

# The HIGHLANDS Current

OCTOBER 25, 2024

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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

Local Spells  
Page 14



Will Biavati displays the work permit he received through DACA. Photo by J. Asher

## Part 2: Modern Immigrants

### The Path to Staying

In a national survey conducted last month by Marist Poll for National Public Radio and PBS News, 44 percent of registered voters said immigration was a deciding factor in whom they support for president. Another 43 percent said it was an important factor. In this series, we examine what drew recent immigrants to the Highlands, the process they undergo to stay and the effect on local schools.

By Joey Asher

Growing up in Cold Spring, Will Biavati looked and sounded like most of his friends. His skin was white like most of his Haldane classmates. His English was perfect with no trace of an accent. “I fit in with the local demographic,” said Biavati, who graduated in 2010. “No one could ever tell me apart.” But Biavati had a secret that did set him apart: He was undocumented. He is Brazilian, smuggled across the Tijuana border at age 11, hiding in a van with his mother. That was his second immigration violation. The first came 10 years earlier when he overstayed a tourist visa with his parents. Living in the shadows, Biavati said, the family code was to keep quiet, hoping

(Continued on Page 20)

## Housing Authority Has New Leadership

*Beacon agency helps lower-income residents*

By Jeff Simms

Veronica Schetter, who started two months ago as executive director of the Beacon Housing Authority, says she’s focused on hearing from as many voices as possible while helping people navigate an increasingly complex housing marketplace. Schetter is in a new position after taking over for Roland Traudt, who retired in August after 16 years with the agency, but the surroundings are familiar. She has

been with the Housing Authority for 27 years, “quietly working behind the scenes.” It’s the only job she’s ever had. “I hope to learn what misconceptions may be out there,” Schetter said. “I plan to open my door to the folks who participate in our programs, to hear about any barriers they’re experiencing.” Schetter grew up in Glenham, the hamlet that borders Beacon’s east side, and graduated from Beacon High School. She earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from SUNY New Paltz. The Housing Authority was created in

(Continued on Page 7)



Rolison



Valdés Smith

## State Senate Candidates Square Off

*Rising costs top concern for Rolison, Valdés Smith*

By Leonard Sparks

With the price of essentials such as housing and energy rising unabated, state Sen. Rob Rolison and his challenger, Yvette Valdés Smith, each say affordability is a crucial problem as they battle for a state Senate seat representing the 39th District, which includes Beacon and Philipstown. When speaking with voters, a major concern is “not being able to pay bills or deciding on [paying for] groceries or my Central Hudson bill,” said Valdés Smith, a former teacher whose district on the Dutchess County Legislature includes Ward 4 in Beacon. The Democrat is also the Legislature’s minority leader. Rolison, a Republican who served as City of Poughkeepsie mayor before defeating Beacon resident Julie Shiroishi in 2022 to win the redrawn 39th District, said reducing the local cost of living is also one of his priorities.

(Continued on Page 9)



**SUPERSTAR** — In a ceremony on Oct. 20, the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corp. dedicated a new ambulance to the memory of Louis Lombardo, who died in June at age 81. Lombardo, shown here in his pickup, answered 8,500 calls during his 40 years as a corps member. See Page 17.

Photo by Christine Ashburn

## Former Beacon Man Convicted on Jan. 6 Charges

*Accused of being leader of local Proud Boys*

By Chip Rowe

A federal judge in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday (Oct. 23) found a former Beacon man guilty of five counts related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. William Joseph Pepe, 35, was identified by prosecutors as president of the Hudson Valley chapter of the Proud Boys, who they said coordinated travel and lodging and, using earpieces and radios to communicate, dismantled barriers and broke

windows. Pepe was arrested six days after the riot and fired from his job at Metro-North in Brewster. The White Plains resident chose to have U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly, rather than a jury, hear the case at trial, which took place in August. Pepe was released until his sentencing, which is scheduled for March 11. Pepe was convicted of a felony (obstructing law enforcement during a civil disorder) and four misdemeanors (obstructing an official proceeding; entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds; disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds; and tampering with records, documents or other objects).

Pepe was initially charged in April 2021 with conspiring with two other defendants, Dominic Pezzola of Rochester (sentenced to 10 years in prison) and Matthew Greene of Syracuse (who pleaded guilty and became a government witness). A new indictment issued in April did not contain the conspiracy charge. According to the Justice Department, 1,532 individuals have been charged with crimes related to Jan. 6, including 571 accused of felonies for assaulting or impeding officers. As recently as Tuesday (Oct. 22), the FBI arrested a 41-year-old Ohio man who was charged with assaulting,

(Continued on Page 22)



5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: LEAH ALPER

By Joey Asher

Leah Alper, who teaches chemistry at Haldane High School, was selected this year for a five-year fellowship with the Knowles Teacher Initiative to train younger math and science teachers.

Why should students care about chemistry?

Chemistry answers so many questions about our world. How do cars work? What is the best source of power: natural gas or coal? We could evaluate that in terms of the chemical process of combustion from each of those sources. Chemistry also explains lots of fun things. Like why does ice cream taste creamy? It's because ice cream contains a high percentage of fat. But if you put in too much fat, it doesn't taste right. There's an emulsification threshold, which is another chemistry question.

You also teach environmental science. What is that?

It's at the intersection of many sciences, such as biology, earth science and chemistry. It's also about people, politics and economics. We do a lot of work around current events related to the environment. Last year we talked about the Indian Point nuclear



power plant. On the one hand, nuclear power is an excellent source of clean energy. On the other hand, disposing of radioactive waste is challenging. It gives students a chance to weigh the pros and cons.

As a second-year teacher, what has most surprised you about the profession?

I was surprised by how much my students care that I'm involved in their lives. A couple of weeks ago, I went to a junior varsity boys' soccer game. I didn't realize that I taught almost every kid on that team. At one point, the game nearly stopped because they all were waving and shouting "Hey, Miss Alper!" Students want teachers to see them as people beyond the classroom. I'm also a bit surprised at how, as a teacher, it feels like the work could go on forever. There's always

more feedback you can give. There's always a cooler activity to try. There are always papers to grade. I find it hard sometimes to set limits on how much time I'm committing. It truly could go on forever if you let it.

You don't give homework. Why is that?

It's an equity issue. Some students don't have great internet access, so it's harder for them. Some students work or care for siblings, so they don't have that much capacity to do homework. I get my work done during the school day and don't typically bring it home. I offer my students the same deal. I tell them that if they can get their work done during class time, they've done their job. It's good for their brains to take a break when they leave school.

Did you have a teacher who was a role model?

Yes, Chris Gould, who taught social studies at my high school in Amherst, Massachusetts. He was energetic and engaging, and he had extremely high standards. I wasn't used to being held to those standards. I didn't always like it when I did poorly on papers, but it pushed me to be a better writer. And I appreciate that he didn't lower his standards. I want to give my students the same experience.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What is the best scary movie to watch at Halloween?

Halloween. It's almost too scary for me!



Tina Corrado, Beacon

Jaws. I don't care for Halloween movies.



Steven Sohn, Philipstown

The Blair Witch Project. You never know what's coming next.



Tara Duggan, Cold Spring

TOMPKINS CORNERS CULTURAL CENTER

SUN., NOV. 3, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

**"Beata Beach Porter: A Retrospective."**

Exhibit And Reception  
Refreshments will be served Free

SAT., NOV. 9, 7:30 PM

**Back At It**

Sam Krugman, Wolfgang Lagomarsini, and Timothy E. Pitt  
Opening will be Linda Thornton

SUN., NOV.10, 3:00 PM

**Poets' Corner Open Mic**

Featuring Jim Garber

FRI., NOV 15, 7:30 PM

**The Peekskill Riots: Episode Three**

*Up On The Hillside, Down In The Hollow*  
The Third Episode of a Five-Part Docu-Series by Jon Scott Bennett

SUN., NOV. 17, 3:00 PM

**Bread And Roses**

Short Plays by Local Women Playwrights

SAT. NOV. 23, 7:30 PM

**Kj Denhert and the NY Unit**

Urban Folk and Jazz

Visit [TompkinsCorners.org](https://TompkinsCorners.org)

MOUNT GULIAN HISTORIC SITE

Saturday, November 9, 1:00 pm

THE HISTORY OF THE LENAPE PEOPLE

*A talk about the first inhabitants of the Hudson Valley*

\$12/adults, \$10/seniors, \$5 children (ages 5-15)

No charge for Mount Gulian members.  
Membership is open to the public.  
Reservations are encouraged.

Supported by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

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

BEACON, NEW YORK

artisan wine shop

where food meets its match

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

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

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



NEWS BRIEFS

## Police Arrest Beacon Man on Drug Charges

*Accused of selling fentanyl, cocaine*

A Dutchess County task force arrested a Beacon man on Oct. 17 detained on charges that he sold fentanyl and cocaine from his Beekman Street home.

The Drug Task Force of the District Attorney's Office said agents detained George Cintron, 37, near his home before executing a search warrant. They said they found more than 16 ounces of cocaine, fentanyl and ecstasy and an illegal "ghost" handgun.

Cintron was charged with felony criminal possession of a controlled substance and felony criminal possession of a firearm. He was held by the Beacon Police Department pending arraignment.

## Cold Spring Man Accused of Stealing Campaign Signs

*Charged with petit larceny*

Putnam County Sheriff's deputies arrested a Cold Spring man on Oct. 17 on charges that he stole political campaign signs.

The sheriff said in a news release that a Philipstown resident called police from a home at Route 9D near Mandalay Drive after a witness alerted the resident and provided a detailed description of the suspect and a vehicle.

Deputies tracked the vehicle to the

Village of Cold Spring and interviewed and arrested Lucas Gonze, 59. He was charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor, and released with an appearance ticket at the Town of Philipstown Court. The sheriff did not say what the signs said.

## Beacon High School Closes For a Day

*Classes canceled after chemistry fire*

Beacon High School was closed to students for cleaning on Thursday (Oct. 24) after a small fire broke out the day before. Superintendent Matt Landahl said in an



Damage from the fire

BFD

email to district families that a fire started in a chemistry classroom around 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday. No one was hurt. Landahl said on Thursday that custodian Tom Van Buren used fire extinguishers to stop the fire.

## Bees Lead to Fire

*Beacon resident tried to burn them out*

The Beacon Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Masters Place on Oct. 19 that was started by a homeowner attempting to burn out bees from a porch roof, according to *Mid Hudson News*.

Firefighters who arrived just after 7 p.m. observed light smoke. The Castle Point and Fishkill departments also responded, and the fire was extinguished within about a half-hour.

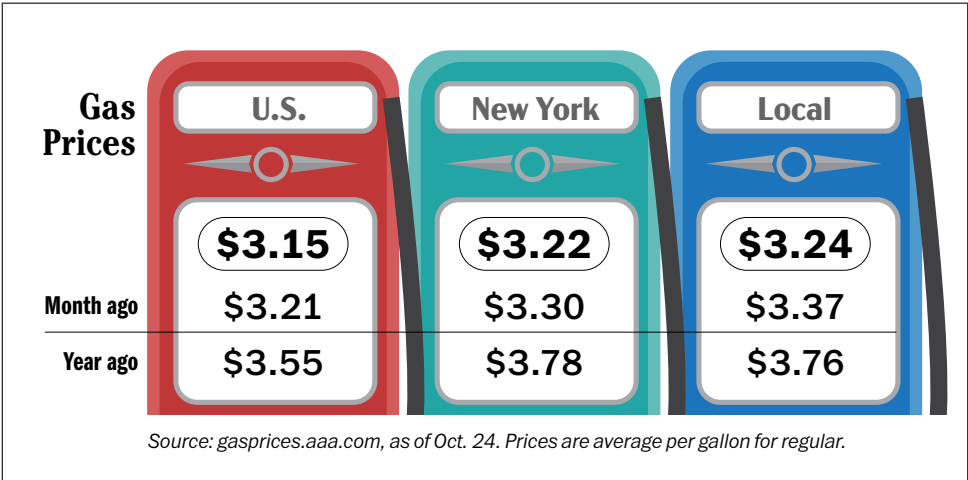
## State Releases Nuclear Blueprint

*Deadline for public comment is Nov. 8*

New York State has extended the public comment period on the draft of its blueprint for the next generation of nuclear technology by one month, until Nov. 8.

The extension came after an appeal by state Sen. Pete Harcham, whose district includes eastern Putnam County, and Assembly Member Deborah Glick, who represents part of New York City.

The New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) unveiled its *Blueprint for Consideration of Advanced Nuclear Technologies* in September. For more details, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).



# Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

## Artist's Talk

Susan Walsh:  
I Could Save Time

Saturday, Nov 2, at 3PM

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

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

# BROTHERS TREE SERVICE CORP.

Licensed and insured

Serving Putnam, Dutchess and Westchester counties

Small company with competitive pricing. Try us!

914-906-2596 — FREE ESTIMATES

**FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED**

Call us for all aspects of tree care, including:

- Emergencies
- Trimming and Pruning
- Takedowns and Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Cabling and Bracing
- Planting
- Plant Health Care
- Land Clearing

[brotherstreeservicecorp.com](http://brotherstreeservicecorp.com)

Certified Arborist  
#NY-5763A #NY-325767

LICENSED AND INSURED Putnam License #PC8148  
Westchester License #WC32958-1420



The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**

**PUBLISHER**

Highlands Current Inc.

Board of Directors:

Damon Banks, Christine Bockelmann,  
Gwendolyn Bounds, David Duffy,  
Kyle Good, Nicholas Groombridge,  
Todd Haskell, Robert Lanier, Mel Laytner,  
Joseph Plummer, Frances S. Reilly

**FOUNDER**

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

**EDITOR**

Chip Rowe [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org)

**SENIOR EDITOR**

Leonard Sparks

**BEACON EDITOR**

Jeff Simms

**REPORTERS**

Jacob Aframian • Joey Asher  
Brian PJ Cronin • Joe Dizney  
Pamela Doan • Marc Ferris • Deb Lucke  
Nick Robbins • Michael Turton

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Ross Corsair • Skip Pearlman

**STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM**

REPORTERS: Nadeen Ahmed, Charlotte  
Bowen, Ash Marcus, Annabelle  
Notarthomas, Kayla Selander (*Beacon*);  
Lincoln Wayland (*Haldane*); Jude  
Morrison (*St. Regis*); Clara Tripp  
(*Fieldston*) / PHOTOGRAPHERS: Leo Grocott  
(*Haldane*), Aron Li (*Beacon*)

**LAYOUT DESIGNER**

Pierce Strudler

**GROWTH DIRECTOR**

Lauren Cook

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**

Michele Gedney

- For information on advertising:  
845-809-5584 | [ads@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org)  
[highlandscurrent.org/ads](http://highlandscurrent.org/ads)

**MEMBERSHIP**

Emily Hare [membership@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:membership@highlandscurrent.org)



The *Current* is a nonprofit venture supported by donations from its members. To join, see [highlandscurrent.org/join](http://highlandscurrent.org/join).

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

October 25, 2024

Volume 12, Issue 43

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.

© Highlands Current Inc. 2024

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanical or electronic, without written permission of the publisher.

**NYFA\*** Winner: 139 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

**NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR** (2021-23)  
\* New York Press Association, 2013 - 23

**NNA\*** Winner: 127 Better Newspaper Contest Awards  
\* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 23

**NYNPA\*** Winner:  
34 Awards for Excellence  
\* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 23

**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](http://highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards).

**LETTERS AND COMMENTS**

**State Senate 39**

I am writing to support Yvette Valdés Smith, who is running to represent the 39th District in the state Senate, which includes the Highlands.

Yvette has represented Ward 4 in Beacon on the Dutchess County Legislature since 2022, and she has the skills and experience necessary to be an outstanding state senator. She has tirelessly earned our votes by knocking on doors and participating in community activities. She does not take her office or voter support for granted. She actively listens to constituents to meet our needs.

Last spring, when Dutchess proposed cutting bus service to our Beacon neighborhood, Yvette was the first person I turned to. She navigated me and my neighbors through the steps to voice our concerns. Thanks to her leadership, we kept our public transit.

This November, the choice is clear. To restore decency and return to good governance, we need to vote for Democrats at all levels. We need a state senator who will deliver results for the Hudson Valley, not just photo ops.

Yvette's vision is a promise and a roadmap to a better future. She will work to improve our schools, conserve our environment, create affordable housing solutions, protect women's health and be our voice in Albany. She is a beacon of hope who we can all rally behind. I urge you to vote for Yvette

Valdés Smith for state Senate.

Carolyn Bennett Glauda, *Beacon*

The leaves are changing and falling, *The Current* is reminding parents to get students vaccinated, the Haldane football team is receiving new helmet cushions and the school bus is puffing its way up and down East Mountain Road South.

Yet, there is the constant reminder of the ever-present gun violence. We can't keep praying and doing nothing. Why is it impossible for our elected leaders to act? Our state senator, Rob Rolison, voted against the sensible 10-day waiting period between purchase and possession. We need to allow time for law enforcement to complete background checks. This simply makes sense.

Yvette Valdés Smith is running for state Senate. She will support such a pause. I'm voting for her on Nov. 5.

Constancia Romilly, *Philipstown*

For more reader endorsements in this race, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

**Fjord Trail**

The mask slips even further. With the hiring of a former architect for Friends of the High Line, the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is not even trying to hide its objective any longer: High Line North, an award-winning promenade that will be the

epicenter of regional tourism ("Fjord Trail Hires New President," Oct. 18). I give HHFT credit for honesty (finally) on this point.

Tom Campanile, *Nelsonville*

We need the trail ("Fjord Trail Data Committee Issues Report," Oct. 18). My family went to Cold Spring via train from Beacon on Oct. 20. It was packed. People love it here. I'm so glad they are moving forward to accommodate the people.

Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*

To clarify, the Fjord Trail Data Committee did not issue or develop the visitor projections report. Instead, our role was to review and give suggestions on the report prepared for HHFT by the ORCA consulting firm.

To report that the committee "calculated" or "determined" anything misrepresents our role, which was merely to review the data. I hope residents will read the full report and the independent consultant's summary memo to understand the full range of projections up to 1 million annual visitors to the corridor.

Chris Winward, *Nelsonville*

Winward, the village mayor, was a member of the data committee.

**Crowds**

Like most residents of Cold Spring, we find the crowds during the weekends and holidays of summer and fall overwhelming. Fortunately, we can walk to town and don't have to find parking.

Cold Spring is a spectacularly beautiful village with easy access by car, train and boat from one of the world's largest metropolitan areas. Rather than resenting visitors, should we not embrace them and share the natural beauty of our glacial valley? Cars are the major problem, not people.

Why not have Main Street and the waterfront be for pedestrians only on weekends from May 1 until Oct. 31. This would allow room for tourists and residents. A new parking lot on The Blvd and a functioning shuttle might also help. The Putnam County Legislature should consider giving Cold Spring its fair share of revenues to help fund this project.

Marianne Sutton and David Watson,  
*Cold Spring*

**Cakewalk**

As a parent of a Garrison School fourth grader chomping at the bit for a gummy-worm-laden cake and the spouse of a former Fall Fest cakewalk MC, kudos to Superintendent Greg Stowell and the PTA for their decision here and for making the decision to be thoughtful about this and how school-sponsored activities support the district's Vision of a Graduate ("Garrison School Cancels Cakewalk," Oct. 18).

Is it, effectively, musical chairs for cake? Sure. Can it be rethought for next year in a non-  
(Continued on Page 5)





LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

reactive way, especially when people who have expressed concern have a valid, fact-based point? You bet. But to the principles of integrity and empathy, good call. Skip it a year and be thoughtful about a new or revised tradition.

It's a privileged spot to decide what shouldn't be offensive to others who have different experiences from your own. At a minimum, this creates a teaching opportunity for our kids to practice a little empathy and consideration at the low, low cost of some foregone carbs.

Gradie Oakes, *Garrison*

It's terrible that cakewalks have this racist history. But I agree with Brandon and Sheila Williams that that is no reason to scrap an innocent fundraiser that is essentially musical chairs. Just rename it: Musical Cakes. Cake Raffle. Cake Celebration. Cake Contest. It has no connection to the cakewalks of the past except for the name. Children and parents of all races walk around a circle — a unifying symbol that symbolizes inclusion — listening to music, laughing and having fun. It brings the community together.

Cecile Weiland, *Garrison*

Changing the name doesn't erase the racist history. Surely the community is smart and creative enough to come up with something else. The Garrison School did the right thing.

Jill Sussman, *Garrison*

This is not a story.  
Gregory Kenderdine, *via Instagram*

I am so glad they canceled this travesty. A chili cook-off is Mexican culture appropriation. Touch-a-truck: Are they electric or fossil-fuel burners? What kind of message does that send to youth to have them caress beasts of pollution? Bouncy castles? No doubt relating to the feudal system where they kept serfs. Silent auctions bring up visions of slave families. I'm off to have a piece of cake and maybe find something else to be offended over. You need to be vigilant. They are always trying to sneak something by us.

Tony Bardes, *Cold Spring*

Why did canceling the cakewalk bother me? I have a difficult time allowing others to define morality for me. It stinks of a hypocritical religion, dictating to others what is right and wrong.

Like most people, I did not know that the cakewalk was rooted in painful history that can be seen as insensitive. I'm sure if you looked hard enough, you could uncover the echoes of injustice in almost everything we do. But if you dwell on the past to make you feel good in the present, consider that from 1619 to 1866, historians estimate that around 12 million Africans were enslaved. Today, there are an estimated 50 million slaves, including forced labor and sexual exploitation of children, in more than 167 countries, including our own.

How does that affect us in Garrison? Not at all. Out of sight, out of mind. Or is it? Do you have a cellphone? Do your kids wear sneakers? Do you drive an electric car? The sad truth is that there is no way to live in modern America and not be a participant in slavery.

Do we care? Not enough to stop participating.

Perhaps we can fight this injustice by telling everyone that cakewalks are racist. Tell that to a 6-year-old boy in the Congo digging for the cobalt that powers the battery in your phone and electric car. I wonder if he would like to participate in the Fall Festival cakewalk?

As we look back on the evils of our past, I wonder how people will think of us in the future. Perhaps they will say that striving to right historical wrongs at a grammar school was certainly no cakewalk.

Brandon Williams, *Philipstown*

Pumpkins

The Hetrick pumpkin patch is the best yard in the Beacon area ("Winning Gourd," Oct. 18).

Kristen Holt-Browning, *via Instagram*

Immigrants

*The Current* needs a new copy editor. He or she tolerates the nonsensical term "undocumented immigrant" for "illegal alien," the correct term for persons lacking legal status to remain in the U.S. ("Modern Immigrants, Part 1," Oct. 18). It's ironic that one turns the page and finds an *Out There* column on invasive language, which was tolerated (or possibly applied) by your rogue copy editor in the previous article. I'm certain the editor would not use such invasive language.

Gregg Zuman, *via Instagram*

You may want to check *The Associated Press Stylebook* before you make bad-faith comments.

Matt Rowan, *via Instagram*

House District 17

I have attended one of Rep. Mike Lawler's open houses and had a chance to watch him in action. He is an accomplished politician, and I understand why some people are drawn to him. Lawler rejects former President Trump's election lies and touts his own bipartisanship.

A pro-Harris Democrat told *The Atlantic* recently that she was leaning toward Lawler even though she wanted the Democrats to take back the U.S. House. When asked by a reporter if she'd have any regrets if a Lawler victory allowed Republicans to retain the majority, she replied: "Oh yes. That's a terrifying thought."

Well, guess what? If Vice President Kamala Harris wins and is confronted by a Republican House, it will be because voters like this one hoped that other districts would give us a Democratic majority. That is a terrible (and irresponsible) gamble.

With a Republican majority in the House, a Harris win would be in jeopardy just as the Biden victory was in jeopardy. House Speaker Mike Johnson was an election denialist in 2020. Who knows what he will do when it comes time to certify the Electoral College votes in January?

To be safe, we need a Democratic majority in the House. That means that no matter how nice or bipartisan Mike Lawler seems, a vote for him is a vote for a MAGA majority and another round of election denialism. In other

(Continued on Page 6)

Local Real Estate Pros

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



**Bill Hussung**  
BROKER / OWNER | ROBERT A. MCCAFFREY REALTY  
917.715.2610 | [bhussung@mccaffreyrealty.com](mailto:bhussung@mccaffreyrealty.com)  
[mccaffreyrealty.com](https://mccaffreyrealty.com)



**Charlotte Brooks**  
OWNER & PRINCIPLE BROKER | HOUSE FINCH REALTY  
917-951-2241 | [Charlotte@HouseFinchRealty.com](mailto:Charlotte@HouseFinchRealty.com)  
[www.housefinchrealty.com](https://www.housefinchrealty.com)



**Ana Silverlinck**  
LICENSED REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY  
917-279-1831 | [ana@hudsonriverlinerealty.com](mailto:ana@hudsonriverlinerealty.com)  
[www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com](https://www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com)



**Abbie Carey**  
ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER | HOULIHAN LAWRENCE  
845-661-5438 | [acarey@houlihanlawrence.com](mailto:acarey@houlihanlawrence.com)  
[www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com](https://www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com)



**Ann McBride-Alayon**  
PRINCIPLE BROKER, OWNER | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY  
718-637-3143 | [ann@hudsonriverlinerealty.com](mailto:ann@hudsonriverlinerealty.com)  
[www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com](https://www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com)



**Claudia Dizenzo**  
ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY  
646-354-9842 | [claudia@hudsonriverlinerealty.com](mailto:claudia@hudsonriverlinerealty.com)  
[www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com](https://www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com)



**Donna Francis**  
ASSOCIATE BROKER | K. FORTUNA REALTY, INC.  
845-522-1298 | [donnafrancis451@gmail.com](mailto:donnafrancis451@gmail.com)  
[www.kfortunarealtyinc.com](https://www.kfortunarealtyinc.com)



**Mindy Jesek**  
REALTOR | AGNES I. WAGER REALTY INC.  
914-552-1136 | [mindyjesek65@gmail.com](mailto:mindyjesek65@gmail.com)  
[www.wager-realty.com](https://www.wager-realty.com)

Advertise your real estate business here. Contact Michele Cedney.  
845-809-5584 | [ads@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org) | [highlandscurrent.org/ads](https://highlandscurrent.org/ads)



## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

words, we gotta vote for Mondaire Jones.

Michael Meeropol, *Cold Spring*

If Rep. Lawler holds a slight lead in our congressional district, it's because moderates think he is one of them. They might think twice about that if they saw what Hurricanes Milton and Helene did to Florida and North Carolina.

Why? Because Lawler voted against the most important piece of legislation ever passed to stop climate change — the Inflation Reduction Act, which is speeding up the transition to clean energy. Lawler called the law “a Democratic boondoggle.”

That “boondoggle” has caused companies to announce \$265 billion in clean-energy investments, creating more than 330,000 new clean-energy jobs. Lawler could look up those numbers himself. Then he could tell us what's a higher priority than finally doing something about the hurricanes, heatwaves, wildfires and droughts that cast a pall on our future and our kids' futures.

If he can't come up with anything, we'd best assume he'll vote against clean energy again if he's re-elected. That's something to remember when contemplating his carefully tailored image as a moderate.

David Gelber, *Garrison*

As the 2024 campaign began in earnest, I expected to be flooded with glossy pamphlets lauding Rep. Lawler as a moderate Republi-

can who has sought to reduce the political temperature by working with Democrats.

It is important for the 49.6 percent of people in District 17 who voted against him in 2022 to be informed of his true voting record.

While there have been times when he voted against his party, they were rare. His voting record for the 2023-24 Congress reveals him to be a loyal Republican who voted with his majority caucus between 60 and 85 percent of the time. If you explore the record of the Republican caucus, you can find nearly 90 representatives whose voting records were more moderate than Lawler's.

Lawler supported his Republican majority on votes for investigations, impeachments and censuring and fining a sitting president and two of his cabinet secretaries without any evidence. He also voted to attach riders to funding bills that restricted access to abortions, diversity training and rights for the LGBTQ+ population. He supported cuts to infrastructure and environmental programs that greatly reduced funding for clean water proposals. This had a direct negative impact on New York and Putnam County, which face major problems in this area.

Many of the most controversial Republican measures passed with a margin of fewer than five votes and, in some instances, by a single vote. It is startling to realize that Lawler could, with his one vote, have defeated many of these extreme pieces of legislation.

His voting record shows the Republican caucus can always count on his vote for

their MAGA agenda. Their agenda is not moderate and, based on his record, Lawler will support it.

Dennis O'Brien, *Cold Spring*

For more reader endorsements in this race, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

## Proposition 1

Signs reading “Save Girls Sports” are now everywhere in Putnam County and beyond, pushed by extremist groups such as Moms for Liberty to deter voters from voting for Proposition 1 on the back of the ballot.

The false implication of the signs is that Proposition 1 — along with another now-tabled proposal by the New York Board of Regents to allow mixed-gender sports — will somehow threaten cisgender girls, because it would let trans and nonbinary students play on sports teams that align with their gender identity.

This is an imaginary problem. As the Human Rights Campaign notes, trans and nonbinary kids “are a small part of the overall population in schools, and only about half of trans youth identify as girls (opponents don't seem as interested in trans boys, who they assume will not be able to compete with cisgender boys — a sexist assumption).”

Among trans youth who identify as girls, relatively few are interested in playing sports. As in the general population, many people are not athletically inclined or interested in the commitment required by sports.

With a state law already in place (the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination

Act, or GENDA) that mandates kids can join teams of their gender identity, the real-world instances of it happening are few. To suggest there is an epidemic of trans and nonbinary athletes infiltrating school sports is absurd.

In fact, Proposition 1 and the delayed Regents proposal would protect girls who want to play sports without equivalent girls' teams by ensuring their right to play on boys' teams. Opponents suggest these measures would result in an onslaught of boys pushing girls out of sports like field hockey and softball; in fact, it would overwhelmingly benefit cisgender girls.

What “Save Girls Sports” signs mask is that Proposition 1 is about far more than this issue. It would chiefly codify access to abortion services in the state constitution so that they could not be rolled back in the post-Roe era, and it would codify anti-discrimination laws under GENDA, making it harder to overturn protections for LGBTQ+, elderly, disabled and minoritized populations.

The signs also blatantly vilify trans and nonbinary kids, and this will lead to real-life harm. According to a 2023 survey, about half of transgender and nonbinary youth said they had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Anti-trans lies and legislation are killing kids around the country. Don't contribute to the problem by falling for these transphobic ploys. Please vote yes on Proposition 1.

Anthony Arrien, *Putnam Valley*

The letter was also signed by Gina Sanchirico of Putnam Valley and Eileen McDermott of Brewster.

**FREE with RSVP**  
[bit.ly/HCCspooky4kids](http://bit.ly/HCCspooky4kids)  
**SPOOKY (BUT NOT TOO)  
SCARY STORIES**

**Wed. Oct 30 – 4 PM**

**Hudson Valley's Master Storyteller  
Johnathan Kruk will enchant all!**

The program is made possible by a NYSOCFS grant

**Sat. Oct 26 + Sun. Oct 27 – 1-5 PM****LATTIMORE STUDIO EXHIBITION**

Andrew Lattimore and 24 of his students' work  
**Exhibit & Art Sale - Thru Nov 17 most weekends**

Oct 25 - OPEN MIC NIGHT

Oct 26 - ARTICHOKE PRESENTS - Kenice Mobley

Oct 30 - AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS by Ted Swindley

Nov 1 - LIT LIT

Nov 2 - VICES &amp; VIRTUES with MATT EDDY

Nov 3 - HCMC's SÔ PERCUSSION + Classics 4 Kids

Nov 8 - Ruth Danon's LIVE WRITING with Local Poets

Nov 9 - ANNIE &amp; THE HEDONIST

Nov 15 - Hudson Valley NERD NIGHT

**HOWLAND  
CULTURAL  
CENTER**



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



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

**THIS SUNDAY:  
REVEREND  
WILLIAM  
WEISENBACH  
“HILARIOUS  
GIVING”  
OCT 27 @ 11:00AM  
FOR WORSHIP  
REFLECTION  
& SONG**

**Nov 3** Marianne Benjamin**Nov 10** Richard Gerber & Kevin Byrne

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

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



**LET'S GREEN  
OUR HALLOWEEN!**  
*2nd Annual Pumpkin Smash!*

Help keep pumpkins out of our landfills by  
composting them at our Picnic Pavillion

**40 FRANCISCAN WAY  
GARRISON  
(OFF ROUTE 9)**

**SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 3  
12:30-2:30**



**Live music from  
The Mike Risko Band!**

**COMPLIMENTARY  
CIDER AND  
DONUTS!**



For more details scan here



[atonementfriars.org](http://atonementfriars.org)

[@](#) [f](#) [in](#) AtonementFriars



# Shakespeare Unveils Actor Housing

*Hopes to build 32 residences for seasonal performers*

By Leonard Sparks

**H**udson Valley Shakespeare has applied to the Philipstown Planning Board to begin building a 32-bed residential compound for its performers, who have been housed at a hotel in Fishkill.

Adam Stolorow, an attorney for HVS, and architect Susan Rodriguez introduced the project to the board on Oct. 17, years earlier than anticipated in the master plan approved for the theater organization in July.

HVS, known until a rebranding this year as the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, broke ground last month on the first phase of its new home at the former Garrison Golf Course, an open-air theater with concessions, bathroom and back-of-house buildings. The nonprofit had said that actor lodging would follow in five to 15 years. Instead, HVS would like to begin construction in 2025.



A rendering of the proposed HVS actor housing

Susan T. Rodriguez Architecture

Davis McCallum, HVS's artistic director, said on Tuesday (Oct. 22) that a \$10 million state grant for the theater, along with other funding awards, has helped the organization close the gap in a fundraising campaign for actor lodging.

During a groundbreaking ceremony in September, HVS said \$50 million in private and public funding had been raised for the theater, ecological restoration at the property and financial reserves, with an additional \$8 million needed for the lodging.

"We're still diligently raising money to make the artist lodging possible, and won't

be in a position to proceed until that effort is successful," he said.

In its application, HVS wants to start building the residences as the theater complex is being constructed and have performers occupy the units for the 2026 season. With 12 fewer units than the 44 approved in the master plan, the impacts will be "either the same or less as what was previously studied," said Stolorow.

In place of hotel rooms, actors would spend the festival's season living in one of five residential buildings forming an L-shaped compound in the northwest

section of HVS's 97-acre property. Four of the buildings — two-story cottages totaling 1,000 square feet each — would have two separate bedrooms with a private bath on each floor, and a kitchen and living area off the entrance.

An additional 16 one-bedroom units with kitchens and bathrooms would be contained in a fifth "barn" building totaling 2,500 square feet. Attached to the building is a common kitchen and dining area, along with a laundry room. Set among existing and newly planted trees, the buildings would have gray metal roofs and natural wood siding, said Rodriguez.

"They all have porches and a connection to the natural environment," she said.

Philipstown law would prohibit artists from occupying the housing for more than nine consecutive months. During its off-season, HVS would be allowed to rent the units to guests for stays of less than a month.

Sen. Charles Schumer visited Philipstown in August to announce a \$1.5 million federal grant for the outdoor theater, which will be the first purpose-built theater in the nation certified LEED Platinum, the highest rating for sustainable design. It will have solar panels, a green roof, natural ventilation and rainwater-capture systems.

## Housing Authority *(from Page 1)*

1964 and manages Forrestal Heights, a 175-unit complex adjacent to South Avenue Park, and Hamilton Fish Plaza, which has 70 apartments on Eliza Street. In addition, it provides rental assistance vouchers to more than 300 families throughout its jurisdiction, which is Beacon, the Town and Village of Fishkill, the Town of Wappinger and the Village of Wappingers Falls.

In 2021 the agency became part of the federal Housing Choice Voucher program, which Schetter said offers more reliable funding than the Public Housing program it had been under. Despite its name, the Beacon Housing Authority is not a city agency and receives no funding from Beacon or New York State, although five of the seven members of its board of directors are appointed by the mayor.

During her quarter-century at the Housing Agency, "there has always been a demand" for affordable housing, Schetter said, "but it seems to be increasing."

Waiting lists for the agency's housing options are closed, although they open from time to time (as recently as this past summer). A message is posted at [beaconhousingauthority.org](https://beaconhousingauthority.org) when that happens.

Schetter plans to hold an informational meeting for landlords to learn about the Housing Choice Voucher program. Any landlord can participate if an apartment is market-priced and passes an inspection. The tenant pays part of the rent based on their income and BHA covers the rest. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development sets income limits annually for the program.

To be eligible, a family must be at least "very low income," according to the federal agency, and at least 75 percent of families admitted through the Beacon Housing Authority must be "extremely low income," which in



Veronica Schetter, the new executive director of the Beacon Housing Authority, points out a 1970 newspaper photo of Herbert Ridley, the first tenant at Forrestal Heights.

Photos by J. Simms

Dutchess County in 2024 is a family of four with a household income of \$34,450 or less.

There was talk last year of adding 10 apartments at Forrestal Heights, but BHA's board has paused the plan. That means increased participation in the voucher program is the agency's best chance to expand its reach.

"I want to open up more doors for private landlords who don't know that this program is available or what it does," said Schetter.

She plans to organize resident advisor groups and BHA also will seek bids for a capital-needs assessment "to get a clear and crisp plan to move forward," she said.

On Wednesday (Oct. 23), plenty was happening at agency headquarters on Wolcott Avenue. In one room, BHA leases space to a hairstylist who offers discounted rates for tenants, while, in another wing, the Dutchess County Office for the Aging provides on-site meals and activities for seniors and prepares meals



Beacon Housing Authority headquarters (right) are on Wolcott Avenue.

for delivery to people who are homebound.

"There are so many amazing people and programs happening here," Schetter said. "Each is special in their own way, with their own perspective, and brings so much to the table."

## Voucher Enforcement

In August, the state Division of Human Rights sued an Albany company that manages 38 apartment complexes in four states, including two in Dutchess County, for allegedly refusing to accept rental vouchers and for requiring tenants to have a minimum income, which is illegal.

In 2019 New York State made it illegal to discriminate against tenants based on any "lawful source of income," including vouchers.

The lawsuit against Dawn Home Management focuses on seven properties in New York, including Chelsea Ridge Apartments in Wappingers Falls and Village Park Apartments in Pleasant Valley. The state alleges that the company refused to rent apartments to tenants with subsidies from the Housing Choice Voucher program and another program for people living with HIV and AIDS.

The lawsuit was filed in Bronx County after a complaint from the nonprofit Westchester Residential Opportunities. The organization uses "testers" who pose as renters to document housing discrimination.

The state is seeking financial damages, up to \$100,000 in fines, monitoring and fair-housing training for Dawn Home employees.



# Lawler, Jones List Same Issues as Urgent

*But U.S. House candidates agree on little else*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Racing toward Election Day, Republican incumbent Mike Lawler, who seeks re-election to the U.S. House representing District 17, which includes Philipstown, and his Democratic challenger, Mondaire Jones, agree that America must address crucial questions on abortion, border security, the environment, gun violence, law enforcement and relations with Israel.

But when it comes to approaches, they clash, as they did last week at a TV News 12 debate, when they interrupted each other and accused one another of lying.

An Emerson College/Pix11/*The Hill* poll of 630 likely voters in District 17 conducted three weeks ago showed a toss-up, with Lawler drawing 45 percent and Jones 44 percent, with a 3.8 percent margin of error. Three percent of respondents said they supported Anthony Frascone, the Working Parties candidate, and 7 percent said they were undecided.

According to the poll, the top issue for District 17 voters is the economy (32 percent), followed by immigration (20 percent), housing affordability (13 percent), crime (11 percent) and threats to democracy (10 percent). The poll found the presidential race between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump in District 17 tied at 49 percent each.

Raised by a single mother in Rockland County, Jones, 37, often recalls how he “grew up in Section 8 [subsidized housing] and on food stamps.” He earned degrees from Stanford and Harvard and, as a lawyer, worked in private practice and for the Justice Department and Westchester County district attorney.

Lawler, 38, also from Rockland, has been executive director of the New York State Republican Party, deputy town supervisor in Orangetown, a political lobbyist and consultant and a one-term state Assembly member.

Each has served a single House term and needs a victory on Nov. 5 to return to Capitol Hill.

In 2020, Jones won election to what was then the 17th District, covering suburban areas near New York City. Its boundaries substantially changed in a 2022 redistricting. Rather than run in the newly reconfigured 17th, which stretches northward to encompass sections of the former 18th District, including Philipstown, Jones competed in a House primary in New York City but lost. The same year, Lawler, who lives in Pearl River, defeated a Philipstown resident, Democrat Sean Patrick Maloney.

Frascone, who lives in Rockland County, won the Working Families line in a primary over Jones. Democratic Party leaders in Putnam and Westchester sued to remove his name, calling him a “ghost candidate without a campaign, staff or spending,” backed by Republicans to draw votes from Jones. On Tuesday (Oct. 22), a state judge ruled it was too late to remove Frascone’s name.

Both Lawler and Jones claim to favor bipartisanship and political moderation,

even as they portray each other as radicals.

**Abortion**

On his campaign website, Jones asserts that Lawler “supports letting politicians ban abortion without exceptions for rape and incest.” During News 12’s Oct. 16 debate, Jones said, “I want to restore women’s reproductive freedom, taken away when Republicans overturned Roe v. Wade,” the 1973 Supreme Court decision. By comparison, Jones said, Lawler holds an “extreme” position, “would be a reliable vote for a national abortion ban,” and favors outlawing abortion in New York.

“That is a lie,” Lawler interjected. He said Jones “has lied throughout this entire campaign” and that “the only extremist here is Jones. He supports abortion up to the moment of birth. He supports gender selection.”

“You know that’s not true,” Jones responded.

Lawler said he does not support a federal ban on abortion and that he has “always supported exceptions for rape, incest and the life and health of the mother” and “fought to codify access to IVF [in-vitro fertilization] in federal law and access to contraception. I fought back against my own party in the effort to ban mifepristone,” a drug used in non-surgical abortions.

**Border security and immigration**

Lawler said at the Oct. 16 debate that unauthorized immigration is a “crisis created by Kamala Harris, Joe Biden and Mondaire Jones.” He claimed Jones backed “catch-and-release” treatment of undocumented immigrants and wanted to defund the Immigration and Customs Enforcement police.

Jones observed that the U.S. Senate, in a move led by a Republican, considered a bipartisan border-policing measure that went nowhere after former President Donald Trump complained. “We are dealing with a crisis” but Lawler “wants to block border-security legislation because Trump is telling him to do so,” Jones said.

**Law enforcement and gun violence**

On his campaign website, Jones advocates “common-sense gun reforms, including a ban on assault weapons.” During his House tenure, he said at the News 12 debate, Congress adopted “the most significant set of gun-safety reforms in 30 years.” However, according to Jones, his opponent remains “well outside the mainstream. He’s not bipartisan on this” or on other issues.

Lawler said that “there’s not a consensus” on Capitol Hill, where one key gun-control proposal “would ban nearly every semi-automatic weapon. And most guns are semi-automatic.” He also argued that “policies enacted, from cashless bail to raise-the-age, have made it less safe when it comes to gun violence” and that a majority of those arrested for gun violence get released.

“If we want to ensure safety, we need to prosecute criminals and those who use guns in commission of a crime,” he said. On his campaign website, he supports red-flag laws, “so long as they mandate due process, to keep guns out of the hands of those likely to harm themselves or others”;

highlights his efforts to continue restrictions on guns that evade metal detectors; and backs “installation of panic alarms as part of all school-safety plans.”

The National Rifle Association awarded Lawler a B grade, indicating a “a generally pro-gun candidate.” It gave Jones an F, for a “true enemy of gun owners’ rights.”

**Environment and energy**

Lawler’s campaign cites his membership in the Climate Solutions Caucus and helping to introduce legislation to potentially provide \$20 million annually “to ensure the Hudson River stays clean,” work “to keep radioactive wastewater out of the Hudson River” while encouraging efforts “to find a different solution for the decommissioning of Indian Point” and endorsement of bills “that would improve air quality, reduce emissions, improve recycling and composting capabilities.”

(Continued on Page 22)



Mike Lawler



Mondaire Jones

File photos

## Proposition 1

Democrats pushed to get a constitutional amendment on New York’s ballot because they believed it could energize liberals eager to protect abortion rights. Republicans are now hoping the same amendment will ignite a fire under people upset about transgender athletes participating in girls’ and women’s sports.

Voters will decide on Nov. 5 whether to approve the state’s proposed Equal Rights Amendment, which has already been the subject of a court fight over its broad language. The amendment, which appears on the back of the ballot, has emerged as one of the more unusual ideological battles of the 2024 election, partly because of disagreements about what it will do if passed. For more, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

## What Candidates Have Raised, and Spent

House District 17 (Philipstown)	RAISED	SPENT	ON HAND
Mike Lawler (R/C)*	\$7.3M	\$5.5M	\$1.9M
Mondaire Jones (D)	\$8.4M	\$6.1M	\$2.4M
Anthony Frascone (WF)	Nothing reported		

House District 18 (Beacon)			
Pat Ryan (D/WF)*	\$7.2M	\$4.4M	\$2.8M
Alison Esposito (R/C)	\$2M	\$1.3K	\$756K

State Assembly			
District 95 (Philipstown)			
Dana Levenberg (D/WF)*	\$96K	\$109K	\$88K
Michael Capalbo (R/C)	\$12K	\$204	\$12K
District 104 (Beacon)			
Jonathan Jacobson (D/WF)*	\$41K	\$10K	\$204K

State Senate (District 39)			
Rob Rolison (R/C)*	\$361K**	\$292K	\$95K
Yvette Valdés Smith (D/WF)	\$534K**	\$383K	\$198K

Through Sept. 30; on-hand includes previous balances

\*Incumbent  
\*\*Includes state matching funds



# Here Are Your Choices

The polls will be open on Nov. 5 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. For early voting hours, see below.

## FEDERAL

### President/Vice President

Kamala Harris / Tim Walz (D, WF) | Donald Trump / JD Vance (R, C)

### U.S. SENATE

Kirsten Gillibrand\* (D, WF)  
Diane Sare (LaRouche)  
Michael Sapraicone (R, C)

### U.S. HOUSE

#### District 17 (Philipstown)

Anthony Frascone (WF)  
Mondaire Jones (D)  
Mike Lawler\* (R, C)

#### District 18 (Beacon)

Alison Esposito (R, C)  
Pat Ryan\* (D, WF)

### NEW YORK STATE

#### Proposition 1

If approved, this proposal will amend the state constitution, which now protects against unequal treatment based on race, color, creed and religion, to also protect against unequal treatment based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, as well as reproductive healthcare and autonomy. The amendment allows laws to prevent or undo past discrimination.

### State Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District

There are five open seats for 14-year terms. The district includes Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties.

- Brett Broge (D, C)  
*Private practice, Orange County*
- Colleen Duffy\* (D, C)
- Thomas Humbach (R)  
*Rockland County Attorney*
- Leslie Kahn (R)  
*Clarkstown town justice (Rockland)*
- Kyle McGovern (D, C)  
*Tarrytown judge (Westchester)*
- Edward Mevec (R)  
*State administrative law judge*
- Karen Ostberg (R)  
*Minisink town justice (Orange)*
- Mary Anne Scattaretico-Naber (D, C),  
*Westchester Family Court*
- Mark Starkman (R)  
*Private practice, Orange County*
- Rachel Tanguay (D, C)  
*Rockland Family Court*

### State Senate (District 39)

Rob Rolison\* (R, C)  
Yvette Valdes Smith (D, WF)

### FOR VOTERS IN BEACON

#### City Council (2 seats)

Amber Grant\* (At-large)  
Pam Wetherbee\* (Ward 3)

#### Dutchess County Comptroller

Dan Aymar-Blair (D, WF)  
Gregg Pulver\* (R, C)

#### State Assembly (District 104)

Jonathan Jacobson\* (D, WF)

### FOR VOTERS IN PHILIPSTOWN

#### State Assembly (District 95)

Michael Capalbo (R, C)  
Dana Levenberg\* (D, WF)

#### Cold Spring Village Board (2 seats)

Laura Bozzi\* (Good Neighbors)  
Tweeps Woods\* (Service Party)

#### Philipstown Town Justice

Camille Linson (D, C)

#### Putnam County Coroner

Wendy Erickson\* (R, C)

#### Putnam County Legislator

Nancy Montgomery\* (D, United Putnam)

## State Senate (from Page 1)

He faced criticism from Valdés Smith in April after voting against state budget bills whose spending included \$350 million to fund an additional tax credit for families eligible for the Empire State Child Tax Credit and \$934 million in additional Foundation Aid for school districts.

Separately, he has sponsored legislation to boost funding for tax credits to businesses providing childcare and to require the Public Service Commission and Comptroller's Office to determine the cost to residents of the state's mandated transition to renewable energy. Utility bills include a charge for energy-efficiency and renewable-energy programs.

Although the state has challenges and "we have to spend money," Rolison said, the state comptroller is predicting deficits over the next three years. "We certainly don't want to be in a situation where we're continuing to spend money that we're getting from taxpayers," he said.

Rolison said he is "absolutely proud" of his environmental record. He voted for the law enacted in 2023 to prohibit Holtec from discharging radioactive water into the Hudson River as it decommissions Indian Point, and for the Climate Change Superfund Act. The legislation, which Gov. Kathy Hochul has yet to sign, requires that companies responsible for the buildup of greenhouse gases help fund infrastructure projects that reduce the impact of climate change.

But Rolison voted against the NY HEAT Act, designed to curtail the use of gas by utilities and cap energy bills for low- and moderate-income customers at 6 percent of their income. Rolison said he supports climate goals but believes the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which establishes a goal of 100 percent zero-emissions energy by 2040, is too aggressive. "We're seeing that with school districts pushing back on the EV [electric-vehicle] bus mandate," he said, referring to a law requiring that districts buy only zero-emissions buses by 2027 and have all-electric fleets by 2035.

Valdés Smith, who taught environmental science in Manhattan and Yonkers, said that protecting water and natural resources is a top concern. She joined Dutchess County legislators in voting unanimously last month to limit the proximity of polluting businesses to water sources, and she supports the NY HEAT Act.

When speaking with residents, housing costs were the second-most-cited concern. Many are "worried about their parents or themselves being able to stay in their homes," she said.

Valdés Smith said she supports the construction of more housing across income ranges amid a shortage and said the state needs to invest in infrastructure so that residential developments are not located in areas that cannot handle the burdens on roads and sewer and water systems.

"It has to be smart development," she said, including "around our Metro-North stations so people can commute and rely on public transportation."

Rolison joined the backlash against a

(Continued on Page 22)

★ PARTY GUIDE: C = Conservative, D = Democratic, R = Republican, WF = Working Families ★ \* incumbent ★

## Early Voting

### For Beacon

Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52

<b>SAT 26</b> 9a – 5p	<b>THURS 31</b> 8a – 4p
<b>SUN 27</b> 9a – 5p	<b>FRI 1</b> 9a – 5p
<b>MON 28</b> Noon – 8p	<b>SAT 2</b> 9a – 5p
<b>TUES 29</b> 9a – 5p	<b>SUN 3</b> 9a – 5p
<b>WED 30</b> Noon – 8p	

### For Philipstown

North Highlands Firehouse,  
504 Fishkill Road

<b>SAT 26</b> 9a – 5p	<b>THURS 31</b> Noon – 8p
<b>SUN 27</b> 9a – 5p	<b>FRI 1</b> 9a – 5p
<b>MON 28</b> 9a – 5p	<b>SAT 2</b> 9a – 5p
<b>TUES 29</b> Noon – 8p	<b>SUN 3</b> 9a – 5p
<b>WED 30</b> 9a – 5p	

## Registration

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 26. See [dub.sh/voter-register](https://dub.sh/voter-register). To verify you are registered and locate your polling place, visit [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov).

## What's Online

For explainers about the process from the Associated Press, see [highlandscurrent.org/election](https://highlandscurrent.org/election).

## Results

Check [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org) after 9 p.m. on Nov. 5 for unofficial results.

## Absentee Voting

The deadline to request an absentee ballot online at [dub.sh/early-ballot](https://dub.sh/early-ballot) or for the Board of Elections to receive a mailed request is Oct. 26. The last day for a request in-person at the Board of Elections is Nov. 4.

**Note:** Voters who have been issued an absentee ballot may not vote in person on a machine, regardless of whether the ballot was submitted. However, a voter who requested an absentee ballot but did not return it can complete an affidavit ballot at the polls.





AROUND TOWN



◀ **SAFE RIDES** — Elementary students in Beacon and their parents rode bikes to school on Oct. 17.

▲ **SPOOKTACULAR** — Makeup artist Jill Clark appeared at the Howland library in Beacon on Oct. 11 to demonstrate her Halloween techniques for tweens and teens. Her model (above) was librarian Chrissy Rivers.

▲ **PUMPKIN FEST** —▶

The Hudson River Sloop Club hosted its annual festival on Oct. 20 at Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon, complete with pumpkin pie and bread, apple cider, puppet theater and orange knit caps.



▲ **STEAMROLL ART** — Roll Out, a printmaking collective, hosted its second annual community print event at The Yard in Beacon on Oct. 19 and 20.

Photos by Ross Corsair



TEDDY APPROVED

**Phillipstown Friends,**

Want to take a day trip to the city? Get a jump start on holiday shopping? How about a few hours at a spa guilt-free because you know your dog is having a blast? We're Bow Wow House, fun and safe doggy daycare. Loved and trusted for the last 26 years.

Your pet will enjoy a spacious fenced-in yard, doggy friends, and free run of our home. Capacity limited to seven dogs.

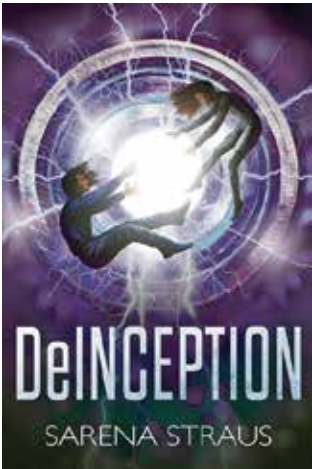
**Want to learn more?**

Nancy Bauch at 914-483-6230 / Overnight boarding available

PAID NOTICE



The Calendar



**DeInception**  
By Sarena Straus

The Philipstown resident imagines a time when technology can eliminate unwanted behaviors. It is 2126 in New York City, and parents are allowed to modify their children's brains until they turn 20 with a technology invented to cure addicts. In the second volume of her sci-fi trilogy (after *ReInception* in 2022), Ward and Leandrea must survive the fallout of their rebellion.



**Donnaville**  
By Donna Minkowitz

Minkowitz, a Beacon resident who has written two memoirs, in her debut novel depicts a city that is pleasant and attractive to tourists except for its dark prison that some parts of Donna operate, some parts reside in as prisoners and some parts want to burn down. Why can't the Mother Goddess put a stop to it? Or, as the author asks, "Can a sexy trickster dude inside Donna free the inmates, or will he need help from the feminine principle he despises and fears?"



**Howl**  
By Micah Hales

In this story for adolescent readers, an 11-year-old Jamaican-born and Brooklyn-raised girl arrives at camp with plans to run away so she can find her missing younger brother. However, during her escape through the woods, she realizes she can talk to animals, and things get compli-

cated. Hales, who attended the Garrison Middle School, now teaches English there.



**Ordinary Devotion**  
By Kristen Holt-Browning

The Beacon resident tells the story of Elinor, 12, who is enclosed with Lady Adela in a cell at Wenlock Abbey in 14th-century England. Centuries later, a medieval studies professor discovers Elinor's long-lost writings. The author will read from her debut novel on Nov. 9 at Stanza Books.



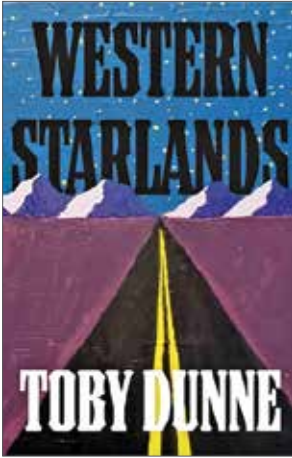
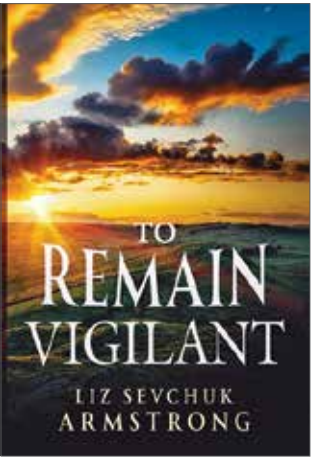
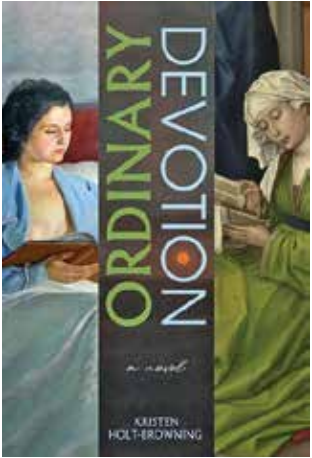
**To Remain Vigilant (The Epic of Hotspur)**  
By Liz Sevtchuk Armstrong

In the debut novel by the Cold Spring resident and longtime *Current* reporter and editor (writing as Liz Sevtchuk Armstrong), Sir Harry Percy patrols medieval England's rugged North but comes into conflict with Richard II. Henry becomes a despot himself, forcing Parliament to name him king. The duke boycotts the coronation but later returns to duty. Will their reconciliation last?



**Western Starlands**  
By Toby Dunne

This debut by the Beacon resident, described as "an existentialist road trip opus that will escort you to a time you've forgotten you've been missing," is a tale of crossing the U.S. in the early 1990s. A launch party is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Nov. 2 at The B House, 182 Verplanck Ave.



Notable Novels by Local Authors



Start Reading Now

November Book Club Selections

- Lit Book Club**  
MON 4, 7 P.M.

*The Mighty Red*, by Louise Erdrich  
Stanza Books, Beacon  
Register at [stanzabooks.com/events](http://stanzabooks.com/events).
- Abe Lincoln/Civil War Book Club**  
THURS 7, 7 P.M.

*Spying on the South: An Odyssey Across the American Divide*, by Tony Horwitz  
Lincoln Depot Museum,  
10 S. Water St., Peekskill  
Email [LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com](mailto:LincolnDepotFDN@gmail.com).

- High School Book Club**  
TUES 12, 2:30 P.M.

Planning session  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).
- Fantasy Book Club**  
TUES 12, 7 P.M.

*Ninth House*, by Leigh Bardugo  
Stanza Books, Beacon  
Register at [stanzabooks.com/events](http://stanzabooks.com/events).
- Fiction Book Club**  
THURS 14, 7 P.M.

*In the Distance*, by Hernan Diaz  
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring  
Register at [splitrockbks.com/event](http://splitrockbks.com/event).

- Graphic Novel Book Club (Ages 7-11)**  
FRI 15, 3:15 P.M.

*Mr. Wolf's Class: Mystery Club*, by Aron Nels Steinke  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar).
- Graphic Novel Book Club (Adults)**  
MON 18, 3:30 P.M.

*Bloom*, by Kevin Panetta and Savanna Canucheau  
*Moon Knight: Lunatic (Vol. 1)*, by Jeff Lemire and Greg Smallwood  
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison  
Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/events).
- Helen Savoit Book Club**  
WED 20, 2 P.M.

*The Sentence*, by Louise Erdrich  
Howland Library, Beacon  
Register at [beaconlibrary.org/calendar](http://beaconlibrary.org/calendar).

- Biz Bzzz Book Club**  
WED 20, 5:30 P.M.

*Hidden Potential: The Science of Achieving Greater Things*, by Adam Grant  
Beahive, Beacon  
Register at [bit.ly/4fhDa11](http://bit.ly/4fhDa11).
- Page-to-Screen Book Club**  
THURS 21, 3 P.M.

*Erasure*, by Percival Everett  
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison  
Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/events).
- Beacon Book Club**  
THURS 21, 7:15 P.M.

*The Hound of the Baskervilles*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
TBD  
Register at [meetup.com/beacon-bookclub](http://meetup.com/beacon-bookclub).



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

**SUN 27**  
**Mid Hudson Reptile Expo**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
[midhudsonciviccenter.org](https://midhudsonciviccenter.org)

More than 250 vendors will have reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, along with supplies, for sale. *Cost: \$12 (\$6 ages 7 to 12, free for ages 6 and younger)*

**SUN 27**  
**Dia de los Muertos**  
**COLD SPRING**  
12:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](https://butterfieldlibrary.org)

The community altar will honor beloved pets.

**SUN 27**  
**Repair Cafe**  
**BEACON**  
1 – 4 p.m. Beacon Rec Center  
23 W. Center St.  
[facebook.com/BeaconRec](https://facebook.com/BeaconRec)  
Volunteer fixers will help salvage broken items, including textiles, electronics, jewelry, furniture and bikes. *Free*

**SAT 2**  
**Glass, Pottery, China & Accessories Show**  
**BEACON**  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Veterans Memorial Building  
413 Main St.  
Vendors will offer 20th-century items. *Cost: \$5*

**SAT 2**  
**Harvest Fair and Thrift Sale**  
**GARRISON**  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. Philip's Church  
1101 Route 9D  
Shop for home goods and children's items. There will also be a goat-petting pen, games and activities. *Cost: \$3 donation*

**SAT 2**  
**Rabies Clinic**  
**CARMEL**  
10 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Park  
201 Gipsy Trail Road | [putnamcountyny.com/health](https://putnamcountyny.com/health)  
Have your dog, cat or ferret vaccinated. Bring proof of prior rabies shot and residency. Pets must be leashed or in carriers. *Free*

**SAT 2**  
**Taproots Festival**  
**BEACON**  
2 – 5 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
[dub.sh/taproots-2024](https://dub.sh/taproots-2024)  
This Beacon Climate Action Now event will focus on resources for community care. Bring canned goods for Fareground, seeds to share and a mug for soup. *Free*

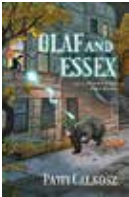


Momentum, Oct. 26

## KIDS & FAMILY

**SAT 26**  
**Be a Bower Bird**  
**COLD SPRING**  
11 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](https://butterfieldlibrary.org)  
Children ages 5 and older can learn about birds that use building skills to create elaborate nests and then gather materials from the garden to make their own.

**SUN 27**  
**Olaf and Essex**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906  
[stanzabooks.com](https://stanzabooks.com)  
Patti Calkosz will read from her middle-grade book about a bear and a fox in New York City that help a child get home.



**SAT 2**  
**Coco**  
**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](https://desmondfishlibrary.org)  
Children are invited to celebrate Dia de los Muertos with this 2017 animated film about a boy who enters the Land of the Dead to find his great-great-grandfather.

**SUN 3**  
**Sō Percussion**  
**BEACON**  
1 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [howlandmusic.org](https://howlandmusic.org)  
The percussion quartet will perform as part of the Classics for Kids series. *Cost: \$15 (children free)*

## VISUAL ARTS

**SAT 26**  
**Momentum**  
**BEACON**  
Noon. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St.  
845-231-0811 | [diaart.org](https://diaart.org)  
Michael Mahalchick and other dancers will perform at Rita McBride's installation. Also SUN 27.

*Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and disabled, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for Beacon residents)*

**SAT 26**  
**River Reflections**  
**NEWBURGH**  
3 – 7 p.m. Grit Works Gallery  
115 Broadway | [grit-works.com](https://grit-works.com)  
Maria Lago's expressionist paintings and sculptures celebrate the connection between Beacon and Newburgh. Through Jan. 12.

**SAT 26**  
**The Quilting Experience**  
**BEACON**  
4 – 6 p.m. Beetle and Fred  
171 Main St. | 845-440-8867  
[beetleandfred.com](https://beetleandfred.com)  
Victoria Findlay-Wolfe will discuss her latest book and share her work.

**FRI 1**  
**Barbara Smith Gioia**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
123 Main St. | [busterlevigallery.com](https://busterlevigallery.com)  
The artist's work will be shown in *Balance/Imbalance* through Dec. 1.

**SAT 2**  
**Re-Materialization of Language**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
Noon. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | [magazzino.art](https://magazzino.art)  
In this talk, curator and critic Cristiana Perrella will discuss the catalog for a 2022 "re-activation" of *Materializzazione del linguaggio*, a 1978 exhibit by Mirella Bentivoglio mounted in 1978 and revised in 2022.

**SAT 2**  
**Susan Walsh**  
**BEACON**  
3 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St.  
[hudsonbeachglassshop.com](https://hudsonbeachglassshop.com)  
In this artist's talk to close her solo exhibit, *I Could Save Time*, Walsh will discuss her drawings, photos and sculptures created with natural elements.

**SAT 2**  
**Matt Vega**  
**BEACON**  
3 – 5 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon  
18 Front St. | 845-202-7211  
Vega's show, *Entropic Anamnesis*, will be on view through Jan. 15.

**SUN 3**  
**Beata Beach Porter**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
1 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](https://tompkinscorners.org)  
This retrospective includes paintings from 1911 to 2006.

## STAGE & SCREEN

**SAT 26**  
**All That Breathes**  
**COLD SPRING**  
11 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](https://butterfieldlibrary.org)  
Nadeem Shehzad, featured with his brother, Muhammad Saud, in this 2022 film that was named best documentary at Sundance and Cannes and nominated for an Academy Award, will talk about how he and Saud rescue birds of prey in Delhi, India, and their sudden global fame. The documentary can be seen on HBO Max. Register online. *Free*

**SAT 26**  
**The Full Monty**  
**GARRISON**  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](https://philipstowndepottheatre.org)  
In this comedy, a group of unemployed male friends bare it all to earn money. Also SUN 27, FRI 1, SAT 2, SUN 3. Through Nov. 10. *Cost: \$35 (\$30 seniors and students)*

**SAT 26**  
**Don't Kill Yourself Yet**  
**BEACON**  
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [artichokeshow.com](https://artichokeshow.com)  
Kenice Mobley's stand-up show tracks her impulses, from planning her funeral as a child to having a serious stroke. *Cost: \$25*



All That Breathes, Oct. 26

**WED 30**  
**And the Pursuit of Happiness**  
**BEACON**  
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](https://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
Ted Swindley, the creator of *Always... Patsy Cline*, will present a stage reading of his new play, set in a small Southern town in 1994, about a football player who becomes a debutante. Donations welcome. *Free*

**FRI 1**  
**Jim Breuer**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](https://paramounthudsonvalley.com)  
The comedian will perform stand-up as part of his Survival with Laughter tour. *Cost: \$40 to \$100*

**SAT 2**  
**Jordan Jensen**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](https://townecrier.com)  
The comedian and podcast host, who lives in Brooklyn, will do stand-up. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

**SUN 3**  
**Omnium Circus**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](https://paramounthudsonvalley.com)  
This accessible performance will include disabled and BIPOC artists and integrated American Sign Language. *Cost: \$44 to \$58*

## TALKS & TOURS

**WED 30**  
**Medicare 101**  
**BEACON**  
2 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](https://beaconlibrary.org)  
Learn how to sign up for benefits.

**SAT 2**  
**Art in Flower**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
3 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D  
845-424-3812 | [visitmanitoga.org](https://visitmanitoga.org)  
Lindsey Taylor will read from her book and create arrangements with plants taken from the grounds. *Cost: \$50*

**SAT 2**  
**Vices & Virtues**  
**BEACON**  
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](https://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
At this launch party, Matt Eddy





HALLOWEEN

SAT 26  
**I Spy Halloween Trail**  
**CORNWALL**

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive  
hnnaturecenter.org  
845-534-5506 x204

Enjoy a scavenger “haunt” and meet animals at the Creature Corner. *Cost: \$10 (free for ages 2 and younger)*

SAT 26  
**Boo at the Zoo**  
**BEAR MOUNTAIN**

10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo  
3006 Seven Lakes Drive  
trailsidezoo.org

Help make treats for the bears at 10:30 a.m. and watch them enjoy the offerings. There will be crafts, activities and programs to learn about animals. Rain date: SUN 27.

SAT 26  
**Hocus Pocus**  
**BEACON**

2 p.m. Main Street  
dub.sh/hocus-pocus-2024

The parade will proceed up Main Street from South Avenue to the post office. Children can collect stamps for a scavenger hunt from businesses with orange pumpkins in the window.



Spookytown, Oct. 31

SAT 26  
**Halloween Concert**  
**GARRISON**

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Mr. Kurt will entertain children ages 2 to 7 with interactive fun.

SAT 26  
**Halloween Parade**  
**COLD SPRING**

4:30 p.m. St. Mary’s Church  
Main and Chestnut  
facebook.com/coldspringhalloween-parade

Wear your costume, bring a pet and gather on the lawn for the village’s 31st annual parade. At 5 p.m., marchers will walk down Main to the bandstand.

SAT 26  
**Night of the Living Dead Dance Party**  
**BEACON**

8 p.m. University Settlement Camp  
724 Wolcott Ave. | compassarts.org

This Compass Arts fundraiser will keep you dancing all night. Wear a costume and get in the spirit. *Cost: \$40 to \$85*

SUN 27  
**Scary Stories in the Barn**  
**BEACON**

3 p.m. Mount Gulian  
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org

Lorraine Hartin Gelardi will share spooky tales. *Cost: \$15 (\$8 ages 5 to 15)*

SUN 27  
**Tales of the Macabre**  
**BEACON**

6:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery  
7 E. Main St.

Dimitri Archip presents an annual reading of stories and poems by Edgar Allan Poe by some of Beacon’s most talented actors and writers. *Cost: \$5 donation*

WED 30  
**Spooky Stories**  
**BEACON**

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org

Jonathan Kruk will entertain children with tales that aren’t scary but have a little edge. *Free*

WED 30  
**Mischief Night**  
**COLD SPRING**

5 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Teens and adults can toilet-paper the library trees, smash pumpkins, hunt for candy by flashlight and play Halloween trivia.

THURS 31  
**Spookytown**  
**COLD SPRING**

4 – 5:15 p.m. Chestnut Ridge  
62 Chestnut St.

Children ages 5 and younger are invited to trick-or-treat in the senior apartment complex.

THURS 31  
**Rocky Horror Picture Show**  
**PEEKSKILL**

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Apoca-Lips Shadow Cast will lead the audience in acting out the 1975 cult musical starring Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 1  
**Lghts Dwn Lw Halloween**  
**BEACON**

8 p.m. – 1 a.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
dub.sh/lghts-dwn-lw-2024

Join the celebration at this party organized by LotusWorks Wellness with music, firepits, a costume contest, aerialists, drinks and a food truck. Ages 21 and older. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SUN 3  
**Pumpkin Smash**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**

12:30 – 2 p.m. Graymoor  
40 Franciscan Way  
atonementfriars.org

Keep your Halloween pumpkins out of the landfill at this second annual event by composting them at the Picnic Pavilion. There will be live music from the Mike Risko Band and cider and donuts.

will read whimsical stories from his new collection of “animal stories for adults.” *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door, \$40 VIP)*

SUN 3  
**Life in the Eastern Woodlands**  
**COLD SPRING**

1 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St.  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Drew Shuptar-Rayvis will lead an interactive presentation about the lives of Indigenous people as part of the museum’s Native American Heritage Weekend. *Cost: \$5 (children free)*

MUSIC

SAT 26  
**Back to the Garden 1969**  
**BEACON**

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Dress in costume for a Hippie Halloween party with the Woodstock tribute band. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 27  
**School of Rock Festival**  
**MONTGOMERY**

1 – 10 p.m. City Winery Hudson Valley  
23 Factory St.

Students of all ages from the Beacon school will show off their skills. *Cost: \$16*

SUN 27  
**Little Lies**  
**BEACON**

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Fleetwood Mac tribute band will bring the drama. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

FRI 1  
**Inside the Song**  
**COLD SPRING**

7:30 p.m. Move  
37 Chestnut St.  
dub.sh/inside-song-11-1

An evening of music and conversation with singer-songwriters Michele Gedney of Philipstown and Jen Clapp of Beacon. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 1  
**Slam Allen Band**  
**BEACON**

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Enjoy blues, soul and R&B styling from the New York Blues Hall of Fame inductee and his band. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 2  
**Motown to Stax and Beyond**  
**PEEKSKILL**

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Thirteen touring musicians will perform hits from “the great American soulbook.” *Cost: \$40 to \$57*

SUN 3  
**Sō Percussion**  
**BEACON**

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

The quartet will play works by Olivier Tarpaga and Bryce Dessner, plus an original composition by a quartet member. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

NATURE & OUTDOORS

FRI 1  
**History Hike**  
**COLD SPRING**

3:30 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St.  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

After viewing the Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County exhibit, take a guided walk through Foundry Cove as part of Native American Heritage Weekend. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 members, free for ages 18 and younger)*

SAT 2  
**History Hike**  
**CARMEL**

10 a.m. Mount Nimham  
Mount Nimham Court  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Guides from Cornell Cooperative Extension and the museum will discuss the Indigenous history of the area, stone chambers and namesake Daniel Nimham. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 members)*



Sō Percussion, Nov. 3

CIVIC

SAT 26  
**Register to Vote / Early Ballot**

Today is the last day to register (dub.sh/voter-register) or to request an absentee ballot online (dub.sh/early-ballot) before the Nov. 5 election. See voterlookup.elections.ny.gov to check your status.

SAT 26  
**Putnam Early Voting**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
North Highlands Firehouse  
504 Fishkill Road  
boe.putnamcountyny.gov

Continues daily through Nov. 4. See Page 9.

SAT 26  
**Dutchess Early Voting**  
**FISHKILL**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Town Hall  
807 Route 52 | elections.dutchessny.gov

Continues daily through Nov. 4. See Page 9.

MON 28  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconnyny.gov

MON 28  
**School Board**  
**BEACON**

7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaconnk12.org



# Visiting the Local Witch

*Amy Wilson spills on her spells*

By Marc Ferris

In a third-floor window overlooking the KuBe Art Center's north parking lot, a pentangle beckons the flock.

Ascending the stairs brings visitors closer to the faint odor of burning spell candles at Other Worldly Waxes, where a sign with a broom-riding enchantress is bolted above the door of the Beacon shop.

Proprietor Amy Wilson says she is proud to be a witch. "I'm out of the broom closet," she says. "Others in the craft try to stay on the down-low, but the weird stigma isn't like it used to be. We don't all eat babies on the weekends."

Witches who are Wiccans typically practice in covens; Wilson is a freelancer. All mix and match from thousands of years of belief systems that explore the spiritual and fantastical. Wilson says she specializes in "harnessing planetary energies."

Practitioners draw from Pagan, Goth, Victorian, astrology, voodoo, hoodoo, the occult, major religions and minor ones such as ancient Nordic, Greek and Roman mythology.



Amy Wilson inside her Beacon shop, Other Worldly Waxes

Photo by M. Ferris

To the cynical and skeptical, magical practices are superstitions with good luck charms. Wilson considers her beliefs an "alternative religion" but says, "whatever speaks to your soul" is fair game.

For witches, every object is symbolic, and candles are de rigueur. "The client tells me what's going on and I create a remedy that casts spells and burns away the negativity," Wilson explains. They're often created to help land a job, enhance a relationship or set something straight.

Working at a station in a corner of the

store, which she calls her "fortress of solitude," Wilson covers each colorful votive in oil and creates patterns like onyxes, hamsa hands (a popular emblem) and an all-seeing eye floating over a pyramid — the image on the back of dollar bills — in glitter.

She carves the client's name and zodiac sign into the wax and places offerings at the base of the glass enclosure. One recent creation included pennies (evoking a wishing well) and honey, an offering to the gods, "like, I sweetened the pot, now grant my wish," says Wilson, who also owns the night



A sun tarot candle by Nightshade Paperie

Photo provided

market Moon, Serpent & Bone.

At the heart of the mystical trek for most dabblers and practitioners is the desire to achieve a state of peace and balance, says Wilson, who is working toward a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling and is a protégé of Catherine Riggs-Bergesen, a psychiatrist who founded Other Worldly Waxes.

"I teach people Witchcraft 101 and there's always folks seeking someone to trust and confide in," Wilson says. "It can bring up stuff that leads to trigger warnings, strobe lights, drama."

Wilson has played the game since age 18, working at stores, casting mostly non-baneful spells and seeking side hustles. In 2009, she inherited the candle business from Riggs-Bergesen, who relocated from Manhattan to Middletown. Wilson moved to Beacon in 2010 after visiting friends.

The store resembles a jam-packed, old-time apothecary. "There's a lot of eye candy in here," she says, referring in part to rows of powdered incense and essential oils in squat bottles, along with other witchcraft ingredients and formularies passed down from The Magikal Childe, a longstanding shop in the East Village owned by Herman Slater, who died in 1992.

The blended incense is burned in tiny cauldrons. Devotees play with the spelling of the word magic. She prefers "magick."

"Obviously if I light a money candle, bags of cash aren't dropping out of the sky," Wilson says. "You have to go out and get that job. But there have been coincidences, such as a client who got an offer right before her candle burned out."

"It's about being realistic. I know spells work — I've seen them come to fruition. But it's about the placebo effect and holding that intention as you go about your life and do the work to get what you want."

*Other Worldly Waxes, located at 211 Fishkill Ave. in Beacon, is open by appointment and on the third Saturday of each month. See [otherworldlywaxes.com](http://otherworldlywaxes.com) to shop online. The next Moon, Serpent & Bone oddities and curiosities night markets are scheduled for tonight (Oct. 25) and Nov. 1 at City Winery Hudson Valley in Montgomery. See [moonserpentandbone.com](http://moonserpentandbone.com).*

## LGHTS DWN LW HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER 1ST (8PM - 1AM) at The Yard, Beacon

**LIVEUP**

8p	Doors Open
8 - 9:30p	Live DJ Set: Dalex
9:30p	Costume Contest
10:30p - 12a	Silent Disco Set: Causelot

**FIREPITS & OUTDOOR LOUNGE**  
**HENNA**  
**AERIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOOD TRUCK**  
**DRINKS, DANCING & MORE**

**21+ ONLY**

↑ TICKETS ↓  
**ADVANCED \$15**  
**DOOR \$20**

[lotusworkswellness.com](http://lotusworkswellness.com)

@lotusworks\_wellness

## HIGHLAND STUDIO

## PRINTMAKERS

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

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

**PICTURE FRAMING**  
**print & map gallery**

**845-809-5174**

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



Roots and Shoots

Is Roundup OK?

By Pamela Doan

Replacing lawns with meadows is a great idea, and benefits wildlife. But in Pamela Doan’s column, “Meadows for the Masses” (Sept. 27), Boscobel forgot to mention that its “eco-friendly” meadow was created last year using gallons of the controversial herbicide Roundup, which is banned in numerous countries because of its link to an increased risk of cancer, among other harms. ~Lucy Oakes, Beacon

Let’s discuss Roundup, and its main ingredient, glyphosate. Certainly, it’s a chemical that needs to be used carefully, or not at all.



There are a few methods to convert land to meadow and each has its drawbacks. When making a meadow, you must create a planting area with bare soil for seeds and plugs (immature plants). Ideally, you will have low weed pressure and no need for supplemental water or nutrients. The plants selected should be aligned with the natural conditions and able to grow without much human support. Making an inventory of the plants at the



The meadows at Long Dock Park in Beacon have evolved and show the succession of plantings over the years. Photo by P. Doan

site will tell you how much competition new plants will have for light, water and nutrients. If there are weeds, are they annuals or perennials? Are they pervasive and aggressive? What is growing adjacent to the planting area? This offers clues to what approach will yield the best results. For smaller sites, I’ve removed the sod and weeded by hand. But that’s labor-intensive and no matter how careful you

are, topsoil will be disturbed and lost. The first 6 to 8 inches have the most nutrients and fertility, so it’s better to keep it intact. By one calculation, it takes about 100 years to form an inch of topsoil. Buying a load of dirt won’t replace what is lost. In addition, disturbing the soil brings weed seeds to the surface and activates a new crop to manage. Killing the vegetation by smothering

avoids soil disturbance. This can be done with a weather-resistant tarp staked in place to prevent sunlight and water from reaching the plants that cover the site. Depending on the plants, it could take an entire growing season and, for certain species, it could take two growing seasons. Many people balk at smothering because it’s ugly and plastic tarps aren’t environmentally friendly. In some climates, you can cover the soil with transparent plastic to raise its temperature and kill vegetation. In the Highlands, it doesn’t get hot enough for this to work. Raising the soil temperature also kills beneficial microbes and impacts its fertility. Tilling is not commonly used for meadow preparation. It has all the consequences above to soil health and requires at least one growing season to manage the weeds that will sprout immediately. So here we are, back at herbicides. The argument for Roundup is that when applied by professionals following strict protocols, it does the job with minimal risks. The Environmental Protection Agency allows its use and supports the manufacturer’s safety claims. Herbicides control vegetation quickly and systemically without residue that impacts the fertility of future plantings. The soil remains intact, and the site can be replanted after one season. A landscape designer must make many careful calculations when changing land use. Hopefully, the results have a greater impact than the process.

RE-ELECT

NANCY MONTGOMERY

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATOR DISTRICT 1

VOTE NOVEMBER 5TH

electnancymontgomery.com

**EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
25 Old Route 6, Carmel NY 10512

PUTNAM COUNTY GOLF COURSE  
187 Hill Street, Mahopac NY 10541

NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring NY 10516

**EARLY VOTING TIMES**

Saturday, October 26: 9 am to 5 pm  
Sunday, October 27: 9 am to 5 pm  
Monday, October 28: 9 am to 5 pm  
Tuesday, October 29: Noon to 8 pm  
Wednesday, October 30: 9 am to 5 pm  
Thursday, October 31: Noon to 8 pm  
Friday, November 1: 9 am to 5 pm  
Saturday, November 2: 9 am to 5 pm  
Sunday, November 3: 9 am to 5 pm

Philipstown Garden Club

**BULB SALE**

Sun Nov 3 2024  
10 am - 2 pm  
Philipstown Rec Center  
Route 9D, Garrison

Bring Your Own Bag!

Browse the Catalog at  
[philipstowngardenclubny.org](http://philipstowngardenclubny.org)



# Garrison Ambulance Honors ‘Superstar’ Volunteer

*Volunteer company celebrates 50th anniversary*

By Michael Turton

**A**mong volunteers, Louis Lombardo performed at an elite level. The Philipstown resident, who died in June at age 81, answered about 8,500 calls during his 40 years as a member of the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. When he wasn't in an ambulance, Lombardo was in a fire truck for the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. or driving a school bus.

During a ceremony at the Highlands Country Club on Oct. 20, GVAC dedicated a new ambulance to Lombardo, who operated Louis Lombardo and Sons Carting Service for more than 50 years.

His son, Louis Jr., said the trash collection business helped spark his father's volunteerism. "Dad knew a ton of local people," he said. "The whole community was on his garbage route."

Every dog knew and loved Lombardo, who was generous with treats. "They knew when he was coming and waited for him," Louis Jr. said. "But if I did his route for a day, the dogs might bite me because my father wasn't there!"

In April 1990, while working at Gray-



EMT Mack Godbee shows off GVAC's new ambulance, which was dedicated to Louis Lombardo Sr.

Photo by M. Turton

moor, Louis Jr. jumped from a collapsing scaffold and injured his knee. "I crawled to the loading dock phone — no cellphones back then — and called GVAC," he recalled. "My dad came flying up because the ambulance was kept at our house."

David Lilburne, a Garrison bookseller who has been a GVAC driver for 25 years, noted that Lombardo was invaluable as "our GPS before there was GPS. He was a superstar; because of his garbage route he

knew every location."

Lilburne recounted a call to a home on Bill Brown Road, which didn't appear on his map. "Fortunately, Louis was with me," he said.

In its formative years, the organization relied on Lombardo and other volunteers familiar with local roads. Ambulance calls came into Garrison's Landing via landline, where they were answered by Barbara Prescott, who called the GVAC volunteer who lived in that quadrant to verify the

## How to Help

GVAC received a \$20,000 donation toward the \$200,000 ambulance and is raising funds for the rest. Donations can be mailed to GVAC, P.O. Box 320, Garrison, NY 10524.

location. The system "worked beautifully," Lilburne said.

While GPS made the job easier, GVAC faces a challenge that technology can't solve: recruiting volunteers. The organization has 15 active members, and two salaried and three volunteer emergency medical technicians assist. In 2023, GVAC answered 495 calls.

At the Oct. 20 ceremony, GVAC president Jeff Altorfer called on the state Legislature to provide base-level funding to volunteer ambulance corps. He noted that, during the pandemic, medical crews were deemed "essential workers." While that status is still recognized in surrounding states, it has lapsed in New York. "That may be a legislative opportunity if we were considered 'essential,'" he said.

Altorfer emphasized the unusual nature of ambulance work, especially at vehicle crashes. "The only persons who matter in that moment are the victim and the responder," he said. "You're in a public place, but it's a strangely private moment." After those scenes, he said, no one remembers names and "victims don't know who just saved their life."

COLD SPRING TRUSTEE  
**LAURA BOZZI**  
ALWAYS ADVOCATING FOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS

- Leading on the Environment
- Securing our Water Supply
- Fixing Neglected Infrastructure
- Leveraging Grants for Critical Upgrades
- Welcoming Villager Participation
- Maximizing Budget Dollars

EARLY VOTING NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE DEPT UNTIL NOV 3  
**VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5**  
COLD SPRING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 6 AM to 9 PM

Paid Political Advertisement | Paid for by Laura Bozzi







# More Holiday Cards, Halloween Style

Each October, Cold Spring family gets creative

Four years ago, we shared the inspiring Halloween cards created since 2011 by Matthew and Dina Pace Shackelford and their sons, Hudson, 13, and Asher, 11, who live in Cold Spring.

The cards paid tribute to *Grease*, *Star Wars*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Ghostbusters*, *Beetlejuice*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Munsters*, *Popeye* and *The Wizard of Oz*. View a slideshow at [highlandscurrent.org/halloween-cards](http://highlandscurrent.org/halloween-cards). We thought it was time for a catch-up and asked the Shackelfords to share their most recent cards.



# Cornhole Tips from Firefighters (and Friends)

By Annabelle Notarthomas

The City of Beacon Professional Firefighters held its third annual cornhole tournament on Oct. 19 at the Elks Lodge, with Larry Waite and Jerry Pfitscher repeating as champions. During the competition, we asked a few players for tips.



“Try to get a good arc with the bag and be aware that the board is slippery; try to get the bag to slide into the hole.”

~Matt Kane, with William Fynn



“Throw it and pray.”  
~Pam Steffanci



“Play against someone worse than you.”  
~James Mullany, with Raymond Herbst



“Keep a beer or a hot dog in hand and practice patience.”  
~Sam Simonetti (right), with Hannah Berrell



“When you step to the edge of the board, exhale.”  
~Anthony Vasquez, with Justin Hansen and son



# REASONS

## To Vote Yes!

# 1

### WHY PROP 1?

Prop 1 memorializes in the NYS Constitution many fundamental rights supported by the vast majority of New Yorkers, and already part of NYS law.

# 2

### WHY NOW?

Many of us took our reproductive rights for granted. Our rights aren't as safe as we thought. Let's protect them from out-of-touch politicians.

#### EARLY VOTING

October 26 through November 3 at the North Highlands Fire Department. If you miss Early Voting, or if you have not asked for a mailed ballot this year, you can vote at your usual poll site on Election Day, November 5.

# YES

ON NY PROP 1  
Protect Abortion and Our Freedoms

Learn more at [www.nyequalrights.org](http://www.nyequalrights.org)

**DON'T FORGET TO TURN OVER THE BALLOT!!**

Ad paid for by Philipstown Democrats • [philipstowndemocrats.org](http://philipstowndemocrats.org)  
Graphics paid for by New Yorkers for Equal Rights

# A Matteawan Mystery

*Did Nellie Seaman kill her husband?*

By Marc Ferris

Robin Lucas's new 25-minute video, *The Abraham Seaman Tragedy 1907*, unfolds with a pitch-perfect flow of images.

The moment in Lucas's narration when she mentions Lewis Ebert and his home, a shot of the house and his mustachioed face hits hard on the beat.



Lucas

"Ebert was one of the wealthiest men in town, but owned perhaps the scummiest tenement," Lucas says.

Lucas spends much time in the video editing booth — actually, a reclining chair in the living room of her home at the foot of Mount Beacon, parts of which date to the 18th century.

She and her husband, Mark, provide IT support for businesses. Now, she's marrying those skills with her passion: local history.

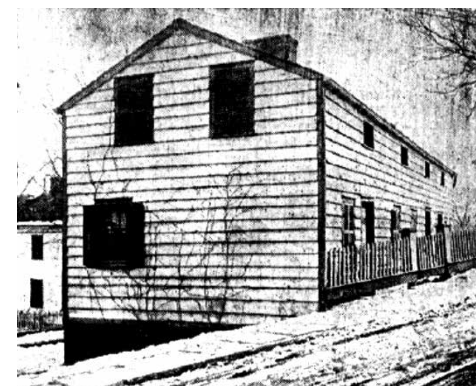
The guiding force behind Beacon Walking Tours, Lucas created the video to augment her ghost tour, which only covers a chunk of the story that unfolded with soap-operatic intrigue in February 1907 in the village of Matteawan, which merged with Fishkill Landing in 1913 to form Beacon.

Her vivid material is gleaned from contemporary newspaper accounts. A sequel that sorts through unanswered questions about the case may be on the way, she says.

On that dark day in 1907, Abraham "Abe" Seaman died of a gunshot wound at 2 a.m. in a tenement owned by Ebert at Spring Valley Road and East Main Street. Seaman had 45 cents to his name.

His wife, Nellie, called it a successful (second) suicide attempt, but rumors volleyed around the blue-collar factory town.

The story is gory, salacious and complicated, and the video attempts a brief study of Nellie's mindset. Reporters at the time chronicled plenty of brawling, drunkenness and loose adherence to the command-



The tenement at Spring Valley Road and East Main Street where Abe Seaman died

## MAN SHOT IN BED; LOOKS SUSPICIOUS

A newspaper headline about the case



A photo from the *Matteawan Journal* shows the sitting room where Abe Seaman's body was found. Police accused his wife of killing him.

ment about adultery. In a letter to a local newspaper, Nellie disowned her daughter, Rose, who married into a rival family known for violence.

Gossipmongers chewed over the case while the authorities investigated Nellie's claim that Abe had killed himself. Based solely on a coroner's report — no trial took place — a judge committed her to the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

Nellie wrote a local paper demanding to be given the "electric chair or liberty." The day police came to take her to the asylum, crowds lined the streets. At one point, she bolted and ran a country mile before being caught.

Though the video is heavy on history and light on ghosts, Lucas contends that the spirit of Nellie Seaman still haunts Beacon, seeking justice.

"She's my hero, and the reason why politicians and the legal system railroaded her is because she had dirt on them, but I'm not sure what," Lucas says. "I'll be looking until I die and hope to figure it out before then."

*The Abraham Seaman Tragedy 1907 can be viewed at [dub.sh/abe-seaman-tragedy](http://dub.sh/abe-seaman-tragedy).*



Nellie Seaman

## NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, November 4th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

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



# Inside Chrystie House

*An artist restores one of Beacon's oldest structures*

By Marc Ferris

A home on South Avenue in Beacon, built around 1756, has a special place in the history of American thought.

Alexander Hamilton slept there during his honeymoon, although it was located elsewhere, on what is today a parking lot.

Inside the home, Hamilton wrote letters hashing out political positions developed in the Federalist Papers, which provided a conceptual framework for the Constitution, says its longtime owner, Yuan Lee.

Known as Chrystie House, the structure is likely the second-oldest residence in Beacon, behind the Madam Brett homestead built in 1709. Lee bought it in 2007 and operates a bed-and-breakfast. He says the income barely offsets the dump truck of money he poured into restoring and maintaining the house, where Lee's impeccable interior design merges East and West, one of his goals.

Lee, a native of Taiwan, moved to New York City in 1989 to work as a painter and illustrator. Nearly 20 years later, a group of Beacon artists recruited him to relocate from his Manhattan apartment.

His paintings hang in guest rooms

and common areas. The United Nations commissioned detailed depictions of endangered species in their habitats from Lee. A student of Matisse, his still-life paintings, Parisian street scenes and a study of two violin restorers adorn the sitting room.

"People always say my work is so realistic that it looks like a photo," Lee says. "That insults me. I paint what I know, not just what I see. I bring reason to realism."

He has turned his attention to landscape design; he sculpted the stonework on the grounds. Photos and reports on his ongoing research into the house are shared at [chrystiehouse.com](https://chrystiehouse.com).

The rooms at the inn are named after key players in its past: William Few, Albert Chrystie, CJ Slocum and Henry Winthrop Sargent.

Madam Brett makes a cameo as the aunt and benefactor of the builder, fur trader Abraham DePeyster Jr., whose father served as the mayor of New Amsterdam and governor of New York. Beyond serving as a bustling port, Fishkill Landing attracted wealthy city folk. Initially, people referred to the peninsula as DePeyster's Point.

Few is a largely forgotten founding father who moved from Georgia to Manhattan at the behest of his New Yorker wife. He served as president of an early predecessor to Citibank and, in 1820, deeded his summer home to his son-in-law, Albert Chrystie.

Two decades later, on a nearby slope,



Built around 1756, the historic Chrystie House is located on South Avenue.

Photos by M. Ferris

Henry Winthrop Sargent, a scion of a merchant family, built Wodenethe. Under the tutelage of Newburgh-born landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing, Sargent turned the surrounding 25 acres into an experimental botanical garden.

In 1927, Clarence Slocum, described by Lee as "the pioneer of celebrity rehab," bought Chrystie House and moved it by horse and roller to the nearby Wodenethe estate because excavating at Dennings Point Brick Works threatened its foundation.

Slocum lived in the home but sent his patients to other buildings and campuses, including the circa 1840 Peter C. DuBois House on Slocum Road in Dutchess Junction and the mansion on Route 9D later known as Craig House. "They hid [the celebrities] well," says Lee.

Wodenethe was razed in 1953; its footprint and most of its grounds became plots for tract housing. A few specimen trees from the experimental garden remain, including a male trunk that helped foster many of New York City's ubiquitous and odiferous Ginkgo trees.

Despite the home's association with psychiatric patients and dark celebrity — actor Henry Fonda's wife killed herself on its grounds — there is no evidence of hauntings, says Lee's wife, Yulina Zhang. "If there are ghosts, they're good, positive ones."



Yuan Lee at the front door of the house, which he began restoring in 2007



The home being moved in 1927

Beacon Historical Society

Building healthy communities & defending our rights

**RESPONSIVE  
PRODUCTIVE  
EFFECTIVE  
LEADERSHIP**

**State Assemblywoman  
Dana Levenberg**

is getting results for Assembly District 95.  
Since taking office in 2023, Dana has:

- delivered record levels of funding for our schools
- protected precious natural assets like the Hudson River
- secured over \$70 million for infrastructure projects around the district

And so much more. Dana is working to make life in the Hudson Valley more affordable and protecting freedoms we cherish as New Yorkers.

Learn more at [danaforassembly.com](https://danaforassembly.com)

RE-ELECT DEMOCRAT  
**DANA LEVENBERG**  
FOR  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Paid for by Dana For Assembly

## Current Classifieds

### SERVICES

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

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

**SAXOPHONE LESSONS** — Beginners and intermediates welcome. Lessons in Garrison and/or Jefferson Valley Mall. Email [jazzdude60@gmail.com](mailto:jazzdude60@gmail.com)

### FOR RENT

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

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



# Paths to Legal Status

If you were not born in the U.S. or its territories, you must be naturalized to become a citizen. To do that, you must be a lawful permanent resident (i.e., have a green card) for at least five years, three years if married to a citizen or at basic training if serving in the Armed Forces. You also must pass tests in English language and civics. When a parent is naturalized, their minor children living with them usually become citizens automatically.

In 2023, about 1.2 million people became lawful permanent residents. Fifty-two percent were already living in the U.S.

## Family-based

If you have a close relative who is a citizen or has a green card, they can sponsor your application for a green card. The preference is a citizen's unmarried, adult children and their families; a lawful permanent resident's spouse and unmarried children; a citizen's married children and families; and a citizen's adult siblings and families.

The limit is adjusted each year, but the minimum is 226,000. In 2023, there were 756,000 green cards issued to close family members, or 64 percent.

## Employment-based

A U.S. employer can request green cards for individuals with extraordinary skills or achievements, professionals with advanced degrees and skilled workers. Some are given in other categories, such as religious workers, employees of the U.S. government abroad and investors in new companies that create at least 10 full-time jobs. In 2023, there were 197,000 employment-based green cards issued, or 17 percent.

## Refugees

Refugees are immigrants persecuted or who fear persecution in their native countries because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. The president sets the annual limit, which for 2024 was 125,000. In 2023, about 59,000 refugees received green cards, or 5 percent. In addition, there is a program that allows for "temporary protected status" for residents of 16 countries: Afghanistan, Burma, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.

## Diversity

The government holds a lottery to issue green cards to people from countries that have lower rates of

immigration. In 2023, it provided 67,000 green cards through the program, or about 5.7 percent.

## Others

There are other categories, such as the 26,430 Iraqis and Afghans employed by U.S., and their family members, who received green cards in 2023 (2.3 percent), and 19,720 crime victims, such as battered spouses (1.7 percent).

## Undocumented

This refers to an immigrant who enters the U.S. "without inspection" by a border agent or overstays a visa. It does not include the 530,000 people in the DACA program, which is considered a temporary fix.

An immigrant can obtain a green card through marriage or having a close relative who is a citizen or green-card holder sponsor the application. (It's unusual for an undocumented immigrant to get an employment-based green card.) But lawful entry may be required; a person who overstayed a visa will have a far easier time than someone who crossed the border clandestinely.

People who enter without being interviewed at a border crossing generally will be forced to leave the U.S. to apply for a green card through a foreign consulate. If they have lived illegally in the U.S. for at least six months, they could be barred from re-entry for three to 10 years. However, they can apply for an exception to the ban if they demonstrate that their absence will create "extreme hardship" for a citizen or lawful permanent resident, such as their spouse or parent.

Since 2013, the government has issued "waivers of inadmissibility for unlawful presence" so that undocumented applicants will have assurances that, if they leave the U.S. for a consular interview, they will be able to return to their families.

## Immigration *(from Page 1)*

that "as long as we don't draw attention to ourselves, we can spare ourselves harassment."

So Biavati was known at Haldane as a "quiet kid" who kept to himself and attended few parties. He never let on that he didn't drive or work because undocumented immigrants at the time couldn't get driver's licenses or Social Security numbers.

And forget about dating. "You can't impress someone if you can't pick them up in your car or don't have money to take them out to dinner," said Biavati. "It was a lonely experience."

Everything changed on July 15, 2012, when President Barack Obama announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. His executive order allowed undocumented people who came to the country as children to obtain work permits under certain conditions, such as being enrolled in school, earning a high school or General Educational Development (GED) diploma and having no criminal record.

For Biavati, DACA opened a path to his first job: stocking shelves and working the register at Foodtown in Cold Spring. There he met Ashley Bassett, who graduated from Haldane two years before he did. They married in 2018 in a rooftop wedding in Long Island City and now have a 2-year-old son, Nathan, and live in an apartment in Wappingers Falls.

Biavati, who is a film location scout, is one of 530,000 DACA "dreamers." But it's a tenuous existence. "It could be erased at any moment," he noted. DACA has been repeatedly challenged and its legality is under review by a federal appeals court. As president, Donald Trump tried to end the program and has pledged mass deportations if re-elected.

Finding a path to legal status is challenging for immigrants working and living in the Highlands and lower Hudson Valley. Besides DACA, federal law provides several methods to getting documents, such as a work permit or green card, which allows residency and often leads to citizenship. Those paths include marrying a citizen, receiving asylum from persecution in your native country and hardship exemptions.

It's unclear how many undocumented immigrants live in the Highlands, although there are about 850,000 in New York state, with most in New York City, according to the Migration Policy Institute, a think tank in Washington, D.C. If immigration court data and census data is indicative, the numbers have risen dramatically over the past two decades in Putnam and Dutchess counties. Most come from Central and South America. About 13 percent of Latinos are undocumented, according to the federal government.

Renata Saldaña lived seven years without documents before getting her green card earlier this year. She came to the U.S. in 2017, at age 17, on a tourist visa. She and her younger sister flew from Ecuador to Florida to visit Universal Studios and tour The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. But they overstayed and eventually moved to Garrison, where her father lived. He had entered the U.S. illegally in 2009.

Why did they come? "For the American dream," she said. "We were living in poverty."

Saldaña and her sister enrolled at Haldane High School. While she spoke



Renato Saldaña with his daughter, Renata

Photo by J. Asher

no English when she arrived, she graduated two years later as a member of the National Honor Society. After high school, she earned an associate degree in business administration at Westchester Community College in Valhalla and became the director of operations for a company that provides uniforms to charter schools.

"Everything I've achieved is as an undocumented person," said Saldaña, who marched on Albany in 2019 advocating for the Green Light Law, which was enacted that December and allows undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses. She has launched a nonprofit, Raíces y Alas (Roots and Wings), to help undocumented people begin their lives in the U.S.

Even though she and her sister came as teenagers, DACA wasn't an option because they arrived after enrollment was closed. Saldaña got a green card because she married a U.S. citizen.

Although that is a common way for foreign nationals to obtain lawful permanent residency, "it's not as easy as saying 'I do,'" noted Joseph Lavetsky, an immigration lawyer based in Beacon.

To get permanent residency through marriage, you must show that you don't have a criminal record, that your spouse can support you and that you've paid income taxes, Lavetsky said. If the immigration authorities suspect a scam, your relationship could be probed with interviews in which the couple is questioned separately, sometimes for hours.

How you entered the country can complicate things. Biavati is protected by DACA but his marriage hasn't helped him get a green card because he has two entry violations that could otherwise require him to leave the country for up to a decade.

Saldaña only had one violation, and that was a legal entry on a tourist visa. She did have to demonstrate that her marriage was authentic with a joint lease, joint insurance and lots of photographs. She met her husband, William Antunes, at a nightclub in Stamford, Connecticut, and the couple now lives in Norwalk. "It was true love," she said. "Even if I couldn't get my documents, I would have married him anyway."

Like many immigrant families, the Saldañas are a mix of legal statuses. Renata's parents and sister remain undocumented, with no clear path to lawful residency. Renata's three youngest siblings are U.S. citizens by birth.

Could Renata's parents leverage their U.S.-

*(Continued on Page 21)*



Immigration (from Page 20)

born children to get documents? Maybe, said Lavetsky, “but it’s not as simple as just having an ‘anchor baby.’” At age 21, a child can sponsor a parent’s petition for documentation. But even then, Lavetsky said, the rules are complex and might require the parent to return to his or her home country for 10 years and apply for re-entry. An exception is where deportation would constitute, in the judgment of immigration authorities, “extreme hardship” to the child who is a citizen.

That’s what enabled Will Biavati’s father, Joseph, to emerge. In 2014, Joseph Biavati was at a barbecue when a friend noticed that his son, David, a U.S. citizen by birth, had autism. The friend told Biavati that the autism might help him get documents.

But it was risky. Joseph would have to turn himself in and claim that deportation would be an “extreme hardship” for David. But that’s what he did. His attorney argued that deportation would “turn David’s life completely to hell.”

Biavati also had to show that he had no criminal record and had paid income taxes. “Every immigrant knows, if you one day want to become legal, they’re going to have to prove that they’ve been paying taxes,” said Joseph Biavati, who received a work permit while his case was pending.

Joseph Biavati received his green card in September 2017 and took the citizenship test in Albany on Nov. 5 of last year. On Dec. 5, he took the oath of citizenship at the Bardavon Theater in Poughkeepsie.

Biavati chokes up as he tells the story. “If somebody asks me, isn’t it a good thing to have an autistic son — no, it’s not,” he said, wiping away tears. “But in some ways, it became a blessing for us.”

Meanwhile, Will Biavati remains in legal limbo. “I dream of peace of mind,” he said. “Not just for me — now I have a family. I have a son who depends on me.”

Next week: The effect on schools  
For Part I, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Road Rally Sparks Concern

Mayor: ‘A fair degree of chaos’ in Cold Spring

By Michael Turton

Mayor Kathleen Foley commented at the Wednesday (Oct. 23) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board on what she described as “a fair degree of chaos” on streets and sidewalks during the previous Saturday as a procession of vehicles in a political rally drove through the village on one of its busiest days of the year.

After gathering in Carmel, the participants drove down Main Street honking horns and waving flags to support former President Donald Trump’s re-election bid.

“The individuals in the caravan were within their rights to travel through Cold Spring; no permit was required,” Foley said. But she said neither the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office nor Philipstown residents who participated informed the Cold Spring Police Department that the caravan was headed to the village. As a result, she said, village police were unprepared.

“While the sheriff may not have known

the intended route of the caravan, for the sake of public safety, his office should have alerted all Putnam County law enforcement agencies to be at the ready for the passage of a large number of vehicles ranging in size from sedans to utility trucks,” Foley said.

Calls from the Cold Spring department for assistance brought New York State troopers and sheriff’s deputies to the scene.

“Thankfully, no one was hurt,” Foley said. “We do not condone belligerent behavior, intimidation or threats of any kind to our staff, our police officers, to our neighbors or toward our visitors.”

Before the mayor’s comments, the board spent more than an hour in executive session, which is closed to the public, to address public safety. Foley declined to say what was discussed.

In an email to *The Current* on Thursday, Foley said there were heated disputes in the street and on sidewalks while the convoy traveled through Cold Spring.

“Police response was particularly difficult because the village was already overwhelmed with visitors,” she said. “Mutual aid units from the Sheriff’s Department and the New York State Police had difficulty

getting into the most heated areas.” She said Cold Spring officers were able to de-escalate confrontations and move the convoy along.

“Meeting aggression with aggression only escalates tensions and delivers what events like this seek: reaction,” Foley said. “This just isn’t how civil discourse happens, regardless of one’s position.”

In other business...

- The board passed a resolution approving temporary changes “to manage and control traffic and respond to emergencies safely within the village” during busy fall weekends. The following changes are in effect on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Nov. 24, to be implemented by police when deemed necessary: (1) Traffic can be diverted from Main Street to Fair Street and (2) on-street parking can be suspended on Fair Street and Northern Avenue on the north and westbound sides between Route 9D and Church Street if signs are placed at least 24 hours in advance.
- The board accepted a \$416,800 bid from Gallo Construction to remove and replace clarifier and filter media and recoat tanks at the water treatment plant. A \$400,000 bid was rejected because the company could not provide satisfactory references. Much of the funding will come from a federal grant.

AROUND THE REGION

Brewster

School District Investigates Residency

An annual audit identified 526 children who may not be legal residents of the school district.

According to *Mid Hudson News*, the school board was told that the children live in residences where the leases are expired or will expire in December. At least 48 students are enrolled at addresses where leases expired in 2023.

Superintendent Michelle Gosh said the numbers “ballooned” because the district

did not have a residency officer for four months following a resignation.

Sullivan County

Schools Want to Merge

Voters rejected an attempt in 2022 by the Livingston Manor and Roscoe school districts to merge, so officials will try again by circulating a petition to get the issue on a December ballot.

Livingston Manor has 383 students and Roscoe has 208. John Evans, the superintendent of both districts, said the merger would bring in state aid of \$30.7 million,

compared to \$7 million in 2022.

Putnam Valley

Legislators Seek Septic Funds

State Sen. Rob Rolison and Assembly Member Matt Slater have asked the state Department of Environmental Conservation to expand its Septic System Replacement Fund to include some parts of Putnam Valley.

The legislators said at a news conference that they are concerned about the number of systems failing and the expense of replacing them. They met with residents earlier this month.

SERVICE DIRECTORY



**GOT RUBBISH?**  
10-30 YARD DUMPSTER RENTAL  
RUBBISH REMOVAL SERVICES  
DEMOLITION SERVICES

37A Albany Post Rd. Ossining, NY 10562  
[MrCheapeeInc@aol.com](mailto:MrCheapeeInc@aol.com)  
**914-737-0823**

**www.MrCheapeeInc.com**



**DR. K**  
IMPORTED CAR SERVICE & REPAIR

15 TIORONDA AVE.  
BEACON, NY 12508  
[DrKImportedCar.com](http://DrKImportedCar.com)

Phone/ 845.838.0717  
Fax/ 845.440.7541  
E-Mail/ [drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com](mailto:drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com)

**Lynne Ward, LCSW**  
Licensed Psychotherapist

*Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children  
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation  
Addiction Counseling*

75 Main Street  
Cold Spring, NY 10516

[lynneward99@gmail.com](mailto:lynneward99@gmail.com)  
(917) 597-6905

**RICK BRAZILL**  
OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>



121 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York

Saturday and Sunday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
**BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM**

**Lillian Rosengarten, LCSW**  
Highly Experienced, Compassionate

Individual, Couples.  
Grief, Loss, Marital, Depression

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



**ALLENS  
DUMPSTER  
SERVICE**  
LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY

**(646) 772-2673**  
[allens-dumpster-service.business.site](http://allens-dumpster-service.business.site)



Jan. 6 (from Page 1)

resisting or impeding officers on Jan. 6.

At least 10 area men have been charged. Three Putnam County residents pleaded guilty to entering the Capitol, a former Newburgh resident received a 4½-year sentence, and a Pawling resident was given a 30-day sentence.

Two Dutchess County brothers and their uncle, convicted by a jury, were scheduled for sentencing on Oct. 18 but asked for a delay, saying they had fired their attorneys. On Oct. 15, the judge granted the request but said it was unrelated to the motion. A new sentencing date is pending.

Gregory Purdy Jr., 26, a 2016 Carmel High School graduate, and his uncle, Robert Turner, 42, formerly of Poughkeepsie, remain incarcerated. Matthew Purdy, 25, who was convicted

of two misdemeanors, was released.

In a related motion, on Sept. 4 federal prosecutors asked the judge to dismiss the convictions of Gregory Purdy and Turner for obstructing an official proceeding following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on June 28 that questioned the application of the charge in many Jan. 6 prosecutions.

Among other pending cases, Christopher Finney of Hopewell Junction, arrested in February and charged with two felonies and five misdemeanors, had a court date scheduled for Oct. 3 but no information has been released.

Edward “Jake” Lang, of Newburgh, who was arrested and incarcerated 10 days after the riot on charges he assaulted police officers, will face trial next month. Jury selection is scheduled to begin Nov. 12.



William Pepe is shown moving a police barrier on Jan. 6, 2021, in a photo released by the U.S. Justice Department.

State Senate (from Page 9)

proposal by Hochul to supersede local zoning laws to spearhead housing construction.

Like Valdés Smith, Rolison said he supports new residences across income ranges but believes municipalities need input in the siting of projects. He also said developers are hindered by state-mandated “red tape.”

Both candidates weighed in on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, the proposed 7.5-mile

linear park between Cold Spring and Beacon. Rolison sent a letter to state parks last month calling for a “pause” in plans to connect the trail to Dockside Park in Cold Spring. Rolison said he and Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel, Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley and Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward plan to meet with state parks officials on Tuesday (Oct. 29).

Valdés Smith said she looks forward to reviewing the draft environmental impact

that state parks is expected to release this fall. The trail, she said, “could be extremely beneficial for multiple reasons, including the education of our youth and accessibility for all of our communities to the beautiful Hudson River.”

On Tuesday (Oct. 22), Valdés Smith announced a package of anti-gun-violence proposals: a 10-day waiting period for firearms purchases; expanding the state’s SNUG (“guns” spelled backward) initiative, which is used in Newburgh and Poughkeepsie;

spending more on victim services; and banning weapons and tactical gear within 100 feet of voting locations.

“I see a future for this district and for all New Yorkers that is free from the constant threat of gun violence,” she said.

Rolison voted against a 10-day waiting period passed by the Senate in June.

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

Lawler, Jones (from Page 8)

At the debate, Lawler urged “an all-of-the-above approach to energy,” including increased production. He referred to natural gas as “critical” because “it has reduced carbon emissions by 60 percent greater than renewables over the last two decades.” But he also said that “I believe in climate change. It is real.”

Jones responded that Lawler “votes just like an oil-and-gas lobbyist” while “I’m someone who actually delivered legislation that combats climate change” — the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, “the largest investment in combating climate change and in clean renewable energy any nation has ever undertaken.”

**Israel**

Lawler’s campaign calls Israel “our greatest ally” and ties his support to it, in part,

to House legislation to penalize foreigners involved with Iran’s petroleum business, and his opposition to antisemitism on college campuses and within United Nations agencies. At the Oct. 16 debate, Lawler said he had “fought to get \$18 billion in increased funding for Israel’s defenses” while Jones, as a House member, “had an abysmal record of doing anything to actually stand up for Israel.”

Jones alleged that Lawler “is manufacturing a number of lies about my record. I have always staunchly defended Israel and its right to defend itself.” His campaign says he “opposes antisemitism in all its forms [and] stood up to ‘the Squad’” — a faction of House Democrats — “to support Israel.” This year he sparked friction when he backed George Latimer in the Democratic primary for House District 16, instead of Rep. Jamaal Bowman, an outspoken critic of Israel’s actions and a member of the Squad.

**Governance**

Jones and Lawler recently outlined their concepts of governance, and blamed the nation’s troubles on each other or the other guy’s party.

Lawler characterized Jones as a “radical leftist.” By comparison, he said, he and fellow Republicans “don’t support allowing cop-killers and rapists the right to vote from prison. We don’t support calling all cops racists and white supremacists. We don’t support open borders and amnesty for criminal illegals. We don’t support socialism” or “government-run health care. And we sure as hell don’t support higher taxes and reckless spending on inflationary policies.”

Likewise, after Jones endorsed limiting the cost of prescription drugs for Medicare recipients, Lawler remarked: “Leave it to an avowed socialist to praise price controls.”

Jones replied that “I never called myself a socialist.” He said that “for me, policy

is personal,” a reflection of his childhood experiences. Further, “I never called all cops racist, never voted to cut funding for law enforcement and always voted to fund the police. When I was in Congress, we were part of the productive majority. We delivered for the American people, whereas my opponent is part of the Congress defined by chaos, extremism and incompetence. There’s no problem Lawler claims to be trying to solve that he isn’t responsible for helping create in the first place.”

Defining the 2024 election as “the most important of our lifetimes,” Jones averred that “if he cared about this country, he would not be supporting a man for president who tried to overturn the last presidential election and won’t commit to accepting the results this year.”

Lawler predicted that “our democracy will endure, no matter who wins.”

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – November 4th, 2024

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 4th, 2024 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

**Automar, 3070 Rt. 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#2716-1.23**  
Applicant is seeking a variance to allow a drive-through window.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/october>

Dated October 16th, 2024    Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – November 4th, 2024

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 4th, 2024 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

**Meehan-Hooks, 50 Healy Rd. Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#38.-3-2**  
Applicant is seeking a variance for a 2'-2 ½" x 18' 1" kitchen addition.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/october>

Dated October 16th, 2024    Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals



Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Pop singer Celine

5. "I's c-c-cold!"

8. Cicatrix

12. Vicinity

13. Fib

14. Sharpen

15. Huge kudos

17. Assess

18. Blue

19. Shadowed

21. Pretended

24. Decorate

25. Rapscllions

26. Campus cafeteria offering

30. Carnival city

31. Long skirts

32. Oklahoma tribe

33. '80s arcade game

35. Castle defense

36. Eyeglass frames

37. Smooths, as wood

38. Source of gum arabic

41. Numerical prefix

42. Composer Bartok

43. Performance bonus

48. Japanese noodle

49. "Rocks"

50. Rights org.

51. Head, to Henri

52. Fine, at NASA

53. Detail
- DOWN
1. River blocker

2. A Gershwin brother

3. British ref. work

4. Italian port

5. Huff and puff

6. Wardrobe malfunction

7. Check

8. Tempura choice

9. Furnace fuel

10. Pay to play

11. Clarinet insert

16. Scepter

20. Feels unwell

21. Mattress option

22. Writer Kingsley

23. Music genre for BTS

24. Plano's state

26. ABBA-inspired musical

27. Lake bird

28. Slightly

29. Forget-me- — (flowers)

31. 1102, to Nero

34. Esoteric

35. Rum cocktail

37. Hindu honorific

38. Border on

39. Give up

40. Oodles

41. Arduous journey

44. Author Umberto

45. Agt.'s cut

46. Hearty brew

47. "Tasty!"

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BORED

BOUTS

WORDSEARCH

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

© 2024 King Features

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

Answers for Oct. 18 Puzzles

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

FETCH, RETCH, REACH,  
ROACH, POACH, PORCH

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

For interactive puzzles and crossword answers, see [highlandscurrent.org/puzzles](https://highlandscurrent.org/puzzles).

# BEACON FINE ART PRINTING

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

BEACONFINEARTPRINTING.COM | 914 522 4736

A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO



## Sports

# VENOM ON ICE

*Professional hockey  
debuts in Newburgh*

By Michael Turton

The fledgling Hudson Valley Venom played its first regular season games on Oct. 18 and 19 and undoubtedly hopes fortunes improve.

Hudson Valley fell twice to the Binghamton Black Bears, losing the home opener at Newburgh's Ice Time Sports Complex, 9-6, before being shut out 5-0 the following night in Binghamton. The teams play in the Federal Prospects Hockey League (FPHL).

Pat Manning, a former state legislator, purchased the Elmira River Sharks in May, moved the franchise to Newburgh and gave it a new identity.

The Oct. 18 opener looked like a blowout when the Venom were outscored 4-1 in the first period. But a different Venom team emerged in the second, tying the game at 5-5 before being outscored 3-1 in the third.

Mark Pozsar, a 25-year-old from Budapest, scored the first franchise regular-season goal. Dustin Jesseau, a 32-year-old from Ontario, had the first hat trick.

The two are among 14 players on the



Bret Parker, 26, who hails from Massachusetts, is a veteran.

Photo by Niecey Kerr



Stavros Soilis takes a faceoff against Binghamton.

Photo by Jaylen Rizzo

20-man roster from outside the U.S. It includes seven Canadians, three Swedes and a player each from Russia, Hungary, Switzerland and Lithuania.

Goalie John Moriarty's play was a bright spot in Binghamton as the American turned aside 45 of 50 shots. His teammates just didn't score.

Now in its 15th season, the 14-team FPHL is not affiliated with the National Hockey League. It is considered level A, while the American Hockey League, which has an affiliation, is AAA. Teams play 28 home games and 28 on the road.

The Venom is part of the Empire Division with Binghamton and teams from upstate

Watertown; Danbury, Connecticut; Michigan and Illinois. The Continental Division has teams from Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Mississippi and Virginia.

Player-coach Josh Newberg is the oldest team member at 37; most players are rookies in their 20s. Newberg had his best season as a player two years ago with Binghamton when he scored 24 goals and 70 points. Assistant coach MJ Maerkl was one of his teammates there.

Newberg said that with only a handful of players coming over from Elmira, his biggest challenge is building from the ground up. About 60 players tried out. "We're strong at forward" but need to

"smooth out the edges," he said.

Roster changes are common. Newberg is awaiting the arrival of two defensemen from Europe. He declined to say what players are paid but said "it produces good prospects for higher levels like the East Coast Hockey League," which is AA.

Asked if an Interstate-84 rivalry will develop with the Danbury Hat Tricks, who visit the Venom on Saturday (Oct. 26), Newberg said, "Absolutely!"

*The Ice Time Sports Complex is located at 21 Lakeside Road in Newburgh. For a schedule and tickets, which start at \$19.50, see [hudsonvalleyvenom.com](http://hudsonvalleyvenom.com).*

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

## HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**FOOTBALL** — The Blue Devils were trounced at homecoming on Oct. 18 by Putnam Valley, 35-6. Haldane's only score came in the second quarter on a 21-yard pass from David Powlis to Jake Thomas. Powlis completed 3 of 10 passes for 63 yards, all to Thomas; as a team, Haldane had 54 yards rushing. The Blue Devils (3-3) will host Hastings at 2 p.m. on Saturday (Oct. 26).

**BOYS' SOCCER** — Before its 6-4 loss to Pawling on Oct. 17, Haldane honored its seniors: Matthew Silhavy, Marc Firpo, Brandt Robbins, Dustin Berkley, Jake Powers, Milo Pearsall and Owen Cutie. The Blue Devils took an early 3-1 lead on two goals by Samuel Cardona and another by Ty Villella, but Pawling scored three straight in the second half to go up, 4-3. Villella tied the game with a penalty kick but three minutes later Pawling hit the go-ahead goal, then scored again with 30 seconds left.

The Blue Devils rebounded on Oct. 19 at Putnam Valley with a 2-1 comeback win. The Tigers scored first, with 18 minutes left in the second half, but Cardona had the equalizer with five minutes left and, with 1:19 remaining, scored the winner.

On Monday (Oct. 21) Haldane hosted North Salem, falling 3-0. The Blue Devils (4-12) travel to North Salem (11-2-3) on Wednesday (Oct. 30) for the Section I, Class C playoffs.

**GIRLS' SOCCER** — Haldane fell at home to Millbrook on Tuesday (Oct. 22), 4-2. Marisa Peters and Amelia Alayon scored for the Blue Devils. Haldane (2-12) travels to North Salem (6-6-4) on Wednesday (Oct. 30) for the Section I, Class C playoffs.

**VOLLEYBALL** — The Blue Devils lost twice at home by 3-0 scores, on Oct. 18 to Croton-Harmon and on Monday (Oct. 21) to Putnam Valley. Against the Tigers, Liv Holmbo had three kills and Savannah Duggan had five digs. At home on Wednesday, the Blue Devils stayed close with Pawling, but fell, 3-2 (18-25, 25-21, 25-23, 23-25, 10-15). Elaina Johanson scored 10 kills and five aces, while Duggan had 21 digs. Haldane (3-14) hosts Hastings at 6:15 p.m. today (Oct. 25).

**CROSS-COUNTRY** — Haldane ran in the Section I Coaches Invitational at Wood-



Elaina Johanson (14) returns the ball against Putnam Valley. Photo by Skip Pearlman

lands on Oct. 19. For the girls, Tyler Schacht finished 18th in the 5,000 meters in 21:49; for the boys, Owen Powers was eighth in 17:02.50 and the Blue Devils finished seventh of 23 teams. Haldane will host Hendrick Hudson on Wednesday (Oct. 30) at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison.

## BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**FOOTBALL** — Beacon continued its turnaround under first-year head coach Gerald Ryan, blowing out Liberty, 58-0, on Oct. 18, for its best record (6-1) in a decade. Quarterback Jazziah Whitted completed 19 of 22 passes for 277 yards and four touchdowns. Elijah Epps had five catches for 95 yards and two touchdowns. Nixon Salinas had eight tackles (including six for losses) and Kevin Beal had six. The Bulldogs host Marlboro today (Oct. 25) at 5:30 p.m.

**GIRLS' SOCCER** — After a 9-1 blowout of Marlboro on Wednesday (Oct. 23), the Bulldogs finished 15-1. Claire Morgan and Reilly Landisi each recorded hat tricks. The team awaits its opponent in the Section IX, Class B playoffs.

**VOLLEYBALL** — Beacon went 2-1 this week, picking up key wins over Newburgh (25-16, 25-17, 25-23) and Burke Catholic (25-18, 16-25, 25-21, 25-17), during which Lila Burke recorded her 1,000th career kill and Katherine Ruffy had 33 assists. The loss was to Minisink (25-16, 26-24, 25-9); Evy Diebboll had 18 digs. Beacon (12-3) travels to Cornwall (12-1) on Monday (Oct. 28) to play for the league title.