

The HIGHLANDS Current

NOVEMBER 15, 2024

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Model Firefighters

Page 11



Pulver



Aymar-Blair

Dutchess Comptroller Race Undecided

Beacon resident holds slim lead, according to Dems

By Jeff Simms

The race to determine the next Dutchess County comptroller was still undecided as of late Thursday (Nov. 14), as election officials counted mail-in and affidavit ballots.

The unofficial election-night results released by the Board of Elections showed the candidates, Gregg Pulver, a Republican from Pine Plains who was appointed to the position a year ago, and Dan Aymar-Blair, a Democrat who is the Ward 4 representative on the Beacon City Council, in a near tie. With all 171 precincts reporting, Pulver received 69,581 votes, or 50.13 percent, while Aymar-Blair had 69,106, or 49.79 percent, a difference of 475 votes of 138,799 cast, including 112 write-in votes.

(Continued on Page 3)



The Beacon reservoir on East Mountain Road North in Philipstown on Nov. 7

Photo by John Peters

Dry Dangers

Record-high temperatures meet record-low rainfall

By Brian PJ Cronin

The 0.2 inches of rain that fell on Philipstown and Beacon on Sunday (Nov. 10) brought about that much relief to the Hudson Valley, which continues to grapple with the one-two punch of widespread drought and wildfires.

Forest rangers are monitoring 12 wildfires across the state. Ten are in the Hudson Valley, including the Old Pawling Fire in Dover and the Golf Ridge Fire in Kent. Both of those fires are contained. The only fire not contained is the Jennings Creek Fire, which straddles the New York/New Jersey border.

As of Thursday morning (Nov. 14), the fire was 41 percent contained and down to 4,383 acres from its previous size of 5,000 acres.

From 2007 to 2023, New York averaged around 1,400 acres of wildfire damage each year. The Jennings Creek Fire is the largest fire in the state since 2008.

"This has been a challenge for us, because normally, starting in September, you see a lot more rainfall," Gov. Kathy Hochul said in a statement on Tuesday. "The ground would be saturated, and something like this would not have taken hold."

The dry conditions have fueled the flames, particularly oak leaves, grasses, blueberry bushes and mountain laurel, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Last month was both the second-driest and the second-hottest October in the

(Continued on Page 7)

Green Chimneys Settles in Sex- Abuse Case

Local religious institutions, counties fighting similar lawsuits

By Leonard Sparks

A jury needed only an hour on Oct. 31 to find Green Chimneys liable for the sexual abuse of a girl by one of its employees in the late 1960s. Four days later, the residential and therapy center for children with special needs, which has campuses in Brewster and Carmel, settled with the plaintiff for an undisclosed amount.

The case was the first of more than two dozen lawsuits filed in 2020 and 2021 against local institutions to reach trial under the state's Child Victims Act. Enacted in 2019, the law gave adults a two-year window to begin civil actions for alleged sex crimes in which the statute of limitations had expired.

(Continued on Page 8)

Planning Board Underwhelmed

Reviews Dunkin', Telephone Building proposals

By Jeff Simms

John Gunn, the chair of the Beacon Planning Board, was frank on Wednesday (Nov. 13) in his assessment of a proposal to convert an existing building at 420 Fishkill Ave. to a Dunkin' coffeehouse with a drive-thru and three apartments on the second floor.

"This has got to be the worst example of adaptive reuse of an existing building I've ever seen," he said.

Gunn clarified his comment later in the meeting, saying he wasn't opposed to the Dunkin' franchise but hoped to see the site redeveloped in a "cohesive" way. On Fishkill Avenue, a corridor being studied by a committee that could recommend rezoning to enhance the streetscape, "what do we really want here?" he asked.

"Not this," he said, answering his own question. He explained further: "It's about Beacon deserving excellence. It deserves

(Continued on Page 6)



Clockwise from left: Abe Spodek, Roberta Goldman, Alison Spodek and Lucinda Arginsky play mahjong at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance.

Photo by J. Asher

Mahjong, Anyone?

A classic game thrives in the Highlands

By Joey Asher

Remember mahjong? That game where Jewish grandmothers push thick ivory tiles etched with exotic characters around a card table? They put down a tile and say something like "one bam," "three crack" or "two dot." There's lots of schmoozing, maybe iced tea and onion dip. The big winner pockets two or three bucks.

The game, which dates to mid-19th century China, is undergoing a national renaissance, including in Philipstown and Beacon. Plenty of bobbies still play, but a new generation has discovered the joy of using tiles to form "hands," similar to gin rummy.

(Continued on Page 20)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: PETER MCFADDEN

By Brian PJ Cronin

Peter McFadden, who lives in Cold Spring, is a relationship coach. He will talk about the science behind his work at Beahive Beacon at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday (Nov. 19).

How did you get into this field?

For three years, I worked at the U.S. State Department. I was a specialist in nuclear arms control. I took a random trip to communist East Europe, helped someone defect from Czechoslovakia and founded a nonprofit in Prague. I lived eight years in the Czech and Slovak Republic. Under communism, it had been illegal to gather in public. People lived in fear. It was so quiet. People didn't talk to their neighbors. They thought their neighbors were the secret police. I ended up organizing the world's largest dance, the Super Macarena [with 67,000 Slovaks] to get people to talk to each other. I became a little bit of a celebrity in the tiny country and was invited to meet Pope John Paul II.

You met the pope?

The meeting is a big part of this! As a young priest, he was a popular professor of philosophy. He ended up being a relationship counselor to over 2,000 of his students and wrote a philosophical book about the deeper



purpose of love, romance and marriage. I grew up with such a simple vision of marriage: You become a good person, meet a good person, live happily ever after. Then my brother's wife threw a frying pan at him. My brother's a good guy: hard-working, faithful, doesn't drink. I remember thinking, "If he can get a frying pan thrown at him, I could get one thrown at me." But after meeting the pope and reading his book, I figured I was ready for marriage.

Coincidentally, at this time, I met the woman who became my wife. I learned that man can't live on philosophy alone. You must communicate! My wife and I strug-

gled early in our marriage. Then the church where we got married said, "You met the pope and read his book about marriage — how would you like to take over our marriage preparation program?" My reaction was, "I'm the last person who should be speaking to engaged couples right now." Then it dawned on me: The best way to learn something is to teach it. So we started teaching marriage preparation together in a desperate attempt to figure out marriage for ourselves. And now I've helped over 5,700 couples in the past 20 years.

What did you learn at the State Department that factors into this?

Diplomacy. So many couples go to war. In diplomacy, you learn that while criticism is usually accurate, it's almost never helpful. You have to make the criticism constructive.

What is the biggest indicator of a happy marriage?

The ratio of positive to negative interactions. When positive interactions are high, you're quick to forgive each other. The single biggest mistake couples make is not enough positivity. We just get too comfortable, too busy, too tired. People admit they've gone 20 years without saying thank you or 30 years without a date. They didn't realize it until I asked. It's the absence of positive interactions, not the presence of negative, that undermines marriages. Having a shared calendar helps.

How does a shared calendar help?

Chaos is a leading cause of divorce. The shared calendar helps limit frustration. It's also an objective record of how you're spending your time. I give my couples an exercise creating a shared vision and marriage. Write down everything that makes you happy. As one small example, my wife and I love theater, but we realized we weren't going to the theater. We made a commitment to go to the theater together once every two months. The calendar is a huge part of limiting negativity and making sure positivity is high.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What do you think of long car rides?

I like them. I listen to good music, see the scenery change.



Brendan Press, Cold Spring

I enjoy them — if I'm headed somewhere I'm looking forward to.



Jen Oppenheim, Cold Spring

It depends on the company!



Devon Jones, Beacon



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

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NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit - Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, November 17th, 2024 at 9:30am to inspect the following site:

KPB Properties, 201 Old West Point Rd. W, Garrison, NY 10524, TM#71.20-1-4

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Comptroller *(from Page 1)*

According to Dutchess County Democrats, those numbers include mail-in ballots counted through Nov. 2. Mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day, Nov. 5, and received by the Board of Elections by Nov. 12 can be counted.

Adam Fusco, an attorney representing Pulver, said Wednesday that his client, a former county legislator, was “comfortably ahead” and expected to win. But the Dutchess Democratic Committee announced that same day that Aymar-Blair had taken a four-vote lead after the Board of Elections added more than 2,000 affidavit and military ballots to the count.

The committee said that Aymar-Blair had received 70,856 votes, compared to 70,852 for Pulver, with more than 3,000 mail-in ballots still to be processed. State law requires a hand recount if the margin of victory is 20 votes or less or 0.5 percent or less.

Although state election law instructs county Boards of Election to make unofficial results available to the media and to post a running tally online, the Dutchess County BOE website has not been updated since 10:54 p.m. on Nov. 5. Board officials did not respond Wednesday to a phone message and email requesting an up-to-date count.

Michael Dupree, the chair of the county Democratic committee, said the board had provided him with the numbers cited but told him it would not be updating its website “until certification of final election results, which is several weeks, if not a month, away.” Dupree predicted that as outstanding ballots are counted, Aymar-Blair would “gain several hundred votes and win the race.”

Aymar-Blair filed a lawsuit in state court on Nov. 7 seeking “an injunction against the issuance of a certificate of election.” He asked the Board of Elections to count 1,540 mail-in ballots that he said had been received by Nov. 4. There are also at least 3,261 affidavit ballots — cast when there is a question about a voter’s registration — that have not

State law requires a hand recount if the margin of victory is 20 votes or less or 0.5 percent or less.

been processed and as many as 5,230 mail-in ballots that had not been returned but could arrive by Nov. 12, according to the lawsuit.

Aymar-Blair’s attorney, Michael Treybich, said the legal action is designed to compel Erik Haight, the Republican election commissioner, whom Treybich called “completely partisan,” to count all the votes before certification.

The comptroller is the county’s chief accounting officer and is responsible for auditing its departments and outside agencies funded by the county.

The position was on the ballot because Robin Lois, a Democrat, resigned on Dec. 30 to become the state’s deputy comptroller for local government and school accountability. Pulver, who served 10 years in the county Legislature, the last six as its chair, was named comptroller by then-County Executive William F.X. O’Neil two weeks after losing his bid for re-election to the Legislature.

This year’s election will determine who holds the position through Dec. 31, 2025, when Lois’s four-year term would have ended. It will again appear on the November 2025 ballot.

Fusco filed a motion on Nov. 12 on Pulver’s behalf asking Judge Maria Rosa to dismiss Aymar-Blair’s suit. “The courts cannot intervene in the actual canvassing of ballots by the Boards of Elections and do not have the authority to modify the statutory procedures governing that canvassing or its timing,” he wrote.

Rosa instructed both candidates to observe the ongoing canvass of votes and take up objections with her. She scheduled a hearing for Nov. 26.

NEWS BRIEFS

Philipstown Zoning Board Denies Drive-Thru

Variance sought for Dunkin’ on Route 9

The Philipstown Zoning Board on Nov. 4 denied a request to allow a drive-thru at a Dunkin’ proposed for the former Automar property on Route 9.

Misti’s Properties 3070 Inc. introduced on Sept. 19 a two-phase project for the 27-acre former service garage at 3070 Route 9. The initial phase calls for demolishing the 3,000-square-foot structure and replacing it with a 4,000-square-foot building

shared by a gas station, convenience store and a Dunkin’ with a drive-thru.

Because drive-thrus are not allowed in a Highway Commercial Zone, Misti’s needed a variance from the Zoning Board. After a public hearing at which residents raised concerns about traffic and safety, the board voted to deny the variance. Misti’s also proposes an 18,000-square-foot “flex” building with storage for contractors and a small office, and potential space for a loading dock and truck parking lot.

The second phase of the project calls for the construction of a solar panel farm on the rear of the property.



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look back at all the
dynamic duos.



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Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org 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.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Fjord Trail

After more than a year of review and deliberation, the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Visitation Data Committee celebrated the completion of its work at a gathering in Beacon on Oct. 29.

On behalf of HHFT staff and board, I'd like to thank the committee members for dedicating their time and insight to the review of data collected and the studies prepared by HHFT's expert consultants. These volunteers were each appointed by their respective municipalities and represented their communities with vigor.

With the technical assistance of their chosen independent consultant, BFJ Planning, the committee members reviewed data, queried methodology and, in some cases, requested revisions to findings from HHFT's consultants. In the end, the committee affirmed findings on current traffic and pedestrian counts and the projected increase in trail-bound visitation forecasted for 2033 with and without the infrastructure and improvements of the Fjord Trail. These memos and the related reports can be reviewed at qrco.de/hhft-vdc.

In their final majority consensus memo on visitation projections, the committee affirmed 268,700 as the mid-range projection for the annual number of new trail-bound visits to the area directly attributable

to the Fjord Trail once it is completed in 2033. The committee also affirmed the projected number of annual total visits (including new visits) to the Fjord Trail at 637,000 in 2033.

The committee added a plus or minus 15 percent range to these numbers to ensure that Fjord Trail visitation management planning takes high and low potentialities into consideration as we continue to hone our visitation management toolkit and incorporate input from the community and project partners.

We are grateful to the Visitation Data Committee members for all their efforts and look forward to continued collaboration with project area community representatives.

Amy Kacala, *Poughkeepsie*
Kacala is executive director of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc.

MTA development

I oppose any development by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority because the agency and elected officials, including in the City of Beacon and from both parties, that supported development in the past were negligent when considering the traffic implications of creating more spaces for non-resident commuters ("MTA Seeks Proposal for Beacon Station," Nov. 8).

With regard to the 2007 proposal, the notion that widening a stretch of Route 9D

near Beekman Street would accommodate hundreds of additional commuters was foolish. At the time, the administration of Gov. George Pataki concluded that optimizing traffic signals would resolve congestion at the I-84 corridor.

Any proposal that does not reduce the number of spaces at the station and include reconstruction of the antiquated Route 9D/I-84 interchange to resolve westbound on-ramp congestion is a bad one for the neighborhood I have lived in for all my 56 years.

Beacon has done more than its fair share of accommodating regional transport infrastructure and has suffered enough from the policies of governors who have taken advantage of our community, used opaque budgeting and lawmaking tactics to overload our infrastructure and want nothing but more from us when we prosper.

Daniel McElduff, *Beacon*

Who in their right mind thinks this is a good idea?

Donald Arrant Jr., *via Instagram*

Transit-oriented development like this is a great role for Beacon to play in addressing the statewide housing crisis. I can't wait until that area is livelier instead of a dead zone and would love to see minimal parking and lots of retail.

Hayley Richardson, *via Instagram*

We find transit-oriented development extremely valuable and believe this would be a great thing for Beacon. We also strongly encourage this development on the west side of the river in Newburgh on a new passenger rail line we are proposing on a portion of the CSX freight line.

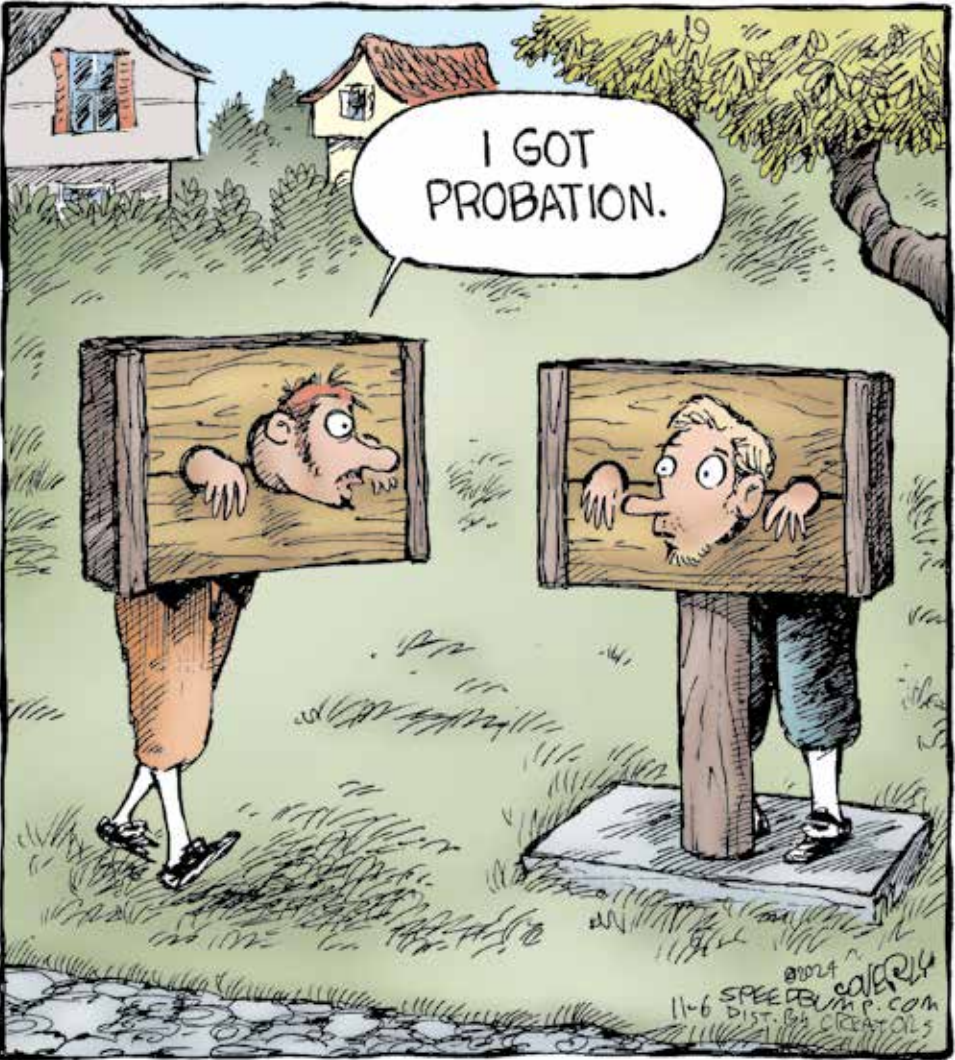
Daniel DeFalco, *via Instagram*
DeFalco runs All Aboard Hudson Valley, which advocates better rail travel options in the Hudson Valley.

You can barely squeeze cars in the current lots during peak hours. These lots and the station flood during heavy rains. Snow removal and build up in the winter is a nightmare. Can New York State and the City Council please leave Beacon alone, for once? This city is too small for all the approved developments it has.

Emily Mercedes, *via Instagram*

I am all in favor of new affordable housing but the infrastructure issues need to be addressed. The state Department of Transportation and the city need to tackle Route 9D traffic and the city should not be responsible for the cost of sewer and water upgrades, especially when one of the proposed developments is in Fishkill.

Tom Cerchiara, *via Instagram*
(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

No, no, no! We need more parking at the station and truly affordable housing. Stop going after the money, City of Beacon.

Kara Dean, *via Instagram*

Beacon changes

We have a crisis in affordable housing, but new construction in Beacon is anything but affordable. Despite extensive development, we are losing residents, and the city is becoming a monoculture. Rental units have become condominiums, affordable single-family homes have been flipped for sky-high profits and outside developers have constructed buildings that exploit town resources. Gentrification is a well-worn path.

One problem is that the city's outdated comprehensive plan and the linkage district program give developers license to build with few limits. Both documents were written to encourage business development, housing development and connections from the train station to Main Street. These concepts no longer apply to Beacon because it has become a busy tourist destination. Yet developers still invoke these documents as their main reason to construct larger and larger developments.

City leaders entrusted to monitor, protect, enforce, regulate and assess the value of projects have been ineffective. At Planning Board meetings, most current developments are represented by one legal team. The committee members joke with developers, exchange softball inquiries, mildly protest and, in the end, succumb to developments that are not in keeping with the community in purpose or aesthetic (e.g., The View, 248 Tioronda, The Mews).

The latest disgrace is 45 Beekman St. The proposed plan is another outsized monolith in black and brick with (of all things) a clock tower. The four-story development fills the space from the sidewalk edge at Route 9D to High Street, dwarfing the homes on all sides. The legal team has justified the development by pointing to The View — which resembles an aircraft carrier — as a comparative aesthetic structure and the comprehensive plan/linkage district as the rubber stamp.

At the Planning Board meeting in October, the legal representative had the gall to state that this development is “by Beacon, for Beacon.” The owners are from New York City. As a matter of course, the developer has asked for allowances for fewer trees,

Correction

In the Nov. 8 issue, we reported that the Cold Spring Village Board had approved an on-demand, pedestrian-activated sign or light on Route 9D at the crosswalk located near the Butterfield redevelopment project. In fact, because Route 9D is a state-owned road, the board only discussed asking the state Department of Transportation to install a sign or light.

fewer parking spaces and a dedicated right-hand turn lane on Route 9D, which would create significant safety issues for residents and anyone walking to or from the train.

It is high time that Beacon paused development until a new comprehensive plan and elimination or revision of the linkage plan can be undertaken. The young, the elderly and people of all incomes who live within our small city deserve better.

Jim Zellinger, *Beacon*

The strength of our community is closely tied to the health of our small businesses. Supporting local spending keeps resources within the community and fosters economic resilience. With developments like Carvana and Dunkin' considering locations on Fishkill Avenue, there is concern that such projects may diverge from the community's interest in cultivating a vibrant, small-business-focused corridor, complemented by biking paths, walkable spaces, parks and civic areas (“Dunkin' Proposed for Beacon's Fishkill Avenue,” Nov. 8).

What incentives or policies are in place to promote a shared vision of a thriving local economy driven by small businesses?

Brett Miller, *Beacon*

Election

As we all watched the national election, I took some time to review the sample ballot from the Putnam County Board of Elections for Philipstown District No. 3 to familiarize myself with what is important to us locally. When I moved to the last few columns on the right side of the ballot, I saw something that I found upsetting.

We were asked to cast votes for five positions: county coroner, county legislator, town justice and two Cold Spring trustees. In each case, the incumbent was running unopposed. I realize everyone is busy and life can

be stressful. I did not run for office until I retired. But I felt I needed to do my share. While there are many who volunteer in our villages and town, more need to step up.

If you haven't already considered it, think about putting yourself out there. Also, of the five positions, only two candidates bothered to ask for our vote. Thank you, Laura Bozzi, for your great ad in the press. Thank you, Nancy Montgomery, for your multiple signs along our roadways. At least you had the courtesy to let us know you were running and to ask for our support.

Fran Murphy, *Cold Spring*

Murphy is a former Cold Spring trustee.

Warehouse

As someone who lives near the site of this proposed warehouse, I believe Molly Rhodes and Mayor Lee Kyriacou are correct (“Too Close for Comfort?” Nov. 8): The plan is not safe for the children or the neighborhood, and it is not what the site is zoned for. Add my name to the list of Beaconites who are concerned about the traffic this would create.

Kit Burke-Smith, *Beacon*

It's a terrible location, and how many self-storage places do we need? Get rid of your crap.

Elissa Betterbid, *via Instagram*

Fishkill can build the warehouse on its part of Route 9. We need to have a path to the bridge from the high school property. No one wants more of these warehouses in

prime real-estate areas like Beacon. It's illogical that Fishkill allows this crap and whatever they let happen on Fishkill Ridge, never mind what they feel about Fjord Trail.

Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*

Haldane vote

The Haldane Parent Teacher Association encourages you to vote yes on Tuesday (Nov. 19) to approve funding for the proposed capital project (“Haldane Capital Project on the Ballot,” Nov. 8).

The school's infrastructure has not had a major upgrade in years. As an organization that advocates the well-being of all members of the Haldane community, we have listened to the testimonies of students, teachers and administrators who desperately need their conditions to change. The capital project is an opportunity to address these issues by updating essential safety mechanisms, communication tools and expanding the spaces in which students learn and thrive.

We can all have an impact. While the numbers may seem high, this is a lean budget for the essential changes that are needed and the return for the children will be significant. Now is the time to make the changes that the Haldane community confirms are necessary to maintain the high standard of education that we all appreciate. Haldane schools are a core value behind why many of us live here, but they should be protected and supported by all of us.

Bill Coelius, *Cold Spring*

Coelius is the president of the Haldane PTA.



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Due to extended drought conditions and high temperatures, the Village's overall water reserves have dropped below 60%. Per Village Code Chapter 130, additional restrictions are in place and will remain in force until rescinded by the Village Board. It is very important to conserve water in any way possible. If our reserves drop below 45%, we will have to purchase raw water from the Catskill Aqueduct—a cost that could reach nearly \$1,000 a day.

Please fix leaks and abstain from watering lawns and outdoor plantings, washing vehicles, filling water features such as pools or decorative ponds and fountains. Drinking water should be served only on request. Here are more tips for how you can save water every day:

BATHROOM

- Take shorter showers and save 5-7 gallons a minute
- Fill the tub halfway and save 10-15 gallons
- Don't run the water while shaving, washing your hands, or brushing your teeth — faucets use 2-3 gallons a minute
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket, and don't flush it unnecessarily
- Install water-saving toilets, shower heads and faucet aerators

KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full; save even more by using the short cycle
- Install faucet aerators
- Don't let the water run while washing dishes; kitchen faucets use 2 to 3 gallons a minute
Filling a basin only takes 10 gallons to wash and rinse
- Don't run water to make it cold; keep chilled in the refrigerator, ready to drink

PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to extended drought conditions and the resulting need to draw upon the Village's reserve water supply, the Mayor and the Village Board of Water Commissioners (the Village Board of Trustees) hereby proclaims, Under Village Code Chapter 130, Sections 19-25, a STAGE 2 WATER EMERGENCY. Stage 2 is initiated when the Village's overall water reserves have dropped below 60%.

Guidance for water usage is provided below. This Proclamation shall be in effect until rescinded by the Village Board of Water Commissioners.

- (1) All Village water system users are required to:
- identify and stop all leaks
 - cease washing vehicles, building exteriors or outside areas
 - refrain from watering lawns, ornamental shrubs, plants, trees or gardens at all times
 - irrigate vegetables or fruits for human consumption from hand-held containers only
 - refrain from filling and/or maintaining levels swimming pools, hot tubs and similar recreational pools
- (2) Bars, Bed & Breakfasts, Coffee Shops, Hotels, and Restaurants, including those with in Hotels & Bed & Breakfasts, shall only provide drinking water upon request.
- (3) Hotels, Bed & Breakfasts, and Short Term Rentals shall wash linens during guest's stays only upon request.

§130-23. Failure of compliance.
A person failing to comply with the provisions of this Article shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a violation.

§130-24. Enforcement of Water Emergency Provisions.
The Water Superintendent, the Code Enforcement Officer, and the Cold Spring Police Department will enforce this order.

PAID NOTICE



As seen in this rendering, the building at right has been proposed for the lot adjacent to the Telephone Building.

Planning Board *(from Page 1)*

the very best, and we're not there yet."

Wednesday was the Planning Board's first chance to review the proposal, which would merge three lots at 420-430 Fishkill Ave., the former site of a Healey Brothers Ford dealership. The mixed-use development would include first-floor commercial space in addition to Dunkin'.

The applicant has proposed installing new sidewalks, curbs and landscaping to "green" the parcel. A traffic study conducted by the applicant showed no significant impacts.

There were questions about whether the drive-thru is permitted in the corridor, which is zoned for general business. Restaurants and coffeehouses are allowed but fast-food establishments are not. Planning consultant Natalie Quinn noted that drive-thrus are more typically associated with fast food and asked Building Inspector Bruce Flower to make a determination.

For years, there was a Dunkin' across the street from the site, at 435 Fishkill Ave., but it did not have a drive-thru.

Like Gunn, other members of the Planning Board were critical. Karen Quiana called the plans "horrendous" and wondered who would want to live above a drive-thru. Taylor Palmer, the attorney for the applicant, responded that the apartments would be within walking distance of Fishkill Creek and a rail trail that Dutchess County is considering along the adjacent dormant rail line.

291 Main St.

Board members were also critical during their initial review of plans to construct a three-story addition to the Telephone Building at 291 Main St.

The building, which would be constructed between the Telephone Building and the Beacon Car Wash, would consist of 550 square feet of retail on the ground floor and four apartments on the second and third floors. Aryeh Siegel, the architect, told the Planning Board that the applicant wants to retain the historic character of the Telephone Building, which was the home more than a century ago of the Hudson River Telephone Co.

The idea, Siegel said, is to complement the historic building with the addition but not to copy it. The new structure would be set back so the Telephone Building "remains intact and retains its integrity," he said.

Board members disagreed, saying the

addition, as proposed, would overwhelm neighboring structures. "Just because you're allowed three stories, is this the right way to do it?" Gunn asked.

Board Member Kevin Byrne noted that the addition would obscure the cornice on the west side of the Telephone Building, making it "lose all of its character."

Gunn alluded to comments made online after the plans were published and said it looks like the addition would be "crammed" into the alley between the Telephone Building and the car wash. "There's an opportunity, and we're not there yet," he said.

Siegel added that a flyer opposing the plans had been taped to the door of the Telephone Building. "It'll be more productive if we keep it at the public hearing," he said.

45 Beekman St.

Project officials said that their proposal to demolish a building at the corner of Beekman Street and Route 9D and construct two four-story buildings with commercial space and 64 apartments had been refined in response to board comments to "further activate" the intersection.

Bench seating, planting beds and a sculpture display area will be installed along Beekman to make the development pedestrian-friendly, according to materials submitted to the board. The project also includes a pocket seating area with benches adjacent to the southwest corner of one building. It will include 88 off-street parking spaces on the 2-acre site.

Quinn, the city's planning consultant, suggested using street trees or additional benches to provide a "defined and comfortable pedestrian space" to separate the development from traffic on Beekman. She also said that pedestrian access at the Beekman/9D corner "still feels circuitous" and asked the applicant to continue to revise the layout and landscaping.

Gunn, who has been critical of the project, said it is evolving in the right direction but called it an "iconic" opportunity because of its prominent location. "I do think there is still some work to do," he said.

19 Henry St.

After determining last month that the project would not have adverse environment impacts, the Planning Board on Wednesday approved a proposal to construct four attached two-story townhouses on the quarter-acre site. Each unit will have 900 square feet of living space and a one-car garage.



A wildfire broke out near a Philipstown home on Nov. 9 (shown here and below) after a falling tree took out a power line. Firefighters were on the scene for more than eight hours.

Photos by Steven Altarescu



The reservoir on Mount Beacon on Oct. 23 and Nov. 13

Photos by B. Cronin



“It used to be April to October, but now we’re seeing fires in November and December and February and March.”

~ Joseph Pries
State forest ranger

Dry Dangers (from Page 1)

contiguous U.S. in 130 years of recordkeeping, with many eastern cities, including Newark, Trenton and Philadelphia, receiving only trace amounts of rain. New York City’s rainfall in October totaled 0.1 inches; Beacon got 0.29 inches. Every state except Alaska is under drought restrictions.

Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley said on Nov. 13 that the village’s reservoirs were “holding steady” at 57.29 percent, and credited the public’s conservation efforts with slowing the rate of decrease. Cooler recent temperatures, thanks to a Canadian air mass, have also led to less evaporation.

In Beacon, City Administrator Chris White said that the city’s two main reservoirs — the Cargill reservoir and the reservoir atop Mount Beacon — were at 60 percent capacity. However, the city’s third reservoir, the Melzingah, is offline this time of year and is nearly full. “We’re still in good shape for now, although we could use rain badly,” he said.

New York State’s climate projections, released earlier this year, warned that coming years will have wetter summers and more droughts, a finding that would seem to contradict itself.

“Those high temperatures are evaporating more water from plants and the soil,” explained Amanda Stevens, the report’s editor. “So there’s more moisture going into the atmosphere, and the atmosphere can

hold more of that moisture. When it rains, we get a lot of it coming down at once. In between, we’ll potentially get these periods of drought; because the atmosphere is holding more moisture, it doesn’t have to rain as often.”

Wetter summers can also lead to a lush and more widespread undergrowth spreading throughout the forest, which becomes fuel for wildfires in dry, windy autumns. Joseph Pries, the state forest ranger for Dutchess and Putnam counties, told *The Current* earlier this year that higher temperatures were leading to longer and longer fire seasons.

“It used to be April to October, but now we’re seeing fires in November and December and February and March,” he said.

A burn ban remains in effect across New York State until Nov. 30, and residents are encouraged to remove leaves and other debris from around their homes. The DEC noted that although wildfires do occur naturally from lightning, most of them are the result of human activity.

For more on the threat in the Highlands, see our series, *Wildfires: What Are the Risks?*, at highlandscurrent.org/wildfires.

Winter Glow

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Lawsuits *(from Page 1)*

The lawsuits include at least five against the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and its residential St. Basil Academy in Philipstown and at least nine against the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York and Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement at Graymoor in Philipstown and St. John the Evangelist in Beacon. Statewide, the CVA has led to about 11,000 lawsuits.

St. Basil opened as an orphanage on Route 9D in 1944 and operated as a private school until 1997. Today its residents live on campus but attend nearby districts. The 150-acre campus was a private estate before its purchase by the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society.

In one lawsuit against the academy, a man who lives in Illinois alleged that years of sexual abuse by a former director began in 1986, when he was 4 years old. He said in court documents that the first assault occurred when he and the Rev. Philip Koutoufas were sitting in a truck in the woods and the minister pulled down the boy's pants and fondled his genitals. Later abuse took place inside Koutoufas' home.

In addition to Koutoufas, who became the bishop of Atlanta in 1992 and died in 1995, another high-ranking Greek Orthodox official — Bishop Andonios Paropoulos, who retired in 2019 — has been accused by two former St. Basil's students of abuse in the 1980s.

In a fourth case, a woman who entered St. Basil in 1983, when she was 10 years old, said the school's practice of letting students stay

with host families on holidays, vacations and weekends led to her assault by males on Long Island and in Brooklyn. (They are not identified in the lawsuit.) One male raped her in 1985, when she was 12, she said, and two assaulted her when she was 14.

In the fifth case, a man who lives in Pennsylvania said he was sexually abused between 1983 and 1986, when he was 12 to 15 years old, by a teacher and dorm supervisor he identified as Finley Everett Eubanks. The lawsuit alleges that Eubanks exposed himself to older male students and showed them pornographic films, fondled the plaintiff and asked for oral sex.

The man said the abuse stopped when he began to have girlfriends and became sexually active. But he said the experience left him with suicidal thoughts and persistent nightmares.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese is also named in lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by a priest at St. Nicholas's Church in Newburgh in 1977 and a priest at St. Nicholas & St. Marina Church in Brooklyn in 1985.

In each of the St. Basil cases, the defendants say the lawsuits fail to prove the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese or St. Basil had knowledge of any "alleged propensity" for sexual assault by its priests or employees, or that they were informed of any abuse. The judges handling the cases have so far rejected motions by the diocese and St. Basil to dismiss the lawsuits.

In one lawsuit against the Franciscans, a North Carolina man accuses "Brother Dominick" of abusing him in 1980, when he was 16

and living in Putnam County. He said Dominick "groomed" victims through activities such as baking desserts or going swimming. In a second, a Bronx man said he was twice sexually assaulted by "Father Tom" at the Retreat House at Graymoor in 1966, when he was 10 years old, during activities organized by the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. (The plaintiff died in January, and the case has been put on hold.)

The Archdiocese of New York has asked that it be removed from the lawsuits, saying it has no oversight over the Franciscans.

In a Beacon case, a 42-year-old New York man who attended first, second and third grade at the St. John School said he was abused by Father Ronald Fennell in 1987, when he was 7. (The school closed in 2001.) He alleges in court documents that Fennell approached him in the hallway and said the school nurse was out but that all the children were due for physicals. Taking the boy into a small room, Fennell allegedly "put his hands down the plaintiff's pants, touched his genitals and told him to cough."

Fennell was an assistant priest at the church from September 1987 to August 1989, according to the church website.

In a second Beacon case, a New York man said he was abused as a 15-year-old by Father Robert Carden when his family attended St. John's in 1958. Carden was at the church from 1957 to 1961.

In addition to its clients who lived at St. Basil, the Herman Law Firm, based in New York City, represents 20 people suing Green Chimneys, which was founded in 1947 by Samuel "Rollo" Ross Jr. Nine of those plaintiffs named the late Robert Doig, a one-time caretaker for the program's horses at its Brewster property and overseer, with his wife, of a girls' dormitory.

The plaintiff in the case tried in Carmel last month, identified in court documents as MK, and others described Doig as a serial predator who assaulted them in the girls' dormitory and horse barn. According to MK, within weeks of arriving in 1966 with her horse, older girls warned new arrivals to "watch out" for Doig, who often "stunk like booze."

One month into the stay, as she lay in bed, Doig entered the dormitory and grabbed her breasts, said MK, who was 10. The incident began three years of abuse. Doig often cornered her in the horse barn, said MK,

Archbishop Resigns

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury who visited Graymoor in Philipstown in September 2023 to accept the Paul Wattson Christian Unity Award, resigned from his position on Tuesday (Nov. 12) following an investigation into the abuse of boys and young men decades ago at summer camps run by the Church of England.

The report concluded that the archbishop had not done enough following a report by Channel 4 in 2017 that documented the abuse and that church leaders knew about it as early as 2013.

"It is very clear that I must take personal and institutional responsibility for the long and retraumatizing period between 2013 and 2024," Welby, 68, said in a statement.

and sometimes hid in a closet to watch girls undress in the dorm.

A girl and her parents reported Doig to Ross, who "called the victim a liar and did nothing to investigate Doig," according to MK's lawsuit, and also ignored reports from other girls. MK claimed many female students were beaten after making accusations against Doig.

In its defense, Green Chimneys said it no longer has records for Doig or MK. Like St. Basil, it argued there is no evidence that it "knew or should have known" about the abuse or Doig's "propensity to commit sexual abuse" before MK reported the incidents. Once she did, it said it "undertook proper actions" by transferring Doig from the girls' dormitory and noted that MK said the abuse stopped. In court last month, a lawyer for Green Chimneys said Ross had fired Doig.

The alleged abusers named in the other cases against Green Chimneys include Ross, who died in 2018, and several former teachers and counselors.


In addition to these cases, three people have sued Putnam County citing the CVA. Judge Victor Grossman dismissed one case by a woman who said she was abused after Putnam sent her as a girl to the St. Anne Institute, a residential program in Albany. Grossman said the plaintiff failed to prove St. Anne should have known about the abuse, which she never reported.


In a second case, a man alleges that a counselor abused him at Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth (now called Together for Youth) in Canaan, New York, where Putnam sent him in 1981, when he was 13.

A third plaintiff said that after Putnam placed him in foster care with a Westchester County couple in 1977, he was abused by their son. That case is on hold because the company that insured Putnam County in the late 1970s is in receivership.

Dutchess County is named in lawsuits alleging abuse at the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, the home of a Jehovah's Witness foster family and a youth program operated by the Archdiocese of New York.

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NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit - Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on **Sunday, Nov. 17th, 2024 at 10:30am** to inspect the following site:

Garrison Golf Club PDD/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival - Phase 2 (Artists Housing), 2015 Route 9 Garrison, NY 10524, TM#60-1-59.2 & 59.3

The group will meet at the main parking area and walk to the proposed site.

Putnam Touts Threat Reporting

System seeks to help prevent violence

By Leonard Sparks

The report came at 10 p.m., an hour when many teenagers are scrolling through social media posts, texting or calling friends and playing video games. But for one Putnam County student on Sept. 6, the late-night activity consisted of emailing threats to Green Chimneys, the Brewster school for special-needs children where the 13-year-old was enrolled. Five days later, after interviewing the teen and the parents and searching a computer, Putnam deputies arrested and charged the minor with one count of making a terroristic threat, a felony, and referred the student to the probation department. Police learned of the emails through Putnam County's year-old Threat Assessment Management system (TAM), an online portal that schools, residents and businesses can use to report threats made against them or someone else, along with concerns about people harming themselves. TAM was adopted in response to the racially motivated shooting deaths, in May 2022, of 10 Black people at a supermarket in Buffalo. The system, online at pctam.net, has two goals: to prevent troubled people from committing similar crimes and to connect them with counseling, drug treatment and other services.

Nearly all the 40 or so reports received over the last year have come from schools and ranged from students indirectly threatening each other on the school bus to far more significant threats, said Sara Servadio, the county's mental health and social services commissioner. Acting on those reports is a multi-agency team that, in addition to Servadio's department and the Sheriff's Office, includes the Bureau of Emergency Services, district attorney's office, probation department and Putnam-Northern Westchester Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). Servadio said she is not surprised by the number of reports. New York schools outside of New York City reported 95 bomb threats and 1,395 other types of threats during the 2022-23 school year, as well as 1,088 incidents of weapons possession, according to the most recent state data. Haldane reported three weapons possession incidents and one threat in 2022-23 and Beacon had two weapons incidents and three threats in 2021-22, the most recent figures available. "I'm confident that we have prevented something from happening, whether it was someone toward themselves or others," said Servadio. Putnam County had been working with schools on identifying and reporting threats when Gov. Kathy Hochul in May 2022 issued an executive order requiring counties to develop plans to prevent domestic terrorism,

said Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville. In August 2022, Hochul authorized \$10 million to help counties create threat-management teams, with police, mental health professionals and school officials among their members. In May, she committed an additional \$10 million. Dutchess County announced the formation of its threat-assessment team in August 2022. Among the 57 counties in New York, 43 had teams in place by May. The teams are meant to close gaps in information-sharing. As with the Buffalo shooter, some of the people behind violent incidents have been investigated by police or ignited concerns from school officials and mental health professionals but without those concerns being shared. "If you look at school shootings or incidents at businesses or other entities, there's always some indicator that people overlooked," said McConville. A submission to TAM triggers an alert to the response team, whose members quickly assemble by telephone or video conference, said McConville. The agencies decide "what actions they're going to take" and reconvene later that day, he said. Some of the reports concern only "impromptu and spontaneous" acts by a student in a classroom or on a school bus but having a team allows county officials to quickly assess the credibility of reports, said McConville. Police interview the subject of the report and family members. Corinne Pitt, a senior

(Continued on Page 10)

Reporting a Threat

Putnam County's Threat Assessment Management system at pctam.net requires that anyone reporting a concern give the name, address and other information about the person making the threat and describe the nature of the threat. They will also be asked to answer six questions that have been identified by the FBI as indicators of violence, said Capt. Michael Knox of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. It's a similar experience to calling 911, he said. The questions include:

- Has the person "directly threatened others or stated their intention of conducting an act of violence against others?"
- Have they "demonstrated behaviors, including direct or indirect threats, or movement from thought to action, indicating violence is necessary and justified to resolve personal grievances and/or to affect social or political change?"
- Has the person "exhibited changes to their normal life, such as stopping medications and/or substance use, withdrawal from life pattern, including social media, and/or increase in activity?"

Residents can also upload images, such as ones showing threatening social media posts. The system asks for the name and contact information of the person reporting a threat but gives them the option to decline being contacted.



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SAT. NOV. 23 7:00PM



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Threats *(from Page 9)*

investigator with the Sheriff's Office, said minors are not questioned without parents or guardians present. For some parents, the report will be the first time they learn about a child's behavior, she said.

"It's difficult for families to understand the complexities of social media and what can go on there, because their children know how to use the tools better than they do," said Pitt.

A study released in 2023 by Dr. Deborah Weisbrot and other researchers at Stony Brook University, based on 20 years of interviews with 157 school-age children who made threats in school, found that most had one or more psychiatric diagnoses, such as attention-deficit disorder, depression and/or autism. In addition, 90 percent reported "significant traumatic life experiences"; 50 percent had been treated with psychiatric medicines; and 43 percent experienced bullying.

Eighty percent of the students had made

a verbal threat and 29 percent had brought a weapon to school, according to the study.

The Putnam County Family Court oversees the cases of students who are arrested. Servadio's department facilitates mental health treatment and assesses whether their families need financial, food or housing assistance, or other services. "We've had some unsheltered children and adults come through the threat-assessment management system," she said.

For sheriff's investigators, assessing a threat can be time-consuming. They recently investigated a social media post with a vague threat about blowing up schools. The post originated in California and, through reposting, hopped around the country, said Capt. John Alfano.

If a local resident alerts police to such a post, "we can't not take it seriously," he said. Several investigators spent eight hours tracing the post to California, where police had identified a suspect.

Gas Prices	U.S.	New York	Local
	\$3.08	\$3.16	\$3.14
	Month ago \$3.20	\$3.24	\$3.27
	Year ago \$3.35	\$3.65	\$3.63

Source: gasprices.aaa.com, as of Nov. 14. Prices are average per gallon for regular.

AROUND TOWN



ART SALE — The Cold Spring Fire Co. hosted a reception for George Stevenson, a longtime village resident who lives at the New York State Veterans Home in Montrose, at the firehouse on Nov. 8. More than 90 of his folk-art paintings sold at an exhibit the next day, raising \$16,000 for a scholarship in his name that benefits Haldane graduates who study art in college.

Photo by Michael Turton



HONORING LORI — A new outdoor classroom at Haldane High School was dedicated last month in memory of Lori Isler, a longtime elementary teacher at the school who died in 2018. "Lori's classroom and her old parking spot can be seen from here," said her sister, Jeanne Maletz. "It's the perfect spot."

Photo by Giannina Ortiz

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The Calendar

GARRISON ART CENTER AT 60

Back on solid ground after pandemic

By Marc Ferris

During the pandemic shutdown, the Garrison Art Center hit a few shoals on the way to its 60th anniversary, which the nonprofit is celebrating this year. But by thinking inside the box, it's back on solid ground.

Executive Director Catherine Graham says that "engagements with the gallery and our education programs are up 30 percent from last year, and we've added staffing."

In 2020, the galleries at Garrison's Landing closed, classes went virtual and concerned constituents asked the community to lend support.

One of the most successful ideas during those days of isolation turned out to be Summer Art in a Box, recalled Jan Cucciarella, board president at the time. "We filled boxes with supplies and left them outside so students could pick them up, unpack them and jump on Zoom and create together."

Post-pandemic, the organization kicked into high gear "by tightening up our bylaws, issuing an employee handbook and focusing on grant writing," Cucciarella said during an Arty Martini fundraiser on Nov. 9. "We thought we might not survive, but the community came out to support the arts, and now we are 60 years strong." Local artists founded the art center in 1964 with funds raised from an exhibit at the Garrison School.

At the Nov. 9 event, people schmoozing



Fiona Dong, 15, and Audrey Kim, 11, helped visitors create party hats at a Garrison Art Center fundraiser on Nov. 9. Photo by M. Ferris

near the bar stood in the small gallery, which showcases pencil drawings and painted wall sculptures by upstate artist Brian Dickerson for an exhibit called *Constructed Paintings & Drawings*.

Dickerson buys material from the scrap piles at home improvement stores. His creations "Ravel" and "Myosotis" enticed visitors to crane their necks and peer into portals at the patterns inside. Exploring with the cellphone light reveals what might be an abstract owl or deer.

Texture is key. "Helderberg - Double Cross" looks like a weatherbeaten hunk of iron or a rusted piece of metallic roofing material. The raised slats of wood form a shape that could

pass for a crude attempt to render a Chinese or Japanese letter. Scrapes and scratches abound: Dickerson uses a heat gun, paint scraper and palette knife to distress his work.

During the martini party, visitors decorated cone-shaped paper hats with markers and took in *smallWORKS: 60 Years & 60 Artists*, a biennial juried exhibition. "Spring Growth," by Sandra Belitza-Vazquez, is a vivid scanned photograph set against a black background portraying a floral bouquet that pops. The shimmering surface of Amy Baglione's "View From My Kitchen Window," a paper collage on canvas, reflects trees, shadows and other subjects with an angular but realistic

perspective. It focuses on a work crew in reflective vests taking a break.

"Delicate Beauty," an oil painting by Beacon artist Melissa Small Cooper, depicts a hand holding a hibiscus flower, along with the large gray shadow it casts. The plant's folds, a sparkling ring on one finger and oily leaves clinging to the vine are replicated with an intricate level of detail and reflection.

The Garrison Art Center, at 23 Garrison's Landing, is open daily except Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both exhibits continue through Nov. 24. See garrisonart-center.org. Dickerson will discuss his work at the gallery at 3 p.m. on Nov. 16.

Calendar Honors Local Firefighters

Project a tribute to late Cold Spring shopkeeper

By Michael Turton

Before her unexpected death on May 6, Stephanie Doucette, a Main Street shop owner and secretary for the Cold Spring Fire Co., had a project in mind.

Doucette, who joined the company in 2023, thought a firefighter calendar could raise money for the volunteer department. She began working on concepts with photographer Quinn Chandler, an associate member of the CSFC.

The calendar is now a reality, ready for 2025. It features interior firefighters Charlotte Brooks, Will Etta, Michael Bowman, Dawn Baisley, Matt Steltz, Josh DiNardo, Alex de Souza, Travis Fyfe and Matt Woods, and probationary firefighter Lauren de la Vega. There's also 32-year veteran Wayne Rudolph of the fire police and company president Aaron Leonard and his wife, Leslie, who portray Santa and Mrs. Claus in December.

Brooks, who coordinated the project, said the firefighters had mixed reactions about having their photo included, decked out in their gear. "Some were excited, others were a little camera shy," she said. "But overall, there's overwhelming support for a project that Stephanie pioneered, and that exemplifies her love of this community." She said Doucette saw the calendar not only as a fundraiser but as a gift to CSFC members.

Leonard said the fire company earlier this year created a committee, chaired by Brooks, to revitalize fundraising. In the past, CSFC raised money annually to cover the cost of new equipment, including vehicles. "Our operating expenses always exceed what we request from the Village of Cold Spring," he said.

In the near future, the department will need new radios and pagers for its 24 active firefighters, a project Leonard said will likely exceed \$50,000.

Calendars can be purchased for \$20 at coldspringfireco.org or at Drug World and other local retailers.



Photos by Quinn Chandler from the 2025 CSFC calendar

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 16

Girl Scout Pie Run/Walk

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Haldane Track
15 Craigsides Drive | dub.sh/GS-pie-run

Run or walk laps to raise money for the Philipstown Food Pantry. Register online.

SAT 16

Firehouse Dedication

BEACON

11 a.m. 1140 Wolcott Ave.

Take a tour of the newly completed central firehouse and enjoy refreshments. RSVP to cityofbeacon@beaconny.gov.

SAT 16

Veterans' Lunch

BEACON

Noon. Elks Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave.

Lydia Estrada from VA Hudson Valley Health Care will speak.

SAT 16

Children's Room Reception

COLD SPRING

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

The library will dedicate its Jean Marzollo Children's Reading Room with entertainment and a silent auction. *Cost: \$75 (ages 10 and younger free)*



SUN 17

Filling Empty Bowls

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | fareground.org

This fundraiser for Fareground to address food insecurity will serve soup in handmade bowls created by families, businesses and artists. *Cost: \$35 (\$75 family)*

THURS 21

Blood Drive

GARRISON

Noon – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
redcrossblood.org

Use code "Garrison" to make an appointment, or walk in.

SUN 24

Centennial Ceremony

CORTLANDT

10 a.m. Bear Mountain Bridge
bmb100.com

There will be a parade and centennial motorcade with up to



Firehouse Dedication, Nov. 16

10 vehicles from every decade since the 1920s. To participate, email BMB100@nysba.ny.gov.

SUN 24

PHM Annual Gala

PHILIPSTOWN

2 p.m. The Garrison | 2015 Route 9
putnamhistorymuseum.org

The Putnam History Museum will honor Marie Wieck and Seamus Carroll with the General Israel Putnam Trailblazer Award. There will be jazz music, dinner and a silent auction. *Cost: \$175+*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 16

Honorable Harvest

CORNWALL

10:30 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hnnaturecenter.org

Learn about foraging, the practices of Indigenous people in the region and sustainability during this guided forest walk. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 children)*

TUES 19

Illusions

GARRISON

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

During Family Science Night, learn about the ways things can appear differently than they are. Registration required.

FRI 22

Candle Making Workshop

COLD SPRING

2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

High school students are invited to make their own scented soy candle. Registration required.

FRI 22

Fall Bird Feeder

GARRISON

3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 3 and older can make a craft for birds. Registration required.

FRI 22

Teen Taste Test

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 to 12 will sample treats from around the world. Registration required.

SAT 23

Used Book Sale

BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. South Avenue School
60 South Ave. | 845-838-6900
southavenuepta.com

This "reduce, recycle, read" event will benefit the South Avenue Elementary School PTA.

SUN 24

Turkey Tales

CORNWALL

10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hnnaturecenter.org

Meet a turkey and learn about its history and life. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 children)*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 16

Holiday Gnome Ornaments

BEACON

Noon. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org

Shirley Botsford, a fiber artist, will lead participants in making a fun no-sew ornament. *Cost: \$25*

TUES 19

The Science of Successful Relationships

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Beahive
6 Eliza St. | dub.sh/love-science

Peter McFadden, a relationship coach, will share findings from a leading marriage researcher. See Page 2. *Free*

WED 20

The Serviceberry

BEACON

5 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.
845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com

Christina Noyes will lead a

discussion about gift economies at this release party for a book by Robin Wall Kimmerer, the author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, on "abundance and reciprocity in the natural world."

WED 20

Hit House

BEACON

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

Five playwrights, two directors and one cast will present short works. *Cost: \$10*

THURS 21

Disaster Preparedness Training

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Learn how to prepare for a natural or human-created disaster and receive a free kit. Registration required.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 16

Community Bake-Off

PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare
190 Snake Hill Road | hvshakespeare.org

Watch one-act plays at Rehearsal Studio A on the theme "Adaptation: A Shake of the Kaleidoscope" by winners of a playwriting workshop. Also SUN 17. *Free*

SAT 16

Perfect Arrangement

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countypayers.org

The Topher Payne comedy about the early gay rights movement, set in the 1950s, involves two federal employees assigned to find "sexual deviants." Also SUN 17, FRI 22, SAT 23. *Cost: \$26 (\$24 seniors, students, ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 16

Anthony Rodia

PEEKSKILL

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

The Westchester County native will perform for his Totally Relatable Tour. *Cost: \$50 to \$65*

SUN 17

Bread and Roses

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

GoJo Clan Productions will present short plays by local women playwrights. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 17

Rumplestiltskin

PEEKSKILL

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

The Panto Company will stage the classic tale of a girl who spins hay into gold with the aid of a mysterious, magical helper. *Cost: \$37 (\$25 children)*

THURS 21

On the Waterfront

POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Watch the 1954 Oscar-winning film starring Marlon Brando and Eva Marie Saint set amid union violence on the New Jersey docks. *Free*



SUN 24

Bear Mountain Bridge: The First 100 Years

PEEKSKILL

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

This documentary follows the history of the first Hudson River bridge for vehicles south of Albany, including how it has been maintained since it opened on Thanksgiving Day in 1924. *Cost: \$10*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 16

Brian Dickerson

GARRISON

3 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

The artist will talk about his show, *Constructed Paintings & Drawings*. See Page 11.

SAT 16

Cat Art Show

BEACON

5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Curated by Jean Noack, this show includes works by more than two dozen artists. A portion of sales will benefit Mid Hudson Animal Aid and the Animal Rescue Foundation.

SAT 23

Luciano Fabro: Reinventing Sculpture

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino | 2700 Route 9
magazzino.art

Margit Rowell will discuss her book about the Italian artist and sculptor who died in 2007. *Cost: \$10*



SAT 23

Holiday Gift Show and Sale

BEACON

1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

Find crafts, artwork, jewelry, accessories and home goods made by Hudson Valley artists and artisans. Through Dec. 21.

SAT 23
A Celebration of Moroccan Ceramics
GARRISON
3 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org
David Packer will discuss the history and process of this art form.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 16
Bird Walk
WAPPINGERS FALLS
7 a.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Guides from the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will lead the search for late-migrating birds and other unusual species. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 23
Backyard Chickens 101
WAPPINGERS FALLS
9 a.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org
Kim Pennock will talk about how to raise a healthy and happy flock and lead a tour of the coop at the farm. *Cost: \$30*

MUSIC

SAT 16
West Point Glee Club
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com
Cadets from the U.S. Military

Academy will perform. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 16
DizzyFish and the Uptown Horns
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The bands will play the hits of 1970s rock legends. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

SUN 17
Amy Yang
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The pianist will perform works by Brahms and Schumann. Donations welcome. *Free*

SUN 17
The Ulysses Quartet
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
This Howland Chamber Music Circle concert will include compositions by Komitas, Seth Grosshandler, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Felix Mendelssohn and first violinist Christina Bouey. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

FRI 22
LaMP
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Russ Lawton (drums), Scott Metzger (guitar) and Ray Paczkowski (keyboard) will play



music from their band's eponymous debut. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

FRI 22
Songbird
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Karine Hannah will perform the music of Barbra Streisand. *Cost: \$44 to \$59*

SAT 23
Sheila Jordan and Cameron Brown
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The jazz singer and bassist have played together for 25 years. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 23
KJ Denhert and the NY Unit
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The songwriter, vocalist, guitarist

and bandleader will perform music from her upcoming release, *The Evening News*. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 23
Cuboricua
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band draws inspiration from the music of Cuba and Puerto Rico. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 23
A Mandatory Meeting
BEACON
8 p.m. Beahive
6 Eliza St. | dub.sh/beahive-events
Ears With Eyes will perform this show about two co-workers who break into song during a day-long conference call. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

SAT 23
Sons of Mercury
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
The band plays rock covers from the 1970s to the present. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 24
Steve Forbert Trio
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will play songs from Forbert's latest release, *Daylight Savings Time*. *Cost: \$40 (\$45 door)*

CIVIC
MON 18
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 18
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

MON 18
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvillenyny.gov

TUES 19
Haldane Capital Project Vote
COLD SPRING
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Elementary Library
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

WED 20
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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Haldane Elementary School Library

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Fri. Nov 15 – 7:30 PM

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Marjorie Lewit's New Series at the Center!

For info & tickets: bit.ly/NerdNightHV

Sat. Nov 16 – 1-5 PM

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Nov 16 - ARTICHOKE Storytelling Series

Nov 17 - HCMC Ulysses Quartet

Nov 20 - HIT HOUSE PERFORMED READING new series

Nov 22 - Holiday Gift Show & Sale begins

Nov 22 - The Howland's OMN

Nov 23 - Opening Reception party for HGS

Nov 30 - Westchester Jazz Alliance Quartet

Dec 4 - UNESCO Story Circle

Dec 5 - FOIA LOVE - Comedy and Bluegrass


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Tue, Nov 19 @ 6:30 PM




BIZZ BOOK + PODCAST CLUB

Hidden Potential: The Science of Achieving Greater Things

Wed, Nov 20 @ 4:30 PM





Classic Wheels

1965 Plymouth Barracuda

By Michael Turton

Brian Zane, who lives in Beacon, isn't a car guy who wrings his hands before deciding to buy a classic. Previous purchases include a '57 Chevy, '69 Chevelle and '72 Datsun 240Z.

In September, an old high school friend spotted the Barracuda at a car show. He called Zane, told him the car was "spectacular" and emailed photos. Zane called the owner. Within the week he had mailed him a check for \$26,000. The car was delivered soon after.

"I just like the looks of the Barracuda — and the idea that I don't have to use a wrench on anything, because all the work's been done," he said. "It's a car you don't often see."

Zane said the previous owner bought the car at an auction in Florida 11 years earlier and had it restored. "It has a factory manual four-speed and has been upgraded with disc brakes, fuel injection, vintage air conditioning, a big aluminum radiator, new tires, 15-inch wheels and a new gas tank with electric fuel pump," Zane said. "The 273 cubic-inch V8 engine was rebuilt



and has only 600 miles on it."

Repainted with the original metallic bronze (one of 13 options), Zane said rust was not an issue because the car was originally from California. The odometer shows less than 3,000 miles. "I'm sure there's quite a few miles on the car — I just don't know if it's 103,000," he said. He hasn't yet calculated the gas mileage.

Zane says the car rides "like a truck" but adds that after hauling around three children in station wagons and minivans, the Barracuda is "a joy to own and drive."

"I've driven it as far as Rhinebeck, and it was flawless," he said. "Shifting is smooth and excellent." He would like to add power steer-

ing, an option available for \$82 [about \$890 today] when the car was built 59 years ago.

Other options offered in 1965 were four interior vinyl colors, positraction rear end, racing stripes, spinner wheel covers, a 3-spoke steering wheel, tinted glass, power brakes and variable-speed windshield wipers.

The interior is original, including factory vinyl bucket seats and AM radio. New carpet was installed because, Zane explained, the 14-square-foot rear window lets in sunlight. When the rear bench seat is folded, it creates a 7-foot-long storage area.

Zane has driven the car at up to 70 mph on Interstate 84. "It's not a drag car,

The Specs

- Assembly:** California, Missouri, Michigan, Ontario
- Class:** Pony car
- Model:** 2-door fastback coupe
- 1st generation production:** 1964-66
- 1965 production:** 64,596
- Engines:** 273 cubic-inch V8; 170 and 225 cubic-inch slant-6
- Carburetors:** 2-barrel, 4-barrel
- Horsepower:** 101 to 273
- Transmissions:** 4-speed manual, 3-speed manual, 3-speed automatic
- 0 to 60 mph:** 8.2 seconds (V8)
- Top speed:** 118 mph
- Curb weight:** 2,726 to 3,100 pounds
- Fuel economy:** 15 mpg
- Price:** \$2,453 (\$24,553 today)

although she's got a little pep in her step, for sure," he said.

The Barracuda saw only minor changes between 1964 and 1966. That original design leaned heavily on the Plymouth Valiant. It was developed to compete with the Ford Mustang, whose initial design was based on another model, the Falcon.

Chrysler discontinued the Barracuda in 1974. By then, eight engines were available, from the 198 cubic-inch slant-6 to the 440 cubic-inch V8.

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Out There

The Fire This Time

By Brian PJ Cronin



“One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds.”

~Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

Leopold was referring to the fact that, while most people see a soothing wall of green, an ecologist sees the spread of invasive knotweed and barberry on the forest floor, choking out the growth of young oak trees that would have provided food for future wildlife.

Ecologists also note the absence of brook trout in a warming stream, the swarm of woolly adelgid killing a hemlock tree, and that the birds are all wrong for this time of year. They are no fun at parties. The effects of climate change are increasing, as evidenced by the droughts and wildfires we are experiencing. Cataloging wounds is a big part of my job. If you bring up the environment, I am not fun at parties.

What is an ecologist to do? Should we keep our mouths shut or, as Leopold writes, “be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise”?

This conundrum was on my mind last



An image from the film *Les Materialistes*

weekend while I drove to Vermont with my wife, who scrolled through her phone to update me on the wildfires in New Jersey, Orange County and the Catskills. We weren't driving north to escape the smoke. If this year has taught us anything, it's that there is nowhere outside the climate crisis.

Instead, we were on our way to Montpelier for the 2024 Equinox Environmental Film Festival. I am a talking head in a documentary called *Against the Current: Music & Activism on the Hudson River* that was being shown, and it was disconcerting to see myself on the big screen. (When we got home, the first thing I did was replace the batteries in my nose-hair trimmer.) The film was great, despite my lumbering and hairy presence, but it was two other entries that I am still thinking about a week later.

One was the documentary *Feeling the Apocalypse* about a therapist who is so anxious about climate change that he starts seeing a therapist. When his therapist asks what's wrong, he launches into a litany of climate doomerism, depressing her, as well. He goes on vacation with his family and talks about sea-level rise. He is no fun at parties.

Finally, he mainlines so much bad news that he has a breakthrough and realizes he is grieving for the world as we know it. But, inspired by how ordinary people respond to disasters like Covid and Superstorm Sandy, he sees that, instead of being trapped in the old narrative that the world is ending, we can look to new narratives that show us that the world is also beginning.

The film that won the top prize was one of those narratives. *Les Matérialistes* (lesma-

terialistes.webflow.io) is a 12-minute “docu-film” from the future about how humans worked together from 2020 to 2050 to solve the global waste crisis. None of it seemed like science fiction. Instead, it was filled with practical steps such as global treaties to make sure that prices of new materials include the ecological and social impacts of mining them, while reframing demolition projects in cities as “urban mines” in which every scrap of material is cataloged, stored and reused.

As two of the filmmakers explained, they created the film after talking to solid waste experts about what was possible and showed early drafts to governments worldwide for input. Lawmakers in Montreal, where much of the film is set, thought it was too ambitious. Swiss lawmakers thought it wasn't ambitious enough. But many who saw it told them that it filled a void: a much better world is possible and practical.

Aldo Leopold never lived to see *A Sand County Almanac* become a classic. He died shortly before it was published while fighting a wildfire on his neighbor's land. His final act was certainly heroic, but there was also something old-fashioned and neighborly about it. He was protecting the people and the places he loved, but also helping someone else out whom he knew. What do you do when your neighbor's house is burning? Stay home and panic or do something about it?

The old story is that the world is on fire. The new story is that we can work together to put it out. We do live in a world of wounds, but we do not have to live in it alone.

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LOOKING BACK IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (November 1874)

The editor of *The Cold Spring Recorder* observed “an unusual amount of dram drinking and personal coercion” around the vote, which he attributed to the “large amount of money received in this town ‘for election purposes.’” He noted “the 100 voters who belong to no party but are found this year on one side and the next year on the other.”

The editor praised the saloons located near the polls for closing before 11 p.m., which helped maintain order during the count.

Myron Clark, the Prohibition Party candidate for governor, received one vote in Philipstown. Twenty years earlier, Clark had won the 1855 race for governor by 309 votes, after which he quickly enacted a law banning the sale of alcohol. Eight months later, it was overturned by a judge as unconstitutional.

A wildfire burned several hundred acres at the Cro’ Nest across the river from Cold Spring and spread to the depression known as Cronk’s Hollow and across the western edge to Buttel Hill (Storm King). It was stopped to the south by West Point cadets. *The Recorder* said baker John Lane had dropped several handfuls of naturally roasted chestnuts at the newspaper office.

T.C. Baxter showed off a cypress shingle from the Beverley Robinson House near Garrison that had, at one time, sheltered George Washington. [The home, which also sheltered Benedict Arnold, burned down in 1892.]

George Edwards, foreman of *The Recorder* office, left for Massachusetts to become publisher of the *Northampton Journal*. Its editor, A.M. Powell, was formerly with *The Anti-Slavery Standard*.

The Recorder published the names, grades and attendance records of every student in District No. 3.

Nellie Lloyd Knox, an instructor at the Teacher’s Institute, lectured at Town Hall on the territory of Colorado.

Officer Travis traveled to Albany to arrest Charles Annin on charges of deserting his family.

John Halliday’s horse dumped him from his wagon near Sandy Landing and ran down Northern Avenue, Church Street, Main Street and West Street. After the horse and wagon disappeared around a corner by *The Recorder* office, Halliday was seen limping along the route with the whip, blanket and cushion he had picked up by the roadside.

Charlie Nelson published a notice denying rumors he had refused an old man a ride on Election Day, saying no one had asked him for a ride.

The Special Express, due at Cold Spring at 8:12 p.m., unloaded a stranger who had been struck by the engine while walking on the track above the Breakneck Tunnel. He died inside the depot 90 minutes later. He was identified as John Daley, a brickyard



Advertisements from a November 1899 issue of *The Cold Spring Recorder*.

125 Years Ago (November 1899)

A meeting was held at Town Hall to organize a military company.

Republicans won every part of Putnam County on Election Day except for District 2 in Philipstown.

Members of the Cold Spring Hose Co. practiced with their new extension ladders on two Main Street buildings, running hoses to the roofs.

William Curry was lighting a lamp in the show window at E.L. Post’s dry goods store when he dropped the match and ignited a pile of blankets. He smothered the fire with an armful of comforters.

John Donohue, of Garrison, resigned as Putnam County sheriff after being appointed deputy collector of U.S. Internal Revenue for Westchester County.

James Smith left for Cripple Creek, Colorado, to look after his mining investments.

George Cable of Nelsonville was arrested for not sending his son to school.

Capt. Henry Metcalfe was appointed by the Army to oversee the Cadet Corps at Haldane. The Army provided \$1,650 [about \$63,000 today] for 40 stands of arms and accoutrements and Metcalfe donated \$140 [\$5,300] for gymnasium apparatus.

Titus Truesdell, who owned the pickle factory, agreed to liquidate his assets to pay \$8,345 [\$317,000] he owed to creditors, including 49 farmers. His assets included 150,000 pickles (valued at \$750) and a carload of salt (\$110).

Sixty residents gathered at the home of

(Continued on Page 17)

Free Thanksgiving Dinners!

An Interfaith Community Event hosted by:

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Our Lady of Loretto Roman Catholic Church, and the Philipstown Reform Synagogue

RESERVE A DINNER:

A meal, whether in person, or for take out, is available to anyone for the asking.

For in-person sit down dining from 11am to 1pm at Our Lady of Loretto Church, please call Fran at 845- 265-3718.

For Pick-up or Delivery, please fill out the online form at bit.ly/stmarys-tgiving-2024 click the QR code below, or call Tara at 845-337-0236.

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Show & Sale: December 7-15, 11 am - 6 pm, closed Mon Dec 9

Members-Only Preview: December 6, 1 - 5 pm

Members receive a **10% discount** on Dec. 6 during Members-Only Preview **only**.

Opening Reception: December 6, 5 - 7 pm (Open to everyone)



Council on the Arts

Garrison Art Center’s programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

www.garrisonartcenter.org

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(Continued from Page 16)

Sylvanus Mekeel in Nelsonville for a dinner party. The raccoon was “cooked to perfection,” *The Recorder* said.

James Glover cut down every tree on the hill in front of his house so he could see the Hudson River.

Seymour Ellwell, who had worked at the Highland House for 20 years, died after he fell from a tree while picking apples.

A new soundproof telephone booth was installed in J.S. Boyd’s store.

The Cryptic Comedy Co. of Peekskill presented “The Old Mortgaged Homestead” at Town Hall on Thanksgiving night.

William Archie of Garrison was hired by Mrs. Samuel Sloan Jr. as a butler at her winter home in New York City.

Many residents signed a petition to protest the seating in Congress of Brigham Henry Roberts, a Mormon elected in Utah, because he practiced polygamy.

Michael Clear was arrested on a complaint by his wife that he had assaulted her. During his arraignment, Clear promised Justice Riggs that he would behave himself and Mrs. Clear withdrew her complaint.

Samuel Hustis and Robert Barrett of North Highlands purchased an empty whiskey barrel to fill with cider. Barrett attempted to examine the interior with a lighted match but dropped it through the bung hole and set the interior on fire. Barrett told Hustis the only way to save the barrel was to put the bung in the hole. But a few minutes later they heard a hissing noise,

and the barrel exploded. The head struck Barrett below the knees, giving him a limp.

William Todd, a former Continentalville resident, was hit and killed by an engine at Grand Central Depot, where he was the night agent. He was off duty so it was not clear why he was in the yard, but his foot was found stuck in the rails.

Kemble Paulding donated to the Cullom Memorial at West Point a collection of nine paintings by John Chapman purchased by his father, James Kirke Paulding, who illustrated two of them for his 1835 biography of George Washington published by Harper Brothers.

John Quirk, a gunner’s mate on the battleship Texas, was home on three months’ furlough.

100 Years Ago (November 1924)

Calvin Coolidge, the incumbent Republican president, received 3,823 votes in Putnam County, while Democratic challenger John Davis got 1,472 and Progressive Party candidate Robert La Follette, 293. Davis won 12 Southern states and La Follette took Wisconsin, but Coolidge won the rest of the country in a landslide.

The laying of the concrete road, curb and sidewalk on lower Main from the tracks to the dock was underway. The project cost \$50,000 [\$921,000]. The Village Board promptly passed a law banning scooters, carts and roller skates on the new concrete road.

A pile of burning leaves caused a fire that destroyed the Forson Brothers icehouse in Garrison. Elsewhere, an icehouse owned by Milton Smith was also destroyed by fire,

along with 20 tons of hay. Smith said he didn’t sound an alarm because the building was far out of the range of any water supply.

Nate Lyons lost the first joint of the third finger of his right hand because of a decayed bone caused by a bruise.

The Home Culture Club donated a \$150 [\$2,800] surgical instrument cabinet to the Butterfield Memorial Hospital, then voted to donate another \$7 for a nameplate to indicate the club had donated the cabinet.

The Sisters of Atonement at Graymoor purchased 60 acres of the Stuyvesant Fish estate to create a camp for orphaned boys from New York City. At the same time, the Highland Country Club bought 2 acres from the Capuchins to expand its golf course and Henry Fairfield Osborn bought 14 acres from the Capuchins atop Sugar Loaf to extend and protect his water supply.

Jacob Ruppert, the New York Yankees owner who resided at Eagles Nest [now the St. Basil Academy campus], gave notice that he planned to apply to have his estate zoned as a private park under state conservation law to prevent trespassing by hunters and fishermen.

A fire in Carmel, fueled by a gale, destroyed the roof and upper story of the 110-year-old Putnam County courthouse, a hotel, the *Putnam County Courier* office and two stables. It began at 4:30 a.m. in the kitchen of the Smalley Inn.

Members of the Peekskill-Bear Mountain Bridge Celebration Committee, chaired by former U.S. Sen. Chauncy Depew, were among the first to cross the new bridge the day before Thanksgiving. The West Point

Band met the delegation on the eastern approach and accompanied them to the Bear Mountain Inn. The bridge opened to the public at 7 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

The Italian American Social Club hosted a shooting match at Kemble’s Field on Thanksgiving Day. Only 12-gauge and .22-caliber rifles could be used, with size 6 shot for still targets and size 4 for clay pigeons. The prizes were turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens. Another shooting match was held near Allen’s Garage in Nelsonville, with the same prizes plus a pig.

Grace Patterson of Cold Spring was among the winners of a handwriting contest sponsored by the *New York News*.

The post office added an electric stamp-canceling machine.

A school of porpoises that passed by in the river was seen as far north as Hyde Park, but no one reported them going south.

The Van Corland family returned to their cottage on the road to Manitou after a few days away to find it had been burglarized. Neighbors reported seeing a truck parked outside but thought the family was moving.

75 Years Ago (November 1949)

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Beattie and their two children of Garrison appeared in an article, “With a Will and a Workshop,” in the latest issue of *Living for Young Homemakers*.

The Haldane cross-country team defeated Carmel, 22-18, during a race held at halftime of the Carmel-Pawling football game.

Dr. Coryell Clark, who had been a physi-

(Continued on Page 18)



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Looking Back (from Page 17)

cian in Cold Spring for 46 years, was honored with a surprise 70th birthday dinner at the Bird & Bottle Inn.

The Cold Spring Fire Co. ordered a Brockway truck with a 500-gallons-per-minute centrifugal pump and a 200-gallon-capacity booster tank.

50 Years Ago (November 1974)

Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr., the Republican incumbent, defeated Democratic challenger Nicholas Angell of Garrison, winning Philipstown, 1,961 to 1,183.

Corrie ten Boom, 81, the Dutch author of *The Hiding Place*, was the guest speaker at the fall banquet for the Walter Hoving Home of Garrison. The book, which sold 2 million copies, tells the story of her family’s imprisonment for harboring Jews during World War II.

West Point announced that its new four-story, \$13 million [\$83 million] hospital would be named for Col. William Lorden Keller, a surgeon, writer and inventor of surgical equipment.

James Gragg, senior engineer of the Taconic Park Commission, spoke to the Cold Spring Lions about improvements



Neighbors did not like these townhouses proposed in 1999 for West Street.

planned for Little Stony Point, including a parking lot for 100 cars between Route 9D and the railroad. Although the plans did not include a marina, a small bathhouse might be constructed, he said, because the state Department of Health considered the Hudson suitable for swimming there.

25 Years Ago (November 1999)

The Putnam County Legislature voted to override a veto by County Executive Bob Bondi of its plan to remove \$74,000 [\$140,000] from the budget that he had earmarked for immigrant health services. The override returned the money to the general budget.

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The Hotel Thayer at West Point reopened after a \$26 million [\$49 million] renovation.

When the last game of the season for the Philipstown Pop Warner Flag Seahawks was canceled by their opponents, the coach asked eight starters from the Haldane varsity to fill in. The younger players won, 42-21, and thanked the Blue Devils — Matt Amato, Matt Steltz, Mike Davis, Dylan Griffin, Greg Anderson, J.P. Perk, Tommy Nastasi and Anthony Delvecchio — for being good sports about their defeat.

After a Garrison man drove off the roadway onto an embankment, he spun his wheels to return the car to the road. That started a fire that began to consume the vehicle. Matt Noviello Jr., 18, was credited with pulling the driver, who suffered serious burns to his hands and leg, from the vehicle.

After months of contentious debate, Garrison school district voters approved a proposal to construct a new building, 569-566.

Residents at a Cold Spring Village Board opposed a proposal to build 16 townhouses on a former lumberyard on West Street.

Anthony Immorlica celebrated his 90th birthday. Born in Cold Spring in 1909, he recalled going as a boy with his father, Joseph, to light the 54 gas lamps that lined Main Street. He also remembered sledding down Main, over the tracks, off the dock and onto the frozen river. Sledgers watched the gatekeeper, who waved a red lantern if a train was approaching. Immorlica was a linotype operator and foreman at the *Peekskill Star* for 42 years.

The Haldane volleyball team returned to the state finals for the third year but fell short of defending its Class D title.

After responding to a report of smoke inside a residence on Manitou Station Road, Garrison firefighters had to dismantle the living room fireplace with sledgehammers and pry bars to reach the flames. The homeowners had replaced the fireplace 18 months earlier without a permit or inspection. The couple smelled smoke at 5:45 a.m.; their smoke detector had a dead battery.

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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16			17			
		18				19				20		
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29				30			31			32	33	34
			35			36			37			
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44					45				46			
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

- ACROSS
1. Platters
6. Chum
9. Club —
12. Put on — (act)
13. Expert serve
14. Navarro of *The View*
15. Gettysburg general
16. William on *Star Trek*
18. Vatican term
20. Folklore monster
21. Blackbird
23. Airport screening org.
24. Offered one's seat
25. Taverns
27. Plant life
29. Perfect place
31. Zesty dips
35. Blood line?
37. Model in a bottle
38. Future oak
41. Luau instrument
43. Canine greeting
44. Wander
45. Pencil end
47. Subtle variation of color
49. Spanish snacks
52. Feedbag morsel
53. Memo letters
54. Levels
55. SSW opposite
56. Feeling down
57. Transmits
- DOWN
1. River blocker
2. British verb ending
3. NPR's Ari
4. Musical finale
5. Used a broom
6. Computer language
7. Needing a massage
8. Tony winner Salonga
9. Chutney fruit
10. January, to Juan
11. Challenged
17. Sums
19. Equally distant
21. Dhabi preceder
22. Rebel Turner
24. Madrid Mrs.
26. Went easy on
28. Japanese seaport
30. Bit of physics
32. Hone
33. Football filler
34. Suntan lotion letters
36. Overblown
38. Incendiary crime
39. "Over There" composer
40. Egg-shaped
42. — Park, Colorado
45. "May It Be" singer
46. Roof edge
48. Conditions
50. Moreover
51. Snake's sound

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

MIXED

SIZED

WORDSEARCH

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

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

Answers for Nov. 8 Puzzles

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

BLOWN, BROWN, CROWN,
CROWS, CROPS, DROPS

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Reporter's Notebook

Winning my First Round

By Joey Asher

Julia Roberts once told talk show host Stephen Colbert that the goal of a round of mahjong is to “create order out of chaos based on the random drawing of tiles.”



I can attest to the chaos.

I won my first-ever mahjong round on Tuesday morning (Nov. 12) at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring under the patient tutelage of Linda Weinstein, who started teaching the game there last year.

Throughout the game, my mind spun as I tried to make sense of the myriad rules that involve constantly exchanging tiles with mystifying names like “bam” and “dot” and “crack.”

I won thanks to the dumb luck of picking three jokers that completed my hand of two flowers, two fives, three sevens and ... you get the idea.

Linda is an excellent teacher and helped me

select the best hand from the 50 or so options listed on the National Mah Jongg League card I had in front of me. Even then, I kept mixing up the hand Linda picked for me with the one listed right next to it. But a win is a win.

How I avoided ever playing mahjong during my 63 years as a Jew is a mystery. As a kid in Atlanta, my family belonged to the Standard Club, an all-Jewish country club at a time when Jews were excluded from most clubs in town. The clubhouse's card-room always had women playing mahjong. Both my grandmothers played, though my father's mother, Helen Asher, a wonderful painter, didn't care for games and often sat out the club's Tuesday night gin contests.

We have her mahjong set somewhere in storage. My uncle Norman said a relative purchased it on a business trip to China. As children, Norman and my dad would pelt each other with the ivory tiles.

We do have a bona fide mahjong expert in the family, my cousin Carol Fry, who divides her time between Atlanta and the Tampa area. She plays twice a week and tours the



Joey Asher's winning hand

Photo by J. Asher

country to attend four or five tournaments each year. She has finished in the money a few times, once winning \$400.

When I asked if her background as an accountant made her good at mahjong, she said it was more significant that she has a “game brain.” I can do a crossword puzzle, but I don't have a game brain. I'd rather fish, play tennis or draw.

Since moving to Philipstown after retiring from our Atlanta business, my wife Johanna and I have been trying to find a common hobby. We've tried bridge and salsa dancing. Neither stuck. Now we're onto mahjong.

Johanna also attended the coaching session with our friends Steven and Laurey Goldberg. Steve's mother is a killer mahjong player, despite cognitive issues that come with advancing age. “It's a different part of the brain,” explains Steve, a retired physician. “It's like how some people with Parkinson's can dance, but they can't walk.”

I'm still not sure whether mahjong is for me. I found the rules confusing. My wife, who loves jigsaw puzzles, seems better suited.

But I did win. I told Linda we would return for another lesson. If it still doesn't take, I've heard that many couples enjoy bird-watching.

Mahjong (from Page 1)

“It's not all luck, but it's not as intensely cerebral as chess,” says Karen Sine, who lives in Beacon and plays at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance. “I like the sensory pleasure of it, the look and feel of the tiles, the colors, the shapes and the sound.”

The monthly event in the synagogue basement began early last year and draws as many as 16 people, enough for four games, including one for beginners. On a recent evening, one player brought fresh-baked mandel bread for noshing.

Sine, who is not Jewish, learned mahjong as an undergraduate at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. After working on theater productions, the crew would head to a Chinese restaurant. “There were these elderly Chinese men off to the side playing mahjong,” Sine recalls. “I didn't know what it was, but you could hear the clicking of the tiles.”

She learned to play but only returned



Jessica Domm co-founded the mahjong night at BHA.

Photo by J. Asher

to the game recently after her daughter in Phoenix sent her a set she found at a thrift store. “As soon as I saw those tiles, I wanted to play again,” Sine says.

The BHA mahjong night was organized by Jessica Domm of Beacon and Jenny Kaplan of Cold Spring, soon after they met at the synagogue and learned they both love

the game. Kaplan grew up playing mahjong at family Passovers in Palm Springs, California. “It's a bonding game,” she says.

The game is growing nationally, which Annelise Heinz, author of *Mahjong: A Chinese Game and the Making of American Culture*, attributes to retiring Baby Boomers. “Mahjong has always been a wonderful way to build community in a new place,” she says.

One of those retirees is Jack Weinstein, 76, a Philipstown resident who learned mahjong as a child at his grandparents' bungalow resort in the Catskills. Weinstein, a former accountant, returned to the game in 2019.

During the pandemic, he was able to play online at RealMahJongg.com. “The site was a lifesaver,” said his wife, Linda Weinstein, 75, who began teaching the game last year at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring. The retired bookkeeper began playing 25 years ago. She has taught a dozen people to play at the library.

One student is Ginette Voldman, who lives in Cold Spring and says she learned mahjong “for the social aspect, meeting new people.”

Heinz says movies like *Crazy Rich Asians* and *The Joy Luck Club* have helped popularize mahjong among young Asian Americans. Social media also plays a role; the Facebook group, Mah Jongg: That's It, has doubled in size to nearly 90,000 members in three years.

Heinz said the game's association with Jewish culture began in 1937 when Jewish women in New York City sought to standardize the rules of what is now called “American Mahjong” and formed the National Mah Jongg League, which publishes a card with the winning “hands” for that year. Synagogues still sell the cards to raise money.

Synagogues such as the Beacon Hebrew Alliance are introducing the game to Gen Zers like Lucinda Arginsky, 12, of Beacon. “It's just an engaging game,” she says. “I also like hanging out with other people.”

Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

FOOTBALL — An impressive first season under coach Gerald Ryan came to an abrupt close on Nov. 8 as Beacon fell, 50-7, on the road to top-seeded Port Jervis in the

Section IX, Class B playoffs. The Bulldogs finished 7-3, a significant upgrade from their 2-7 mark in 2023. Beacon scored 246 points, versus 121 last season.

VOLLEYBALL — Beacon faced a tough task on Nov. 8 in the Section IX, Class A finals, battling rival Cornwall, which had won 19 straight sectional titles. The teams split their regular season series, with Beacon handing Cornwall its only loss. But Cornwall dominated at

Mount Saint Mary College, taking the trophy, 3-0 (25-14, 25-21, 25-18). Lila Burke had 15 kills and three aces for the Bulldogs and Evy Dieb-boll had 23 digs. Beacon finished 13-5.

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

CROSS-COUNTRY — The Haldane boys won the Section I, Class D title on Nov. 9 at

Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls, while the girls finished third. Owen Powers was second overall in the 5,000 meters in 18:12.80 and Jack Ilian was third in 18:19.70. The boys will compete at the state championship on Saturday (Nov. 16). For the girls, Ashley Sousa was fourth in 22:51.70 and qualified for states.

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