



# The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 13, 2024

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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A rendering of a section of the Shoreline Trail

HHFT

## Fjord Trail State Report Released

*Comment period opens on environmental review*

By Brian PJ Cronin

After several years of work, the state parks department on Dec. 4 released a draft of its environmental review of the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

The 709-page Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement considers the effects the proposed trail could have on the Highlands in 14 areas, including land use, emergency services, traffic and transportation, biological

resources and community character.

It also lists suggested mitigation efforts for HHFT to receive permits for the project, such as limiting construction in certain areas to specific times of year to avoid disturbing threatened and endangered wildlife, and replacing invasive species with native plants.

The Fjord Trail is a 7.5-mile trail for pedestrians and cyclists that would function as a linear park connecting Beacon to Cold Spring. It would also include 5 miles of narrower, pedestrian-only meanders, spurs

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Prophecy Hall Switches Gears

*Owners want larger restaurant instead of venue*

By Jeff Simms

The owners of Prophecy Hall, a hotel, restaurant and event center slated to open at the former Reformed Church of Beacon on Wolcott Avenue, have asked the Planning Board to amend the project's approval to allow a 150-seat restaurant instead of the event venue.

The project was approved in August 2023, more than two years after its introduction, allowing an investment team to transform the 165-year-old church into a venue for art, theater and music with an ancillary 50-seat restaurant. An adjacent parsonage was to be renovated and expanded into a 30-room hotel.

According to materials submitted to the Planning Board before its Tuesday (Dec. 10) meeting, the owners now would like to operate a fine-dining restaurant in the space that would be open 365 days per year. The hotel would remain. No reason was given for the change.

If approved, the facility would offer brunch and dinner to the public and breakfast and snacks to hotel guests. The proposed hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The developers anticipate hosting weddings and other private events but at a "much-reduced frequency" than planned for the event center.

The site has 33 parking spaces. Another 29

*(Continued on Page 9)*

### Reporter's Notebook

## Learning Too Late

By Joey Asher

When it comes to disability etiquette, I was a lousy role model.

My brother-in-law, John Costa, struggled most of his life with schizophrenia. He was a groomsman at my wedding 36 years ago at The



Bird & Bottle Inn in Philipstown. But John scared the hell out of me with his brooding look and his tendency to lecture on topics that didn't make much sense.

I couldn't see past his disability. So I avoided him.

I thought about John on Dec. 6 while attending the eighth annual Dutchess County Think Differently Conference at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park. The topic was disability etiquette, and the lineup of speakers provided a primer.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Putnam Executive Sues Legislature

*State court hits lawmakers with injunction*

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne is suing the Legislature over the ability of its members to unilaterally hire an attorney. On Tuesday (Dec. 10), six of nine Putnam lawmakers voted to do just that, despite concerns they were violating a court order.

With Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, joining Erin Crowley (Carmel/Mahopac) and William Gouldman (Putnam Valley) in abstaining, the Legislature voted to hire a Mount Kisco firm as its representative in a lawsuit filed Nov. 26 by Byrne.

In an escalating feud with the Legislature, Byrne is asking acting state Judge Joseph Spofford to void a local law amending the county charter so lawmakers can fire a county attorney at will, as well as Resolution 216, which allows them to hire an attorney without Law Department approval.

Byrne filed the lawsuit after legislators voted on Nov. 25 to override his vetoes of both measures. He won an order, issued by Spofford on Nov. 26, prohibiting the Legislature from "engaging any law firm" under Resolution 216 and barring the Legislature from taking any further action regarding the charter change until the case is

*(Continued on Page 8)*



**GARRISON STOP** — Neal Zuckerman, a Philipstown resident who serves on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, spoke at a news conference on Wednesday (Dec. 11) at the Metro-North station in Garrison during a visit by Gov. Kathy Hochul (second from left) to announce the completion of upgrades to its platforms, staircases, railings, tactile strips, expansion joints and foundations, and to celebrate other MTA achievements in 2024. MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber (right) and officials from Putnam County, Philipstown and Beacon also attended. The MTA said it plans next to install security cameras. NYS photo

# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: CHRISTINA COMINELLI

By Brian PJ Cronin

Christina Cominelli, who lives in Newburgh, is a location scout who most recently worked on *The Four Seasons*, a Netflix series starring Tina Fey and Steve Carell that was filmed in the Hudson Valley, including Beacon and Cold Spring.

## How did you become a location scout?

I studied film at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It took a long time to get my first job. I emailed tons of people while working at a coffee shop, and the first person to get back to me was an assistant location manager who helped me get my first job, as a location assistant. That was seven years ago. I worked on a bunch of jobs and eventually started scouting, which is what I had wanted to do.

## Why did you move to Newburgh?

In 2019, I was living in Brooklyn when I got a job working on the HBO show *I Know This Much Is True*. The production was based in Poughkeepsie. If you live in New York City, production puts you up in hotels for the run of the show. Every job I've had since then has been based up here, so I was spending a lot of time living in hotels. Two years ago, I decided to move to Newburgh, and now I have a better sense of the neighborhoods and



towns in the area, which is helpful when you need to find specific architecture or terrain.

## What did you do with *The Four Seasons*?

A main location in the series is a lake house, so we spent a lot of time looking for that. I used Google Maps to look for lakes, then drove around and knocked on doors. [The series used a home in Putnam Valley.] Since the series takes place throughout the four seasons, you're looking for things that look good in winter, spring, summer and fall. We had to find a ski slope, a college town and stores and businesses that look like they'd be in the town [in the series].

Google Earth is useful if you need something specific. For example, the lake house

needed to have a lot of land. You also need to make sure it's viable for production. I found a house on a hill that ran down to a lake, but you need to park trucks and equipment. That's harder to spot if you're driving around but easier to see on Google.

## How do people react when you knock on their door and tell them you might want to film in their house?

They're usually confused, or they think I'm selling something. Once you tell them the stars who are in the movie, people get excited. It's interesting because I get to meet people that I wouldn't usually come across.

## What's the hardest part of the job?

Driving around and trying to find the exact locations that the director wants can be tricky, but the hardest part is when you find the perfect location and things don't work out. We were supposed to film at a school, for example, and it was just a reshoot, so it was all last minute. They wanted to shoot during a school day, which is pretty much impossible. Someone may say yes, but then the superintendent says no. You have to make sure you're talking to the right people. That's called "clearing the location." It might work for what the film needs if you *could* film there, but to clear it, you need to jump through the hoops of getting the approvals and permits.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## Do you shop early for the holidays?

"I procrastinate; I shop last minute."



Sophie Bolla, Beacon

"My wife does; I don't do any of it."



Luis Lopez, Beacon

"I have an 8-month-old — I'm way behind!"



Michelle Percacciola, Cold Spring

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**Judge Approves CCA  
Utility Settlement***Beacon, Philipstown residents  
to receive payout*

A state judge on Dec. 5 approved a \$1.5 million settlement with an energy company that defaulted on a contract to supply renewable electricity at a fixed rate to residents of Beacon, Cold Spring, Philipstown and seven other municipalities.

Columbia Utilities admitted no wrongdoing but agreed to a \$1 million payment into a settlement fund and \$50,000 monthly payments by June 1, 2025, to cover the balance. The Ulster County judge overseeing the case also approved \$286,585 in attorney fees and up to \$56,500 in administrative costs.

More than 23,000 people in the 10 municipalities are eligible for payouts that the settlement administrator estimated would average between \$46 and \$50.

The account holders had each signed up in 2021 to purchase renewable energy at 6.6 cents per kilowatt-hour for residences and 7.1 cents for small businesses under a community choice aggregation (CCA) program called Hudson Valley Community Power.

In April 2022, Columbia notified the Public Service Commission, the state's utility regulator, that it intended to transfer CCA customers back to Central Hudson.

**Beacon Completes Repaving  
for the Year***Fishkill Avenue project also breaks for winter*

The City of Beacon this week completed milling and paving the final eight streets scheduled for improvements this year after Central Hudson replaced gas pipelines.

Another project also wrapped up for the winter this week: repaving, replacing drainage structures and repairing or adding sidewalks along more than a mile of Fishkill/Teller Avenue, from Fishkill and Mill Street to Teller and Wolcott Avenue. The \$9 million job resumes in April; it is scheduled for completion by July.

**Cannabis Business Approved***Beacon will have at least three outlets*

VJ Farms LLC has been approved by the State of New York to open a cannabis business at 544 Main St. in Beacon.

VJ Farms, owned by Stacey Shurgin of New York City, earlier this year received a microbusiness license, the same granted to LotusWorks Wellness at 261 Main St. A third operation, 463 Station Inc., at 463 Main St. (the former Beacon police station), has a retail license. Only LotusWorks has opened.

A microbusiness, according to the state, can engage in cultivation, processing, wholesale distribution, retail sales and on-site consumption. A retail license allows a store only to sell cannabis products provided by authorized businesses.

**Fire District Elects  
Commissioners***Jamie Copeland joins Garrison board*

Voters on Tuesday (Dec. 10) elected two commissioners to the five-member Garrison Fire District board.

Lee Erickson, appointed this year to fill a vacancy that ends Dec. 31, 2025, received 39 votes and will serve a full, five-year term. Jamie Copeland received 35 votes and will complete the final year of Erickson's term. Denise Mackey, also appointed this year to fill a vacancy, did not run.

The other commissioners are Nat Prentice (whose term ends in 2026), David Brower (2027) and Linda Lomonaco (2028).

The Philipstown North Highlands Fire District also held its annual elections on Tuesday for two commissioners, one to serve a full, five-year term and one to serve two years. Christopher Tobin was elected to a 5-year term, defeating incumbent Cory Lyons, 63-40, and John Egger was unopposed for a two-year term. The other board members are Steve Sherman, Mike Barr and Don Hyatt.

**Beacon Ambulance Gets  
\$15K Grant***Dutchess provides funds for 'fly car'*

Dutchess County on Monday (Dec. 9) announced grants to fund lifesaving equipment for 10 fire departments, rescue squads and ambulance corps for their rapid-response "fly cars."

The vehicles, equipped with tools to stabilize patients, are often first on the scene. The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps will receive \$15,688 to purchase a Lifeline ARM Chest Compression System.

**Migrants to Leave Route 9 Hotel***New York mayor cites drop in shelter demand*

Mayor Eric Adams announced on Tuesday (Dec. 10) that the Red Roof Inn on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie will be among 25 facilities that New York City will stop using as shelters for immigrants seeking asylum in the U.S.

The Crossroads Hotel in the Town of Newburgh is also on the list. Migrants will leave the facilities over the next two months. Adams said the number of asylum-seekers that New York City is sheltering has fallen to its lowest point in 17 months.

The transport by New York City of 88 migrants to the Red Roof Inn in May 2023 spurred a lawsuit by Dutchess, and other counties challenged the use of their local hotels. New York City said its shelters were full.

A state judge ruled in December 2023 that New York had to remove, within six months, the migrants at the Red Roof Inn. But an appeal by the city stayed the order.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Clara Lou

Thank you for your story about Clara Lou ("Clara Lou Gould, Longtime Mayor of Beacon, Dies at 97," Dec. 6), and thanks especially for rerunning Deb Lucke's 2019 cartoon. I framed it a long time ago and have it hanging next to my desk.

I grew up in Beacon when it was a bustling mill town; for a time I lived with my mom and sister in an apartment over what's now BJ's, but what was then a nice gift shop where you could buy china and crystal. To come back from time to time over the decades to see the decline of a place I so loved was hard, but then came Clara Lou.

Mary Costantin, *St. Louis, Missouri*

Such an incredible legacy. We're so grateful to Clara Lou for everything she did for Beacon.

Shelley Simmons-Bloom, *via Instagram*

Amazing! Sounds like we have Clara Lou to thank for Beacon today. Rest in power, CLG.  
Anthony Lise, *via Instagram*

Bus schedule

It ought to be noted that, with the schedule that begins Jan. 4, the Beacon Free Loop will lose its 7:56 p.m. and 8:22 p.m. departures from the train station ("Dutchess Transit Changes," Dec. 6). The last bus will leave at 7:30 p.m. — a pretty sizeable loss.

Bob Delap, *Beacon*

Fjord Trail

The Dec. 4 release of the huge Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) by state parks on the planned Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail comes during perhaps the busiest time of the year for many people ("State Parks Release Fjord Trail Study," Dec. 6).

That was not, in my opinion, a random act. I believe it was a conscious decision by the governor and administrators at state parks and Scenic Hudson to deflate and inhibit organizations and individuals from having the time to read through the 709 pages adequately, research specific areas and organize formal comments before the very quick comment period.

How is this not a premeditated strategy to deflect democracy and fairness, conceived by ultra-wealthy donors behind this ill-conceived and destructive development?

Peter Salmansohn, *Philipstown*

*Editor's note: Comments on the report, which is posted online and available in print at select locations, can be submitted through Feb. 2. See Page 1.*

I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the Fjord Trail. As a member of the Nelsonville Village Board and director for several of Philipstown's athletic programs, I have had the opportunity to interact with numerous community members who support this project. The consensus has been that the Fjord Trail will offer a safe and picturesque opportunity to enjoy an accessible park, promising economic and social benefits to our village and the surrounding area.

I would be remiss not to highlight the members of our community who do not share my fullhearted support. While they do not represent most of the conversations I've had, they are people whom I respect greatly and know have our community's best interests at heart.

I hope that the Fjord Trail will continue to work to earn the community's trust and goodwill. But I also believe that our local representatives have a part to play in dampening hostility. I have witnessed firsthand the curt and dismissive nature that Fjord Trail representatives receive, and I believe this sets a dismissive and hostile tone that carries over into many of the Village Board meetings, where I hear the most objections to this project. There is a place for civil discourse without ostracizing members of our community who represent the Fjord Trail.

The DGEIS is encouraging, and I believe that many of the concerns and complaints I have heard are addressed and mitigated. Many of the economic and environmental concerns I have heard about the trail appear to be researched and addressed, and I believe the report represents a great step forward. I look forward to reading more expert interpretations and encourage everyone to make their voice heard in the ongoing call for public comment.

Travis Biro, *Nelsonville*

*Editor's note: A longer version of this letter appears at [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).*

Putnam Legislature

The Putnam County Legislature has become a house divided, not by political party but by two factions, each operating under a vastly different set of rules. This division has become increasingly apparent over the past several months, when policy has clearly taken a backseat to politics, resulting in a toxic environment, particularly for those who dare to question the authority of the chair, Paul Jonke.

Jonke has demonstrated a consistent pattern of disrespect and disregard for any colleague who dares to challenge his decisions or opinions. His behavior toward female colleagues who do not conform to his expectations is particularly concerning.

(Continued on Page 5)



## My View

## Letter from Kharkiv

By Michael Reisman



In November, I made my fourth volunteering trip to Ukraine during the Russian invasion. I went despite — or maybe because of — uncertainty about how the war will end.

As with previous trips, which I wrote about in *The Current*, I helped make packaged meals for soldiers and led drama therapy workshops for university students, mental health workers and actors in various cities.

In the sessions, which involved 200 participants, we focused not on the war but on fantasy: sunbathing on the beach in Crimea, swimming in the river of youth, growing the tree of life and digging for wishes. Unlike in April, in nearly every session, people cried, even tough military doctors.

This trip was different for another reason. My last stop was Kharkiv, the country's most-bombed major city, 19 miles from the Russian border in the northeast. Residents live each moment knowing that a missile, drone or glide bomb may hit the spot on which they are standing, without warning.

I went to Kharkiv because I wanted to learn how human beings can live in such extreme conditions. And I wanted to give folks an emotional outlet or a bit of stress relief. Most of all, it was personal. I recently learned that my grandfather was born not far away.

My pilgrimage began in baroque Lviv (occasionally bombed), proceeded to majestic Kyiv (bombed during my arrival) and then to Irpin (bombed at the beginning of



A view of Kharkiv, Ukraine

File photo

the war). On the 1,001st day of the war, I took a six-hour train to the end of the line. That was Kharkiv.

Kharkiv reminded me of New York City when I was growing up there in the 1980s, with boarded-up and burned-out buildings abutting sparkling cafes and boutiques, Beamers and bangers tooling down potholed roads and Irish bars next to rubble.

Everyone I met, from sociologist Olena, to clinic director Alexander, to university administrator Yulia, was exhausted by the war. Because we were close to the front and a military hospital lies in the city center, I saw countless soldiers who had a 1,000-meter stare.

After we sipped infused-fruit tea in a place called Some Like it Hot, Olena showed me Freedom Square (one of the largest in Europe), historic skyscraper Derzhprom (bombed a few weeks earlier) and the rebuilt Gorky Park (now known as Central Park). She said she doesn't worry about the risk of death in Kharkiv because there's no point.

We passed a Ferris wheel, haunted house and roller coaster (all closed). A few brave

souls strolled and jogged in a soft rain. Olena told me which way was north (i.e., Russia), and I glanced nervously in that direction. After hearing a rumbling in the distance, I asked if it was thunder or an explosion. She indicated the latter.

I tried to rest in my hotel room before the workshop at the National Arts University. But I heard the rat-tat-tat of what sounded like missile defense fire. Was it the Russians? Should I hide in the shelter? I checked the air alert app, but for most of my 48 hours in Kharkiv it buzzed away, useless.

I texted my friend Corey Watson, who spends much time in Kharkiv with his non-governmental organization (NGO), Pizza for Ukraine. From Oregon, where it was the

middle of the night, he gave me real-time updates from Telegram. No, the Russians were not attacking. It was the piping, the elevator or just my mind.

I speed-walked to the House with Chimeras, an art nouveau relic that has survived at least three wars and is adorned with foreboding creatures and a dash of English Gothic. When I entered the room, yet another air alert had begun but everyone was focused on putting plastic baggies on their shoes.

The attendees — acting students and teachers from their early 20s to 70s — were the most energetic of the 10 groups I saw in Ukraine. I had them do spectrograms, asking them to rate how they felt physically, emotionally and spiritually by standing on a line ranging from zero to 100. No words, some tears, but improbably most were close to 100 for each question.

They created a breathtaking series of silent emotional sculptures with their bodies: anxiety, surprise, falling in love, balance. We took turns visiting this "emotional museum," providing commentary. I asked why there was no hate or anger, and someone replied, as Olena had, "What would be the point?"

The session ended in the same way as my first one in Lviv two weeks earlier. Standing shoulder to shoulder, without prompting, we sang "Shchedryk," a fast-paced old Ukrainian tune. "Here flew the swallow from afar / Started to sing lively and loud." Americans know it as "The Carol of the Bells."

*Reisman is a lawyer who lives in Cold Spring.*

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

tations is particularly egregious, marked by misogynistic comments and actions.

I was appalled by what I witnessed during the Dec. 10 special meeting of the Legislature, where Jonke questioned Legislator Nancy Montgomery's ability to read and repeatedly shut down and demeaned Legislator Erin Crowley because both women dared to ask questions rather than parrot the company line.

Jonke is unfit to serve as chair. His leadership style is divisive and counterproductive, and his behavior is a disgrace to the office. The people of Putnam County deserve a Legislature that is fair, transparent and respectful of all its members. I urge the Legis-

lature to take immediate action to address this issue and to restore a sense of civility and cooperation to the governing body. It is not sufficient to let his term as chair expire at the end of the year; he should resign.

Phyllis Brooks, *Carmel*

## Artist Next Door

It was such a joy to see Elin Lundman's incredible work and vision highlighted ("The Artist Next Door," Dec. 6). Her ability to blend artistic brilliance with a deep respect for the environment is inspiring. It's wonderful to witness her creativity flourishing and making an impact. She's an artist whose journey I'll continue to follow closely.

Brett Miller, *Beacon*

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A map of the southern section of the trail

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## Construction Timeline

### Phase 1 (2025-26)

- Main trail from Breakneck Connector to Bannerman Island overlook
- Meander to Bannerman overlook
- Wade’s Hill parking lot
- Connector from lot to Wilkinson Trail
- Maintenance facility

### Phase 2 (2026-29)

- Main trail from Bannerman overlook to Notch entry
- Connector to Dutchess Manor
- Connector to Notch entry
- Parking and restrooms at Notch

### Phase 3 (2027-29)

- Main trail from Notch to Long Dock Park
- Bridge over Fishkill Creek
- Meanders at Denning’s Point and Madam Brett Park
- Restrooms at Long Dock Park and Dennings Point

### Phase 4 (2026-31)

- Main trail (elevated) from Breakneck to Little Stony Point
- Main trail in Little Stony Point
- Main trail (elevated) from Little Stony Point to Dockside
- Lower overlook
- Meanders in Little Stony Point
- Restrooms at Little Stony Point
- Washburn parking expansion

Source: DGEIS

## Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

and loops branching off from the main trail. When the trail was conceived in 2006, it was imagined as a simple walking path. But after Breakneck Ridge became one of the most popular hiking trails in the country, the project underwent a significant expansion and redesign that was unveiled in 2020. The goal was to address the throngs of hikers and cars along Route 9D; the lack of safe access to the Hudson River; Main Street in Cold Spring becoming overrun with visitors on weekends; the need for public restrooms; a dearth of accessible recreational activities; and the threat to riverside attractions from projected sea-level rise because of climate change.

Last year, HHFT announced that it was pausing some of the “destination” amenities included in the 2020 plan, such as an outdoor classroom, a play area, a swimming area at Little Stony Point with a floating dock, and a meander that would have led to a secluded wooded area with hammocks. Those amenities do not appear in the environmental impact report. If HHFT adds them later, they would be subject to a new environmental review.

The report is online at [dub.sh/hhft-report](http://dub.sh/hhft-report), along with information about how to register for two virtual public hearings scheduled for Jan. 14, and how to submit comments. Physical copies are also available at local libraries, the Cold Spring and Nelsonville village halls, Philipstown Town Hall, Beacon City Hall and the HHFT office at 14 Coris Lane in Beacon.

Comments will be accepted through Feb. 2, although some elected officials have called on the state to extend the deadline (see box). Public comments will be addressed in the final environmental report, scheduled for

release over the summer. Amy Kacala, the HHFT executive director, said none of the mitigation measures were “a huge surprise” to the nonprofit. “We’ve been going back and forth with state parks for several years, so we’ve already had a chance to think through how we would avoid certain areas or shrink the footprint in other areas,” she said.

The report splits the trail into two sections: The 5.5-mile Fjord Trail North begins in Beacon’s Long Dock Park and heads south, and the 2-mile Fjord Trail South begins at the state-owned Dockside Park in Cold Spring and heads north. The Breakneck Connector and Bridge that connects the two, which is under construction, had a separate environmental review released in 2022.

The former Dutchess Manor on Route 9D, which the HHFT plans to convert into its headquarters by 2027, is also not part of the current environmental review because the site is under the jurisdiction of the Town of Fishkill rather than the state. The report does include a proposed 90-space lot across from Dutchess Manor, as well as an 80-space lot of Route 9D just north of Melzingah Reservoir Road and the expansion of the lot across from the entrance to Little Stony Point from 49 to 96 spaces.

The report discusses alternate routes for the trail, concluding that none balance the environmental impact as well as the chosen route, although the report says further study is needed on a proposal to have the trail begin at the Metro-North station in Cold Spring, avoiding Dockside.

The report also briefly considered another alternative — no trail — but concluded none of the problems it is designed to address can be resolved without it.

Here’s a look at some of the topics covered:

### Traffic

The increase in visitors is not expected to have much traffic impact in Beacon, according to the report, but three intersections in or near Cold Spring will have “significant adverse impacts”: Route 9D and Main Street, Fair Street and Main Street, and where Fair Street and Route 9D meet the proposed expanded Washburn Parking Lot across from Little Stony Point.

On the northbound approach to the 9D/ Main intersection, the report projects a delay of up to 34.9 seconds during peak hours on Saturdays and 54.7 seconds on Sundays. It suggests reducing the impact by removing parking spaces on Main Street near the intersection to create left-turn-only lanes and a shared through-right turn lane and changing the timing of the traffic

*(Continued on Page 20)*

## Local Officials Ask for New Deadline

*Cold Spring trustees vote 3-2 for request*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board on Wednesday (Dec. 11) voted 3-2 to ask state parks to extend to 120 days the public comment period for the recently released draft environmental impact statement for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

The state released the report on Dec. 4 and set a Feb. 2 deadline for comments.

Mayor Kathleen Foley and Trustees Tweeps Phillips Woods and Laura Bozzi voted in favor and Trustees Eliza Starbuck and Aaron Freimark against.

At the mayor’s request, Ted Fink, the principal of Greenplan, a land-use planning consulting firm, submitted a proposal to assist the village with its analysis of the report for \$8,500. Foley said it might make sense to invite Nelsonville and Philipstown to share the cost.

HHFT representatives will attend the Dec. 18 board meeting to answer questions about the trail’s impact.

At the Philipstown Town Board meeting on Dec. 5, Supervisor John Van Tassel said he plans to request an extension because the report’s release just before Christmas does not allow town officials enough time to review the document.

Van Tassel also said he would be one of the signatories on a letter to Putnam Executive Kevin Byrne asking that the county’s Bureau of Emergency Services and Office of Emergency Management undertake a “deep, detailed review” of the trail’s emergency action plan. “I don’t feel it’s fair that the local emergency services be tasked with this work,” he said.

State Sen. Rob Rolison, whose district includes Beacon and Philipstown, sent a letter on Wednesday (Dec. 11) to state parks requesting that the deadline be extended by 30 days, to March 4.

*Leonard Sparks contributed reporting.*



## TAG & MOVING SALE

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LOTS of jewelry, home accents, decorative items, English riding hat, mahogany seating trio (armchair, rocking chair, and settee), pristine Capezio tap shoes, an electric wheelchair, and more!

# Philipstown May Expand Tax Breaks

*Proposals raise income limits for seniors, disabled*

By Leonard Sparks

Philipstown would expand tax exemptions for seniors and disabled residents for the first time in 16 years under two local laws proposed on Dec. 5 by the Town Board.

Residents who are 65 and older or disabled are eligible for exemptions from taxes on portions of their properties' assessed value. The exemption, last raised in July 2009, is based on a sliding scale that starts at 50 percent of the assessed value for incomes below \$29,000. As incomes rise, the size of the tax break decreases in increments before ending at 5 percent for incomes between \$36,500 and \$37,400.

Under the town's proposals, which are scheduled for a public hearing on Feb. 6, the income floor for senior and disabled property owners would rise to \$50,000 and top out at \$58,399. At the floor, a qualifying owner whose property's assessed value is \$200,000 would save \$347 on their annual tax bill based on the 2025 townwide tax rate.

"I'm proud that the board is doing this," said Jason Angell, a board member. "It means that a lot more Philipstown residents are going to get some relief."

## Housing pledge

The Town Board on Dec. 5 adopted a pledge required of municipalities seeking to be certified under the state's Pro-Housing Communities program, which prioritizes

participants for \$650 million in funding.

The pledge requires municipalities to commit to streamlining permits for residential projects, including multifamily and supportive housing; adopt policies that advance fair housing; incorporate regional housing needs into planning decisions; and increase residential development capacity.

"I always go back to the emergency services volunteers who can't afford to live in Philipstown," said Supervisor John Van Tassel. "I'm not saying that this is going to change it, but it's certainly an avenue to approach it."

Beacon was certified in May. Peekskill and Newburgh are also certified.

## Garrison's Landing well

Claverack Well & Pump Service will install the pump for the new well the company dug to supply water to homes and businesses in the Garrison Landing Water District.

The Town Board approved the Columbia County firm's \$15,489 bid, the lowest of three submitted. The well is designed to eliminate the need for Philipstown to buy water for the district for \$25,000 to \$30,000 per month, which it has done since the existing wells stopped supplying enough.

Fees collected from water district customers for operations and maintenance are capped by state law at \$20,000 annually, leaving Philipstown to cover the rest.

## Hudson Highlands Reserve

Philipstown approved a resolution establishing a \$105,000 recreation fee for Hudson Highlands Reserve, a 24-home development on a 210-acre property bounded by Horton Road, East Mountain Road North and Route 9.

The Town Board still needs to approve a conservation easement that will preserve 167 acres as open space.

# Dutchess Legislature Approves Budget

*Boosts spending, lowers tax rate*

By Leonard Sparks

The Dutchess County Legislature on Monday (Dec. 9) approved a \$629 million budget for 2025 that boosts spending and the overall tax levy but lowers the tax rate for the 10th consecutive year.

Legislators voted 23-2 to endorse County Executive Sue Serino's plan, which represents a \$20 million increase in spending (3.3 percent) balanced by \$101 million in property taxes (a 1.5 percent increase), \$268 million in sales tax revenue (2 percent increase) and \$20 million in savings.

Residential and commercial property owners will be taxed at \$2.17 per \$1,000 of assessed value, compared to \$2.23 in 2024.

Nick Page, who represents Wards 1, 2 and 3 in Beacon and part of Fishkill, and Yvette Valdes Smith, who represents Ward 4 and part of Fishkill, both voted yes.

Expenses include a jump of \$9 million for health insurance premiums and pensions and 4 percent salary increases for sheriff's deputies under a three-year contract approved last month.

Serino still needs to sign the budget and can veto any of the Legislature's amendments. On Tuesday (Dec. 10), she called it a "careful, responsible" plan that "makes important investments in our community and provides essential services while limiting the impact to taxpayers."

In addition to continuing an exemption from sales taxes on clothing and footwear under \$110 per item, the county forecasts that it will distribute \$46 million in sales taxes to Beacon, the City of Poughkeepsie and the county's towns under a revenue-sharing formula.

Serino allocated \$2 million to expand ambulance coverage, \$250,000 for drop-in centers under the county's Youth Opportunity Union program, \$200,000 for scholarships to summer camps and \$35,000 to expand transportation for seniors.

The budget also contains \$200,000 for a Real Time Crime Center using money from

a new Community Benefit Fund created from Dutchess' share of the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Another \$200,000 from the Community Benefit Fund is being split by the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office for crime and public safety programs, and \$100,000 will underwrite a refrigerated truck and a plan to reduce hunger through the county Food Security Council.

Serino said Dutchess will award another

round of grants from its Housing Trust Fund, created to help developers build affordable housing. The county is also using \$400,000 from the state's settlement with Juul to launch an anti-vaping campaign.

Legislators used money from the Community Benefit Fund and property taxes to add spending, including \$750,000 to a contingency fund for overtime at the county jail; \$500,000 for the Planning Department's "municipal innovation" grant program; \$350,000 for repairs to the terminal building at the county airport in

Wappingers Falls; and \$100,000 to expand the Veterans Microgrant Program.

They also added \$100,000 for a grant program for organizations providing services, such as meals, to people experiencing homelessness, \$75,000 for a zero-waste consultant to conduct a solid waste study and \$75,000 in mini-grants that local historical societies can use for events in 2026 commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

The document is available online at [dutchessny.gov/budget2025](http://dutchessny.gov/budget2025).



## Bow Wow Haus

Want to take a day trip to the city? Get a jump start on holiday shopping? How about a few hours at a spa guilt-free because you know your dog is having a blast?

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**HOWLAND  
CULTURAL  
CENTER**



Disability (from Page 1)

The takeaway: Treat people with disabilities like people, not like people with disabilities. To do otherwise makes them feel like “the other.”

“I do not consider myself disabled or handicapped or whatever word,” explained Shadei Williams, who lives in Fishkill. She has cerebral palsy and was one of five participants in a morning panel. “We all find a way to do the same things, whether in a wheelchair, walking or teaching ourselves how to do things. We’re still getting the job done. It might take a little bit more time. But to label us like we’re not people, that’s where the hurt comes.”

The recommendation is to use “person-first” language. Instead of saying someone is “disabled,” say she is “a person with a disability,” “a person with limb loss” or “a person who uses a wheelchair.” Avoid outdated and hurtful words such as *crippled*, *lame*, *handicapped*, *crazy* or *retarded*, which the moderator referred to as “The R word.”

Etiquette is also about being respectful. Never touch someone’s wheelchair or guide dog unless invited. Identify yourself for people who are blind. When serving as a sighted guide, offer your arm rather than grabbing and pushing.

And give people space. “Don’t assume that they’re dependent or need help,” said Lisa Tarricone, executive director of Taconic Resources for Independence, which advo-



John Costa, left, with Joey and Johanna Asher at Yorkside Pizza

Photo provided

cates for civil rights for people with disabilities in Dutchess County, including Beacon. Tarricone, who uses a wheelchair, has been out shopping and had strangers grab packages from her lap and insist on taking them to her car, “as if I can’t do it myself,” she said.

When dealing with people who are disabled, she said, “the best practice is not to look at them as the other. They’re just like you. They just move differently. Somebody with a speech impediment speaks a little more slowly. You know, they’re just different, that’s it.”

My kids got that. They saw past John’s disability and just approached him as an uncle. Benjamin, my oldest, who is a software engineer, talked programming languages with John, who was a math and science standout at Spackenkill High School in Poughkeepsie.

My second child, Elliott, would talk to John about dogs and cars, especially self-driving technology. Annie, my youngest, would discuss what John had for lunch and where he went on his daily walks. To her mild annoyance and amusement, John often urged her to take more rigorous

courses at Tulane. They all thought it was funny and endearing that their uncle took detailed notes so he could remember what was said for the next conversation.

I stopped treating John as the other when my wife and I moved from Atlanta to Cold Spring in 2020 to be closer to him. After their parents died, my wife moved John into the Parents Foundation group home in New Haven, Connecticut, and we visited him each month.

We usually ate at Yorkside Pizza, near his group home. We always went to Ashley’s Ice Cream, where he ordered a cup of chocolate-chocolate chip. We discussed our lives, reviewed his Scrabble results and bonded over Wilson, our pointy-eared mutt who came along. John loved Wilson.

When John died suddenly in August 2023, at age 64, I couldn’t stop crying.

We held a memorial at his group home. We talked about his love of Britney Spears and his constant reminders to the home’s attendants, cooks and social workers to drive safely. I learned that, every Christmas, he dressed up as Santa to hand out presents.

As for his disability? It didn’t come up.

Disability Etiquette: A Starting Guide

MOBILITY DISABILITIES

- Do not touch a person’s mobility equipment.
- During physical contact, be considerate of possible pain, balance or post-traumatic stress concerns.
- Select a location where you can converse comfortably that reduces distance between you.

DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

- Get the person’s attention before starting a conversation.
- If the individual uses a sign-language interpreter, speak directly to the person, not the interpreter; keep your eyes on the individual.
- Speak in normal tones.

BLIND OR LOW VISION

- Identify yourself when starting a conversation and announce when you leave.
- When acting as a guide, offer your arm or shoulder rather than grabbing or pushing the person. Describe the setting, environment, written material and obstacles.
- Resist the temptation to pet or talk to a service animal.

SPEECH DISABILITIES

- If you do not understand what the person is saying, ask the person to repeat what they said and repeat it back to ensure you understood.
- Do not speak for the person or attempt to finish sentences.

Source: DisabilityIN.org

Lawsuit (from Page 1)

settled. Another order on Wednesday (Dec. 11) negated the Tuesday resolution.

Before legislators voted on Tuesday to hire Gettinger, Waldinger, Monteleone, Gushue and Hollis to represent them, Jonke said that Spofford’s Nov. 26 order was specific to Resolution 216, despite doubts raised by Montgomery.

“By continuing to take this action, you’re going against a court order, and I think you’ll all probably be in contempt,” said Montgomery. “I’m not going to be party to this.”

The lawsuit is the latest development in a dispute that Byrne alleges is rooted in an ethics complaint filed by County Attorney Compton Spain that accuses Legislator Toni Addonizio of failing to disclose that the person seeking to buy a county-owned property at 34 Gleneida Ave. in Carmel was her son-in-law.

In retaliation, Byrne alleges, legislators passed, by a 6-3 vote on Oct. 1, a charter amendment allowing them to fire a county attorney without cause and prohibiting the person holding the position from outside employment.

Under the charter, the county executive

names the attorney and the Legislature approves the appointment. The executive can fire the attorney with approval by two-thirds of the lawmakers, the same threshold required to amend the charter.

With Addonizio’s ability to vote for the charter change in question because of the ethics complaint, and six votes needed for approval, the Legislature amended the original language to exclude Spain.

While lawmakers say that they should be able to fire a county attorney, Byrne argues that the law reduces the power of a county executive. Because of that, he said, the measure should be subject to a referendum under a section of state law requiring that residents vote on legislation that “abolishes, transfers or curtails any power of an elected official.”

“By giving the Legislature discretion to remove the county attorney at will and without any input from the county executive, the local law actually gives the Legislature more power,” according to the lawsuit.

He also said that Resolution 216 violates a section of the Putnam charter that allows the Legislature to hire legal counsel, but only with the approval of its chair and the county attorney. On Tuesday, Jonke said Spain failed to respond to a request in

September to hire Keane & Beane as the Legislature’s lawyer and appointed a different firm without consulting him.

“I don’t see why I need to be married to a firm that he selected without my input,” said Jonke.

According to Jonke, the dispute began when legislators discovered Spain had sought a court order voiding a contract with Addonizio’s son-in-law, Byron Voutsinas, to purchase 34 Gleneida.

Spain’s office argued that Voutsinas failed to satisfy conditions for the final sale, including getting the Legislature’s approval. After Voutsinas filed a claim accusing the county of breach of contract, Spain successfully petitioned a judge to cancel the contract.

Although legislative approval is needed for lawsuits, lawmakers found out about the case when they received a court notice in May, Jonke said on Tuesday. Spain was asked to appear that month before the Rules Committee, which is chaired by Addonizio, to “explain the action,” he said.

“He felt he was summoned — it was beneath him to be here in front of us to answer any questions,” said Jonke. “Shortly thereafter, they filed an ethics complaint. ... That’s retaliation.”



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# Prophecy Hall *(from Page 1)*

spaces at 21 South Ave. — used most recently as temporary parking for St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church during construction of the Beacon fire station — would be reserved for valet parking. The South Avenue lot is owned by one of the Prophecy developers.

The site’s operating hours and parking were contentious issues during a public hearing on the original proposal that was kept open for nearly a year. Before its approval, the capacity for the event center was reduced four times, with operating hours scaled back so events ended no later than 8:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Aryeh Siegel, the project architect, said the Prophecy owners have approached neighbors and “generally feel there is more support for the restaurant, so far.” A consultant estimated that the new proposal would generate about 20 percent more traffic than the approved project. At peak demand, customers could use the municipal lot at the fire station or street parking on Tompkins Avenue or Beekman Street, he said. Employees would use off-site public parking in the area.

Board Member Kevin Byrne questioned whether a 150-seat restaurant could be considered an “accessory use” to the hotel. The city zoning code permits hotel and “hotel-related” accessory uses in the historic district. It also allows restaurants in the district with a maximum capacity of

50, but the Planning Board has leeway to approve a higher number.

“What is the balance there?” Byrne asked. “It seems like you’re changing fundamentally the approval. You’re asking for a variance, it almost seems.”

“That’s actually one of the questions about the application,” said Jennifer Gray, the Planning Board attorney. “Is the applicant proposing a restaurant accessory to the hotel or two separate uses — a sit-down restaurant that needs to have the increased capacity, with the separate hotel?”

The developers said they still plan to restore and maintain the historic cemetery behind the church and will submit a new traffic study within the first nine months of operations. Both had been conditions of the previous approval. Noise-mitigating measures included in the first approval will also remain.

### 45 Beekman St.

The Planning Board will begin next month to discuss environmental impacts related to the proposal to demolish a structure at the corner of Beekman Street and Route 9D and construct two four-story buildings with commercial space and 64 apartments.

Among the changes made to the proposal are sidewalk connections at the Route 9D/Beekman intersection, street trees in front of the first of the two buildings on Beekman and canopy trees adjacent to the building.

Maple trees planned between the buildings were moved closer to Beekman.

A corner clock tower on the first building has also been chamfered to eliminate a proposed column. The project is “headed in the right direction,” said John Gunn, the Planning Board chair, on Tuesday.

An adaptive traffic signal system has been installed by the state Department of Transportation and will soon be functional along Route 9D from Beekman to Interstate 84. The DOT said it did not support adding a southbound right-turn lane onto Beekman for the project but said one could be considered in the future.

The adaptive system will not solve congestion issues on that stretch of 9D but could help “squeak out a little bit more capacity,” said Ken Wersted, a city traffic consultant.

### 420-430 Fishkill Ave.

Project officials on Tuesday introduced several elements to a proposal to merge three lots and convert a building at 420-430 Fishkill Ave. to a Dunkin’ coffeehouse with a drive-thru, commercial space and three apartments. The site was formerly the Healey Brothers Ford dealership.

The developers now propose a crosswalk at the intersection of Fishkill Avenue and Townsend Street. Because there is no traffic signal, planning consultant Natalie Quinn recommended using a rapid-repeat flashing beacon for pedestrian visibility.


In addition, the applicant said they are

willing to grant an easement to the city to create a path between the site and the proposed Beacon-to-Hopewell rail trail that, if built, would be downhill. The easement would be conditioned upon construction of a trail.

A paved outdoor patio with three tables and three benches within a landscaped area were also added to the plans. A sidewalk is planned but would not be constructed until the City Council receives recommendations regarding the width of the right-of-way and potential sidewalk improvements from a citizen committee studying the Fishkill Avenue corridor.

Building Inspector Bruce Flower said a drive-thru is permitted in the corridor, which is zoned for general business. There had been some question because restaurants and coffeehouses are allowed in the zone but fast-food establishments are not. Because nearly 60 percent of Dunkin’s sales are for coffee or other beverages, the franchise fits the zoning code definition of a coffeehouse, he said.

There was a lengthy back-and-forth with board members about building design and the efficiency of the parking lot and lanes leading to and from the drive-thru, which is expected to accommodate up to 12 vehicles at peak times. Byrne asked the applicant to improve the design and layout, saying “it would behoove you to be an example, to contribute” to a better overall experience on Fishkill Avenue. Until then, “I think we reserve judgment on this,” he said.



Handel's

✱

Messiah

✱

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Highlands Choral Society, and the Highlands Chapel Orchestra

Soloists: J. Entrekin, J. Heckert, E. Cody-Kimmel, M. McKee, H. Mentzer

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AROUND TOWN



**FINAL ESCORT** — Clara Lou Gould, who served 18 years as Beacon's mayor until her retirement in 2007, was interred on Tuesday (Dec. 10) at St. Joachim Cemetery. The Cold Spring native, who died on Dec. 2 at age 97, is widely credited with leading Beacon's economic revival. The funeral procession, seen here passing the new central fire station, was led by an engine from the Beacon Fire Department.

Photo by Michael Turton



**COLD SPRING AGLOW** — The Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual weekend of community, music and shopping from Dec. 6 to 8 with luminaria along Main Street, music by the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band, Foundry Montessori and Highlands Choral Society, and a tree lighting and visit by Santa at the Bandstand.

Photo by Eric Traore



**NEW HIRE** — The Garrison School has named Christa Buccola Henriquez (center) as its new environmental education coordinator. Buccola Henriquez, who will begin Jan. 6, comes from the New York City schools and has a master's degree in biology and a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She is shown with school board President Sarah Tormey and Superintendent Greg Stowell. Buccola Henriquez succeeds Rachel Arbor, who left to launch a consulting firm, Gaia Scholastic.

Photo provided

THIS HOLIDAY...  
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OF LOCAL  
SHOP SMALL

A FEW REASONS TO SHOP SMALL

*Invest in Your Community*

Shopping locally invests directly in the well-being of Cold Spring, supporting public services, infrastructure, and the health of the community.

*Save Money and Time*

Shopping locally saves on gas and travel time. Many of our merchants offer discounts to residents!

*Personalized Service*

Local merchants provide personalized service and expert advice, ensuring a more tailored and satisfying shopping experience.

COLD  
SPRING  
CHAMBER

## The Calendar



Ken Martinez (Frankob Marley) and John Hartzell (Scrooge) rehearse for the performance. Photo provided

# Not the Christmas Show You Remember

*Troupe retells holiday classic with twists*

By Marc Ferris

David Lynch's 10 feature films and *Twin Peaks*, the television event of the early 1990s, often left critics and audiences scratching their heads as the plots zig-zagged amid layers of bizarre imagery and led to ambiguous endings that forced viewers to interpret what had happened.



Lynch

Over the decades, the master of the macabre attracted a cult following that dove deep into his oeuvre, including short films, music and visual art.

For the holidays, a band of devotees, casual fans and one actor who has seen only two Lynch films are producing an elaborate retelling of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* crammed with inside jokes and arcane references not just to Lynch but Dickens, says John Hartzell, who plays Scrooge.

*How the (David) Lynch Stole Christmas*, which will be performed at The Yard in Beacon tonight (Dec. 13) and tomorrow, takes advantage of the venue's split levels. The ground floor will be a greeting space where the actors and audience warm up the crowd. Everyone will then head upstairs for the performance and an after-party.

Because flames are prevalent in Lynch's films, including *Fire Walk With Me*, the crew wanted to end the night with a bonfire, but a local burn ban quashed the plan.

Playing on a plot element from *Blue Velvet*, everyone in the house will get a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon, says Shane Killoran, the impresario behind Hit House Creative, a production company responsible for

comedy at the Beacon movie theater, film screenings at the VFW and play readings at the Howland Cultural Center.

She bemoans Beacon's limited theater scene and plans to stage a "full, immersive production of this show next year."

A Lynch geek, she says the director, who is now 78, "brings you into a world that is viscerally articulated, gorgeous and lush. It can be hilarious, too, but within that he reveals the darker sides of human existence and certainly does not shy away from the travails that women suffer."

Killoran says the crew plans to transform The Yard space into a funhouse. "You will feel like you're walking straight into his world," she says.

The script kept expanding during rehearsals when actors and support staff provided input, Killoran says. During the performance, music and film clips will augment the action.

The book is by Marjorie Lewit, who founded the local Nerd Night and first staged the Lynch-mas play in 2017, before her move to Beacon. Beyond calling out Peaceful Provisions for "the best vegan donuts in the city" (donuts are featured prominently in *Twin Peaks*), Lewit takes a dimmer view of a more pressing local reality.

Around the play's midpoint, Scrooge looks around and says, "God, what filth. How can people live this way?" Christmas Present replies: "It's what they can afford. You know Beacon housing."

Scrooge thunders that he pays the going wage. "This is what the going wage gets a family," he says. "Pity."

*The Yard is located at 4 Hanna Lane in Beacon. The show begins at 7:45 p.m. tonight (Dec. 13) and Saturday (Dec. 14), followed by a party. Tickets are \$30 at [theyardbeacon.com](http://theyardbeacon.com) or at the door.*



George Spafford inside his Beacon studio at KuBe

Photo by M. Ferris

## SELF-DESTROYED MAN

*'Bedlam, chaos and cacophony' from Beacon rocker*

By Marc Ferris

The Cassandra Recording Studio, in the KuBe Art Center, occupies the same space where George Spafford attended Mr. Trad's art class as a freshman during the former Beacon High School's final year in use.

Now 37, Spafford co-owns the place, which is filled with vintage gear, like a theremin, a Fender Rhodes electric piano, a reel-to-reel tape player and a couple of Teisco guitars from Japan.

He opened the studio in 2016 and built a control room, where he dialed in the sounds for his new eight-song album, *Self-Destroyed Man*, available for download or on vinyl. "It's the opposite of a self-made man," he says. "Statistically, there's probably more of us than there are of them."

Spafford's stage name is Buoy George, bestowed by a friend, but he dismisses any affinity or affiliation with the lead singer of the 1980s band Culture Club and shrugs it off as a lark. The pun extends to his band, the Buoy Decibel System.

There is certainly no musical connection between Boy George's radio-friendly hits and Spafford's rollicking, wide-ranging, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll. Amid abrupt tempo shifts, the songs contain more parts than just verse, chorus and bridge, seesawing from smooth pop to jangly 12-string guitar part to abrasive punk energy.

"I'm looking to challenge conventional pop song elements," he says. "I want that feel-good hook once in a while, but I'm also going for bedlam, chaos and cacophony."

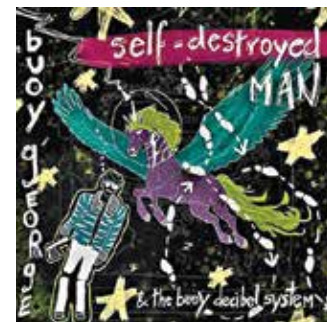
Mission accomplished.

Spafford brings vast musical knowledge to the craft. His favorite label is Stax, the Memphis-based soul-and-funk laboratory that flourished in the 1960s and '70s. He's a fan of Boston legends Mission of Burma, particularly their obscure fourth member, Martin Swope, who twiddled the knobs and created background soundscapes.

His studio name derives from a graf-

fiti tag on the door when he moved in, but Spafford is a deep dude who could be compared with the Greek priestess fated to make accurate insights and predictions about society, though no one believed her.

Sometimes, he sounds like a crotchety Boomer railing at the music of today and the vapid sounds of yesteryear: "less Madonna, more Shaggs, Frank Zappa and Captain Beefheart." The "surveillance economy," "internet poison" and egotistical pop stars who brag about material goods and influence the "look-at-me" culture also raise his ire.



As the title of his album suggests, demons have been battled, sometimes slayed. Included with the vinyl edition is Spafford's resume through 2021, which he contends proves the point about self-destruction.

He attended Dutchess Community College for a few months, long enough to make the dean's list. Along the way, he mastered the best-known recording software tools.

Then came five years managing Quinn's on Main Street in Beacon, developing the music programming around the same time he opened his studio, where he oversees "scheduling, customer service and daily maintenance of space."

Cassandra's lair is in a secluded section of the old high school, which is a plus. "I don't see anyone, and I have my own loading zone and parking lot," he says. "I'm just trying to donate my life to art, do the best I can, and the rest will take care of itself."

*Self-Destroyed Man is available at Amazon Music, Apple Music and [buoygeorge.bandcamp.com](http://buoygeorge.bandcamp.com).*

[ WEEK AHEAD ]

HOLIDAY EVENTS

**SAT 14**  
**Breakfast with Santa**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
10 a.m. – Noon.  
North Highlands Firehouse  
504 Fishkill Road  
Enjoy a pancake breakfast, photos with Santa and activities for children hosted by Girl Scout Troop 1091. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 ages 4 to 12, free for ages 3 and younger)*

**SAT 14**  
**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale**  
**GARRISON**  
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
garrisonartcenter.org  
Browse works by artisans at the annual sale. Also SUN 15.

**SAT 14**  
**Holiday Family Day**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638  
boscobel.org  
Visit with Santa, enjoy games and crafts and build a gingerbread house. *Cost: \$14 (\$7 ages 4 to 18, free for ages 4 and younger)*



**SAT 14**  
**Gift Show and Sale**  
**BEACON**  
Noon – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org  
Find handmade goods from 25 Hudson Valley artisans. Daily through SAT 21.

**SAT 14**  
**Holiday Tours**  
**BEACON**  
Noon, 1 & 2 p.m. Mount Gulian  
145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org  
The historic home will have decorative Victorian styles in each room. Also SUN 15, WED 18, THURS 19, FRI 20, SAT 21. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$8 ages 6 to 18, free ages 6 and younger)*

**SUN 15**  
**Holiday Tea**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
1 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org  
Mark Rust will perform global holiday hits during this early-American-style tea with scones and finger foods. *Cost: \$60 (\$40 children)*

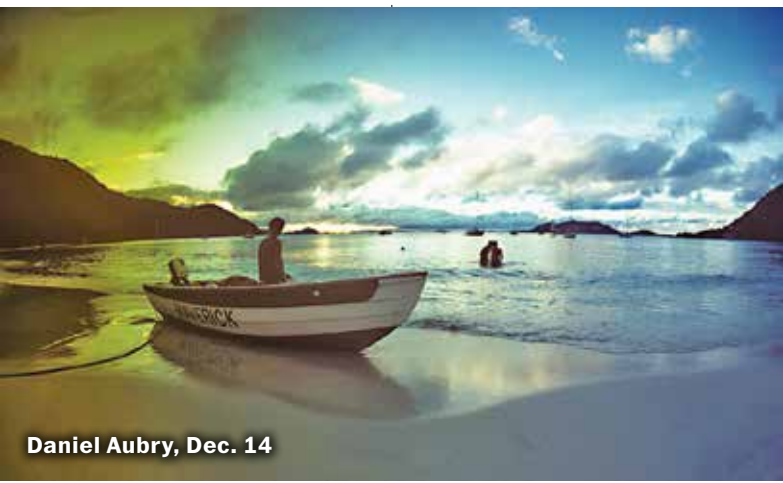
SECOND SATURDAY

**SAT 14**  
**What Matters?**  
**BEACON**  
4 p.m. KuBe Art Center  
211 Fishkill Ave.  
At this forum, poets Chime Lama and Marc Sabin and artists Ron English, Donna Mikkelsen and Karen Michel will discuss their work. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SAT 14**  
**Gift Wrapped 12**  
**BEACON**  
5 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery  
139 Main St. | clutter.co  
The annual holiday show will feature 2D and 3D works by more than 150 artists, all priced below \$350. Through Jan. 3.

**SAT 14**  
**Leonie Lacouette**  
**BEACON**  
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St. | hudsonbeachglass.com  
The exhibit *Holiday Time* showcases the artist's handmade clocks.

**SAT 14**  
**Daniel Aubry**  
**BEACON**  
6 – 8 p.m. Daniel Aubry Realty  
192 Main St.  
danielaubryphotography.com  
Photographs from his archive will be on view.



Daniel Aubry, Dec. 14



**SAT 14**  
**Monochrome**  
**BEACON**  
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org  
Joel Brown's ceramics and Onaje Benjamin's photographs will be on view in Gallery 1. The other galleries will show work by members.

**SAT 14**  
**Studio Work: Where Art Finds a Home**  
**BEACON**  
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects  
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com  
The group show features pieces usually not exhibited, either because they are experimental or the beginning of a new approach. Through Jan. 4.

**SAT 14**  
**Two Things Are True**  
**BEACON**  
7 – 9:30 p.m. Distortion Society  
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com  
In this group show, 16 artists recreate paintings by co-curator

Sarah Hanssen's abusive father as part of her healing process. Through Jan. 31.

STAGE & SCREEN

**SAT 14**  
**The Nutcracker**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
9:45 a.m. & Noon. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | bardavon.org  
The New Paltz Ballet Theatre returns for its 28th season staging the classic tale. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$7 to \$35*

**SAT 14**  
**How the (David) Lynch Stole Christmas**  
**BEACON**  
7:45 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | theyardbeacon.com  
Hit House Creative imagines what would happen if director David Lynch staged Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. A party will follow. See Page 11. *Cost: \$30*

**SUN 15**  
**Cirque Dreams Holidaze**  
**WEST POINT**  
2 p.m. Ike Hall Theatre  
655 Pitcher Road | ikehall.com  
The daring circus-style performers tell a story of holiday cheer with original music and immersive sets. *Cost: \$39+*

**THURS 19**  
**The Wizard of Oz**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org  
Watch the 1939 movie, starring Judy Garland as Dorothy making her way through Oz with the help of friends, on the big screen. *Free*

**SUN 22**  
**The Terminal**  
**COLD SPRING**  
1 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
The library, for the final film of its 12 Months of Tom Hanks series, will screen the 2004 Steven Spielberg comedy-drama about an Eastern European tourist stranded at a New York City airport.

KIDS & FAMILY

**SAT 14**  
**The Polar Express**  
**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
A young boy rides a train to the North Pole in this 2004 animated film about the power of belief.

**SAT 14**  
**Carnival of the Animals**  
**COLD SPRING**  
1 & 3 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org  
This Camille Saint-Saens suite will be performed by musicians accompanied by cranky puppets. *Cost: \$25 (\$10 children)*



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DEC 14

ANNUAL HOLIDAY  
PARTY

DEC 14

HOLIDAY  
CENTERPIECE  
WORKSHOP

DEC 21



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**The Nutcracker, Dec. 14**

**SAT 14**  
**Jingle & Mingle**  
**GARRISON**  
3:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation  
107 Glenclyffe | philipstownny.myrec.com  
Enjoy a performance of *North Pole's Got Talent*, followed by crafts, caroling and treats. *Cost: \$10*

**TUES 17**  
**Snow and Ice**  
**GARRISON**  
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
This month's Family Science Night involves crafts and experiments with a seasonal twist. Registration required.

**TUES 17**  
**Your Wonder**  
**BEACON**  
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Courtney Kolb will read from her book for children ages 3 to 8. Registration required.

**THURS 19**  
**Woven Beaded Bracelets**  
**BEACON**  
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Teens are invited to create unique pieces of jewelry.

**FRI 20**  
**Teen Hygge Hangout**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Students in grades 5 and higher can wear comfy clothes and relax with cozy crafts. Registration required.

**SAT 21**  
**Edible Ornaments**  
**COLD SPRING**  
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Children ages 4 and older are invited to enjoy a story and make ornaments that birds will enjoy.

**SAT 21**  
**Holiday Gingerbread Houses**  
**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Children ages 3 and older can use edible materials to create cookie houses. Registration required.

**SUN 15**  
**The History of Bannerman's Island**  
**BEACON**  
3 p.m. The Factory Hotel  
147 Main St. | bannermancastle.org  
Thom Johnson will discuss the

## SHOP LOCAL

myths and legends, along with the facts. *Free*

**MON 16**  
**Collage Club**  
**COLD SPRING**  
5 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
All ages are welcome to use paper and ephemera to create art.

**THURS 19**  
**Community Mending**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Annie McCurdy will demonstrate mending techniques. Bring an item of clothing to repair.

**SUN 15**  
**Birds I Have Known**  
**COLD SPRING**  
3 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave.  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org  
In this talk presented by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, Suzie Gilbert will discuss her "encounters with temporary guests" over 30 years of rehabilitating injured and orphaned birds.

**SAT 21**  
**Christmas Bird Count**  
**BEACON**  
watermanbirdclub.org  
The Audubon Society's annual citizen science project is a snapshot of bird populations and movement across North America, including in Dutchess County. Email [cbcl@watermanbirdclub.org](mailto:cbcl@watermanbirdclub.org) to participate. The Putnam count will take place on Dec. 28.

**SAT 14**  
**Art Labriola and Friends**  
**COLD SPRING**  
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com  
Labriola will perform with Lew Scott and Mike Larocco and be joined by the Motherlode Trio (Stacey Labriola, Patti Pelican and Terry Platz). Donations welcome. *Free*

**SAT 14**  
**Merry & Bright**  
**NEWBURGH**  
4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary  
845-913-7157 | newburghsymphony.org  
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra's concert at Aquinas Hall will include holiday favorites. *Cost: \$10 to \$80*

(Continued on Page 14)

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[ WEEK AHEAD ]

(Continued from Page 13)

SAT 14  
Beacon Rising Choir

BEACON  
5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
50 Liberty St. | compassarts.org  
The choir’s program promises to be uplifting and joyful. *Cost: \$20 (\$13 seniors and teens, children free)*

SAT 14  
A Very Merry Classic Christmas

PEEKSKILL  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
Jessica Lynn returns with her holiday show that will include marching bands, dancers, choirs and effects. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$25 to \$45*

SAT 14  
KJ Denhart Band

BEACON  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The singer, songwriter and guitarist will lead her band, the NY Unit, and be joined by Michele Gedney. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*



KJ Denhart, Dec. 14

SAT 14  
Return of the Year-End Hootenanny

BEACON  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org  
The folk collective Guthrie’s Ghost celebrates the music and spirit of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 15  
Handel’s Messiah  
COLD SPRING  
11 a.m. Highlands Chapel  
216 Main St. | highlandschapel.org  
The Highlands Choral Society will perform selections under the direction of Woody Entrekin. *Free*

SUN 15  
Winter Concert  
COLD SPRING  
3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
10 Academy St.  
The Dream Choir’s holiday concert is also a sing-along. *Cost: \$10 donation*

SUN 15  
Handel’s Messiah  
BEACON  
3 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
hudsonvalleysymphony.org  
The Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra will be led by guest conductor Christine Howlett and joined by the community choir, Cappella Festiva. *Cost: \$55 to \$68 (\$38 seniors, \$15 students)*

SUN 15  
Shakedown Citi  
BEACON  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
This jam band plays the music of the Grateful Dead. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 20  
The McKrell’s Holiday Show  
BEACON  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Kevin McKrell and Brian Melick will channel the Marx brothers in their interpretation of *The Night Before Christmas*. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 21  
Jazz Nativity  
COLD SPRING  
5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian  
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220  
presbychurchcoldspring.org  
Pianist Tom McCoy will be joined by jazz performers.

SAT 21  
A Celtic Christmas  
POUGHKEEPSIE  
7:30 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | bardavon.org  
The music and dance group, A Taste of Ireland, will showcase traditional songs and dancers. *Cost: \$41 to \$71*

SAT 21  
Almost Queen  
PEEKSKILL  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The Queen tribute band will play the classics. Super Trans AM, a 1970s tribute band, opens. *Cost: \$54 to \$99*

CIVIC

MON 16  
City Council  
BEACON  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconnyny.gov

MON 16  
School Board  
BEACON  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaconnk12.org

MON 16  
Village Board  
NELSONVILLE  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 17  
Coffee with the Executive  
NELSONVILLE  
10 a.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.

Kevin Byrne, the Putnam County executive, will spend an hour meeting residents and discussing issues.

TUES 17  
School Board  
COLD SPRING  
7 p.m. Middle School | 15 Craigsides Drive  
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WED 18  
Village Board  
COLD SPRING  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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

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# A Jeweler and Painter Combines Her Pursuits

*Lewis & Pine opens Cold Spring gallery*

By Marc Ferris

When she was 13 and attending art camp, someone handed Yali Lewis a blowtorch during a metalsmithing class.

"I thought it was the greatest thing ever," she says. "I never wanted to stop."

Today, Lewis creates unique jewelry, which fills her Lewis & Pine boutiques in Beacon and Cold Spring. But she also studied fine arts in college and worked at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. She's a painter and her most recent inspiration is to combine pursuits.

Her wearable art is displayed at Found Space Gallery, a new spot located in the back of her Cold Spring shop, at the foot of upper Main Street. Lewis also added a home goods nook. She plans to show work from other artists after dismantling the inaugural exhibit, which she calls *Cold Connections*, *Hard Edges*, on Valentine's Day.

According to Lewis, the title combines a metalsmithing phrase referring to "any technique that connects two or more parts without the use of heat," like a blowtorch, and a fine-art term for abstract paintings in which areas of color collide abruptly.

More than 40 works fill the modest room. A floor-to-ceiling fireplace takes up a lot of wall space, although the piece "Electric Mermaid" hangs from a rusted nail in the stone.

The larger works are designed to accommodate necklaces that drape from enameled metal pegs in the top corners. Instead of using commercial clasps, Lewis designed a toggle that fits into a loop and integrates with the hangers. Earrings, which press flat against the surface, can also be removed for a night on the town and go back on the wall.

The backgrounds consist of triangles and abstract geometric shapes. The jewelry, including pendants, is centered in one or more sections of the paintings, which contribute to a harmonious effect. Lewis uses acrylic on wood and affixes clever names such as Mango Tango, Bikini Martini, Granite Vortex, Bubblegum Forest, Meatball Rainstorm and Tangerine Evangelist.

*Lewis & Pine and the Found Space Art Gallery are located at 38 Main St. in Cold Spring. The opening reception for Cold Connections, Hard Edges is scheduled for 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday (Dec. 14). See [lewisandpine.com](http://lewisandpine.com). The Beacon store is at 133 Main St. Both are open Thursday, Sunday and Monday from noon to 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m.*



Yali Lewis with her artwork at Found Space Gallery in Cold Spring

Photo by M. Ferris

To create the earrings and necklace pendants, Lewis works with precious metals like sterling silver and 14-carat gold, which require a blowtorch to get the temperature high enough so she can solder together the areas where the surfaces overlap. The goal is for these connection points to be flat and seamless, maintaining the

appearance of a continuous line.

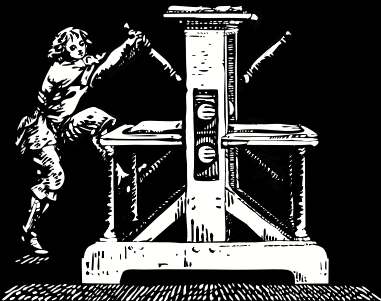
The new works stick out an inch from the wall, so they appear as three-dimensional hangings painted on the sides.

"There are no brushstrokes," says Lewis. "These works are hard to describe: It's not a painting, it's not a jewelry holder. It's kind of a hybrid wall sculpture."



"Baby Boogie"

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### Access the DGEIS and Appendices online

A **hard reference copy** of the DGEIS can be viewed at the Blodgett, Howland, Desmond Fish, and Butterfield Libraries.



[https://qrco.de/ft\\_dgeis](https://qrco.de/ft_dgeis)

### Email or Mail your Comments to the Lead Agency Contact

Public Comment Period is Open Through February 2, 2025

Comments can be emailed to:  
hhft.plan@parks.ny.gov

*Be sure to include your name  
and the community you reside in.*

Comments can be mailed to:  
Nancy Stoner, Environmental Analyst  
NYS OPRHP, DESP  
625 Broadway, 2nd Floor  
Albany, NY 12238

### Register to Attend and/or Speak at the Public Hearing

NYS DEC will host the hearing virtually on January 14, 2025  
in two sessions, starting at 2pm and 6pm.

Register to provide verbal comment or to attend.



[https://qrco.de/ft\\_hearing](https://qrco.de/ft_hearing)

## Thank you for participating!

**ft** Hudson Highlands  
Fjord Trail



Classic Wheels

1970 Datsun 240Z

By Michael Turton

Not every classic-car owner discovers their gem in a dusty barn that hasn't been opened in 50 years.

Colin Gentle, who lives in Beacon, found his 1970 Datsun 240Z the old-fashioned way, on Autotrader.com. He was living near Boston and the car was in North Providence, Rhode Island. It's not the most romantic plot, but it didn't dampen his affection for the iconic sports car, a love affair that began when he was young.

"As a kid, I was at Lime Rock racetrack in Connecticut with my dad quite a bit and saw Bob Sharp race 240Zs there," said Gentle, 50. "They were quick and fun — I always thought it was such a beautiful design."

That beauty isn't surprising: Many believe the Datsun 240Z was inspired by the Jaguar E-Type.

Gentle also liked that the car was affordable. He paid \$3,500 for it in 1999, the same price it sold for when introduced 30 years earlier (although, with inflation, that was the equivalent in 1969 of \$30,000).

"I was looking for a relatively inexpensive 240Z that wasn't completely rusted away," he said, noting that Northeast winters were particularly hard on the car. "To do it again, I'd probably fly to Califor-



nia or Arizona and grab one."

Once a year, Gentle gets his Datsun onto the Lime Rock track during a vintage race weekend. "The car is wonderfully behaved," in part, he said, because of its racing tires. "It's forgiving; I've had it up to 115 mph on the straightaway."

He restored the car's rusted lowered portions and "refreshed" the suspension but little else. The interior is original and in great shape. "I'm amazed how new the headliners look and the dash is beautiful and uncracked," he said.

He thinks the car was repainted, probably in the 1980s. "The original color was a more muted, straight-up red," he said. "Now it's persimmon, a color from 1972 or '73."

Gentle said 240Zs traded at a premium when introduced, and dealers were known to add aftermarket parts to enhance the look and mark up the price. "They'd add little doodads," he said. "I don't think the

rear bumperettes and side molding on my car were from the factory."

The car has about 130,000 miles on the odometer. Gentle occasionally goes on three-to-four-hour drives as far as Vermont and takes it to nearby car shows, including at Bear Mountain State Park, where it draws many admiring eyes.

Asked if he'd change anything, he said he'd love to switch to stiffer coilover suspension and larger sway bars. "And I might upgrade from the 2.4-liter engine to the 2.8-liter," he said.

Japan's Nissan Motor Corp., founded in 1933, began production of the Datsun 240Z in late 1969 for the 1970 model year. It was produced through September 1973, when it became the 260Z with, among other changes, a 2.8-liter engine.

The 240Z isn't known only for its beautiful lines; it turned heads in motorsports, as well. One of its most impressive wins came at the 1971 East African Safari Rally,

The Specs

**Assembly:** Hiratsuka, Japan

**Units (1970):** 15,076

**Production (1970-73):** 165,000

**Body:** 2-door coupe, hatchback

**Engine:** 146 cubic inch inline 6 cylinder

**Transmission:** 4-speed manual, floor mount

**Carburetors:** Twin, single barrel Hitachi's

**Horsepower:** 151

**Top speed:** 125 mph

**0 to 60 mph:** 8 seconds

**Fuel economy:** 21 mpg

**Curb weight:** 2,302 pounds.

**1970 Cost:** \$3,526 (\$30,328)

a grueling five-day, off-road race.

The seventh-generation 2024 Nissan Z sells for \$42,970 and features a 3.0-liter, 400-to-420 horsepower engine. It can reach 60 mph in 4.3 seconds with the nine-speed automatic transmission (or 4.5 seconds with the six-speed manual), nearly twice as fast as its 1970 predecessor.

One of the rarest Z cars never made it to the U.S. market. The 1970-73 Nissan Fairlady Z432, sold only in Japan, was an upgraded 240Z with a twin-cam, three-carburetor, 158-horsepower, 2.0-liter straight-six engine.

Since 1970, more than 1.7 million Zs have been sold worldwide. According to *Motor Trend*, all have promised "fun, reliability and accessible performance for the masses."

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# LOOKING BACK

## IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

### 150 Years Ago (December 1874)

E.A. Pelton was injured at Mount Forest farm in Breakneck Valley when a bull being driven from the yard into the stable turned and charged him, striking his left shoulder, arm and side. The bull was ready for a second attack when Mr. Archer rushed from the barn and thrust a pitchfork into its neck, causing it to retreat. Although no bones were broken, Pelton breathed with difficulty for a few days.

The Rock Street School principal had a little fun with the students when he asked if they would like to have a holiday for five weeks. When the students pressed for details, he replied that Mr. Halliday would need that long to complete the new addition.

Over several days, a train of wagons carrying 400 tree trunks moved down Main Street to the wharf for projects in Sing Sing and New York City.

The Methodist Church announced it had repaired its heater for services.

*The Cold Spring Recorder* suggested that the coroner investigate a rumor that Thomas Wells, who died suddenly three days after being injured at the Sunk Mine

in Putnam Valley, had been killed by an accidental overdose of pain medicine.

*The Recorder* editor noted that, because the clerk's office had been moved to the other side of the county, he could no longer get reports on Board of Supervisor meetings until they were published in the Carmel papers.

William Nelson wrote *The Recorder* to question the financial practices of the Philipstown highway commissioner. He noted that two years earlier, the town raised \$500 [\$14,000 today] in taxes to pay John Travis for road repairs. When he wasn't paid, Travis sued. The commissioner offered to settle by giving Travis a 60-day note minus the interest because he had collected the taxes but never deposited them and needed to raise the cash. "It seems to me there could be some system organized in this town whereby it could be shown who receives the money and where it is expended," Nelson wrote.

Erastus Nelson lost several fingers to a hay cutter.

The West Point Foundry tested its Sutcliffe rifled cannon and took photos.

An unnamed Cold Spring resident recounted his visit with three other Civil War veterans to the former battlefield at Petersburg, Virginia.

A reader wrote *The Recorder* to complain about a traveling bookseller who appeared at the Clermont House in Garrison. "I presume the public knows that booksellers and drummers never take no for an answer," he wrote. A hotel clerk finally persuaded the salesman to retire to the bar.

Meade Van Tassel was nearly finished loading blocks from the icehouses to take to Cold Spring when the horses took off down the road, which ran along a gorge. At the first curve, the horses and wagon tumbled down the bank, and one horse was killed. The loss was about \$350 [\$9,700].

Trustees from the 14 Philipstown school districts met at Town Hall to organize a centralized Board of Education as required by a new state law.

After parking his wagon for a few minutes to run an errand, John Ulter discovered his groceries had been stolen.

Because of an iron shortage, the blacksmiths and patternmakers at the foundry were cut to three-quarters time, or 7½ hours a day.

Capt. Bell's small son escaped serious injury when he tripped while crossing Main Street in front of a team of horses drawing a cord of wood. The driver managed to stop about 3 feet short of the lad, who was snatched up by his father.

A baseball-themed spelling bee was held at Town Hall. The team captained by the Rev. Williams won by spelling 36 more words correctly during 300 at-bats. A designated pitcher gave the words to both sides.

Stephen Worden said the night was so dark in Indian Brook Valley that, while transporting a load of hay, he had to lead his team while poking ahead with a stick.

Charles Mekeel, an overseer of the poor, dismissed rumors that an 8-year-old girl in Mollysville [Nelsonville] was being starved

and beaten by her father and stepmother. According to *The Recorder*, the girl had been living with her maternal grandmother after her mother's death but was sent to her father. She had not been enrolled in school and seldom left the house, but her father said she was of "a very morose and vindictive disposition."

Several residents reported feeling an earthquake at 10:30 p.m.; William Horton, who lived 3 miles from the village, thought a wagon was being driven up to his house and jumped out of bed to see who was coming.

After two drunk miners got into a fistfight on West Street, and one was knocked down, they shook hands and returned to the bar.

P. O'Donnell announced that, "finding it detrimental to business, morality and society," he would no longer allow loiterers outside his store.

William Dykeman's wife was admitted to the Hudson River Hospital in Poughkeepsie for treatment of a disordered mind.

Robert Laughlin, a Cold Spring trustee, left to spend the winter in South Carolina.

A man and boy who stole three chickens from the Rev. C.S. Brown escaped along Orchard Street and through the cemetery.

The state superintendent of public instruction, responding to an appeal, appointed Stephen MeKeel as a trustee of the Nelsonville school district. MeKeel had won the vote at a meeting, 19-17, over Isaac Riggs, but the chair called for a do-over that Riggs won because a few voters wrote initials instead of first names.

(Continued on Page 19)



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(Continued from Page 18)

Two Garden Street residents said their Christmas turkeys, sold by the pound, had been clandestinely stuffed with chestnuts to make them heavier.

### 125 Years Ago (December 1899)

*The Recorder* reported that, for the first time in Cold Spring history, barbershops were closed on Sunday by order of the Board of Trustees. Officer McCaffrey also stopped football and golf games.

Two state agriculture inspectors searched in town for unlabeled renovated butter, which was rancid butter that was melted so the fat could be drawn off, mixed with skim milk or cream and re churned. It was legal to sell but had to be identified.

Marie Taylor received a silver pie-lifter from Mrs. George Freeman for having the best-kept front yard. The presentation was delayed because Mrs. Freeman had typhoid fever.

After William Boyce of Newburgh broke his leg during a football game at Haldane High School, a collection was started at the Old Homestead Club for his benefit.

William Ladue, the bicycle racer from Cold Spring, won 31 races in 1899 and prizes valued at \$1,135 [\$43,000], including 13 diamond studs, seven diamonds, a diamond ring, a diamond pin, a silver tea set, four gold watches, three gold medals and a gold watch chain. He could continue racing as an amateur as long as he didn't sell any of the prizes.

Howard Robinson, the baggage master at the Garrison depot, and May Forson, the telegraph operator, were married at the South Highlands church.

Judge Monroe Hayward, the son-in-law of E.A. Pelton of Cold Spring, died in Nebraska at age 58. Hayward had been elected to the U.S. Senate earlier in the year to fill a vacancy but never took the oath because of poor health.

The Central Hudson Steamboat Co. said that, for the first time in its history, it planned to run propeller boats between Newburgh and New York City through the winter.

The owners of parcels at Ardyna, the subdivided, 75-acre former Arden estate that included the Highland Country Club, organized a land company.

Frank Odell and his wife and five children had the measles.

Two young men got into a fistfight at Sherwood Odell's store, spilling a box of coffee and breaking several dozen eggs before being evicted.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Odell received a letter from Manila from their nephew, William Denike, who had been reported killed in the Philippine-American War.

West Point cadets, by a unanimous vote,

abolished hazing.

Seth Secor, the grocer, won a piano in a raffle and offered it for sale or rent.

After a case of wine was stolen from his wagon at the Garrison depot, Maj. George Fox searched for his property nearby. He heard "merry voices" inside the home of Charles Gilbert, according to *The Recorder*, and when he opened the door, spotted the wine in the center of the room.

Justice Riggs sentenced Gilbert, his brother, James, and his son, Harry, to 120 days in jail, but after Fox requested leniency, the judge reduced the sentences to 50 days for the brothers and 30 days for Harry.

Helen Nelson received an advanced academic diploma from the University of the State of New York, the first such diploma issued to a Haldane High School student or any student in Putnam County.

*The Recorder* said the village was "over-run with peddlers of fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry, etc." and "something must be done to protect the local merchants."

The Rev. George Allen of Milton, who had attempted suicide in November 1898 while visiting his sister, Mrs. Henry Hustis, on Orchard Street in Cold Spring, by shooting himself six times in the forehead (in the same hole), announced his renewed engagement to Minnie Gedney. In the summer of 1898, while engaged to Gedney, Allen traveled to his native Scotland for a sabbatical. On the return voyage, he met Mary Noakes, a nurse, and they were engaged at sea. Back in Milton, this news was not well received, and Allen fled to Cold Spring.

Gen. Edward Ferrero died at age 68. Along with his military duties, he was a choreographer who, before the Civil War, taught dance to the cadets at West Point.

Two men traveling to Peekskill on the 9:30 p.m. train from New York City fell asleep and were stranded in Cold Spring. "It often happens!" noted *The Recorder*.

Perry & Reilley received a barrel of live lobsters, but when the grocer called the New York company whose tag was on the shipment, it said it had no record. The barrel was returned to the American Express office.

### 100 Years Ago (December 1924)

*The Recorder* noted: "Now that the Bear Mountain Bridge is completed, some people are wondering who will be the first person 'to do a Brodie.'" The slang referenced Steve Brodie, a penniless gambler who in 1886 claimed to have survived a daredevil

jump from the Brooklyn Bridge. Two years later, in 1888, he jumped 222 feet from the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge for a payout of \$500 [\$17,000]. He died in 1901 with an estate valued at \$100,000 [\$1.85 million].

A new front was installed on the building next to the Old Homestead Club for its incoming occupant, Dalzell's Stationery Store.

Haldane students sold *Ladies' Home Journal* subscriptions to raise money for playground equipment.

The Men's Club of St. Peter's Church in Peekskill performed a Wednesday night minstrel show at the St. Philip's parish house in Garrison with a 24-person chorus, five vaudeville acts and "Negro monologues."

The Loretto Council of the Knights of Columbus distributed Christmas baskets to needy families.

### 75 Years Ago (December 1949)

Maurice Brownell of Parrott Street retired after 37 years with the Postal Transportation Service, during which he traveled 2 million miles.

Mr. Entwistle of the New York Telephone Co. spoke at Haldane High School about the sound beam used to send messages from New York to Boston.

Because of poor weather, a Santa Claus Parade by Helicopter visit to Cold Spring was canceled.

The Haldane boys' basketball team won its opener over Yorktown, 38-37, on a 30-foot hook shot at the buzzer by Ray Costa.

Marie Saunders of Old Albany Post Road inherited \$38,000 [\$504,000] from her grandmother, Anna Goebel of New York City.

### 50 Years Ago (December 1974)

Haldane grad Bob Vitanza, who played tight end for the undefeated Central College football team in Iowa, had a 25-yard reception in a 17-16 win over Evansville in the NCAA Division III tournament.

Graymoor announced a weekend retreat for divorced Catholics.

At the grand opening of the Fishkill National Bank branch at Oak and Chestnut streets, Marie Manglass won a 10-speed bike

and Brian Nice took home a 19-inch color TV.

George Ross presented a children's magic show at the Garrison Art Center. His claim to fame was a performance at the wedding reception of Mazie Cox (sister-in-law of Tricia Nixon Cox, daughter of the former president), where he made the bride and groom disappear in a puff of smoke.

Marie Choubaroff Fish, the wife of former Rep. Hamilton Fish, died at age 69 and was interred at St. Philip's churchyard in Garrison. After her father was killed during the Bolshevik Revolution, she escaped Russia in 1923. According to her obituary, "Politically, she agreed with Billy Graham that Satan's masterpiece is the Communist philosophy."

### 25 Years Ago (December 1999)

The North American Numbering Plan Administration announced that residents of Putnam and eight other counties would be assigned a new area code, 845.

Twenty-five Garrison residents filed a petition asking the state Education Department to prevent the school board from issuing bonds for a \$6.29 million building expansion approved by voters. The petition claimed, among other charges, that some voters lived outside the district and that the ballot was misleading.

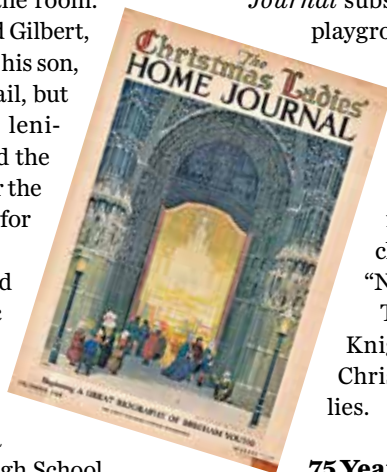
Anthony Nastasi and John Bocchino founded an apparel and accessory company, Just for Girls Sports.

Dominick Dirito celebrated his 75th year as a volunteer firefighter with the Cold Spring Fire Co. He joined in 1924. Notably, he never learned to drive. He always lived within a few blocks of the firehouse, he said, and he had a train pass because he worked for the railroad.

A helicopter piloted by police officer Michael Susi landed on the Haldane football field as part of a study unit for the second graders, including his son, D.J., who assisted with the presentation.

Susan and Michael Mihalik expanded the outdoor creche at St. Philip's Church installed in memory of their son, Michael, by adding a shepherd and a sheep.

A 16-year-old from Beacon who worked at a Garrison gas station called 911 to report that he had been held up and cut on the head. But investigators determined he and a friend had stolen the \$1,700 [\$3,200].



To those who helped and those who attended the Cold Spring Fire Department Fundraising Event

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## Fjord Trail *(from Page 6)*

light on weekends.

A roundabout could be constructed at the intersection of Fair Street and 9D in front of the expanded Washburn Lot, with yield signs at each approach, the report says. The section of Fair Street between Main and Northern Avenue could be designated one-way north on Saturdays, as it is on Sundays.

On days that visitation puts Cold Spring in danger of grinding to a halt, as often happens during leaf-peeping season, several strategies could be deployed, the report says. Dynamic pricing for parking spaces could be implemented, increasing prices when the village is crowded. Visitors who carpool could be rewarded with cheaper parking, discounts for food trucks and rental bikes or free bug spray and sunscreen.

Parking reservations could be required on weekends, and programmable roadside signs on Route 9D could warn visitors to avoid Main Street. Parking apps that show available spaces could reduce the time drivers search for spots, and the trail could

enforce timed entry during peak periods, the report says.

If the trail begins at Dockside, it would encourage train passengers to bypass Main and Fair streets by taking the Fjord Trail, the report says. Once the Breakneck Connector opens, HHFT plans to launch a shuttle bus service between the Beacon and Cold Spring train stations, with stops at Dutchess Manor and Breakneck.

### Land Ownership

Much of the trail land is owned by state parks, Metro-North, Scenic Hudson or municipalities. However, the northern section crosses 12 privately owned parcels. If negotiations falter, Kacala said alternate routes have been mapped to avoid them. HHFT has an easement for the only privately owned parcel in the southern section.

HHFT would like to construct a maintenance facility at the Beacon Transfer Station and the state Department of Transportation would need to approve entrances to each of the proposed parking lots. The report notes that DOT has not determined

if the lots need traffic signals, but a preliminary traffic study suggests they would not.

### Wildlife

According to the report, at least 19 rare, threatened or endangered species live in the trail corridor, including the monarch butterfly, bald eagle, eastern fence lizard, New England cottontail rabbit, cerulean warbler and several species of bats.

Any construction in the river would be halted in the spring, when many fish enter from the Atlantic Ocean and migrate upriver to spawn. Trees would only be cleared between Nov. 1 and March 31, when bats are hibernating. Any construction near bald eagle nests — four have been identified near the northern section — would take place in the fall, when the nests are vacant. Underwater pilings would be installed by drilling rather than pounding, which makes less noise underwater.

Invasive plants would be replaced with native plantings. Native subaquatic vegetation would be mapped and cataloged and re-planted as necessary. The report notes that construction of the shoreline section between Dockside and Little Stony Point could include replacing invasive water chestnuts with native water celery.

### Scenic Resources

The report concluded there would be no long-term impact on viewsheds, although some views would be diminished during

construction to raise the Klara Sauer Trail in Long Dock Park onto a berm and there would be barges along the southern section between July 1 and Dec. 31 for about five years.

"Because much of Fjord Trail South would be in the Metro-North right-of-way, it would not be perceived as a distinct new element," the report says. "There are some points where elevated parts of Fjord Trail South would introduce a new visual element, particularly at Route 218 and Mayor's Park at Fair Street. In both cases, the viewshed is not expected to be detrimentally impacted. Fjord Trail South is among typical recreational uses in the corridor."

### Emergency Services

With the trail expected to bring an estimated 268,700 new visitors annually to the Highlands, it's likely to result in additional calls for emergency responders, although calls for emergency services at Breakneck have fallen drastically because of increased safety measures and trail stewards.

The report says the Fjord Trail will have entrance gates that can be locked, limiting access at night or during inclement weather. All parking lots would have reserved spaces for emergency responders, and the report says injured people would be easier to reach than on Breakneck or in the woods because of multiple access points and flat surfaces.

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



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## Clara Lou Gould

(1927-2024)

Clara Lou Gould, the first woman to be elected Mayor in the city of Beacon, and the longest-serving Mayor in Beacon's history, passed away peacefully in her house on December 2, 2024. She was born in Cold Spring on August 29, 1927 to Michael and Clara Malone. She attended public schools in Cold Spring and graduated from the College of New Rochelle with a Bachelor's degree in English, with honors, in 1948.



On September 11, 1954, she married Robert Gould, a research chemist at Texaco Research Center, at Our Lady of Loretto Church in Cold Spring. Her beloved husband predeceased Clara Lou in 1996. She was also predeceased by her parents and her three sisters: Honora Dougherty, Mary Williams and Kathryn Malone. Clara Lou is survived by her three nieces Mary Ellen Brown (Michael), Ann Fossett Uohn), and Ellen Sheffer (the late Robert); one nephew- Peter Williams (Carol), and one step-son-in-law, Keith McKenzie. Clara Lou is also survived by two step-grandsons, Kent McKenzie (Penny) and Ross McKenzie (Libbie), and their respective children, Tempest, Quinn, Zachary, Andrew and Will.

In addition, Clara Lou is survived by her great-nieces and great-nephews: Will Sheffer (Nicole), Erin Brown McAlister (Heath), Patrick Brown (Peri), Andrew Brown, Dr. Lindsay Fossett (Vassilis), Timothy Fossett (Beth), Michael Williams (Megan), Matthew Williams (Kristina), as well as their respective children.

Bob and Clara Lou moved to Beacon in 1960 and they resided in the Wodenethe area ever since. Clara Lou worked in the publishing departments of Viking Press and Harold Ober Associates in New York City. A highlight of her career in NYC was meeting and working with the famed author Agatha Christie!

At this time, she also began a lifetime of community service by serving as the President of the Highland Hospital Auxiliary. Clara Lou and Bob co-chaired several capital fundraising efforts at Highland Hospital, as well. She also became Beacon's first representative on board of directors of the Dutchess County Health Department.

Clara Lou loved to garden. She was a Past President of the Tioronda Garden Club in Beacon, a Master Flower judge and a District Director of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. Prior to her election as Mayor, she also served on the Beacon Beautification Committee and as a member of the board of directors of the Fishkill National Bank.

Clara Lou served as Mayor of Beacon for 18 years- from 1990-2007. She was elected in 1989 and re-elected in 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003. Upon her retirement in 2007, she was the longest serving woman Mayor in the state of New York. Many political observers trace Beacon's renaissance to her tenure as Mayor. Her administration constructed a much-needed water filtration plant and a new Municipal Building in 1997. In 1999, she negotiated a contract that brought a contemporary art museum, Dia, to the former Nabisco manufacturing plant.

There is no doubt that the opening of Dia:Beacon in 2003 kick-started the migration of artists, families, restaurants, art-related businesses and other commercial attractions to Beacon. As a result of the notoriety that Dia brought to Beacon, tourists and the commercial investment that follows foot traffic invigorated both Main Street and the entire Beacon area in ways that few could have imagined.

During her 18 years in office, Clara Lou never requested or accepted a single pay raise. Even though her position was considered part-time in nature, she was in the office all day, every day and attended many community events in the evenings and on weekends. She was truly a public servant and a leader of our community, which she loved. The residents of Beacon

returned that affection, many times over. Over the past 30 years, she has been feted and honored by just about every community service and civic organization in both Beacon and Dutchess County. In 2019, on her birthday, Mayor Randy Casale and the City Council dedicated a park bench in the front of the Municipal Building in her honor.

Over the years, Clara Lou and Bob were members of the Kiwanis Club, the Howland Cultural Center, the Beacon Historical Society, Les Soeurs Amiables Civic Club of Beacon, the Beacon Elks Club Lodge No. 1493, the Hudson River Greenway, the Southern Dutchess NAACP, the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation, Boscobel, and the Southern Dutchess Country Club, among other local civic and charitable groups.

Clara Lou was also an avid baseball fan. She and Bob purchased season tickets for the Hudson Valley Renegades when they located to the Beacon area in 1994, and she rarely missed a game in the past 30 years. In 2022, she was invited to throw out the first pitch at age 95!

Despite her busy schedule as Mayor, Clara Lou always found time to attend the Senior Tea at Beacon High School. She also read to the 5th grade students every spring. Once during her final year as Mayor, a student at South Avenue School asked if it was possible for a boy to be elected Mayor!

Clara Lou was also a woman of great faith. She was an active parishioner and communicant at St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon, where she served as a Lector for many years.

The family received friends on Monday (Dec. 9) at the Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman St., in Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday (Dec. 10) at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard St., in Beacon. Interment followed at St. Joachim Cemetery.

The family would like to warmly thank the staff at Right at Home Care, especially Jeanette, for the loving and professional care that they provided Clara Lou over the past five years. They made it possible for Clara Lou to enjoy her retirement at home. We also appreciate the compassionate care provided by Hudson Valley Hospice. We also thank Clara Lou's long-time neighbors, Paul and Donna Hardisty, for all the love and kindness they showed her over the years, as well as Gary and Pamela Barrack, and Peter and Anne Forman, who made Clara Lou part of their extended families.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Clara Lou's name to Church of St. Joachim- St. John the Evangelist, 2 Oak Street, Beacon, NY; Hudson Valley Hospice, 374 Violet Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, and St. Jude's Children Hospital.

To send a personal condolence or for directions to the funeral home, please visit [riverview-byhalvey.com](http://riverview-byhalvey.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the supervision of Patrick J. Halvey.

PAID NOTICE



Drew Kelly (15) advances the ball against New Paltz in a tournament game on Oct. 30.

Photo by Cadence Heeter

## A Family Affair

*Drew Kelly replicates sister's success*

By Nadeen Ahmed

Families act as a driving force for many athletes, inspiring them to do great things. This stands true for Drew Kelly, a Beacon High School ninth grader uplifted by her family, including an older sister who starred in basketball and soccer.

Drew has found second families as an athlete in the same sports, where connections and friendships with teammates have contributed to her love of competing. Kelly, 15, joined the soccer team as a seventh grader in 2023 and made this year's varsity basketball team as a freshman.

Competing with older athletes is "definitely scary," she said. "You have to work for it because you're competing against seniors. But you're proud of yourself because you're up here with these older people."

Her father, a sports junkie, signed Drew and her siblings up for a variety of sports when they were young to see which ones interested them most. For Drew, a Wappingers Falls resident who began playing sports at age 5, it happened to be basketball and soccer. Her passion for those sports carried into middle school and high school.

She calls herself a "diehard team player" who would rather pass the ball to teammates, letting them share the spotlight, than score bunches of goals or shots.

One of the older players on the soccer team in 2023 was her sister, senior Devyn Kelly, who Drew said is a role model academically and athletically. Devyn was on the pitch when Drew scored her first varsity goal. "That was a big moment," said Drew. "She was the first person I ran to and gave a hug."

As a striker and center midfielder, Drew finished with six goals in 2023 and 12 this past fall, including the team's first goal of the season, and its lone score in a 1-0 win over Warwick on Sept. 3. The Bulldogs ended the season with just one loss but came up short in a penalty shootout after two overtimes to New Paltz in the first round of the Section IX, Class A playoffs.

Drew also followed Devyn, who graduated



Drew Kelly (right) credits her older sister, Devyn, with helping her academically and athletically.

Photo provided

in June, to the basketball team, where she will compete as a point guard in a sport for which she has "always had that spark." Last season, with Devyn among its leading scorers, the Bulldogs ended the regular season at 16-4, winning their second-straight league title before losing to Red Hook in the Section IX, Class A tournament.

Shannon Gunsett, the junior varsity basketball coach, described Drew as a talented player and "coach's dream" who brings relentless energy to practices and games. "What sets Drew apart from others is her coachability," said Gunsett. "She listens, embraces feedback and consistently works to improve her game."

Like all student-athletes, Drew struggles to balance schoolwork with practices and games, and being a two-season athlete and playing both sports year-round outside of school is time-consuming. Even so, Kelly has proven to be a tenacious force and has been able to hold her own so far.

Nadeen Ahmed is a junior at Beacon High School and a member of *The Current's* Student Journalist Program.

# 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					58				59			

- ACROSS
1. “Waterloo” group

5. Financial pro

8. Sci-fi vehicles

12. Starring role

13. — Royal Highness

14. Worn-down pencils

15. Nose and mouth covering

17. Move like a butterfly

18. Short sock

19. Curved fasteners

21. Shoe width

22. Tropical tree

23. Santa’s helper

26. Highland hat

28. Prettify

31. Painter Joan

33. Coffee vessel

35. A few

36. Glasses, slangily

38. Bro’s kin

40. Compass dir.

41. And others (Lat.)
43. Goal

45. Filmed anew

47. Lubricate

51. Mountain ht.

52. Gathering organized via social media

54. Jai —

55. Sailor

56. Skater Lipinski

57. Chorus syllables

58. Govt. lender

59. ABA member
- DOWN
1. — Romeo

2. Legume

3. Support

4. “Skyfall” singer

5. French vineyard estate

6. Math ratios

7. Invite to one’s loft

8. Develops

9. Spectacular lunar phase
10. Last write-up

11. Bygone fliers

16. Bump into

20. Sheepish remark

23. German river

24. Sass

25. Comp for a foodie

27. — *Miniver*

29. LBJ’s successor

30. Formerly known as

32. Spencer of *Hidden Figures*

34. — Falls

37. Blue

39. Round Table titles

42. Certain jabs

44. Maestro Zubin —

45. Genuine

46. Big name in scat

48. Latin 101 word

49. Type

50. Online auction site

53. Science room

## SUDOCURRENT

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

## WORDLADDER

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

FAILS

KINDS

## WORDSEARCH

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

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

Answers for Dec. 6 Puzzles

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

BRAID, BRAND, GRAND,  
GRIND, GRINS, GAINS

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

Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon opened its season with a 3-1 start, knocking off O'Neill (70-30), Pine Plains (74-44) and Red Hook (61-52) last week before falling to New Paltz (73-66) at home on Tuesday (Dec. 10).

Michai Thompson led the team with 15 points against O'Neill and Pine Plains, while Jahcier Ballard scored 20 against Red Hook and Marci Rodriguez had 11 points and 10 rebounds. Ballard added 22 points against New Paltz.

All 11 players scored against O'Neill, including the first varsity points for sophomores Gio Bowley and Jamir Spence and senior Ryan Smith.

"We emphasized defense all preseason, so for us to only give up 30 points on night one is impressive," said Coach Patrick Schetter. Strong team defense and quick points helped the Bulldogs make a run in the state tournament in March, where they upset Red Hook and New Paltz before losing to Saugerties in only their second sectional title game appearance since 1973. After starting the season 2-7, the team finished 14-8.

Beacon played Fallsburg on Thursday (Dec. 12) and will host Port Jervis at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 19.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon picked up its first win on Dec. 7, defeating Red Hook at home, 45-27. Reilly Landisi and Daveya Rodriguez each scored 12 points and Drew Kelly and Lila Burke each added eight. The Bulldogs lost their first two games last week, falling in Hyde Park to FDR, 49-40, on Dec. 3 (Landisi scored 17 and Rodriguez 15) and at home to Pine Bush, 39-25, on Dec. 4. Beacon (1-2) travels to Lourdes



Michai Thompson shoots over a Red Hook defender. Photos by Cadence Heeter

today (Dec. 13) and to Port Jervis on Dec. 16.

**BOYS' SWIMMING** — Beacon fell in its season opener on Tuesday (Dec. 10) to Lourdes, 35-33. Fionn Fehilly won the 100-yard freestyle in 56.21 and was second in the 200-medley in 2:21.67. Beacon swam against Newburgh on Thursday (Dec. 12) and will face Kingston on Tuesday (Dec. 17).

**BOWLING** — The boys' team defeated Monroe-Woodbury, 3-2, on Dec. 3, but the girls lost, 5-0. The boys fell to Newburgh, 5-0, on Monday (Dec. 9).

**WRESTLING** — In its opening match on Tuesday (Dec. 10), Beacon lost to Valley Central, 54-24. The Bulldogs hosted Kingston on Wednesday and travel to Rye for a tournament this weekend.

**FALL HONORS** — Lila Burke was named sixth team All-State in volleyball; Avery Davis and Brody Timm were members of the All-Section team in boys' soccer; Kevin Beal, Elijah Epps and Jaden Jones were named to the All-Section team in football;



Jahcier Ballard (5) scored 20 points in Beacon's win over Red Hook.

and Gerald Ryan was named coach of the year for Section IX, Class B football.

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — The 2023-24 season ended at the Class C state title game, where Haldane lost a heartbreaker for the second year in a row. The team had nine seniors, including Matt Nachamkin, Ross Esposito, Michael Murray and Evan Giachinta, who graduated in June.

Two starters return, Nate Stickle and Fallou Faye. The seniors are joined by sophomore Ryder Griffin, junior Zane Del Pozo and junior Luke Bozsik, who began 2023-24 on the junior varsity and turned into a reliable spark plug off the bench. Griffin also was called up late in the season from JV, and Del Pozo played sparingly but will take over as point guard.

The Blue Devils opened on Tuesday (Dec. 10) with a 63-53 loss on the road at Blind Brook, although they had several runs that kept it close, cutting the lead to two with 2:25 left in the first half behind eight points from Stickle, who finished with 16. In the fourth quarter, Bozsik scored eight straight to cut the deficit to seven; he finished with 17.

The Blue Devils (0-1) travel to Leffell on Monday (Dec. 16) and Hamilton on Wednesday. Their first home game is scheduled for Jan. 7 against Briarcliff.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Although Haldane finished 9-13 in 2023-24, the team won six more games than the season before with a roster of just eight players. Only two of those players — Camilla McDaniel and Ruby Poses — graduated, keeping the core intact. The Blue Devils also have a new coach, Scott Timpano, who took over for Charles Martinez.

The Blue Devils hosted FDR on Dec. 6 in their opener, losing, 51-31. With constant pressure, FDR's defense held Haldane to just a single point in the first quarter and the Blue Devils didn't score a field goal until 4:26 left in the half. Down 20-1, the team began to find some offensive rhythm while pressing on defense and closing the half with a 14-7 run.

Midway through the third quarter, junior Marisa Peters hit a three-pointer to cut the lead to 10, but that was as close as it got. Peters, seventh grader Mackenzie Tobin and junior Kayla Ruggiero each scored eight points.

The Blue Devils bounced back on Wednesday (Dec. 11) with a 44-41 home win over Leffell. The Lions had a six-point lead with 5:15 left in the game, but Haldane came back to tie and took the lead with 2:48 left on a layup by Ruggiero. Peters finished with 21 and Ruggiero scored 11.

Haldane traveled to Port Chester on Thursday (Dec. 12) and will travel to Riverside on Saturday, Hamilton on Monday and Port Chester on Dec. 19.

**FALL HONORS** — Brandt Robbins was an honorable mention selection to the boys' soccer All-Section team.



God is with us, now residing.

We invite you to celebrate and mourn those we have loved and lost at this time of year when we feel the loss so greatly.

DEC. 19, 7 PM Blue Christmas Service

A Candlelight, reflective time of remembrance

Dec. 24, 7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Celebration of the Birth and Return of Christ

Beacon First Presbyterian Church  
50 Liberty Street Beacon, New York

