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DECEMBER 20, 2024

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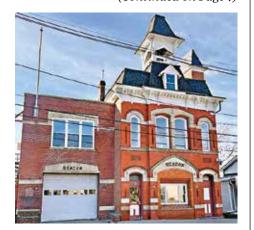
Beacon Seeks Broker for Firehouse Sales

City begins process of selling two historic stations

By Jeff Simms

Beacon officials said they received four proposals by a Thursday (Dec. 19) deadline from real-estate agencies that hope to broker the sale of two century-old former firehouses that were emptied when a central fire station opened this year near City Hall.

The city requested proposals on Dec. 2 to oversee the sale of Mase Hook and Ladder on Main Street and the Beacon (Continued on Page 7)



The former Beacon Engine Co. firehouse is located at 57 E. Main St. Photo by J. Simms



Theresa Timmons, 17, shown with her mother, Laura, continues her recovery a year after being critically injured in a car crash.

Photo by L. Sparks

A Life Renewed

Haldane student continues recovery from horrific crash

By Leonard Sparks

Theresa Timmons celebrated a day that nearly wasn't.

On Sept. 23, a procession of family and friends followed as her mother pushed the teenager's wheelchair across the lobby of Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla. Just through the glassed entrance stood

members of the Continental Village Fire Department and Cortlandt-Peekskill Regional Paramedics.

Firefighters and paramedics rarely reunite with the people they save or closely follow their recoveries. But over the last year, the Haldane High School student has become part of the department's family, (Continued on Page 9)

Overdose Deaths Plummet in Dutchess

Officials credit policing, public health initiatives

By Leonard Sparks

Overdose deaths have plummeted this year in Dutchess, igniting a celebration in a county that until recently had one of the state's highest rates.

Dutchess has recorded 38 deaths in 2024 through Sept. 30, or 58 percent fewer than the same period in 2023 and 64 percent fewer than 2022, according to Jean-Marie Niebuhr, the county commissioner of mental health. Dutchess had 91 deaths during the first nine months of 2023 and 106 for the year.

On Dec. 11, District Attorney Anthony Parisi and Sheriff Kirk Imperati announced the completion of Operation Fast and Furious, an 18-month initiative built on "hot spot" policing, shorter investigations, expedited warrants and other strategies to identify and prosecute dealers, including in Beacon.

Niebuhr said the reduction is also a product of public health initiatives, including the expanded availability of buprenorphine and other medications used to treat addiction, the training of people in the use of the

(Continued on Page 20)

Lessons in Climate Change

Students concerned about what's ahead for planet

By Joey Asher

Every spring for the last five years, Aaron Burke, the librarian at South Avenue Elementary in Beacon, has led students to nearby Fishkill Creek to stock the stream with 3-inch brown trout. While watching the 60 or so fish grow in a 55-gallon aquarium in the basement library, the children give them names like Fred and Bob.

Burke hopes to get kids to put down their video games and foster a love of nature. "There are very few kids playing outside," he said. "If you don't have any feelings about the environment, you're not going to change your behavior."

Burke is among a growing number of educators in the Highlands who are part of a climate-education movement, teaching students about the changing environment and helping address what has been called "climate anxiety." One survey found that nearly 60 percent of students said they are "extremely worried" about climate change, while 85 percent are at least "moderately worried."

Leah Alper, who teaches about climate change at Haldane in her environmental science elective, said she has seen that worry firsthand. "Students want to talk about it," she said. Sofia Kelly, a junior who founded the Habitat Revival Club, which has 40 members, agreed. "We had 80-degree weather in October," she said. "It's frightening."

"This generation is going to be facing (Continued on Page 20)



Aaron Burke of South Avenue Elementary in Beacon sits in front of an aquarium filled with trout minnows that his students will disperse.

Photo by J. Asher



FIVE QUESTIONS: WILL MARSH

By Brian PJ Cronin

Will Marsh, a 2005 Haldane grad, is a foreign service officer in Brazil for the U.S. Department of State, where he recently helped coordinate a visit by President Joe Biden to the Amazon rainforest.

You joined the foreign service six years ago. What drew you to the job?

For me, the key word was *service*. I see all that we do in Brazil and at embassies and consulates around the world as serving the American people by promoting our values, shared culture, businesses, democracy and human rights — the best of our country.

Do you select your stations?

You get some say, although less so on your first and second assignments. Generally, oversea assignments are two to three years. When you're a year out, you bid on your next job. I speak Portuguese, and my first overseas assignment was in Brazil, in Sao Paulo, for two years. My wife [Allie, whom he met in Washington, D.C.] and I had a great experience, so when this position opened up [in Brasilia], we wanted to return. After Sao Paolo, I was stationed in Uganda. Allie had spent time in East Africa during a job in public health for an NGO [non-governmental organization, or nonprofit]. She worked

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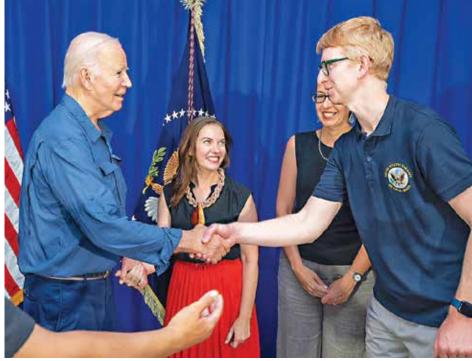
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Will Marsh (right) greets Joe Biden during the president's visit to Brazil.

Photo provided

in Rwanda and spent time in southern and west Africa. She was always the international-affairs-focused person, but I'm the one who joined the foreign service.

What are your daily responsibilities?

They vary. My title is special assistant to the ambassador [Elizabeth Bagley]. It's a chief of staff role, where for any event or meeting, I make sure the right people are involved and that she is prepared. I also help make sure that we engage in things that advance the core of what we're trying to do: democracy and human rights, economic partnership with Brazil, U.S. citizen security. Part of my job is sifting through the vast number of requests made of the ambassador and figuring out what is going to be the most impactful.

Why did President Biden visit?

Combating climate change has always been a priority for him, from back when he was a senator and vice president. Preserving the Amazon rainforest is critical to that fight. No sitting U.S. president had ever visited the rain-

"I see all that we do in Brazil and at embassies and consulates around the world as serving the American people."

forest and, as his term comes to an end, he and the administration felt it was an important message to send that the U.S. is committed to helping Brazil support and conserve the Amazon. It was incredible to be a part of it — it also was my first visit to the Amazon. It made me want to return with my family.

When you lived in Philipstown, you took photos for Hudson Valley Shakespeare. Do you shoot in Brazil?

Oh, for sure. No matter where I go, I bring a camera and try to document as much as I can. We've gone to some incredible places such as Rio de Janeiro and Iguazu Falls, and we visited Chile and Patagonia. There are so many beautiful places in South America; we try to make the most of it.



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By Michael Turton

Do you honor the winter solstice?

Yes, I'm Norwegian. It's a great nonpolitical day!



June Crilly, Beacon

Not usually —
I didn't realize it
was coming up.



Eric Tucker, Cold Spring

Yes! My son was born on the summer solstice.



Kaley Kop, Cold Spring

NEWS BRIEFS

Serino to Appoint Pulver as Assistant Executive

 $Former\,legislator\,lost\,race\,for\,comptroller$

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced on Dec. 13 that she will appoint former county legislator and comptroller Gregg Pulver as assistant county executive.

A Republican like Serino, Pulver served five, 2-year terms in the Legislature, including six years as chair, before losing his re-election bid in 2023. He was appointed in December 2023 by then-County Executive William F.X. O'Neil to succeed Robin Lois, the Democratic comptroller, who resigned to take a job with the state. Pulver lost the election for the job last month to Dan Aymar-Blair, a Democrat who will begin the final year of Lois' term on Jan. 1.

As assistant county executive, Pulver will help Serino manage Dutchess "operations, policies and initiatives," the county said in a statement, including oversight of several departments, not including the comptroller's office, which is an elected position. Additionally, Pulver will serve as liaison to the Legislature.

Pulver will succeed Chris Baiano, who plans to retire after serving as assistant county executive since 2015.

Behavioral Health Hub Begins Outreach

Residents can sign up for 'check-in' calls

The Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub has launched a service, You Matter!, in which residents can request "check-in" calls from a counselor.

The free calls will come from Alexandria Clegg, the community and crisis care coordinator, and include conversation, wellness outreach, care coordination or referrals to therapists. To sign up, visit philipstownhub. org or call 845-809-5050.

The Hub, located at 5 Stone St. in Cold Spring, last month opened a second office at 3590 Route 9, Suite 109, in Philipstown.

New Law Limits Classroom Heat

Establishes 88 degrees as maximum

ov. Kathy Hochul on Dec. 14 signed legislation that requires school districts to lower the temperature if a classroom or support space reaches 82 degrees. The areas must be evacuated if they hit 88 degrees.

The law requires that districts reduce temperatures below 82 degrees by turning off overhead lights, pulling down shades or blinds, turning on fans, opening doors and windows, turning off electronics and/ or providing water breaks.

The legislation passed the Assembly, 192-12, with support from Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, and the Senate, 57-3, with a yes vote from Rob Rolison, whose district includes the Highlands.

The state requires a minimum classroom temperature of 65 degrees. The new law will be in effect for the 2025-26 school year.

Earlier this year, Beacon voters approved a capital plan that will add cooling centers at Rombout Middle School and the district's four elementary schools. Haldane included \$10 million to install air conditioning at its two school buildings in a capital plan but dropped the provision before a November vote. The Garrison School added AC in 2022.

Comptroller Releases ARP Report

Tracks spending of pandemic funds

Gregg Pulver, the Dutchess comptroller, on Dec. 10 released an audit of the county's spending of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds during the third quarter.

The county has received \$57.1 million from the federal government in pandemic relief funds and spent \$56.8 million, including \$25.4 million from July to September. The money must be budgeted by Dec. 31 and spent by the end of 2026.

The largest expenditures in the third quarter were \$21 million for community college education and \$3.5 million for preschool special education. The county has about \$379,000 left to budget.

Pulver noted that \$843,000 had been budgeted to purchase 14 Sheriff's Department vehicles but was not included in the county executive's ARPA spending plan.

Sheriff Buys Measuring System

Lasers add precision at crime scenes

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office has purchased a camera system that uses lasers to provide precise, three-dimensional measurements of crime scenes.

Developed by a company called FARO, the system was purchased with proceeds from the agency's asset forfeiture fund, according to *Mid Hudson News*. Randel Hill, a forensic unit investigator, has been trained to use the equipment, which Sheriff Kevin McConville learned about from the New York State Sheriff's Association.

"When the data is presented to the District Attorney's office, the information will allow D.A. staff to be at the actual crime scene," McConville said.

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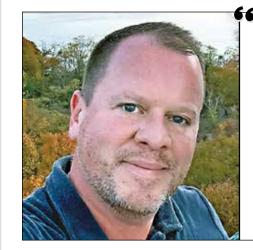
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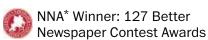
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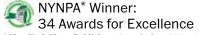
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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Fjord Trail

It speaks volumes that Cold Spring trustees Eliza Starbuck and Aaron Freimark voted no on such a rudimentary ask as an extension for the comment period of the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail ("Local Officials Ask for New Deadline," Dec. 13).

Whose interests are they most concerned about: the community they represent or the developer? Even the Putnam County Legislature, which can't agree 100 percent on anything, sent a letter to state parks asking for an extension to at least March 4. The optics of these trustees and their blind support for the Fjord Trail is astonishing.

Michael Bowman, Nelsonville

Travis Biro's thoughtful and aspirational letter in the Dec. 13 issue describes the attributes of a safe, secure and accessible trail, such as the trail pictured in the idyllic artist renderings in the HHFT master plan. He has great faith in the sponsors and their well-intentioned project.

The problem with this dream, as many have discovered by digging deeper into the physical and economic aspects of the project, is that the trail as planned may turn out to be an unintended financial and economic disaster. These concerns will be

exposed during the DGEIS review process, which clearly needs to be extended.

David May, Cold Spring

What is with the conspiracy stuff from Pete Salmansohn (*Letters and Comments*, Dec. 13)? It is so disheartening to read this kind of hoo-haw. The state allows 30 days for comments, and it was extended to 60 days because of the holidays.

Larry Wiesler, Philipstown

Brian PJ Cronin did everyone a huge favor when he encapsulated 709 pages of complicated, technical issues and summarized most of the plans fairly ("Fjord Trail State Report Released," Dec. 13): parking lots galore, roundabouts that HHFT said would never happen, an exhausting timeline and details about the actual construction challenges.

What the article lacks are the structural, financial and contractual issues that underlie this gargantuan and slick project.

I hope everyone takes the time to read the many letters that will be submitted to state parks about the inconsistencies, inadequacies and omissions of the plan. Beyond the technical details, how is it possible that parks all over the world are taking steps to reduce overtourism, while this team is encouraging it? The Fjord Trail will draw at least 250,000

new visitors because of an impractical, albeit dramatic, concrete walkway 25 feet west of the tracks over the Hudson.

The report claims there will be no impact on the viewshed — tell that to Mother Nature. And who will pay to manage this when Chris Davis, its principal benefactor, has said he will not endow it?

 ${\it Gretchen\ Dykstra}, {\it Haverford, Pennsylvania}$

On a positive note, we finally have an official document in which HHFT was required to lay out the facts for comment and criticism. No more spin from paid employees, online shills or propaganda mailers. It's a surprising read given the rhetoric of the last few years. Just a few of the items previously sneered at and dismissed as "NIMBY fearmongering" are now confirmed as fact:

- Significant impacts to wildlife, including many endangered species, and aquatic vegetation;
- Significant impacts to the shoreline. The next time a local environmental group lectures us on viewsheds, I will direct them to the laughable notion that an elevated concrete-and-steel highline is anything but a "new visual element":
- A fundamental increase in traffic, parking and congestion. HHFT is conceding significant adverse impacts along Route 9D, such as roundabouts, parking lots, removing Main Street parking spaces and a fleet of shuttle buses stressing Lunn Terrace bridge and traffic in the lower village.
- A fixation on Dockside as a trailhead and lip service to a no-build option and whatever a "meander" is, but otherwise no substantive discussion on a compromise solution that might not have the impacts laid out in the DGEIS.

While it is great to see a diverse array of elected officials asking questions, I'm perplexed by the continued silence from our representatives in the state Assembly and county legislatures. It would be nice to see them join the bipartisan chorus speaking out on this timeline and the many unanswered questions.

 ${\bf Tom\ Campanile}, {\it Nelsonville}$

Please take the time to read the DGEIS to see what is planned regarding traffic.

Within a 1.1-mile stretch on Route 9D, a thoroughfare used by residents and businesses in three counties, HHFT plans on building 350 parking spots. It will have the state Department of Transportation determine "traffic signalization" as the design progresses.

On Page 56, the report states: "Fjord Trail North would be consistent in scale and character with existing land uses in the surrounding area. The trail would be designed to blend with the surrounding natural and built landscape

(Continued on Page 5)



My View

Let's Cover Art Therapy

By Yasmine Awais

We are in the throes of a mental health provider shortage, especially for those New York residents who rely on Medicaid.



Gov. Kathy Hochul can make it easier for 2,200 mental-health clinicians to provide services to people on Medicaid. A bill on her desk would expand coverage to services provided by licensed creative arts therapists (LCATs), just as the program now pays for mental health counseling and marriage and family therapy. The state has licensed creative art therapists since 2006.

Hochul must sign or veto the bill — along with about 100 others that await action — by Tuesday (Dec. 24), the final business day in 2024. (If she does nothing, the bill will become law.) If enacted, the law would go into effect in 90 days.

The bill (A9018) passed the state Senate, 56-5, with the support of Rob Rolison, whose district includes the Highlands, and the Assembly, 143-2, with support from Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon.

Throughout my 25 years of providing



Illustration by Benjavisa Ruangvaree

creative arts therapy, I have seen firsthand how some clients respond to alternatives to talk therapy to heal. For example, after spending much time, money and stress on conventional therapy for their young son, a family was connected to me through a nonprofit that finds pro-bono therapists for those in need.

It did not surprise me that the boy could not speak about the atrocious violence he had witnessed or the trauma of moving through a series of foster homes. I spent three years engaging with him through art therapy, which allowed him to explore his emotions and experiences from a safe distance. He used drawing, origami, sand tray stories and meditation to better understand and express his feelings, fears and memories. Imagine the relief if this boy had access to art therapy sooner.

According to the state Department of Health, there are 1.9 million people enrolled in Medicaid upstate. At the same time, New York universities offer 15 master's degree programs in creative arts psychotherapy, including seven in art, two in dance/movement, one in drama and five in music — the most of any state.

Under this bill, all those graduates potentially could immediately expand the number of therapists available to those using Medicaid. According to a directory compiled by *Psychology Today*, there are at least 17 licensed creative arts therapists in Beacon and Philipstown, and I know that list is incomplete.

We've been down this road before. On the last business day of 2022, Hochul signed a law that required blanket health policies to include coverage for outpatient treatment by state-licensed mental health counselors. But in a signing memo, she removed creative arts therapists, citing the potential cost. Two previous bills also excluded art therapy.

Maya Benattar, a music therapist from Westchester County who co-founded the LCAT Advocacy Coalition, pointed out at the time that Hochul's concerns about costs made no sense. Several large insurers, including Cigna, UnitedHealthcare and Aetna, cover art psychotherapy and art therapists use the same billing codes as other mental health practitioners.

The New York Art Therapy Association predicted the 2022 removal would "have a significant and highly detrimental impact on the availability of affordable mental health services" by limiting options for those who don't have private insurance.

Let's hope the governor gets it right this

Awais, who lives in Philipstown, is a licensed creative arts therapist and the internship coordinator and professional lecturer of psychology at Marist College.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

and would not affect the historic or scenic character of the area. Increased visitation would increase traffic, but it would not have a significant adverse impact on traffic conditions in the City of Beacon or Town of Fishkill."

Unlike the DGEIS, I believe this will severely impact the character and traffic of the area: Parking lots and traffic lights are not scenic or convenient. This is paving paradise. Sue Waivada, *Beacon*

I urge my neighbors in Philipstown to review the DGEIS amicably and without resorting to exaggeration, speculation, fearmongering and innuendo. Focus on facts and keep a sense of proportion. Remember that state parks must do what's best for 19.5 million New Yorkers. Those of you demanding to see a budget for future maintenance: Do you also insist on reviewing the maintenance budgets for other state properties, like Bear Mountain Bridge?

I don't believe suspicion and aggression are the best strategies for shaping this project to our best interests. They are more likely to have the opposite effect. Suspicion and aggression in debate and governance erode social trust, discourage initiative, alienate partners and dissuade talented people from entering public service.

The Cold Spring trustees are more than capable of evaluating the subsets of the DGEIS that pertain to the village by the state's Feb. 2 deadline. When the village has

so many other challenges that need funding and attention from the trustees, we should ask what will be gained by drawing out the review and lavishing a consultant's fees on it.

 ${\bf Eliza~Starbuck, } {\it Cold~Spring}$ ${\it Starbuck~is~a~Cold~Spring~trustee}.$

Extend the deadline for a sense of reasonableness and responsibility to all parties. The 19.5 million residents of New York can

Joe Curto, Cold Spring

Disability etiquette

surely wait.

Thank you for this informative and vulnerable piece ("Reporter's Notebook: Learning Too Late," Dec. 13). Disability

awareness is so important and honestly pretty darn easy to employ.

Sarah Uzelac, Beacon

We are people first! When I developed rheumatoid arthritis at age 5, I assumed I wouldn't be able to live a "normal" life. Today I am a wife, parent and homeowner employed for over 30 years. Thank you for spreading awareness.

Mildred Caballero-Ho, Poughkeepsie

Dunkin'

Regarding the proposal for a drive-thru Dunkin' on the former Healey property on Fishkill Avenue (Dec. 13): Beacon already has a significant number of local coffee shops and roasters, and a Dunkin' across the street (where Roma Nova is now) closed during the pandemic and another at Route 52 and Old Glenham Road (at the Sunoco station) went out of business.

After extensive community input regarding the revitalization and rezoning of the Route 52 corridor, many residents asked for businesses that serve essential needs, such as grocery stores, and bicycle lanes or other services that contribute to local life. Dunkin' does not align with those priorities.

It is unclear how this proposal received support, given the challenges Dunkin' has faced locally.

Matthew Robinson, Beacon (Continued on Page 6)



Bridge Barriers

In a 7-minute documentary created in association with *The Current*, Marist College students Erin Holton, Facundo Martinez and Sofia Milojevic tell the story of Lorraine Lein, who lost her 17-year-old son, Jake, when he jumped in 2023 from the Bear Mountain Bridge.

Lein has since become an activist pushing the New York State Bridge Authority to add barriers to its five bridges, including Bear Mountain and Newburgh-Beacon.

See highlandscurrent.org/bridge-film.

Fjord Trail Postpones Cold Spring Meeting

Scheduled to discuss construction, mitigation

By Michael Turton

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail postponed a meeting with the Cold Spring Village Board scheduled for Wednesday (Dec. 18).

HHFT officials were expected to respond to questions from village officials sent in a Dec. 11 memo about the construction of the proposed 7.5-mile trail between Cold Spring and Beacon and mitigating its impact on the village.

In a Monday letter to the village, HHFT Executive Director Amy Kacala said that after public comment is complete for the recently released state Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), "we will have a comprehensive understanding of all municipal, agency and

individual feedback, and the lead agency will share any additional studies, mitigation measures or interventions necessary to address potential impacts of the Fjord Trail on the environment and/or project area communities."

Kacala said that considering the topics raised in the memo, "it would be premature to answer most of the questions as they pertain to local mitigations and associated budgets and costs." The meeting with village officials should be postponed until after the environmental review process is complete, she said.

In an email to Kacala, Mayor Kathleen Foley responded: "This is an unfortunate decision and a lost opportunity for the community as well as HHFT.... Other than funding questions, nothing is new. The trustees and the public would have benefited from hearing your clarification on construction and your thinking on

potential infrastructure investments in the village

"Your responses surely would have informed the public as they are reviewing the DGEIS; I don't see how your in-person discussion would jeopardize that process or its outcomes. The board can discuss how to incorporate these questions into the village's DGEIS response."

At its workshop on Wednesday, the board voted 3-2 to hire Ted Fink of Greenplan, a land-use consulting firm based in Rhinebeck, for up to \$8,000 to assist the village with its response to the DGEIS. Trustees Eliza Starbuck and Aaron Freimark voted "no."

Starbuck questioned the cost and said that, because she has a background in land-use planning, Foley could review the DGEIS. "I don't support spending \$8,000 or more on something that is not a project we have control over," she said.

Foley thanked Starbuck for her "vote of

confidence" but said she didn't think the village could do the review without help. "It's a giant document," she said, noting that Greenplan would consult with environmental planners and traffic engineers.

Freimark said on Thursday (Dec. 19) that he voted no because he felt it wasn't appropriate for the board to modify Greenplan's proposal (its bid was \$8,500) without input from Fink. He also questioned the spending midway through the fiscal year.

"We have expected revenue from shortterm rentals and parking, but there are still many unknowns," he said. "We shouldn't be so quick to spend an expected surplus."

For more news from the Village Board meetings of Dec. 11 and Dec. 18, see high-landscurrent.org.

Questions for HHFT

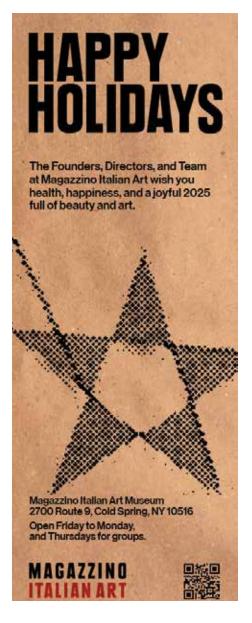
To read the list of questions prepared by the Village of Cold Spring for the Fjord Trail, see highlandscurrent.org.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

Beacon MTA

To the respondents to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority request for proposals for a development at the Metro-North station in Beacon: You should budget significant sums to cover cost overruns associated



with opposition to the plan ("MTA Reveals More Train Station Project Details," Nov. 22).

To the MTA, the mayor and City Council: still no specifics on the number of non-Beacon commuter parking spaces that might be added (as opposed to the number that should be removed because there are more residents who no longer need to commute) or on how you will address the traffic problem you caused and have only made worse.

To any City Council member who thinks we need grocery stores and pharmacies at the waterfront: It's not good to have that on your resume if you want to stay in office.

Daniel McElduff, Beacon

Migrants

Thank you for reminding readers of the difficult situation immigrants face in Poughkeepsie ("Migrants to Leave Route 9 Hotel," Dec. 13). I know some of these current and former residents who are seeking asylum and can attest that the shelter has been a lifeline.

The shelter is closing regardless of whether residents have secured other housing. This is causing a crisis. No institution is helping people, many of whom are new English speakers, navigate our stretched housing system.

One person, whose resources and grit are formidable, found housing for their family over the summer through Zillow. Another described looking at apartments in the area, but a combination of high rents, deposits and

broker's fees means that rentals are out of reach. These searches are being done in a new language without assistance and, in one case, after an overnight shift at a fulfillment center.

My heart breaks for the callous way these immigrants are being forced out of housing in the winter. This vibrant, global community is dispersing into an uncertain future.

Laura Kaufman, *Cold Spring*

Cannabis approval

Seven liquor and three cannabis stores in Beacon — probably not enough, LOL ("Cannabis Business Approved," Dec. 13).

Russell Macrini, via Facebook

Roadwork

Does this mean that, until April, I will be driving over the milled but unpaved 5-foot section on Ackerman Street before turning onto Fishkill Avenue ("Beacon Completes Repaying for the Year," Dec. 13)?

Alex Freeman, via Bluesky

Great planning. Just in time for winter frost and snow.

Bob Resek, via Facebook

Gardening gifts

Thank you for another lovely and useful article from Pamela Doan ("Roots and Shoots: Gifts for Gardeners," Dec. 6). Now you must give us an article on aspirational herb drying racks.

Shelley Gilbert, Cold Spring

Mayor Gould

On behalf of the family of the late Mayor Clara Lou Gould, we thank the following City of Beacon officials for their courtesies in honoring her memory: Mayor Lee Kyriacou, City Administrator Chris White, Police Chief Thomas Figlia and Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi.

Upon learning of her passing, Mayor Kyriacou immediately authorized the lowering of all flags to half-mast and scheduled the opening of the next City Council meeting with a moment of silence. We engaged in a brief discussion regarding some of the many accomplishments that she earned during her 18-year tenure as mayor. Both Kyriacou and White served on the City Council with Mayor Gould.

In addition to Mayor Kyriacou and City Administrator White, former Mayors Steve Gold and Randy Casale attended her services, as did many past and present members of the City Council. The Police Department helped direct traffic at her wake and led the funeral procession (which included a fire truck!) past the Municipal Building and traveled down Main Street one last time. For many in the funeral entourage, the uniformed firefighters standing at attention and saluting as her hearse passed our beautiful, re-dedicated fire station was a touching tribute.

We are also grateful for the heartfelt and thorough story filed by *The Current's* Beacon editor, Jeff Simms, who outlined Clara Lou's contributions to Beacon as both a citizen and mayor ("Clara Lou Gould, Longtime Mayor of Beacon, Dies at 97," Dec. 6). Kudos also to funeral director Patrick Halvey, who coordinated many of the details outlined above.

Even though Beacon's demographics have changed a lot over the past 30 years, it is quite evident that we have not lost the close-knit feeling that living in a small town brings to its residents.

Peter Forman and Pamela Barrack, Beacon





- UNIQUE & FABULOUS HOME FURNISHINGS -ARCHITECTURE - INTERIOR DESIGN

Beacon Grants Developer's Request

City gains two affordable units in process

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council agreed on Monday (Dec. 16) to allow the building inspector to issue certificates of occupancy for 64 apartments on Tioronda Avenue, but not before setting conditions for the move and stressing it should not be considered a precedent.

The vote to grant certificates of occupancy (COs) to Bernard Kohn, the developer of 9 acres at 248 Tioronda Ave., was 5-2, with Pam Wetherbee and Dan Aymar-Blair voting "no."

Kohn asked the council in July to authorize the COs because he said he had been unable to find a tenant for an unbuilt commercial structure at the site. Kohn constructed the apartments in two buildings but did not build the commercial structure at the same time, a condition of approval for projects within the Fishkill Creek development zone.

In September, the council adopted amendments to the creekside zoning requirements that permit COs for residential buildings before commercial with "good cause shown" and with conditions as the council "deems appropriate."

The five-page resolution granting the request includes a summary of the site's long history, including, under a previous owner, Planning Board approval in 2014 for a 100-unit development. In 2017, the council revised zoning requirements in the Fishkill Creek development district, sending the project back to the Planning Board, where in 2020 it was approved for 64 apartments and a 25,400-square-foot commercial building.

In 2021, Kohn sought a variance to the "concurrent construction" requirement for the commercial structure but withdrew his request three months later.

The resolution also takes the developer to task, noting that Kohn conceded that his marketing efforts "could have been more robust" for finding a commercial tenant. By failing to address the situation sooner, it said, he had "placed council members in the middle of a dilemma" not of their making.

However, because of the statewide housing shortage and around \$300,000 in annual property taxes the project will generate, the council members relented.

"This council looked at this and deter-



The city will allow the developer of 248
Tioronda Ave. to rent 64 apartments
before completing a commercial building.

File photo by J. Simms

mined it was a unique set of facts," said Nick Ward-Willis, the city attorney, on Monday. Future applicants should know that "if a similar set of circumstances were to present itself," the council would not view them in the same way, he said.

Conditions for the approval include two additional below-market-rate apartments (a 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom unit) that Kohn said he would provide as a makegood. Including the six units required by the zoning code, the development will have four 1-bedroom and four 2-bedroom apartments at below-market rates.

In conjunction with Hudson River Housing, a Poughkeepsie agency that administers the city's below-market-rate program, Kohn must hold an open house for those units only, provide the city with a plan to market the units and, within 45 days, appear with Hudson River Housing at a City Council meeting to discuss the units and how people can apply for them.

Kohn agreed to continue marketing the commercial building and must provide written updates on Jan. 31 and March 31 and appear at a council meeting in the spring, if needed.

Council Member Molly Rhodes noted Monday that the rail trail proposed along the dormant Beacon line adjacent to 248 Tioronda could "transform the potential, especially of the nonresidential part of that property."

"We need that third building to make any money on the property," said Jay Blumenfeld, a project official. "The first two buildings, that's essentially to stabilize the property. To actually make a dollar, we need that third building to produce something."

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said the council in 2025 should revisit the commercial requirement in the Fishkill Creek zone because he fears business development there and in other parts of the city could threaten Main Street.

Firehouse (from Page 1)

Engine Co. station on East Main. City officials said they want a broker who is familiar with Beacon and has five years or more of "exceptional" experience marketing historic buildings for adaptive reuse.

The City Council voted in 2020 to close the 130-year-old Beacon Engine firehouse and rehabilitate Mase, which is 113 years old, and the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. station on South Avenue. By 2022, the city had pivoted, and construction began in June 2023 on a \$14.7 million project to tear down and rebuild Tompkins Hose.

Reoriented to face Wolcott Avenue, modernized with extensive safety measures and enlarged to 16,400 square feet, the facility opened in October and was dedicated Nov. 16. During its construction, firefighters worked from Mase and the Highway Department garage on Camp Beacon Road.

During the council's meeting on Monday (Dec. 16), Mayor Lee Kyriacou said the city plans to use the proceeds from the sales to indirectly fund \$1.5 million spent at the new station to construct it with real brick and to include a geothermal heating and cooling system.

Mase, a three-story brick building at 425 Main St., was built in the Renaissance Revival style. The façade has two arched fire-cart doors (one is now the main entrance) with glass panels and stone labels with keystones. The building is eligible for historic preservation.

Verizon Wireless leases rooftop space for an antenna and a fenced area at ground level for equipment. According to the request for proposals, the city anticipates assigning the lease to the new owner. Beacon hopes to keep the parking lot behind the building and eventually open it to the public.

Beacon Engine, located at 57 East Main St., is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has a brick, steel and wood façade with a garage bay.

Both properties are part of the historic district, which has its own architectural and design standards and requires Planning Board approval for exterior alterations. The buildings will be sold with covenants that restrict renaming the properties or altering or defacing their historical features.

The city does not require competitive bidding for professional services, but City Administrator Chris White said this week that he chose to issue a request for proposals to keep the process transparent and ensure competitive proposals.

A Facebook poll on what to do with Mase prompted nearly 300 responses, with suggestions including a community center, a city museum or a center for social services. Many residents said it should remain a fire station.

However, White said it would be "incredibly expensive" to convert the building to another municipal use because of a state law that requires multiple contractors for public construction projects and other codes that would not apply to a private developer.

White said he hopes to see a developer transform the building into a "vibrant, forward-facing public space that helps activate that part of the block," similar to how Hudson Beach Glass repurposed the original Tompkins Hose firehouse at 162 Main St. The city hopes to have both stations sold by the spring, he said.



The former Mase firehouse is located at 425 Main St. Photo by J. Simms

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Concrete Plant Proposed for Route 9

Century Aggregates runs gravel, sand mine

By Leonard Sparks

A sand and gravel mining company on Route 9 near the Putnam-Dutchess line, whose expansion last year alarmed nearby residents, has proposed opening a concrete plant at the site.

Century Aggregates, which owns 310 acres traversed by Clove Creek, on Dec. 12 asked the Fishkill Planning Board for approval to construct an 8,000-square-foot mixing plant on 5 acres west of the waterway. The plant would operate between 5 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Fridays, but longer if needed, according to documents presented to the board.

Mixing trucks and employees would access the plant and its 11 parking spaces by using an entrance opposite Carol Lane. They would reach the plant by crossing an existing bridge over Clove Creek, a state and federally protected stream.

Century Aggregates, which has a 75-acre gravel and sand mine east of the creek, estimates that the plant would require 10,000 gallons of water daily, 15,000 kilowatthours of electricity monthly and six 1,000-gallon propane tanks to heat water during the winter. The company would also demolish a pavilion dating to when the property was home to the Snow Valley RV camp-

ground, and tear down an old building.

A traffic study concluded that 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. would be the busiest, with concrete mixers returning every two hours, but that the plant would only "marginally change" the number of vehicles accessing the property. A noise study found that the plant would be "well below" the threshold for impacting residents.

Despite those conclusions, Jonathan Kanter, who chairs the Planning Board, said its members must be "particularly aware and sensitive to any possible impacts" on Carol Lane residents.

Some of those residents raised concerns when Century received approval to relocate the entrance to its property across from Carol Lane. The company also received approval to expand its mining operation by 12 acres and to excavate an estimated 750,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel over five years.

Ed Bushak, who lives on Carol Lane, said during the Planning Board meeting on Dec. 12 that he learned to swim as a camper at Snow Valley. He pointed out that Cranesville Block Co. already operates a concrete plant north of Carol Lane and expressed concern that the project would impact native species like the timber rattlesnake and spread cement dust.

"Is this just the beginning, where they're going to start with this and then expand and expand, and that whole Snow Valley will be covered with concrete and cement mixing plants?" he asked.



Baby&Dog

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Sandra Nash of Cold Spring shared this photo of her first grandchild, Dustin, with Maui. They reversed roles for Halloween. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.



Firefighters from Continental Village and paramedics from Cortlandt-Peekskill helped celebrate Theresa's 17th birthday in September.



A collection of hearts sent by students at a school in the Bronx adorn a window in

Theresa's room at Blythedale Children's Hospital.

Photos by L. Sparks

Timmons (from Page 1)

so much so that its members pray for her before meetings, said Joseph Maffettone, the department's chief.

The answer to their prayers smiled as the uniformed first responders presented her with a bouquet of flowers and took photos. Inside, everyone crowded into a second-floor room to celebrate Theresa's upcoming 17th birthday on Sept. 25.

"This is a great journey that we get to follow," said Maffettone.

The journey began with a crash on Route 9. On Dec. 15, 2023, Vlad Saban, a 17-year-old Haldane High School senior, lost control of his Toyota Prius, which left the road and hit a tree. Vlad was killed. His passenger, Theresa, was left in critical condition with a traumatic brain injury.

A year later, she has been transformed. Doctors brought her out of a medically induced coma in January, and the piece of skull they removed to relieve pressure on her brain has been replaced. In July, Theresa began speaking and is now writing, texting and laughing. On Dec. 10, using a wheelchair, Theresa returned to Haldane High School for a visit that brought the student body into the halls.

The teenager, whose family owns Homestyle Desserts Bakery, and who was familiar to anyone who bought ice cream at its Nelsonville location, is undergoing an arduous regime of occupational and physical therapy designed to restore the damaged partnership between brain and body. She is also taking remote classes at Haldane, with the goal of attending graduation with her class in June.

"That's what I'm hoping for," Theresa said.

Saved by a 'cocoon'

During a visit, hope decorated Theresa's room at Blythedale. The shelves bulged with stuffed animals. An array of photos sent by Haldane friends filled some wall space, while well-wishes written on heart-shaped pieces of paper by students from

P.S. 194, a Bronx K-8 school where one of her mother's friends teaches, were hanging on the window. "You are amazing." "You can do it."

A guitar Theresa's father, Jimmy, plays for her stood in a corner. Haldane faculty, staff and classmates visit regularly, as does Vlad's mother, Liliya Shylivska. Theresa's mother, Laura, sleeps overnight on a cot, as do Jimmy, Liliya and Laura's boyfriend, Mike.

"I feel loved," said Theresa.

First, she had to be saved.

Maffettone said Continental Village firefighters responding to the accident found "complete wreckage." Attacking the doors and bottom of the wreck with cutting tools, they found Theresa in the back seat, unconscious and laying on her left side, protected in a "cocoon." according to Maffettone.

"There was a complete tunnel around her," said Maffettone, whose family has been buying baked goods from Homestyle for years and knew the Timmons family. "How she was positioned, it was amazing."

Jennifer Hunt, a paramedic with Cortlandt-Peekskill Regional Paramedics, described Theresa's physical condition as "multi-system" trauma. "She had anything and everything that could possibly be wrong with a patient going on," said Hunt. "We had a lot of decisions to make in a very short timeframe."

Hunt said that she and a colleague sedated Theresa and inserted an endotracheal tube, which is used when patients cannot breathe unaided. With her breathing stabilized, they decided to drive her to Westchester Medical Center rather than wait for a helicopter.

"Getting her definitive care was the priority at that point," said Hunt. "I didn't know if we'd be seeing her on her next birthday."

'In my head, that's not her'

Laura Timmons, who co-owns Homestyle, had expected to see her eldest daughter that evening at the family's home on Route 9 in Philipstown. Laura left her brother's house in Cold Spring with Mike to pick up her younger daughter, Giana,



Theresa Timmons in May 2023

Family photo

from a dance at the Garrison School. At 7:55 p.m., minutes before the crash, Laura traded text messages with Theresa, who told her mother she was heading home.

Laura said that as she drove to the Garrison School, another of her brothers texted to warn that an accident had shut down Route 9. At the school, parents talked about how they would have to detour, but Laura convinced police to let her go down Route 9 to get home.

Because her children "light the house up like a tree," Laura immediately noticed when she arrived that Theresa was not there. She called her phone but "it was dead." She called Vlad's phone — no answer. By then, she knew the accident had occurred just south of her house, over the county line, in Cortlandt.

"I texted both of them together: 'There's an accident; where are you?' Nothing," she recalled. "In my head — that's not her. She wouldn't be down there."

Thirty seconds is how long Laura estimates it took her and her boyfriend to reach the accident scene. She took a photo of the car. Did the wreckage resemble a Prius? Was a girl among the victims?

Someone sent her a photo they took of the rescue. In one way, she said, it was beautiful, because the first responders had saved Theresa's life. But the photo was also "not so beautiful," she said, because of Vlad. A memorial at the accident scene south of the Stone House on Route 9 honors his memory.

"My heart is broken for my son, and it's heartbreaking for me to watch Theresa going through what she is going through," said Liliya. "I love and care for Theresa very much, and I will do everything in my power to help her to make a full recovery."

A community responds

Her recovery began in a coma.

The girl brought by paramedics to Westchester Medical Center had a broken arm and other injuries, but her body had, amazingly, survived largely intact. Her swollen head, however, exemplified the extent of the trauma. The impact had shifted her brain, and if it did not shift back, she would die, said Laura. Jimmy later told her he overheard someone say Theresa had a 5 percent chance of survival.

"But I didn't know any of this," said Laura. "In my mind, she's alive, she's going to be fine and she'll be home by summer."

For months, Theresa wore a protective helmet while the piece of her skull sat in a freezer. Her head swelled again due to hydrocephalus, an accumulation of fluid. Doctors inserted a shunt, but she had another setback when she came down with meningitis, an infection-induced inflammation of the fluid and membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

Theresa had been credited with coming to the aid of students being bullied. Her mother had repeatedly donated money and food to fundraisers and dropped off Homestyle goodies to the police and homeless shelters. Now the family needed help. A GoFundMe campaign has raised nearly \$63,000. Our Lady of Loretto has held healing Masses for Theresa. A closet in her room at Blythedale is filled with cards.

Laura said she also found support in a waiting area, where the families of critically ill patients at Westchester Medical Center congregate, sometimes sleeping overnight. Laura said she brought cookies to one man who'd been sleeping there for two weeks.

"I'm not the only one suffering," she said.
"I can make a cookie tray and say to some-

(Continued on Page 20)

AROUND TOWN





GIFTS FOR VETS -

Members of the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. and the Dutchess County chapter of the **International Renegade** Pigs Motorcycle Club made their annual donation of department store gift cards for women veterans at the Castle Point VA hospital. Gary Simmonds, Mike DeRosa, Bob Simmonds, Mark Thomas and Tim Pagones presented the cards to Nicole Embry and Rebeca Delgado of the hospital staff.

HELPING HANDS –

Residents who gave their time to staff the Beacon Visitors Center at Polhill Park were recognized on Monday (Dec. 16) at the City Council meeting. Back row: Noah Rosaler, Mayor Lee Kyriacou, Dutchess Tourism CEO Melaine Rottkamp, Tsahi Alexander-Holmes. Front row: Arden Jenkins, Kelly Ellenwood, Ashanti Harris, Hannah Brooks.

Photos provided



STOCKING WINNERS — For the 44th year, the Lewis Tompkins, Beacon Engine, Mase Hook & Ladder, Dutchess Junction and Slater Chemical fire companies presented four elementary students with 5-foot holiday stockings filled with gifts, including smoke detectors. Liam Heaton of South Avenue, Gianna Antunes of Forrestal, Justin Lax of Sargent and Gio Francis of Glenham are shown with Dave and Bob Simmonds of Lewis Tompkins, who co-chaired the program.





The Calendar



Photo by Tom Moore

Longtime Beacon artists will perform 12th holiday show

By Marc Ferris

After playing the Woodstock '94 festival in Saugerties, The Costellos heard from record labels. "Our lawyer advised us that the terms were terrible," says Bob Costello. "So I told [wife] Lynn, 'I have a good degree, let me go into corporate America. We'll start our own label, and we can do whatever the hell we want."

Their career includes five albums (with another on the way), opening slots for Bon Jovi, Todd Rundgren and Belinda Carlisle, and repeated gigs in Beacon and Philipstown. On Sunday (Dec. 22), they'll add another date to that list with the 12th iteration of their annual Christmas show at the Towne Crier in Beacon.

"Around four years in, we wanted to stop doing it," says Bob. "But everyone from new Beacon to old Beacon said, 'You can't. It's a tradition now."

Their guests will include Rob Daniels, the Flurries and Dmitri Archip, who will deliver a dramatic reading of The Night

(Continued on Page 14)

BROTHER ACT

Beacon musicians pay tribute to old country duet

By Marc Ferris

There are two tenuous Beacon ties to the country brother duets, a Southern tradition whose heyday stretched from the 1930s to the 1960s and culminated with the pop charttopping Everly Brothers from Kentucky.

One is Harry Bolick, co-author of Mississippi Fiddle Tunes and Songs from the 1930s, who believes he may be distantly related to Bill and Earl Bolick of western North Carolina, better known as the Blue Sky Boys.

The other is Josh Stark and Christopher "Feff" Zezza, who created a tribute to the magical, tragical Louvin Brothers, an obscure act that charted 10 Top-20 country hits from 1955 to 1961.

Performing as the Lousin' Brothers, Stark and Zezza opened earlier this month for the Wynotte Sisters at the Southern Dutchess Country Club, their unlikely project conjuring the tight harmonies of the distinct style, in which one singer sticks to the melody and the other locks in with a higher part.

Like the Louvin Brothers, Stark and Zezza crossed over and switched roles effortlessly, sometimes making it difficult to tell who delivered the lead.

The duo's rhythmic interplay during guitar breaks complemented the haunt-



ing harmonies of "He Can Be Found" and "I Wish It Had Been a Dream." They also played — and praised — "A Tiny Broken Heart" from the album Tragic Songs of Life, which centers on a 7-year-old boy watching his playmate move away.

"The music is beautiful, but you can hear the edge, and no one writes lyrics like that," says Stark, who discovered the Louvins while playing in a Brooklyn band before he moved to Beacon 20 years ago. "There's even a subtle critique of capitalism in there."

Stark brought the tribute concept to Zezza, who knew nothing about the brothers but became enamored. "I'm attracted to the feeling behind the songs, especially when they sing about god," says Zezza. "There's a lot of longing but also a sense of hope made beautifully complete by the music.

The relationship between Ira and Charlie Louvin, natives of Alabama, dissolved over older, taller brother Ira's temper and alcoholism (he survived getting shot by his third wife). By 1963, Charlie went off on his own. Two years later, Ira died in a car crash at age 41, along with his fourth wife. Charlie lived to 83 and had four Top-10 singles on the country charts.



Josh Stark and Christopher "Feff" Zezza Photo provided

Ira and Charlie Louvin, in a publicity photo

"You know that they're living what they sing about, so the fire and brimstone isn't finger-pointing or holier-than-thou," says Zezza. "They try to live well but do a poor job of it."

The duo's moniker evokes losing, "not as a put-down, but in a winking, sarcastic, punk rock way," says Stark.

Stark and Zezza's performance of "Kneeling Drunkard's Plea" earlier this month cut to the bleak song's core. With a dying (and dead) mother central to the verses, the chorus refrains, "Lord have mercy on me /

(Continued on Page 14)

Art





> HANUKKAH <

Hanukkah Celebration

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Philipstown Reform Synagogue 1 Chestnut St.

philipstownreformsynagogue.org

The synagogue, which meets in the St. Mary's Parish Hall, will serve a light supper.

SUN 22

Hanukkah Party

BEACON

10 a.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance 331 Verplanck Ave. dub.sh/BHA-Dec22

The community is invited to a music jam followed by brunch, schmoozing and children's activities. Registration required. Cost: \$18 donation

THURS 26

Menorah Lighting

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Foot of Upper Main putnamchabad.org

Hosted by Chabad of Putnam. The festivities will include hot latkes and cider.



Menorah Lighting

4 p.m. Polhill Park South Avenue at Main Street dub.sh/chabad-lighting

Hosted by Chabad of Beacon. Registration requested.

> HOLIDAY EVENTS <

SAT 21

Pop-Up Gift Shop & **Barn Tours**

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stony Kill Farm 79 Farmstead Lane I stonvkill.org

Find homemade farm products and houseplants in the greenhouse. Register for a barn tour at 10:30 or 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$5 for tour

Gift Show and Sale

Noon - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. I howlandculturalcenter.org

The final day to find handmade goods from 25 Hudson Valley artisans.

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. Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$8 ages 6 to 18, free ages 6 and younger)

> CHRISTMAS SERVICES <

SAT 22

Faith Church

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. 245 Main St. faithchurch.cc/coldspring

The service will include the Hoving Home choir and a live nativity.

TUES 24

Our Lady of Loretto

COLD SPRING

4 & 8 p.m. 24 Fair St. ladyofloretto.org

Christmas Day Mass will be held at 8:30 and 10 a.m.

SHOP LOGAL

Church of St. Joachim

BEACON

4:30 p.m. & 12 a.m. 51 Leonard St. stjoachim-stjohn.org

TUES 24

St. John the Evangelist

BEACON

4:30 & 6 p.m. 35 Willow St. stioachim-stiohn.org

The 6 p.m. service will be in Spanish.

TUES 24

St. Mary's Episcopal

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. 1 Chestnut St. stmaryscoldspring.com



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TUES 24

St. Andrew & St. Luke

5:30 p.m. 850 Wolcott Ave. beacon-episcopal.org

TUES 24

First Presbyterian

BEACON

7 p.m. 50 Liberty St. beaconpresbychurch.com

TUES 24

First Presbyterian

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. 10 Academy St. presbychurchcoldspring.org

St. Philip's Episcopal **GARRISON**

9 p.m. | 1101 Route 9D

stphilipshighlands.org

A pageant will be held at 4:30 p.m. and a Christmas Day service at 10 a.m.

Salem Tabernacle

BEACON

10 p.m. 7 Delayan Ave. salemtabernacle.com

> NATURE & OUTDOORS <

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 cbc1@ watermanbirdclub.org to participate.

Christmas Bird Count

PHILIPSTOWN

putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Email birds@putnamhighlands audubon.org to participate.

> KIDS & FAMILY <

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.

Beary Merry Holiday Party

BEAR MOUNTAIN

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

Make treats for the bears at 10:30a.m. and watch them enjoy them inside their decorated enclosure at 11 a.m.

SAT 21

Play Sets

BEACON

10:30 a.m. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St. 845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Children ages 5 and older can make art and explore the works of Imi Knoebel. Louise Bourgeois will be the focus on SAT 28 and Sol Lewitt on SUN 29. Registration required. Free

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.

⇒ STAGE & SCREEN < </p>

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.



More to Our Story

GARRISON

1 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900 philipstowndepottheatre.org

At this event, hosted by Philipstown Aging at Home, Sarah Banker, Joyce Blum, Martha Callaway, Sara Yano, Priscilla Goldfarb, Jeff Burstein, Carolyn Ricapito and John Allen will share experiences. Registration required. Free

> MUSIC <

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. I bardavon.org

A Taste of Ireland will showcase traditional songs and dancers. Cost: \$41 to \$71

SAT 21

Almost Queen

PEFKSKILL

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

(Continued on Page 14)









I WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)

SUN 22

The Costellos

BEACON

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

Lynn and Bob will host their annual holiday show. See Page 11. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 27

Adam Ezra Group

BEACON

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

The Americana group includes Ezra and bandmates Corinna Smith (fiddle), Poche Ponce (bass) and Alex Martin (percussion). They will be joined by the duo Sirsy. *Cost: \$35* (\$40 door)

SAT 28

The Big Takeover

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com Nee Nee Rushie fronts this **SUN 29**

Chihoe Hahn & Los Chinese

seven-piece band, which performs Jamaican pop. Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Tex-Mex-Americana group includes Andy Stack, Patrick Stanfield Jones and Craig Sheppard. There is a \$15 food and drink minimum.

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



The Costellos (from Page 11)

Before Christmas. Art Labriola will provide an organ interlude. The headliners plan originals and seasonal cuts, along with "one surf rock chestnut," says Bob.

The couple met in 1990 and started writing and playing together. After rejecting the 1994 recording offers and a life of touring, they bought a house in Beacon and raised three children.

"In 2001, Beacon was a hellhole," says Bob. "A gang had lived in the house, which needed a lot of work. But we could feel a change in the air." Lynn worked for the Beacon schools and Bob is in the health care industry.

Over the years, they built up a regional following by constantly writing music and gigging as much as possible. "With every song, the process is different," says Lynn. "Maybe Bob writes the music and lyrics, and I'll tweak the melody. Or I bring music

and he adds lyrics or a bridge. Both of us have contributed to every song."

The tunes, says Bob, are designed to "take advantage of Lynn's tremendous voice and go no longer than three minutes and 20 seconds." Their sound is rooted in hooky pop and

country lite. "We try to serve the song," says Lynn, who often plays a 12-string guitar that emits a brighter sound than a six-string.

A new album, $Hold\ On$, is almost in the can and, now that their children are adults, they

look forward to singing and playing more.

"For inspiration, we look to Colonel Sanders," who opened the first Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet when he was 62, says Lynn. "We're happy with the way things worked out over the last 34 years."

The Towne Crier is located at 379 Main St. in Beacon. Tickets for the show, which starts at 5:30 p.m., are \$20 at townecrier. com or \$25 at the door.

Brothers (from Page 11)

Was the kneeling drunkard's plea / And as he knelt there on the ground / I know that

God in heaven looked down."

The song comes from the album *Satan is Real*, whose cover art may be more popular than the music. "It looks like Photoshop,

but it's a giant plywood Satan in front of a tire fire, as they pose awkwardly," says

For Stark, another attraction to the duo

is that "there's tension but also a lot of love. Sometimes you don't notice the darkness of the lyrics because of the sweet delivery of the music. That's what makes it pop."



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. 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



The Unicorn Fund

After spreading cheer in Beacon, David Shelly had one last idea

By Marc Ferris

After he moved to Beacon in 2016, David Shelly earned a degree of admiration that made a lasting impact on friends and strangers alike.

One day, he handed out 300 roses on Main Street. Another time, he gave away coupons for ice cream. Known for busting out impromptu dance moves and imploring others to join in, he loved dusting off his snowblower to clear public property and people's driveways.

But Shelly is most renowned as the guy who donned a puffy pink unicorn outfit and became Beacon's mascot and ambassador for cheer and goodwill. "If you can help people and it doesn't hurt you or cost anything, you should do it," he said.

He paid for the ice cream, but giving away hugs and exuding kindness is free, says his widow, Jill Quaglino. "It made him super-happy to see people smile, so the money didn't mean anything to him."

On weekends and during civic events, he visited the farmer's market and other gatherings, then toddled up and down Main Street, posing for selfies, goofing around with children and stopping into spots for food and drink.

Then came a diagnosis of brain cancer, which spread fast. He died on Dec. 15, 2023.

During the final months of his life, he and Quaglino decided to establish the Beacon Unicorn Fund, which is in the stages of becoming a nonprofit that will offer small grants to people burdened by unexpected expenses like car repairs, dental work or missing a day of work to care for a sick child. Shelly often dug into his pocket to help produce arts and music events, says Quaglino, so "this fund perpetuates the idea that small donations can make a big impact."

On Dec. 13, Denning's Point Distillery hosted a benefit. The low-key affair paid tribute to the man who left a local legacy.

Many details must be hammered out, especially the vetting process for applicants, says Jeremy Schonfeld, who is helping to launch the fund with many other friends of Dave. The criteria "will be as precise as we can make it," he says. "It's only for Beacon residents and, when it's up and running, there's not going to be a lot of paperwork, bureaucracy or big grants. We're thinking up to \$500."

The ironic image of a burly, mustachioed man who looked like he could ride with the Hell's Angels ambling around as a pink unicorn to spread peace and love began in Shelly's head.

"He told me about this idea often and figured it would be a good icebreaker," says



The unicorn stands ready to hug.

Quaglino. After Shelly cleared a friend's driveway with his snowblower in February 2021, the woman asked what she owed him. He told her: "My dream is to do this dressed in a pink unicorn costume."

A month later, a package arrived. When Qualigno came home, she found the empty box and thought, "Oh no, it's loose."

"He was overjoyed," she recalls. "He was so comfortable in his skin. The suit is a symbol of having the freedom to be who you are."

In contrast to the 10 participants in a parade held in November 2023, shortly before Shelly died, only one brave soul showed up encased in pink plastic at Dennings Point Distillery.



David Shelly offers a rose. Photos provided

Adriana Ortiz, who works at King + Curated, says she enjoyed paying homage to Shelly but the suit got hot inside the bar and she could only endure about 20 minutes.

Shelly used to stop by King + Curated every Sunday, spreading joy, said owner Lauren Decker. They scoured the market for the same costume that appears in old photos of Shelly but the only variation available had rainbow-hued wings.

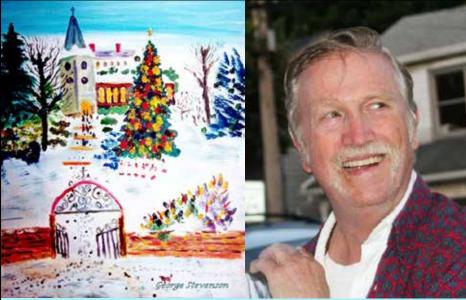
"We tried so hard but then figured, 'Oh wait, there's a reason they all have wings," says Decker.

To donate, visit beaconunicorn.fund.



Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown 10 Academy Street, Cold Spring



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

Thank You, Thank You,
Thank You!!!

OOKING BACK+ ™ BEACON

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (December 1874)

John McCabe was carting cook stoves to Matteawan when his horses were frightened by an approaching locomotive. The horses raced along the track and a stove fell off the wagon in front of the engine, which demolished it.

Lewis Tompkins, of the Fishkill Landing Hat Works, put down one of his prized brown mares after it broke its leg in the stable. It was valued at \$700 [about \$19,000 today].

Patrick Murphy, who worked at the Gowdy brickyard near Dutchess Junction, was arrested on assault charges. Murphy was absent when John Gowdy distributed wages and later demanded his \$28 [\$775]. Gowdy said he did not have the cash on him and Patrick, who was drunk, attempted to take Gowdy's horse. When Gowdy resisted, Murphy punched him. Murphy was fined \$25, which he had Gowdy take from his pay, leaving him with \$3 [\$83].

The Matteawan Manufacturing Co. was

making 200 dozen ladies' jockeys every day but was still 150 cases behind filling orders.

Two sheep owned by Jacob VanWyck near Fishkill were slaughtered in his field and the meat carried off.

James Pettigrove moved from Cold Spring to Fishkill Landing to operate Traver's hotel, which had been damaged by fire on Sept. 3 but restored.

Several young men in Matteawan formed a gymnasium society.

W.H. Mase of Fishkill Landing sold his trotting horse Mountaineer for \$6,000 [\$166,000].

A Fishkill Landing milkman said he would sell milk through the winter at summer prices of 6 cents [\$1.66] a quart.

A Matteawan Free School teacher found in an old history book a handwritten copy of a Thanksgiving sermon preached by the Rev. Samuel Prime on Nov. 23, 1833. [In 1840, the young Presbyterian minister left the village for New York City to become an editor at a Christian newspaper where he worked for the next 45 years.]

The Seamless Manufacturing Co. of Matteawan received an order for thousands of skirts, in variety of sizes, including what were thought to be the largest ever made in the U.S.: 5 feet, 7 inches long; 5 feet, 1 inch around the waist; 10 inches around the hip; and 16 inches at the bottom.

Mr. and Mrs. David Kniffen, of Fishkill, lost two children — their 5-year-old daughter and 2½-year-old son — in the same week to diphtheria. Their third child, an infant,

was not expected to survive.

When the *Albany Post* reported that "Aunt Betty," the last known person enslaved in New York state, had died in Cayuga County at age 99, the *Poughkeepsie Press* reported that an inmate at the Dutchess County poorhouse was older. He recalled being traded for a barrel of rum. [According to research by the New York State Archives, a woman named Sophy, who died in November 1876 in Cornwall, was likely the last surviving person who had been enslaved in New York.]

On a late Saturday night train, a passenger refused to pay the fare. The conductor ordered him off at New Hamburg, but the passenger retreated to the toilet and sat with his back against the door. At Poughkeepsie, a police officer ripped off the door with a crowbar.

At 3 a.m. on a Saturday, a fire at John Gerow's brick building in Matteawan destroyed everything inside, including the stock of the Noel & Smith clothing store, Hatche's cigar store and Vosburgh's printing office.

Frank Timoney, the brick manufacturer, and an employee, William Doyle, were struck by an express train south of Dutchess Junction. Doyle was killed and Timoney was not expected to survive. [Timoney lived another 29 years.]

125 Years Ago (December 1899)

A man who missed the last train at Fishkill Landing for Cold Spring hired a wagon. According to the *Matteawan Journal*, the driver had been on duty for hours and the passenger had not slept for two days, so both fell sound asleep on the journey along the river road. When the horse reached a trough in the village, it took a drink, turned around and returned to Fishkill Landing. There, the passenger and driver awoke and, confused, headed to Cold Spring, where a bystander told them he had seen them two hours earlier.

The State Asylum for Insane Criminals at Matteawan was overcrowded, with 737 prisoners in a space designed for 550. The courts had been committing 14 inmates per month.

William Monfort of Fishkill Landing gave his cat to a Long Island woman. Three days later, it showed up at his door with the skin worn from the bottom of its feet. The cat had walked 60 miles, through two cities and over the Brooklyn Bridge (or stowed away on a ferry), to return.

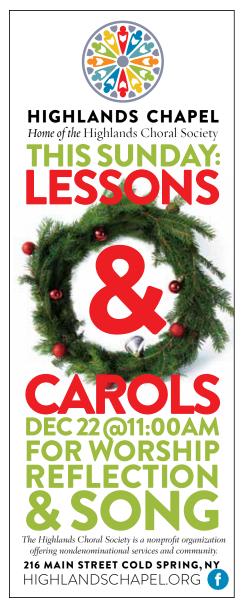
When James Jaycox, a wealthy farmer, made his will, he told the lawyer he wanted his \$20,000 [\$760,000] estate to go to his wife and, when she died, to Highland Hospital in Matteawan. The lawyer instead wrote Hudson River Hospital, which was in Poughkeepsie, although it didn't matter: Because Mrs. Jaycox left no will, the court divided her estate among relatives.

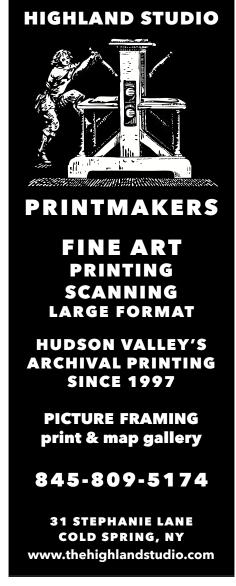
Nicholas Ackerman set fire to his cell at the village jail in Matteawan but was rescued before he suffocated.

Masked men who mugged James Kilbride, a Glenham farmer, on the road to Matteawan took \$10 from him but gave back \$5.

John Layman, who robbed and killed a Brooklyn coachman who had only 5 cents

(Continued on Page 17)







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(Continued from Page 16)

[\$2], died after spending 42 years at the Matteawan asylum. At his trial in 1857, Layman said he had grown tired of being a cobbler and stole \$26 [\$1,000] from his employer to buy a gun and become a bandit.

Michael Buczny, a prisoner sent to the asylum for killing his ex-fiancée, was described as a cataleptic, or "a living statue." His limbs became rigid if put into unnatural positions.

Michael O'Donnell, who spent 10 years in prison, including at the Matteawan asylum, for murder before being pardoned when his dying brother confessed to the crime, went on trial in New York City for another killing.

Frank Mason, 30, an inmate at the asylum scheduled for release, received word on Christmas Day that he had inherited a \$40,000 [\$1.5 million] homestead in Minnesota.

100 Years Ago (December 1924)

Three teenagers were arrested in Beacon for violating a new state law that banned anyone younger than 18 from driving.

Edward Lott of Beacon, a water tender aboard the Coast Guard cutter Hudson, drowned after being swept overboard from a motorboat by a wave near Staten Island. The boat was being towed by the Hudson. The *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* called Lott "the first man in the government ranks to lose his life in the long war against rum row," or Prohibition smugglers.

The Dutchess Board of Supervisors designated the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* as its Republican newspaper and the *Beacon Journal* as its Democratic newspaper.

About 180 workers at the Dennings Point brickyard went on strike when the firm lowered the minimum daily wage from \$3 to \$2.50 [\$46]. Management said the reduction would allow it to employ everyone through the winter.

Beacon agreed to pay Dutchess \$4.25 [\$78] weekly for each person it sent to the poorhouse.

After deliberating for five hours, a jury in Poughkeepsie deadlocked on the fate of Napoleon Bonaparte, who had been charged with selling cocaine at the Belle Isle brickyards at Beacon. The judge ordered a retrial to begin later that same week.

According to the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News*, a Connecticut man was sentenced to two to four years in Sing Sing after pleading guilty to a "serious charge made by a 15-year-old Beacon girl."

75 Years Ago (December 1949)

A 71-year-old Verplank Avenue woman was found dead by neighbors at the bottom of the steps of her porch. She had broken her neck, but the medical examiner said she may have suffered a heart attack.

The Southern Dutchess Singers presented Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* at St. Luke's Church.

Eleanor Roosevelt spoke at Beacon High School about the work of the United Nations, which had been created in 1945.

The city health department began a series of fluoride treatments for 32 children. Appointments could be made by calling 502.



A Beacon man died in 1924 while on duty with the Coast Guard cutter Hudson.

Patrolman Kirkup arrested two 19-yearold Poughkeepsie women shouting and arguing outside 36 Beekman St. They each paid \$10 [\$133].

Dr. Julius Haight retired after 29 years as the school district physician.

The Beacon Tax and Rentpayers Association said it would not oppose \$500 raises for the commissioner of accounts (to \$3,500 [\$46,000] annually) and city judge (to \$2,000 [\$27,000] annually) but said the plan should have been disclosed by the Republican majority before the election.

A state judge approved a \$1,000 [\$13,300] settlement between the parents of a 5-year-old Church Street boy and Kennelly Auto Sales at Chestnut and Main. According to a lawsuit, the boy was playing near a bonfire in an open lot owned by Kennelly when he burned his hands and face.

After undercover officers from the state Alcohol Beverage Control board said they had played slot machines at the Elks Club, the county district attorney, William Grady, ordered Beacon police to investigate. The next day, two officers said they made a "thorough inspection" but found nothing. The year before, the Elks had lost its liquor license for 10 days for allowing gambling, and the ABC recommended the license be suspended again.

The city's commissioner of accounts reported that he had collected the entire \$636,009.89 [\$8.4 million] property tax levy for 1949 except for \$40 [\$530] owed on a vacant lot because no one could figure out who owned it.

Two patrolmen spent the afternoon tracking — but never seeing — an injured deer reported at the Elks Club, Fowler Street, Fishkill Creek, the Braendly Dye Works, East Street, Masters Place and the old St. Joachim's cemetery. It was last spotted on Robinson Street headed toward the mountains.

A state judge ordered the school district to reinstate the position of director of physical education, which it had abolished a year before. At the same time, the board had created the position of physical education teacher and hired William Ham, the former director, in what he argued was a demotion.

50 Years Ago (December 1974)

Residents on Delavan Avenue who had been plagued by flooding expressed concern at a Planning Board meeting about two proposed buildings, one for the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the other for medical offices. The city engineer said a pipe near Fishkill Avenue was too small for heavy rains.

Beacon native Digger Phelps, 33, the University of Notre Dame basketball coach, published *A Coach's World*, a chronicle of the

1973-74 season. Phelps had hired his high school coach, Dick DiBiaso, as an assistant.

A 21-year-old Main Street man was sentenced to five years' probation for burglary and robbery on the condition he spend at least a year at the Drug Abuse Control Commission facility in Sullivan County.

Six children died in a flash fire of unknown origin at 10 Cliff St. Aged 3 months to 8 years, the victims were the four children of Juan and Alessandra Claudio and the couple's niece and nephew, whose parents had visited from Wappingers Falls and left them overnight because they were sleeping. A passing motorist spotted the flames.

The children were found in a second-floor bedroom. Firefighters attempted to enter the home through its doors and windows but said the heat was like a blowtorch. "Afterward, all the guys were talking about their kids," said one. "You feel so helpless, you don't know what else to talk about." After a Mass conducted in Spanish at St. John's Church, the children were interred in two caskets at St. Joachim's Cemetery.

A drunk driver went through a fence on Main Street and ended up in Fishkill Creek.

The City Council passed a resolution dissolving the Beacon Health Department and calling for a merger with the county, but an attorney noted that if an agency is dissolved, it can't be merged.

Poughkeepsie defeated Beacon, 74-72, in overtime. Beacon had lost only five basketball games in two seasons under Coach Rick Pam, but four were to the Pioneers. More than 100 Chemprene employees were put on a four-day week through the holidays to avoid layoffs. At the same time, Tuck Industries put its employees on an unpaid, two-week furlough and Nabisco did the same for two days.

25 Years Ago (December 1999)

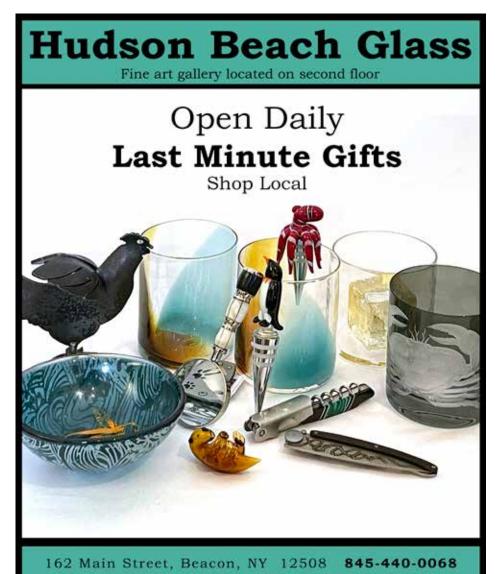
For the first time, the City of Beacon observed World AIDS Day. The commemoration began with six Hudson Valley residents telling their stories, followed by a dance performance and a candlelight vigil.

After a 22-year-old man fought officers arresting him at South Davies Terrace, his 48-year-old father joined the fray. Both were charged with assault.

Asked by the *Poughkeepsie Journal* for her thoughts on possible Y2K glitches, Jessica Erace of Beacon said, "We can always hide in our closets."

After attending the Beacon High School holiday concert, Charles Dunn said it was the best performance he had seen in 31 years as a teacher.

Ronald Ray, the Democratic candidate, had 22 more votes on Election Night than Jack Dexter, the Conservative candidate, to represent Beacon on the Dutchess Legislature. But after absentee ballots were counted, Dexter won by seven votes. After a court battle, the county certified the results in late December. [Dexter was sworn in at a meeting during the first week of January. When the clerk reached his name in the roll call, Dexter responded, "Here, I think." He served three terms.]



www.hudsonbeachglass.com

The real Fjord Trail parking plan numbers:

Fjord Trail plans would move much of the current trail parking off-road to improve traffic flow and make travel along 9D safer for pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists.

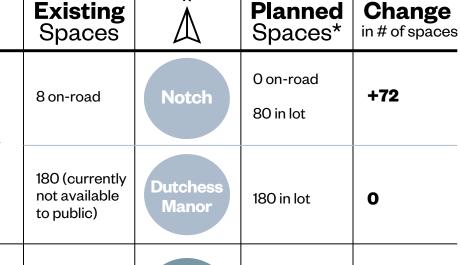
Current Conditions:



Use currently fallow parking lot at Dutchess Manor, plus additional
lot, to increase parking supply north of Village of Cold Spring

Goals

Cold Spring
Remove on-road parking





Make Route 9D safer and	ł
parking more organized	

Reduce on-road parking as much as possible





0

lots 69 formal -97 parallel spots Ridge with safe

clearance from 9D

96 in

549

34 in small

90 in lot

+90



Move on-road parking into lot

Increase number of spots available for hikers north of the Village of Cold Spring 48 in Washburn lot 27 on-road across from lot

463

Existing

Little Stony **Point**

TOTAL

Corridor

Trail

Wade's

Hill

expanded Washburn lot +21 O on-road

+86 **Future** Change



The Public Comment Period for the Fjord Trail DGEIS is open until 2/2/25

Make your voice heard!

visit qrco.de/ft_hearing



*Master Plan & DGEIS documents identify the maximum number of spots allowable for any given lot. In most cases, the planned number of spaces will be beneath those thresholds.

A Note About Boscobel: HHFT and Boscobel have been in EARLY conversation about shared parking with HHFT shuttle connection, potentially reducing traffic by allowing some trail users arriving from the south to park BEFORE they reach **Cold Spring.**

A Note About Metro-North Lots: Train station parking in Beacon and Cold Spring is used by residents and visitors on weekends. HHFT does not plan to promote the use of these lots for trail-bound visitors.

PAID NOTICE

Nelsonville Bans Parking on Spring Street

Village board also raises permit fees

By Leonard Sparks

The Nelsonville Village Board voted on Monday (Dec. 16) to ban parking on Spring Street, where cars left along the side of Blacksmith Wines leave only one lane for drivers in both directions

Mayor Chris Winward said the village needed to "rip the Band-Aid off" concerning the issue, which has created safety concerns for drivers and pedestrians for years. The ban includes an exception for deliveries and will take effect when the village installs signs.

With one lane blocked, drivers turning onto Spring Street from Main risk collisions with oncoming traffic when they reach the curve where Spring becomes Secor Street, Drivers turning onto Spring also must sometimes wait for cars turning onto Main, said Winward.

"We've kicked the can down the road as far as we reasonably should when we're talking about public safety," she said. "There's a lot of parking on Main Street."

Pandemic funding

The trustees voted to designate the remaining \$10,000 of the \$64,000 the village received from the federal American Rescue Plan Act to costs related to the review of the Village Code.

Under the rules for funding, municipalities must have their ARPA money obligated via contract or purchase order by Dec. 31 and spent by the end of 2026. Nelsonville spent most of its share on signage to improve safety on Main Street, Winward said.

Crews have installed drainage pipes on Pine Street, one of the roadways damaged by flooding in a July 2023 storm. Winward said earlier this year that Nelsonville suffered \$840,000 in damage on Pine, Bank, Pearl and Secor streets and Healy Road. Healy took the biggest hit, with \$250,000 in damage, she said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will cover 75 percent of the costs and the state 12.5 percent, leaving 12.5 percent for the village.

Pine Street has not had any repairs

since 1975, said Winward. "It sucks that it took a FEMA-declared storm to make that happen, but I'm glad that it's getting fixed the right way," she said.

Permit fees

The board approved higher fees for construction and plumbing permits and for services such as fire inspections and record searches.

A permit for new construction will increase from 50 cents per square foot to \$10 per \$1,000 in building costs for residences and \$12.50 per \$1,000 for commercial buildings. Permits for interior construction will increase by the same amounts from 40 cents per square foot.

The board also approved increases for deck permits (40 cents per square foot to 10 per 1,000 in costs, plumbing (10 per 1,000 in costs), plumbing (10 per 1,000 in costs) \$100), solar panels (15 cents per square foot to 2.5 percent of construction costs) and a basic file search (\$75 to \$175).

Some fees, such as for permit applications, were removed because "they didn't make sense anymore," said Winward. "Obviously, it means we get more income for the village, but more importantly, building permit requirements are here to protect the homeowner and make sure the work is done right."





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chapelweddingscs@gmail.com



The Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce would like to thank our volunteers who spent their weekends at the information booth helping visitors from around the world.

Aidan Sullivan **Bruce Croushore** Gunnar Lemke Janet Goodman J.C. Prinzo Jennifer Carlquist Joan Cerniglia

Diego Haskell-Ramirez Katie Brennan Kari Jo Cates Kiko Lattu Marc St. Aubin Maria Hardman Priscilla Goldfarb

Rebeca Ramirez Rich Stanley Steve Kempson Sue Rutkowski Timoteo Haskell-Ramirez

Nat Prentice

Alex Wilcox Cheek

21 **DEDICATED**

VOLUNTEERS

14,200

MAPS DISTRIBUTED

90°F **HOTTEST DAY** ON AUG 3

336

VOLUNTEER HOURS

69

OPEN DAYS FROM APRIL 13 TO DEC 14

COLDEST DAY ON DEC 7

5,519

VISITOR INQUIRIES

OCT 26

BUSIEST DAY WITH 265 ENGAGEMENTS

DAYS COMPLETELY RAINED-OUT

Common & Uncommon Questions

- "What is there to do here?"
- "Where are the bathrooms?"
- "Which way to Breakneck?"
- "How long is the Bull Hill short loop?"
- "Can I charge my phone?"
- "When is the next train?"
- "Where is the Oompah band?"
- "Is this Cold Spring Harbor?"
- "How can I refill my water?"
- "Where can we rent a kayak?"
- "Who sells ice cream?"
- "Do you have sunscreen?"
- "How can I get a locksmith?"
- "Can I buy stamps somewhere?"
- "Are there sailboat tours?"
- "Where did they put the chain across the river?"
- "How do I get an Uber?"
- "Who has truffle fries?"
- "What kind of tree is that?"
- "Where can we get restaurant seating for 20?"
- "How can we get a stroller to Lower Main?"
- "Can my dog swim somewhere?"
- "Do you have bug spray?"
- "Where can I charge my car?"
- "Where is the river?

20 December 20, 2024 The Highlands Current Support our nonprofit. Become a member!

Overdose Deaths (from Page 1)

overdose-reversal medication naloxone and the distribution of preventative tools like strips that test for the presence of fentanyl.

Some of those initiatives have benefited from \$4.5 million sent to Dutchess County from the state's settlement with pharmaceutical companies accused of pushing opioids on patients who became addicted. More Dutchess residents also entered treatment in 2023, according to state data.

"It's so awful to see someone die an untimely and preventable death," said Niebuhr. "And it's so heartwarming to see that those numbers are finally starting to come down."

Dutchess ended 2022 with 114 overdose deaths and the fourth-highest rate of deaths (39.6 per 100,000) among counties outside New York City, trailing Sullivan (61.5), Chautauqua (44.7) and Monroe (42.3). With 64 deaths in the first half of 2023, the county was on pace to exceed its 2022 total.

But Dutchess finished with eight fewer fatalities in 2023, when overdose deaths fell by 3 percent nationwide, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Deaths also fell in New York state and Putnam County.

The downward trend in Dutchess accelerated this year as the task force and DA's office continued a seven-prong strategy implemented in April 2023. The plan, they say, has yielded 76 drug and gun arrests, 301 undercover purchases, the seizure of 15 illegal handguns and \$105,000 in cash and 1,500 pieces of evidence.

In addition to identifying spots where dealers congregate and immediately launching investigations, the task force used "cutting-edge investigative techniques" to collect evidence, said Parisi and Imperati at the news conference. They shortened into months investigations that once took years by assigning all task force personnel to single cases. "We are not just enforcing the law but working together to take those who peddle poison off our streets," said Parisi.

In addition to prosecutions, Dutchess' expansion of the availability of medications used to treat addiction has been critical in reducing deaths, said Niebuhr.

Anyone being held in the Dutchess County jail can be immediately prescribed addiction medications, which reduce withdrawal

	DUTC	HESS	PUTNAM		
	Fatalities	Rate*	Fatalities	Rate*	
2017	78	26.5	22	22.2	
2018	83	28.2	18	18.2	
2019	64	21.7	12	12.1	
2020	103	35	17	17.2	
2021	86	29.3	21	21.2	
2022	114	39.6	20	20.2	
2023	106	31	16	16.3	

Sources: Dutchess County and NY Department of Health *Deaths per 100.000 residents

symptoms and cravings. Recent data shows nearly half of inmates are taking medications for opioid abuse, said Niebuhr.

"It's a ripe opportunity to engage with people because they're in a setting where they're experiencing these terrible withdrawal symptoms and someone is saying to them, 'I have something that can help you,'" she said.

Before inmates are released, a recovery coach helps them find a program in their community. A county study found that no inmate who agreed to take medication has died of an overdose after being released, a result Niebuhr described as "staggering."

In addition, the Lexington Center for Recovery began dispensing methadone at its clinic in Dover Plains, a boon to people who faced the challenge of traveling to Poughkeepsie every day for their dose, said Niebuhr. Another facility, MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, received a grant to administer buprenorphine to people transported to its emergency room, she said.

Dutchess also has a multi-agency team that, two years ago, began reviewing overdose fatalities to identify gaps in services. Those reviews led to the creation of "leavebehind kits" containing naloxone, harm-reduction supplies such as fentanyl test strips and information on services.

Paramedics and other first responders have been trained in distributing the kits to survivors who refuse long-term treatment. Supplies such as naloxone can also be accessed for free from a "vending" machine placed in the City of Poughkeepsie, and Dutchess deploys outreach teams to areas where drug users congregate.

"The data is clear that harm reduction works to help keep people alive," said Niebuhr.

Climate Change (from Page 1)

real challenges with regard to climate change, and we need to start educating them accordingly," said Greg Stowell, superintendent for the Garrison district, one of 53 schools designated by the U.S. Department of Education this year as a Green Ribbon School for environmental education, sustainability practices and improved health and wellness.

Last month, the state Department of Education unveiled a plan to include climate education in a widespread revamping of New York's high school graduation requirements. A curriculum is expected by the fall of 2026.

New York is following the lead of a handful of states that have mandated climate education, including New Jersey, Connecticut, California and Illinois. Colorado high school graduates can receive a seal of climate literacy on their diplomas by demonstrating mastery.

About 75 percent of districts nationwide teach about climate change to some extent,



Christian Hoolan leads a lesson on electricity costs during a math class at Haldane High School.

according to a survey by the North American Association for Environmental Education. However, it also found teachers are concerned about the lack of standardized curricula and administrative support.

At Haldane, Christian Hoolan weaves



These brown trout are being raised at South Avenue Elementary to be released into Fishkill Creek.

Photos by J. Asher

climate-related lessons into his discrete mathematics class, an elective popular with seniors. For example, the class analyzed the cost of heating and cooling Hoolan's home. "We dissected my Con Edison bill and figured out what it means when the price of energy is 8 cents per kilowatt-hour," he said.

In the Garrison district, middle school students create journals in English and Language Arts classes about the environment. "We start with connecting kids to nature," said Rachel Arbor, the director of environmental education. "Before we start learning about climate problems, we need to deal with our personal relationship with the environment."

Arbor recently published an article in *Environmental Education Research* about how nature journaling can improve mood among middle schoolers. She was one of nine teachers nationwide selected this year to receive a Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Arbor, who lives in Beacon, is leaving the district in January to focus on her consulting firm, Gaia Scholastic. The district has hired her successor, Christa Buccola Henriquez, and Stowell said it plans to continue to host an annual youth climate summit where area students and professionals come to Garrison to discuss climate-related topics.

Timmons (from Page 9)

body, 'Are you OK?' or give them advice or say, 'This is good here and this isn't that great here, make sure you check on this.'"

Two weeks after the accident, Laura visited the Peekskill Volunteer Ambulance Corps to connect first responders with Theresa by Facetime. Police, firefighters and paramedics gathered at Homestyle in Peekskill in May for an ice cream social.

"People don't think, 'Who saved my life? I want to meet them,' "said Laura. "They went through something horrible that night, too."

Recovery begins

By February, Theresa was responding to commands. The following month, a contingent of family, first responders and friends lined a hallway at the Westchester Medical Center while a paramedic wheeled her bed over a stretch of red carpet. She was strong enough to relocate to Blythedale.

In April, Theresa returned to Westchester to have the section of her skull replaced. "From that day on, she just skyrocketed," Laura said.

Her progress has been chronicled by her mother on Facebook. Videos show Theresa

beginning to write, swiping an iPad screen, performing arm curls with a bottle of water and painting on a piece of paper.

"Her first writing, you couldn't even read it, and then it started to get better, and she was writing like crazy," said Laura. "Then she started talking and eating."

Her first words in July: "I love you, mom." That month she had her first food and

drink since the accident. When asked how her Homestyle donut tasted, she replied, "Amazing."

In addition to speech therapy, Theresa is relearning how to dress herself, sit and

stand unassisted, and walk. Giana and her brother, James, are learning how to lift her.

Laura's videos show Theresa being led through exercises: pumping her legs on a peddling machine, taking tentative steps using a specialized walker with a harness and learning how to operate a battery-powered wheelchair. The family will need to install a wheelchair lift at home, and Laura plans to use some of the money people donated.

"I'm grateful that she's alive, that she's with me and that she's doing pretty good," she said.



New Windsor

Drones Shut Down Stewart Airport

Governor announces detection system

O fficials shut down New York Stewart International Airport for an hour on Dec. 13 because of drone activity that has caused widespread concern in Orange County and New Jersey.

Gov. Kathy Hochul said federal authorities were deploying a detection system. Last month she authorized the New York State Intelligence Center to investigate drone sightings and coordinate with federal agencies. She called on Congress to strengthen oversight of drones by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Peekskill

Police Post Call Log

The police department has started posting a weekly log of calls made by its officers, although it does not provide details beyond the time and location.

The *Peekskill Herald* noted the log shows nearly 800 calls during the week of Nov. 24, with most of them listed as "special checks" of an area following a complaint of illegal activity. Many calls were to Main Street, Highland Avenue and North Division Street.

On Nov. 27, officers were asked five times to deliver paperwork after hours to City Council members to prepare for the following Monday's meetings, the *Herald* reported.

Hyde Park

Voters Reject Electric Bus Proposal

 \mathbf{H} yde Park school district voters last month defeated a proposition to

purchase 17 electric school buses, 846-689.

The buses and chargers would cost about \$8 million, but the district said that, after state and federal grants and tax breaks, it expected to contribute \$522,000. New York State has mandated that districts transition to electric buses by 2035.

Putnam Valley

Town Will Receive \$300,000 in Settlement

The town has reached a settlement in which a Yorktown Heights contractor and Mount Vernon materials recycler will pay \$300,000 over dumping in 2016 at the site of the new firehouse on Oscawana Lake Road.

The volunteer fire department sued to recover \$1.75 million it said it spent cleaning up the contaminated fill, which included asphalt, bricks, concrete and lumber.

The state fined the fire department \$5,000 for operating a solid-waste management facility without a permit and ordered a cleanup, which was completed in 2021 by an engineering firm that removed 4,235 tons of fill and 83 tons of asbestos.

Poughkeepsie

City Gets Funds to Remove Lead

New York State announced last month that the City of Poughkeepsie will receive \$12 million to identify and replace lead service lines.

The funding is part of \$340 million in state and federal money to remove lead pipes from water systems statewide. Rep. Pat Ryan said the city is also eligible to receive \$3.2 million from the federal government.

Kingston

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Finance Chief Did Not Pilfer Money

A former Ulster County finance commissioner did not steal money from the county, according to a 19-month investiga-

tion by the state comptroller.

The comptroller's office found no evidence that Burt Gulnick mishandled county funds or committed financial crimes, according to *The Daily Freeman*. But it did suggest several ways the county could better secure its accounts.

The county executive asked for the investigation after Gulnick was accused of embezzling nearly \$100,000 from a nonprofit organization where he was treasurer. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced in February to two years in state prison.

Montgomery

Food Distribution Center Opens

The Regional Food Bank on Dec. 4 opened a \$23.5 million, 50,000-square-foot distribution center to serve food pantries in six Hudson Valley counties, including Dutchess and Putnam.

The facility, which increases the capacity to obtain, store and distribute donations, was funded with \$10.7 million from the state and \$3.7 million from Empire State Development, as well as donations from foundations, corporations and individuals.

Peekskill

Phase 2 of Cleanup Completed

The fence at Peekskill Landing has come down as Con Edison last month completed the second phase of its environmental remediation project at a former gas plant on the waterfront.

The company told the *Peekskill Herald* it had dredged 10,000 cubic yards of impacted sediments and removed debris, including old piles and barge remnants, from the site. It will now add clean backfill as a cap.

The biggest concern at the site was coal tar, a byproduct of the plant, which made gas in the 1940s for home lighting and cooking.

During the first phase of the cleanup, completed in 2022, the company removed impacted soil on properties along Water Street.

Annandale

Simon's Rock Moving to Bard

A private high school and "early college" associated with Bard College will move from Massachusetts to the school's Barrytown, New York, campus in 2025-26.

Bard College at Simon's Rock and Bard Academy will take over the former Unification Theological Seminary, which Bard purchased in 2023.

Bard operates 10 public early college campuses in six states. Students enroll in Bard College at Simon's Rock after 10th or 11th grade, while Bard Academy accepts students in ninth or 10th grade.

Kingston

State Creates Sojourner Truth Day

ov. Kathy Hochul enacted a law that established Nov. 26 as Sojourner Truth Day beginning next year. The Ulster County abolitionist and former slave died on that day in 1883.

A historical marker unveiled at the Ulster County Courthouse reads: "At this courthouse in 1828, the orator and antislavery activist successfully sued to free her son Peter from enslavement."

Wappingers Falls

Attorney General Opens Investigation

The state attorney general announced on Dec. 5 it has opened an investigation into the death of Luis Morocho, who died on Aug. 8, 2023, after he was struck by a vehicle driven by an off-duty state trooper.

The trooper was driving his personal vehicle north on Route 9 when he struck Morocho at New Hackensack Road. Morocho died later at a hospital.

Under state law, the Office of Special Investigation examines every incident in which a police officer or corrections officer may have caused a death.

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Mario Gregorio (1951-2024)

Mario Gregorio of Cold Spring, New York, passed away on Dec. 16, 2024, after struggling with health complications. He passed away peacefully while surrounded by his family. He was 73 years old.

Mario was born on June 14, 1951, in Sassinoro, Italy, to the late Modestino and Giuseppina (Conte) Gregorio. He came to the U.S. in 1968 at age 17. On Sept. 24, 1972, he married Maria Conte.

He was a well-known and highly respected member of his community. His kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity were a constant staple of his character. He was a hardworking man who always took pride in delivering the highest quality masonry work for all of his customers.

He spent much of his personal time in his garden, where he would grow flowers, trees and vegetables that he would soon thereafter share with his friends and family. He was the life of every event he attended, always spreading happiness and laughter with a witty joke and a friendly smile. He enjoyed spending time outdoors in the form of gardening, hunting, fishing and golfing. He also enjoyed expressing his creative side while doing arts and crafts at home with his grandchildren.

Mario is survived by his devoted wife of 52 years, Maria; his loving son, Chris Gregorio; his daughter-in-law, Tara Chauvin Gregorio; his two cherished grandchildren, Eva and Mario; his dear sisters, Christina Appollonio (Armando) of Sassinoro, Italy, Pellegrina Romano and Crocifissa Velardo (Angelo); and many nieces and nephews. Mario was predeceased by his eldest son, Steve Gregorio, in 2020.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 a.m. on Friday (Dec. 20) at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair St., in Cold Spring, with interment at St. Augustine Cemetery in Ossining.

In lieu of sending flowers, the family has requested memorial donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org). To leave condolences, please visit clintonfh.com

PAID NOTICE

Roots and Shoots

Connecting Roots

By Pamela Doan

Winter solstice

As the winter solstice approaches, I'm thinking about roots and how we dig deep to withstand storms and lift other beings that need us. To honor the coming of the light and long shadows, I'll gather pinecones and evergreen boughs to arrange with candles on a table. I'll search for fallen pieces of white pine from the many trees in our woods to make into a wreath with cuttings from the winterberry bush and wrap it with wild grapevine.

I'll use fallen limbs from as many different trees as I can find — birch, oak, maple, ash and hickory — to make a fire. Near the fire, we will gather and write down something that we want to leave behind. We'll each put our piece of paper into the fire and let it burn. A blessing of thanks or a poem will wrap the circle.

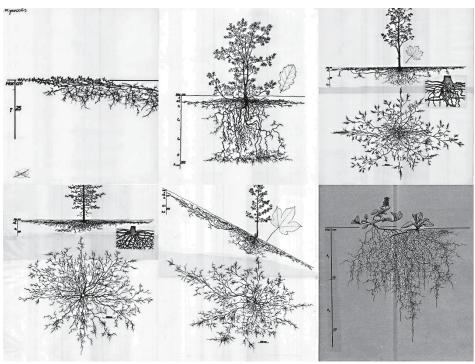
Underground roots

In a gardening newsletter I read, there was a link to the image collections of Wageningen, a research university in the Netherlands. One of the collections is a magnificent spread of botanical drawings of tree and plant roots. I lost a few hours of my week marveling at how little we see in the life of a plant.

Also, how little do we know about plants? I found it joyfully amazing to read the news last week about a research study that showed moths avoid laying eggs on host plants based on hearing their sounds of distress. The moths choose healthier plants with better survival odds. Plants talk and insects can hear it.

Even though the collection is focused on trees native to Europe, it's an enriching insight for a gardener to understand the scale of tree and plant roots and what we may be disturbing when we dig into the soil

To honor the coming of the light and long shadows, I'll gather pinecones and evergreen boughs to arrange with candles on a table.



Clockwise, from upper left: Bog cranberry, English oak, Norway maple, Common selfheal, Sycamore maple and Norway spruce. For a gallery, see highlandscurrent.org.

Wurzelatlas (Gustav Fischer Verlag [Elsevier])

or make plans to place plantings near them.

I'll call attention to a few drawings that I found particularly interesting below, but all of it is worth perusing.

Bog cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) — This diminutive shrub is found in wetland areas of the northeast U.S. At just 5 inches high, at most, its prostrate spreading habit essentially layers upon itself. In the drawing, the roots stretch four times its surface length, going deeper down into the soil than the visible foliage area.

English oak (*Quercus robur*) — This oak species is widely planted in North America. Some oaks are notable for having a taproot, a long, thick central root that reaches far down into the soil, with a network of fine lateral roots closer to the surface. Getting a glimpse of the full network helped me understand how these trees survive and grow.

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) — Although this tree isn't a great neighbor in our native forests, I chose it for comparison with the oak. The roots are mostly lateral, not going deep, which is an interesting strategy.

Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) — These are commonly found in our area and the dense bunching of fine roots near the trunk explains why it is so difficult to establish

grass or other plants close to it.

Sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) — The illustration shows the tree growing on a slope and its intelligence in bracing itself through a network of thick and fine roots going uphill and downhill.

Common self-heal (Prunella vulgaris) — This mint family perennial herb is well known to gardeners and typically considered a weed, although its flowers are useful to pollinators. The drawing shows there is more of the plant in its root system below the ground than the part growing above the ground. I'll give it much more respect.

Roots in action

I'm as curious as the next person about the state's draft environmental impact statement for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. It's important that the community pays attention to this process and is a voice for the river, the hundreds of trees slated for destruction and the wildlife in the area.

Many questions need to be asked before the process is complete. The report is online at dub.sh/state-parks-HHFT for public comment. The ecological impacts for the southern part of the trail begin around Page 65. That's as far as I've read, so far.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
18								19	20			
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		38		39				40				
41	42						43			44	45	46
47				48	49	50						
51				52					53			
54				55					56			

ACROSS

- 1. Nuisance
- 5. Emmy winner Alan
- 9. Blond shade
- 12. Actor Epps
- 13. -do-well
- 14. Female rabbit
- 15. Biscuit type
- 17. Poetic tribute
- 18. Big bargains
- 19. Himalayan land 21. Baseball's Cobb
- 22. Meager
- 24. Boxing arbiters
- 27. Hasten
- 28. Flintstones' pet
- 31. Capote nickname
- 32. Very long time
- 33. Itinerary word
- 34. Long tale
- 36. Boring routine
- 37. Superman's alias
- 38. Alphabetized list

- 40. Yours truly
- 41. Lauder of cosmetics
- 43. Tyke
- 47. Marseilles monarch
- 48. Relating to the intellect
- 51. Calendar abbr.
- 52. Sandwich treat
- 53. Exploits
- 54. Away from WSW
- 55. Canine cry
- 56. Section

DOWN

- 1. Seed holders
- 2. Send forth
- 3. Stuffing herb
- 4. Goodies
- 5. Picnic interlopers
- 6. Maui memento
- 7. Lion star Patel
- 8. Stadium
- 9. Like some parents
- 10. Fizzy drink

- 11. Cad
- 16. Devious
- 20. Conclusion
- 22. Crazy Horse, for one
- 23. Penny
- 24. ACLU concerns
- 25. Time line period
- 26. Escapee
- 27. Roll call reply
- 29. French diarist Anais
- 30. Feedbag tidbit
- 35. Hydrocarbon suffix
- 37. Didn't lag
- 39. Shill
- 40. French pronoun
- 41. Sea eagle
- 42. Any time now
- 43. L-Q bridge
- 44. Tower city
- 45. Always
- 46. Try out
- 49. Raw rock
- 50. Solidify

SUDO CURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

WATER

LOWER

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WORDSEARCH

K G S U Т G U Y E G J S N Т

Answers for Dec. 13 Puzzles

G S WUSXFRZY Ε A S I D WLXSHRI OTWDKKA RRCKGD AOGROMUB

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E A D NUBS A C E M A S F Κ ANKLE Т UBO IRO URN cs REMADE GRE L E V |F|L|A|S|H|M|O|B TAR TA | L | A | I |

FAILS, FALLS, FILLS,

FINES, FINDS, KINDS

For interactive puzzles and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.

24 DECEMBER 20, 2024

For mail delivery, see highlandscurrent.org/delivery

Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' BASKETBALL — On the heels of a tough loss in their opener at Blind Brook, Haldane bounced back with two road wins, defeating Leffell, 50-43, on Monday (Dec. 16) and Hamilton, 58-35, on Wednesday.

At Leffell, the Blue Devils faced a full-court press for the entire game. Luke Bozsik led the way with 20 points, followed by Nate Stickle with 11 (including seven free throws).

There was little scoring in the first half—Haldane led, 16-15, at the break—but the Blue Devils opened the third with an 8-3 run. Leffell was within one point with 1:23 left in the quarter but eight seconds later, Bozsik scored and Haldane never again trailed. "They got pretty physical, and I thought we matched it," said Coach Joe Virgadamo.

At Hamilton, the Red Raiders scored the first four points but Haldane went on a 22-0 run, dominating with tenacious defense and scoring from all over. Bozsik had 12 points in the quarter and finished with 27, and Fallou Faye added 13. Hamilton narrowed the margin to 29-15 at halftime, but the Blue Devils never relinquished the lead.

The Blue Devils (2-1) have 12 days off over the holiday. Their next game will be at Chester (4-1) on Dec. 30.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — After a comefrom-behind win last week over Leffell, the Blue Devils lost on the road on Dec. 14 to Port Chester, 63-41. The game started well for Haldane, led by Marisa Peters and Kayla Ruggiero, and with 4:28 left in the second

quarter, the Blue Devils were down 19-18 after a basket by Elaina Johanson.

But that would be the closest they came as the Rams closed out the half with a 15-4 run and Haldane didn't score again until there was 1:19 left in the third.

On Monday (Dec. 16), the Blue Devils traveled to Hamilton, where they lost, 58-40. Peters scored 16 and Ruggiero had 12. Although down by 21 points at halftime, Haldane cut the deficit to seven to start the fourth quarter.

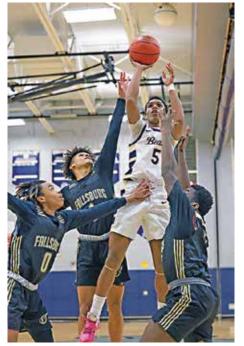
The Blue Devils (1-3) traveled to Carmel High School on Thursday for a tournament that continues today (Dec. 20). Their next game will be at Beacon for the Battle of the Tunnel on Jan. 6.

WINTER TRACK — Haldane opened its season Dec. 15, competing against other small schools at the Section I Kickoff at The Armory in New York City.

For the boys, Milo Pearsall finished ninth in the 300 meters in 39.78; Rhys Williams finished fourth in the 55-meter in 6.91 and fifth in the long jump at 18-5; Owen Powers was ninth in the 3,200 meters in 10:47.41; James Frommer was 13th in the 600 meters in 1:37.69; Merrick Williams was 25th in the shot put at 28-9.25; and Jake Thomas was 11th in the weight throw at 30-5.25.

For the girls, Hazel Berkley finished eighth in the 3,000 meters in 12:58.67, a personal record; seventh-grader Olive Allebrand was 14th in the 1,500 meters in 6:05.73; and Samantha Thomas was 25th in the 300 meters at 50.84.

The Blue Devils travel today (Dec. 20) to The Armory for the Coach Saint Invitational.



Jahcier Ballard

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BOYS' BASKETBALL — Beacon moved to 4-1 following a 74-38 blowout on Dec. 12 of visiting Fallsburg. The Bulldogs were led by Jayden Bostick and Ryan Landisi, who each scored 10. Jamir Spence added eight and all 11 players on the roster scored. Beacon hosted Port Jervis on Thursday (Dec. 19) and travels to Albany High School on Saturday and a tournament at Lourdes on Dec. 27 to 29.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — Beacon fell at Lourdes, 49-38, on Dec. 13 as the Bulldogs' season got off to rough start, with three losses in four games. Reilly Landisi scored 23 points and Daveya Rodriguez added 12. Beacon travels to John Jay East Fishkill on Jan. 2 before hosting Haldane in the Battle of the Tunnel on Jan. 6.



Ryan Smith

Photos by Cadence Heeter

WRESTLING — Beacon lost a league contest against Kingston on Dec. 11, 38-29. Jude Betancourt (160 pounds) won by pin. Beacon returned to the mats on Wednesday (Dec. 18), hosting Saugerties, and will travel to Corning over the weekend for a tournament.

BOYS' SWIMMING — Beacon fell to 0-3 following losses to Newburgh (99-65) and Kingston (101-73). Against Newburgh on Dec. 12, Fionn Fehilly won the 500-yard freestyle in 5:53.05, Ada Bagriyanik took the 100-yard backstroke in 1:16.28 and Jayden Concepcion won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:27.50. Beacon also won the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:35.63.

On Tuesday (Dec. 17), against Kingston, the Bulldogs again won the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:24.40, an II-second improvement. Alistar Cunningham was the only gold winner, taking the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:11.78. Beacon traveled to Pine Bush on Thursday (Dec. 19).

TRACK AND FIELD — Beacon opened its season on Dec. 13 at a Section IX meet at West Point. Jayden Mihalchik picked up a pair of fifth place finishes in the pole vault (9-6) and weight throw (45-6) while Luke Barna was sixth in the high jump at 5 feet. Diego Dickinson placed 12th in the 55-meter hurdles in 9.44; Tye Elias was 19th in the 55-meter dash at 7.14; Elijah Epps was 21st in the 300 meters in 40.04; Diego Dickinson was 12th in the 55-meter hurdles in 9.44; and Zachary Schetter was eighth in the triple jump at 36-7.

For the girls, Katherine Ruffy was fifth in shot put at 26-11.5; Khloe Franklin finished seventh in the long jump at 14-1 and 12th in the 55-meter hurdles in 10.44; Mikaela Sanchez was 20th in the 300-meter dash in 46.74 and Bethany Rudolph was 11th in the shot put at 26-8.75.

Beacon will compete in the Section IX Holiday Classic at The Armory in New York City on Dec. 27.



Nate Stickle



Zane Del Pozo drives to the basket for Haldane against Hamilton.

Photos by Skip Pearlman