

The HIGHLANDS
Current



A Modern Marvel
Page 15

JANUARY 3, 2025 NYPA Newspaper of the Year Support our nonprofit: highlandscurrent.org/join



The home at 112 Washington before, and after, renovations. Factioned

Flipping Beacon
Investors update older homes, and their prices

By Leonard Sparks

TikTok users took aim when a Brooklyn design firm in 2023 listed a renovated property in Beacon for nearly five times the amount it had paid three years earlier.

In a one-minute post in July 2023, a user named BavidDoughy ranted about the 1940-built Cape Cod at 112 Washington Ave. that Factioned bought for \$260,000, renovated and relisted for \$1.25 million.

“This video goes out to all the greedy, delusional house flippers in my area who are buying houses like this and doing too much,” he said. The post prompted more than 55,000 comments.

Factioned was not that delusional. In June, the home sold for \$1.1 million. Nor is the company alone in replacing the city’s modest single-family homes built many decades earlier with modern residences.

An 1880s Victorian at 33 Davis St. with three bedrooms and three baths that sold for \$325,000 in August 2020 underwent a restoration in 2022 that added two bedrooms and a bathroom. The property sold in June for \$2.23 million, or \$330,000 more than the asking price.

A limited liability company that bought 144 Spring Valley St. for \$370,000 in March demolished the two-bedroom house and is building a new five-bedroom one offered

(Continued on Page 10)

2024
updated

With the arrival of 2025, our reporters caught up with and updated select stories from the past year

...

JANUARY

Garrison’s Landing water — Philipstown officials forecast a spring hookup for a new 20-gallon-a-minute well that will serve businesses and homes at Garrison’s Landing, with \$750,000 from the federal American Rescue Plan to help pay for the connection. Despite the upfront cost, the line will save Philipstown money. Trucking in water in response to inadequate flows from existing wells costs \$25,000 to \$30,000 a month, said Robert Flaherty, a Town Board member.

UPDATE: In June, the Putnam County Legislature approved Philipstown’s request to redirect \$370,000 in county sales tax revenue to the water district project. The money had been set aside to connect the nearby Garrison Institute. In December, the Town Board approved a \$15,489 bid from Claverack Well & Pump Service to install the pump for the well, which the company also dug. Flaherty said last week it should be in service by the end of February.

Farming couple retires — For ardent customers of the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market, the news felt like an obituary: Jay and Polly Armour would not return. They had been among the

(Continued on Page 6)

2025

New Laws
for 2025
Include prenatal,
health care benefits

By Leonard Sparks

Protections for pregnant women, performing artists and disabled tenants living in high-rises and the banning of complimentary personal care products provided by hotels are among the new state laws that took effect on Jan. 1.

Minimum wage

Employers in Dutchess and Putnam County must pay a minimum of \$15.50 per hour, an increase of 50 cents. In New York City, Westchester County and Long Island, the minimum wage increased to \$16.50 per hour.

Health care expansion

Eligibility for the state’s Basic Health Program expanded from 200 percent to 250 percent of the federal poverty level, which in 2024 was \$15,060 for an individual and \$31,200 for a family of four. Pregnant women are also eligible and can remain covered for a year after giving birth. The increase was included in the 2022-23 budget bill for education, labor, housing and family assistance.

State Parks
Extends HHFT
Deadline
Fjord Trail comments
due by March 4

By Brian PJ Cronin

The state parks department announced Monday (Dec. 30) that it will extend the deadline for submitting written public comments on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail environmental impact statement by 30 days, until March 4.

The deadline for comments had been Feb. 4, a 60-day window following the release of the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS). However, some elected officials pushed for more time to digest the contents of the 709-page report, which is online at dub.sh/state-parks-HHFT. Physical copies are also available at local libraries, the Cold Spring and Nelsonville village halls, Philipstown Town Hall, Beacon City Hall and the HHFT office at 14 Coris Lane in Beacon.

Public comments will be addressed in the final DGEIS, scheduled for release over the summer.

Years in the making, the DGEIS considers the effects the proposed trail could have on the Highlands in 14 areas, including land use, emergency services, traffic and transportation, biological resources and community character.

It also lists suggested mitigation efforts for HHFT to receive permits for the project, such as limiting construction in certain

(Continued on Page 3)

Prenatal leave

Requires employers to provide 20 hours of paid prenatal leave per year. The law was passed as part of the 2024-25 budget bill for state public protection and general government.

Wetlands protections

The state Department of Environmental Conservation’s jurisdiction is no longer limited to areas depicted on the state freshwater wetlands maps but includes new freshwater wetlands, including small wetlands of “unusual importance.” The change was included in the 2022-23 budget bill for transportation, economic development and environmental conservation.

(Continued on Page 9)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: DAVID GOLDBERG

By Joey Asher

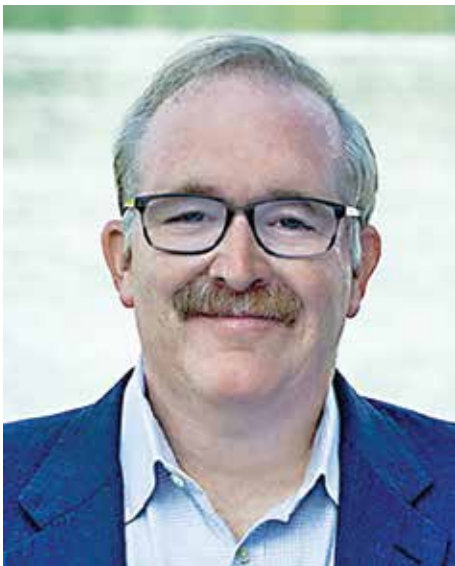
David Goldberg, who lives in Philipstown, is a lawyer and constitutional scholar. He will discuss the U.S. Supreme Court and the presidency on Jan. 12 at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison.

Why did you want to be a civil rights lawyer?

Before becoming the first Black Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall was my ideal of a lawyer — fighting for civil rights in the segregated South, arguing in front of white racist judges and yet keeping his sense of humor. Like Marshall, I wanted to right the great wrongs of our country and do it through litigation.

Tell us about one of your first civil rights cases.

After clerking for Justice David Souter, I went to work for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which was founded by Marshall. [Goldberg also clerked for Ruth Bader Ginsberg before she joined the court.] One of my first cases took place in the 1990s when there was a panic about “crack babies.” South Carolina was prosecuting a woman for murder on the theory that the drugs she took killed her fetus. It was an abuse of governmental power against a very vulner-



able person. She had tried to get help and been turned away. There were elements of racial and gender discrimination. The South Carolina courts heard testimony from our expert obstetrician, who said the cause of death had not been the drugs. The conviction was vacated.

You’ve participated in over 150 cases before the Supreme Court. What is the difference between the life of an appellate lawyer and a trial lawyer?

I’ve never had a taste for the combat of

trial litigation. I’m a nerd, and I don’t like yelling at people. For an appellate lawyer, harsh combat is writing a sarcastic footnote. Most appellate work is writing long briefs. You’re sitting alone in an office and thinking and reading and trying to draft arguments. To win, you count votes, try to identify swing justices and craft arguments to persuade those justices. Then you find people to write amicus briefs that support your points. I’ve only made one oral argument before the Supreme Court [in 2017].

Any interesting stories from the Supreme Court?

I was involved in a case in which I helped write the brief. I was sitting at counsel’s table during oral arguments. The lawyer making our argument didn’t do particularly well. Later that day, I ran into Justice Ginsberg. She said, “You looked like you were in agony up there.” It reminded me that the Supreme Court courtroom is an intimate place. The justices are only 8 feet away. They can read your face. I learned that no matter how badly things are going, I have to keep smiling and looking like we’re kicking ass.

Has your career differed from what you expected?

I envisioned marching down the field to make a more just and fair society. But a lot of my work has involved keeping the court from rolling back progress. For a progressive-minded attorney, it’s like Charlie Brown repeatedly trying to kick the football only to have Lucy pull it away at the last second. That’s why I’ve started focusing on state constitutions. State supreme courts are open for business and receptive to cases the U.S. Supreme Court is less interested in. That includes juvenile sentencing, gerrymandering and environmental protections. Rather than banging my head against the wall at the U.S. Supreme Court, I’m finding new places to fight the fight.

Let's kick off 2025 with art! HCC celebrates another year of art, culture, and history at our beautiful, historic venue. We are truly grateful for the support of our 'Friends'.



NEXT EXHIBIT Jan 11 - Feb 23 – 1-5 PM
The Bannerman Castle Trust
& the Towne Crier Café
VISIONARIES
Double Header Arts Exhibition
OPENING RECEPTION Jan 11 – 1-3 PM

Jan 3 – LIT LIT
Jan 10 – NERD NITE Hudson Valley
Jan 11 – ARTICHOKE Storytelling Series

HOWLAND
CULTURAL
CENTER



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

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, January 16th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Philipstown Planning Board January 2025.

— BEACON, NEW YORK —
artisan
wine shop
where food meets its match

www.artisanwineshop.com

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

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

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What are you looking forward to in 2025?

“Visiting my beautiful, talented granddaughter in Paris in April.”



Eugenie Boland, Cold Spring

“Hopefully a wedding; we just got engaged!”



Daniel Luedtke, Beacon

“More prosperity, America’s new Golden Age.”



Georgia Christy, Philipstown

Fjord Trail *(from Page 1)*

areas to specific times of year to avoid disturbing threatened and endangered wildlife, and replacing invasive species with native plants.

The 7.5-mile trail for pedestrians and cyclists would function as a linear park connecting Beacon to Cold Spring. It would also include 5 miles of narrower, pedestrian-only meanders, spurs and loops branching off the main trail.

When the trail was conceived in 2006, it was imagined as a simple walking path. But after Breakneck Ridge became one of the most popular hiking destinations

in the country, the project underwent a significant expansion and redesign that was unveiled in 2020. The goal was to address the throngs of hikers and cars along Route 9D; the lack of safe access to the Hudson River; Main Street in Cold Spring becoming overrun with visitors on weekends; the need for public restrooms; a dearth of accessible recreational activities; and the threat to riverside attractions from projected sea-level rise because of climate change.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Funeral Homes to Merge

Halvey will buy Libby, which will close

The Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey in Beacon announced on Thursday (Jan. 2) that it plans to buy and close the Libby Funeral Home by the end of the year.

"This is the merging of two great legacy funeral homes in the city of Beacon," said Libby owner Matthew Fiorillo and General Manager Joseph Schuka in a statement. "We have chosen Patrick [Halvey] and his team at Riverview Funeral Home because we trust them to continue caring for families with professionalism and to uphold our outstanding level of service."

Riverview Funeral Home is owned by Halvey, whose grandfather, John, founded the business in 1933. Patrick Halvey relocated it to a newly constructed facility at 2 Beekman St. in 2017. Libby is located at 55 Teller Ave.

Putnam Executive Names Chief

Longtime assistant steps down

Matthew Covucci, the chief of staff to Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne, has stepped down and will be succeeded by Dain Pascocello, most recently the chief of staff for state Sen. Rob Rolison.

Covucci served as Byrne's chief of staff since 2017, when Byrne began the first of two terms in the state Assembly. Byrne was elected as county executive in 2022.

A 2003 graduate of Carnegie Mellon

University, Pascocello also has been chief of staff for Rep. John Faso and director of communications for Orange County.

In other county news, Legislator Paul Jonke, who represents Southeast, does not plan to run for a fourth term in November, according to the *Mid Hudson News*, which cited a letter he sent to the chair of the Southeast Republican Committee.

Foundation Distributes \$350K in Grants

Benefits organizations in Putnam, Dutchess

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley announced this week that it awarded more than \$350,000 in grants to

How to Comment

Comments can be submitted by email to hhft.plan@parks.ny.gov or in writing to Nancy Stoner, Environmental Analyst, NYS OPRHP, DESP, 625 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12238.

Virtual online hearings will be held at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Jan. 14. Those who attend can make comments at the hearing, although the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation requests that lengthy responses instead be submitted in writing. To register for the meetings, visit dub.sh/HHFT-jan-14.

nonprofits, students and organizations.

The funds, raised from individual donors, family funds and CFHV's annual garden party, were distributed to 85 nonprofits, including in Dutchess (\$179,500), Putnam (\$50,000) and Ulster (\$126,000) counties.

In Beacon, the recipients include the Be a Friend Project, Compass Arts, the Howland Chamber Music Circle, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Land to Learn and the Veterans Repertory Theater.

In Philipstown, the recipients include the Desmond-Fish Public Library, Ecological Citizen's Project, Garrison Art Center, Highlands Current Inc., the Putnam History Museum, the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub and Topfield Equestrian Center.

The HIGHLANDS
Current



A Heartfelt Thank You!

Because of you we achieved our match and \$150,000 will go to our newsroom. Thank you for believing in *The Highlands Current*. Your generous support makes a real difference in our community.

15 YEARS

and We're Just Getting Started!

Know someone who should be member?

Send them this link:

<https://highlandscurrent.org/membership/>



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL
Home of the Highlands Choral Society

THIS SUNDAY:
RYAN BIRACREE
"DEATH CAFE PRESENTATION"
JAN 5 @ 11:00AM
FOR WORSHIP REFLECTION & SONG

Jan 12 Erik Lenhart
Jan 19 Constance L. Royster
Jan 26 Megan Cali

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

216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY
HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG



PONTOON

A one person show written and performed by Rick Erhstin

"A fantastical tale of release and wonder!"

Saturday, January 11, at 7:00pm

Depot Docs: Patrice

Friday, January 17, at 7:30pm

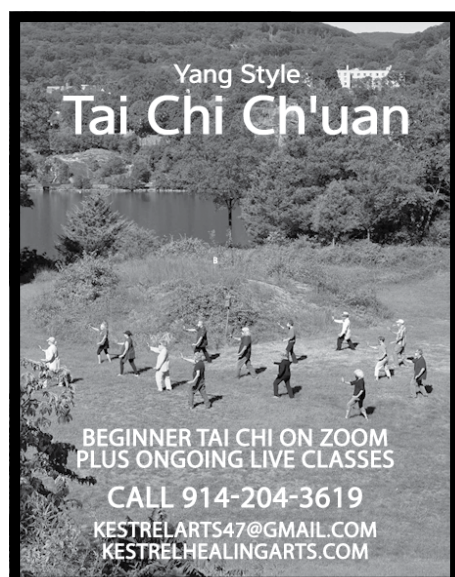
Q&A and reception at Dolly's following film

DEPOT MUSIC The Nelsonvillians

Local musicians
Dave Llewelyn, Sandy McKelvey, Conor Austin, Mike Berkley and more!

Saturday, January 18 at 7:30pm

Tickets at
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



The HIGHLANDS
Current

PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.

Board of Directors:

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

FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

REPORTERS

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

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ross Corsair • Skip Pearlman

STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

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

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

GROWTH DIRECTOR

Lauren Cook

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney

• For information on advertising:
845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org
highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare membership@highlandscurrent.org



The Current is a nonprofit venture
supported by donations from its members.
To join, see highlandscurrent.org/join.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

January 5, 2025
Volume 13, Issue 1

is published weekly by Highlands Current
Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY,
and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send
address changes to *The Highlands Current*,
142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819.

© Highlands Current Inc. 2025

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

NYFA* Winner: 139 Better
Newspaper Contest Awards

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021-23)

* New York Press Association, 2013 - 23

NNA* Winner: 127 Better
Newspaper Contest Awards

* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 23

NYNPA* Winner:
34 Awards for Excellence

* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 23

Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Reflections

Thank you to Brian PJ Cronin for writing this ("Out There: Reflection Deficit Disorder," Dec. 27). I'm a hospital administrator and my colleagues and I were "essential" through the pandemic. I see its impact on our physical and mental health every day, and it blows my mind how little attention is paid to this collective global trauma and to the work and care needed to heal from it.

Shelly Blumenthal, *Beacon*

Thank you for this piece — Brian's thoughts are so well-knitted together.

Donald MacDonald, *Cold Spring*

Dog saved

"A Little Help from Above" (Dec. 27) is a wonderful story — Michael Turton at his finest!

Walter Ulmer, *Cold Spring*

Michael Turton responds: Thanks. An epilogue: Michael Coyne told me that while using his drone to search for pets, he has seen many deer, bears, coyotes, bobcats, red and gray foxes and other wild animals but no moose or mountain lions.

Concrete plant

Neighbors didn't want the housing development there. Now they don't want

Correction

In a profile of artist Angela Lian that appeared in the Dec. 27 issue, the titles of the three artworks were incorrect. In fact, "Nante Spirals" is "Nantes Spirals," "Caress" is "Score No. 4b Has your skin been caressed today?" and "Green Duet" is "Score No. 1a Your favorite tree asks you to dance." Further, Lian's role at Baggu was misstated. In fact, she is a graphic designer with the firm.

a concrete operation ("Concrete Plant Proposed for Route 9," Dec. 20). It's already a legal mining property. Where do people think the materials used to construct their homes and properties come from? The farther away, the more you pay.

Ralph Falloon, *via Facebook*

Life renewed

It's a parent's nightmare when anything happens to their child, but Theresa Timmons has been strong and courageous ("A Life Renewed," Dec. 20). She's come so far, and I'm so proud of her, knowing her and seeing the family go through so much. It's so good that her mother lets us all know how she's doing with videos on Facebook. Theresa and Laura

have so many people who are praying for them.
Maria Kelley, *Garrison*

We continue to pray for Theresa and the Homestyle Desserts Bakery family. Keep getting strong and fighting, Theresa! You are surrounded by love, and you are a warrior.

Kerry Scardino, *via Instagram*

Hot schools

If a school cannot provide air conditioning for its students, the administration offices shouldn't have it either ("New Law Limits Classroom Heat," Dec. 20).

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

The law should read "a regulated heating system that ensures equal temperature throughout all classrooms at max 75 degrees."

Jeff Phillips, *via Facebook*

I work in the Hyde Park district. The classrooms are all 85 degrees. It's awful. For me, 68 degrees is fine.

Christine Lombardo-Shubert, *via Facebook*

This seems like common sense. We should not need a law.

Robert Cullen, *via Facebook*

Will the state pay for HVAC systems for every school district so they can comply with these regulations?

Michelle McCoy, *via Facebook*

Unfortunately, I know teachers who are confined to rooms with no windows, no air conditioning and no air circulation, and where the temperature regularly exceeds these limits in the warmer months.

Some of these spaces also have crumbling walls and mold. They're beautiful old buildings, but the state needs to invest in updates.

Rich Johnson, *via Facebook*

Fjord Trail

I thank the neighbors who have told me they support my call for an objective review of the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (*Letters and Comments*, Dec. 20). My advice to them: Submit your level-headed comments to the state and, above all, participate in local government. In a small community, every citizen should take a turn on a governing board. You will see firsthand how balancing competing values is at the core of democracy.

The relation between the DGEIS and Cold Spring's Comprehensive Plan is an example of such balancing. The comp plan, adopted in 2012, compiles residents' wishes for future

(Continued on Page 5)



Civic Volunteers

Philipstown

Planning Board

Neal Zuckerman (chair)
Joe Burden
Dennis Gagnon
Peter Lewis
Laura O’Connell
Neal Tomann
Heidi Wendel

Zoning Board of Appeals

Robert Dee (chair)
Vincent Cestone
Mary Kate Ephraim
Granite Frisenda
Janice Hogan

Conservation Board

Andy Galler (chair)
Tony Bardes
Lew Kingsley
MJ Martin
Madeleine Rae
Bob Repetto
Scott Silver
Max Garfinkle
(natural resources
officer/wetlands inspector)

Recreation Commission

William Mazzuca (chair)
Lauren Gretina
Aric Kupper
John Maasik
Claudio Marzollo
Vacancy
Vacancy

Board of Assessment Review

Gordon Casement (chair)
Melissa Carlton
Robert Percacciolo
Kathyrine Tomann
Vacancy

North Highlands Fire District

Steve Sherman (chair)
Mike Barr
John Egger
Don Hyatt
Christopher Tobin

Garrison Fire District

Linda Lomonaco (chair)
David Brower
Jamie Copeland
Lee Erickson
Nat Prentice

Cold Spring

Zoning Board of Appeals

Eric Wirth (chair)
Robert Ferreira
Billy Fields
John F. Martin
Marianne Remy

Historic District Review Board

Al Zgolinski (chair)
Todd Seekircher
Kate Van Voorhees
Lauren Wallis Hall
Vacancy

Planning Board

Jesse St. Charles (chair)
Ben Cheah
Henry Feldman
Hilary Hart
Kevin McGrory

Recreation Commission

Jeff Amato Jr. (chair)
James Curley-Egan
Matt DeGraff
Leslie Hoellger Leonard
Alexandra Laurino

Tree Advisory Board

Jennifer Zwarich (chair)
Tony Bardes
Taro letaka
Kory Riesterer
Charles Day
(tree nursery manager)

Beacon

Board of Assessment Review

John Stella (chair)
John Berry
Ron Donofrio
Robert Palisi
Michele Rios

Planning Board

John Gunn (chair)
Kevin Byrne
Donna Francis
David Jensen
Karen Quiana
Len Warner
J. Randall Williams

Zoning Board of Appeals

Jordan Haug (chair)
Stowe Boyd
Elaine Ciaccio
Judith Smith
Montos Vakirtzis

Traffic Safety Committee

Matt Dubetsky (chair)
Kevin Byrne
Carolyn Bennett Glauda
Michael Manzi
Lt. Jason Walden

Recreation Committee

Larry Clark
Sarah Dwyer-Shick
James Eve
Heidi Kitlas
Justin Lynch
Hayley Richardson
Christina Ricottilli

Conservation Advisory Committee

Sergei Krasikov (chair)
Justine Bienkowski
James Burton
Marisa Lomonaco
Eleanor Peck
May Sherif
Phillip Stamatis
Thomas Wright
Vacancy

Greenway Trail Committee

Thomas Wright (chair)
Andrew Bell
Matt Harle
Amy Kacala
Matt Kierstead
James Korn
Graham Lawlor
Hank Osborn
Mark Price (city liaison)

Tree Advisory Committee

Pete Bailey (chair)
Andrew Bell
Elise LaRocco
Vickie Raabin
Ethan Skuches

Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee

J.C. Calderon (chair)
Yvonne Caruthers
Garrett Duquesne
Nick Guertin
Jay Healey
Steve Jacobs
Atticus Lanigan
Brent Stapleton
Olga Tirado

School Board

Flora Stadler (president)
Meredith Heuer
Semra Ercin
Kristan Flynn
Alena Kush
Chris Lewine
LaVonne McNair
Eric Schetter
Anthony White

Nelsonville

Planning Board

Dove Pedlosky (chair)
David Herman
Dennis Meekins
Ethan Timm
Vacancy

Zoning Board of Appeals

William Rice (chair)
Harold Akselrad
Steve Merando
Judy Meyer
Steven Rummel

Haldane School Board

Peggy Clements (president)
Ezra Clementson
Michelle Kupper
Sean McNall
Maggie Valentine

Garrison School Board

Sarah Tormey (president)
Jocelyn Apicello
Eric Arnold
Jennifer Harriton-Wilson
Dan Jasnow
Peter Lesser
Kent Schacht

Farmer Sues Putnam County

Denied inclusion in Agricultural District

By Leonard Sparks

A livestock farmer is suing Putnam County over the Legislature’s decision to reject a recommendation to add his farm in Patterson and operations in Philipstown and other towns to the Agricultural District.

In a lawsuit filed Dec. 16 in state court, Daniel Honovich, who owns Ridge Ranch, alleges that the Legislature relied on a “blatantly incorrect” interpretation of state agricultural law when it voted 5-3 in August to reject his application and requests from other farms.

The county Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board, by a 9-2 vote, had recommended that the Legislature add Ridge Ranch to the district, whose benefits include protecting farms from “unreasonable” local restrictions under a 1971 state law designed to preserve agriculture.

George Whipple’s application to add Castle Rock and three other Philipstown properties also fell victim to the vote, as did three operations approved by the board: Big Red Barn Farm in Putnam Valley and Cascade Enterprises in Carmel, which board horses; and Lobster Hill Farm in Southeast, which breeds livestock.

Despite the board support, one of its members, Neal Tomann, who lives in Philipstown, told the Legislature’s Physical Services Committee in July that the applicants failed to meet at least one of eight factors that the county determined in 2007 “shall be considered” for inclusion.

Those factors include an on-site assessment by the board; the absence of local, state or federal violations; and adherence to farming best practices. Tomann said that none of the properties met another factor, despite not growing crops: that they contain at least 50 percent of “prime farmland” and/or “important soils” in one of the first six of the state’s 10 classifications for soils.

Honovich, a veterinarian, runs Ridge Ranch with his wife, Arielle, who has a degree in animal science and teaches special education for the Mahopac school district. The couple raises and breeds Scottish Highland, Brahman Gyr and Zebu cows for sale, along with chickens, goats, mini donkeys and rabbits. They also host tours, birthday parties, goat yoga and other activities.

“Making soil type a standalone disqualifying factor may have some merit when applied to a farm raising food crops, however, it is completely irrational when applied to a livestock farm,” Honovich said. He noted that many farms in the Agricul-

tural District fail to meet the soil-type requirement.

Honovich filed his lawsuit the same day the three legislators on the Physical Services Committee discussed a proposal to require more information from applicants, including site and stormwater protection plans, and a soil analysis.

Tomann said he also wanted to require applicants to submit a letter from code enforcement officers confirming that their operations have town approval and are free of violations, and that neighbors be notified. A separate resolution would have established the Legislature as the lead agency for the environmental reviews of applicants.

The three votes in August to accept the Agricultural Board’s recommendations came from Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley; William Gouldman of Putnam Valley and Erin Crowley of the Town of Carmel.

During the Dec. 16 Physical Services meeting, Montgomery said it was “unfortunate” that the Legislature had decided to dismiss the views of the Agriculture Board, which includes farmers. “They know a heck of a lot more about farming than you or I or anybody on this committee,” she said.

Although approved by the Physical Services Committee on Dec. 16, the proposal was not part of the Legislature’s agenda for its year-end meeting on Dec. 19.

Byrne lawsuit

While the Honovich lawsuit was beginning, a legal action filed by County Executive Kevin Byrne was ending. He notified the state court on Dec. 18 that he was dropping a lawsuit against the Legislature that he filed three weeks earlier.

Byrne had asked acting Supreme Court Judge Joseph Spofford to void a local law amending the county charter that allows lawmakers to fire a county attorney at will, along with a resolution allowing them to hire an attorney without Law Department approval. The lawsuit followed a vote by legislators on Nov. 25 to override Byrne’s vetoes of both measures.

On Dec. 24, Byrne said he had decided, “after careful consideration and given the projected cost of this legal battle, to withdraw without prejudice this office’s legal action,” meaning that the lawsuit can be revived. His decision, Byrne said, “is informed by the fact” that the charter amendment does not take effect until 2027.

“It is my sincere hope that next year, current and incoming members of the Legislature will consider collaborating with this administration to address the serious issues this county faces,” he said.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

development. State law requires the Fjord Trail planners to consider the goals in the comp plan. Here are some of those goals:

- “Develop a RiverWalk to improve access to the river for pedestrians and bicyclists.”

- Study the feasibility of a “RiverWalk Loop from Dockside with a causeway just west of and parallel to the railroad tracks to cross the tracks at Little Stony Point, or crossing at an alternate location.”
- The RiverWalk should be “contingent

on funding from grants or non-village sources” and might connect “with the proposed Greenway Trail and [lead] to Breakneck trailheads.”

- Install restrooms at Dockside Park.

The Fjord Trail proposal fulfills all these

recommendations. By contrast, ending the trail at Little Stony Point, so that none of the goals are achieved, would mean thwarting villagers’ formally adopted wishes.

Eliza Starbuck, *Cold Spring Starbuck is a Cold Spring trustee.*

2024 updated

(from Page 1)

market's founding vendors, tending for 35 years to their 24-acre Four Winds Farm near Gardiner. Many especially mourned the loss of the Armours' heirloom tomatoes. Their reason for stepping away was simple. "My body's too old for this," said Jay, 70.

UPDATE: Asked this week how retirement was going, Jay said he was "busier than before." The couple leases most of their farmland now but still grows tomato seedlings in the greenhouse for spring sales. Last year, they grew 40 varieties and sold more than 13,000 seedlings. They also sell 26 types of vegetables but, unlike in the past, there is no crew to help out. Jay said he planted a small garden but "had trouble scaling down. I planted 20 tomato plants — way too many. I only need two or three." Avid skiers, the Armours were disappointed with last winter's conditions so, on the spur of the moment, they embarked on what Jay described as a fantastic eight-day trip to Iceland.



Jay Armour slices samples of heirloom tomatoes at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market. Photo provided

Tallix Foundry sale — The former Tallix Foundry building in Beacon, a nearly 17,000-square-foot structure that drew international attention in 1999 when it produced a 24-foot bronze horse meant to fulfill Leonardo da Vinci's dying wish, was listed for sale for \$1.995 million, or \$18,000 per month as a rental.

UPDATE: According to Dutchess County records, the site sold for its asking price, \$1.995 million, in March to Niche Modern LLC. No information is available on what the company plans to do at the former foundry, and no plans for the site have been submitted to the Planning Board.

Beacon evictions — Donald Van Voorhees, a 74-year-old disabled Beacon resident, had until Jan. 31 to leave the studio apartment where he had lived for 23 years after the city's "good-cause" eviction law was overturned by a City Court judge. (Similar laws were also overturned in Newburgh, Pough-

keepsie, Kingston and Albany.) Len Warner, a member of the Beacon Planning Board, knew Van Voorhees from their early-morning conversations on Main Street, and tried to help. After searching options for low-income renters in and around Beacon, the situation looked dire. A Main Street apartment opened on Jan. 29 and Nick Page, a Dutchess County legislator whose uncle owns the complex, contacted Warner.

UPDATE: After several years of advocacy from housing organizations, Gov. Kathy Hochul in April included a statewide good-cause measure in the 2024-25 budget. In August, the Beacon City Council unanimously opted into the law, which restricts landlords who own more than one unit from evicting tenants except in specific circumstances, including when they have arrears that are not due to "unreasonable" rent increases. Warner said this week that when he last spoke to Van Voorhees, "he was very comfortable and happy" in his new apartment.

• • • FEBRUARY

Beacon Line payments — A St. Louis law firm filed two lawsuits in federal court for 172 individuals and commercial entities who own property along a dormant railroad line that runs from the Beacon waterfront to the Connecticut border. Dutchess County is studying the line as the potential site of a recreational rail trail, but the firm, Stewart, Wald & McCulley, is seeking payment for the "taking of land" in conjunction with conversion projects like the one that could happen along the Beacon line. The federal Surface Transportation Board has issued a "notice of interim trail use" that allows Metro-North, which has no plans to restore train service, to close the 41-mile segment. A second firm, Lewis Rice, also from St. Louis, filed a similar suit on behalf of about a dozen landowners.

UPDATE: Stewart, Wald & Smith now represents more than 260 landowners in Dutchess and Putnam counties whose properties are adjacent to the former railroad corridor. The firm has three suits pending in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and attorneys are preparing appraisal reports for trial. In November, Lewis Rice filed a motion for partial summary judgment, asking the court to find the government liable for taking its clients' property. Concurrently, the firm has begun the appraisal process. Rails-to-trails lawsuits can take years to resolve. Representatives for both firms noted that their lawsuits do not seek to stop the trail and will not affect local plans. In November, Dutchess County issued a report on conditions along the 13-mile segment from Beacon to Hopewell Junction, where, if built, a trail would connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail and the 750-mile Empire State Trail. The report noted that the corridor is in good condition and introduced two options for analysis in another report: converting the corridor into a trail or constructing a trail adjacent to the railroad tracks.

The plight of Palestine — When asked about how he saw the conflict in Gaza

ending, Philipstown resident Philip Weiss, founder of the online news site Mondo-weiss, which provides news and analysis "regarding the struggle for Palestinian human rights," responded: "Horribly. There will be a state of stasis that resolves none of the underlying and intractable and somewhat insurmountable issues. You have claims to the same land that appear to be irreconcilable. But stasis within a month, and then it will leave the front pages."

UPDATE: We checked in with Weiss this week. "In the last year, Israel and Palestine entered a period long predicted, a bloody one-state reality. Anyone can see that this reality is the farthest thing from democracy; it is marked by apartheid and genocide targeting Palestinians. Resistance will never end, including terrorist atrocities like those of Oct. 7. Jimmy Carter, a great leader, told us this, and the Democratic Party ostracized him for saying so. I don't have faith in left-wing violence, either. I don't believe that Israel/Palestine is Algeria. Some Jewish settlers will surely leave, but most will not. Many were refugees themselves; generations were born there. The only approach to achieve peace is a political settlement that recognizes the rights of all and grants no group dominance."

• • • MARCH

Title game — Led by Matt Nachamkin, a 6-foot-7 senior who had been recruited to play for Williams College, the Haldane boys' basketball team reached the state Class C title game for the second season and a row — and lost by three points for the second time, despite Nachamkin's 19 points, eight rebounds and three blocks.

UPDATE: Nachamkin scored six points, including his first collegiate basket, on Monday (Dec. 30) in an 81-62 loss at undefeated New York University. He said the liberal arts college in Williamstown, Massachusetts, stresses a varied curriculum and that he's leaning toward a double major in economics and history. He added that the college game is far more intense than high school. "I knew it would be a step up," he said, "but it's even a step up from what I thought it'd be."

Carvana eyes Fishkill Avenue — The national used-car dealer submitted a proposal to the Beacon Planning Board to occupy 410 Fishkill Ave., one of four parcels in the corridor vacated by the Healey Brothers dealerships when they moved to Poughkeepsie and Fishkill.

UPDATE: The proposal from Carvana, whose business allows customers to select a vehicle online and have it delivered to their home or one of its facilities, was approved in June. In April, the Planning Board permitted Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist organization, to lease one of the other Healey parcels, at 409 Fishkill Ave.,



Nachamkin

• • • 2024 MOST READ ONLINE STORIES

1. **Classic Wheels: 1968 Volkswagen Beetle** (April 5)
2. **New Restaurant in Cold Spring** (May 10)
3. **Erika Thomaselli (1987-2024)** (Jan. 31)
4. **Missing Garrison Man Found Dead** (March 29)
5. **Theresa Timmons: A Life Renewed** (Dec. 20)
6. **Spongy Moth Caterpillars Hatch En Masse** (May 3)
7. **Max's on Main to Close** (April 12)
8. **Mayors, Supervisor Oppose Trail in Cold Spring** (April 19)
9. **Stephanie Doucette (1971-2024)** (May 10)
10. **Fjord Trail to Delay Cold Spring Link** (Sept. 6)

where it plans to open a worship center in 2025. The Planning Board is reviewing a proposal to convert a building at 420-430 Fishkill Ave., also a former Healey lot, to a Dunkin' coffeehouse with a drive-thru, commercial space and three apartments. A citizen committee appointed by Mayor Lee Kyriacou to study streetscapes, accessibility and other aspects of the corridor continues its work. After a meeting with the City Council in November, council members suggested implementing the committee's early zoning recommendations.

Butterfly group — The Putnam-Westchester chapter of the North American Butterfly Association held its first meeting on March 21 during a time of significant decline in butterfly populations, which has environmental implications because of their role as pollinators.

UPDATE: The group, led by Charlie Roberto, has about 25 members from Manhattan, Connecticut and Westchester, although none so far from Putnam County. "We need more young people," Roberto said. It led field trips to spots in Putnam, Rockland and Westchester in 2024, but a July butterfly count indicated there is still work to do. A few species are doing OK, but "monarchs continue to be down," he said. Roberto believes the improper use of pesticides is having a significant impact. "People use them without realizing what they're doing," he said. "They don't read the labels and have no idea how long pesticides last or that they affect our drinking water."

Alternate Route? — Work is underway on the Breakneck Connector section of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, but the rest of the 7.5-mile route, especially between Cold Spring and Breakneck, remains uncertain. Various routes are being considered

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

as part of the state's environmental review, but a new possibility that would avoid Dockside Park in Cold Spring has come up. It would begin at the Cold Spring train station and hug the western side of the tracks as it heads north to the village border.

UPDATE: A draft of the environmental report was released in December. The report reviews various alternatives and concludes that none of them balance the environmental impact that the routes would have with the needs that the trail would address as effectively as the chosen route, which begins at Dockside. However, the report notes that because the alternate route that begins at the train station was suggested while the report was nearing completion, it has not yet been studied.

• • •

APRIL

Ceiling collapse — The ceiling in the library at the Boscobel mansion in Garrison collapsed, prompting the historic site to close the home to tours. The collapse damaged the room, its contents and adjacent rooms, but no one was hurt.

UPDATE: Abigail Addams of Boscobel noted this week that the ceiling was made in the 1950s of a concrete material that weighed 50 percent more than plaster and that the fasteners gave way to gravity. The collapse prompted a full-scale renovation of the historic house, she said. All furniture, decorative objects and window treatments were moved to the lower gallery and some were sent out for conservation. Boscobel also cleaned its HVAC system and all textiles, paintings and furniture. It hopes to reopen the mansion in the spring or early summer.



As part of a renovation following an April ceiling collapse, Boscobel staff moved artwork to a lower floor for cleaning.

Photo provided

Pot station — Kamel Jamal, who owns the Beacon Bread Co. and Ziatun, was awarded a state license allowing him to grow, process and distribute recreational cannabis and to sell retail buds and other products. He applied as 463 Station Inc., a reference to the former police station he owns at 463 Main St. In 2023, Jamal hosted a state-approved "showcase" there,



Former Beacon Hebrew Alliance Rabbi Brent Spodek said one of the things he would miss most was spending time at the synagogue's preschool.

File photo by Valerie Shively

a program that gave farmers and processors places to sell buds and edibles while awaiting the opening of more dispensaries.

UPDATE: In November, the state Cannabis Control Board approved Jamal's use of 463 Main St. as a retail location. On Dec. 28, Jamal announced on The Station Dispensary's Instagram page that he plans a soft opening soon at what he described as a "state-of-the-art" cannabis business.

Former principal sues — Daniel Glenn, principal of South Avenue Elementary in 2021-22 and 2022-23, filed a civil suit in U.S. District Court, alleging that discrimination and a racially charged workplace led to his dismissal. The Beacon City School District responded in June, saying that Glenn failed to provide evidence to back up his claims and asking that the case be dismissed.

UPDATE: Glenn amended his complaint in July to include details about incidents that he said showed discrimination by district officials. The case was automatically referred to a mediator. According to court records, conferences have been scheduled and rescheduled five times since.

Employee arrested — A former Stonecrop Gardens employee was arrested and accused of secretly filming girls in 2018 and 2019 as they used a public restroom. A criminal complaint accused John Towers, 54, of Mahopac, of making more than 800 hidden-camera videos that also captured women inside stalls as they used the toilet. Towers had worked at Stonecrop for 20 years. He was released to home detention on a \$200,000 bond secured by his house.

UPDATE: The case has been postponed nine times, most recently on Dec. 26, while prosecutors and Towers' attorney discuss a plea bargain.

Indian Point wastewater — The company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant south of Philipstown asked a federal judge to overturn a new state law that bans the discharge of radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River. It noted that wastewater from spent

fuel pools was routinely discharged during the 50 years the plant operated.

UPDATE: There has been little movement on the lawsuit since April, and the issue of what to do with the wastewater is unresolved. Holtec announced in December it had discovered elevated cesium-137 levels in one of about 40 soil samples taken near a former training building. Holtec also announced that it has begun preliminary investigations to see if, once the plant is decommissioned, the site could be turned into a data center.

• • •

MAY

Greeting visitors — The Beacon Welcome Center in Polhill Park, situated to greet visitors climbing the hill from the Metro-North station, closed during the pandemic but reopened in the spring through a partnership between the city and Dutchess Tourism.

UPDATE: Volunteers who staffed the center logged 342 hours from the first weekend in May to mid-November. They assisted 1,124 people and were recognized on Dec. 16 by the City Council for their service.



The Beacon Welcome Center is located in Polhill Park at the foot of Main Street.

File photo

• • •

JUNE

Beacon arrest — Two years after Lionell Pittman Jr., 32, was shot and killed in a parking lot at the Forrestal Heights apartment complex on West Center Street, police arrested Naije Perrette, 25, of Beacon, who was charged with murder, contract killing, intentional murder and conspiracy. He pleaded not guilty.

UPDATE: Police subsequently arrested two

more suspects, Khyree Pratt, 23, and Zyree Downing, 24, both imprisoned for other crimes, and brought them to Beacon to be arraigned on murder charges. That left one recent unsolved killing still under investigation, that of Rene Vivo, a 65-year-old veteran known as "Scout," who was stabbed near the intersection of South Brett and Main streets on Christmas Day 2021. Chief Tom Figlia said this week that while there were no new developments he could share, the investigation "is still very much open and active." As with the Pittman case, "oftentimes crimes like these take years of hard work and dedication by investigators," he said.

Clearwater finances — After announcing in May that it was nearly insolvent, the Beacon-based environmental nonprofit said it had raised \$347,000.

UPDATE: A task force of staff and volunteers dedicated to overhauling Clearwater's business model has been meeting for the past few months. Executive Director David Toman said that at least one new program introduced in 2024 — the "pay what you can" sails — will return. Clearwater is looking forward to more environmental advocacy, which took a back seat to the financial emergency. "The new administration at the federal level has made many statements that are not environment-first but are, in my opinion, short-sighted economics first," Toman said.

• • •

JULY

Constitution Island — The historic Constitution Island, located just south of Cold Spring, welcomed tours for the first time since 2012. Owned by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the 280-acre island is maintained by the nonprofit Constitution Island Association.

UPDATE: Vinny Tamagna, the association chair, said weekend tours for 30 participants operated at capacity on the last Saturday of June, July, August and September. Saturday tours of the Warner House and grounds will be offered in the summer of 2025, along with an event planned for October. Trail maps and interpretive panels explaining the island's Native American history are being developed, he said, and the island will soon begin hosting school field trips, as it did in the past. Programming in 2025-26 will focus on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Laura Mayer will succeed Tamagna, who now lives in Florida, as chair, although he will remain on the board.

Rabbi Brent steps down — After 13 years leading the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, Brent Spodek in July became the synagogue's rabbi emeritus.

UPDATE: Spodek has continued his work as a premarital counselor and advises couples on enhancing their communication skills. He has also become part of the team behind *Togethering*, a series of retreats for interfaith couples. He and his family remain active members of BHA. In September, the synagogue welcomed his successor, Justin

(Continued on Page 8)

2024 updated

(from Page 7)

David, who has been a rabbi for 25 years in Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. He is the author of Longing: Jewish Meditations on a Hidden God and this year received his doctorate in education from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. In a humorous twist, David also officiated the wedding of Spodek and his wife, Alison, in 2001.

• • •

AUGUST

Beacon schools ban phones — The Beacon school district enacted a policy requiring middle school and high school students to place cellphones in “designated areas” at the beginning of each class.

UPDATE: Superintendent Matt Landahl said this week that students and teachers have adjusted well. Breaking Beacon, published by the high school’s newspaper club, reported that the policy was initially unpopular but became less contentious as the year went on. Several students told the paper that their grades and social interactions had improved.

Kids in business — A children’s business fair held on the lawn of St. Mary’s Church in Cold Spring attracted 15 entrepreneurs from ages 6 to 14. They sold greeting cards,

doggie cookies, coffee, baked goods, chai tea and flowers.

UPDATE: Julie Arora, a Garrison resident who organized the fair, has plans for two fairs for Saturdays in May and October. If the village agrees to provide a permit, she hopes to attract as many as 25 children and teens to host booths on the sidewalks in front of village shops.

• • •

SEPTEMBER

Former Beacon couple convicted — A federal jury found a former Beacon couple guilty on Sept. 27 of killing the wife’s ex-husband, who disappeared in April 2020 after dropping off his two teenage daughters at 10 W. Church St. following a custody visit. After a two-week trial in White Plains, Jamie Orsini, 38, and Nicholas Orsini, 36, were each found guilty of carjacking resulting in death and conspiracy to commit carjacking in the disappearance of Steven Kraft.

UPDATE: On Dec. 13, the Orsinis filed separate motions for acquittal or a retrial, claiming they were convicted based on insufficient evidence. In Jamie Orsini’s filing, her lawyers argue that the government’s case “was based entirely on circumstantial evidence and rank speculation that no rational jury could have found sufficient.” They said the government also failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Kraft, whose body was never found, had been killed.



A children’s business fair in August attracted 15 young entrepreneurs. Photo by Ross Corsair

MTA capital plan — The Metropolitan Transportation Authority approved a \$68 billion capital plan that runs through 2029 and would, among other upgrades, shore up the Hudson Line against the effects of climate change. The plan only identified the source of half the funding; Neil Zuckerman, a Philipstown resident who represents Putnam County on the MTA board and heads its finance committee, said “it’s the responsibility of the governor and the Legislature” to provide the rest. The four-

member MTA Capital Program Review Board had until Dec. 25 to approve the plan.

UPDATE: On Christmas Eve, two members of the Review Board — Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie — voted no, citing the uncertain funding. They said the issue “can be solved during the upcoming legislative session in the context of the state budget negotiations.”

• • •

OCTOBER

Jan. 6 conviction — A federal judge in Washington, D.C. found a former Beacon man guilty of a felony and four misdemeanors related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. William Joseph Pepe, 35, was identified by prosecutors as president of the Hudson Valley chapter of the Proud Boys, who they said coordinated travel and lodging and, using earpieces and radios to communicate, dismantled barriers and broke windows. Pepe was arrested six days after the riot and fired from his job at Metro-North in Brewster. Pepe was released until his sentencing, which is scheduled for March 11.

UPDATE: On Nov. 11, Pepe asked for his case to be paused until Jan. 20 because he expects to be pardoned by President-elect Donald Trump. On Dec. 18, the court said it “is not inclined to continue sentencing based on uncertain events that may or may not occur” for a specific defendant. In another case, Gregory Purdy, a 2016 Carmel High School graduate living in Hopewell Junction, and his uncle, Robert Turner, each asked to be released from custody pending their sentencing because Trump has promised pardons. A judge denied the motion and scheduled a hearing for today (Jan. 3). Purdy and Turner, who are representing themselves after dismissing their lawyers, have been incarcerated since their felony convictions in June; Purdy’s younger brother, Matthew Purdy, convicted of two misdemeanors, was released until sentencing.

Reporting by Brian PJ Cronin, Chip Rowe, Jeff Simms, Leonard Sparks and Michael Turton

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing - January 16th, 2025

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 16th, 2025** starting at **7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516** to consider the following application:

Rosemary Corbett, Trustee, 548 E. Mountain Road North, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#17-2-78.1 & 17-2-78.4

Project: Application for Approval of Subdivision Plat; Applicant is seeking approval of a minor subdivision to adjust an existing division line.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall). Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202.

Application and supporting materials for this application can also be seen at the below link:
<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/december-2024>

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 19th day of December, 2024. Neal Zuckerman, Chair

HIGHLAND STUDIO

PRINTMAKERS

FINE ART
PRINTING
SCANNING
LARGE FORMAT

HUDSON VALLEY’S
ARCHIVAL PRINTING
SINCE 1997

PICTURE FRAMING
print & map gallery

845-809-5174

31 STEPHANIE LANE
COLD SPRING, NY

www.thehighlandstudio.com

Student Proposals to Become Reality in 2025

Beacon continues partnership with high school class

By Jeff Simms

For the third year, students in Erin Haddeland's Participation in Government class at Beacon High School made proposals in November to the City Council on "how to improve Beacon."

The council includes \$10,000 in its budget each year for the "participatory budgeting" exercise, which, in its first two years, yielded new basketball backboards and rims at South Avenue Park and a water-bottle refilling station at Memorial Park, among other completed projects.

This year, City Administrator Chris White recommended during the council's Dec. 9 workshop that the city fund two of the student proposals: the creation of a native garden at Hiddenbrooke Park on Beacon's east side and a "creative" public space for artists.

The native garden, proposed by Anabelle Arginsky, Taryn Beardsley and Anastasia Santise, dovetails with the city's partnership with the Pollinator Pathway Working Group to install patches of native flowers and plants at Hiddenbrooke, White said.

The city already plans to enhance the gardens there in the spring through seeding and allowing wild flowers to grow in the meadow, with walking paths cut around the perimeter and through the field.

White recommended allocating \$5,000 to the student proposal for additional plantings, bench areas and other public amenities.

He recommended using the remaining \$5,000 for Chiara Fedorchak and Kira Sheehan's proposal to create space for artists to express themselves without adversely impacting buildings or other structures.

The city plans to resurface the skateboard park at Memorial Park in the spring while repairing fences and adding new elements for skating, and White recommended purchasing wall installations and cement barriers that can be painted by community members without a lot of restrictions beyond a ban on hate speech or obscenity. Inspired by the students' idea, the skate park would become a space where people can "graffiti, essentially, legally," he said.

A third proposal, presented by Sally Betterbid and Katherine Ruffy, to repair the fencing at Memorial Park's softball fields will be folded into the city's capital plans.

White said that he and Recreation Direc-

tor Mark Price inspected the fences and found the supporting posts and wire mesh beyond repair. Replacement of the fencing will cost more than the \$10,000 set aside for student proposals, "but that is more than a worthy capital project," White said. Funding for the replacement, expected to cost around \$30,000, will come from the Recreation Department budget.

The city also will look for ways to improve drainage at the fields, which flood often.

Other projects proposed by the students will not be funded this year but could be added to long-term plans.

Jude Betancourt and Brody Timm suggested creating a "fitness community" by installing a circuit of exercise stations at the former tennis court behind the skate park in Memorial Park. White said that he and Price like the idea but the proposed location is already being considered for rehabilitation as pickleball courts.

The city will consider other locations, including the walking path along Wilkes Street and a concentrated space at South Avenue Park, which is being rehabbed this spring.

Amir Figueroa's proposal for the city to purchase 50 electric scooters for residents to use around Beacon raised concerns

about liability, storage in public areas and conflicts with pedestrians. There are "micro-mobility" programs being tested in other municipalities, White said, but he did not recommend advancing the proposal.

Kekoa Baysa's idea to expand public restroom facilities on Main Street could become a long-term project, White said. The city will install a public restroom at South Avenue Park in the spring, with its exterior to become a community mural led by artist Joe Pimentel, who created the murals at Memorial and Green Street parks.

White noted that a public restroom at the Welcome Center at Polhill Park reopened last year after closing during the pandemic. The city could also move forward with restrooms on Main Street if pocket parks, which have been considered at Veterans Place and the Department of Motor Vehicles parking lot, are created.

The proposal by Nolan Miller to add recycling receptacles in public spaces, particularly on Main Street, would require a change to the city's contract with Royal Carting. Two-in-one trash and recycling cans on Main Street were removed several years ago because of ongoing contamination.

The city recently purchased more than 60 garbage cans for Main Street that will be cleaned and/or painted over the winter, White said.

New Laws (from Page 1)

Ambulance payments

New York requires insurance companies to pay for ambulance services that are not preferred providers. Under the previous law, payments for transport by non-preferred providers were sent to patients. According to the bill's sponsor, patients "routinely" neglected to make the payments.

Hotel care products

Under legislation passed in 2021 to reduce plastic waste, hotels with 50 or more rooms can no longer provide small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap or other personal care products. Hotels will receive a warning for the first violation, a \$250 fine if they fail to correct the infraction within 30 days and a \$500 fine for

subsequent violations in the same calendar year. Hotels with fewer than 50 rooms will have to comply beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

Biomarker testing

Health insurers must cover biomarker testing. According to the bill's sponsor, the test is "increasingly important" for the treatment of cancer and other diseases and "37 of the 62 oncology drugs launched in the past five years require or recommend biomarker testing before use."

Evacuation plans

The owners of high-rise buildings must create evacuation plans for disabled residents based on standards developed by the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council. Hospitals, assisted living residences and adult-care facilities are exempt.

Fare evaders

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority can issue fines of up to \$150 per violation to people who evade fares. The MTA said in August that buses are the biggest problem, with 50 percent of riders failing to pay. The lost revenue totaled \$315 million in 2022, according to the agency.

Insulin payments

Insulin is exempt from insurance deductible, copayment, coinsurance and other cost-sharing requirements.

Election ballots

Judicial candidates will be pushed to the end of ballots instead of being listed before congressional and state candidates. The bill's sponsor says that voters know little about judicial candidates, and their current posi-

tion on the ballot makes it likelier that people will overlook congressional candidates.

Health insurance enrollment

Insurers are prohibited from charging fees or other penalties when pregnant women enroll for health care coverage through New York's State of Health exchange.

Digital creations

Contracts for the use of a performer's digital voice or likeness are void and unenforceable if the replica replaces work the performer would have otherwise done in person, if the agreement does not have a "reasonably specific description" of the digital representation's use and if negotiations did not involve legal or union representation.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for more news.





The Library is Hiring!

Communications Coordinator

- Part-time position to help promote and facilitate library news, programs and events.
- 15 hours a week; \$20/hour with flexible scheduling - some weekends and evenings required

Digital Services Intern

- Part time position assisting the Digital Services Librarian with programs, tech support, and day-to-day functions of the library makerspace.
- 10-20 hours a week; \$18/hour - some weekends and evenings required

apply at www.desmondfishlibrary.org/careers




Perched on the banks of the Hudson River, in the quaint village of Cold Spring, NY, this restored, historic chapel offers a breathtaking setting for your wedding.

chapelrestoration.org
chapelweddingscs@gmail.com

🏠 Local Real Estate Pros 🏠

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



Ann McBride-Alayon
PRINCIPAL BROKER, OWNER | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY
718-637-3143 | ann@hudsonriverlinerealty.com
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com



Mindy Jeseke
REALTOR | AGNES I. WAGER REALTY INC.
914-552-1136 | mindyjeseke65@gmail.com
www.wager-realty.com



Donna Francis
ASSOCIATE BROKER | K. FORTUNA REALTY, INC.
845-522-1298 | donnafrancis451@gmail.com
www.kfortunarealtyinc.com



Abbie Carey
ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER | HOULIHAN LAWRENCE
845-661-5438 | acarey@houlihanlawrence.com
www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com



Charlotte Brooks
OWNER & PRINCIPLE BROKER | HOUSE FINCH REALTY
917-951-2241 | Charlotte@HouseFinchRealty.com
www.housefinchrealty.com



Claudia Dizenzo
ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY
646-354-9842 | claudia@hudsonriverlinerealty.com
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com



Ana Silverlinck
LICENSED REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON | HUDSON RIVER LINE REALTY
917-279-1831 | ana@hudsonriverlinerealty.com
www.hudsonriverlinerealty.com



Bill Hussung
BROKER / OWNER | ROBERT A. MCCAFFREY REALTY
917.715.2610 | bhussung@mccaffreyrealty.com
mccaffreyrealty.com

Advertise your real estate business here. Contact Michele Gedney.
845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org | highlandscurrent.org/ads

Flipping *(from Page 1)*

for \$1.7 million. It will have “double-height” ceilings on the first floor and a “stunning patio and spacious yard with views,” according to the Zillow listing. Spring Valley runs along Fishkill Creek.

The same investors won Planning Board approval to subdivide 46 Judson St., built in 1930. They renovated that property, selling it for \$960,000 in January, and used the second lot to build 50 Judson St., which is for sale at \$1.35 million.

At Factioned, design director Jared Lairmore said he moved to Beacon, to a home three blocks from the Washington Avenue property, before the pandemic hit in March 2020. With most businesses closing, the firm decided to buy and renovate 112 Washington to keep its staff working.

“We made a commitment internally that we weren’t going to get rid of any of our staff, if at all possible,” said Lairmore.

He described the project as a “passion project and not a flip.” Factioned’s gut renovation included dropping the first floor by 2 feet to increase the ceiling height and adding a sunroom and outdoor balcony with a fire pit.

“It would be like if you bought a custom home — where you came to us as a client,” said Lairmore. “This has that level of detail and consideration.”

The median home purchase in November in Beacon was \$1.17 million, according to data compiled by the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors. The sales included 37 N. Elm. Built in 1900, the property sold for \$1.2 million after being purchased in February 2023 for \$340,000 and renovated. Buyers paid between \$900,000 and \$1 million for at least four other single-family homes this year.

With inventory lower by 19 percent during the 12 months ending Nov. 30, the median price for single-family homes in Dutchess County stood at \$465,000 — about 10 percent higher than the previous year, according to OneKey MLS, a listing service. Homes stayed on the market for an average of 57 days, compared to 73 days during the previous year.



Coldwell Banker



Photo by L. Sparks



The home at 144 Spring Valley St. before and during construction, along with a rendering of the finished project.
Photo by 144 Spring Valley LLC



A home constructed on a subdivided parcel at 50 Judson St. sold for \$1.35 million.
Photo by L. Sparks

Current Classifieds

FOR RENT

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

SERVICES

HEALING BODYWORK — Featured in NY Magazine as “one of the 15 best massage therapists offering CranialSacral Therapy,” with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish massage incorporating CranialSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupuncture,

Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years’ experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit JoyMatalon.com.

DON’T LOSE POWER — Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 631-498-7851 today to schedule a free quote. It’s not just a generator. It’s a power move.

VICTORY OVER STAIRS — Don’t let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today at 855-607-1518.

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

The Calendar

Connor Bond in *Dracula*

Photo by Heather Roland-Blanco

The Actor Next Door

CONNOR BOND

By Marc Ferris

Connor Bond thinks he's pretty funny, but he doesn't do standup. He will, however, teach and perform comedy improv. Sometimes he brings along a student to help with his silly sketch about falling in love at Target, which he performs at Broadway open mics in Beacon and Newburgh.

The Beacon resident is also a serious actor with Shakespearean experience who appeared in the Bannerman Castle Trust production of *Dracula* in September and on *FBI* on CBS, where he pulled off a short speaking role as a leering doctor with perhaps a touch of subtle tongue-in-cheek comedic flair.

But his heart is in improv, a make-it-up-on-the-fly approach to acting and comedy that stems from his days as a jazz saxophone player, a skill he allowed to lapse.

"Being an actor means you're unemployed almost all the time, so you hope you can find a flexible day job." —Connor Bond

"I should break out the horn more," he says, "but I feel like the improv community is stronger than the jazz scene and sometimes with standup it's the performer versus the audience."

After growing up in Oregon, he chose acting over sax, majoring in drama in college with a music minor and earning an MFA in acting from the University of California, Irvine.

After graduation, advanced students at the top acting schools across the country put on showcases for agents, managers and casting directors in Los Angeles and New York. Bond, now 36, got a better reac-

tion out East, so he moved.

During the pandemic, he came to Beacon with a significant other. "We figured, 'It's a charming place, let's just do it,'" he recalls. "It reminds me of Portland with the trees and the river."

Bond enjoys teaching improv and plans to offer classes, although he says he cannot divulge where just yet: "I have to keep it a mystery." He is also interested in "training people in corporate settings even if there might not be any interest in the theater because the arts make people come alive, feel better and listen to each other."

Hustling for acting work is taxing. Beyond relentless rejections — Bond estimates that he lands one role for every 100 auditions — "if you're not on a recurring series, being an actor means you're unemployed almost all the time, so you hope you can find a flexible day job."

Before the pandemic, auditions took place in person. Now actors tape themselves and send videos. "We're indie filmmakers," he says. "I've learned so much doing self-tapes in my basement."

After a serendipitous introduction in Beacon last summer to his new Brooklyn-based manager, Bond is continuing to achieve some local and national success, though he made a tough decision just before the opening night of *Dracula*.

While learning the play and working with his understudy, he faced a choice between filming a commercial or doing the *FBI* episode because the shoots took place on the same day. That same evening, the play opened, so he had a small window of time to return to Beacon and take the stage, yet he kept his understudy waiting in the wings.

"I picked the exposure from the TV show over the money; that's the long game here," he says. "It's been a wild ride, but I wouldn't know what else to do. Even in rejection, I feel alive."



Melissa Small Cooper

Photo by M. Ferris

The Artist Next Door

Melissa Small Cooper

By Marc Ferris

No one at the Garrison Art Center benefit in November took more painstaking care to design a conical hat at the invitation of the hosts than Melissa Small Cooper, who drew detailed hibiscus flowers.

She and her husband, Brett, are raising three young daughters (the eldest is 6). Cooper, 38, teaches art at Peekskill High School and says it can be challenging to find time to create. If she can block off eight hours or so to sit at her studio space near the kitchen of their home in Glenham, "I bury myself in the art and the time goes by like that," she says.

This month, two of her paintings are being shown at venues hosting receptions on the same day (Jan. 11). One will be in the Annual Member Show at the Garrison Art Center, the other at the Wallkill River Center for the Arts in Montgomery.

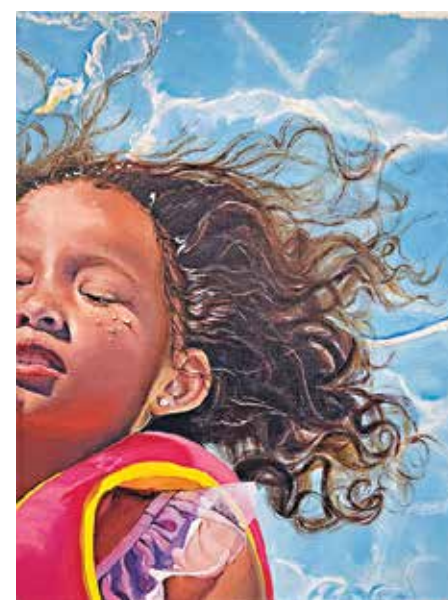
Cooper's work is ever-evolving. Her primary medium is oil on canvas, but she tries to knock her skills out of rhythm using pastel or gouache (akin to watercolor) or by completing one-day miniflowers on wood discs that lack the precision of her series featuring a hand grasping a flower, with shadows.

"I was getting too obsessed with the details, so I thought I'd try a new approach," she says. To expand her outlook, Cooper also took a pottery class at the art center, where she is a board member.

Some of her paintings delineate fine lines and lifelike detail: a shimmer of light glimmering off a fingernail, the folds of flesh in a knuckle or the sun reflecting off of blue pool water. Others, like depictions of her late dog or the Golden Gate Bridge, are more impressionistic.

A pristine portrait of her daughter in the Wallkill show is another stretch. "I heard about the show and figured it would be good to flex those muscles," she says. The image is drawn from one of hundreds — possibly thousands — of photos on her phone, which she calls "reference shots."

Another series of paintings features cosmetics containers. In contrast to her detailed flowers and hands, which many artists find difficult to render, some of the



"Mermaid Dreams"

shapes are geometrically asymmetrical and the shadows resemble smudges. Many of the pieces contain words and faint phrases.

Cooper enjoys gardening, but the recurring flowery focus emerged after her aunt's funeral. "Everyone got a random flower when they came in, and the image of people standing there hit me," she says. The hand models include friends and her sister.

As Cooper's success blossoms, she promotes her work whenever possible. In addition to a solo show at the Burgin Center for the Arts at Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, a few paintings hang at Foxtrot Fine Arts in Driggs, Idaho, a gallery operated by a former professor at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

A note in her sketchbook, filled with detailed ballpoint pen creations, reads: "I will draw in my sketchbook every evening after the kids go to sleep." So far, she's been disciplined: "Some days I get no sleep and focus on the task at hand, which is bliss for me. Other times, I have to work in spurts. But I'm never not working."

The Annual Member Show at the Garrison Art Center, 23 Garrison's Landing, opens Jan. 11 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and continues through Jan. 26. For more of Cooper's art, see melissasmall.com.

[

THE WEEK AHEAD

]

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 11
Visionaries:
Double Header Arts
BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
View works in all mediums curated by the Bannerman Castle Trust and the Towne Crier. Through Feb. 23.

SAT 11
Emma McDonald Diamond
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
In her solo photography show, *The Thief*, the artist explores the emotional state of becoming a mother. Through Feb. 1.

SAT 11
Ilse Schreiber-Noll
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
Schreiber-Noll's woodcuts are on view in the Beacon Room while *Fresh Start: The Promise of New Beginnings*, a group show by members, fills Galleries 1 and 2. Through Feb. 2.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 4
Thank You Cards
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Children ages 4 and older can show their appreciation for holiday gifts with handmade cards.

FRI 10
Free-Throw Contest
GARRISON
6 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glencllyffe
The Knights of Columbus will host their annual competition for children and teens ages 9 to 14. Participants will compete in divisions and winners advance. Proof of age required at check-in. Snow date: FRI 17. *Free*

SAT 11
Concert for Kids
BEACON
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Mr. Corbitt will perform an interactive show for children ages 8 and younger.



SAT 11
Rest and Restore
GARRISON
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
This is the first in a series of “de-stress” sessions for teens. Make aromatherapy eye pillows and learn methods to relax.

SAT 11
Inside Out 2
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Children are invited to watch the 2024 animated sequel about the emotions of a teenage girl. Registration recommended.

COMMUNITY

FRI 10
Blood Drive
BEACON
1 – 5 p.m. Memorial Building
413 Main St.
Sponsored by American Legion Post 203. Use Teller Avenue door.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 4
ACW Rumble
POUGHKEEPSIE
7:30 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza | 845-454-5800
midhudsonciviccenter.org
At this all-ages event, Awesome Championship Wrestling will present a 20-man, over-the-top-rope rumble to crown its inaugural champion. *Cost: \$40 to \$77*

THURS 9
The Janes
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic will host the screening of this 2022 documentary about a group in Chicago that helped women get abortions before they were legalized nationally by Roe v. Wade. Attendees can create safer-sex kits with barrier methods, guides and info. Registration requested.

FRI 10
Nerd Nite
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Táhirih Motazedian will discuss music pathology, Kevin Maher will cover art and artificial intelligence (AI) and Emily Menez will talk about rabbit holes. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

SAT 11
Pontoon
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Rick Ehrstin will perform his one-man show about customized pontoon boats, growing older and possibilities for wonder. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 11
The Artichoke
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | artichokeshow.com
Tamar Vezirian, Kate Greathead, Gastor Almonte, Carly Ciarrocchi, Ajay G and Gabe Mollica are the storytellers this month. *Cost: \$25*



TALKS & TOURS

SUN 5
A Stop at Chanticleer
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
The Philipstown Garden Club will host this presentation about the celebrated Pennsylvania estate.

TUES 7
I Feel I'll Write Today
BEACON
5:30 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org
Are you missing the library's weekly Come Write In sessions? You are not alone! Former members have organized this writers' meetup to share work and receive feedback. For more info, email brain@beanbrain.blog.

WED 8
Movement is Medicine
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Amy Soucy will lead movement and mindfulness exercises.

THURS 9
Aging in Place and Home Comfort Essentials
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Kimberly Sevilla of Shelter Air will discuss maintaining comfort with an HVAC system.

THURS 9
Collaborative Symmetry
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Donna Mikkelsen will lead a workshop on meditative drawing.

SERVICE DIRECTORY



GOT RUBBISH?
10-30 YARD DUMPSTER RENTAL
RUBBISH REMOVAL SERVICES
DEMOLITION SERVICES
37A Albany Post Rd. Ossining, NY 10562
MrCheapeeInc@aol.com
914-737-0823

www.MrCheapeeInc.com



DR. K
IMPORTED CAR SERVICE & REPAIR
15 TIORONDA AVE.
BEACON, NY 12508
DrKimportedCar.com
Phone/ 845.838.0717
Fax/ 845.440.7541
E-Mail/ drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com

Lynne Ward, LCSW
Licensed Psychotherapist
Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation
Addiction Counseling

75 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516

lynneward99@gmail.com
(917) 597-6905

SMALL WORKS
DECEMBER 6th- JANUARY 26th



121 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York
Saturday and Sunday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM

Lillian Rosengarten, LCSW
Highly Experienced, Compassionate

Individual, Couples.
Grief, Loss, Marital, Depression

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



ALLENS
DUMPSTER
SERVICE
LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY
(646)772-2673
allens-dumpster-service.business.site



Sharkey & The Sparks, Jan. 11

SUN 12
Power, Politics and the Presidency
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
David Goldberg, a constitutional lawyer who has represented 150 cases at the U.S. Supreme Court, will discuss with journalist Jane Spencer the court's role in shaping U.S. law and its implications for the future. See Page 2. *Free*

MUSIC

SAT 4
Rob Cannillo
BEACON
6 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Cannillo and his wife, Susan, will perform a mix of original songs and covers for diners and bar patrons. *Free*

SAT 4
Funky Dance Night
BEACON
7 – 10:30 p.m. Elks Club
900 Wolcott Ave.
facebook.com/BeaconDanceBeat
Dance to a vibrant mix of R&B, Latin, soul, funk, reggae, rock, disco and hip-hop played by DJ Rhoda. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 4
SoulShine
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band celebrates the music of the Allman Brothers. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

FRI 10
California Dreamin'
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will play the music popular in southern California in the

1960s and '70s. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 11
Sharkey & The Sparks
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Sharkey McEwen, his son Ben and other musicians will perform songs from the '60s and '70s. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 12
The Cann Duo
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
The Howland Chamber Music Circle kicks off its annual piano festival with sisters Kimberly and Michelle Cann playing a program that will include works by Mendelssohn, Leibowitz, Bach, Beethoven and Ravel. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

VISUAL ART

SAT 4
Photos of Myanmar
OSSINING
2 – 4 p.m. Ossining Library
53 Croton Ave.
In this exhibit, Ron Hershey of Cold Spring documents his travels in 2016 to the country formerly known as Burma during a brief period when it opened to Western visitors. RSVP to ronhershey57@gmail.com. Through Jan. 29.

SAT 11
Annual Member Show
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org
The exhibit will showcase work in all mediums by art center members. Through Jan. 26.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SUN 12
Beekeeping for Not-Yet Beekeepers
WAPPINGERS FALLS
2 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org
Learn everything about setting up a hive. *Cost: \$20*

CIVIC

MON 6
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

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

TUES 7
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

WED 8
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 8
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

WED 8
Reorganization Meeting
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com
Rescheduled from Jan. 2.

THURS 9
Town Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com
Rescheduled from Jan. 2.

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



**BROTHERS
TREE SERVICE
CORP.**
Licensed and insured

Serving Putnam, Dutchess and Westchester counties

Small company with competitive pricing. Try us!

914-906-2596 — FREE ESTIMATES
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Call us for all aspects of tree care, including:

- Emergencies
- Trimming and Pruning
- Takedowns and Removal
- Stump Grinding

- Cabling and Bracing
- Planting
- Plant Health Care
- Land Clearing

brotherstreeservicecorp.com

Certified Arborist
#NY-5763A #NY-325767

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



The Hudson Highlands Pipe Band

BURNS NIGHT

February 1st, 2025 | The Garrison Inn

Join the Hudson Highlands Pipe band in a celebration of Scottish music, poetry, good cheer and Haggis at The Garrison Inn in Cold Spring

Tickets are on sale at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
Or scan the QR code



All other inquiries can be made via HHPBinfo@gmail.com



Kiyoshi Tomizawa at Juanita's



Jasmine Wallis at Cozy Corner Cafe



Amelia Scarpino and Theo Sacks at Angie's

ON THE JOB

Leo Grocott, a member of *The Current's* Student Journalist Program, recently photographed some of his Haldane classmates at their places of part-time employment.



Nicole Perez at Foodtown



Daniel O'Sullivan at Foundry Rose

A 20th-Century Marvel

Catskill Aqueduct will provide villages' water

By Michael Turton

With \$2.5 million coming to Cold Spring from New York State to help fund repairs to the Upper Dam at the village reservoirs, the Catskill Aqueduct is about to become critically important because it will be the source of drinking water during the project.

The aqueduct, completed nearly a century ago, passes under the Hudson River and near the corner of Route 301 and Fishkill Road on its way from the Catskills to New York City. When the dam repairs begin, Cold Spring will tap into one of the most remarkable engineering feats of the 20th century, a project compared to the building of the Panama Canal.

In 1900, with its population approaching 3.5 million, New York City needed more water than could be provided by the Croton Reservoir, built in 1842. In 1906, the state Water Supply Commission approved construction of the Ashokan Reservoir south of Woodstock and an aqueduct to move its water 92 miles south.

New York City acquired the 15,222 acres to create the reservoir through eminent domain. Landowners were compensated, and some did well. The Ulster and Delaware Railroad received \$2.8 million [about \$98 million today] to relocate 13 miles of track; one sawmill owner received \$28,000 [\$982,000].

But to create the reservoir, the valley floor had to be stripped bare. Four small communities — Olive City, Brown's Station, Broadhead's Bridge and Ashton — were razed. Houses, barns, stores, churches, schools and train stations in four others — West Hurley, Shokan, West Shokan and Boiceville — were destroyed or moved. The remains of 2,720 people in 40 small cemeteries were exhumed and relocated.

The resentment among locals ran deep. Harlan McLean, who grew up in Olive City, was hired to work on the reservoir. Among his assignments: burn down his family home.

Near what had been Brown's Station, the state created a temporary town to house up

to 4,000 reservoir workers. It was larger and more modern than the villages it displaced, with electric lights, running water, sewage disposal, a hospital, three churches, a fire station, bank, shops, a post office, shoe-makers, barbers and a theater. Its bakery produced up to 5,000 loaves of bread per day. Other temporary camps were established around the site and along the aqueduct path.

Many stonecutters were Italian immigrants housed separately with stoves attached to their barracks. American workers got no stoves; the contractor didn't believe they could cook. Black workers, many from the South, handled the mules used in construction and lived in segregated camps.

Unskilled workers earned up to \$1.60 [\$56] a day, stonemasons up to \$3.10 [\$109]. Powdermen, who worked with explosives, made \$10.16 [\$356] per week. Claude Barringer, age 9, hauled drinking water to workers, earning \$6 [\$210] per 60-hour week. Some workers were paid in "scrip," good only at the pricey camp store. They paid their employer for room and board.

The work was dangerous. Men fell from scaffolds, were scalded by steam and run over by machines, mules and wagons. One worker, married over the weekend, was killed on Monday in a rock crusher.

Camps were generally peaceful, but the more than 350 officers of the Board of Water Supply Police made arrests for everything from drunkenness, assault and burglary to armed robbery and murder.

The Ashokan Reservoir, 12 miles long, was completed in 1914. It holds 123 billion gallons of water and has a maximum depth of 190 feet. The Schoharie Reservoir, completed in 1926, was linked to the Ashokan by an 18-mile pipe, adding another 17.6 billion gallons.

The aqueduct

Construction of the Catskill Aqueduct began in 1907 and, within four years, involved 17,000 workers. By 1916, using only gravity, it was transporting water from Ashokan to Yonkers along a route crossing 14 valleys and incorporating tunnels, pipes and conduits as much as 18 feet wide. Over one 55-mile stretch, the downhill grade is an inch per mile.



A map of the aqueduct from the Ashokan Reservoir to Staten Island

NARA

The most daunting engineering challenge was deciding how the aqueduct could cross the Hudson River. Engineers focused on an area north of Beacon, but it would require a 9-mile tunnel from Marlboro to Fishkill. Instead, they chose a route from Storm King to Breakneck. Rather than a bridge or river-bed pipes, they went with the most durable choice: a tunnel drilled through bedrock about 1,100 feet below the surface.

Working from scows, two crews drilled from each side. At their most efficient, they advanced 6 feet per day. In January 1912, when the crews met in the middle under the river, each 1,500-foot section was within an inch of alignment.

The Bureau of Water Supply built an 1,100-foot shaft at Breakneck topped by a granite building of "masterful, simple, dignified architecture" to keep the structure "in harmony with the color and texture of the rugged mountainside." Today, the building is riddled with graffiti.

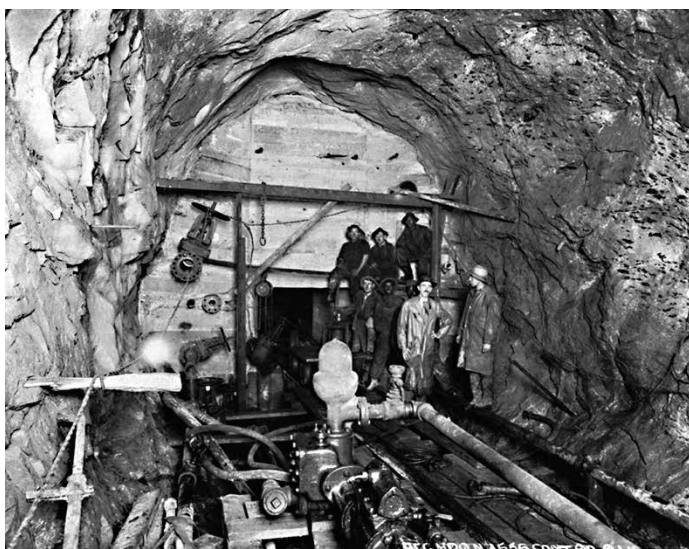
Work on the aqueduct was as hazardous as at the reservoir. While digging the Breakneck shaft, a sheet of steel fell, cutting the oxygen lines and trapping eight men. By the time they were rescued, water was up to their waists. Malaria also was a serious problem — more than 600 cases were reported in the worker camps.

Although water flowed through the aqueduct beginning in 1915, construction continued until 1927. The project cost \$177 million, or \$3.2 billion today.

The system has leaked and been upgraded and repaired but never failed. It provides New York City with 1.3 billion gallons of water daily; Cold Spring will need about 300,000 gallons daily during dam repairs.



Aqueduct workers in their camp quarters, 1910 New York Public Library



Hudson River Crossing

Library of Congress

Photographer's Notebook

A Return to Vietnam

By Ross Corsair

There are a few places on Earth where a photograph fails to convey the scale and magnificence of the location. One is the Grand Canyon. Another is Ha Long Bay in Vietnam — a magical, otherworldly archipelago for many miles, with aquamarine waters contrasted against 2,000 towering limestone islands.

I was born in Vietnam and spent nearly all my childhood outside the U.S., including

in Southeast Asia. In November I visited the region to scope out a possible documentary.

Most everything in Vietnam is inexpensive: meals, lodgings, getting around. An abundant and delicious dinner can be \$2 to \$4. A bottle of cold beer or a cup of rich Vietnamese coffee is about \$1.25. That may not be as surprising if you know that the average Vietnamese earns about \$3,600 a year.

I opted to visit a less-traveled part of Ha Long Bay known as Bai Tu Bay, ferried on a

boat that mirrored a Chinese junk from few centuries ago. The handful of passengers hailed from Germany, France, New Zealand, Switzerland, Lake Tahoe and Missouri. It intrigued me to learn that the six people who were from Germany (Bavaria, Berlin and the German part of Switzerland) each spoke such different dialects that they could barely communicate with one another, even though Germany is about the size of New Mexico.

The quiet and stillness of the bay was quite

a contrast to the whirlwind of Hanoi, with its millions of coruscating motor scooters, often with a family of four perched atop one of them, in a universe with its own traffic laws. There are few crosswalks or traffic lights, and scarcely room on sidewalks. You forge ahead as if plunging into a school of fish.

I was blessed to visit the Ninh Binh area, a Ha Long Bay on land, where you can coast in a small boat through rural scenery, including caves. Each boat can hold four passen-





gers and, by chance, I was paired with two young women from Hanoi attired in colorful, traditional attire. They must have taken a thousand phone selfies each during the 2½ hour ride. I offered to take a couple of photos of them together with their phones, in their traditional attire, in that fairytale landscape.

Another stop was the ancient town of Hoi An, a well-preserved trading port dating to the 15th century that is lit with silk lanterns at night. Each evening, boats of all shapes

and sizes cruise the river through town, bedecked with lanterns and holiday lights. It's quite a sight when the moon is full.

I learned only late in her life that my mother had a true love in Vietnam (not my father) but ended the affair to stay in her marriage and with her children. This was during the Vietnam War, and the man was an American journalist for *The New York Times* and *Time*, among other publications. He died in a plane crash there in 1965, at

age 31. When my mother died a few years ago, I took some of her ashes to his grave in upstate New York. My mother held him in her memory for another 57 years. I also brought some of her ashes on this journey to Vietnam to lay at the scene, as it were, of some of the happier moments of her life.

Ross Corsair, who lives in Garrison, was named the 2023 Photographer of the Year by the New York Press Association.



Ross Corsair





Gilman Burke
(1932-2024)

On Christmas night, Gilman Sessions Burke passed away peacefully, with the same gentleness and gentility with which he lived his life. In the days and hours before, he had connected with his extensive family and friends. Those who loved him most had a chance to tell him their fond memories, to share stories and songs, and to embrace him one last time. He had filled nearly 93 years with love and kindness and his timing was, as usual, impeccable. Gil's long life had many chapters. He was born the son of Jim and Margaret Burke on March 14, 1932, in Summit, New Jersey. He grew up surrounded by a wonderful circle of close cousins and friends and with his beloved younger sister, Kate. He often spoke of his adventurous boyhood memories, roaming the green summer hills and watching the trains pass through the small town of Oxford, New York. He graduated from the Pingry School and then Hamilton College before serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. After he was discharged, Gil married his first wife, Sarah "Sal" (Cooke) and attended Harvard Law School. The young family returned to New York, where he joined Burke & Burke, the law firm founded by his grandfather. As a lawyer, he was known for his calmness and courtesy and for a willingness to support the career of women lawyers, at a point when corporate law was still a boys' club. In 1974, Gil became a member of the Century Association, which Mark Twain once called "the most unspeakably respectable club in New York."

A proud and passionate resident of the Upper West Side, Gil was one of the founding parents of the West Side Montessori School. He and Sal and other families became a closely-knit group of friends known as the "West Side Mafia." As a dad, Gil is remembered for ice hockey on frozen lakes, biking around Central Park, fishing, sailing and canoeing, and bedtime stories.

When Gil arrived in Garrison in the 1970s, he enlarged his circle of friends and began a commitment to the environment and the preservation of the Hudson Valley that continued for the rest of his life. He was an early supporter of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a founder of Constitution

Marsh Sanctuary, Riverkeeper, Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Open Space Institute, with his dear friend, John Adams. He also served as a trustee of Hamilton College and Boscobel House and Gardens.

After the death of his first wife, Sal, in 2006, Gil began spending more of his time in Garrison. It was then that he began a life with Sarah Bayne. The two were married and Gil became a part of her vivacious family. He was effortlessly and lovingly involved in every inch of their lives, becoming a north star of care and compassion for nearly 20 years.

In Garrison, Gil was a fixture and a pillar of that small and active community. He enjoyed restoring several properties in the area, particularly the transformation of a red barn that was his most treasured project. Most afternoons, he could be found on the links, playing tennis, racing around in his precious golf cart or mowing the fields with his prized tractor. In later years, though he was known to complain that his children had moved to the far reaches of the country — Alaska, California and Florida — Gil was a welcome visitor and beloved grandfather. His commitment and devotion to everyone in his life was unquestioned and unparalleled. To know Gil, was to have Gil care for you, a blessing that many cherished.

He is most immediately survived by his wife, Sarah, and by his children, Molly and Dana Burke. Gil is preceded in death by his youngest son, Nathaniel.

He is also survived by Sarah's sons, Nick and Peter Bayne, Nick's wife, Sunshine Bayne, and his beloved grandchildren (in order of age): Rosa, James, Bruno, Marina and Raymond. He also leaves behind his dear sister, Kate, and her children, Jay, Burke and Eliza, and countless friends and extended family too numerous to mention. He was a great father-in-law to Michael Valan and Marisol Zequiera.

The family thanks Hudson Valley Hospital for their care and attention in his final years and his last days with us.

A service in celebration of his life will take place on Saturday, the 15th of February, at St. Philip's Church in Garrison at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Open Space Institute (1370 Broadway, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10018, or openspaceinstitute.org).

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home, Cold Spring

OBITUARIES

Ann Gizzarelli (1921-2024)

Ann Gizzarelli, 103, a longtime resident of Beacon, died Dec. 29. She was born Feb. 22, 1921, in New York City, the daughter of Antonio and Josephine (Grecco) Parisi. Her husband of 74 years, Louis Gizzarelli, died in 2015.

Ann was primarily a homemaker. She was always willing to help her family wherever she was needed. She was an amazing cook and loved to have her family gathered around her.



Ann is survived by her children, Robert Gizzarelli (Linda) of New Paltz and Lynn White (Alan) of Middletown; her grandchildren, Brian, Amanda, Lisa and Paul; and her great-grandchildren, Kyle, Zachary, Nate, Madison, Emma, Hunter, Hailey and Logan.

In addition to her husband, Ann's grandson, Michael Degli-Angeli, and her siblings, Thomas, Joseph, Ernest, Rudolph and Dominick Parisi, Antoinette Favata and Phyllis Graham, died earlier.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday (Jan. 3) at 10 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist, 35 Willow St., in Beacon, followed by interment at St. Joachim Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation (hvhospice.org).

Arthur Kovacs (1952-2024)

Arthur Kovacs, 72, a former resident of the Hedgewood Home in Beacon, died Dec. 26 at the Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing.

He was born Dec. 16, 1952. His parents and a sister, Ruth Kovacs, died earlier.

Friends gathered with members of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance on Monday (Dec. 30) for committal prayers in the Beacon Hebrew Alliance Cemetery on Osborne Hill Road in Fishkill.

Recent Deaths

- Philipstown*
- Gilman Burke, 93
Mario Gregorio, 73
Christopher Johanson, 56
- Beacon*
- Marcia Aronowitz, 85
Paul Banick, 84
Margaret Barker
Michele Cahill, 57
Br. Mario Di Lella, 97
Richard Handibode, 58
Joe Heady, 63
Raymond Johnson, 86
Suzanne McElduff, 88
George McKie, 103
James Norris, 67
Marlene Pavlovic, 83
Charalambos Peratikos, 82
Marilyn Werner, 80

For obituaries,
[see highlandscurrent.org/obits](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).



Christopher Johanson
(1968-2024)

It is with heavy hearts we announce that Christopher W. Johanson, beloved husband to Christine, passed away suddenly on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, in his home in Nelsonville, New York.

Chris was a devoted husband and an adoring father to his son Riley (22) and daughters Amanda (19) and Elaina (15). He was born in 1968 in Valhalla, New York, and is survived by parents, Arvid and Paula Johanson and siblings Sonja and Arvid. A graduate of Stepinac High School, Chris began his life of service as an Eagle Scout and a volunteer firefighter with Valhalla Fire Department.

He worked as a heavy equipment operator for Mount Pleasant Highway Department before achieving his long-held dream of becoming a professional firefighter. He joined the Lake Mohegan Fire Department in August 2000, shortly after his wedding. An EMT and first responder, Chris thoroughly enjoyed helping people through his work and the camaraderie that came with it.

He was a true jack-of-all-trades, with exceptional skills in carpentry and mechanics. Outside of his professional life, Chris was an avid boater of the Hudson River and Lake George. He enjoyed many adventures in his RV and created cherished memories with his family down at the Jersey Shore.

Chris leaves behind a legacy of love and service. His dedication to his family was evident in everything he did. He was a man who found happiness in life's simple pleasures, his family being his greatest treasure of all.

A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary-in-the-Highlands, 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring. Interment will be private.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home, Cold Spring.

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Wash thoroughly

6. Black Sea port

12. Saudi neighbor

13. Reacts to a pun

14. Baseball’s Roberto

15. Attack verbally

16. — -pedi

17. Barrel bottom bit

19. — tree

20. Use a stun gun

22. California’s Big —

24. Director Brooks

27. Campbell of *Scream*

29. Eve’s guy

32. Citrusy flavoring used in baking

35. Pedestal part

36. Actress de Matteo

37. Pro vote

38. Decade parts (Abbr.)

40. “No seats” signs

42. Food additive

44. Help a crook

46. Like custard

50. Venetian marketplace

52. Security desk request

54. “Nothing for me, thanks”

55. Protruding navels

56. Breeds, as salmon

57. Spiteful
- DOWN
1. Ward of *Once and Again*

2. “Let’s go!”

3. Pay

4. Italian article

5. Tweety’s meal

6. Monster

7. Pulls

8. Very long time

9. The “S” of SNL

10. Crisp cookie

11. Hammett pooch

12. Candied veggie

18. Undo

21. Director Lee

23. Former Mideast gp.

24. ’60s chic

25. Mound stat

26. “Bad Romance” singer

28. Physical effort

30. Super serve

31. NYC subway overseer

33. Fish-fowl link

34. Eastern “way”

39. Squelched

41. Factions

42. Hosp. scans

43. Ninny

45. Physiques

47. Pace

48. Neutral color

49. QB’s gains

51. Blue

53. “Levitating” singer Lipa

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

TRACK

BLAND

WORDSEARCH

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

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

Answers for Dec. 27 Puzzles

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

BLAME, BLADE, GLADE,
GRADE, TRADE, TRACE

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

NOTICE

Philipstown Conservation Board

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Philipstown Conservation Board January 2025.



BULLDOGS BOWLING — The Beacon boys fell to visiting Highland, 3-2, on Dec. 19 at Fishkill Bowl to fall to 1-4, while the girls defeated Highland, 5-0, for their first win of the season. The teams travel to Kingston and Marlboro next week. Shown are Ethan Maxaner (top), Henry Cerchiara and Desmond McGrath.

Photos by Cadence Heeter

Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BOYS' BASKETBALL — Beacon competed in the Lourdes Holiday Basketball Tournament over the holiday break, winning one game and losing twice. They fell in the opener on Dec. 27 to John Jay East Fishkill, 79-56. Marci Rodriguez led the Bulldogs with 13 points and Jacier Ballard added 12. The next day, Beacon edged Marlboro, 52-48, behind 20 points from Michai Thompson and 12 from Ryan Landisi. On Sunday (Dec. 29), the Bulldogs finished with a 57-50 loss to Ketcham. Thompson scored 18 and Rodriguez had 15. Beacon (6-4) travels to John Jay East Fishkill on Monday (Jan. 6) and Liberty on Thursday.

WINTER TRACK — Beacon competed in the Section IX Holiday Classic on Dec. 27 at The Armory in New York City. For the boys, Tye Elias was 23rd of 80 competitors in the 55 meters in 7.87; Zachary Schetter was eighth in the long jump at 17-11.5 and third in the triple jump at 38-03; and Jayden Mihalchik was sixth in the weight throw in 39-09.5. In the 4x400 relay, the Bulldogs placed eighth in 3:54.09 and seventh in the medley relay at 11:48.48. For the girls, Mikaela Sanchez was fourth in the 600 meters in 1:47.99; Bethany Rudolph placed eighth in weight throw at 27-10; and Khloe Franklin was 13th in the 55-meter hurdles in 10.31. Beacon travels to the Suffern Invitational on Jan. 10.

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' BASKETBALL — On Monday (Dec. 30), Haldane played its first game in 12 days, traveling to Port Chester to defeat the Rams 59-54, and improve to 3-1. Nate Stickle led the team with 16 points, followed by Ryder Griffin and Luke Bozsik, who each added 13. The Blue Devils play their first home game of the season on Tuesday (Jan. 7), hosting Briarcliff at 6:15 p.m. On Thursday, the team travels to Pearl River.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL — The Blue Devils (2-3) will play their first game in 18 days on



Jayden Bostick looks for a teammate in the lane against Marlboro.



Jahcier Ballard looks for an opening against Port Jervis on Dec. 19. He scored 12 points in the Bulldogs' win.

Monday (Jan. 6) when they travel to Beacon for a 5:45 p.m. tipoff in the Battle of the Tunnel.



Marci Rodriguez fires a jumper against John Jay East Fishkill.



Michai Thompson scores on a fast break.
Photos by Cadence Heeter

SPORTS BRIEFS

FREE-THROW CONTEST — The Loretto Council No. 536 is hosting local competition for the annual Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship on Friday (Jan. 10) at the Philipstown Recreation Center, 107 Glenclyffe, in Garrison. Registration will begin at 6 p.m. All children and teens ages 9 to 14 are invited to compete in divi-

sions based on their age on Jan. 1, 2025. Proof of age, such as a birth certificate, and written parental consent is required. For questions, call Dan Dillon at 845-519-7769. The snow date is Jan. 17.

SOCCER TEAM MOVES — The Hudson Valley Crusaders, a women's semipro soccer

team, will join a new league and relocate in the spring from SUNY New Paltz to Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh. The team was founded in 2021 and recently joined the United Soccer League's W League. Its second team plays in the Women's Premier Soccer League. See hudsonvalleycrusaders.com.