

The HIGHLANDS Current



Bear Mountain Bridge at 100

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NOVEMBER 22, 2024

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Dems Say Aymar-Blair Elected Dutchess Comptroller

By unofficial count, mail-in and affidavit votes provide margin

By Jeff Simms

The Dutchess County Democratic Committee said on Nov. 15 that Dan Aymar-Blair, the Ward 4 representative on the Beacon City Council, has been elected county comptroller, based on the latest vote totals it received from the Board of Elections that included mail-in and affidavit ballots.

The Democrats said they received unofficial numbers that showed Aymar-Blair with 72,624 votes and Republican Gregg Pulver with 71,693, with all or nearly all the votes counted. The BOE



Aymar-Blair

has not confirmed these figures and, as of Thursday (Nov. 21), its website still showed election-night results with Pulver leading by 475 votes. The BOE did not return phone messages asking for updated vote totals.

"The people of Dutchess County want a

comptroller committed to transparency, accountability and serving the public interest," Aymar-Blair said in a statement. "I look forward to bringing independent oversight and a fresh perspective to the office, ensuring every dollar is used wisely and in service of the community."

Pulver did not return phone messages from *The Current*, but on Wednesday posted a message on his Facebook page thanking supporters in what was "an absurdly close race. Though we didn't win, our campaign overperformed the presiden-

(Continued on Page 6)

Haldane Voters Approve Capital Plan

Referendum provides \$28.4 million for upgrades

By Joey Asher

Haldane school district voters on Tuesday (Nov. 19) approved a \$28.4 million bond referendum, by a 724-445 vote, to pay for upgrades on campus, including a student center for the high school.

The referendum will raise property taxes by 6.95 percent over three years. That's about \$475 a year on a \$500,000 home, according to district calculations.

Voter turnout was about 26 percent.

"I'm very pleased," said Carl Albano, the district's interim superintendent. "It shows that the community really understands the needs of the district from a facilities perspective and from an educational perspective."

Albano said that design work on the project will begin immediately. Pending approvals from the state Education Department, he hopes that some work will begin over the summer of 2025.

The largest portion of the capital plan is a 17,300-square-foot addition to the high school that includes a student center; four classrooms; a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) innovation lab and art room; and student support offices for guidance and wellness. Albano said construction likely will begin in the summer of 2026 and take up to two years.

The student center will give high school students a place to eat lunch. Currently, Haldane's 335 high schoolers can walk to

(Continued on Page 7)

Philipstown Sued Over Assessments

Depot owner calls increases 'illegal'

By Leonard Sparks

A Cold Spring property owner who alleges that Philipstown illegally raised the assessments for the Depot restaurant and seven Main Street buildings is suing the town, the village, the county and the Haldane school district.

In a lawsuit filed Oct. 29 in state court in Carmel, Depot owner Greg Pagones seeks to overturn the 2024 assessments on the restaurant and a group of properties his firm, Cold Spring Main Street Properties LLC, bought in February 2023 for between \$768,000 and \$2.3 million.

Pagones alleges that Philipstown assessor Brian Kenney "selectively" raised the assessments from 2023 as part of a practice of revaluing properties when they are sold. That practice is illegal under state and federal law, Pagones argues, because it discriminates against buyers such as himself "by excluding comparable or similar properties from reevaluation."

The lawsuit also names Kenney as a defendant and asks a judge to award court costs and a refund of the "illegal, unequal or excessive taxes," and to prevent the municipalities and school district from enforcing any tax liens on the properties for failure to pay.

Assessed values are the percentage of market value on which properties are taxed. With the estimated market values raised, assessments increased on the properties by amounts ranging from \$39,600 for

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OPEN FOR BUSINESS — Three hundred people attended the official opening and ribbon-cutting of the Beacon central fire station at 1140 Wolcott Ave. on Nov. 16. Here, John Supple (right), a former volunteer with the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co., shows Bill Plimley, president of Tompkins Hose, an artifact from their former firehouse at Main and Cross streets that is now Hudson Beach Glass. The \$14.7 million structure consolidates Beacon's three fire stations — Tompkins Hose, Mase Hook and Ladder and Beacon Engine — into one location. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Anthony Sarcone

MTA Reveals More Train Station Project Details

Beacon council also approves 2025 budget

By Jeff Simms

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority anticipates awarding development rights to convert a parking lot at the Beacon Metro-North station into a housing complex with hundreds of apartments in the third quarter of 2025.

The timeline was among the details agency

representatives shared with the City Council on Monday (Nov. 18). The MTA on Nov. 1 issued a request for proposals to create a transit-oriented development in the station's 4-acre north lot. Proposals are due Dec. 18.

Respondents will be narrowed down early next year. After a developer is chosen and approved by the MTA board, the city Planning Board could begin its review early in 2026. The project, which will create around 300 rental units, along with commercial or retail space, must comply with Beacon zoning

laws and the all-electric building law, which bans fossil fuels from new construction.

New York State is pushing for the river-side development to address a statewide housing shortage and to take advantage of \$500 million in funding authorized by Gov. Kathy Hochul, a portion of which will be used to replace the 483 commuter spaces in the north lot, possibly through the creation of a parking garage in the station's center lot.

"One of the most difficult things that we

(Continued on Page 8)

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FIVE QUESTIONS: SHELLEY SIMMONS-BLOOM

By Jeff Simms

Shelley Simmons-Bloom is the creator of The Beacon Beacon.

What inspired the site?

My husband and I have been here for nearly four years, and I was surprised that there wasn't a comprehensive resource celebrating how incredible Beacon is. We have beautiful buildings, amazing independent shops, the river and the mountain, but I didn't see anything on social media that heroed that. I love being part of a community, and when I broke my wrist in January, it gave me downtime to think about doing something.

This is all recent. When did you launch?

I started an Instagram page (@thebeaconbeacon) in March and the website in September (thebeaconbeaconny.com). Some people write about food or their opinions, but I wanted to take lovely images and do what I've done my whole career, which is tell stories. I want the site to be a resource for locals, but also for anyone visiting Beacon, with up-to-date directories for shopping, eating and drinking, arts and culture, where to stay, a kids' section and an event section. On the blog, I write about people, businesses and organizations

in Beacon. I also have a Facebook group, What's On—Beacon NY & Beyond, with 5,000 members.

How did you decide on The Beacon Beacon?

The Beacon is one of those names that might be an old-fashioned newspaper title, like The Herald, so it is a nod to my love of local media and also a nod to the fires atop Mount Beacon during the Revolutionary War. I've always loved local media; it's important for building community. Not that I think I'm media, but my strapline is "Shining a light on all good things in Beacon, New York." I was talking to someone yesterday who's lived here his entire life and is still passionate about Beacon. That's special.

What's your professional background?

I came to New York City from London nearly 18 years ago with The Body Shop. I was their head of international public relations, and they asked me to go to the U.S. and put a plan into place. The U.S. team kept asking me to stay and, in the end, they gave me a green card. From there I was recruited to Estee Lauder and Aveda. I learned many

tricks from salon owners and retailers about how to build buzz on a budget. In 2018 I set up my own company, Positivity Communications. I chose the name because I think every brand has a good story to tell, you just have to help them tell it. In Beacon, we have more than 80 shops on Main Street, and 90-plus restaurants and bars and eateries. Many of them don't have time to do their own marketing. I'd like to take my skills and offer them to Main Street.

Your content is remarkably positive. Was that by design?

It's absolutely by design because there are many other platforms where people can get news. One of my favorite things is to scroll "cat" accounts, because there's so many bad things going on in the world. It's escapism. I like the idea of having an account where you can escape to the best parts of where you live. If you're working till 6 p.m. every day, you won't see the sunset. You're probably not walking past Hudson Beach Glass and going, "Oh my God, what an amazing building that used to be a firehouse." I'm never going to be an investigative, bad-news person.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's the worst thing to put on pizza?

Anchovies: I don't like anything fishy.



Rowan Wagner, Beacon

Pineapple and ham: It's disgusting.



Wendy Sanderson, Garrison

Truffle oil: It shouldn't be put on anything!



Rodney Weber, Beacon

NEWS BRIEFS

Philipstown Restaurant Robbed*Burglars hit Garrison Pizza y Mas*

Garrison Pizza y Mas, at 2534 Route 9 in Philipstown, was burglarized early on Nov. 16 by someone who broke a large window to gain entry.

"They took the cash register, but it only contained loose change," said Jenny Astudillo, who owns the restaurant with her husband, Clever.

She said she wondered why the restaurant was targeted, noting that the family has been through a lot this year, including her donation of a kidney to her husband. But she said the family took comfort from the steady stream of worried customers, including the Haldane High School football team, which had a pizza party scheduled for 2 p.m., just as the restaurant reopened.

"They were so understanding," she said of the players. "It felt good that so many people were concerned about us."

Toys for Tots Underway*Campaign returns for 31st year*

Toys for Tots, the annual campaign organized by the Marine Corps League to provide holiday gifts for children who might go without, has returned for its 31st year in Philipstown. Now known as the Anthony Phillips Toys for Tots Memorial Drive, it is promoted locally by the Knights of Columbus, Loretto Council No. 536.

New, unwrapped toys can be donated through Dec. 17 at B&L Deli, Boscobel and the North Highlands Fire Department in Philipstown, the Butterfield Library, Drug World, Foodtown and Downey Energy in Cold Spring, and Deb's Hair Salon in Nelsonville.

Shakespeare Announces 2025 Season*Plays will include The Comedy of Errors*

Hudson Valley Shakespeare on Nov. 13 announced its 2025 season, which will likely be the last under the tent before the opening of the Samuel H. Scripps Theater Center at its Philipstown campus in 2026.

The troupe will stage William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, directed by Ryan Quinn; Thornton Wilder's *The Match-*

maker, directed by Artistic Director Davis McCallum and featuring Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson; and *Octet*, a chamber choir musical by Dave Malloy and directed by Amanda Dehnert.

The festival also will debut HVS Cabaret, four nights of works-in-progress at the Valley Restaurant, and move its educational production, which in 2025 will be *Julius Caesar*, from the spring to the fall. The HVS2 reading series will include *King Lear*, directed by McCallum and featuring Rhoads, and *The Minotaur*, by Luis Quintero.

Chick-fil-A Proposed for Fishkill*Drive-thru would open on Route 9*

The Chick-fil-A fast-food chain has presented plans to the Town of Fishkill Planning Board to open a restaurant in the location of the former Boston Market on Route 9, across from Walmart.

The chain would demolish the building and construct a 5,400-square-foot restaurant with a drive-thru on the 16-acre site, it told the board on Nov. 14. The restaurant would have 78 seats inside and 16 outdoors and be open from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily except Sunday. The drive-thru could handle up to 44 cars at a time, the chain said.

The Planning Board referred the application to the building inspector, town engineer, the county Department of Planning & Development, the state Department of Transportation and the Rombout Fire District for review.

Beacon Man Pleads Guilty to Assault*Will be sentenced in January*

A Beacon man who pleaded guilty on Nov. 13 to felony attempted assault will be sentenced in January.

Prosecutors said the assault occurred on Aug. 20 in the City of Poughkeepsie when Rakim Paulin intentionally struck someone with his vehicle. Paulin then exited his car to beat the victim on the ground.

Paulin also pleaded guilty to felony criminal possession of a controlled substance following his arrest on July 31 at a Route 82 gas station.

Judge Edward McLoughlin scheduled sentencing for Jan. 22.

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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

Classic wheels

Thank you for showing the 1965 Barra-cuda ("Classic Wheels," Nov. 15). On return-ing home from my tour in Vietnam in 1969, I bought a gold 1968 4-door with a flowered top and interior. I met more people with that car! Thanks for the memories.

Edie Meeks, *Beacon*

Beacon changes

In response to Jim Zellinger's letter in the Nov. 15 issue, I said decades ago and still say now: We're dealing with out-of-town people making out-of-town money and going back out-of-town. Walking down Main Street has evolved from saying "Hello" to those you pass to not even getting an "Excuse me" when I am walked into as if I were not there.

Four-story buildings are not making me any money. This is little Beacon, not Las Vegas. Out-of-towners, and some in-town-ers, need to be confronted to slow down.

Wayne Theiss, *Fishkill*

Wildfires

Thanks to Brian PJ Cronin and *The Current* for the excellent report on our wildfire season ("Dry Dangers," Nov. 15), and especially for the long view regarding causes and impacts. Shortly after I read the story, I heard a National Public Radio news report regarding the Jennings Creek Fire in Orange County that indicated 165 homes in Warwick had been voluntarily evacuated. The danger and high costs of wildfires are no longer a West Coast-only phenomenon. We in the Northeast can add wildfires to the costs of worsening climate impacts such as drought and flooding.

As Brian reported, the cause of these addi-tional, larger and longer-burning fires is the

changing climate. The single greatest solu-tion to climate change is to eliminate the burning of fossil fuels in every area of our society, as quickly as possible. Our govern-ments at every level and private corpora-tions must do more to accelerate this effort. We must each do our part to eliminate fossil fuels from our homes, vehicles and lifestyles.

Fortunately for many of us in the U.S., it's an investment, rather than a sacrifice, that happens to pay personal as well as global dividends. I encourage everyone to learn what you can do at the household level by visiting sustainableputnam.org/7-steps.

Joseph Montuori, *Mahopac*

Montuori is the executive director of Sustainable Putnam.

Out There

Thank you for Brian PJ Cronin's *Out There* column, "The Fire This Time" (Nov. 15). What could be better than being fun at parties? How about a sensitive soul sharing his knowl-edge of new narratives and offering a sense of community and hope? Many thanks, Brian.

Irene O'Garden, *Garrison*

Transit development

How about some development at the Garrison train station? It has a parking lot that could be built over, and there is land for affordable housing ("MTA Seeks Proposals for Beacon Station," Nov. 8). New Hamburg has space, as well.

Sean Breault, *via Facebook*

Route 9D in Beacon is beyond ridiculous. The road needs to be four lanes from Stony Kill to Loopers Plaza. And our waste system is already overloaded.

Beacon should tread carefully with these

massive projects. Everyone is selling off and developing acreage in Dutchess County. Do we want an overcrowded, generic city or to preserve what people love about this place: a city that has a deep connection to nature and its beauty?

The Fishkill Correctional site at least has land for a housing complex. We need afford-able housing but packing as many people as possible into a city that's 4-by-5 miles will not improve the quality of life.

Brandi Fisher, *via Facebook*

To anyone in Beacon who is against this work at the train station: We see and under-stand your concern. If, at the same time, you favor the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail in Cold Spring or have made comments that demean or diminish the concerns that resi-dents of Philipstown have about the public/private development of the Fjord Trail and its Dockside Connector, take a long look in the mirror and know that your neigh-bors in Philipstown are still here for you. We share your concerns about your homes, jobs, commutes and the continued quality of life of your families in the face of expan-sive and outsized development run amok.

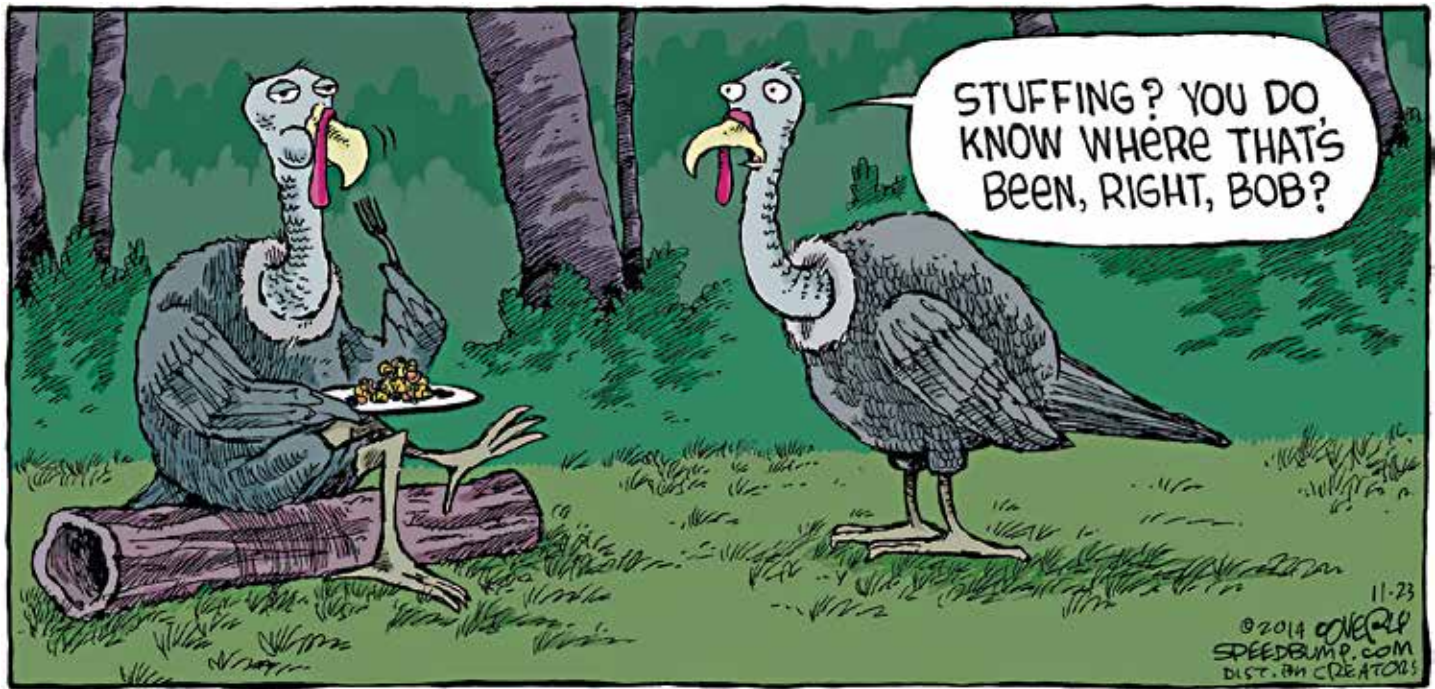
Travis Fyfe, *via Facebook*

The Beacon train station is a terrible place to build dense housing. The roads are bottlenecked, and the last thing we need is more leading to the riverfront park. There are plenty of areas to build this housing that have larger roads and more space.

Mark Hall, *via Facebook*

A transit-oriented development plan was floated years ago and universally panned.

(Continued on Page 5)



Highlands Current Adds Board Member

Highlands Current Inc., which publishes *The Highlands Current*, has named Jia Jia Ye to its 11-member board of directors.



Ye, an executive known for scaling tech-enabled health care companies, including One Medical, Oscar and Springtide Child Development, lives in Cold Spring.

The other members of the nonprofit's board are Damon Banks, Christine Bockelmann, Gwendolyn Bounds, David Duffy, Kyle Good, Todd Haskell, Nicholas Groombridge, Robert Lanier, Mel Laytner, Joseph Plummer and Frances Reilly.

The board also appointed Friedrike Merck, an artist who lives in Philipstown, to its advisory board. At the same time, three directors — Susan Brune, Bevis Longstreth and Michelle Rivas — left the board but were named as advisors.

My View A Big Change

By Peter Forman



As we digest the results of Election Day, I thought Beacon residents might want to take a walk down memory lane to review what happened 35 years ago, in 1989.

I co-chaired the Republican campaign in Beacon that year, and the results of the November election were groundbreaking. All five Democratic City Council members, including Mayor Jim Fredericks, were swept from office by Clara Lou Gould and her four Republican or independent running mates: Dr. Robert Frankel, Al Romanelli, John McElduff and Joseph Guarneri Jr.

In addition, by a 58 percent to 42 percent margin, voters approved a change in how the city was run to a "strong mayor" structure. Instead of the five council members being elected citywide (i.e., the commis-

sioners of public works, public safety, finance and accounts, plus the mayor), the seats would represent each of the four wards, supplemented by two council members elected citywide ("at-large") and the mayor. That is the system the city uses today.

Notably, Poughkeepsie amended its charter shortly after Beacon but kept the mayor off the council, which I thought was a mistake. If you asked each mayor who has served in Beacon post-charter revision, I suspect they would agree that it is important not to create more distance between the executive and legislative branches.

Although Beacon in 1989 was one of only a few municipalities in New York state that still operated with commissioners, there were many heated discussions about changing the charter. I co-chaired a group with my friend Charlie Kelly that supported the change. Charlie challenged Mayor Fredericks in the Democratic primary but was narrowly defeated. Tony Borrero was the only member of Kelly's coalition to oust an incumbent "old guard" council member in the Democratic primary, but he lost to

McElduff in the general election. The charter change approved by voters radically changed Beacon's government. All administrative authority shifted to the mayor, who was empowered to appoint a city administrator to run day-to-day affairs. The mayor could also remove the administrator.

The six-member council was given legislative and policy-making duties and approved appointments such as the city administrator, the city attorney (a position I held from 1990 to 1999), members of the planning and zoning boards and various other committees. The mayor chaired council meetings.

Although approved in 1989, none of these changes took effect until after the 1991 election, when voters filled the six council seats and elected a mayor. (The Republicans swept that election, as well.)

Mayor Gould would serve for the next 18 years. Joseph Braun, the city's first administrator, also held his position for 18 years. That sort of tenure was unusual at the time. One argument against the reforms was that Beacon was too small to keep the same city administrator for any length of time.

I suspect that few current residents are aware of what transpired 35 years ago during that historic election, but I believe most would agree that the results benefited everyone who has lived and worked in Beacon since 1989 and for many years to come.

After serving as city attorney, Peter Forman was a Dutchess County judge for 21 years until his retirement in 2020.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Plus, there isn't a housing crisis — there is an *affordable* housing crisis. Nowhere does this type of project lead with affordable housing; it is always an afterthought.

Jim Zellinger, *via Instagram*

Drive-thru

With the push for electric vehicles and more efficient gas cars, I don't see how it makes sense to build gas stations ("Philipstown Zoning Board Denies Drive-Thru," Nov. 15). Ask any gas station owner if their

sales are down compared to years past.
Robert Cullen, *via Facebook*

This is a stupid decision by the Zoning Board. Let's keep the eyesore.
Steven Saltzman, *via Facebook*

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NOTICE

Historical Plaque Ceremony

Philipstown Lodge No. 236, Free and Accepted Masons, is honoring Brother George Whipple for his dedication to preserving the Lodge's history and his contributions to the Putnam County community through the Whipple Foundation. In recognition, Brother Whipple has donated a commemorative plaque that highlights the Lodge's legacy from its founding in 1851.

The plaque, now displayed on the lawn at the Lodge in Nelsonville, New York, serves as a tribute to the Lodge's long-standing role in Cold Spring and surrounding areas. "Brother Whipple's passion for preserving our history has been inspiring," said Manuel Juarez, Worshipful Master for the 2024-2025 Masonic year.

The plaque will be dedicated in a ceremony on **NOVEMBER 30, 2024**, at **12:00PM**. Lodge members, community members and invited guests will gather to celebrate Brother Whipple's contribution. The PUBLIC is welcome to attend.

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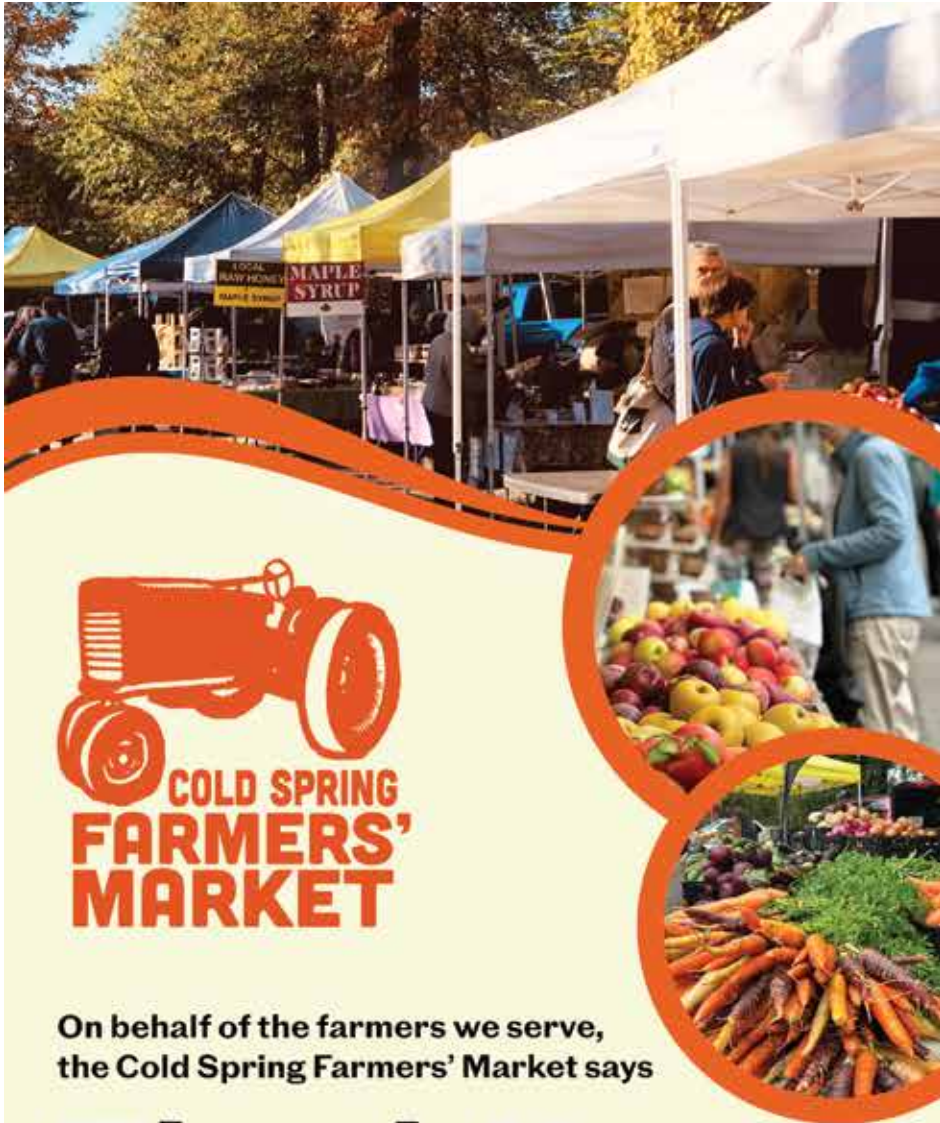
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Comptroller *(from Page 1)*

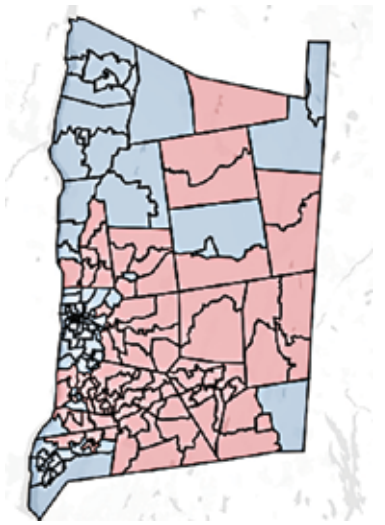
tial ballot by a significant amount."

Aymar-Blair had filed a lawsuit in state court on Nov. 7 asking the Board of Elections to count thousands of unprocessed mail-in and affidavit ballots. His attorney, Michael Treybich, withdrew the suit on Nov. 18, writing in a court filing that Aymar-Blair had amassed a lead of at least 898 votes, exceeding the margin that would have triggered a recount by hand.

Still, Treybich wrote, he does not expect his client's election to be certified until after Dec. 18, "when all military and overseas voters have had an opportunity to cast a ballot." Treybich said in the filing that Pulver had conceded and withdrawn his defense against the suit with prejudice, meaning it cannot be revived.

If his win is confirmed, Aymar-Blair said he will step down from the City Council and his job overseeing business operations for the New York City public schools' special education program. He would assume the comptroller position on Jan. 1, and Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou would appoint a successor to serve the final year of his two-year term representing Ward 4.

The comptroller's seat will be on the ballot again in 2025 because Aymar-Blair will serve only the final year of the four-



A BOE map shows the districts won by Pulver (in red) and Aymar-Blair (blue) as of Election Night, Nov. 5.

year term of Robin Lois, a Democrat who resigned in December to become the state's deputy comptroller for local government and school accountability. Aymar-Blair said he plans to run for a full term.

Pulver was appointed to the position by then-County Executive William F.X. O'Neil following Lois's resignation. He had served on the county Legislature for 10 years, including six as chair, representing Pine Plains but lost his re-election bid.

Reassessment *(from Page 1)*

80 Main St., which Pagones bought for \$768,000, to \$128,050 for 93-97 Main St., which he purchased with 89-91 Main St. for \$2.3 million.

Pagones also owns buildings at 55 Main St., 57 Main St., 59-63 Main St., 79 Main St. and 1 Depot Square. The buildings each faced "significant" tax increases, he said, including a 20 percent rise from the school district.

Five of the properties were among eight classified as "attached row buildings" that sold in Cold Spring in 2023 and 2024, according to the lawsuit. Assessed values increased on seven of the properties, Kyle Barnett, Pagones's attorney, said in court filings. There were no increases on properties with the classification that were not sold, he said.

Property owners can challenge their assessed values each year by petitioning their local Board of Assessment Review by the fourth Tuesday of May. If a board refuses to reduce an assessment, owners can undertake a small-claims assessment review by a hearing officer in state court.

Pagones, in an email exchange on Sept. 20, acknowledged missing the May deadline but sought to "work something out" with Kenney for 2025. None of the properties have been renovated, he said.

In the exchange, Kenney said the properties were "reviewed for condition," as the town does with properties that sell or those that "appear to have been improved, updated or have building permits." Kenney also said that part of the increase reflects Haldane's latest budget, which raised the tax levy for 2024-25 by 2.8 percent, adding about \$203 annually to the taxes on a home valued at \$500,000.

"I don't believe any of these changes

"In a perfect world, we would have the money to 'reval' the whole town every year. We don't have that money. And that's why prior Town Boards and supervisors have not done it."

~ Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel

result in an overvaluation," Kenney wrote.

New York State encourages assessors to conduct annual revaluations of each commercial and residential property, but costs and a lack of manpower are barriers, said Rob Bick, president of the New York State Assessors Association. Philipstown has gone 28 years since its last townwide revaluation, in 1996, the longest gap of Putnam's six towns.

In September 2023, Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel cited cost as an obstacle. "In a perfect world, we would have the money to 'reval' the whole town every year," he said. "That would certainly be the easiest fix. We don't have that money. And that's why prior Town Boards and supervisors have not done it."

Absent a municipal-wide review, assessors generally raise values after owners complete additions or renovations that boost the property's value, said Bick. If those changes occurred between the last physical inspection and a property's sale, the buyers may see their assessments increase, he said.

Raising an assessment absent improvements is "a big no-no," said Bick. "There has to be a legitimate reason for the increase," he said. "Sometimes it's congruent with the sales price; sometimes it's not."

Haldane Vote (from Page 1)

the cafeteria in the building that houses the elementary and middle schools. But most eat in empty classrooms, hallways, stairwells or, if the weather allows, outside. Many juniors and seniors walk or drive to local lunch spots.

The addition will also provide a place for high school students to gather as a student body without going to the main building and displacing students or teachers using the gym/auditorium, said Julia Sniffen, the high school principal, before the vote. “There isn’t a space for the high school to gather without completely disrupting either the elementary school or the middle school.”

The four classrooms will allow the district to move classes out of the Mabel Merritt administration building, with its cramped spaces that fail to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, district leaders said.

The project will also replace or upgrade communication and safety systems. The public-address system is so antiquated, the district can no longer find replacement parts, said Albano.

Haldane will upgrade vestibules to prevent visitors from entering before showing identification and providing a reason for the visit, Albano said. When the high school was built in 2005, few schools had secure entry vestibules, he noted, but today, few don’t.

Another safety measure is a plan to improve traffic flow in consultation with

the Village of Cold Spring and surrounding neighborhoods.

The project will include renovated student support spaces in the high school and main building for the district’s social workers, psychologists, behaviorists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and guidance counselors.

Albano said the project will provide a variety of other upgrades, including electrical and masonry repairs. “There are restrooms that need renovation,” he said. “A person with a physical disability would struggle in our district. We’re not ADA-compliant in many areas.”

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.



A rendering of the high school shows the addition approved by voters at right. CSArch

OCTOBER Real Estate Market Report

Beacon Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	9	10
Closed Sales	6	11
Days on Market	26	34
Median Price	\$665,000	\$655,000
% List Received	106.8	104.8
Inventory	49	27

Beacon Condos

	2023	2024
New Listings	5	3
Closed Sales	2	4
Days on Market	27	48
Median Price	\$419,500	\$292,500
% List Received	100.0	100.1
Inventory	12	10

Philipstown Homes

	2023	2024
New Listings	12	12
Closed Sales	5	9
Days on Market	33	114
Median Price	\$655,000	\$825,000
% List Received	97.8	92.6
Inventory	50	43

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.

Come join the festivities at our beautiful historic venue!



Sat. Nov 23 – 8 PM

SONS OF MERCURY

Fresh, strong-energy band that blends classic & new rock, playing covers from the 1970's all the way to the present, along with their new, emerging originals.

For info & tickets: bit.ly/sonsofmercuryHCC

Fri/Sat/Sun. Nov 22/23/24 – 12-5 PM

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Nov 22 - Dec 23 Fri, Sat, Sun & week Dec 15 - 21

Sat. Nov 30 – 8 PM

WESTCHESTER JAZZ ALLIANCE QUARTET

Charley Krachy, SAX, Dave Frank, PIANO

Fr Stan Fortuna, BASS, T-kash Inuoe, DRUMS

For info & tickets: bit.ly/WJAQ-HCC

Nov 22 - The Howland's OMN

Dec 1 - HCMC's LUMINOUS BEING

Dec 4 - UNESCO Story Circle

Dec 5 - FOIA LOVE - Comedy and Bluegrass

Dec 6 - LIT LIT

Dec 7 - MIGHTY GIRL

Dec 8 - HCMC's CFK Nutcracker

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER



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



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL

Home of the Highlands Choral Society

THIS SUNDAY:

AURORA MCKEE

"HOLDING PATTERNS"

NOV 24 @ 11:00AM

FOR WORSHIP REFLECTION & SONG

Dec 1 Jacqueline Foerstch

Dec 8 May Hill

Dec 15 Christmas Concert

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

216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY

HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG





Last Day of School

acrylic on canvas

2' x 4'

LOCAL ARTIST

FRED SCHLITZER

NEW WORKS: PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS

McCaffrey Realty

140 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY

RUN DATES:

November 9 – 30

Beacon Council *(from Page 1)*

face when we're developing a property in our service territories is how to replace the existing parking," said Nick Roberts, a real estate manager for the MTA, on Monday. "Unsubsidized, the cost to replace the parking would effectively put this project in the red from the outset."

While the state funding will help replace commuter parking, it cannot be used for spaces required for the housing units. The southern parking lot is also being eyed as a development site "at some point in the future," Roberts said.

The MTA sought "expressions of interest" for creating a transit-oriented development at the station 17 years ago. However, the idea never gained traction after backlash from the community and fears it would draw customers from Main Street. This time around, Main Street is thriving and the waterfront has been rezoned to not compete with the shops on Main.

Still, development at the train station should "meet the needs of people" by including essentials such as supermarkets or pharmacies, Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair said Monday.

The MTA expects to receive "impressively designed" proposals "intended to activate the station area and facilitate this greater connection between the station area and the rest of the city," Roberts said. The agency will lease the project site — but not the entire station — to a developer for 99 years.

The request for proposals does not specify the size of the apartments, but conversations with developers have revealed a "strong preference" for building studio and one-bedroom apartments "targeted to a demographic of people in their 20s and 30s and people who are looking to downsize," Roberts said.

State law gives the MTA the authority to implement a payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT, arrangement with the city. Roberts and Andy Buder, the director of government and community relations for Metro-North, had few details Monday but said the agency "will figure out a revenue-sharing methodology as we get farther through this process."

2025 budget

The council on Monday adopted the city's 2025 budget, a plan that includes \$26.2 million in general fund spending along with \$5.4 million and \$4.3 million for the sewer and water funds, respectively.

The budget reduces property tax rates to the lowest they have been in more than 15 years while staying \$255,538 below the state's tax cap. However, because housing assessments have more than doubled in the past decade, property owners' tax bills could rise despite the rate decrease.

A \$530,000 home is estimated to see its tax bill rise by about \$85, or 2.9 percent. A \$500,000 commercial property would pay \$340, or 7.4 percent less. Water and sewer fees will increase by 3 percent each.

The property tax levy will be \$13.25

million, or 3.8 percent higher than this year. New construction mitigates the impact by adding \$37 million to city tax rolls.

The budget includes no funding for new full-time employees or programming and, for the first time in at least a decade, draws nothing from the city's reserves. It eliminates the Community Investment Grant program, which received \$20,000 for local projects and initiatives in each of the last four years.

Council members argued with City Administrator Chris White and Mayor Lee Kyriacou during their Nov. 12 workshop over affordability concerns before adding \$75,000 to the budget for an improved communications plan and studies on affordable housing and accessibility to encourage non-vehicular transportation. Funding for the initiatives will come from savings.

Drought emergency

Kyriacou announced Monday that the city is in a Stage 1 drought emergency, which means its three drinking-water reservoirs have collectively fallen to 60 percent capacity.

The following mandatory restrictions are now in place:

- Residents should fix water leaks and do their best to prevent water waste;
- No washing cars, except at a commercial facility;
- No washing outdoor areas (e.g., patios, driveways, streets, steps);
- Stop refilling or drawing city water for

fountains, waterfalls, pools, lakes or ponds;

■ Watering of lawns, golf courses, shrubs, plants and trees must be limited as follows:

■ Watering vegetation is only permitted between 7 and 8 p.m. and from 10 to 11 p.m.

■ Residents may use handheld water containers to water gardens if food is being grown.

■ Plant nurseries and other commercial users engaged in growing and selling plants must reduce consumption by at least 15 percent.

■ Fines of up to \$1,000 may be assessed for violations.

NEWS BRIEF

Dems Nominate Election Commissioner

Chair of Beacon group selected for role

The Dutchess County Democratic Committee has nominated Lisa Jessup of Beacon to become the party's next election commissioner.

She would succeed Hannah Black, a former county legislator, who did not seek another term. If confirmed by the Legislature, Jessup, who is the chair of the Beacon Democratic Committee, would begin a two-year term on Jan. 1.

Each county Board of Elections in New York has one Democratic and one Republican commissioner nominated by party leaders.

Don't Be Fjooled

Peel back HHFT's polished renderings and the true reality of the Fjord Trail is revealed.

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The Calendar

ART IN ALL DIRECTIONS

Magazzino hosts first U.S. retrospective for Maria Lai

By Marc Ferris

Like many female artists living in Italy after World War II, Maria Lai masked her gender by signing paintings with an initial instead of her first name. At a 2004 lecture, she recalled one influential teacher provoking her by saying, “The world of art is a great loom, and women make the warp, but the weaver is man.”

Yet he knew talent when he saw it and kept Lai as his only female student. Then, she became renowned. In 2011, officials at the national Parliament installed one of her works to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the country’s unification.

In Sardinia, her birthplace, Lai is a superstar who in 1981 tethered every dwelling in her hometown of Ulassai to the nearby mountain with a 16-mile blue denim ribbon. (The initial commission solicited a war memorial.)

A looping film and wall of photos documenting this large-scale community project are included in *Maria Lai: A Journey to America*, which opened Nov. 15 in the Robert Olnick Pavilion at Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown. Curated by Paola Mura, it is the first retrospective of Lai’s work to be mounted in the U.S. and includes pieces from private collections exhibited for the first time.

Lai kept creating until her death in 2013 at age 93. Her focus seemed to shift about every 10 years, from paintings, sculptures, sewn books, loom-based wall art and slogans scrawled on 8-foot-high canvases for a participatory event in the Sardinian village of Aggius.

She exhibited her talent for drawing and sculpture at a young age, moved to Rome in 1956 and enjoyed success with landscape paintings. Two of these pieces, included in the show, capture the directive of her misogynist mentor, Arturo Martini, to turn away from living things and “build stones.”



Maria Lai in 2008
Photo by Daniela Zedda

In “Ovile” (1959), a whitish mass on the crest of a hill in the distance could be a herd of sheep or a stone wall. “Gregge di pecore” (1959) executes the concept with an arc of grazing sheep heads set against a dark background that morph into rocks as the viewer’s eye sweeps to the right.

Then, Lai began experimenting with abstracts and brought along several examples during a pivotal visit to Montreal and New York City in 1968, where she gained an appreciation for Native American art, but met with little success launching a stateside career.

Culled from a private collection, several works from this period are on display. Two include chunks of cork embedded in the paint. Another looks like Lai sculpted the surface with a trowel.

After returning to Italy, Lai stopped painting and started sewing. Drawing inspiration from her native island’s folkways, she made wall art with looms, situated photos of bread against aluminum foil and sewed books with knots of yarn that look legible from afar. Her new vocabulary mashed myriad materials: “Senza titolo,

Telaio” (1971-75) consists of wool, wood, acrylic, leather, fur and cloth on canvas.

Tidy loom works reflect Native American color patterns dominated by reds, oranges and yellows. Plastic spoons become ersatz flowers or feathers and dozens of popsicle sticks are included. Other creations in the informal series resemble the result of an autoharp or piano innards being dropped from 10,000 feet.

Like Mario Schifano, the subject of the last exhibition to occupy this space (who also made a pivotal journey to the U.S. in the 1960s), it’s hard to believe that one artist produced such a diverse body of work, although Lai’s through-line is more cohesive.

One interesting creation is a collection of hand-drawn cards that grapple with the philosophical underpinnings of creativity and maintain a dialogue between statements like “A child could do this” or “I don’t understand art” with simple yet profound responses on a level that anyone who reads Italian can comprehend.

“What does art represent?” asks one. “Art does not represent, it builds interpre-

tations” is the response.

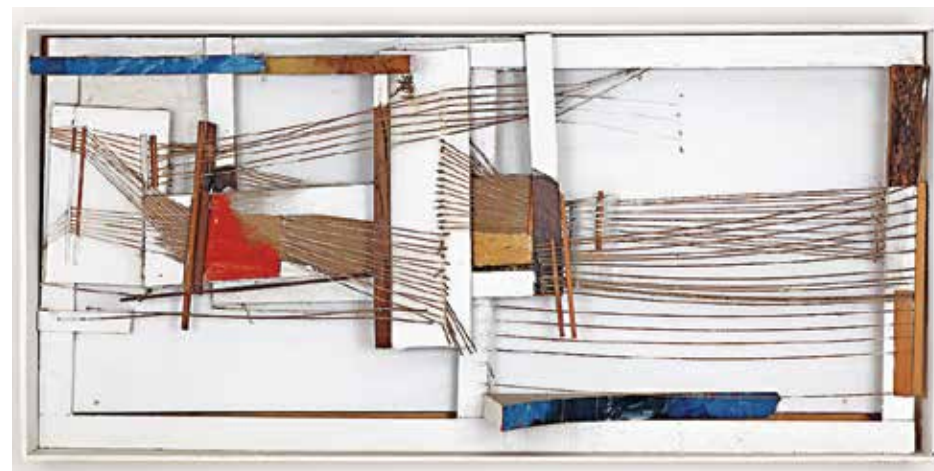
Lai emerged from humble roots to lecture in universities and contemplate profound issues about art and society. Melding formal training with a folkloric sensibility, she created challenging modern work that appealed to a broad audience.

And she advocated for communal and individual creativity. In a banner created for the 2008 event in Aggius, showcased at the exhibition, she states that “art is the daily bread of human existence that nourishes and expands consciousness.”

Magazzino Italian Art, at 2700 Route 9 in Philipstown, is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday to Monday. Admission to the museum is \$20 (\$10 for seniors, students and visitors with disabilities, \$5 for children ages 5 to 10, and free for younger children and Philipstown residents). See magazzino.art. The exhibit continues through July 28.



“Notturmo n.2” (1968)



“Telaio in sole e mare” (1971)



“Telaio” (1971-75)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see
highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

HOLIDAY

SAT 23
Gift Show and Sale
BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org
Find handmade crafts, artwork, jewelry, accessories and home goods from 25 Hudson Valley artisans. Also SUN 24, FRI 29, SAT 30, SUN 1 and weekends through Dec. 21.

SAT 30
Tree Lighting
BEACON
3 p.m. Memorial Park
Robert Cahill Drive
Have hot chocolate and treats and take home an ornament kit while enjoying live music and dance performances. The tree will be lit at 4:30 p.m. when Santa arrives.

SAT 30
Everything You Need to Know About Christmas Trees
BEACON
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Members of the Beacon Tree

Committee will discuss how to select, care for and dispose of fir trees.

COMMUNITY

SUN 24
Centennial Ceremony
CORTLANDT
10 a.m. Bear Mountain Bridge
bmb100.com
To celebrate the centennial of the Bear Mountain Bridge, there will be a parade and motorcade from the Garrison School and over the bridge with up to 10 vehicles from every decade since the 1920s. See Page 14.

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+*



MON 25
Blood Drive
BEACON
2:30 – 7 p.m. St. John's Church
31 Willow St. | nybc.org
Make an appointment online or walk in.

THURS 28
Turkey Trot
COLD SPRING
8 a.m. Haldane Track
15 Craigsides Drive
haldaneschoolfoundation.org
Run or walk through the village on a 5K course, beginning and ending at the school, to benefit the Haldane School Foundation. The race, which is sponsored by Dancing Dialogue, begins at 9 a.m. *Cost: \$40 (\$25 ages 18 and younger)*

KIDS & FAMILY
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)*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 23
Perfect Arrangement
WAPPINGERS FALLS
2 & 8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
countplayers.org
The Topher Payne comedy about the early gay rights movement, set in the 1950s, involves two federal employees assigned to find “sexual deviants.” *Cost: \$26 (\$24 seniors, students, ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 23
Leah Valentine & Sherry Kerlin
BEACON
7 p.m. KuBe Art Center | 211 Fishkill Ave.
dub.sh/kube-salon-2024
Enjoy music, art and conversation at this artist's salon, followed by a dance party. *Cost: \$20*

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. See Page 14. *Cost: \$10*

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MARIA LAI
A JOURNEY TO
AMERICA

Curated by Paola Mura
November 15, 2024–July 28, 2025

Magazzino Italian Art
Robert Olnick Pavilion
2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516

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ITALIAN ART

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Celebrating
Over
30 years

SAT 30
Marry, F, Kill
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Luann De Lesseps, known as “The Countess” on *The Real Housewives of New York City*, will sing, dance and entertain her fans in this cabaret show. *Cost: \$56 to \$159*

MUSIC

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



Sons of Mercury, Nov. 23

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, based in New York City, plays rock covers from the 1970s to the present. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 24
Margaret Vetare
COLD SPRING
4:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
To celebrate her new release, *Strange as the Trees: Songs of the Incredible String Band*, the singer and guitarist will play with Lindsey Horner (bass) and Greg Anderson (guitar and mandolin). *Cost: \$15*

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)*

FRI 29
Joyful Christmas
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Eileen Ivers, the Celtic fiddler, will play with her band, Universal Roots, in their annual holiday show. *Cost: \$40 (\$45 door)*

SAT 30
The Weeklings
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band plays the hits of the Beatles and other ’60s bands. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

SUN 1
Audrey Wright
BEACON
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
The New York Philharmonic violinist will perform *Luminous Being*, a solo show of classics from the 12th to 20th centuries with light art that responds to sound. *Cost: Pay what you wish*

SUN 1
Music Cottage Showcase
BEACON
5:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Students from the Brewster school will perform a holiday concert. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

VISUAL ARTS

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
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 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*

CIVIC

MON 25
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

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HVArtMarket

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Friday, November 2910am to 5pm

Saturday, November 3010am to 5pm

Sunday, December 110am to 4pm

Locust Grove Estate

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hvartmarket.wixsite.com/hvartmarket

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@HVArtMarket

Winter Glow

AT

WINTER HILL

Join us as we celebrate the winter holidays and light the lights on our 80 foot pine.

December 5, 2024

5:30pm - 7pm

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Chris Sanders and Eoin Williams Photo by M. Ferris

Beacon in the Cards

‘Non-linear’ game tours city landmarks

By Marc Ferris

Around these parts, the term BYOB takes on a new meaning: Build Your Own Beacon. At the moment, it’s a card game wrapped in a complex, ambiguous concept that could tax the minds of people versed in the immutable rules of poker, bridge or gin rummy. According to creator Chris Sanders, “it’s a non-linear board game played with cards. The rules are flexible. No two rounds will ever be alike, and you can play it how you want.” Sanders released a 25-card starter deck on Nov. 15 and at least two add-ons are coming, along with a five-panel board featuring 3-D game pieces and dials at each station that deliver prompts. She offers one, with a touch of sarcasm: “The New York Times publishes an article about how cool Beacon is, and everybody gets a game piece because here come the good times.” Sanders, an animator, scientific illustrator and textile and visual artist for film and television, designed the cards last year to showcase something new for Beacon Open Studios. She sought advice from her friend’s son, Eoin Williams, 12. “He told me that they could be used for a deck-building game, like Magic: The Gathering, where each player builds a deck that gets more complicated as it accommodates more players’ cards,” she says. In the same way, BYOB can be played with multiple decks, “so the game gets richer and becomes a full idea that never ends.” Sanders and Eoin (pronounced Owen), aimed to combine elements of The Game of Life (1960) played on a 3-D board; Sim City (now The Sims), a video game that first focused on building infrastructure; and Yu-Gi-Oh!, perhaps the most popular card game ever created.

Now that the card design is complete, the goal is to structure ways to use them and convey the concept to others with clarity, Sanders says. “No one knows how to play [the card game] Pokémon,” says Eoin. “We just make it up.” For Sanders, Eoin has been instrumental in the game’s development: “He’s a smart problem-solver who asks, ‘What about this?’ ‘Where does that go?’ or ‘How do we get to the end?’” The images on the cards look like architectural drawings and the logo printed on the verso shows a transmitter protruding from the peak of Mount Beacon. Other obscure categories group the city’s history into nicknames for four neighborhoods — River Rats, Ridge Runners, Mountaineers and Swamp Angels. “I saw pictures of people in a canoe,” Sanders says. She figures the swamp — located behind what is now Rite Aid on Main Street — got drained before the Works Progress Administration completed the post office in 1937. The fine print on some cards conveys inside jokes, like the statement accompanying the Bicycle Christmas Tree card: “Check with the transfer station for components.” The microscopic font on Pete Seeger’s banjo reads, “This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender.” Sanders’s dummy light card includes the comment “No Yarn Ever,” with an arrow pointing to the concrete base, a reference to the Yarn Bombing of 2015. Are those googly eyes on the edifice? On another card, a chicken is described as a “breakfast dispensary.” A dozen artisanal eggs “equals valid currency, way better than zucchini.” Chicken coops “may be simple or ridiculous,” as needed. Though Sanders can be sardonic, she adopted the lighthearted approach with purpose. “I want it to be enjoyable on many levels, so that 5-year-olds to 50-year-olds to grannies can make it fun,” she explains. “But there’s still some editing, honing, perfecting and morphing.”

The Build Your Own Beacon starter kit is \$25 at agoutistudios.com.

A New Newspaper at Haldane

Student-led journalism chronicles local life

By Michael Turton

The Haldane Outlook published its first edition on Nov. 1, a journalistic effort that should prove of interest not just to students but Philipstown residents.

The Outlook's initial 16-page issue covers a wide swath of life in the school district and issues that extend beyond campus. The student staff, assisted by parents Jennifer Zwarich and John Wayland, and Ashley Linda, an English teacher at the high school who is the journalism club advisor, use *The Current* offices on Main Street in Cold Spring to plan and prepare the paper. It's available at the school, the Butterfield and Desmond-Fish libraries, *The Current* office and other locations.

On Nov. 11, the Haldane School Foundation awarded a \$3,500 grant to *The Outlook* to cover printing 500 copies of each issue and other expenses. From 2018 to 2023, the foundation provided smaller annual grants for a partnership between the nonprofit *Current* and *The Blue Print*, a digital publication created by students in Linda's journalism class, with select stories reprinted in the paper.

The first front page proves that its editors and reporters are serious about their work. It includes opinions on the presidential election and views from within Haldane on a proposed \$28.4 million capital project.

Other stories cover the introduction of goats to campus to eliminate invasive plants (with the headline, "New Kids on Campus") and the recent homecoming parade. Inside, *The Outlook* has reflections on Haldane's 9/11 memorial; the national debate over the significance of Columbus Day; the role of students in civic engagement before they are old enough to vote; and student perceptions, from freshmen to seniors, on the value of SAT exams.



The editorial leadership includes Editor-in-Chief Keira Shanahan, a senior; Managing Editor Lincoln Wayland, a sophomore; Photo Editor Nicolo Masella, a junior; and Chief Design Editor Kira Drury, a senior.

In addition to writing articles, 14 other students oversee copy editing, sports, features, opinion and arts and entertainment. Nine-

teen more students contributed content.

Shanahan and Wayland debated what should go into the paper but agreed that putting it together was hard work. "I was expecting it to be difficult, and it was," Shanahan said.

Wayland, who is also a member of *The Current's* Student Journalists Program, said the biggest challenge was handling the volume of details, such as "the last-minute things, such as calling 1,000 people to make sure we have the right photos and the right versions of articles."

Naming the paper was easier. "Haldane is situated on top of a hill that overlooks the village — that was kind of what we were going for," Wayland said. That is also reflected in the paper's motto: "The Student Perspective from Two Hundred Feet Above the Hudson River." Shanahan noted that *outlook* "is also about our view of things. It's a play on words."

The quality of the fledgling paper surprised students. "People might have been a little skeptical," Shanahan said. "But when it came out, it was like, 'Whoa, this actually looks like a genuine newspaper!'"

Both editors said *The Outlook* has changed how they view their school and sharpened their eyes for stories. Wayland said he has adopted a habit of checking the school district calendar. Shanahan carries a notebook and



Managing Editor Lincoln Wayland and Editor-in-Chief Keira Shanahan look over the first issue of *The Haldane Outlook* at *The Current* offices.

Photo by M. Turton

talks to students about their concerns.

"The students have a real sense of ownership; they're fully in charge, which makes them take the work very seriously," said advisor John Wayland. "The first issue reflects their curiosity, hard work and dedication."

Jennifer Zwarich said she and Wayland, who are Lincoln's parents, each worked on their high school and college newspapers. "A student-run paper can be an important forum for young people to engage with their world," she said, noting that Lincoln's involvement in Linda's journalism class and *The Blue Print* sparked their interest in helping students create a printed paper with a broader circulation.

Shanahan said she is already thinking about improvements. She'd like more attention paid to deadlines and to finish copy editing "much earlier." An assistant photo editor has been named and the sports section needs to be reexamined, she said. "When you're a quarterly paper, you can't report on every single game within that span," she said.

She thinks the success of the first edition is increasing student interest. "Now that they've seen it and know what it can be, more people are eager to get involved," she said. "That's very exciting."

The second issue of *The Outlook* is scheduled for Jan. 17.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO A Historical Plaque Dedication



**November 30, 2024
12 noon
Philipstown Masonic Lodge
18 Secor Street
Nelsonville, NY**



Philipstown Lodge #236, is honoring Brother George Whipple for his dedication to preserving the Lodge's history and his contributions to the Putnam County community. In recognition, Brother Whipple has donated a commemorative plaque that highlights the Lodges' legacy from its founding in 1851.

The plaque, now displayed on the lawn of the Lodge building in Nelsonville, New York, serves as a tribute to the Lodge's long-standing role in Cold Spring and surrounding areas.

There will be a brief ceremony outside (weather permitting) and a short historical session in the Lodge room.

The public is invited to attend and be part of the tribute to Bro. George Whipple.

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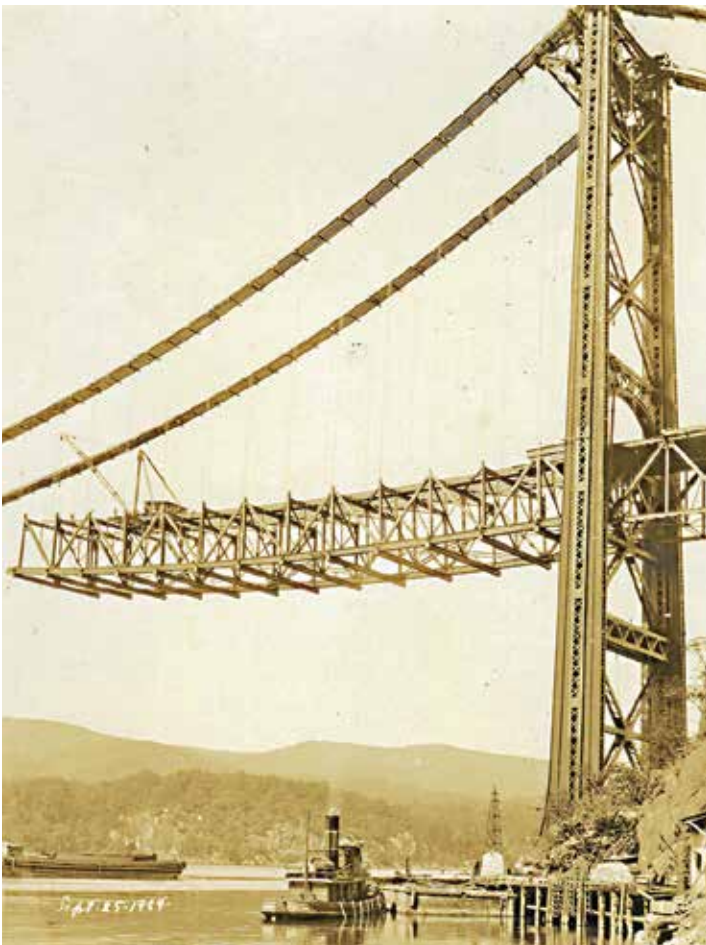


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Bear Mountain Bridge at 100



The east span under construction on Sept. 25, 1924

A century ago, at 7 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day in 1924, the Bear Mountain Bridge opened to the public. At the time, it was the first bridge to have a concrete deck, the first crossing over the Hudson River south of Albany and the world's longest suspension bridge, with a main span of 1,632 feet and an overall length of 2,255 feet. It has 7,452 wires, each 18 inches thick, supported by a pair of 361-foot towers. It is 155 feet, or about 15 stories, above the river.

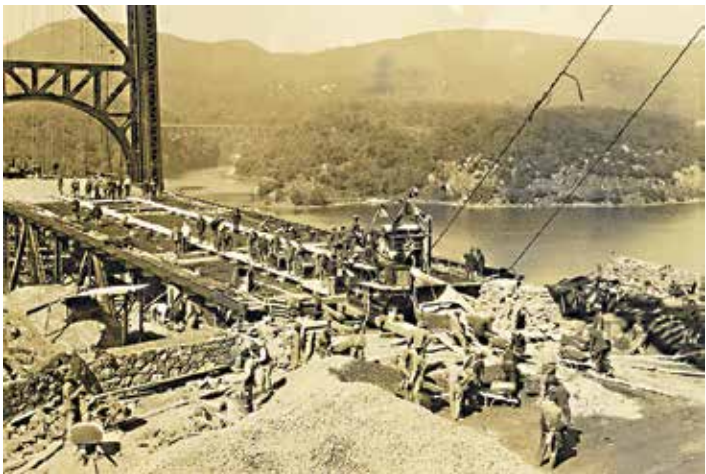
Construction had begun 20 months earlier, in March 1923, and the project cost about \$84 million in today's dollars. A bridge for the spot had been proposed much earlier, in 1869, but by 1916 only foundation work had been completed.

In 1922, the Bear Mountain Hudson River Bridge Co. was authorized by the state to build an automobile bridge with a 3-mile approach from the Albany Post Road north of Peekskill. Today that road is informally known as "the goat trail." The increasing popularity of Bear Mountain State Park fueled the need for the bridge, which eventually replaced car ferries, according to Kathryn Burke, director

(Continued on Page 15)



The cables are placed into their final position, May 2, 1924



Working on the eastern approach, Sept. 25, 1924



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Pete Carroll

Photo provided

View from the Booth

Former toll-taker recalls 16 years at Bear Mountain Bridge

By Michael Turton

When he collected tolls on the Bear Mountain Bridge, a job he held for 16 years until the booth was removed in 2022, Pete Carroll estimates he greeted 1,000 drivers daily.

“I didn’t know anybody’s last name, but I knew about half of them by their first names,” he recalled.

Hired in 2006, Carroll said he and his fellow collectors were known for their friendly disposition. “It was such a good atmosphere,” he said. “We were so proud of our job that we were always happy, including all the guys in maintenance.”

The toll, 75 cents when he began, could create issues. “If someone gave us \$100, we had to take it,” he said. “That wiped us out. We started the shift with \$150 in change.”

Three or four times per shift, a driver would claim to have no cash. “We’d issue an IOU,” Carroll said, although repeat offenders were warned. Some customers tried to slip in foreign coins, usually Canadian, but also from India and South America.

A far more serious situation developed when someone contemplated jumping from the bridge. Carroll recalled a young man climbing the cables to the top of the stanchion; it was so foggy that first responders couldn’t see him. “It took about five hours, but when rescuers finally got up there, the guy was asleep,” he said.

He added: “I don’t think people would jump if they knew what happens when they hit the water.”

Carroll prefers happier memories, such as watching hundreds of vintage cars and motorcycles cross the bridge for shows at Bear Mountain State Park, chatting with celebrities such as Whoopie Goldberg, Oprah Winfrey and New York governors as they paid the toll, or the delivery man who brought him Boston cream donuts most nights.

One of Carroll’s fondest recollections was discovering a notebook kept by an engineer who worked on the bridge before it opened on Thanksgiving Day in 1924. The information inside was useful for recent renovations.

He chuckled while recalling drivers who missed the turn on the roundabout and asked at the booth how to get into West Point. “I’d tell them to study hard, and that it helps to know a U.S. senator,” Carroll said.

(Continued from Page 14)

of Historic Bridges of the Hudson Valley and the author of *Hudson River Bridges*.

Traffic has increased dramatically: In 1940, there were 143,417 crossings; today there are 7.6 million annually.

The New York State Bridge Authority, which operates the bridge, has scheduled two events for Sunday (Nov. 24) to cele-

brate the centennial. At 10 a.m., a parade and motorcade starting at the Garrison School will cross the bridge with up to 10 vehicles from every decade since the 1920s. At 3 p.m., at the Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill, there will be a screening of the documentary, *Bear Mountain Bridge: The First 100 Years*. Admission is \$10. For more information, visit bmb100.com.



Concrete reinforcement, Oct. 24, 1924



Nearly complete, Oct. 6, 1924



The road on the east side approaching the bridge

LOOKING BACK

IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (November 1874)

According to *The Cold Spring Recorder*, a Fishkill Landing family killed a pig, hung it up and went off. When they returned, two-thirds of the pig had disappeared. Searching a neighbor's home, Officer Sandford found a piece of pork hidden in a dinner pot.

After two dogs began fighting at Fishkill Landing, a stranger kicked Martin Hines' dog to break them apart. Seeing this, Hines punched the man. He was charged with assault and fined \$8 [about \$220 today].

According to *The Fishkill Standard*, three women had their pockets picked over two days at the Fishkill Landing depot while waiting for trains.

Daniel Manning, 7, was taking dinner to his father in Matteawan when he was knocked down by a passing merchant wagon. A wheel passed over his face, causing a gash from forehead to chin, and he was picked up and carried home.

George Washington Winfield Scott Schofield, the "original bill poster" in

Matteawan, sued an interloper from Newburgh for using his spaces.

The Howland Library reported it had 3,168 books.

The American Express office in Matteawan closed for lack of business.

The Empire Baseball Club of Matteawan traveled to Peekskill for a game, losing 35-23. Several Empire players got drunk and, while traveling home by train, quarreled with the brakeman, who "thrashed them all soundly."

A sand bank collapsed on the Rumsey property at Fishkill Landing and revealed a human skull. Mr. Rumsey notified the coroner, who concluded the skeleton found 2½ feet down belonged to a large man who apparently had been interred about a century earlier.

George Lane of Matteawan cut off his right toe while chopping down a tree.

Justice Schenck heard a lawsuit at Fishkill Landing by a New York City cigar supplier against a Wappingers Falls retailer who had accepted shipment with a 10-day return and 60-day payment policy. Two months later, the buyer said he wasn't satisfied with the quality and sent only a token payment. *The Newburgh Telegraph* reported that a jury tested the cigars and ruled for the plaintiff.

John Nice, a scissors grinder from Newburgh, received six months in jail for busting through a door at Matteawan in pursuit of a shop owner, for reasons not stated.

125 Years Ago (November 1899)

Four prisoners who led an uprising at the House of Refuge for Women at Hudson

were transferred to the Matteawan State Hospital for Insane Criminals.

Edward Boland, imprisoned in Albany for attempting to kill his wife with a pair of shears, was sent to the asylum after he grabbed a handful of hot coals from a stove and threw it into the face of another prisoner. Both were badly burned.

Byron Harding, a New York Central trowman, was killed by the "Flyer" as he stepped across the track at Fishkill Landing on his way to work. The train was the same one that went into the river at Garrison two years earlier.

100 Years Ago (November 1924)

Real estate agent Pierre Scheneck sold the Timoney brickyard to a New York corporation. The property had 42 acres of clay and sand, 1,000 feet of river frontage, two sheds, 10 houses, two barns and two concrete tunnels under the New York Central tracks.

Augustus Carter, 19, died at Highland Hospital after being shot by Frank Clark, 26, who told police the gun went off accidentally when the hammer caught on a car door. He said the two men were drinking together after a pheasant hunt.

A wildfire atop Mount Beacon that burned for nearly a week destroyed 2,500 acres and two cottages in the summer colony and threatened the casino. Firefighters struggled through hours-long shifts with wet bags and brooms.

William Jones, 80, who owned a Beacon insurance agency, married Evadne Nash, 26.

A judge released Vincent O'Brien, 15, on \$2,000 [\$37,000] bail to the custody of his father, who agreed to take his son to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore for evaluation. The teen had attempted to burn down the Marist Brothers school at Beacon because he was unprepared for his exams. Two doctors who examined Vincent attributed his psychopathy to the fact that, at age 13, he had lost 70 pounds in a year.

The family of John Lee, who was stationed aboard the USS Camden, received a postcard announcing he would be home for Thanksgiving. But a second dispatch soon after relayed the news that he had been killed by a train while taking a shortcut at a Connecticut station. Lee had twice earlier been granted furlough but was recalled at the last minute. He was survived by his father and five sisters.

75 Years Ago (November 1949)

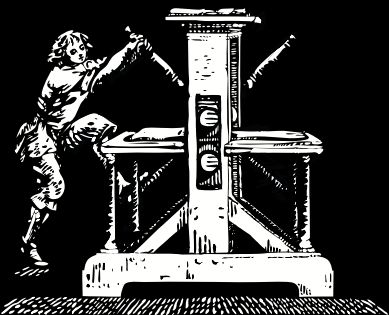
A 40-year-old woman was charged with assault after slapping another woman on Main Street. She was released on \$25 [\$332] bail.

Florence Schrader, the widow of hat manufacturer Gus Schrader, left \$5,000 [\$66,000] of her \$400,000 [\$5.3 million] estate to St. Luke's Episcopal Church and \$5,000 to Highland Hospital. She left her late husband's niece \$30,000 [\$400,000], a diamond ring, an automobile and a home at 545 Wolcott Ave.

A 71-year-old Ferry Street woman was taken to the hospital after being knocked

(Continued on Page 17)

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(Continued from Page 16)

down by a car backing out of a Bank Square service station. The 25-year-old driver insisted he hadn't struck her but that she walked into his car.

A court fined two brothers \$10 [\$134] each for disorderly conduct. They had banged on the front door of a home at 2 a.m. that turned out to belong to a Beacon police officer, who found them in his hall. They told him they were looking for someone and questioned his authority to arrest them since he was off duty.

A box was placed in front of Schoonmaker's store to collect items for Pieces for Peace, a project organized by the Beacon Council of Church Women to collect yarn, needles, thread and other sewing materials to be sent overseas.

Sixty-three percent of registered voters cast ballots in the Nov. 8 election in the 20 towns of Dutchess County where registration was not required. In Beacon, which required registration, the turnout was 96.4 percent. Mayor Lewis Bolton was reelected by 91 votes and Carleton Jones, the first-ward supervisor, won by six.

50 Years Ago (November 1974)

Seven Beacon High School students were suspended on Nov. 1 after a hallway fight at 8:45 a.m. The principal said it was "a carry-over from Halloween."

The Fishkill Correctional Facility moved its showroom for inmate arts, crafts, paintings and furniture so visitors no longer had to go through security to browse.

Ken Hall, a fast-pitch softball pitcher in the 1920s and '30s who worked at Texaco in Glenham, was inducted into the Dutchess County Old Timers' Baseball Association Hall of Fame.

Mayor Robert Cahill said that, despite the state Freedom of Information Law, he would go to jail before he allowed access to certain, unspecified police records.

Police arrested a 43-year-old Beacon man on morals charges after a traffic stop on Interstate 84. The officer questioned the two passengers, who turned out to be runaways from Poughkeepsie, ages 12 and 16, who had been hitchhiking.



Ruth Polhill donated to the Howland library a copy of a guide to Dutchess County compiled in 1937 by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration. Its previous copies had been lost or fallen apart from use.

The USS Beacon, a Navy patrol gunboat, visited the city for a weekend public inspection. The Elks hosted a party for the crew.

The 2-4-1 Beacon High School football team defeated winless Kingston, 20-13, in a game that featured 12 fumbles and four interceptions.

A fight that began in a movie theater on Friday night (Nov. 15) between two teenage girls, one Black and one white, spilled outside, where a group of at least 50 adolescents broke windows on Main Street. The next day, fights broke out after the Saturday football game. On the following Monday, police made 26 arrests during brawls between roaming bands of Black and white students. The Dutchess County sheriff sent 40 deputies to help Beacon police restore order.

In an emergency session that evening, the City Council established a 7 p.m. curfew for anyone aged 18 and younger. Officers stopped vehicles and confiscated clubs and baseball bats. Two Peekskill High School students were among those arrested, along with a Cold Spring man who had a 4½-foot machete in his car.

On Tuesday, city officials, school officials, community leaders and residents met for 3½ hours to discuss the unrest. Mayor Cahill told the *Poughkeepsie Journal*: "What we have is a bunch of white and Black kids who really don't like each other and, every now and then, fight it out...."

Interracial dating between the white girls and Black boys is part of it. But maybe the more serious problem is that nobody, the Blacks or whites involved, is listening."

Leon Cochrane, a Black member of the school board, said the students he saw in the streets weren't old enough to date. "These were young kids," he said. The Rev. Richard Ryley, pastor of the Methodist Church, believed the disturbances were the result of "racist feelings on both sides that have been there for years."

On Wednesday, about 40 percent of students were absent at Beacon High School, where parents and clergy members patrolled the halls. After a night of relative calm, Cahill lifted the curfew on Thursday.

25 Years Ago (November 1999)

Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Maurice Hinchey visited the Dutchess Democratic Committee headquarters on Main Street to endorse Lou Amoroso, who was challenging three-term incumbent Mayor Clara Lou Gould. (Gould won with 57 percent of the vote.)

Peter Forman, 44, was elected to his first full term as Dutchess County Family Court judge. He had been appointed after James Pagones was elected county surrogate.

The 24-bed McClelland's Home for Adults on Old Castle Point Road began a 40-bed expansion.

Residents asked the Town of Fishkill to limit parking on Van Ness Road because so many people left their cars there to walk on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge.

The City Council voted to reopen an environmental review of Scenic Hudson's proposal to build a 15-acre park at Mount Beacon. A company whose application to mine on Fishkill Ridge had been held up by a state study of whether it would harm endangered timber rattlesnakes objected that the same standard had not been applied to the Scenic Hudson application.

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1. Clutch

6. Modern messages

11. “Queen of Soul” Franklin

12. Used a modern car service

14. Irish singer O’Connor

15. More promising

16. “— Mine” (Beatles song)

17. *Zorba the Greek* star

19. Hit CBS series

20. Morning droplets

22. Pump up the volume

23. Bit of dust

24. Road curves

26. Test monitor

28. Wardrobe malfunction

30. Sharing word

31. Driving instructor?

35. Flavor

39. “Les Etats- —”

40. Hosp. areas

42. Earth sci.

43. Astern

44. *Star Trek* doctor

46. Computer acronym

47. Band aide

49. Fly

51. Blood givers

52. Evening prayer

53. Newbies

54. Perfume compound
- DOWN
1. Tony winner Tammy

2. Extends, as a lease

3. Devoured

4. Cager O’Neal, for short

5. City near Venice

6. Start playing for pay

7. Black, in verse

8. Ballot marks

9. Lingerie fabric

10. Handles

11. Stage comment

13. Less damp

18. Little rascal

21. Feudal farmers

23. Jazz singer Carmen

25. Use a straw

27. Ump’s call

29. Method

31. Sentry

32. Walking

33. Lengthy list

34. Tolkien creature

36. Abrasion

37. Horn blower

38. Gantry of fiction

41. Italian wine

44. Surrealist Joan

45. Saint Laurent of fashion

48. “Le Coq —”

50. Follower (Suff.)

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

BASES

CHATS

WORDSEARCH

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

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DISCS

ASHOW

MEADE

PAPACY

ANITSA

BARSF

UTOPIA

ACORN

ROVE

SHADING

OAT

NNE

PAL

ACE

SHATNER

OGRE

STOOD

FLORA

SALSAS

SHIP

ARF

ERASER

TAPAS

EVEN

SEND

MED

ANA

Answers for Nov. 15 Puzzles

MJCHERKUPG

EXOLEBARMS

MGXGXQIAWB

INKTTNDEOQ

NIPYCECNMP

ETQELNOJUB

MSDEOKXIFG

YOAYZQLICX

OFELQRI LDU

CBUANNO DAM

MIXED, MIRED, AIRED,

AIDED, SIDED, SIZED

249175836

568932471

137864592

786491253

921356784

453728169

872649315

614583927

395217648

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Roots and Shoots

After the Rain

By Pamela Doan



As of this writing, we are finally forecast to get a badly needed, measurable rainfall. I will take advantage of the softened soil to complete some garden tasks that were either more challenging or not feasible until now.

Managing pervasive species

As the trees dropped their leaves, a few woody plants caught my attention in the woods. While I've noticed burning bush seedlings in past years announcing their presence with red leaves, this year the amur honeysuckle's yellow leaves grabbed my attention.

Once I had identified it, I saw it everywhere. Both burning bush and amur honeysuckle are introduced species that have the tendency to aggressively spread out and lose their leaves later than native species. It's been too dry to pull anything, but now that we're getting rain, I can take a walk and clear them.

Planting — yes, you can

Garlic, bulbs and deciduous trees can still be planted. I managed to get seed garlic from Fedco shipped last week after losing hope that I had waited too long. After the rain, the soil will be loose enough to slip bulbs into the garden and alliums into the flowerbeds. I even picked up tulip bulbs to be planted in containers on the patio. Will the tulips be a deer snack rather than a lovely bouquet? Odds are on the deer, but I'll try anyway.

Since we've had such a warm fall, the ground hasn't frozen, and it's still possible to plant trees. The timing is great since the trees are dormant. Watering will be necessary until the ground freezes, but they will need less with the cooler temperatures



A hike last summer in Washington's Olympic National Forest, among cedar and fir trees up to 800 years old, was a moment of awe that will sustain me for a while. Photo provided

and a layer of mulch.

During the last significant drought, we experienced air in the pipes of our well because the water was low. Fortunately, we were able to avoid having to take drastic actions, but when we go through periods without rain, my family doesn't wait for official notice to be cautious.

I keep a watering can near the kitchen sink and dump any leftover water from our drinking glasses, cleaning vegetables and cooking. After our rain barrel went dry, that gave me just enough water for plants that I needed to maintain. Another conservation trick is to catch the water from the shower or faucet while you wait for it to warm up.

Clean and sharpen tools

This is one task I should do more often. Although I clean tools during the season to make sure I'm not moving jumping worms or unwanted plant seeds around between client projects, I need to sharpen all the pruners. Sharp blades are more efficient and easier on your body.

Edging

Softened ground makes for a less taxing job when you install edging. Whether it's metal that can be pounded in with a mallet, a rock border or material that needs to be dug in, now is a good moment to get that project completed. I have a few areas that need a boundary from creeping lawn and they will finally get it.

Leave the leaves

I've covered this topic before and this season I have an additional timely reason for not having a clean-swept lawn. Leaf cover helps protect the soil and plants during a drought because, when there is precipitation, they absorb rainwater and prevent runoff and soil erosion. As the leaves decompose on the lawn during the winter and spring, they add organic matter to the soil, making it more absorbent.

Rest

Gardeners can be a relentlessly productive and ambitious bunch. I could stand in my doorway right now and point out 37 things that need to be done within a 10-foot radius. And yet, we've been through a lot this year and the coming years will have setbacks and upheaval for people who care about the non-human world and a healthy, livable environment.

Take some time to appreciate the trees and plants that make it possible for us to survive on this planet. Celebrate what you've created and nurtured. We need a period of dormancy, too, to gather our energy for the coming season.

Sports

Haldane Falls in Sectional Title Game

Overwhelmed by rival Tuckahoe, 28-0

By Jacob Aframian

Nearly a year to the day after Haldane came back to beat Tuckahoe, 27-21, in the 2023 Section I, Class D title game, the Tigers had an easier route to the 2024 championship, downing the Blue Devils, 28-0, on Nov. 15 at Mahopac High School.

Because they are the only two Class D football teams in Section I, Haldane and Tuckahoe play each year for the title. The

winner advances to regional competition.

The scoring started in the first quarter with a 16-yard run by Tuckahoe quarterback Connor Brice. On its first drive, Haldane struggled, gaining more yards from Tuckahoe penalties (25) than on offense (16).

The second quarter started for the Blue Devils with a fourth-and-4 from the Tuckahoe 28-yard line — the best chance to get something going. But Tuckahoe recovered a fumble on the handoff and took over.

After a 24-yard run by Declan Connolly, Brice took the ball five yards for his second score with 8:38 left in the half. Three

minutes later, Connolly scored on a 1-yard run up the middle to make it 21-0.

With less than 30 seconds left in the half, Tuckahoe had third-and-9 from the Haldane 27-yard line. Connolly caught a screen pass and scored, giving the Tigers a 28-0 lead.

Haldane neutralized Tuckahoe's offense in the second half, but its offense couldn't get on the board. Because of the Tigers' strong blitzes, Haldane quarterback David Powlis appeared to be running for his life on many plays.

The Blue Devils ended the season with a 4-4 record and will lose many top players to graduation, including Brody Corless, Nate Stickle and Fallou Faye. "It's hard to put into words the way those guys have carried themselves," said Coach Ryan McConville. "When a game is win or go home, it's gut-wrenching" to lose.

CROSS-COUNTRY — On Nov. 16, Haldane competed in the state championships in Queensbury, near Glens Falls, where Owen Powers was third overall in Class D, finishing the 5,000 meters in 16:04.8. Jack Illian was 29th for the Blue Devils in 17:10.5 and the boys finished fourth as a team. For the girls, Ashley Sousa finished 38th among Class D runners in 21:17.4, her best time of the season. Powers will be among 299 runners at the 50th annual New York State Federation Championships on Saturday (Nov. 23) at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls; he is the first Haldane athlete to qualify for the meet.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for sports updates and latest information.