Reporter's Notebook,” “Editor's Notebook” or the column name.

### *Balance and fairness*

- Our journalists will take reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of the information that we publish and note their sources. Whenever possible, we will verify information with multiple sources. We will link to our source material online when possible.
- We do not publish rumors or other information we have not verified.
- We will be alert to situations where the most accessible spokesperson is at the extremes of issues, but most people are somewhere in the middle.
- We will refrain from presenting multiple points of view if one perspective on an issue has been credibly established as fact. In other words, we will avoid “false balance.”
- In breaking news situations, we will attempt to gather comments from key sides of an issue; if comments are not immediately available, we will publish the story without them, make clear that we could not get some perspectives and update the story as needed.
- We will follow the same process we use for covering any other organization when our organization has done something newsworthy.
- Reporters, at their discretion, may share parts of story drafts with sources for accuracy or to ensure they understand technical points and procedures.
- We will run sensitive material that might be offensive to some readers after internal debate has demonstrated a clear public interest in and value from the publication. We will refrain from running sensitive material specifically or solely for revenue purposes, such as increased digital traffic.
- We will accurately reflect the content of stories in headlines and social media posts.
- We will not use metric considerations (e.g., driving online traffic) in determining what we cover and how we place stories.
- Our journalists avoid expressing opinions and work to ensure that their stories do not reflect a bias toward any position. Exceptions are made for journalists whose jobs specifically involve expressing opinions, such as editorial writers, columnists, commentators and cartoonists.
- Our organization does not advocate or operate in a way that promotes any legislation, policies, government action or outcomes, though policy or legislative changes may be a consequence of our reporting. We lobby only for freedom of information and freedom of press issues.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from Page 5)

- We will permit undercover reporting only when we feel a story is important enough to justify doing so and we have exhausted all other reasonable methods of obtaining the information.
- We may use sources with a conflict of interest in stories, but details that signal the conflict of interest will be included (e.g., a scientist who conducted a study about a drug’s effectiveness funded by the drug’s manufacturer).

Quotations

- We clean up random utterances such as pauses, “um” or “you know” and correct grammatical errors unless they materially alter the meaning.
- We allow separate phrases of a quote separated by attribution. (“I will go to war,” the president said. “But only if necessary.”)
- In Q&As such as “5 Questions,” a subject’s responses will be edited for brevity, and responses that addressed the same question but were made at different times in the conversation may be brought together in a single response. At the discretion of the reporter or editor, a response edited in this manner will be verified with the source.
- If information or a quotation in a story comes from a news release, we will include that in the attribution, e.g., “she said in a statement.”
- We avoid publishing quotes that include profanity or hate speech, but if deemed relevant to a story, the words will be spelled out.

Issues of privacy

- We view everything posted openly on social media and the internet as public information, although we attempt to verify material with other sources.
- We consider the standard for publishing material about private individuals who are thrust into the public eye as higher than that for public individuals.
- We do not believe that everything public officials say and do should be made public, even though they cede a great deal of privacy when they enter the public eye. We analyze cases individually, considering the news value of the public figure’s action.
- We reserve the right to publish material that we have voluntarily withheld if we determine that the material has a valid public interest or if we feel that the requesting party has deceived us regarding their motives.
- We use discretion when it comes to interviewing and publishing material from trauma victims or bystanders because we understand that doing so may cause additional harm.

Sources of information

- We do not pay for interviews.
- We do not allow interview subjects to review stories before publication, except in limited cases where an expert source may be allowed to review a passage or passages to ensure the accuracy of technical information.
- Articles and reports will state the method of interviewing (i.e., whether it was in person, by telephone, Zoom or email) if it provides necessary context.
- We use links, if available, for source attribution in online stories.
- We do not publish articles or photographs generated by artificial intelligence (AI). Although reporters may use AI as a research tool, all information is verified by a human. In addition, reporters and editors use AI for copy-editing suggestions (such as to fix grammar) and to transcribe audio. We use AI on our website to create audio versions of our stories.
- When members of our board of directors are

- mentioned or quoted in our coverage, we will identify them as such.
- We will consider potential harm to sources facing intolerance in their societies before naming them in stories.
- We will seek out people in the groups we cover to gain perspective on our coverage and terminology. We will use racial, ethnic, gender and sexuality identifiers when relevant. We will identify transgender people by the gender they express publicly.

Unnamed Sources Policy

We will cite or quote confidential sources sparingly and only to provide information that is vital to the story and cannot be obtained through any other source. The editor will always know the identity of any unnamed source. When we use unnamed sources, we will disclose to readers or viewers the reasons for granting confidentiality, such as fear for the source’s safety or job.

Actionable Feedback

- We invite comments and complaints from readers about our coverage, suggestions for issues and events to cover or sources to consult, and participation in discussions we organize.
- Our journalists make every effort to engage with the community to understand better its concerns, help choose which issues to cover, identify diverse sources for reporting, increase the trust in our journalism and help our coverage reach a broader audience.
- We welcome letters to the editor on our coverage and local issues. The editor selects submissions to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length.
- The writer’s full name; town, village or city; and email or phone number should be included with any letter for verification purposes, but only the writer’s full name and town, village or city will be published.
- We do not publish anonymous letters or comments or those signed with only first names or first initials and last names or submitted under a pseudonym.
- We review every comment before it is posted on our site. As with letters, we correct grammar and spelling and make other changes for clarity and accuracy.
- We do not publish personal attacks or profanity in letters or comments on our site or social media accounts. In addition, social media comments that misrepresent our reporting or spread misinformation will be deleted. If a commentator is persistently abusive, we will block them from our social network(s), although this is uncommon.
- Comments posted on our website or social media accounts may appear in print. Select comments posted to our social media platforms may be re-posted on our website but where they first appeared will be indicated.
- We print letters endorsing candidates up to and including the weekly issue before an election. However, we will refrain from printing letters that make charges about an opponent, because the opponent will not be able to respond in print. These letters and comments may be posted online, however.

Editorial Policies

Legal issues

- Unlike in many countries, the U.S. legal system does not allow people to be arrested or prosecuted secretly. Arrest and court records are considered public records under New York and federal law. A news report about a person being accused of a crime by prosecutors does not reflect any view by the newspaper of the person’s guilt or innocence.
- We will name people in news coverage if they

- are charged with serious crimes. Typically, such charges are felonies. We will do so only if a defendant’s name is released or confirmed by law enforcement or included in a court record.
- We will include identifying information, such as middle initials and ages, when available, to prevent confusion about who has been charged.
- We are more likely to report the name of someone who has been charged if the person is prominent in the community, a public-safety employee or a school employee; if the charges were the result of a larger and/or extended investigation; if law enforcement or prosecutors have publicly identified the person, such as via a news release; or if, in the judgment of the editors, the arrest is otherwise of public interest or concern.
- In unusual circumstances we may name a person who is arrested but not charged, but if we do so we will make clear that no charges were filed.
- Because we do not have the resources to report on the resolution of every police blotter item, we block such items from being indexed by search engines such as Google. They will, however, remain searchable on our site.
- When charges are dropped, a person is acquitted or a person is found guilty of only lesser charges, we will update our story or a police blotter item to reflect this if we can verify such an outcome.
- We do not name juveniles unless they are charged as adults or with serious violent crimes, such as armed robbery, aggravated sexual assault, attempted homicide or homicide.
- We avoid identifying — by name or photo — children connected with a crime as victims or witnesses.
- If a criminal suspect is at large and believed by law enforcement to be dangerous, we will identify the suspect, including a photo or sketch.
- We do not publish the names of a person who has been killed until authorities have notified the family and released the name, or the family has identified the victim publicly, such as to a reporter or in a public social media post.
- We do not identify sexual assault victims except in rare cases, such as when the victim has agreed to be named or an allegation is proven to be false and malicious.
- In covering active police or military operations, we will withhold such details as location or tactics planned until after the operation, to avoid endangering police, troops or civilians who could be affected.

Removing archived material

We do not remove published content from our archives but will review requests to update or append an article if provided with sufficient documentation. The editor also will weigh exceptions to this policy in extreme cases, such as abuse or danger to someone’s personal safety.

Mental health and suicide

- We will cover mental health and suicide as broad public health issues as consistently as we cover other health matters.
- We will cover individual events of suicide as news stories if they involve prominent figures or public means. However, we will avoid using the word “suicide” in headlines or spelling out the specific means.
- In stories that involve suicides, we will include contact information for resources for people in mental health crises. e.g., “The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day by calling or texting 988.”

No-byline policy

Articles that do not have bylines in print or are attributed online to “Staff” are written by the editor or a senior editor. This is typically because they are brief items based on a single source, such

as a press release, or there are multiple contributors, such as a collection of photos.

Obituaries

We treat obituaries posted by funeral homes as news stories and edit them to a standard style, which includes for clarity and length. We will indicate that the funeral home is the source of our information. Not all obituaries posted online appear in print. We do not charge a fee to publish obituaries unless the family wishes it to appear without editing, in which case we will indicate it is a paid notice.

Photo and video

- When documenting private or traumatic moments in public places, we will not seek permission to shoot but will be sensitive to subjects’ situations.
- We do not require parental permission to photograph or interview children at public events. We will not name a child unless the identification is provided to us by a parent/guardian or an event organizer.
- We will use drones to capture images in public areas only.
- We will refrain from doing re-enactments of news events. Otherwise, we will identify posed or re-enacted photos and video, except when it is clearly posed (e.g., an award winner holding up a trophy).
- If we believe we can provide help or mitigate harm by participating in a situation, rather than only documenting it, we will do so and disclose our participation to your viewers.
- We will not manipulate news photos through digital means. We will not obscure or pixelate images, although we have made a few exceptions. For instance, in a photo for a story on city-issued ID cards, we may obscure the subject’s address for privacy reasons, or in a photo of a hate group’s flyer, the website address of the group to avoid unnecessary promotion of its views.
- We will clearly label all photos or videos provided by sources.
- We do not publish photos generated or altered using artificial intelligence, and we identify graphics and illustrations generated by AI.

Advertising

- We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement. We will decline advertising that we know or believe to be misleading, inaccurate, libelous, fraudulent or illegal, or that fails to comply, in our sole discretion, with common standards of decency, taste or dignity.
- We do not allow advertisers to have a say in the selection or content of stories and photos. We will consider requests for ad placement but are not obligated to position an ad in any particular location.
- We use specific, consistent terms such as “Advertisement,” “Sponsored Content” and “Paid Notice” in print, online and on our social media networks to indicate paid material.
- We require content provided by advertisers to have a different color type or background and a different font than our editorial content. We require that advertisements that resemble news stories be accompanied by a clear statement that the article was prepared by the advertiser and did not involve our editorial staff.
- Advertisements designed by *The Current* cannot be used in other print or online publications or on social media without the permission of *The Current*.
- For legal regulations concerning political, employment, real estate and cannabis advertising, see [highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards/editorial-policies/#advertising](https://highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards/editorial-policies/#advertising).



# Cold Spring Approves Occupancy Tax

## Intermunicipal cooperation on the upswing

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board, at its Aug. 28 meeting, approved a law that adds a 4 percent occupancy tax to Chapter 118 of the Village Code. The meeting also served as a public hearing.

State lawmakers approved legislation in 2022 that enabled the village to impose a tax of up to 5 percent on hotel and motel stays.

Guests at the Cold Spring Hotel, Hudson House River Inn, Pig Hill Inn and West Point Foundry Bed & Breakfast, which collectively have 33 rooms, will have the 4 percent tax added to their bills.

During the public hearing, Vera Keil, owner of the Pig Hill Inn, questioned why only patrons of those four businesses would be subject to the tax.

Mayor Kathleen Foley said the tax will apply to short-term rentals, as well, such as those booked through Airbnb and VRBO, but “we’re starting with the small number of hotels and B&Bs, as defined by New York State law.”

Foley said all revenue raised by the tax will go into the general fund, which pays for the bulk of village operations. “These dollars aren’t earmarked,” she said. “We can use them for everything in the general fund, including infrastructure,” which she said is the priority.

After the hearing closed, Trustee Eliza

Starbuck spoke in favor of limiting the tax to 3 percent until short-term rentals are added.

Trustee Aaron Freimark agreed. “We have more freedom starting small than starting large,” he said. He suggested the tax be set at something less than 5 percent. “I’d be OK with 4 percent but happier with 3,” he said.

Trustee Tweep Phillips Woods supported 4 percent. “It’s a reasonable rate,” she said, noting that it could be increased or decreased once short-term rentals are included.

The board voted 3-1 to approve a 4 percent tax (Trustee Laura Bozzi was absent). Foley, who supported 5 percent, was the “no” vote.

“We should be optimizing this opportunity” to shift the financial burden of tourism from village taxpayers to visitors, she said, noting she wanted her view on the record but that she would not have voted against the motion had the compromise depended upon her vote.

### Working together

At the beginning of the meeting, Foley highlighted recent repairs to a collapsed stormwater culvert and a “very old brick catch basin” on Fishkill Avenue, and praised an intermunicipal partnership with the Town of Kent Highway Department and the Putnam County Public Works Department that enabled the work to be done.

The project cost the village about \$5,000 for materials; Kent and Putnam provided labor and vehicles at no cost. In exchange, village crews will assist Kent and Putnam

on future projects.

Foley said intermunicipal projects have been made easier by a county-wide association of highway departments established by Kent’s superintendent. “It’s a win-win for taxpayers across Putnam,” she said, adding that County Executive Kevin Byrne is also assisting municipalities “in ways not seen in many years.”

### In other business....

■ The board awarded a \$63,350 contract to Wind River LLC to dispose of 350,000 gallons of sewage sludge from the Fair Street treatment plant, as well as the annual cleaning of the pump wet wells.

■ The board rejected two bids to replace three tanks and three filters at the water treatment plant on Fishkill Road. The project is being funded through \$400,000 in grants. Foley said one bid was much higher than estimates and the other from a company that lacks experience on similar projects. The project will be rebid to refurbish one filter and replace another.

■ The board approved a request from a solar panel company to solicit door-to-door in the village for two weekdays per week from noon to 6 p.m. and one Saturday a month from noon to 4 p.m. The village will receive \$1,000 in fees.

■ Trustees awarded two contracts based on lowest bids: \$5,600 to Garrison Tree Service for pruning and \$3,350 to Philipstown Tree Service for removal.

■ The board granted approval for a small

## Beacon Police Make Second Arrest in Killing

### Suspect brought to city for arraignment

Beacon police said they have arrested a second suspect in the May 2022 shooting death of Lionel Pittman Jr. at Forrestal Heights.

The department said that officers on Thursday (Sept. 5) arrested Khyree Pratt, 23, of Philadelphia, at a federal prison in another state where he was incarcerated. He was brought to Beacon and arraigned on first-degree murder charges, then taken to the Dutchess County jail.

It was the second arrest related to the death of Pittman, 32. On June 11, police arrested Naije Perrette, 25, of Beacon, who was charged with murder, contract killing, intentional murder and conspiracy. He pleaded not guilty.

wedding at Dockside Park on the first weekend in October. Because the couple is eloping, they asked that their names be withheld.

■ In a brief meeting on Wednesday (Sept. 4), the board gave Netflix crews permission to film in the village on Sept. 5 and 7 or 8, weather permitting, for its *Knives Out* film series. Cold Spring police will control traffic. The village will receive about \$50,000 in fees.

## FIRST TIMERS FIRST LESSON FREE



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Lesson must take place in September 2024.  
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## Change in the Air *(from Page 1)*

I'd been interested in clean energy for several years but didn't understand heat pumps and was overwhelmed by the amount of information I would need to absorb. My research began in earnest after my buddy Thomas Wright, a member of Beacon's Conservation Advisory Committee, introduced me to Faith Laudano, an energy advisor from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, at the Taproots Festival in Beacon in November. I reconnected with Laudano after the outage, and she answered dozens of questions, walking me through heat pump options and the state programs that offer rebates to support their installation.

Cornell Cooperative Extension has existed for more than a century as an economic and ecological resource, and in 2018 it launched a community energy engagement program sponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Three years later, the agency was given additional resources and charged with creating a regional clean energy hub. Through June of this year, it has assisted more than 1,200 people in the Mid-Hudson region.

"Folks come to us in very different stages of the process" of transitioning away from fossil fuels, said Collin Adkins, the director of the Mid-Hudson hub. "It can be a very individualized experience, and that's why we're here."

Adkins recommends a three-step approach to clean energy: (1) Lower demand by insu-



Technicians install a wall unit in our living room.

Photo by J. Simms

lating your home; (2) Look into renewable sources of heating and cooling such as heat pumps; and (3) Consider solar to generate clean power on-site or support renewables on the grid by joining a community program such as the one Beacon offers in partnership with Mid-Hudson Energy Transition.

To purchase heat pumps and an electric water heater, my wife and I opted for the state's Comfort Home program, which gave us a list of contractors certified to assess our home's energy needs. According to the state, it's "the boots and the hat" — the basement and attic — that are most important because of what's called the "stack effect."

"Hot air rises because it is less dense than

cold air," Adkins explained. "In the winter, that means the air you've heated wants to rise and find its way out of the house. When it does, the pressure in the home rebalances and cold air enters from down low. You can limit that by making sure the home is well-sealed, particularly in the attic and basement."

Insulation and heat pump installation were done a week apart, each taking a day. By using a state-certified contractor and insulating to improve efficiency, New York State gave us a \$25,000 low-interest loan at 3.49 percent to fund the project, and we will be eligible for \$1,200 in federal tax credits on our 2024 return. (We borrowed another \$10,000 through the contractor.)

Manufacturers boast about the "set it and forget it" convenience of heat pumps, and in the four months that we've had them, that has been my experience. We had six installed — three upstairs and three downstairs. Depending on how often we're in a room, I've set each unit at the upper end of what we consider comfortable.

For example, the kitchen is set cooler than the upstairs playroom, but if I'm in the playroom listening to records and feel warm, I bump it down a degree. You feel the change almost immediately.

The units (indoor and out) are incredibly quiet, and the fossil-fuel hogs — and the ductwork, pipes and anxiety that came with them — are gone. In another year or two, we hope to convert the stove and clothes dryer.

Before the project, I had our Central Hudson account set up for budget billing; we paid the same monthly amount based on our usage over the last year. I've since taken us off the plan, but in July, which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said was the warmest month ever on record, our bill, based on actual usage, would have been \$120 less than the budget amount.

## Funding Resources

Each of these state programs provides a no-cost energy assessment, the first step toward transitioning a home from fossil fuels to clean energy.

- The **EmPower+** program for low- and middle-income homeowners and renters launched last year and in May received \$39.6 million through the federal Inflation Reduction Act. It includes for participants a comprehensive assessment and customized plan to lower energy usage. Income-eligible households may receive up to \$10,000. To qualify, a household of four in Putnam County must have an annual income of less than \$124,400. In Dutchess, it's \$93,408. To apply, see [bit.ly/empower-NY](https://bit.ly/empower-NY).
- The **Comfort Home** program includes an assessment of the insulation and air-sealing needs of a home, plus a plan for improvements in those areas. Homeowners can choose one of three packages (good, better, best) and receive a rebate of up to \$4,000 and federal tax credits of up to \$1,200. See [bit.ly/NY-comfort-home](https://bit.ly/NY-comfort-home).
- The **Residential Energy Assessment** program provides one- to four-family homeowners with an energy assessment, along with recommendations to increase efficiency. No work plan is included. Homeowners can add a blower-door test, in which a contractor sets up a fan that depressurizes the home, forcing air through any cracks, for a fee. See [bit.ly/energy-assess](https://bit.ly/energy-assess).
- The **Mid-Hudson Clean Energy Hub** provides advisors from Cornell Cooperative Extension to guide and educate homeowners and renters about their options, such as building improvements, renewable sources of heating and cooling and solar power. See [midhudsonenergychoices.org](https://midhudsonenergychoices.org) or call 845-605-0580.



photo: Richard Terline

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](https://bit.ly/CabotParsonsHCC)

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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 - opening day of CWNYC with artist talks and videos from around the world

Sept 6 - LIT LIT

Sept 7 - JAY STRAUSS Album Release Party

Sept Tues - Free TANGO at LONG DOCK

Sept 20 - DAN GARCIA Music from Spain & Latin America

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**5K**

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**SEPTEMBER 28**

**5K** Starts at 9:30 AM

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Each Event will Begin and End at the Cold Spring Riverfront Bandstand

**Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities available!**

Scan the QR Code for more info or visit [www.philipstownhub.org/race](https://www.philipstownhub.org/race) for more details and to register!

philipstown BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HUB



# Legislators Seek More Power Over Attorney

*Putnam executive says voters should decide*

By Leonard Sparks

Some Putnam legislators are seeking for the second time in 16 years to expand their power over the county attorney, amid criticism from colleagues and the county executive and a pending ethics complaint.

With Paul Jonke substituting for Toni Addonizio as chair of the Rules Committee and not voting, its other two members, Greg Ellner and Ginny Nacerino, approved a proposed local law on Aug. 26 that would allow the Legislature to remove the county attorney without cause. The position has been held since January 2023 by Compton Spain.

At the monthly meeting of the full Legislature on Tuesday (Sept. 3), Jonke successfully moved to send the proposal back to the Rules Committee. The intention is to amend the language to exclude Spain through Dec. 13, 2026, when the attorney's term ends, he said.



Spain

Under Putnam's charter, the county executive names the attorney and the Legislature approves the appointment. The appointee represents both the county executive and the Legislature and is required to "comply with any and all lawful and permissible resolutions" adopted by the Legislature, except when the county executive vetoes legislation and an override fails. (The Legislature also has its own attorney.)

The executive can fire the county attorney but two-thirds of the Legislature must agree. Under a charter change approved by voters in 2008, two-thirds of the Legislature can remove the attorney but only when the interests of lawmakers and the executive conflict and the attorney refuses to represent the Legislature.

Jonke submitted a proposal to remove that restriction, essentially allowing the Legislature to independently remove the attorney without cause. It also would prohibit the county attorney from outside work. (At the time of Spain's appointment, County Executive Kevin Byrne said Spain had left his family's Mahopac law firm.)

Byrne, addressing the Rules Committee last month, said it was "shocking" that the Legislature would vote on a proposal making the county attorney "at-will."

"This is essentially trying to change the charter in less than a week and a half," he said. "If you feel strongly about this moving forward, it creates a conflict between the executive and the Legislature."

Last month's Rules Committee meeting began with Addonizio recusing herself because the discussion "could include issues

currently before the Putnam Board of Ethics."

Those issues are outlined in a complaint Spain filed in June with the Board of Ethics. It accuses Addonizio of ethics breaches, including failing to disclose that her son-in-law, Byron Voutsinas, was the buyer initially agreeing to purchase a county-owned property in Carmel.

Spain's office moved to void the contract, arguing that Voutsinas failed to satisfy conditions for the sale to be finalized, including getting the Legislature's approval, which never occurred. After Voutsinas filed a claim accusing the county of breach of contract, Spain successfully petitioned a judge to have the contract canceled.

The Legislature's counsel, Robert Firriolo, defended Addonizio in a response sent to the ethics board in response to Spain's complaint. He also accused Spain of lying on his employment application when he attested to not having any criminal convictions because he was found guilty in 1993 of criminal contempt of court.

(A judge found Spain guilty under state Judiciary Law. Because the penalty can include jail time, Firriolo argues it is equivalent to a misdemeanor.)

Legislator Erin Crowley, who represents the Town of Carmel and Mahopac, referenced the complaint in a prepared statement at the Rules Committee meeting. Nancy Montgomery, whose district encompasses Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, and William Gouldman, who represents the rest of Putnam Valley, also signed the statement.

They called the proposal "rushed," and

coming as Spain "has a pending ethics complaint" before the five-person ethics board. The board's members include former Philipstown Legislator Barbara Scuccimara and Paul Eldridge, the county personnel director.

Crowley also said that Eldridge had "persuasively" refuted allegations that Spain had committed a crime on his employment application, and that approving the change would "appear to represent unlawful retaliatory action" by legislators. "This is a proposal to change the balance of powers in our government," she said.

In arguing for the change, both Nacerino and Jonke denied its relation to an ethics complaint. Nacerino said it would give the Legislature "a voice" in removing a county attorney. Jonke said "it makes perfect sense" that legislators can remove the person holding the position. "This language does not seem like it's all that big a change," he said.

A power struggle over the county attorney's position also took place in 2008, when voters approved the referendum that gave the legislators their current authority to fire the county attorney for failing to represent their interests. Bob Biondi, then the county executive, vetoed the amendment but lost an override vote.

Voters had to approve the change because it reduced the county executive's power, according to news reports, which also said that Putnam became the only county in New York with such a provision.

Speaking at the Rules Committee meeting, Byrne argued that the proposal should again be put before voters and asked if it had been reviewed by the law department to determine if a referendum was required.

In response, Jonke said it had been reviewed by Firriolo. "The fact that you didn't go to the law department is troubling," said Byrne. "I believe it absolutely could be subject to a mandatory referendum."

## Garrison School Approves Cellphone Policy

*Also, district receives \$125K grant*

By Joey Asher

The Garrison School board voted on Wednesday (Sept. 4) to approve a change to the code of conduct that bans the student use of cellphones during the academic day. Before its vote, the board held a public hearing, but no one asked to speak.

The district, which has about 200 students in grades pre-K to 8, now requires that students turn off or silence and store their phones in their lockers or an area designated by the teacher between 8:30 a.m. and 3:14 p.m.

Garrison joins the Haldane and Beacon districts in curtailing the use of cellphones. Last month, Beacon banned the use of phones in class at the middle and high schools, and Haldane High School last year banned their use during class. Haldane bans their use throughout the day at its middle and elementary schools.

On Wednesday, state Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown, announced that the Garrison School will receive a \$125,000 grant to reconstruct its roof.

Saturday, Sept 7, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

OPEN HOUSE at 6 Wild Turkey Run, Garrison NY 10524

Located on the quiet roads of rural Garrison, just an hour north of the city, this sprawling 5,794 sq ft, 6-bedroom mini-estate offers ample room for living and entertaining. Situated on a sloping lot with picturesque views, this property features a private tennis and handball court, and a swimming pool for your enjoyment. Recently renovated, it also includes a greenhouse and a large outbuilding, making it a must-see property! \$1.325. | MLS 6317373



Apartment Rental:

151 Horton Road, Cold Spring NY

151 Horton Road is a historic agricultural building set on a private, wooded lot on the outskirts of Cold Spring. This charming 1 bed, 1 bath rental offers a unique living experience with a touch of rustic charm. This is a perfect rental for those looking for tranquility while still being minutes to the train, shops and school. No smokers, dogs considered, excellent credit required. Please call for more information. \$2,250/month.



For more information contact:

**Charlotte Brooks, Owner & Principal Broker**

House Finch Realty

917-951-2241 [charlotte@housefinchrealty.com](mailto:charlotte@housefinchrealty.com)



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

**THIS SUNDAY:**  
**GOLDEE GREENE**

**"THE ART OF SONG"**  
**SEPT 8 @ 11:00AM**  
**FOR WORSHIP REFLECTION & SONG**

**Sept 15** Diane Flayter-Landau

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

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



# Indian Point (from Page 1)

plant in western Michigan that closed in 2022, but its reactors are intact. The company must first get authorities to reinstate the operating license and prove to federal inspectors that the plant remains viable.

The firm also plans to build small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) in Michigan and at the closed Oyster Creek plant in eastern New Jersey.

SMRs are a class of nuclear fission reactors that proponents say are cheaper and safer than current reactors. The federal Department of Energy had hoped to bring the first SMR online by 2030 in Idaho, but the plant was canceled last year when utili-



Indian Point before the shutdown  
*File photo*

ties balked at the cost, which had doubled to more than \$9 billion.

Building SMRs at Indian Point would prove difficult because, as part of the shutdown agreement, any plans to again create

energy at the site must be approved by the Village of Buchanan, the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York State and the Hendrick Hudson School District.

“There is no such consensus,” said state Sen. Peter Harckham, a Democrat whose district includes Indian Point and who sits on the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board. “This bill will never make it to the floor. Indian Point will be re-nuclearized when Elvis Presley makes his comeback tour. Discussions of bringing back nuclear energy to Indian Point are a pointless election-year stunt by Republican politicians.

“If my colleagues across the aisle are that interested in nuclear power, they are welcome to invite atomic energy into their communities,” Harckham said.

Of the bill’s sponsors, two are from Long Island, three from western New York and one from north of Saratoga Springs.

The primary sponsor, Sen. Tom O’Mara, did not respond to a request for comment. But in a statement on Wednesday (Sept. 4), O’Mara criticized the state’s green initia-

tive as “an approach that has been built on rapidly imposing radical and sweeping clean energy mandates” that lacks a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis. O’Mara and other Republicans have called for the state’s 2030 deadline to derive 70 percent of its electricity from renewables to be delayed by 10 years.

O’Mara and other critics of the Indian Point shutdown have noted it immediately led to increased use of fossil-fuel-powered “peaker plants” designed to operate only during high demand.

Victoria Leung, a staff attorney for Riverkeeper, said the environmental group isn’t against examining the feasibility of nuclear technologies but that reopening Indian Point is out of the question.

“It was an antiquated facility and responsible for killing billions of fish and fish larvae every year,” she said. “This isn’t a serious proposal.”

The bill also proposes that nuclear energy and natural gas derived from methane emissions from decomposing trash and manure — which the fossil-fuel industry and the prospective bill refer to as “renewable natural gas” — be reclassified as renewables. That would allow both sources to contribute to New York’s 2030 goal.

In current law, renewable energy is defined as “being continuously restored by natural or other means or are so large as to be usable for centuries without significant depletion.”

Nuclear energy is generally not considered renewable because it requires enriched uranium as a fuel source. And while New York has plenty of trash, it wouldn’t last forever.

## MOUNT GULIAN HISTORIC SITE

**Sundays in September** (Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>)



### White Glove Tour: Hold History in Your Hands

*A rare opportunity to examine seldom-seen items from our collection*

\$12/adults, \$10/seniors, \$8 children (ages 6-18)  
No charge for Mount Gulian members.  
Membership is open to the public. Reservations are encouraged.

Call 845-831-8172 or email [info@mountgulian.org](mailto:info@mountgulian.org) | [mountgulian.org](http://mountgulian.org)  
Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling Street, Beacon, NY 12508

# JOIN HHFT’S INVASIVES STRIKE FORCE THIS FALL!

## TWO WORKDAYS LEFT IN 2024!

9/14 & 10/26  
9 am to noon at Breakneck



### INVASIVES STRIKE FORCE

HUDSON HIGHLANDS FJORD TRAIL • 2024

## Scan the QR code to sign up!

QUESTIONS?  
[EMAIL RRAMIREZ@HHFT.ORG](mailto:RRAMIREZ@HHFT.ORG)



 Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

<https://qrco.de/HHFT-ISF>



## The Calendar



Meghan Spiro in her studio

Photo provided

### The Artist Next Door

# Meghan Spiro

By Marc Ferris

If she keeps painting and creating, Meghan Spiro will find a comfort zone. She compares her work to keeping a journal.

Spiro wears three things on her sleeve: creativity, Cherokee ancestry and survival of domestic violence.

"I found myself ill-equipped to handle my PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder], my addictions and my self-loathing," she wrote for a solo show at the Beacon Artist Union gallery in 2019 that showcased 23 self-portraits and poems.

In one piece, "Broken Rib," Spiro cowers and throws up her hands to ward off a blow. Completing that project helped her

"transmute my suffering into wisdom and my loathing into love," she says.

The show's photo-based mixed media incorporated paint, resin, collage, gilding, digital compositing and photo transfers on marble. Seven marble works are on display at the Ascend Center + Collective on Main Street in Cold Spring.

Also in 2019, Hudson Beach Glass presented Spiro's solo show, *Bella Monnezza* (Italian for "beautiful garbage"), a series of photos inspired by the contents of her composting bin.

Most of these still-life studies, set against a dark background, have a focal point, like a slice of lime, portions of an onion or a black-specked cross-section of dragon fruit. The rest of the frame is typically arranged with organics (e.g., okra slices) and botanicals (flowers, twigs and thyme).

The Atlanta native became a shutterbug in high school, learning the ropes in a darkroom and calculating that film and photography were the most lucrative pursuits for an artist. After earning a degree in California, Spiro worked in New York City for the Food Network but lived in the Hudson Valley because she's a hiker and rock climber.

"People thought I was crazy when I also moved my work upstate" just before the 2008 recession, she says. A stint as a videographer at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck kickstarted her spiritual journey.

Today, Spiro is a commercial photogra-



"Letters to Russ"



"Without Fear and Full of Love"

pher specializing in lifestyle branding for the food and beverage industry. Clients include the Elixr Cafe, Kitchen & Coffee, Beacon Bread Co. and Dennings Point Distillery in Beacon, and Reservoir and the Bird & Bottle Inn in Philipstown.

(Continued on Page 16)



Tamalyn Miller

Photo by Stephen Spera

## MAKING MUSIC WITH 'WOUNDED' INSTRUMENTS

*Beacon artist releases two albums in two weeks*

By Marc Ferris

Tamalyn Miller embodies her name: The centuries-old Scottish ballad "Tam-Lin" has fairies, horses, mysticism, herbal medicine and a symbolic rose — all among Miller's many obsessions.

Those fixations compel her to create meticulous music and visual art. In the past two weeks, she has released two albums.

"When I'm working, I'm in a trance," she says. "It has to be perfect, so I put my everything into it, but I don't know why."

Miller also assembled elaborate books of poetry by hand, down to the lace bows. Other through-lines include death, gloves, vintage dresses, old clock radios, Greek mythology and Russian literature.

After living in Manhattan for 25 years, Miller responded to a friend's suggestion to apply for the artist housing at West End Lofts and came to Beacon sight unseen in February 2020.

A deep connection with plants and the natural world is reflected in her solo album, *Ghost*

(Continued on Page 16)

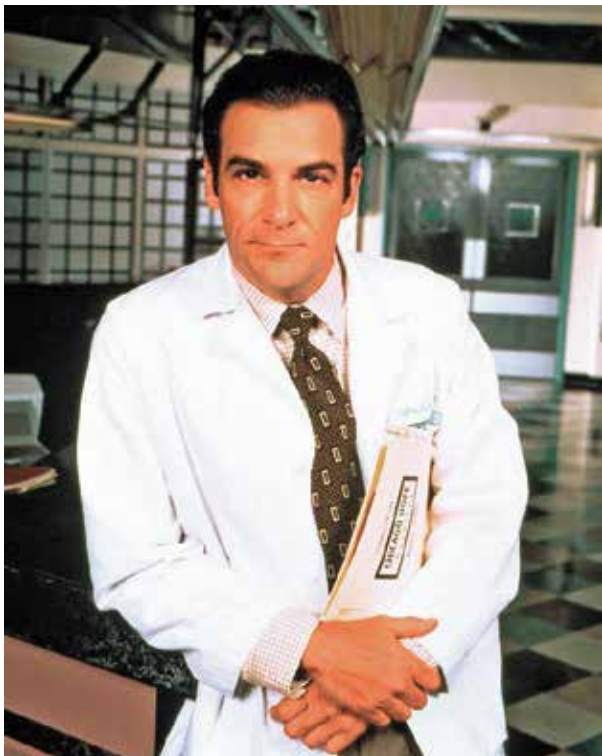


*Paper Horses*, a limited edition book of poetry



"Peaches + Honey"





The HIGHLANDS  
**Current** PRESENTS

**A conversation with**

# KATHRYN GRODY MANDY PATINKIN

**Moderated by their son Gideon Grody**

**Saturday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m.** at the Pete and  
101 Matteawan

**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, have shared hilarious nuggets of their "uninterrupted togetherness," entertaining millions during and since the COVID shutdown (photo top right).

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

*This is a very special fundraising event for The Highlands Current!  
These remarkable people will take the stage to help us celebrate  
our 15th year serving our Highlands communities.*

**Come join the celebration!**



For tickets and more information, scan QR code or visit:  
**[highlandscurrent.org/grody-patinkin](https://highlandscurrent.org/grody-patinkin)**



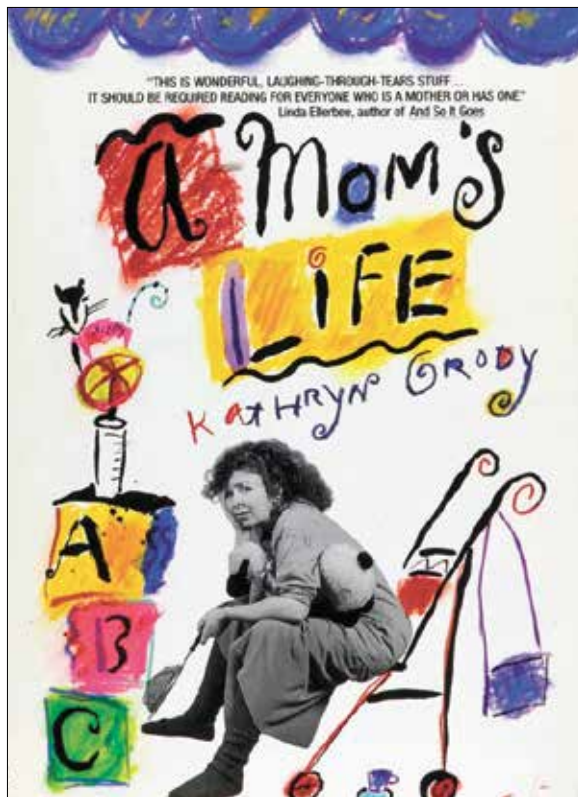
# RODY & INKIN

ody-Patinkin

d Toshi Seeger Theatre, Beacon High School  
an Road, Beacon, New York

**Kathryn** received Obie Awards for her performances in *Top Girls*, by Caryl Churchill, and *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, by Christopher Durang, and she received a Drama Desk nomination for her autobiographical solo show, *A Mom's Life*, based on her book of the same name. Off-Broadway she appeared in *The Model Apartment* (opening night, middle photo right). Film appearances include *Men with Guns* (bottom photo right, with Mandy), *Limbo*, *My Bodyguard*, *Lemon Sisters*, *Another Woman* and *Reds*. Her writing has been published in *Oprah*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *The Mountain Record* and *ivillage*.

**Mandy** won a Tony Award for his role as Che in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*, and he was nominated for his role as George in the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *Sunday in the Park with George*. Mandy portrayed Inigo Montoya in *The Princess Bride* (top photo left) and appeared in numerous other films. On television, he won an Emmy Award for his performance in *Chicago Hope* (bottom photo left), and he starred in Showtime's *Dead Like Me* and *Homeland* (third photo left). He received a Hollywood Walk of Fame Star in 2018 (second photo left). Mandy continues to tour his stage concerts around the U.S.





# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 7

### Modern Makers Market

COLD SPRING

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

SUN 8

### Plaque Dedication

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | [stmaryscoldspring.com](http://stmaryscoldspring.com)

During the service, the church will memorialize Father John Gladstone Mills Jr., the rector from 1961 to 1992, and his wife, Margaret. Mills was also the chaplain for the Cold Spring Fire Co. for 50 years.

MON 9

### Memoir Writing for Seniors

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. Butterfield | 10 Julia Lane

This is the first of six workshops in this Philipstown Aging at Home program, which will meet in the Community Room. Email [info@paah.net](mailto:info@paah.net).

WED 11

### 9/11 Memorial

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Elks Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave.

The Elks will host a ceremony to honor the victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

SAT 14

### GVAC Gala

GARRISON

4:30 p.m. Highlands Country Club  
955 Route 9D

Celebrate the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps' 50th anniversary and the dedication at 5:30 p.m. of an ambulance in memory of Louis Lombardo Sr. Todd Londigan & Band will provide music and appetizers and refreshments will be served. Donations welcome.

SUN 15

### Forest Ecology Walk

CARMEL

10 a.m. Green Chimneys  
33 Clearpool Road  
[ccecolumbiagreene.org](http://ccecolumbiagreene.org)

Learn about best practices for forest management and ecology during this guided walk with Cornell Cooperative Extension educators. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 15

### Blood Drive

BEACON

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Ave. | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

Make an appointment or walk in to donate.



Bannerman Gallery Exhibit, Sept. 14

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 7

### Makerspace Open House

COLD SPRING

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

Students can make and decorate school supplies.

SUN 8

### Play Sets

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St.  
845-231-0811 | [diaart.org](http://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 Mary Heilman. *Free*

SAT 14

### Robin Hood

GARRISON

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

Watch the 1973 Disney animated film, which stars a fox in the title role.

SUN 15

### African Children's Choir

WEST POINT

10:30 a.m. Post Chapel  
692 Biddle Loop

The Music for Life choir, celebrating its 40th year, will perform traditional spiritual songs, popular children's music and African cultural songs. The singers are 8 to 11 years old. Donations welcome. *Free*

## SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 14

### Thursday Painters

BEACON

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

This group show features works by seniors in an art program at the Recreation Center led by Jan Dolan.

*Rainbows* includes abstract figurative paintings. In Gallery 2, Barry's *Florescence* has ceramic floral sculptures. A group show in the Beacon Room, *Obscura*, includes work in all media. Through Oct. 6.

SAT 14

### Personal Protest

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects  
484 Main St. | [supersecretprojects.com](http://supersecretprojects.com)

The show features works in all media submitted after an open call.

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 7

### One-Act Play Festival

GARRISON

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

SAT 7

### Incorruptible

WAPPINGERS FALLS

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

This dark comedy by Michael Hollinger, set in France in 1250 AD, explores death and faith. Also FRI 13, SAT 15, SUN 15. *Cost: \$26 (\$24 military, seniors, students and ages 12 and younger)*

FRI 13

### The Truman Show

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D | [coldspringfilm.org](http://coldspringfilm.org)

The Cold Spring Film Society will screen the 1998 film about a man, played by Jim Carrey, who realizes he is the focus of a TV show and that everyone he knows is an actor. Bring blankets and insect repellent. *Free*



SAT 14

### 30th Anniversary Exhibition

BEACON

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

The Bannerman Castle Trust will begin its fourth decade with a show of fine art and photography, along with antiques and artifacts from the historic castle and island. Through Jan. 26.

SAT 14

### Under Our Knives

BEACON

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

The solo show will include multiples made in resin. Through Oct. 4.

SAT 14

### BeaconArts

BEACON

5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St. | [beaconarts.org](http://beaconarts.org)

The organization's annual member exhibit continues through Oct. 6.

SAT 14

### Karen Allen | Bob Barry

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | [baugallery.org](http://baugallery.org)  
In Gallery 1, Allen's *Dust and*



Build Your Own Beacon, Sept. 12

SAT 14

### Garrison Keillor

PEEKSKILL

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

The storyteller will celebrate his 80th year with a performance. *Cost: \$47 to \$62*

SAT 14

### Strange Things I've Shoved My Hand In

BEACON

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

Cabot Parsons will stage a puppet show for adults with guests Matt Sorensen and the Bryce Edwards Frivolity Hour. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 15

### A Life and Legacy in Word and Song

PEEKSKILL

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

Mark Doss and the Pegasus Orchestra will perform a testament to the activist and singer Paul Robeson to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Peekskill Riots, when racist violence broke out during his local concert. *Cost: \$25*

## VISUAL ARTS

SAT 14

### Artists' Talk

GARRISON

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

Joseph Radoccia and Jackie Skrzynski, whose work is on exhibit through Sept. 15, will discuss their art.

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 7

### Stradivarius

PHILIPSTOWN

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

THURS 12

### Death by Chocolate

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

Delve into the rich world of chocolate, including recipes, trivia and literature.

THURS 12

### Build Your Own Beacon

BEACON

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

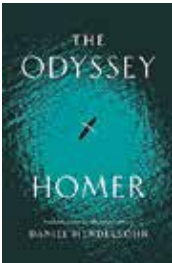
Artist Chris Sanders will teach everyone how to play the card game she created. Registration required.



**THURS 12**  
**Power and Perception in Politics**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | [stanzabooks.com](http://stanzabooks.com)  
Michael Shein, author of *The Hype Handbook*, and Corey Mead, author of *The Hidden History of the White House*, will lead a discussion.

**THURS 12**  
**The Cornish Estate**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010  
[putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://putnamhistorymuseum.org)  
Thom Johnson will share his research on the history of the ruins known as Northgate. Join in person or via Zoom. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

**SAT 14**  
**Homer's Odyssey**  
**BEACON**  
5:30 p.m. KuBe | 211 Fishkill Ave.  
[mendelsohnatkube.eventbrite.com](http://mendelsohnatkube.eventbrite.com)  
In this talk hosted by the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of the Hudson Valley, Bard professor Daniel Mendelsohn will discuss his new translation of the epic poem from ancient Greece. *Cost: \$25*



MUSIC

**SAT 7**  
**Schubert's Trout Quintet**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | [boscobel.org](http://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](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
Strauss will debut his latest

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](http://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](http://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](http://boscobel.org)  
To conclude Boscobel's annual Chamber Music Festival, enjoy a 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 C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)  
The string band, whose latest release is *Old Juniper*, evokes field music of the 1920s. *Cost: \$25*



Jeremy Schonfeld, Sept. 8

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

**FRI 13**  
**Rakish**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)  
Maura Shawn Scanlin (violin) and Conor Hearn (guitar) will play Irish and Scottish music. *Cost: \$25*

**FRI 13**  
**Laurel Canyon**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)  
The tribute band will play the music of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, with opener Joe Mass performing the music of Neil Young. *Cost: \$35 to \$50*

**FRI 13**  
**The Englishtown Project**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The tribute band will play music from the concert in New Jersey headlined by the Grateful Dead with New Riders of the Purple Sage and the Marshall Tucker Band. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SAT 14**  
**Doansburg Chamber Ensemble**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St.  
[doansburgchamberensemble.org](http://doansburgchamberensemble.org)  
The trio, with piano, flute and trombone, will perform works by Debussy, Poulenc, Blazhevich and D'Rivera. *Cost: \$17 (\$14 students, seniors)*

**SAT 14**  
**A Night at the Opera**  
**NEWBURGH**  
7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary  
330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157  
[newburghsymphony.org](http://newburghsymphony.org)  
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform music at Aquinas Hall from operas such as *La Boheme*, *Carmen* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. *Cost: \$35 to \$85*

**SAT 14**  
**Eddie Skuller's Reggae Jukebox Band**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The band will cover music from the 1970s and '80s with a reggae vibe. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**SUN 15**  
**David Shifrin and Yalin Chi**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)  
The clarinetist and pianist will perform works by Debussy, Brahms and Poulenc. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SUN 15**  
**Brentano String Quartet**  
**BEACON**  
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
The Howland Chamber Music Circle begins its season with a concert that will include works by Haydn and Beethoven and a premiere by composer Lei Liang. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

**SUN 15**  
**Iain Matthews**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The singer and songwriter will play music from his decades of recording. Peter Bradley opens. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

CIVIC

**MON 9**  
**Dutchess Legislature**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers  
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100  
[dutchessny.gov](http://dutchessny.gov)

**MON 9**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

**MON 9**  
**School Board**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | [beaconk12.org](http://beaconk12.org)

**WED 11**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
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## Spiro (from Page 11)

In 2011, she moved from Kingston to Beacon and lives in an airy loft with just enough furniture and plenty of room to paint, hang her work and assemble lighting rigs for shoots.

After her two solo shows in 2019, Spiro turned to oil, selling the first painting she completed and cultivating collectors. She favors small and medium-sized canvases and uses a thin cardboard tube to brace her right hand as she sits in a padded blue chair grooving to tunes.

This year, Spiro participated in the *Back to School* group show at the KuBe Center in the former Beacon High School. Exhibited in the one-time sex education room, her “food porn” series *Arouse + Devour* consisted of nine photos printed on metal, some of which have been pulled from Instagram for being too salacious.

Though Spiro aspires to a solo show for her paintings, it takes a while to complete each piece, partly because of her day job

and a tween daughter. And, the subject matter can be emotionally challenging. One somber work, “The Baptism,” is a meditation on suicide.

In “Bloodline,” which references a miscarriage, red streaks drip down her face. Hands can be difficult to depict in oil, but here, Spiro skillfully renders the rippled puddles of skin that cluster around the knuckles of extended fingers.

In “Letters to Russ,” reflected light from a window accentuates the creases in her boyfriend’s face and rumpled shirt as he reads a handwritten missive.

Poetry and artwork “are my truth that I bear to all who have suffered over their abuse,” she wrote five years ago. “It is time to face our shadows in full honesty and rise above our pain in full embrace of our totality so that we may finally live without fear and full of love.”

For Spiro’s artwork, see [philosophia.com](http://philosophia.com).

For her photography, see [meghanspiro.com](http://meghanspiro.com).

## Miller (from Page 11)

*Pipe*. Her primary instrument is a handmade, one-string horsehair violin. She also crafted a rose-branch flute, thorns included.

*Ghost Pipe* is the product of countless hours tinkering in a closet she converted to a recording booth. The layered tracks, which she calls “chamber ambient” music, convey a trippy, alternative dimension.

Notes linger to create a mood. Sound effects drift in and out. Someone speaks in Italian. Whooshing and whispering noises lope along. Patterns emerge, such as the bass and vocals in “These Flowers,” which echoes a medieval children’s round.

“Come Into the Garden” rests on the haunting, metaphoric lyric, “They come to me when walking, these flowers are talking/They come to me when dreaming, these flowers are screaming.”

The credits list around 25 instruments, most of which are “wounded,” Miller says, meaning they are “broken, from a thrift store or cost \$5 at a yard sale. The banjo only has two strings. They tell me what they want to say.”

Miller says that, without musical training, she “had no idea what was going to come out. I’d never recorded an album or written a song, but this is my pandemic project, and I got 75 minutes out of it.”

She completed the ethereal, experimental soundscapes of another new release, *Distract’d by a Kaleidoscope Salesman*, with collaborator Stephen Spera, who lives



in Saugerties. They call themselves Spirit Radio. She sang and played the horsehair fiddle; he did everything else, except for cello drones by Arthur Merwyn.

Taking her obsession with nature and music to a physical level, Miller will lead sessions of Listening with Plants on Sept. 13 and Sept. 15 at Long Dock Park in Beacon. “It’s part artist walk, part nature walk, part collective listening experience,” she says.

Now that the albums are complete, Miller says her “mind is percolating. I just flit from project to project; I’m not good at strategizing. I hope somebody will like my work and am ever optimistic that I find people who appreciate what I do, but I make everything for me.”

To register for *Listening with Plants*, contact Miller through [tamalynmiller.com/info](http://tamalynmiller.com/info). The site links to her albums and has information about her art, books and poetry.

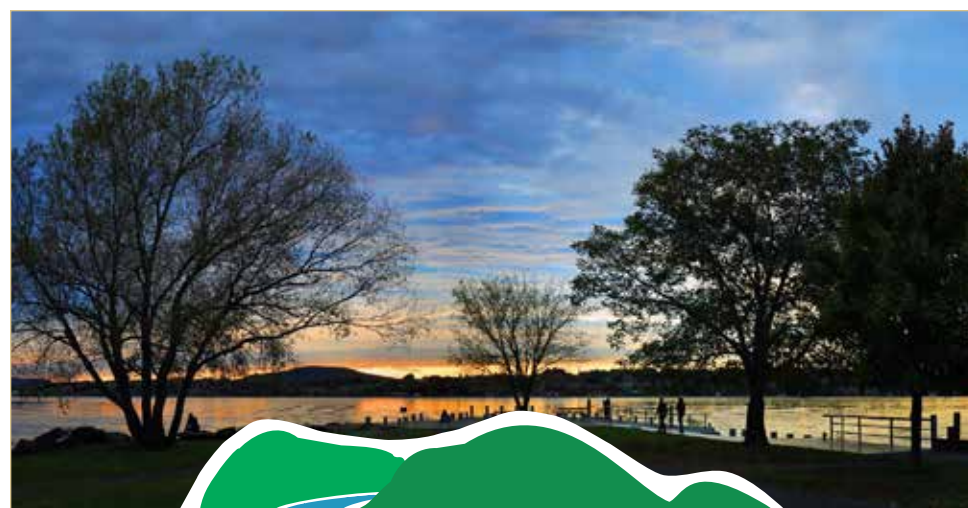
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Peach-Tomato Chaat  
(Salsa)

Small, Good Things

# Bowl of Confusion

By Joe Dizney

Something is in the air. I suppose it's fall, but it hasn't felt much like summer ... all summer long.



Here we are on the far side of Labor Day and lawns and fields that would be parched and brown are verdant and lush with clover. By now, I should be at the end of a month-long maintenance schedule of daily heirloom tomato and basil sandwiches. But my crop has been less than satisfying.

The same goes for peaches. They feel ripe but don't have the sweetness you'd expect. Nevertheless, a recipe for a peach-and-tomato chaat from G. Daniela Galarza in *The Washington Post* caught my eye.

*Chaat* is a generic Hindi word meaning "to lick" or "to taste." But in the larger scheme of Indian foodways, it identifies a cuisine of mostly little bowls and snacks, like Spanish tapas. This bowl of seasoned chopped peaches and tomatoes resembles a slightly off-kilter Mexican salsa.

The addition of lime and honey has the advantage in this questionable harvest of brightening and sweetening less-than-optimal fruit and extending the season. (Climate change and excessive heat have already impacted formerly thriving Indian peach and tomato crops, so this could be a portent of things to come.)

While Galarza's spices include ginger and chaat masala (a blend of salt, cumin, chili and dried fruit powders), and a garnish of crunchy, noodle-like bits of spiced and fried chickpea flour paste known as *sev*, all read "Indian." However, the component parts and substitutions (particularly crushed corn chips or tortillas for the *sev*), and additional garni of chopped peanuts and cilantro, could easily read Meso-American or East Asian.

Other stone fruits — nectarines, apricots or mangoes — could replace the peaches to good effect. Or try crushed plantain chips instead of tortillas. Prone to playing with my food, I found myself romancing the

Makes 5 to 6 cups to serve 4 to 6

1 pound peaches, halved, pitted and quartered, cut into ¼-inch slices

1 pound tomatoes (cherries, Romas or heirlooms) seeded, diced, sliced or chopped into bite-size pieces

Grated zest and juice of a lime

½ cup diced red onion or shallot

1 Fresno or jalapeño chile, seeded, deveined and sliced thin

1-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and grated

1 to 2 teaspoons honey

1 teaspoon chaat masala\*

2 tablespoons tamarind paste (substitute molasses cut with vinegar or lime juice)

½ cup crushed tortilla or plantain chips

½ cup chopped cilantro leaves

½ cup chopped roasted peanuts

1. In a large bowl, combine the peaches and their juice with the tomatoes and their juice. Add the lime juice and zest, diced onion or shallot, sliced chile, grated ginger, honey and chaat masala or other spices. Toss to combine; let sit at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes.

2. Drizzle with tamarind paste/molasses. Garnish with cilantro, chopped peanuts and crushed chips. Serve at room temperature. (See story for serving suggestions.)

\* If you can't find chaat masala, mix equal parts ground cumin, ground coriander, ground fennel, ground ginger, dried mint, ground black pepper and a big pinch of salt. Or experiment with ground sumac or curry powder.

addition of black beans or fresh corn, but that is for another time.

What shall we do with this sweet-savory mess? You could use it as the salsa served with chips. Or serve it on a bed of arugula with cubed avocado. Or try it with a piece of grilled (or chilled) salmon, shrimp, chicken or pork.

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# Playing the Nave

*St. Mary's Church hosts music for all folds*

By Marc Ferris

**M**usic fills the cavernous sanctuary throughout the year at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring — and it's not always what one might expect.

In addition to Prince Nyatanga playing Sunday morning sacred songs on the organ, jazz pianist Daniel Kelly has a gig at 7 p.m. tonight (Sept. 6), the Doansburg Chamber Ensemble and the Taghkanick Chorale perform regularly and the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band practices in the Parish Hall.

Last year, a group created an independent nonprofit, Music at St. Mary's, to present an eclectic mix of free concerts in the nave. Part of its mission is to pay the musicians a fair wage with funding provided by donations and grants. Another goal is to entice people into the space.

"We hear it all the time: 'I've lived here my entire life and have never been inside,'" says Bruce Croushore, who chairs the new entity. "The sound is spectacular."

After Kelly, Music at St. Mary's will host monthly shows on Saturday afternoons: It



Daniel Kelly will perform tonight (Sept. 6) at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring.

Photo by Flynn Larsen

has booked the Oxalis Trio (Sept. 21, with Carl Gutowski on flute, Zachary Pulse on oboe and Alexandra Beliakovich on piano), the Elm Chamber Ensemble (Oct. 19), the West Point Glee Club (Nov. 16) and jazz pianist Art Labriola plus the trio Mother Lode (Dec. 14). Each performance begins at 2 p.m.

"This is what churches do all over Europe, turn themselves into concert venues for all kinds of music," says Croushore.

Past performers have included the Garrison School's Jazz-Rock Ensemble, Peekskill saxophonist Joe Natale and the New Muse 4tet, featuring violinist Gwen Laster, who lives in Beacon.

Kelly, who lives in Cold Spring, will play with the band he's taking to the Jazz at the Lake festival in Lake George later this month. The group performs with a piano, bass and drums, plus guitar and spoken word.



The Oxalis Trio will perform at St. Mary's on Sept. 21.

Photo provided

"I'm learning that the Hudson Valley is filled with many talented musicians," says Croushore. "They're quite happy to live in a beautiful space a short ride from Manhattan and perform near their homes, even if the pay isn't at New York scale."

*St. Mary's is located at 1 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring. For more information, see [musicatstmarys.com](http://musicatstmarys.com).*



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Barbara Lusk poses with the St. Mary's organ that her late husband refurbished.



Rob Lusk reveals the inner workings of the organ.

Photos by M. Ferris

## The Musical Heart of St. Mary's

**T**he digital organ at St. Mary's Episcopal Church resembles the traditional instruments profiled in the Aug. 30 issue of *The Current*, with two important exceptions: the computer inside and the sound emanating from speakers in the rafters.

After a fire destroyed the church's organ in 1961 and its successor fell into disrepair, John Drew came to the rescue in the mid-1990s, installing a \$250,000 electronic organ and designing its circuits and sound.

Drew left in 2000 and about 15 years later, the circuitry blew. Tim Lusk, known around the church as Mr. Fixit, kept it going with an 18-month overhaul.

The manufacturer, Copeman Hart in the U.K., had been purchased in 2011 by a Dutch firm, Global Organ Group, which showed little interest in providing service, recalls Rob Lusk, who helped his father rebuild the organ in 2016.

Rob Lusk, who took over maintenance after his father died in 2019, says the pipe organ probably needed \$600,000 in repairs. He estimates the Lusk family's overhaul cost \$75,000.

Beyond a computer, the guts include an old transformer and electrolytic capacitors, which "serve as the power supply for the stop-control solenoids," Lusk explains. Wires sprout everywhere.

The digital wizardry can mimic the sound of any pipe organ and a pedal swells the volume. A portrait of Bach sits by the organist's left hand.

"Music is the heart and soul of St. Mary's, and Tim brought it back," says his widow, Barbara Lusk. "But without John Drew's generous gift, the church could have become a hollow shell."



# The Maple Lawn Farm Market Sisters Spent Labor Day Making Tomato Sauce

By Joey Asher

Labor Day was Tomato Sauce Day at the Maple Lawn Farm Market on Route 9 in Philipstown. That's because its owners, Maria DiLello and her younger sister, Angela Forgione, along with their husbands, were hard at work making Nonna Anna's Sauce, named for their mother, who created the recipe in Pettorano sul Gizio in the Abruzzi region of southern Italy. The sisters need 1,200 pounds of plum tomatoes (20 cases) to produce 400 jars, Angela explained, enough to sell in their store and feed their families for the year. This is Maria and Angela's 40th year at the Philipstown location, where they sell plants and the radio is always set to the hits on WHUD. "If you give music to the plants, they grow better," Maria said with a laugh (she laughs and smiles a lot). She added that it also helps to "pray for the plants, talk to them and water them." Maria does most of the watering while Angela focuses on balancing the books. When asked for the secret to their success, Angela shrugged as if the answer were obvious. "Be nice to the customers and they come back," she said while stirring a huge pot of boiling plum tomatoes. The sisters, both in their 70s, operated in



The sisters and their family made hundreds of jars of Nonna Anna's Sauce to sell at their market.

Carmel and Poughkeepsie before moving to Route 9 in 1984. Maria and Angela's parents were farmers in Italy with an apple orchard, a vineyard and livestock. "My father used to sell milk in the morning and make and sell cheese," said Angela, who lives with her family in an apartment above the shop. When asked how long they will run the business, Angela shrugged again. "We'll shoot for another year," she said. "Then we'll see what happens." Maria added: "Whatever God sends us, we take it."



Maria DiLello makes tomato sauce on Labor Day at the Maple Lawn Farm Market. Photos by J. Asher

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A map of the Shoreline Trail

## Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

Opposition to the Cold Spring section, “rooted in skepticism regarding patterns and numbers of projected visitation,” said Davis and Kacala, makes it “sensible” to wait until the Fjord Trail’s Breakneck Connector and Bridge and the renovation of Dutchess Manor are complete and operating, as early as 2027.

Both are expected to be key contributors to HHFT’s goal of reducing the congestion on Route 9D driven by hikers on Breakneck Ridge. Metro-North’s Breakneck station is also slated for an upgrade, and HHFT is planning a shuttle to ferry visitors between train stations, parking areas and trails; new signage; and a phone app that visitors can use to plan their trips.

“It seemed logical that any decision regarding the eventual routing of the final half-mile of the trail connecting Little Stony Point to the Cold Spring Metro-North train station can be postponed until the data regarding changes in visitation can

be gathered and evaluated,” said Kacala on Wednesday (Sept. 4).

HHFT said that state parks, as part of its environmental review of the Fjord Trail, will analyze routes from Cold Spring other than the Shoreline Trail. HHFT will also provide Cold Spring with funding to mitigate the impact of tourism, said Davis and Kacala.

Concern about more visitors was central to a letter sent by Winward, Foley and Van Tassel to state parks, in which they opposed HHFT’s proposal to have the Shoreline Trail start in Cold Spring. Siting the trail there would “irreversibly change the landscape, views-hed and character of the village,” they said.

A group called Protect the Highlands, led by former Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy and comprised of other Philipstown residents, has also been a vocal opponent of the Fjord Trail.

In May, two village trustees, Aaron Freimark and Eliza Starbuck, wrote to state parks to say they supported having the Shoreline Trail begin at Dockside Park. A

Harris Poll commissioned by HHFT and released in June also found widespread regional support for the Fjord Trail, scheduled for completion in 2031.

“It seemed logical that any decision regarding the eventual routing of the final half-mile of the trail connecting Little Stony Point to the Cold Spring Metro-North train station can be postponed until the data regarding changes in visitation can be gathered and evaluated.”

**~ Amy Kacala**  
*Executive Director, Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail*

In Nelsonville, Winward said on Tuesday (Sept. 3) that HHFT had yet to respond to

“clarifying questions,” but she felt “grateful” that the organization “committed to waiting for a Dockside connection” until the impact of visitors to the Cold Spring area can be assessed.

“We must ensure that the draw of this new attraction does not become the tipping point of over-tourism for our small community,” said Winward, adding that she would also like to see the introduction of a ticketing system like the ones used at heavily visited parks like Arches National Park in Utah.

Foley said the Village Board has yet to discuss the letter, and that it “does not accurately represent” what she thought HHFT was proposing “for a period of construction, pause, assessment and future engagement” with the town and villages.

“More troublingly, the letter clearly states HHFT’s departure from its foundational, core mission to relieve existing over-visitation in the village and assure public safety,” she said.

State parks approved the construction of the Fjord Trail’s first phase, the Breakneck Connector and Bridge, in December 2022. The agency conducted a separate environmental review for the \$85 million segment because it is deemed to have independent value in reducing congestion, even if other parts of the trail are never built.

HHFT also considers the Dutchess Manor renovation, which includes restoring the original 1868 structure and demolishing additions made between 1947 and 2007, to have standalone value to improve safety on Route 9D. The Fishkill Planning Board last month began its review of that project, which also calls for 180 parking spaces.

State parks’ environmental review of the entire project, which HHFT says will be completed next year, will outline the impacts of the trail on residents and the landscape, and assess alternative routes between Cold Spring and Little Stony Point. All “viable” options will be reviewed, “whether or not they are ever selected or built,” said Kacala.

Among the alternatives, she said, is one suggested by residents that could pass along the eastern edge of Dockside “without ever touching village streets.” Under that option, Dockside would become a “meander,” or an off-trail option.

Davis and Kacala said that although they are only legally required to reduce the impacts from the trail, HHFT is willing to help fund infrastructure to relieve the problems created by existing tourist traffic in Cold Spring before the Fjord Trail opens but after state parks completes its environmental review. “We can move forward in assisting the village with pursuing grants and making some grants ourselves,” they wrote.

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A bride's flowers (right) and a separate shadow box created for her mother

# Flowers Forever

*Philipstown artist preserves keepsakes*

By Mackenzie Boric

As a child, Jackie Murphy-Kahn preserved flowers for fun. As an adult, she turned the hobby into a blooming business.

At Evergreen Botanical Studio, based in Philipstown, she preserves the color and form of cut flowers using materials such as wax. Her husband, Ethan Kahn, makes the shadow-box frames in which they are presented.

While growing up in Oneida County, Murphy-Kahn did a lot of hiking and gardening, giving her an appreciation for nature. "When you're an artist, there's something in your soul that just knows that there's more," she says. "I feel like I couldn't have been anything else."

After earning a bachelor's degree in graphic design and advertising from the School of Visual Arts in New York City, she spent 14 years in the fashion industry, working for companies such as Victoria's Secret and Aimee Lynn but eventually burning out. "There's a lot of pressure, and it's not emotionally the best industry," says Murphy-Kahn, who moved to Philipstown with her husband in 2020.

She had pressed flowers for family and friends and in 2021 began experimenting with preserving flowers from gifts and her garden until she felt comfortable enough to start a business. She started by pressing them, "but quickly found that I missed the true form and color of the originals," she tells customers on her website, leading her to investigate "form preservation" and combine various techniques until she was satisfied.

Her first projects were preserving bridal flowers and birthday bouquets. As the business grew, she transformed the lower half of the new home into a studio and drying and layout room. Her husband took over

half the garage for the frames.

"That's always been my favorite thing about creating art — I tend to do it better for other people than I do myself," she says. "I like to get to know people and understand what they like and how to create something for them that they will love." She says she enjoys making a connection to people's stories.

To secure the flowers, Murphy-Kahn works with florists hired for weddings, memorials and special events to have them shipped overnight or dropped off at her studio. For re-creations and custom pieces, she relies on her garden or local flower farms that she is happy to credit when the pieces are shared on Instagram.

*Evergreen Botanical Studio is online at [evergreenbotanicalstudio.com](http://evergreenbotanicalstudio.com). Custom work begins at \$380.*



Jackie Murphy-Kahn with one of her framed flower arrangements

*Photo by Ethan Kahn*



A garden bouquet before its preservation in a shadow box (above)



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<i>Beacon</i> Joe Aguiar, 86 Carole Atwell, 81 Jim Bopp, 76 Eleanor Campbell, 88 Urcell Chamberlain, 99 Patti Debronsky William Eckert, 64 Chris Ford, 64 Jean Gremillot, 88 Rosalie Groot, 88 Donna Guck, 72 Clarence "June" Heroy, 89 Sister Ann Laforest, 91 Levisa Lunsford, 84 Esther Monzon, 68 Beverly Morgan, 83	Nancy Ann Musacchio, 88 Nelson Ocasio, 89 Joseph Powers, 94 David Quill, 71 Aurea Ramirez, 87 Joan Schnetzler, 86 Daniel Searles, 36 Charles Secore, 94 Fran Shevetone, 72 Brother Douglas Soik, 76 Judith Taplitz, 88 Manuel Voigt, 74 Carlos Wilson, 84 Arthur Zeitler, 85  <i>Philipstown</i> Ralph Carlson, 79 Barton Chew, 61	Donald "Bud" Clarke Jr., 60 Peg Colasurdo, 92 Anne Dolan, 79 Joanna Espy, 81 Antoinette Fodera, 83 Frances Gagne, 90 Peter Goetz, 89 Douglas Logan, 93 Mary Anne Manglass, 92 Anthony Merante, 80 Daniel North, 89 Gloria O'Dell, 79 Lois Powers, 75 David Provan, 75 Violet Terio, 95  <i>For obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.</i>
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TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).

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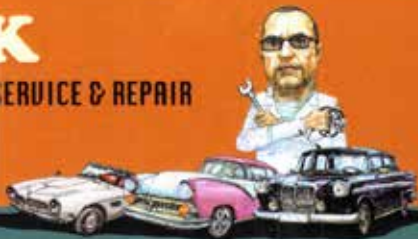


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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Sch. supporters

5. White House monogram

8. Young cow

12. Stellar musician

14. Hodgepodge

15. Soften

16. Harvest

17. Auction signal

18. Calif. NFL team

20. Harmful gas

23. Batting practice area

24. *Lucky Jim* author

25. With gusto

28. — de deux

29. Sports bar fixture

30. Candied veggie

32. Gulls

34. Knucklehead

35. Grecian vessels

36. Walking sticks

37. Radiator sounds

40. Soap unit

41. “Rhyme Pays” rapper

42. Playwright Wilder

47. Stadium top

48. Statistical anomalies

49. Wife of Geraint

50. To the — degree

51. “Toodle-oo!”
- DOWN
1. USMC rank

2. Uncle (Sp.)

3. Prince Valiant’s son

4. Shorthand pros

5. Cobra feature

6. Away from NNE

7. Freight weights

8. Intersection

9. Downwind

10. Tale teller

11. Dandies

13. Japanese noodle

19. “— a Kick Out of You”

20. Knock

21. Latin 101 word

22. Platter

23. Broadway rosters

25. Chicago suburb

26. Rhone city

27. Harvard rival

29. Ripped

31. Peaks (Abbr.)

33. Oxidized

34. “Rats!”

36. Poet Sandburg

37. Conceal

38. PC picture

39. Big rig

40. This and that

43. Grass shack

44. Chai, e.g.

45. Leftover bit

46. Code-breaking gp.

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BLOOM

TREAD

WORDSEARCH

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

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

Answers for Aug. 30 Puzzles  
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  
COVEY. COVER, MOVER,  
MOWER, POWER, POKER

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

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## Sports

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**GIRLS' SOCCER** — Led by Reilly Landisi, a senior who scored 30 goals last season, Beacon hopes to return to the Section IX, Class A title game. Landisi is a co-captain with senior midfielder Rory Ladue and senior defender Noelle Haase. Ninth-grader Claire Morgan looks to be a breakout player at midfield.

Beacon opened its season on Tuesday (Sept. 3) with a 1-0 win at Warwick on a goal by Drew Kelly, assisted by Landisi. "Haase was tremendous defensively," Coach Mike Lentini wrote on X. Ninth-grader Victoria Maruggi had 10 saves in goal.

Beacon finished 13-3-1 last year, losing to Lourdes in the Bulldogs' first sectional title game since 1989. Beacon will host Minisink Valley at 1 p.m. on Saturday (Sept. 7) before traveling to Fallsburg on Monday.

**BOYS' SOCCER** — The Bulldogs, who finished last season with a 13-3-2 record and their third straight Section IX, Class A title, return three key seniors who will serve as captains: defender Avery Davis, midfielder Brody Timm and forward Jaidyn Caccamo. Beacon will rely on Caccamo, Jude Betancourt and Mason Alencastro for goals, said Coach Craig Seamans. Josue Pintado adds experience at midfield and Luca Foret and Stan Wandji on defense.

The Bulldogs warmed up on Tuesday (Sept. 3) with a 5-1 scrimmage win against Haldane behind four goals from Timm. The team

opens the season today (Sept. 6) at Monroe-Woodbury and hosts Cornwall at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday and Fallsburg at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Beacon also restored its junior varsity after not fielding a team last year. It travels to Monroe-Woodbury today for its season opener.

**CROSS-COUNTRY** — Beacon will field a boys' squad led by Caleb Pfetzing, Theodore Concepcion, Travis Dickston, Wenang Kobarish, Elias Smith, Januario Stageman and Rudy Vergolina. The girls will be led by three sophomores: Cecilia Allee, Lily Murr and Selena Perez-Sample. Both teams open the season on Saturday (Sept. 7) with a meet at Washingtonville High School.

**VOLLEYBALL** — The Bulldogs, who finished 14-3 last season, are looking to defend their 2023 league title, the first in school history. Beacon opened the season with a 3-0 victory at Chester on Wednesday (Sept. 4) behind strong serving from Londyn Jones, who scored 14 points, including six aces. Lila Burke had 13 kills, followed by Daveya Rodriguez with 10. Evy Diebboll had 12 digs. The Bulldogs travel to Monticello on Monday (Sept. 9) and host Port Jervis at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS' SOCCER** — After winning the Class C state title in 2022, the Blue Devils were disappointed in 2023 when their season



Reilly Landisi (1), a senior who scored 30 goals for Beacon last season, is one of the captains of the girls' soccer team.

*File photo by Cadence Heeter*

ended in the Section I semifinals with a 1-0 loss to North Salem at home in extra time.

The team lost 10 seniors to graduation, including captains Clem Grossman (now at Vassar), Matt Nachamkin (playing basketball for Williams College) and goalkeeper Ronan Kiter (now at Denison).

The captains for the upcoming campaign are seniors Brandt Robbins and Matthew Silhavy, who is back in the fold after missing last season with an ACL injury. Coach Ahmed Dwidar, in his 10th year, suspects both players will take the field with chips on their shoulders. "Silhavy is hungry because he hasn't played in a year," Dwidar said, and Robbins suffered a concussion that kept him out of the final games of his junior year, including the tournament.

The Blue Devils will also rely on junior defender Ty Villella, whom Dwidar described as "world class," junior Roth Westphal, who will play striker, and junior wing Samuel Cardona.

Haldane opens its season hosting Yonkers Montessori Academy today (Sept. 6) and Dobbs Ferry on Sept. 11. Select games will be broadcast online at [team1sports.com](https://team1sports.com) and [locallive.tv](https://locallive.tv).

**GIRLS' SOCCER** — In their first game on Tuesday (Sept. 3), the Blue Devils suffered a 7-2 loss at home against Blind Brook, who scored six goals in the first half. Haldane scored its goals — by junior Anna-Catherine

Nelson and sophomore Stella Gretina — in the span of a minute. Haldane hosts Woodlands at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday (Sept. 12).

The Blue Devils lost only two seniors to graduation — striker Finola Kiter and goalie Ruby Poses — and this year have 10 on the roster, which shrank from 24 to 18 players. Seventeen of those players are returning from last season, which ended with a 2-1 loss to Leffell in the Section I, Class C semifinals.

Although a sophomore, Esther Amato, succeeds Poses in goal, second-year Coach Mary Callaghan noted that most of her players are juniors and seniors. "There is a sense of maturity on the field," she said.

Key players will be senior Amelia Alayon, who will lead the attack with Nelson and Gretina; senior Josie Foley-Hedlund and junior Marisa Peters at midfield; and senior defender Martha McBride. Callaghan said sophomore Taya Robinson can play any position.

The girls compete in a league with Croton-Harmon, North Salem, Pawling and Putnam Valley. Select games will be broadcast online at [team1sports.com](https://team1sports.com) and [locallive.tv](https://locallive.tv).

**VOLLEYBALL** — The Blue Devils, who opened their season on Thursday (Sept. 5) hosting Yonkers Montessori Academy, travel to Brewster on Monday (Sept. 9) and Hastings on Wednesday. Haldane hopes to improve on a 1-14 season in 2023 in which the team did not qualify for the postseason.



Brandt Robbins (8) returns for Haldane after missing the final games of his junior season due to injury.

*File photo by Skip Pearlman*