

The HIGHLANDS  
Current



Archipelago to Close  
Page 9

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Garrison School  
Considers  
Police Officer

*Board creates task force to  
evaluate safety needs*

By Joey Asher

Does the Garrison School need armed police protection?

That's the question to be considered by a task force created by the school board at its Jan. 8 meeting.

"We're concerned about safety, as all schools across the country are, particularly when it comes to gun violence or violence on school grounds," said Greg Stowell, the superintendent of the district, which has about 200 students from pre-K through eighth grade.

The task force, consisting of parents, teachers, board members and residents, will consider whether to include funding in next year's budget for a school resource officer (SRO) or a special patrol officer (SPO).

In Putnam County, SROs are sheriff's deputies with training to work in schools and teach classes on topics such as personal safety, cyberbullying and drug awareness. SPOs are retired officers who typically focus only on safety. Both are armed.

The annual cost would be about \$100,000 for an SRO or \$70,000 for an SPO, Stowell said.

Haldane has an SRO. The Beacon district has considered SROs but in 2018 hired a retired city police officer as its first director of security. He oversees unarmed security monitors, with one assigned to each

*(Continued on Page 7)*



**EARLY FLOW** — Because of global warming, maple syrup season seems to come earlier each year. Jarren Vink of Vink Farm in Philipstown, shown with his daughters, Willa and Birdie, started tapping trees to make syrup on Jan. 10, the earliest harvest since his first in 2017. (Typically, maples are tapped in February.) Forty gallons of sap produces a gallon of syrup. Photo by Joey Asher

Group Seeks  
Funds for  
Fishkill Creek

*Alliance backs designation  
as 'inland waterway'*

By Leonard Sparks

Sergei Krasikov's laps across Fishkill Creek come with caveats.

After a rainstorm, wait several days for the runoff carrying potential pollutants to clear before swimming. Protect your nose and eyes, and shower afterward.

Back on land, Krasikov is co-chair of the Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance and part of a movement to protect the creek not only for flora and fauna but as a place of respite and recreation. The creek extends for 33.5 miles between Union Vale in northeast Dutchess County and the Hudson River. Featuring gorges and waterfalls, it is the main branch of a 193-mile watershed that spans 14 municipalities in Dutchess and Putnam counties.

Born in July 2023 from a collaboration between conservation advisory commit-

*(Continued on Page 8)*

Putnam Approves  
New Rules

*Montgomery again excluded  
from committees*

By Leonard Sparks

The Putnam County Legislature approved procedures for subpoenaing witnesses and rules requiring that speakers addressing lawmakers swear an oath and nominees to lead departments disclose donations to the sitting county executive.

With Amy Sayegh (Mahopac) taking over as the new chair, the Legislature voted 5-4 during its reorganization meeting on Jan. 7 to adopt changes to its rules proposed by Dan Birmingham, a former legislator re-elected last year to the District 7 seat formerly held by Joseph Castellano, who could not run again because of term limits.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of the Putnam Valley as the Legislature's sole Democrat, joined with three Republicans — Erin Crowley (Carmel), William Gouldman (Putnam

*(Continued on Page 7)*

Beacon May Boost Exemptions for Seniors, Disabled

*Income levels last updated  
20+ years ago*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council is expected to schedule public hearings for Feb. 3 on laws that would expand property tax exemptions for both senior citizens and disabled residents with limited incomes.

To determine exemptions, the city uses sliding income scales that haven't been updated in more than 20 years. If approved, new income brackets and exemption levels would apply

to residential tax bills beginning in 2026.

The city exempts 50 percent of a home's assessed value from taxation for property owners 65 or older when their annual household income is less than \$20,500. The senior income scale, which has been in place since 2001, incrementally increases to encompass households earning between \$25,301 and \$26,200. Those homeowners are eligible for a 20 percent exemption.

The new schedule would give the 50 percent exemption to senior households earning \$41,600 or less and would bring Beacon's income brackets and exemptions in line with

those used by Dutchess County. The schedule would also gradually increase income-eligibility limits, with the final bracket — households making between \$49,100 and \$49,999 — allowed a 5 percent exemption.

The income schedule for disabled residents has not been updated since 1999. It gives the 50 percent exemption to households earning \$18,500 or less annually. If the changes are approved, the 50 percent bracket would increase to \$41,600 or less, with a 5 percent exemption ceiling for households earning between \$49,100 and

*(Continued on Page 9)*



# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: PATRICK HALVEY

By Jeff Simms

Patrick Halvey is the director of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey in Beacon, which last month purchased and closed the Libby Funeral Home.

## How has your business changed over the years?

When my grandfather started the business in 1933, many funerals were held in people's homes. Everyone had a "funeral parlor" because you were laid out in the home. For that reason, my grandfather didn't have a funeral home; he rented an office in a house. Services transitioned out of people's homes, and in the 1940s, he bought a building. In the 1950s, he bought 24 Willow St., and we were there until 2017. Now it's evolved from funeral home or church services to often having no religious affiliation. Church services are a bit on the decline. We see more non-denominational, personalized services at the funeral home. It reached the point where Willow Street wasn't big enough, so we moved here to Beekman Street, a bigger location with parking.

## What do people need from you when they're planning a funeral?

Compassion, a shoulder to lean on, to guide them through a very tough time.

That was instilled in me by my grandfather, father and brother, who is a funeral director in Wappingers Falls. We have a lot of experience navigating loss and dealing with various entities. People ask us about banking, insurance, lawyers — things many people have no idea about. I tell families, "There's nothing I can say that's going to make this any easier, but we're going to walk you through the process and make it as comfortable as we can." But there are no magic words to make this perfect.

## Did you know from a young age this is what you wanted to do?

I was always attracted to it, although I thought about other things. I liked history, so I thought of becoming a teacher. But working with my father and my brother, helping out with the family business — it intrigued me to see how they were able to help people. That's a big draw, that we're able to help people at a difficult time. There's personal satisfaction in that.

## How do you recharge after work?

In a small town like this, you're on call all the time. But my wife and I have three young kids, and spending time with them is rewarding and reenergizing, to say the least. They're excited when I walk through the door. I was taught by my father that you have to leave work at work. Otherwise, it's going to bother you. You have to leave things at work and focus on the immediate.

## What happens when a family can't afford a funeral?

My grandfather and father taught us that it doesn't matter what families do or don't have; everyone should be treated the same. Everyone deserves a respectful funeral. Everyone deserves the opportunity to say goodbye to someone they love. There are programs through Dutchess County that we help families with, to see if they qualify for assistance. But we never turn anyone away. Even if the county says no, a lot of times we'll do it for what the county would have paid, which is a lot less than the actual cost.



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Bannerman Castle Trust + Towne Crier Café  
Exhibit & Art Sale - Thru Feb 23 most weekends

Jan 24 -Howland's Open Mic Night

Jan 25 - Classics 4 Kids - Silent Films and Live Music

Feb 1 - SAINT RITA

Feb 7 - LIT LIT

Feb 8 - THE ARTICHOKE PRESENTS: Gabe Mollica

Feb 15 - HCC'S 2025 FRIENDS FUNDRAISER  
Rodney & Juliet's Wedding - A Murder Mystery!  
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# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## Do you have a favorite island?

Maui. It's a good size, isn't imposing and has a sense of community.



Colin Miller, Beacon

Aruba. I had my honeymoon there, and there are no hurricanes!



Nicole Eimicke, Cold Spring

St. Martin. It's so small you can't get lost driving around.



Bob LeBlanc, Cold Spring



NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Reminds Residents of Meter Upgrades

Schedule appointment or risk \$250 fine

Beacon residents will soon receive a second notice reminding them to have a radio transmitter replaced on their water meter. The project to improve the meters, which began last year, is 65 percent complete and expected to be finished by August, City Administrator Chris White said. Once upgraded, the meters will use a cloud-based connection to provide real-time water usage readings. Residents must schedule the upgrade within 30 days of receiving the notice or have a \$250 surcharge added to their water bill, White said. Appointments can be made at [vepometering.com](http://vepometering.com) or by calling 877-860-8376. There is no cost.

Ryan Kicks Off Valentines for Veterans

Congressman collecting cards at Newburgh office

Rep. Pat Ryan, whose district includes Beacon, has launched his third annual Valentines for Vets initiative, inviting residents to drop off cards at his Newburgh office to deliver to veterans and their caregivers. In 2023, Ryan delivered over 9,000 valentines to the Castle Point VA and Vassar Brothers hospitals, Hudson River Housing and veterans service organizations. Participants are asked to mail valentines to Ryan's office at 605 Broadway, Newburgh, NY 12550, by Feb. 7, or deliver them by Feb. 11. If contributing multiple cards, include a sheet of paper with a count.

What's Online at HighlandsCurrent.org

These resources can be accessed through the pulldown menu on the top of each page, under "Reader Guide."

Local Officials

This is a list of elected and appointed officials at the local, state and federal level and how to contact them with your praise or protests.

Local Government Video Guide

OK, it's not Netflix, but here's a list of sites where you can watch videos of local and county public meetings.

How They Voted (Congress)

Summaries of consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted. Updated weekly when Congress is in session.

Storm Updates and Resources

Storm-watcher resources and contacts for when the power goes out.

Community Directory

This is a continually updated guide to local businesses and cultural sites, with addresses, phone numbers and web links.

Community Calendar

This is the full Monty — we only have room for the highlights in print.

Real-Estate Listings

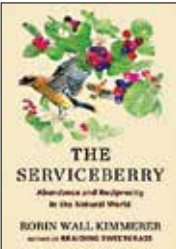
Browse or search home listings from Cold Spring, Garrison, Philipstown, Putnam Valley and nearby in our partnership with Kotohomes.

Back Issues

This is an archive of our past issues, in PDF format, from June 2012 to date, except for the latest issue, which is emailed to *Current* members on Friday morning.

Podcast Archives

Here are links to all the episodes of our podcast, for easy listening. The three most popular downloads so far have been interviews with a barefoot Ironman competitor; Dinky Romilly of Philipstown, who discussed her civil rights work and her famous mother; and the author of a book about stone walls.



Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for November and December at Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.



ADULT

- 1 *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- 2 *Fat Talk: Parenting in the Age of Diet Culture* by Virginia Sole-Smith
- 3 *James* by Percival Everett
- 4 *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* by Amy Tan
- 5 *Murder Your Employer: The McMasters Guide to Homicide* by Rupert Holmes
- 6 *Intermezzo* by Sally Rooney
- 7 *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey
- 8 *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin
- 9 *All Fours* by Miranda July
- 9 *North Woods* by Daniel Mason

CHILDREN

- 1 *Dog Man: Big Jim Begins (Dog Man 13)* by Dav Pilkey
- 2 *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas
- 3 *Hot Mess (Diary of a Wimpy Kid 19)* by Jeff Kinney
- 4 *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown
- 5 *Charlie Brown's Christmas Stocking* by Charles M. Schulz
- 6 *Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder (Dog Man 12)* by Dav Pilkey
- 6 *Songs of the Birds* by Isabel Otter
- 7 *Impossible Creatures* by Katherine Rundell
- 7 *The Wild Robot Escapes* by Peter Brown



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Prices at the Pump

	United States	New York	Local
Current	310 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	314 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	311 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Month ago	302 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	313 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	311 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Year ago	307 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	327 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	325 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>

Source: [gasprices.aaa.com](http://gasprices.aaa.com), as of Jan. 16. Prices are average per gallon for regular.



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\* 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](mailto: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](https://highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards).

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Putnam farming

I was disappointed to read that Jocelyn Apicello was removed from the Putnam County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board by Legislator Paul Jonke (Jan. 10). This will be a keenly felt loss for Putnam farmers. Having known Jocelyn for many years, I have seen her dedication to preserving and supporting agriculture in Putnam. Putnam County was founded by farmers and, without support from our leaders, we are bound to continue to lose that heritage. Jocelyn knows how important farms are and is resolute in her commitment to preserving what little agricultural activity we have left.

Jonke seems unable to grasp the importance of farmers and the vital role they play in supporting not only our food systems but also our environment. He also seems to have a problem with strong, smart, assertive women, as evidenced by his chronic insults directed at our legislator, Nancy Montgomery. The fact that he could not sit down and discuss his issue with Jocelyn says a lot about how he conducts himself.

Putnam County has lost a dedicated, smart and forceful voice for farmers. Nice work, Mr. Jonke.

Richard Shea, *Cold Spring*

This situation is similar to Legislator

Jonke's retaliatory legislation in which he tried to remove the county attorney for filing an ethics complaint against a legislator whose son-in-law wanted to buy county property. He doesn't like it when someone advocates for the taxpayer, or the farmer, in this case, so he removes them.

Jocelyn Apicello is an invaluable resource for farmers, landowners and municipalities regarding any agricultural concerns. Her removal is another example of how out of touch Jonke and most legislators are with the people of Putnam. We like our small farms and need leaders like Apicello to help us advocate for them.

Nancy Montgomery, *Philipstown*  
*Montgomery represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the Legislature.*

Apicello is an extremely informed and impactful member of our community. It is sad that her expertise and experience as a farmer and innovator of community-driven agricultural initiatives will not be part of the Ag Board. Thanks, Jocelyn, for all you do.

James Hoch, *Garrison*

Why wouldn't the Legislature want a "one-page information sheet on the Agricultural District that could be distributed to the public"? This sounds like small-town poli-

tics, where people in power are more interested in business as usual than in progressive thinking, accessibility and transparency, and in silencing the voices of people who aren't afraid to advocate positive change.

On the bright side, I suspect Jocelyn won't let her absence from the Ag Board stop her from continuing to do the good work she has done for decades.

Lauren Alexandra, *via Instagram*

Thankfully, Jonke will not be seeking re-election in November. Good riddance! Our best wishes to Jocelyn Apicello; you are appreciated.

Jasper Mars Franceschi, *Southeast*

God forbid the Legislature would permit someone who has farming experience to continue on the Ag Board.

Camilla von Bergen, *via Instagram*

Thank you for this coverage. I just want to clarify a statement for which I was quoted. While one member of the Ag Board voted against including any of the parcels in the Agricultural District, I do not think any other "non-farmer" members of the Ag Board are "anti-farming." In fact, the "non-farmers" (but the one) voted in favor of inclusion on the farms they trusted were viable agricultural operations, and all the farmers on the Ag Board voted not to include at least one of the parcels.

This balance on the Ag Board is invaluable to its functioning and allows for the Agricultural District inclusion process to be democratic and transparent. It is the majority of the Legislature that has taken the anti-farming stance, voting in August against the Ag Board's recommendations.

Jocelyn Apicello, *Philipstown*

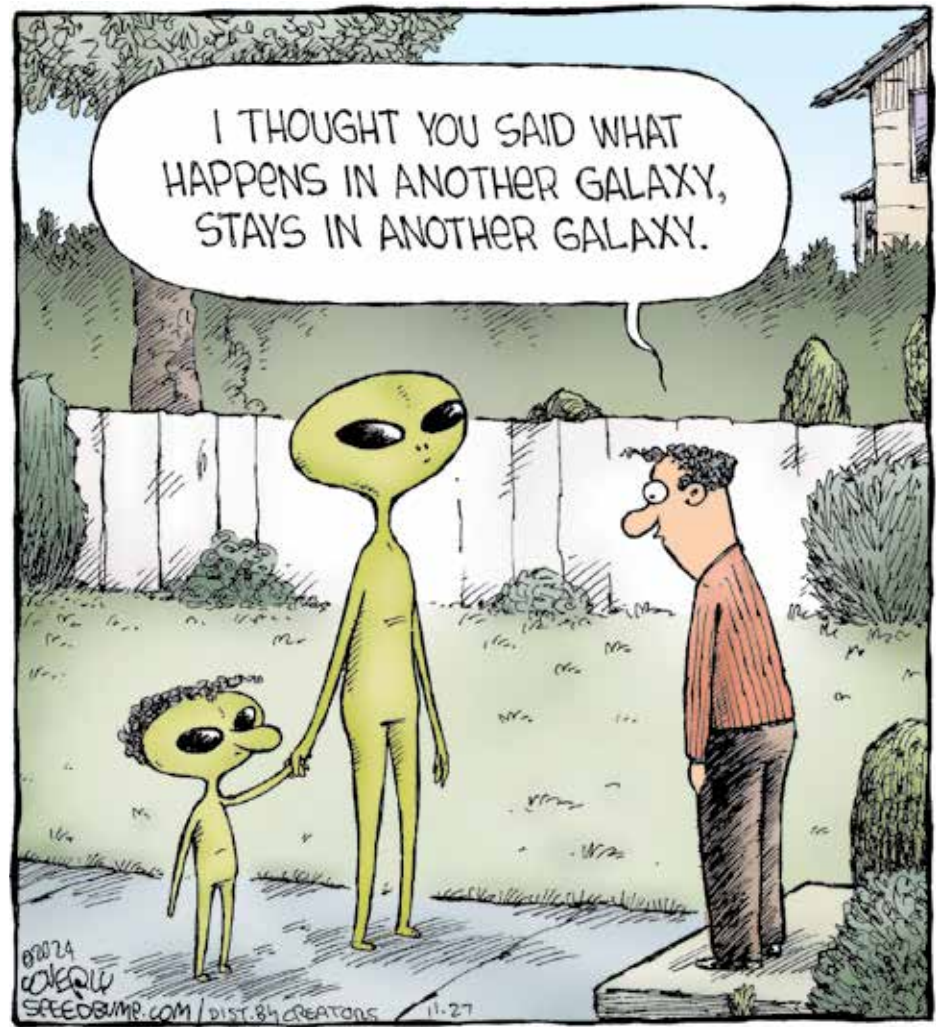
Beacon Council

It is so important to have a new generation of leadership on a local, state and federal level ("Former Member Rejoins Beacon City Council," Jan. 10). Both parties are guilty of cronyism, but the Democrats paid the price for it in our last presidential election.

Terry Hockler, *Beacon*

Beacon City Council: Let's lay all the options on the table and make the best choice for our city regarding the sale of the two former firehouses. I understand the short-term financial pressures driving your decisions, but I'd encourage us to test the assumption that a long-term lease with an upfront payment could provide more revenue without sacrifices. Let's run the financial analysis together — I'll help. You can still choose the path you feel is best, but let's

(Continued on Page 5)





LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

ensure we've explored every option.

On another note, I heard the best and most unexpected compliment about City Administrator Chris White today. After talking with him, I realized how much of a punching bag he's been, despite doing his job well. There's a poetic turn of the leaf happening — case in point, the Jan. 10 ribbon-cutting at The Joint on Main Street. Seeing Mayor Lee Kyriacou and White there for their "inaugural joint" felt like a scene from *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. You had to be there — it was pretty, pretty, pretty good!

Brett Miller, *Beacon*

### Bridge barriers

The cost of adding suicide deterrents to bridges in the Hudson Valley cited at the end of the documentary posted at [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) is incorrect ("Bridge Barriers," Dec. 20). It states that the estimated cost quoted by a consultant for the New York State Bridge Authority in 2022 was at least \$10.5 million per bridge. In fact, that was the estimated cost to outfit all five bridges with chain-link fencing.

The Bridge Authority received a \$12 million grant for suicide prevention but will not disclose what it has done with that money. People continue to die in the face of this callous disregard for human life. Call your state senator and state Assembly member to pass the Barriers on Bridges bill and protect our community.

Lorraine Lein, *Cortlandt Manor*

The editor responds: "In a story posted Jan. 14, *The Peekskill Herald* reported that the engineering consultant, Modjeski and Masters, has updated its 2022 figures. This past summer, it estimated that adding climb-deterrent fencing to all five NYSBA bridges, including Bear Mountain and Newburgh-Beacon, would cost from \$21.5 million for chain-link fencing to \$122.2 million for picket fencing."

### Deportation pressure

I wonder if President-elect Trump has made any plans to replace the millions of workers he will deport — the ones who run our restaurants, pick our tomatoes, do our landscaping and a million other things, which native-born Americans shun ("Deportation Pressure Begins," Jan. 10)? And who is going to replace all that lovely Social Security/Medicare tax money which they give up with every paycheck? It seems to me we should be greeting them with open arms instead of giving them the boot.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

### Street address

As a neighbor of one of the homes featured in "Flipping Beacon" (Jan. 3), it is irresponsible for your publication (and others) to publish their address. It makes me feel super unsafe, so I can only imagine how the homeowners feel.

Kris Glover-Rasimas, *Beacon*

### Welcome Center

Although you wrote that the Beacon Welcome Center "closed during the

### Corrections

■ In a story in the Jan. 10 issue, we reported that the Cold Spring reservoirs are at 83 percent capacity. In fact, they are at 93 percent capacity.

■ In the first paragraph of a story in the Jan. 10 issue, we said that five members of the Putnam County Legislature had voted to add five farms to the Agricultural District. In fact, they voted not to add them.

■ In the Jan. 3 issue, in *On the Spot*, we quoted Georgia Christy as saying, when asked what she looked forward to in 2025: "More prosperity, America's new Gilded Age." In fact, she said: "More prosperity, America's new Golden Age."

■ In a story in the Jan. 3 issue, we reported that the Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey in Beacon would purchase and close the Libby Funeral Home in 2025. In fact, the merger took place in December.

pandemic but reopened in the spring" ("2024 Updated," Jan. 3), in fact, it has been open continuously, per volunteer availability, through the pandemic to the present, except for December to April, which is a normal winter shutdown. Volunteer coverage has been essentially the same as in the past. The change in 2024 was oversight by Dutchess Tourism and increased visitation.

Noah Rosaler, *Beacon*

### Putnam staff

This is great news for Putnam and for us in the village ("Putnam Executive Names Chief," Jan. 3): Dain Pascocello is a consummate professional and has been an excellent colleague on state Sen. Rob Rolison's staff. I look forward to working with him in his new capacity in the county executive's office.

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*

Foley is the Cold Spring mayor.

### Black history

Thank you for your *Always Present, Never Seen* series in 2022, which I reference in my latest blog post at [radiantrootsboricubranche.com](http://radiantrootsboricubranche.com) about the erasure of our Black ancestor, John "Rifle Jack" Peterson from the recently closed *Treason* exhibit at the Pocantico Center in Tarrytown. My family descends from Munsee Lenape, First Africans, First Afro-Dutch settlers, First Enslaved Malagasy, German, Scottish and Irish indentured servants and European settlers of all nationalities. As we approach the 250th anniversary of this nation's founding, this continuing erasure is simply unacceptable. Again, your series was rooted in historical truth and much appreciated.

Teresa Vega, *New York City*

### Restaurant peeves

One of my restaurant pet peeves is when a server starts to clear empty plates before everyone at the table has finished (*On the Spot*, Jan. 10).

Cathryn Fadde, *via Facebook*



## Local Real Estate Pros

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



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# 2025 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY SCHEDULE

**We welcome you to celebrate the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope at Graymoor, an Archdiocese designated place of pilgrimage.**

**Explore, connect and pray with us at the Holy Mountain!**

**Saturday, January 18 at 7:00 PM**

Sister's Convent

**Sunday, January 19 at 11:00 AM**

Our Lady of the Atonement Chapel

**Friday, January 24 at 4:00 PM**

Holy Mountain Franciscan Retreat Center

**Saturday, January 25 at 7:00 PM**

St. Paul Friary Chapel

**We will also be leading prayer services at these local parishes:**

**Monday, January 20 at 7:00 PM**

St. Philip's in the Highland Episcopal Church  
1101 Route 9D, Garrison, NY

**Tuesday, January 21 at 4:00 PM**

Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church  
24 Fair Street, Cold Spring, NY

**All Are Invited To Attend or Watch the  
Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute (GEII)  
Ecumenical Prayer Service In Manhattan**

**Wednesday, January 22 at 12:00PM**

Interchurch Center Chapel  
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**This prayer service will also be available via YouTube livestream.**

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AtonementFriars







Nancy Montgomery

File photo by Ross Corsair

Putnam *(from Page 1)*

Valley) and Laura Russo (Patterson), in voting against the changes.

Crowley read a letter from Conrad Pasquale, the senior deputy county attorney, recommending that the changes be researched for legality and enforceability. Requiring oaths could be “without legal force or effect” and having nominees disclose campaign contributions could “touch upon constitutional issues related to free speech and association,” he wrote.

While Crowley said the changes “could leave us exposed” legally, Greg Ellner, who represents the hamlet of Carmel and part of Lake Carmel, and won approval as the Legislature’s deputy chair, said, “You don’t have to accept what counsel says.”

Like other counties, Putnam’s charter gives the Legislature the power to “subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of bonds, papers and other evidence deemed necessary.” The revised operating manual “codifies” the charter’s powers, said Birmingham.

In addition to allowing the Legislature and committee to subpoena witnesses, documents “and other evidence deemed necessary or material to an inquiry,” chairs can request that speakers “take an oath affirming the truthfulness of the information being presented on the floor.” People speaking during the public-comment portion of meetings are exempt.

“These are things that are just really codifying powers we already have,” said

Birmingham, whose district comprises parts of Carmel and Southeast.

Another change requires appointments made by the county executive that are subject to approval by the Legislature, such as for county attorney and health commissioner, first face a review by a committee whose members will vote to approve the nominee, disapprove or issue “no recommendation.”

Candidates now need to provide a resume and three references from people in their area of expertise, and submit a completed financial disclosure form, although they may leave the “financial interests” section blank. Committees will check whether a nominee has a criminal background or judgments or liens in Putnam, Dutchess and four other counties: Orange, Rockland, Ulster and Westchester.

Nominees will also have to disclose theirs or a spouse’s contributions, within the previous five years, to a campaign or a political action committee “founded by or controlled by” the executive appointing them. Birmingham’s proposal named as an example the Taxpayer Action Network, a political action committee co-founded by Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne.

Montgomery tried unsuccessfully to strike the proposed amendments, even though Birmingham said her yearslong criticism of colleagues for approving appointees without seeing their resumes inspired his proposal to require more documentation from nominees.

“I’m not voting against the idea of requiring a resume,” she said. “I’m voting to

Garrison *(from Page 1)*

elementary school, four to Rombout Middle School and six to Beacon High School.

Garrison discussed the issue in 2020 and is reconsidering it at the request of the Garrison Teachers’ Association. Lauren Johnson, the co-president, said teachers favored an “extra layer” of security. “My children have SROs in their school,” said Johnson. The officer is “a valued member of their communities. It’s something that would be a value added to our district.”

At the Jan. 8 meeting, Stowell said data about the effect of police officers in schools is mixed. On one hand, he said, “it can foster

a great sense of security” and help strengthen relationships with law enforcement. Conversely, a police officer could “create a more punitive environment” with the potential for arrests for minor infractions.

Because Garrison doesn’t have a high school, Stowell said he doubted the district would need the more comprehensive presence of an SRO. He said Garrison is the only district in Putnam County without an SRO or SPO. He also said the district could consider hiring an unarmed security guard.

“It’s always a question of how to best allocate resources,” said Dan Jasnow, the board vice president. “My instinct is always to put as much of our resources as we can into the

# Committee Assignments

## Dutchess County Legislature

**Nick Page**  
(D) (BEACON WARDS 1, 2, 3)  
Environment | Government Services and Administration

**Yvette Valdés Smith**  
(D) (BEACON WARD 4)  
Minority Leader  
(ex-officio on all committees)

## State Assembly

**Dana Levenberg**  
(D) (PHILIPSTOWN)  
Corrections | Environmental Conservation | Housing | Libraries and Education Technology | Local Governments

**Jonathan Jacobson**  
(D) (BEACON)  
Cities | Corporations, Authorities and Commissions | Election Law\* | Insurance | Labor | Local Governments | Oversight, Analysis and Investigation (chair)  
*\*Jacobson chairs the Subcommittee on Election Day Operations and Voter Disenfranchisement.*

## Putnam County Legislature

**Nancy Montgomery**  
(D) (PHILIPSTOWN/PUTNAM VALLEY)  
None

## State Senate

**Rob Rolison**  
(R) (HIGHLANDS)  
Aging | Alcoholism and Substance Use Disorders | Children and Families | Crime Victims, Crime and Correction | Labor | Local Government

## U.S. House

**Mike Lawler**  
(R) (DISTRICT 17, INCLUDING PHILIPSTOWN)  
Financial Services | Foreign Affairs\*  
*\*Lawler chairs the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee.*

**Pat Ryan**  
(D) (DISTRICT 18, INCLUDING BEACON)  
Armed Services | Transportation and Infrastructure

## U.S. Senate

**Kirsten Gillibrand** (D)  
Aging | Appropriations | Armed Services | Intelligence

**Charles Schumer** (D)  
Intelligence | Rules and Administration

remove it because that’s my only mechanism to get this in front of the public and the committee for comment,” she said.

### Montgomery shut out

Just like last year, Montgomery did not receive a spot on any of the Legislature’s eight standing committees, except for Budget and Finance, which is composed of every legislator.

Sayegh, who as chair assigns legislators to committees, appointed each Republican legislator, including newcomers Birmingham and Russo, to at least one of the remaining seven standing committees, which approve nearly all the resolutions that reach the Legislature.

Montgomery will be part of the county’s Capital Projects Committee, which must

have a representative from the Legislature’s minority party.

Last year, then-Chair Paul Jonke claimed in a letter to Montgomery, who is serving her third 3-year term, that her “inability to work collaboratively, and to act professionally and collegially” with colleagues drove his decision to exclude her from committees. Sayegh did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

“This past year, without committee assignments, I’ve been able to accomplish more for Philipstown, Putnam Valley, and our county than ever before,” Montgomery said in a statement on Wednesday (Jan. 15). “Sometimes it’s not about being at the cool kids’ table — it’s about getting things done for the people who need it most.”

educational mission.” He added, however, that if an officer is needed to facilitate that mission, “that’s something we have to take very seriously.”

Board member Eric Arnold said there were inexpensive ways to improve safety at the school without bringing in an armed officer, including education about firearms safety and the role of law enforcement, and listening for signs that students might be disturbed enough to commit violence. He pointed out that many school shooters say things to friends or post on social media about their plans.

At Haldane, the SRO plays an important role in promoting safety, said Carl Albano,

the district’s interim superintendent who formerly held the same position at Garrison. As an example, he noted that Haldane’s officer, Anthony Tolve, helps with traffic safety, especially with speeding high school drivers. “To have someone doing traffic control, safety training and going into the classrooms in a high school is valuable,” said Albano.

He said the SRO will also provide gun safety training if the school learns a student has access to weapons in a home. He added that the SRO has not led to a more punitive environment because discipline is overseen by principals.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org) for more news.



## Fishkill Creek *(from Page 1)*

tees in Beacon and East Fishkill, the alliance's first major project is getting the creek designated by the state as an "inland waterway," said Krasikov, who chairs Beacon's committee.

If legislation sponsored by state Sen. Rob Rolison, whose district includes Beacon, becomes law, Beacon and other municipalities through which the creek passes would become eligible for funding through the state's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) and the Environmental Protection Fund.

The programs provide grants for planning, design, land acquisition and other waterfront projects for designated coastal water bodies, such as the Hudson River, and inland waterways. Beacon adopted a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for its riverfront and Fishkill Creek in 1992 and updated it in 2011, but the creek lacks designation as an inland waterway.

"This designation opens the door for the towns along the Fishkill Creek and its tributaries to access vital resources," Rolison said.

Along Beacon's portion of the creek, several sections of its Greenway and Heritage Trail have already opened. Along the Beacon Line, an unused railroad line envisioned as the route for a rail trail between Beacon and Hopewell Junction, several vacant parcels have been identified, Krasikov said.

For 2 miles, the rail line follows Fish-



Fishkill Creek runs for 33.5 miles on its way to the Hudson River.

Photo by L. Sparks

kill Creek, where the alliance envisions places to kayak, swim or relax. "There is a potential for pocket parks — connecting two together and giving people a chance to experience being by the water and enjoying the beautiful creek," he said.

New York's designated inland waterways include Wappinger Creek in Dutchess County and Lake Carmel, Lake Mahopac and Lake Nimham in Putnam. With the Hudson River designated as a coastal

waterbody, Beacon has used LWRP grants on such riverfront projects as the kayak deck at Long Dock Park.

Other beneficiaries include the City of Poughkeepsie, which received a \$765,000 grant in 2023 to develop strategies to improve biodiversity, water quality and public space along the Fall Kill Creek. That same year, Nyack received \$417,000 to install an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant shoreline walkway and to

buttress its waterfront against storm surge and other impacts of climate change.

In December, Kingston received \$167,000 to update its 1992 waterfront plan and earlier was awarded \$552,000 to demolish two condemned, city-owned houses in a flood zone and build a parking lot, boardwalk and pier.

With "lingering concerns" about water quality, one of the goals of the Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance is to study the lower creek's health, said Krasikov. The alliance successfully lobbied to have the middle and upper segments included in an ongoing state water-quality study that covers "everything, from agricultural runoff to biological markers to industrial pollutants," he said.

Additional tests for the creek are being designed in partnership with faculty at Bard and Vassar colleges, and Riverkeeper is interested in collaborating with the alliance to measure bacteria indicating fecal matter from sewage, said Krasikov.

The alliance is also collaborating on a "watershed characterization" study with Clarkson University's Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, the Hudson River Watershed Alliance and Siena College. That research will provide a snapshot of current conditions, Krasikov said.

"In the summertime, the creek is a great asset, especially during heatwaves," he said. "The temperature drops easily by 10 degrees when you get closer to the water."



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*Half of all registration fees will support Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, whose mission is to promote and protect birds, wildlife and our environment.*



# After 27 Years, Archipelago to Close

Retailer says online shopping finally too much

By Michael Turton

After offering an eclectic mix of hand-crafted home goods and gifts for 27 years, Archipelago at Home will close its doors in Cold Spring at the end of this month.

Owner Tim Chevtaikin said he can't compete any longer with online shopping, notably Amazon. "Everyone shops online now," he said.

The ever-increasing cost of doing business was also a factor. "Everything only goes up, never down," including rent, bank charges, credit card and terminal charges and stock.

He said he also observed a change in shoppers. "Cold Spring used to be a shopping destination, with antique shops, boutiques and clothing stores," he said. "People came here because they knew there was merchandise you couldn't find everywhere else. Times change, things shift."

In addition, "the winter months can be brutal," he said. "It's tough if you don't take advantage of the summer through the Christmas season." However, he has seen an uptick in foot traffic during the colder months. "People come here more during the

winter than before," he said. "No one used to come here then."

Chevtaikin named his business long before it existed. Before moving to Cold Spring, he worked as a makeup artist in New York City. "No matter where I lived there, including for years in Hell's Kitchen, I always made my home into something not normal, something creative," he said.

Visiting friends noticed his talent and encouraged him to open a store. He compiled a list of 100 possibilities for names but always returned to Archipelago, adding At Home to distinguish it.

He had a name but needed a location. New York City was too costly, so Chevtaikin researched up-and-coming Hudson Valley locations, including Beacon, Peekskill and Newburgh. "I picked Cold Spring because the train stops right here, and I didn't have a car!" he said.

He opened in 1998 in what had formerly been a lingerie shop in the building now occupied by The Blue Olive and the Buster Levi Gallery. Two years later, Pizza and Stuff closed at 119 Main and Chevtaikin moved Archipelago to its current location.

Chevtaikin said he enjoyed helping people decorate their homes. "I've seen people not pregnant, then pregnant, then



Tim Chevtaikin will close Archipelago at Home after 27 years on Main Street in Cold Spring.

have kids in college," he said. "Many have become friends." Some people who dropped into his shop on a day trip later moved to the village "because they want to have kids, they want a house, they want a dog."

Chevtaikin has been heartened by the number of people who have dropped by to wish him well. "They say I'm a staple here, an icon on Main Street, and how much they're going to miss me," he said. "But I tell them, life goes on and things change, times change."

He does not see another retail store ahead. He plans to sell any remaining stock from his home after he locks up the shop for the last time. "I'm sorry to leave, but I'm a jack-of-all-trades, and when a door closes, another opens," he said. "I don't want to jinx anything, but I have several things in the works."

Asked if he has any advice for other Main Street shopkeepers, Chevtaikin said: "There are a lot of successful shop owners here — I'd just say keep on doing what you're doing."

## Exemptions *(from Page 1)*

\$49,999. There is no age limit for residents seeking disability exemptions.

The figures are higher than the U.S. poverty line, which is \$21,150 annually for a household of two and \$31,150 for a household of four.

The proposed adjustments are not only overdue but would give residents greater purchasing power in the face of ongoing inflation, which rose by 2.9 percent in December, City Administrator Chris White told the council during its Monday (Jan. 13) workshop. City Assessor Kathy Martin, who suggested the changes, said she was unsure how many additional residents would benefit.

While the adjustments would require council members to pass two laws, the public hearings may be held concurrently because the programs are similar, said City Attorney Christian Gates.

The senior exemption "truly helps people to stay in their homes," Martin said. "It can cut their taxes in half."

Seniors may apply for the city's limited-income exemption and the Enhanced STAR exemption, a program for homeowners 65 and older administered by New York State that applies to school taxes. The Enhanced STAR program comes with its own income restrictions: In 2025, it is \$107,300 annually or less for a homeowner and spouse.

The Enhanced STAR limit is based on adjusted gross income, while the city programs base their brackets on total income, including interest, rental income and Social Security, Martin noted. Taxes not collected by the city because of exemptions are subsidized by other taxpayers.

Exemption applications are due to

## Proposed Schedule

The City of Beacon has proposed raising property-tax exemptions to these annual income limits for seniors and disabled residents.

Annual Income	Exemption
\$41,600 or less	50%
\$41,601 to \$42,599	45%
\$42,600 to \$43,599	40%
\$43,600 to \$44,599	35%
\$44,600 to \$45,499	30%
\$45,500 to \$46,399	25%
\$46,400 to \$47,299	20%
\$47,300 to \$48,199	15%
\$48,200 to \$49,099	10%
\$49,100 to \$49,999	5%
\$50,000 or more	0%

Martin by March 1 and must be renewed each year. See [dub.sh/NY-exemptions](http://dub.sh/NY-exemptions). For Enhanced STAR, see [tax.ny.gov/star](http://tax.ny.gov/star).

### Fishkill Avenue zoning

The Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee, an 11-member citizen group studying zoning, streetscapes, non-vehicular access and other questions related to the northeast section of Beacon, will share preliminary zoning recommendations for the corridor with the City Council in February. But Amber Grant,



George Mansfield was sworn in on Monday (Jan. 13) to the Beacon City Council by Acting Mayor Pam Wetherbee after his appointment by Mayor Lee Kyriacou, who was absent.

Photo provided

an at-large representative, said Monday (Jan. 13) that she wants to begin the conversation during the council's next workshop, on Jan. 27.

The city's vision for Fishkill Avenue has been a topic of interest since Mayor Lee Kyriacou created the committee a year ago. When J.C. Calderon, the committee chair, gave the council an update on its work in November, Grant said she wanted to get a head start on zoning "to minimize the stuff that we absolutely don't want to be happening" around the busy thoroughfare.

In lieu of enacting a building moratorium, she reiterated Monday her desire to move quickly on interim zoning changes.

"I'm talking about things that the community is talking about — proposals that are in the Planning Board," Grant said. "I won't make any secret about that. I am hearing so many questions everywhere I go. People are asking, 'What are you guys doing?'"

The corridor has one project under review by the Planning Board: a proposal to convert 420-430 Fishkill Ave., the former site of the Healey Brothers Ford dealership,

to a Dunkin' coffeehouse with a drive-thru, additional commercial space and three apartments on the second floor.

The board last year approved applications from Carvana, the used-car retailer, at 410 Fishkill Ave. and Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist organization, at 409 Fishkill Ave.

Although Kyriacou missed Monday's meeting, every other council member said they agreed with Grant. Paloma Wake, the second at-large representative, said she is concerned about adding vehicle-related infrastructure in the corridor "that we can't take back."

"I am hearing from the community on a regular basis about a specific concern, and I would like to address that," Grant added. "I don't think we can wait any longer."

Gates, the city attorney, noted that it can be challenging to enact zoning changes while applications for development are pending, but there's no one-size-fits-all answer regarding legality. Any changes proposed by the council would be subject to a public hearing before voting.



AROUND TOWN



◀ **SHARPSHOOTERS** — Seven boys and girls advanced to district competition in the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship after winning their age divisions on Jan. 10 in the local contest hosted by Loretto Council No. 536 at the Philipstown Recreation Center. Front row: Alivia Amato (age 10), Cormac Cotter (9), Halcyon Darhansoff (11). Back row: Natalia Corless (12), Diarmuid Cotter (11), Bennett McConville (10) and Jack Fitzgerald (14).



▲ **HELPING HAND** — Parker Larsen, a sophomore at Haldane High School, was recognized by the school board and the Putnam County Police Benevolent Association for stepping in to help another student in need. While walking home, Parker encountered a young student who had lost his way. Not recognizing the student’s address, Parker called the school and waited until elementary school Principal Christine Jamin arrived to help.



◀ **PHILIPSTOWN VISIT** — Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne held his final constituent forum of the year in December at Nelsonville Village Hall. The topics included protecting wildlife along Fishkill Road, sales tax, the county budget, school bus safety and crosswalks and extending the public comment period for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail’s environmental impact statement. Byrne said he again plans in 2025 to hold a constituent forum in every town in the county. *Photos provided*

PHILIPSTOWN

DEPOT

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and reception at Dolly's

Jan. 17 at 7:30pm

DEPOT MUSIC:

Nelsonvillians

Jan. 18 at 7:30pm

Depot Cabaret

Feb. 1 at 7pm

Ann Talman presents  
*Shadow of her Smile*  
Songs and stories honoring  
Liz Taylor

Depot Cabaret

Broadway legend Lane Bradbury

Feb. 2 at 3pm

Comedian  
John Fugelsang

Feb 8 at 7pm

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CONSTANCE  
BAKER MOTLEY”

JAN 19@11:00AM

PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE  
10 GARRISONS LANDING, GARRISON

Join us in welcoming Connie L. Royster, Esq., who will speak about her aunt, Constance Baker Motley, who was a state senator, a judge, a prominent attorney for the LBJ administration, and a major figure in the Civil Rights Movement. Connie has made a short documentary, *The Trials of Constance Baker Motley*, which will be followed by a Q&A, and coffee hour refreshments.

Jan 26

Megan Cali

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"Nature's Spirit," by Gemma Bailey



"How to Erase a Scroll," by John Ringhofer



"Push On," by Megan Prince

## The Calendar

# PAiN TO POWER

By Marc Ferris

When Manhattan-based filmmaker Sarah Hanssen tried to find a gallery in New York City to host her art show, she struck out because the work is not for sale.

But Hanssen also has roots in the Hudson Valley. One day, while picking up her children at the Beacon train station, she walked up the hill, discovered the Distortion Society gallery and reached out to director Michelle Silver.

Several works in the resulting exhibit, *Two Things Are True*, are bright and upbeat, although they belie a dark backstory. The title is open to interpretation, but for Hanssen, it refers to her troubled relationship with her father. "On one hand, I had an affection and admiration for him, but he is also the person who is the source of the greatest pain in my life," she says.

Her father, who drew and painted, never broke through in the art world and died in 2011, leaving a legacy of child sexual abuse. Hanssen inherited dozens of his pieces and put some on her walls. But in a moment of clarity, she decided to stop "keeping up the lie and running away from the true shame that dominated our relationship," she says.

At that instant, she sought to transform the works as part of her healing process and found more than 50 artists, including friends of friends, to carry out the task as word-of-mouth spread.

Hanssen imposed no mandates and granted each participant full creative license. She's documenting her story in a film and plans to hold a larger show later this year.

Hanssen presented 30 works for Silver's consideration, culled to 16 pieces that fit into the modest gallery space, which is connected to a tattoo parlor. "She inspires

## Artist asks others to remake her father's art



Sarah Hanssen and Michelle Silver

Photos provided

me," says Silver, who co-curated the show. "We hit it off and just made it happen."

It is easy to view the father's original work with a jaundiced eye, and some of the artists expressed contempt. Some works remain intact, including a hyper-abstract of heavy brush dabs accented with flecks of color, the dominant hue being brown. Another one piles dark green oil paint like a grotesque layer of frosting on a cake.

Several artists altered the originals with a light hand. Candice Smith Corby superimposed a vase containing two withered flowers over a diagonal rainbow-striped design. For her contribution, "Sarah," Cecilia Vazquez added a silhouette of a rose to an untouched painting on paper.

"Nature's Spirit," from Gemma Bailey, who lives in Beacon, is colorful and upbeat, although the project came to her while

navigating her own relationship to trauma and healing. "I wanted the piece to be taken over by new life, overgrown and chaotic, but as the flowers bloom, the sadness of the older piece [faintly visible in the background] fades away," she writes in the exhibit program.

Many artists made the original works unrecognizable. Joanna Muehleisen cut a painting into long strips, immersing them in hot water and winding the pieces into a small ball. In "Push On," Megan Prince chopped up a work, turning it into a sculpture of coiled spools that resembles a Medusa wig.

Finnish artist John Ringhofer took three paintings on paper and constructed a simulated reel-to-reel tape recorder. The material representing the tape is a strip ripped from one of the pieces and cut at a splicing block. A red-and-white, horse-shoe-shaped magnet beneath the spools is intended to "neutralize/demagnetize the energy contained in Sarah's father's original artwork," he writes.

Now that the stigma surrounding mental health issues is fading, many artists are sharing their stories and discovering the power of creativity.

"My work as a painter and artist has a lot to do with mental health and trauma," says Silver. "People get tattoos to deal with grief over a death or a new transition in life. Art is a healing mechanism, and it seemed special to take that theme into the gallery."

*Distortion Society*, at 155 Main St. in Beacon, is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, or by appointment. *Two Things Are True* continues through Jan. 31. See [distortionsociety.com](https://distortionsociety.com).



# THE WEEK AHEAD

## MLK JR. DAY

### SUN 19 The Trials of Constance Baker Motley

**GARRISON**  
11 a.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing  
highlandschapel.org

In this event hosted by the Highlands Chapel, Connie Royster will discuss her aunt, Constance Baker Motley (1921-2005), a lawyer, federal judge and state senator who played a major role in the Civil Rights movement.



### MON 20 Singing Parade

**BEACON**  
8:30 a.m. Springfield Baptist  
8 Mattie Cooper Square  
Enjoy a continental breakfast and opening ceremony at the church before the annual parade begins at 9:30 a.m. Bring signs that reflect King's beliefs. After the parade, a program at the church will include speakers and music, followed by lunch.

### MON 20 Civil Rights Icons

**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Raymond Brown will discuss the groundbreaking work of his grandparents, Raymond Pace Alexander and Sadie T.M. Alexander, who earned Ivy League law degrees in the 1920s and became deeply engaged in the Civil Rights movement.

## COMMUNITY

### SAT 18 Skill Swap

**COLD SPRING**  
1 - 2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Share a skill or learn new ones with friends and neighbors. Sign up to teach a mini-session or register to attend one.

### SAT 18 Lantern-Making Workshop

**GARRISON**  
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Members of the Beacon Spring Celebration of Light team will demonstrate how to make Year of the Snake lanterns for a February parade. Registration required.

### WED 22 Aging at Home

**GARRISON**  
2:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Learn about the programs offered by Philipstown Aging at Home.

### FRI 24 Sunset Family Hike

**COLD SPRING**  
3 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Families with young children are invited to gather for story time, followed by a guided hike at Little Stony Point. Register online.

### FRI 24 Drawing Night with Summer Pierre

**COLD SPRING**  
6 - 8 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.  
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com  
Bring your own materials to this monthly gathering for adults and older children accompanied by a parent or guardian.



### SUN 26 Lantern Workshop

**BEACON**  
1 & 2 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Members of the Beacon Spring Celebration of Light team will demonstrate how to make Year of the Snake lanterns for a February parade. Registration required.

## KIDS & FAMILY

### SAT 18 Musical Stories for Kids

**COLD SPRING**  
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Daniel Kelly will retell the "Stone Soup" story for children ages 4 to 8. See Page 15.

### SAT 18 Fame The Musical Jr.

**BEACON**  
1 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
beaconplayers.com  
The Beacon Players Younger Company (grades 5 to 8) will stage the hit musical about a performing arts school in New York City in the 1980s. Tickets sold at the door.

### SUN 19 One Earth So Green and Round

**BEACON**  
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
bit.ly/earthsogreenhcc  
Puppeteer Lydia Adams Davis,

accompanied by Elly Wininger, will perform songs of nature. Registration required. *Free*

### WED 22 Learn Cat Language

**COLD SPRING**  
3:15 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Children ages 4 and older can gain a deeper understanding of the felines they know.

### FRI 24 Minute to Win It Challenge

**BEACON**  
4:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Teens can test their skills and speed in this fun game, solo or in teams.

### FRI 24 Jungle Book Kids

**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium  
15 Craigsides Drive | haldaneschool.org  
Fourth- and fifth-grade actors will stage this musical about a child raised in the jungle by animal friends. *Cost: \$5 donation*

### SAT 25 Buster Keaton Films

**BEACON**  
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org  
Pianist Tomomi Sato will accompany the silent films *One Week* and *The Balloonatic* at this Classics for Kids program. *Cost: \$15 (free for children)*

## TALKS & TOURS

### SAT 18 Fat Talk

**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.  
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com  
Virginia Sole-Smith will be joined by cookbook writer Amy Palanjian to discuss her book about the impact of body shaming and diet culture.

### TUES 21 Health Insurance Navigation

**GARRISON**  
10 a.m. - Noon. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
The library will host this event every third Tuesday to provide assistance with anything related to the New York state health marketplace insurance, including sign up and renewals.

### THURS 23 Story to Shelf

**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Kristen Holt Browning (*Ordinary Devotion*) and Danny Goodman (*Amerikaland*) will read from their novels and discuss how to get published.

### SUN 26 Collage Your Troubles Away

**BEACON**  
10:30 a.m. Beahive | 6 Eliza St.  
845-418-3731 | bit.ly/beahivecollage1-25  
Work with paper, images and textures to release stress and anxiety. *Cost: \$20*

## VISUAL ART

### SAT 25 Steve McQueen Symposium

**BEACON**  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dia Beacon  
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811  
diaart.org  
Throughout the day, Solveig Nelson, Michael Veal, Zoë Hopkins and Stanley Wolukau-Wanambwa will discuss McQueen's immersive installation, "Bass." *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students, disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for Beacon residents)*

# Welcome to 155 Horton Road, Cold Spring



For more information contact:  
**Charlotte Brooks, Owner & Principal Broker**

**House Finch Realty**  
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This is a beautifully restored historic 1900s colonial homestead seamlessly blends historic charm with modern updates. Located on the outskirts of Cold Spring, this unique rental offers tranquility and convenience, nestled on 20 wooded acres with exclusive access to a private lake yet only minutes to the train, shops and schools. This 3,627 square foot home boasts 4 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms and a finished attic space. Light, bright and freshly remodeled throughout, it offers a rare opportunity to experience both historic beauty and modern amenities in one exceptional home. Landlord is asking \$6,750/month. **MLS H6335682.**



**SAT 25**  
**Evergreen Minds Workshop**  
**BEACON**  
10:30 a.m. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St.  
845-231-0811 | [dub.sh/evergreen-dia](http://dub.sh/evergreen-dia)

The nonprofit will host a workshop for people living with dementia and their caregivers focused on creative responses to works by Andy Warhol. Register online. *Free*

MUSIC

**SAT 18**  
**The Nelsonvillians**  
**GARRISON**  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)

Dave and Carolyn Llewellyn, Sandy McKelvey and other local musicians will play sets of original and cover songs. See Page 15. *Cost: \$25*

**SAT 18**  
**The Best of the Beatles**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The tribute band focuses on Beatles music from 1966 to 1970. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

**SUN 19**  
**Brickyard Saints**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The band will play music from its album *Cobblestone*. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**FRI 24**  
**Chris Trapper**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The singer and songwriter will play music from his two decades of recordings. Emily Jeanne Brown opens. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**SAT 25**  
**Delia Starr**  
**COLD SPRING**  
3 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)

The Haldane High School student, a two-time recipient of the Young Composers Award from the New York State School Music Association, will perform a program on piano of her compositions, as well as those by Gershwin, Lecuona and Mozart. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SAT 25**  
**Alexis P. Suter Band**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The band plays a blend of blues, rock and soul. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**SAT 25**  
**Marsh King's Daughter**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Industrial Arts | 511 Fishkill Ave.  
[industrialartsbrewing.com](http://industrialartsbrewing.com)

The local jam band will perform.



Delia Starr, Jan. 25

**SUN 26**  
**Chaeyoung Park**  
**BEACON**  
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org)

The Howland Music Circle's piano festival continues with Park's program of Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and Unsuk Chin. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

**SUN 26**  
**Arun Ramamurthy Trio**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

With Damon Banks on bass and Sameer Gupta on drums, the group plays a blend of Raga music and jazz. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

NATURE & OUTDOORS

**SAT 25**  
**Bird Restoration Projects**  
**GARRISON**  
3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Conservation biologist Scott Silver, who lives in Philipstown, will discuss global efforts to protect and restore endangered bird populations in this program presented with the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

CIVIC

**MON 20**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

**MON 20**  
**Village Board**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall  
258 Main St. | 845-265-2500  
[nelsonvillenyny.gov](http://nelsonvillenyny.gov)

**TUES 21**  
**School Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Middle School | 15 Craigside Drive  
845-265-9254 | [haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

**WED 22**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)

**WED 22**  
**School Board**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D  
845-424-3689 | [gufs.org](http://gufs.org)

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

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[chapelweddingscs@gmail.com](mailto:chapelweddingscs@gmail.com)

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](mailto:HHPBinfo@gmail.com)





Bozerinos



Cold Spring Pizza



The Gift Hut

By Marc Ferris

Walking around Wappingers Falls, Fran Farnorotto, owner of The Gift Hut in Cold Spring, noticed that vivid colors and characters covered many shop windows. She noted the Instagram handle in the corners and contacted Brian Zickafoose.

"I have a small space, but the art attracts eyes to the display inside," says Farnorotto. Zickafoose's murals also adorn Cold Spring Pizza and Bozerinos and, in Beacon, the Yankee Clipper Diner.

Window murals for Halloween are a staple for chambers of commerce, but the retail marketing season now runs from September to April, says Zickafoose, who moved to Wappingers Falls from West Virginia in 2018 to study with Alex and Allyson Grey at the

Chapel of Sacred Mirrors.

During this past holiday season, he completed 75 murals in Putnam, Dutchess and Westchester counties. As he works, pedestrians often stop and offer tips. "I've had people stand there for hours," he says.

Along with his commercial work for his firm, Splash Art Mural and Window Painting, he creates personal pieces. One favorite genre is called psy-country: The psy is for psychedelic and the pieces feature brightly

colored animals in hallucinogenic outdoor settings.

For his window murals, he attempts to incorporate the store's vibe. At Cold Spring Pizza, a grooving gingerbread man holds a slice; at the Yankee Clipper, Santa hoists a mug of steaming coffee.

"Last Halloween, we had a melting pizza zombie," says Angelo Broccoli, manning the counter at Cold Spring Pizza. "People stop and take pictures all the time."

The Gift Hut specializes in vintage toys and games, so Farnorotto instructed Zickafoose to paint a cardinal perched on an oil-burning lamppost.

At the Yankee Clipper, co-owner Katina Pertesis has commissioned seasonal murals for 22 years. Last year, when the artist who did them decided to cut back, she called Zickafoose.

"I saw Brian's work in Fishkill at my dog grooming place," she says. "You start to notice it around a lot — he's even at a few Dunkin' Donuts."

While the previous artist painted on the inside of the windows, Zickafoose paints on the outside. "Children used to pick at them" inside the restaurant, Pertesis says. "We had to clean up the paint chips, and she had to come back and touch things up."

# Splash Art

*Muralist spiced up the holidays*

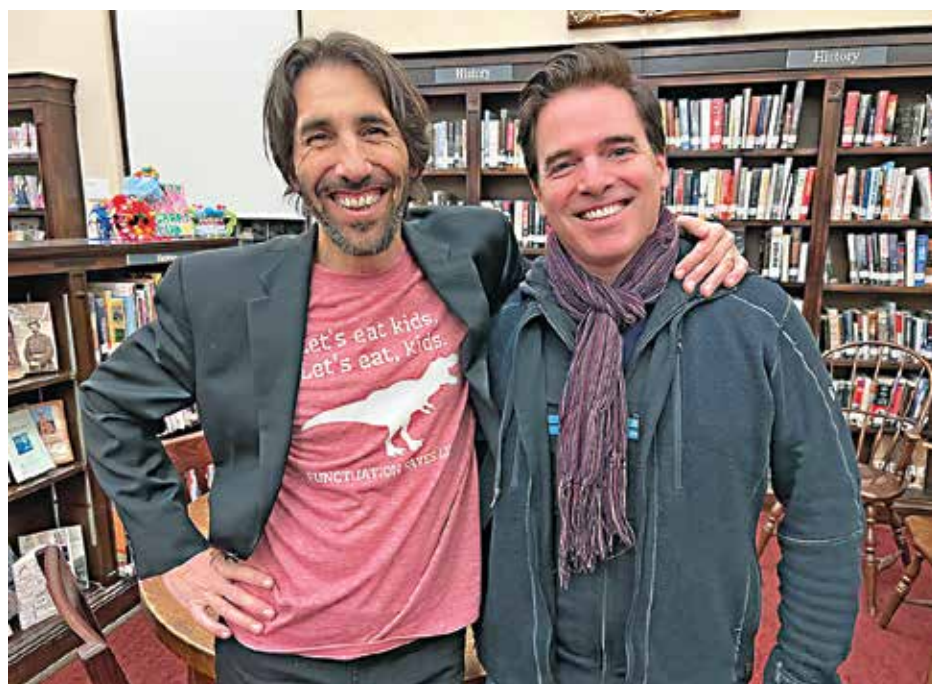


Yankee Clipper exterior and vestibule



Photos provided





David Hollander and Daniel Kelly at the Butterfield Library

Photo provided

## Jazzing Up the Library

### *Pianist creates creative explorations*

By Marc Ferris

There are plenty of jazz pianists around the country who don't take kindly to anyone talking during their performances. That's not the case for Daniel Kelly.

On Saturday (Jan. 18), the Cold Spring resident will create a musical composition with children, on the spot, at the Butterfield Library — much like the classic story “Stone Soup,” he says, but with melody, harmony and rhythm.

“We'll have a drumbeat and a piano part, but I can play almost any instrument on my electronic keyboard, so there are endless variations,” he says. “We will have an interesting song by the end.”

Last year, Kelly booked a series of monthly programs for adults at the library called Creative Explorations with Daniel Kelly & Friends. So far, he has held four sessions and will continue through June, then start again in the fall.

These events are conversations, not concerts. “We're trying to get people actively involved in the creative process, but it's OK just to enjoy and absorb,” he says.

Vanessa Maldonado, the library's adult program coordinator, says, “This is less like a show and more like hanging out with your friends. Like with Mr. Rogers, having guests facilitates interaction. This is a great way to learn from local artists who share their talents and inspire others to say, ‘I have talent, too.’”

Last October, author and musician David Hollander joined Kelly to examine the connection between music and writing. After speaking about the rhythm of words in his sentences, Hollander and Kelly improvised on piano and guitar as audience members wrote poems or prose. People willing to read their work came onstage.

Kelly also hosted singer-songwriter Dar Williams, exploring her creative process,

playing some of her music and beginning to write a song with the audience. On Wednesday (Jan. 15), Kelly and Beacon-based singer Tara O'Grady turned stories from people's dreams into tunes on the fly.

“Tara is lightning-quick writing solid lyrics,” says Kelly. “There's so much local talent to draw from. It's astounding.”

Kelly moved to Cold Spring in 2013 and tours the world playing music, including a stint as a cultural ambassador for the U.S. State Department. In addition to implementing conceptual programs that blurred the line between art and community in Florida, Memphis and Wyoming, he books the acts at the annual Jazz at the Lake festival in Lake George.

Kelly, who seeks to mash up art forms and find new creative approaches, forged a project, Shakespeare in Jazz: All the World's a Song, consisting of original tunes composed around short snippets of the Bard's most renowned lines. The goal, he says, is to view the language's nuance and meaning with a new sensibility.

Indeed, the creative exploration on Feb. 12 will be Shakespeare and Music. Actor Sean McNall from Hudson Valley Shakespeare will perform monologues as Kelly improvises. Kelly's daughter, Sofia, 16, will sing and invite the audience to join in.

In March, Kelly will jazz things up behind artist Irenea Gurvich as she creates a visual work. Art supplies will be provided, and attendees can create while Kelly tinkers at the keys.

“It's such an amazing, engaging idea,” says Maldonado. “You're not just sitting there listening passively — you're collaborating and helping to build a community connection around the arts.”

*The Butterfield Library is located at 10 Morris Ave. in Cold Spring. Musical Stories for Kids with Daniel Kelly, which begins at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 18, is recommended for children ages 4 to 8.*

## Nelsonville Has a House Band

### *Performers will fill Depot stage for musical review*

By Marc Ferris

The Nelsonvillians are coming! Actually, it's just one of the village's 650 or so residents: singer and guitarist Dave Llewellyn.

Llewellyn produced a musical variety show that will take place at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Saturday (Jan. 18). Beyond a seven-piece band, he's bringing along a bunch of friends from around town. Many rehearsals took place in his Main Street home.

“Dave wanted to bring his band and some local musicians together for a showcase,” says Amy Dul, the theater's executive director. “We said, ‘Absolutely.’”

Singer-songwriter Conor Austin will kick things off. Sandy McKelvey, a guitarist and singer, will perform a 2023 composition, “Another Way,” which incorporates the rhythmic style of Argentine milonga, a precursor to the tango.

McKelvey specializes in the classical guitar repertoire of South America and will be accompanied by Carolyn Llewellyn on cello, violinist Rachel Evans and double bass player Mike Casale.

Dul recalls a band of young rabble-rousers, the Nelsonvillians, rocking things up a few years ago, but Saturday's show is all in good fun. Led by the guitar-slinging Llewellyn, the ensemble will play “lesser-known songs written by artists people love,” he says, including Tom Waits (“Rain Dogs”), David Bowie (“What in the World”) and Frank Zappa (“Black Napkins”).

Along with Carolyn Llewellyn on cello, the band consists of Bo Bell (drums), Lucky Bell (vocals), Arahm Lee (bass), Diem Lee (keyboard) and John Hutchison (guitar).

Another friend, Cold Spring resident Mike Berkley, is fine-tuning *Emma*, a 90-minute opera set in 2038 that centers on identity, humanity and the ethical dilemmas of artificial intelligence. Berkley also plans to produce an animated film.



Dave Llewellyn

Photo provided

This is the first time any selection from the 25-song score will be played publicly, so it's a world premiere. A prerecorded five-song excerpt, “The Emma Suite,” will be accompanied by Dave Llewellyn on guitar and vocalist Molly Bernstein, a student at Haldane High School.

The program includes “14 Billion Years,” a bouncy, synth ditty, and the anthemic “Cosmic Collision.” Another song, “Fly From Here,” features a prominent acoustic guitar part. An abstract video component “with imagery that supports the narrative of each song, like a laser light show at a rock concert, is going to be pretty wild,” says Berkley.

Along with “a nature preserve with our own trail system on Bull Hill,” it appears Nelsonville now has a house band, says Llewellyn, who launched the vegetable production program and farmer training efforts at Glynwood in 2006. He moved to his current digs nine years ago.

“When I tell people where I live, it draws a blank almost every time, but people are amazed that there's like 600 of us and we have our own mayor and everything,” he said. “But most of the time, it's easier to say I live in Cold Spring.”

*The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison's Landing. Tickets are \$25 at [philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org).*



**GARRISON INSTITUTE**


## Father Thomas Keating

A daylong event to explore and celebrate the founder of the Centering Prayer movement.


**March 7**  
9 am–6 pm  
14 Mary's Way  
Garrison, NY  
[garrisoninstitute.org](http://garrisoninstitute.org)

**Presenters**  
Sabina Alkire  
Cynthia Bourgeault  
Adam Bucko  
Cyprian Consiglio  
David Frenette  
Peter C. Jones  
Tenzin Priyadarshi  
Colleen Thomas

Learn more and register 










# LOOKING BACK

## IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

### 150 Years Ago (January 1875)

The passengers of the Union, which was still running between Newburgh and Fishkill Landing [Beacon] well into January, were surprised to see a schooner under full sail between the cakes of ice. She was the Norma, of Cold Spring, picking up a load of pig iron in Newburgh.

The 4-year-old daughter of Thomas Jaycox of Mekeel's Corner [at Route 301 and Route 9] recited a poem of 56 lines after hearing it read only a few times.

Because of a water shortage, the 4 p.m. train from New York had to send its engine ahead from Garrison to get enough water to bring the cars to Cold Spring.

Susannah Evans, 27, who began crusading against the evils of alcohol in her native Wales at age 11, spoke at the Methodist Episcopal Church. Known as the "Cambrian Oratress," she first toured the U.S. in 1863 at age 15. She moved to Brooklyn in 1869 and became a National Women's Temperance Union lecturer.

While setting nets in the ice, James Purdy accidentally stepped into an air hole. He threw

one end of the coil on his shoulder for his assistant to grab, but the young man instead ran for help. Jimmy managed to get himself out.

Elias LaForge bought Alfred Webb's paint store on Stone Street.

A Fishkill Hook man named Evans, after dropping friends at the Cold Spring station, had a few drinks. According to *The Recorder*, while driving drunk in the dark and "not knowing enough to let the horse take his way home," Evans led the animal off the road and the wagon overturned. He was discovered by John Knapp in the morning underneath the wagon, asleep.

Annie Keerman, a student at School No. 3, was arrested by Constable McAndrew for twice missing school but excused when he realized she was lame.

An elderly man of culture and education wandered around the village for two days. According to *The Recorder*, "no one seemed to know whence he came, nor whither he would go, but the impression generally made wherever he conversed was that he had been a preacher and that he was escaped from some asylum."

The New York Central Railroad ordered all posters and advertising removed from its depots, including at Cold Spring.

A woman whose imitation bird blew off her hat near the post office offered a reward for its return.

After Pete, a dog owned by Constable McAndrew, ignored his master's call to get off the tracks ahead of an express train, the cowcatcher threw it into a fence, knocking out



Susannah Evans, a temperance crusader, spoke in Cold Spring in 1875.

its teeth. Passersby offered pistols, but the officer took the dog home, and, after six days of treatment, Pete was able to come downstairs.

### 125 Years Ago (January 1900)

James McIlravy drove his horse to Newburgh on a Sunday morning, but while there, it became ill with spinal meningitis and was shot on Tuesday afternoon.

There were no winners in the contest held by E.M. Jaycox at his store to guess the name of the prize doll on display. The answer was Bridget.

Michael Raftery, who escaped from the Carmel jail in September, was seen in the village but jumped on a freight train before Officer McCaffrey could arrest him.

Local actors portrayed Mrs. Jarley and her famous collection of historical, modern and Mother Goose mechanical "wax figures" in a performance at Town Hall hosted by the Girls' Friendly Society and the Men's Club of the Episcopal Church.

Harry Bronson, a Fishkill peddler, accused George Hall of stealing seven turkeys and 12 ducks from his wagon, but Hall was released for lack of evidence.

A cow owned by the Rev. P.L. Connick broke out of the pasture and ended up on the railroad tracks with the aid of a boy who chased it.

Boyd's drugstore marked 50 years in business in Cold Spring. Charles Boyd opened his store on Jan. 1, 1850, below the tracks, then moved to the "Boyd block" on upper Main around 1870. When he died in 1880, his widow, Isabella, and a relative, James Boyd, took over.

The Board of Trustees refused to pay a bill from the Cold Spring Light, Heat and Power Co. until it improved the incandescent streetlamps. *The Recorder* noted it was not unusual to see Nelsonville residents carrying lanterns on their way to Cold Spring. It said the lights seemed to be only about 90 candlepower, far from the 1,000 candlepower the village contracted for.

Harry Austin, the American Express wagon driver, contracted blood poisoning after scratching his lip.

The Cold Spring Hose Co. changed its name to the Cold Spring Fire Co.

The Albany and Troy Flier left Garrison at 10:06 a.m. and arrived in New York City in 56 minutes.

*The Recorder* said that rumors that John Cosgrove's children in Continentalville had scarlet fever were untrue; it was the measles.

The paper noted that, while the Christmas pageant in the hamlet was entertaining, "the children were not very well drilled," probably because of all the sickness.

*The Recorder* advised: "If every man got every cent he earned and every man earned every cent he got, there would be a different distribution of incomes."

William Blake, a lawyer who founded *The Putnam County Republican* in 1858, died at 82. Blake wrote the first history of Putnam County in 1849.

The blacksmith John Eyes was busy sharpening horseshoes because of the icy roads.

Edward Birkins, who owned a graphophone and many cylinder recordings, said he enjoyed closing his eyes and imagining he was at a West Point dress parade. [Powered by a hand crank, the graphophone could play recordings of up to two minutes. One popular model sold for \$5, or about \$190 today.]

Charles Warrens' milk wagon slid at the corner of Maple Terrace and Parrott Street and overturned, with the contents of the cans flowing into the gutter.

P. Kemble Paulding presented the Haldane school with marble busts of Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci to display on pedestals in the hall.

Sammy Gregg secured a position as assistant gardener on the Tarrytown estate of John D. Rockefeller, the founder of Standard Oil.

The Haldane principal was confined to his room after a box of guns being unloaded at the school fell on his left toe. [The guns were likely for a newly formed Army cadet corps.]

The Rev. Joseph Duryea sent word to Garrison to have the pony team he purchased from the late Vice President Garret Hobart brought to New York City for his children.

A fire that broke out at midnight in the upstairs closet of an apartment over the Garrison post office was attributed to mice gnawing matches. A bucket brigade extinguished the flames.

A stylishly dressed woman was making the rounds of dressmakers, collecting \$5 [about \$190] for bogus state labor licenses.

### 100 Years Ago (January 1925)

*The Recorder* listed 11 properties in Philipstown that were sold for unpaid taxes, including a home and lot in Cold Spring owned by the Annie Dahlweiner estate that had \$18.21 [\$330] outstanding and was sold for \$100 [\$1,800].

Dr. Louis Genesee, newly arrived from Stamford, Connecticut, opened a dental office in his home on Locust Ridge.

The Rev. Stanley Brown-Serman of the Committee for Completing the Cathedral presented an illustrated lecture at St. Mary's Parish House on the campaign to finish St. John the Divine in Morningside Heights. Although the cornerstone was laid in 1892, only a third of the structure was complete.

The Philipstown Electric Corp. asked the Town Board for a franchise. It noted that the Cold Spring Light, Heat and Power Co.

(Continued on Page 17)

#### NOTICE

### PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

#### Pre-K Program:

The Haldane Central School District is beginning the Pre-K registration process for the 2025-2026 school year. Children turning four on or before December 1, 2025 and who live in the Haldane Central School District are eligible for the Pre-K Program.

Parents are invited to attend a **Pre-K Orientation Meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM**. Parents should enter Haldane Middle School through the Main Entrance, Orientation will be held in Elementary Room 117.

To register, please complete the registration packet on our website:

[www.haldaneschool.org](http://www.haldaneschool.org). Click on **Parent Quick Links, Registration** then **Pre-K Registration**. Fill out and submit all of the required forms along with supporting documentation. Please note that the Pre-K program is through a lottery and registration and all documentation needs to be completed by March 31, 2025 in order to be entered into the lottery. Families will be notified if they were selected in April.

#### Kindergarten Program:

Children turning five on or before December 1, 2025 and who live in the Haldane Central School District are eligible for the Kindergarten Program.

Parents are invited to attend a **Kindergarten Orientation Meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM (2/13/25 Snow date)**. Parents should enter Haldane Middle School through the Main Entrance, Orientation will be held in Elementary Room 116.

To register, please complete the registration packet on our website:

[www.haldaneschool.org](http://www.haldaneschool.org). Click on **Parent Quick Links, Registration** then **Kindergarten Registration**. Fill out and submit all of the required forms along with supporting documentation then kindly schedule a phone appointment with **Tanesha Watkins @ 845-265-9254 ext. 122** between **January 21 and 31 (8:15am-2:00pm)** to complete the registration process.

Parents requiring in person registration or having additional questions should contact Mrs. Watkins directly at 845-265-9254 ext. 122.



(Continued from Page 16)

had declined for 26 years to extend its lines outside the village. The Philipstown firm was created in 1921 by 15 residents who provided \$30,200 [\$545,000] in capital.

In a long letter to *The Recorder*, Arthur Ives, president of the Cold Spring Light, Heat and Power Co., noted that Central Hudson Gas and Electric owned most of the stock in the Philipstown Electric Corp.

Prompted by the sale of the Stuyvesant Fish estate for \$100,000 [\$1.8 million] to a charitable organization, the Putnam Board of Supervisors discussed whether too much land was being taken off the tax rolls. The Philipstown supervisor said exempt property now was about 14 percent of assessed real estate.

Mary Cox, the widow of William Cox, received \$1,400 [\$25,000] from a group insurance plan purchased by the J.T. Robinson button factory for its employees.

William Post suffered a severe scalp wound when he lost control of his sled on Parrott Street and crashed into a telephone pole.

The Rogers-McKinstry Drug Corp. purchased and renovated the Dalzell drugstore.

#### 75 Years Ago (January 1950)

In a letter to the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, Kenneth Walter of Garrison took issue with an assertion by George Benzinger of the American Legion, in his weekly, front-page column about the threat of Communism, that the League of Industrial Democracy was a party front. "Men who hold public positions of responsibility and influence ought to check the facts," he wrote.

George and Lorna Ritchie, who operated the Fireside Tea Room on Route 9 in the North Highlands, moved the business across the road to the former site of Jean's Luncheonette. They held a grand reopening on a Friday night with entertainment in the cocktail lounge at 11 p.m. and a free buffet at midnight.

Vincent Liuzzo, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benedict Liuzzo, who had a summer home in Cold Spring, was ordained into the priesthood. Three of the Liuzzos' 11

## Q: Why is the Horse Taking the Stairs?

On the Putnam County seal, a rider is shown atop a horse descending stairs. What's the story there?



**A:** The rider is Gen. Israel Putnam, the county's namesake. According to Jennifer Cassidy, the Putnam County historian, the seal depicts his 5-mile flight in Connecticut in 1779 from Horseneck (now Greenwich) to Stamford with the British in pursuit. One early version of the story says that, during the chase, Putnam led his horse down nearly 100 stone steps; the British hesitated at the slope, and Putnam escaped. The original seal, adopted in 1813, a year after the county was created from the southern portion of Dutchess, had a plow, a rake and the head of an ox.

children, who grew up in the Bronx, were priests. When Father Vincent visited the St. Lawrence school in Beacon, affiliated with his order, the students were given the rest of the day off in his honor.

The program for an American Legion Forum on Communism held at the Haldane School on a Friday night included the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America"; a short film, *Crossroads for America*; and an address by former Rep. Hamilton Fish. "There is no compromise with treason," he said, estimating that 2 million "Red stooges" operated in the U.S., following a "master plan" from Moscow.

At the forum, Fish announced the winners of a Haldane essay contest on the "best way to defeat Communism." Peggy Nakos, a recent immigrant from Greece, was recognized for her submission, in which she recalled hearing screams in the night and seeing strangled bodies on the streets at daybreak. "Don't let it happen here," she warned.

Two teenage protégés of Ray Impellittere, a former contender for the world heavyweight title, won bouts in the Golden Gloves amateur tournament. Joey Lyons won two fights by decision, while Joseph "Moe" Mazzuca won by knockout before being knocked out. Both

boys fought at 147 pounds, representing the Cold Spring Holy Name Society.

The Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. approved plans for a firehouse on Upper Station Road.

#### 25 Years Ago (January 2000)

About 50 people welcomed the new year at Depot Square watching a "Millennium Ball" ascend a flagpole. At 4:45 a.m., Officer Bujarski saw several people running into the pedestrian underpass with the ball; he found it behind a residence. Mayor Anthony Phillips offered a \$200 reward for information on the thieves.

In a letter to the *PCNR*, Sister Mary Martin of Graymoor said her "greatest regret" from 1999 was that "the paint that Dennis Heiner so courageously put on Chris Ofili's blasphemous painting of the Holy Virgin Mary at the Brooklyn Museum of Art was removable."

The Village of Nelsonville launched a website.

After three votes, the Putnam County Legislature elected Arne Nordstrom as chair. The incumbent chair, Tony Hay, had rankled members with his comments about illegal immigrants, said Sam Oliverio Jr., one of the Legislature's two Demo-

crats, who joined with three Republicans to approve Nordstrom, 5-4.

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison held its fourth annual Martin Luther King Day celebration with folk singer Pete Seeger and Ron Daniels, director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and a former presidential candidate for the Peace and Freedom Party.

Several residents attended a meeting of the Town Board to protest its decision to close the Toddler Learning Center at the Continental Village Clubhouse, which had operated for 17 years under the direction of "Miss Kathy" Lowenberg.

During a public hearing before a capacity crowd at the firehouse, the Cold Spring Planning Board heard comments on a 16-unit condo development proposed for 1 Main St. A group of residents created the Cold Spring Planning Coalition to oppose the project, citing the rapid growth of tourism in the 10 years since the development was first proposed.

Betsy Calhoun, a member of the Garrison school board, said she wanted to see, on behalf of taxpayers, the architect's specs for the rough carpentry, septic system and electric/plumbing trench of a modular unit being built to create temporary classrooms. The other six members of the board protested. "We don't see you as managing the building project," said one.

The Haldane boys' basketball team defeated Pawling at home, 101-32.

Firefighters who responded at 5 a.m. to heavy smoke at The Tin Man antique store at Main and Rock streets found a work light in the display window had fallen and burned through the floor.

Police arrested a Nelsonville woman for collecting twice on the same winning \$40 lottery ticket at Dairy Mart, where she was a cashier.

The developer of the proposed Point Lookout development on 93 acres on Route 9D in south Philipstown submitted a revised plan to the Town Board that reduced its size to a 100-room hotel, 100 assisted-living units, 88 condos and eight homes.

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Roots and Shoots

# Healthy Habits

By Pamela Doan

I've been thinking about all the things that I do again and again because I haven't stopped to consider another option, or because it seems too hard to change. When it comes to the garden in 2025, I'm looking for ways to be more connected to a thriving environment.



### Habits to Break Up With

*Being mean to soil*

Get a soil test. This is a hard rule before fertilizing or amending soil. If you don't know what's there, how do you know if you've achieved your goal? The ground beneath our feet is a living, vital source of energy and carbon storage. A lawn isn't an object; it's a collection of plants. The lack of understanding about soil health is the biggest knowledge gap I find among gardeners, and it's an essential element of our practice. It takes 500 years to build up topsoil, the top 6 inches of ground that we plant in. Start now.

Fertilizers aren't always the solution and unless you know there is a deficiency and you know the needs of the plants in that soil, added nutrients won't make a difference but can do harm. When excess nutrients aren't taken up by plants, they wash away in the rain and end up in our streams, lakes and rivers. Nitrogen and phosphorus runoff contribute to harmful algal blooms that close beaches during the summer.

*Leaf blowers*

All the consequences have been well documented. Leaf blowers cause air and noise pollution, fill the air with dust and deplete the soil of organic matter that could decompose and add nutrients. Many towns are banning their use during the growing season.

They are also one of the worst pieces of household equipment for carbon emissions.



Find your place of refuge in a natural environment.

Photo by P. Doan

Use a broom when you need to clear the patio. Have a discussion with your landscape service and ask them to forgo a leaf blower after mowing. A few simple changes can make a big difference.

*Pesticides and herbicides*

This is a health issue that impacts

humans, wildlife and birds, pets, aquatic life, soil, plants and trees. The state Department of Environmental Conservation says 500,000 to 1 million pounds of pesticides were applied in Putnam County commercially in 2022 and 1 million to 3 million pounds in Dutchess. The federal Environmental Protection Agency consistently

notes that household use of pesticides and herbicides is higher than agricultural use. Find natural, science-based solutions and change your mindset that not every insect-bitten leaf is a problem to be solved.

### Habits to strengthen

*Connection*

Learn the names of five trees. By this I mean use an identification key and take a close look at a tree. Notice the leaf pattern. Are the petioles opposite and balanced or uneven? Notice the leaf shape. Is it jagged, rounded or smooth on the edges? Look for berries, nuts or flowers. These help to identify a tree, too. Find out the botanical name and how to pronounce it and its common name.

Now that you're friendly with five species, share your new knowledge with friends when you go for walks. Identify the species in all its life stages and seasons. Once you start observing, you'll want to know more.

*Creativity*

Take a bold step and choose a new perennial and plant at least 10 of them in one area. I'm guilty of always choosing something new and planting one or two or three — usually one. Who am I kidding?

When I was a less experienced gardener, I was excited about every plant, and I'd buy that cool-looking perennial and wander the yard looking for a place to put it. But there is something thrilling about a mass of one species. It provides perspective and a powerful pop that a single plant can't offer. Try a brightly colored flowering perennial and enjoy the results.

*Rejuvenation*

There will be many challenges this year for people who care about nature. I tend to get overcome by politics and can't find solace in the forest around my home because all I see is barberry and ecosystem struggles. I want to change that habit of identifying the problems without also experiencing the beauty. Less distress and more appreciation, even when it isn't a pristine, restored, conserved environment. Find your safe place on the land and practice feeling gratitude in whatever state you find it.

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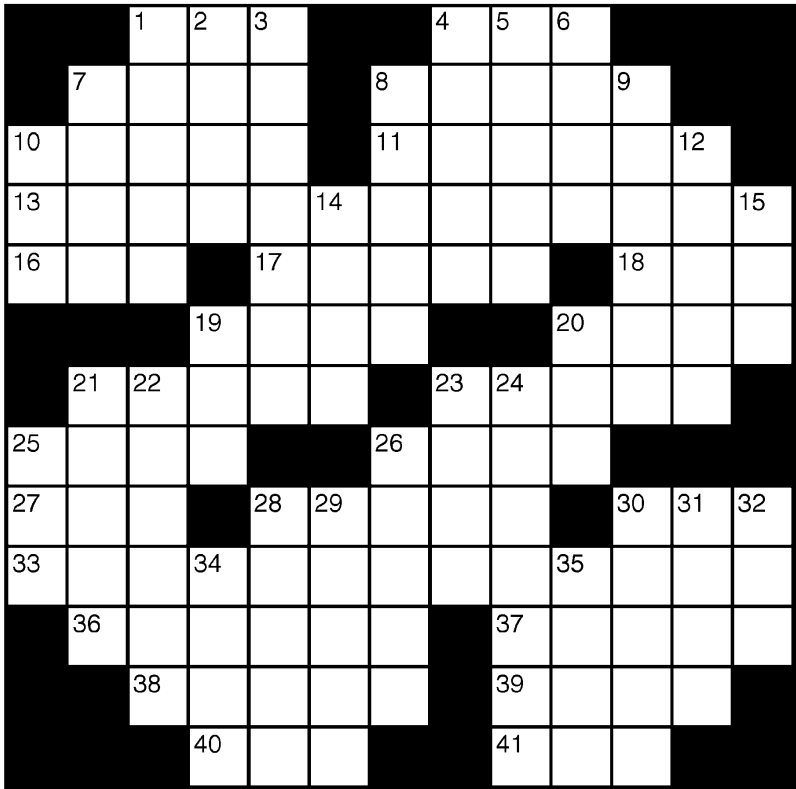
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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT



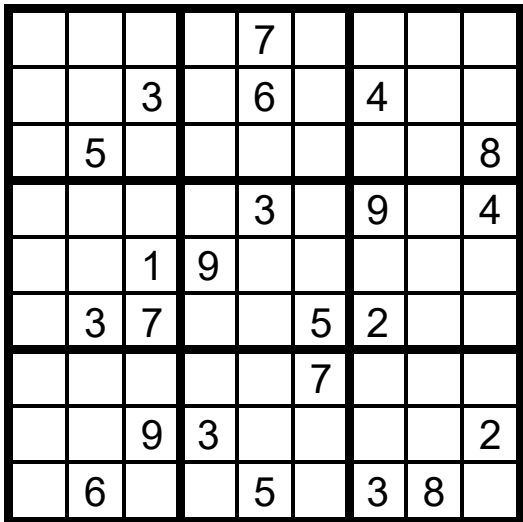
- ACROSS

  - 1. Kitten’s cry
  - 4. Bit of advice
  - 7. Prop for Sherlock
  - 8. Vice President Burr
  - 10. Ancient Greek region
  - 11. Future ferns
  - 13. Mental agility
  - 16. Rds.
  - 17. Pitchers
  - 18. Stickum
  - 19. Unpaid TV ads
  - 20. Close
  - 21. Revue segments
  - 23. Lover’s meeting
  - 25. Smack a baseball
  - 26. 1982 sci-fi film
  - 27. Signing need
  - 28. — of *One’s Own*
- 30. 1959 Kingston Trio hit
  - 33. Burger King, for one
  - 36. Kilt pattern
  - 37. Lubricated
  - 38. Canary snacks
  - 39. Hosp. scans
  - 40. Triage ctrs.
  - 41. Salty expanse

DOWN

  - 1. Short skirts
  - 2. Grand tale
  - 3. Least strong
  - 4. Piglike mammal
  - 5. Golf clubs
  - 6. Beans go-with
  - 7. Sulk
  - 8. Campfire leftovers
  - 9. Stallion sounds
- 10. Mensa stats
  - 12. Animal’s nose
  - 14. *Jabberwocky* starter
  - 15. Inherited
  - 19. Peach center
  - 20. Wd. from Roget
  - 21. Hard work
  - 22. Sunflower State
  - 23. Walked (on)
  - 24. Date movies, for short
  - 25. Beach lotion letters
  - 26. Animated figures
  - 28. Pursuing
  - 29. Highways
  - 30. Sasha’s sister
  - 31. Alliances
  - 32. Moreover
  - 34. Sloth’s home
  - 35. Employ

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

SLANT

GRASS

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

Answers for Jan. 10 Puzzles

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

BLAME, FLAME, FLAKE,  
SLAKE, STAKE, STARE

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

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## Sports



Dzianis Zaichyk (2) of Belarus takes a faceoff for the Venom.

Photo provided

## The Venom Has a New Home

### *Hockey club relocates to Poughkeepsie*

By Michael Turton

The Hudson Valley Venom hockey club, which began the 2024-25 season playing its home games in Newburgh, has been sold and moved to Poughkeepsie.

Since the sale in early December, the team has played only road games. It will now host games at McCann Ice Arena.

The Venom began the Federal Prospects Hockey League season in October at the Ice Time Sports Complex in the Town of Newburgh. Former state Assembly Member Pat Manning had purchased the Elmira River Sharks and moved and renamed the team.

On Dec. 9, the league announced the team had been sold to PKB LLC, a sports management firm that rebranded the team as HC Venom. The first home game in Poughkeepsie is scheduled for Sunday (Jan. 19).

Although HC Venom's record is 7-12, including two overtime losses, Coach and General Manager MJ Maerkl says he remains optimistic. Maerkl had been an assistant under Josh Newberg, who left with the change in ownership.

The Federal Prospects Hockey League, now in its 15th year, is a Single-A minor professional league; its Empire Division includes the Venom and teams in Binghamton and Watertown, New York; Fraser and Port Huron, Michigan; Danbury, Connecticut; and Danville, Illinois. Its Continental Division includes teams based in Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia and

Mississippi. The Louisiana-based Monroe Moccasins are also owned by PKB LLC.

Like all minor-league franchises, HC Venom's lineup is in flux. "This league is a platform for players trying to move up," Maerkl said. Recently, Eimantas Noreika was called up from the Venom to the Pensacola Ice Flyers of the Southern Professional Hockey League. A native of Lithuania, Noreika led the league in scoring, with 20 goals and 14 assists in 15 games.

The Venom roster includes players from North America, as well as Russia, Belarus, the Netherlands and Hungary. "There isn't anybody on the team who doesn't understand what comes out of my mouth," Maerkl said with a laugh. "They all have at least some English."

The team includes 13 rookies and seven players who are 23 or younger. Brett Jackson, 34, from Larchmont, is the oldest. "We have a strong, very tough defense and great goaltending," Maerkl said. "I'm always looking for people who can bring that extra edge to my forwards."

In 2023, Manning also established the Hudson Valley Vipers, which competed in the American Premiere Hockey League Championship, to feed players to the Venom, but that team is now dormant.

*McCann Ice Arena is located at 14 Civic Center Plaza in Poughkeepsie. Tickets for the 3 p.m. game on Sunday are \$11 at [dub.sh/venom-bears](http://dub.sh/venom-bears). Young players will be admitted free in their team jerseys and can skate after the game.*

## VARSITY ROUNDUP

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon moved to 10-4 on the season with three straight wins. The Bulldogs overwhelmed Liberty, 76-29, on Jan. 9 behind 15 points from Michai Thompson and 14 from Marciano Rodriguez; beat Monticello, 73-50, on Jan. 11, with Thompson scoring 16; and handled Burke Catholic, 69-50, on Tuesday (Jan. 14), with Brady Philipbar scoring 15 and Jacier Ballard adding 14. Beacon travels to Kingston (8-4) today (Jan. 17) but then does not have a game scheduled until Jan. 30, when it visits Fallsburg.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon dropped to 3-5 following a 44-34 loss to visiting Middletown on Tuesday (Jan. 14). Reilly Landisi and Daveya Rodriguez each had 11 points; Beacon struggled against a slow pace and physical play from the Middies. The Bulldogs traveled to Port Jervis on Thursday (Jan. 16) and will host Cornwall at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 21) and Newburgh at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

**WRESTLING** — The Bulldogs knocked off Cornwall, 47-18, on Jan. 8, with six Beacon wrestlers winning by pin: Hason Alencastro (138 pounds), Caeleb Smith (145), Connor Murphy (160), Elijah Rupp (285), Mark Aakjar (108) and Brody Timm (190). Beacon (2-2) traveled to Pine Bush on Thursday (Jan. 16) and will visit Scarsdale on Saturday.

**WINTER TRACK** — Beacon competed at the Suffern Invitational on Jan. 10. Caelum Tripaldi won the 1,000-meter run in

2:51.47 and the Bulldogs continued their strong showings in the 4x400 relay, finishing fourth in 3:39.59. Noah Spiak was fifth in the 300-meter dash in 38.8, Zachary Schetter placed fourth in the long jump at 20-7 and Jayden Mihalchik placed fifth in the triple jump at 37-10.25.

For the girls, Mikaela Sanchez was third in the 600 meters in 1:47.94 and Lily Mack was fourth in high jump at 4-6. Beacon will send its runners to the OCIAA Divisional Championships today (Jan. 17) at West Point.

**BOWLING** — The boys' and girls' squads each fell, 5-0, to Marlboro on Jan. 9, and by the same scores to Port Jervis on Tuesday (Jan. 14). Both stand at 1-8, with their next matches scheduled for Jan. 27 at Marlboro.

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — The Blue Devils on Jan. 9 lost, 54-39, to Pearl River (8-3), a team described by Coach Joe Virgadamo as "a Class A powerhouse." Nate Stickle led the effort with 11 points.

On Monday (Jan. 13), Haldane lost its third consecutive game, falling at Rye Neck, 55-39. The Blue Devils trailed by one point at halftime, but the Panthers broke the game open with a 17-1 run to end the third quarter. Fallou Faye scored eight points and Luke Bozsik had seven.

The Blue Devils got back into the win column on Wednesday (Jan. 15) with a 50-39 victory at North Salem. Bozsik had 19 points and Zane Del Pozo added 12.

Haldane (4-4) hosts Croton-Harmon (2-8) at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 21) and Pawling (6-3) at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — The Blue Devils got their first home win of the season on Jan. 9, defeating Hastings, 46-30. Haldane took a 7-5 lead with four minutes left in the first quarter and never looked back.

The Yellow Jackets cut their deficit to nine points in the fourth quarter, but Haldane closed out with a 10-3 run. Marisa Peters scored 19.

On Monday (Jan. 13), Haldane lost at Bronxville, 35-6. The Blue Devils generated more offense on Wednesday against visiting North Salem (2-9) but came up short, 49-42. The Tigers led 23-14 at the half and by 19 points to start the fourth quarter, but Haldane used a 14-3 run in the final four minutes to keep it close. Miley Pena-Rider led the team with 18 points, including 12 in the second half.

On Saturday (Jan. 18), the Blue Devils (3-6) play at Carmel and on Tuesday at Croton-Harmon.



Miley Pena-Rider scored 18 points against North Salem. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org). Photo by Skip Pearlman