

# The HIGHLANDS Current



FEBRUARY 7, 2025

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Rhys Bethke with carrots from Common Ground Farm  
Photo by Stacey Kaufman

## Feeding Beacon

*Community kitchen closes, but free meals continue*

By Brian PJ Cronin

After the Beacon Community Kitchen closed last month, volunteers launched two free meal programs to feed residents who might go without.

A week ago, on Jan. 31, more than 100 people were fed at the inaugural weekly dinner at the First Presbyterian Church provided by volunteers from Fareground, an anti-hunger nonprofit founded in 2012. Two weeks ago, a newly created nonprofit, Beacon's Backyard, began serving breakfasts on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at The Yard.

Both projects were in the early planning stages before the closing of the Beacon Community Kitchen, which had been serving weekday lunches at Tabernacle of Christ Church since 2015 under the direction of Candi Rivera and other volunteers.

About the same time Beacon Community Kitchen closed, a meal program at First Presbyterian Church also stopped. In both cases, longtime coordinators retired or relocated.

"This wasn't the original plan," said Justice McCray, a former Beacon City Council member who helped organize Beacon's Backyard in December with plans for spring programming. "We pivoted."

Jamie Levato, the executive director at Fareground, said the sudden change feels like "a generational shift."

Fareground's Welcome Table and Beacon's Backyard Kitchen are carrying on a local

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## Fishkill Avenue 'Quick Fixes' on Table

*Beacon committee's plan would prohibit self-storage, drive-thrus*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council is expected on Monday (Feb. 10) to begin its review of a draft law that, if approved, would ban new

self-storage facilities and businesses with drive-thrus on Fishkill Avenue (Route 52).

The proposal is part of a first batch of recommendations for the busy thoroughfare generated by the Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee, a citizen workgroup assembled by Mayor Lee Kyriacou a year ago. The council in November asked the group to present "quick fixes" while the committee works on more detailed recom-

mendations for the mile-long stretch from Blackburn Avenue to the Town of Fishkill line near the Industrial Arts Brewing Co.

The City Council will likely fine-tune the draft on Monday before scheduling a public hearing and sending the proposal to the Dutchess County and Beacon planning boards for review.

Existing businesses in the corridor would be exempted. There are no drive-thrus on Fishkill Avenue, but the Planning Board will

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**ICE CAPADES** — A fundraiser hosted by Girl Scout Troop 1405 of Philipstown at the Bear Mountain Ice Rink on Jan. 29 raised \$800. Many of the girls were skating for the first time, using traffic cones as buoys — or as sleds pushed by older scouts. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).  
Photo by Ross Corsair

## Home Insurance Rates on the Rise

*Extreme storms, flooding contribute to jumps*

By Leonard Sparks

Homeowner insurance costs rose in Beacon and most of Philipstown between 2018 and 2022, according to a federal study of extreme weather's effect on premiums,

claims and cancellation rates. Garrison was an exception, with a slight drop in rates.

The Federal Insurance Office at the U.S. Treasury Department describes its report, released Jan. 16, as "the most comprehensive and granular snapshot" of the homeowner insurance market. The data, organized by ZIP code, is based on 49 million annual policies collected in partnership with state

regulators and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

The average premium rose 8.7 percent faster than inflation between 2018 and 2022, according to the report, with homeowners in the ZIP codes with the highest expected annual losses from climate events paying 82 percent more on average than those in the lowest-risk areas.

Although flooding is a risk and home prices are above the national average in

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# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: ELIZABETH SCHROEDER

By Leonard Sparks

Elizabeth Schroeder, who lives in Philipstown, is a sexuality educator who specializes in LGBTQ+ “inclusive and affirming best practices.”

## What prompted your interest in these issues?

In the late 1980s, I was an arts fundraiser in New York City. I saw people impacted by restrictive policies around reproductive health and HIV and decided I wanted to be with a health-related organization. I landed a job at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America as a fundraiser and one day met with members of its education department to understand what they did. It was like being hit by a thunderbolt: *This* is what I need to do — help young people and their families learn and talk about sexual and reproductive health in unbiased, age-appropriate and shame-free ways.

## What are LGBTQ+ best practices?

Inclusive language is important. It’s just as welcoming to say, “Good morning everyone” as to say, “Good morning, boys and girls.” Instead of asking a teen, “Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend?” it’s just as easy to ask: “Are you in a relationship with anyone?” It’s important to not make assumptions about a



person’s gender or sexual orientation based on what they look like or whom they’re in a relationship with. Of course, the most important lesson is that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

## What do you do for schools and organizations?

I review materials and provide feedback. Is this age-appropriate? Are the lessons inclusive? I train teachers and administrators to teach comfortably and respond to unexpected questions. I always ask for time with parents or caregivers to support them. I’ve written curricula, educational texts and parenting resources that can be used by schools, colleges and universities, and

education and health care professionals.

## What do you think of the recent political backlash against this population?

It’s as pathetic as it is harmful. While some of this is about sexual orientation — lesbian, gay, straight — the most severe backlash is about gender identity. A ton of disinformation and lies are being spread by social conservatives and policymakers. Parents of transgender youth and pediatricians are not looking to have surgeries done on young children. Parents are looking to keep their children alive [because of the high rates of suicide among gay and trans youth], and they do that by knowing how best to support them, not by telling their kids there’s something wrong with them.

## You describe your career as a gift. Why is that?

It’s humbling when people allow themselves to be vulnerable enough to say, “I’m scared to talk with my child about this,” or “I’m scared to tell my parents this,” or “I just want to make sure my learners feel safe with me.” I love partnering with individuals or groups on how best to support them and the young people in their lives. Government restrictions and codified hatred are not going to keep any of us professionals from continuing to do what’s right.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Would you take the polar bear plunge?

“ Absolutely! It’s refreshing, exhilarating. ”



Morgan Jackson, Beacon

“ Absolutely not! Maybe if I were younger... ”



Sharon Haviland, Beacon

“ I’ve done it. Not wonderful, but the benefits are worth it. ”



Ross Reeck, Garrison



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## NEWS BRIEFS



Ben Cheah, Ned Rauch and John Van Tassel are seeking Philipstown Town Board seats.

Photo provided

## Democrats Endorse Philipstown Candidates

*Two new nominees will run for Town Board*

The Philipstown Democratic Committee last month endorsed three candidates for the November election to the Town Board.

Supervisor John Van Tassel will run for his third, 2-year term and newcomers Ben Cheah and Ned Rauch for two of the other four board seats, which have four-year terms. Jason Angell and Megan Cotter, Democrats elected in 2021, will not seek second terms.

The other board members are Democrats Robert Flaherty and Judy Farrell, whose seats will be on the ballot in 2027.

Cheah, who serves on the Cold Spring Planning Board, is an executive and creative project manager with an MBA from New York University. Rauch, a former journalist and former president of the Garrison PTA, is the marketing director for the Philipstown Depot Theatre. He ran for the Garrison school board in 2021.

## Philipstown Nonprofit Bowling for Vets

*Proceeds will renovate or build home*

Building with Grace, a nonprofit founded by Peter and Janice DiNatale of Philipstown, will hold a bowl-a-thon on Feb. 21 to raise money for materials and labor to renovate or build a home for a veteran battling cancer.

The nonprofit was created to honor the couple's son, Alex Dengler, a former U.S. Marine who died of cancer in 2017 at age 30.

To donate or pledge, see Building with Grace ([buildingwithgrace.org](https://buildingwithgrace.org)). The nonprofit hopes to raise \$25,000. The event will take place at Spins Bowl in Wappingers Falls.

## Guardian Revival Names CEO

*Aaron Leonard succeeds Alex Othmer*

Guardian Revival, a Beacon-based nonprofit with programs for veterans and first responders, announced on Jan. 29 that it

has named Aaron Leonard as chief executive officer, succeeding Alex Othmer.

Othmer, who co-founded Guardian Revival, will become president of its board.



Leonard

Leonard, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel with 27 years in the military, has served since 2021 as executive director of Guardian Revival's Another Summit program, which organizes therapeutic outdoor activities.

He also has worked with Sierra Club Military Outdoors and founded the Outdoor Rx Coalition in New York, which works to reduce barriers for veterans to access public land.

## Castle Point Temporarily Closes Unit

*Officials to evaluate staffing needs*

The acute inpatient unit at the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls closed for 120 days beginning Feb. 1 to "re-evaluate staffing needs," the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System said.

According to the system, "patients with acute medical conditions will continue to be treated in urgent care, and those requiring hospitalization will be sent to the nearest community or VA medical facility."

Castle Point will still provide primary and specialty care, mental health and other services to veterans, and its Community Living Center will remain open, according to VA Hudson Valley.

Rep. Pat Ryan, whose U.S. House district includes the hospital, said in a statement on Tuesday (Feb. 4) that the unit must immediately be reopened. "This is outrageous, and a fundamental breach of the sacred duty we have to care for our veterans who've put their lives on the line for our country," he said.

A 2022 report from U.S. Veterans Affairs recommended closing Castle Point, concluding that the facility was underutilized and needed more than \$100 million in upgrades and repairs. Just three of Castle Point's 26 inpatient beds were occupied on an average day in 2019, according to the VA.



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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Putnam legislators

I've been extremely appreciative of your coverage of the local angle of important national political issues and events, such as "Preparing for ICE" (Jan. 31) and reports on the detention and pardoning of residents involved in the Jan. 6 riots at the Capitol ("Trump Pardons Jan. 6 Rioters," Jan. 24). This is what we need from journalists: the courage to state the facts simply and transparently, without editorializing and censorship.

I was even more pleased (and quite surprised) to read the column authored by four of the nine members of the Putnam County Legislature, a group I've all but given up on ("Our View: Putnam Needs Change," Jan. 31). At this moment in our history, there is nothing more important than a Republican politician willing to stand up and do the right thing, and I am most grateful to Legislators Erin Lee Crowley, William Gouldman and Laura Russo, who had the courage to call out the malfeasance at the Putnam County board, along with Legislator Nancy Montgomery. Of course, with all the secrecy surrounding the typical dealings of the Legislature, few residents would know of the unethical actions of its leadership, so their highlighting of it is crucial.

Christine Foertsch, *Philipstown*

This is what many have been saying

[about the Putnam County Legislature] for years. Thank you!

Nicholas Kuvach, *Putnam Valley*

This is unbelievably brazen and outrageous. Thank you to the bipartisan bloc for exposing these anomalies of government.

Arthur Port, *Kent*

This joint statement is clear evidence of the lack of transparency in Putnam County, leading to corruption. The list of outrageous actions and behavior by the very people governing our county is outrageous. Oath-taking in order to speak, only being able to comment on actions after they have been approved and no livestreaming of meetings are just the tip of the iceberg.

I couldn't help but feel proud of the Town of Philipstown when reading its public notices in *The Current*: All its meetings are livestreamed. The four legislators who have taken a stand should be lauded for their stance. Please keep up the fight for honest government.

Richard Shea, *Cold Spring*

I want to thank the Putnam 4 for their column, which showed courage and dedication to the principles of democracy and government accountability.

It is beyond the pale for an elected county legislature to stifle dissent and punish members for their opinions and/or personalities. As a Philipstown resident and Putnam County taxpayer, I condemn not assigning my representative a seat on any committee. That action reeks of extreme partisanship and autocracy.

Local government has always been heralded as the gold standard of American democracy. Here in Putnam, the Legislature operates behind a curtain of secrecy and deception and thwarts reforms encouraging dialogue and participation.

Any legislature that fights against greater transparency obviously has something to hide, and the insider deals and misappropriation of funds for pet projects are directly tied to these flaws. For too long, the Legislature has operated like an old boys' network or fiefdom, where decisions are made in private sessions and public scrutiny is avoided. The Putnam Legislature has become the gold standard for small-town insider dealmaking and corruption-tainted, autocratic, arrogant government.

Dennis OBrien, *Philipstown*

### Fjord Trail

The concerns about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail raised at the state's public hearing by Riverkeeper's spokesperson, legal director Mike Dulong, are based on science, and they wholly conform to Riverkeeper's mission and values ("Riverkeeper Voices Fjord Trail Concerns," Jan. 31). Thank you, Riverkeeper.

In contrast, Matt Decker of the Open Space Institute (OSI) offered the same confounding claims we've heard so often at the many public meetings HHFT has held — for example, that this mega project will improve the shoreline and replace invasives with native plants. In fact, it will denude the shoreline and destroy habitat. Crucially, HHFT provides no assurance of funding the years of maintenance that replanting requires. Look at the state parks department's wasted efforts at Dockside in Cold Spring. So many trees and shrubs that withstood salt water, flooding and drought were removed. Replacements have died.

Equally egregious is the notion that visitors who stray from trails and cause damage to the environment would be safely channeled through fenced-in, elevated concrete boardwalks. We've heard about the supposed benefits of channeling visitors from the beginning of the Fjord Trail rollout. In fact, visitors will continue doing what they already do on the trails but, in addition, a whole lot of new visitors will be attracted to the linear park. It is the concrete board-

(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

*(Continued from Page 4)*

walk itself that will do enormous damage to the environment. How is the “channeling” concept consistent with the boast of offering “get downs” to make the river and its shoreline available to everyone?

OSI, Riverkeeper, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Scenic Hudson were all born in Philipstown and committed to protecting the river and the Highlands. Why have so many forgotten their origins?

Sheila Rauch, *Philipstown*

I wish *The Current* had pointed out that the CEO of the Open Space Institute is Erik Kulleseid, the former commissioner of New York state parks, who, while in that position, advanced the HHFT proposal without asking the fundamental question of who will pay for it. His colleague didn’t disclose that possible conflict. I do not believe that every coincidence has a darn underbelly, but during the public hearing several spouses of staff or leaders of other nonprofits that received money from Fjord Trail board Chair Chris Davis did not disclose those associations.

Transparency means allowing the public to decide on the merits of proposals when given all the information. The HHFT people refuse to follow the most fundamental tenets of an open process. They never learned the lesson that if people trust the process, they are more likely to trust the outcome.

Gretchen Dykstra, *Haverford, Pennsylvania*

When finding my way through the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), it’s so important to me, and I’m sure to others, that Riverkeeper — a true steward of our river — is on the watch.

I did notice something I’d like to point out: The two river sections of the trail route that Riverkeeper cites as a concern will require 433 piles — 149 piles for the section between Breakneck and Little Stony Point and 284 piles for the section between Little Stony Point and Dockside. This total is easy to miss because it never appears in the DGEIS. Rather, discussions of pile totals for the different sections are pages apart and both use the words “a total of.”

The DGEIS does cite the “potential impacts” of placing these piles in the river: “permanent long-term loss of 365 square feet [of habitat] and net placement of 375 cubic yards of flowable concrete. ... Permanent long-term placement of approximately 1,920 cubic yards of fill ... Permanent long-term increase in overwater coverage of 23,000 square feet (0.53 acres).”

What these impacts will mean for creatures and for the environment is why we need our stewards, like Riverkeeper, and reporters.

Susan Peehl, *Cold Spring*

There were scientific errors in your story, as well as one very important omission.

First, the two species of sturgeon that inhabit the Hudson River are federally endangered, and that’s why Riverkeeper is especially concerned for their welfare. This is not mentioned.

Second, where you report on the poten-

tial harm to wildlife around Fishkill Creek, the species named are neither endangered nor threatened. They have been designated by the state as “species of special concern,” a notch down from threatened. However, that is the nesting area for the osprey, which is state threatened. Additionally, as stated in the DGEIS, wildlife “along or near the Fjord Trail North Corridor” includes two species of federally endangered bats, state endangered peregrine falcons, state threatened timber rattlesnakes, etc. Why no mention of these species?

Third, the OSI spokesman should take time to read the DGEIS, because construction in the “north corridor” would result in the permanent loss “of 45.4 acres of ecological communities.” How, OSI, will “that protect habitats for wildlife”? The hypocrisy here is absurd, transparent and obviously very partisan.

Pete Salmansohn, *Philipstown*

I grew up in Philipstown, as did my father. The Hudson River was always a magnet for us kids. This was in the 1950s, long before the Clean Water Act. The raw sewage floating about added to the importance of keeping your mouth closed if you happened to fall.

As teenagers, we spent — or, some would say, misspent — summer evenings messing about down at Mine Point below the town dump south of the Garrison train station. We often went night “fishing” along the banks of the river north of Little Stony Point. Seldom were carp or “suckers” the prey.

I hope that today’s youth are no less adventurous. I expect that they too will have their “fishing” endeavors along the shores north of Stony Point. Perhaps they will be out in their homemade rafts or more likely in their canoe or kayak, tying up their vessel on the concrete piling of the Highlands Highline. Perhaps they will simply be drinking a few beers or smoking a fat one with their friends, dangling their legs over the edge of the concrete erection.

Perhaps others, less naive, may be patrolling the “trail” with less-benign intentions. Perhaps their prey will be other humans rather than the piscine suckers.

Of course, my point is security. It is vitally important to have the sheriff’s departments of Putnam and Dutchess counties spell out clearly what they consider the minimum requirements to protect the public’s safety. Certainly, the state police will have their concerns, as will the Metro-North police.

What are the lighting requirements? What fencing is required to prevent intentional swimming, diving or, God forbid, suicidal actions? Will it light up the night sky, disorienting flora and fauna, especially, of course, birds during their migrations and normal nocturnal activities? Will the light pollution affect the “dark sky” designation we deserve? What will the lighting look like from the perspective of boats on the river or to residents of Cornwall?

Will the trail have to be built to accommodate patrol cars and emergency vehicles? If it must be patrolled, by whom and how? And at what cost, not simply financial, but also in the loss of ambiance and peaceful harmony? Will security cameras

be required to record the movement of animals (human or owl?) that will trigger those lights to flash on?

John Benjamin, *Philipstown*

Just build it from Beacon to Breakneck. Forget all the Cold Spring stuff.

Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*

## ICE: Schools

What complete ignorance. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement does not arrest or detain underage illegal immigrants (“Preparing for ICE,” Jan. 31). ICE is legally obliged to take underage illegal immigrants with a court order, and the underage immigrants are placed in foster homes, group homes or with verified blood relatives. This law was passed in 2002.

If the reporter had simply practiced due diligence and contacted the ICE offices in Manhattan, he would have known these facts. Instead, the reporter decided to drink the media Kool-Aid and promote a lie to promote partisan politics. This entire article is pathetic, shoddy journalism, and *The Current* owes everyone an apology for the lies being promoted by this article.

Joseph Pedro III, *Beacon*

*The editor responds: To clarify for readers, the writer is referring to a 2002 federal law (see [dub.sh/unaccompanied-2002](http://dub.sh/unaccompanied-2002)) that regulates the treatment of undocumented minors whose parents or guardians are not in the U.S. As the story stated, ICE agents can enter a school if they have a court order. ICE also has a directive, issued in 2022, for how it handles children of undocumented immigrants who are detained (see [ice.gov/detain/parental-interest](http://ice.gov/detain/parental-interest)).*

## Seeds for life

Like *Roots and Shoots* columnist Pamela Doan, I look forward to putting seeds in the ground, nurturing them and watching them grow (“Testing Seeds, Finding Purpose,” Jan. 31). I’ve already purchased organic seeds and organic bags of seed-starter mix.

My husband and I have been gardening here for 40 years. Replacing invasive species and planting natives has been our goal. We’ve taken advantage of the state’s Trees for Tribs ([dub.sh/trees-for-tribs](http://dub.sh/trees-for-tribs)) and Buffer in a Bag ([dub.sh/buffer-in-bag](http://dub.sh/buffer-in-bag)) programs. Half our property is wetlands and we garden there, too.

Kathie Kourie, *Philipstown*

## Legal expenses

The Putnam County Legislature’s efforts to undermine the strict separation of powers by unilaterally changing the county charter required legal counsel to represent the executive branch (“Putnam Legal Spending Criticized,” Jan. 31). Unfortunately, as the Legislature knows, the charter restricts the county attorney from representing the interests of the county executive when there is a conflict between the county executive and the Legislature. Therefore, the only way to provide the legal services required, as provided in the charter, was from outside counsel assigned by the county attorney.

Ultimately, the litigation referenced in

this article was dropped to prevent additional charges to the county which would have resulted from protracted litigation in response to the actions initiated by certain legislators intent on changing the county’s charter. My position remains that this change violates state law because it did not include the required mandatory referendum for enactment. Just as the State of New York cannot supersede our Constitution, local and county laws cannot simply ignore and supersede state law or our Constitution.

Kevin Byrne, *Carmel*

*Byrne is the Putnam County executive.*

## Artist housing

Hudson Valley Shakespeare has two entities: (1) a nonprofit business that includes the theater, grounds, gardens and 32 residential housing units and (2) a for-profit hospitality business with food and beverage in theater and for banquets and hosted events (“Shakespeare Housing Approved,” Jan. 24).

In January, an HVS representative replied with a muddled response to a question from the Planning Board chair about whether the residential units would be part of its for-profit business. Everything I’ve seen says the residences are under the nonprofit business.

A fair comparison is the cabin-based resorts in Gardiner, in Ulster County. Promoted as allowing stays “in the wild,” they generate substantial revenue and provide tax revenue that supports the local school, town and services.

The HVS plan has similar isolated spacious units, amenities, a central hospitality building/barn, decks, kitchens, etc. It becomes an attractive hospitality site in the wild for group events, corporate retreats, board meetings, partner teams and weddings.

This is, by far, the largest commercial development approved in the Garrison ZIP code and perhaps in Philipstown. But for residential units reserved for high-end hospitality, keeping them in the nonprofit category is a bridge too far.

Tim Donovan, *Philipstown*

*The editor notes: According to HVS, the lodging will be owned by its nonprofit parent company. Off-season revenue will go to the nonprofit to cover expenses, but the housing will be managed through the for-profit entity.*



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## Fishkill Avenue (from Page 1)

hold a public hearing the following night (Feb. 11) on 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. The building also would have other commercial space and three apartments.

If the Planning Board approves the Dunkin' proposal, it would be regulated by whatever zoning is in place when a foundation is poured and "something substantial has come out of the ground," City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis told the council during its workshop on Jan. 27.

During that meeting, J.C. Calderon, who chairs the Fishkill Avenue committee, introduced four recommendations, although the law being discussed Feb. 10 will only include the first two:

1. Prohibit self-storage facilities, which provide minimal employment and do not contribute to "vibrant corridors."
2. Prohibit drive-thrus, which are inconsistent with the committee's "pedestrian-scale vision."
3. Reduce the minimum front-yard setback for new development in the corridor from 15 feet to 10 feet, and require parking spaces to be located behind, underneath or to the side of a building. If to the side, parking should be screened by a low wall or landscaping.
4. Prohibit gas stations, car washes, vehicle sales or rental lots and auto-repair shops,



As seen in this rendering, a property owner has proposed a building on Fishkill Avenue with a Dunkin', additional retail space and three apartments.

while allowing existing auto-related uses in the corridor to remain as non-conformities.

The committee is expected to make other recommendations that could include the creation of a Fishkill Avenue zoning district. Calderon noted that the interim suggestions, particularly No. 4, were not unanimous among the nine committee members, although he suggested some of that could be attributed to a misunderstanding about existing businesses being exempt.

Natalie Quinn, the city's planning consultant, told the council: "There's a thought that these [gas stations, car washes, car dealers and auto-repair shops] are viable business options that provide services to members of the community, and they have to be located somewhere, and this may be one of the last corridors in the city that allows some of these uses." She said, in some cases, the opposition could be boiled down to: "Many people own a car that needs repair at some point."

Beacon Planning Board members have also expressed concern with the fourth recommendation, Quinn said, because auto-related ventures are "what the market is currently providing" for available lots on Fishkill Avenue.

Pam Wetherbee, who represents Ward 3,

which includes the corridor, said she favors banning drive-thrus because of the emissions and traffic they create. "We're going to have a rail trail," she said, referring to Dutchess County's study of a dormant line along Fishkill Creek, "and to have emissions happening right where people are walking in nature seems to go against itself."

But she and Kyriacou each said they would move deliberately on No. 4 because much of the corridor is autocentric. "I don't want to be in the situation where we've legislated away stuff and we end up with empty lots during our transition period," Kyriacou said.

Amber Grant, an at-large member, emphasized the urgency to move on Nos. 1 and 2. If the council does not take quick action to prevent uses that do not align with its vision for the corridor, "what's the point of having the vision?" she asked.

The Fishkill Avenue committee also is considering bike lanes — a move championed by the Beacon Bicycle Coalition — and, in some areas, on-street parking, which has been shown to slow drivers and calm traffic, Quinn said.

The committee has scheduled a three-hour public feedback session on March 9 at Industrial Arts Brewing Co. It expects to issue a final report later this year.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Dutchess Sheriff Launches Autism Program

*Blue envelopes available to drivers*

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office has launched a program for drivers with autism to alert officers during traffic stops. The New York State Sheriff's Association is organizing the statewide campaign.

Drivers with autism can obtain a blue envelope from the Sheriff's Office to store licenses, registrations, insurance cards and other documents that an officer might request during a traffic stop. The envelope will alert officers that the driver or passengers have autism.

To receive an envelope, contact Sgt. Alonzo Montanya at [amontanya@dutchessny.gov](mailto:amontanya@dutchessny.gov) or 845-486-3834. Putnam County also participates; residents can call Deputy Claire Pierson at 845-225-4300, ext. 42432.

### State Police: Burglars Targeting Asians

*Break-ins reported in Dutchess, Putnam*

The state police on Jan. 29 reported that three residential burglaries in Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties appeared to target Asians.

The police said "substantial amounts" of cash and jewelry were stolen in two of the break-ins. Anyone with information is asked to contact Troop K at 845-677-7300.

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

## AROUND THE REGION

### New Paltz

#### Doctor Indicted for Sending Abortion Pills

A grand jury in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, indicted a New York doctor who allegedly sent abortion pills to a minor after an online consultation. Louisiana bans nearly all abortions.

The indictment names Dr. Margaret Carpenter; her company, Nightingale Medical; and the minor's mother. All three face felony charges. In December, Carpenter was sued by the state of Texas for allegedly sending abortion pills to that state.

"I will never, under any circumstances, turn this doctor over to the state of Louisiana under any extradition requests," Gov. Kathy Hochul said in response.

On Monday (Feb. 3), Hochul enacted a law that allows doctors who prescribe abortion medications to request that the bottles list only their practices and not their names. The bill passed the Senate, 39-20 (Sen. Rob Rolison, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, voted no), and the Assembly, 95-42 (Dana Levenberg, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, voted yes).

### New York City

#### NewYork-Presbyterian Erases Gender Care

NewYork-Presbyterian removed references to gender-affirming care for young people from its website in response to an executive order by President Donald Trump that threatened federal funding to hospitals, according to *The City* ([thecity.nyc](http://thecity.nyc)).

The medical system, which has a hospital in Cortlandt Manor and specialists in Cold Spring, scrubbed a reference to its Compass program for "puberty suppression and gender-affirming hormone treatment." The program is offered in Manhattan to children, adolescents and young adults under age 20.

The website described Compass as "a safe space for youth navigating their gender experience"; it's now "a supportive space for youth and gender." The words *transgender* and *gender-diverse children* were removed, and the hospital took down a 2022 "pledge of support for transgender youth."

Another hospital, NYU Langone, canceled at least two gender-transition treatment appointments for adolescents, according to news reports, prompting Attorney General

Letitia James to warn hospitals that a 2023 state law requires them to provide care.

### Orange County

#### Senator Proposes Leaving Commuter District

A state senator has introduced legislation to remove Orange County from the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District.

Jonathan Jacobson, an Assembly member whose district includes Beacon, will introduce the legislation in the Assembly. Sen. Rob Rolison, whose district includes the Highlands, supports the bill, according to Sen. James Skoufis, who introduced it.

In a statement, Skoufis noted that Orange County has only infrequent and indirect service into Manhattan and shares a single vote on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority with Dutchess, Putnam and Rockland counties.

By withdrawing, he said, residents would no longer contribute payroll, gas, sales and other taxes to the transportation district, he said. "I'm sick and tired of Orange County being treated as the MTA's ATM," Skoufis said.

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# Homeless Population Surges in State

*Dutchess County has slowest growth*

By Chip Rowe

A New York report released last month found that the number of people without long-term housing nearly doubled between 2022 and 2024, although Dutchess County had the lowest growth rate in the state, at 11 percent.

The report, compiled by the state Comptroller’s Office, found that, from January 2022 to January 2024, New York’s homeless population grew by 50 percent, compared to 20 percent in the rest of the country.

It relied on a census conducted annually by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development that estimated about 770,000 people in the U.S. were homeless in 2024, including 140,000 in New York City and 18,000 in the rest of the state. Only Hawaii and

Washington, D.C., had higher rates per capita.

The homeless population in Dutchess County grew to an estimated 705 residents. Putnam County was not broken out, but Westchester County had a 19 percent increase, to 1,611. The statewide increase was 113 percent, although nearly all of that growth was in New York City, the report said, citing an influx of asylum seekers, the end of a pandemic freeze on evictions, a lack of affordable housing and rising rents.

In a news release on Jan. 30, Dutchess County cited its “proactive approach to addressing homelessness” for its state-low growth, including street outreach, case management and two licensed social workers hired in December.

Last summer, the county Department of Community & Family Services took over operations of a Poughkeepsie shelter, known as PODS, where an eight-person team works

with each resident to develop “individualized independent living plans” and provide mental health support and crisis intervention. The shelter population dropped by 33 percent from 2023 to 2024, the county said.

According to the federal data, the number of families without long-term housing in New York state tripled between 2022 and 2024, to 96,000, accounting for about 60 percent of the population. More than half of state residents without long-term housing are Black or Hispanic, and an estimated 10 percent suffer from severe mental illness or chronic substance abuse.

To its credit, New York state has the lowest rate of unsheltered homeless in the country (3.6 percent of all homeless, versus 44 percent nationally), the lowest rate of homeless seniors (2.5 percent) and the lowest rate of chronically homeless (3.6 percent).

The state has 128,000 emergency beds (compared to 76,000 in California), 95 percent of which are in shelters, according to the

## How to Get Help

Dutchess County residents who need housing or a warming center can call the Department of Community & Family Services at 845-486-3300 during business hours or call 211 or law enforcement.

Putnam County residents who need emergency housing can call the Department of Social Services & Mental Health at 845-808-1500, ext. 45233, during business hours.

The state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at 800-342-3009 or [dub.sh/NY-help](http://dub.sh/NY-help) can provide guidance for emergency benefits.

report. The remaining 5 percent consists of “rapid re-housing” for moving people to permanent homes, “safe havens” for people with severe mental illness and “transitional housing” with support for up to 24 months.

## Insurance *(from Page 1)*

the Highlands, it did not have the scale of increases seen in coastal communities such as Palm Beach (\$40,719 average premium in 2022) and Miami Beach (\$34,055), where homeowners are at high risk from the impacts of sea-level rise and extreme storms and pay the highest rates in the country.

The average annual premium in the Garrison ZIP code (10524), while higher than the national mean, fell \$100 in 2022 after peaking at \$3,479 in 2019. Homeowners in Beacon (12508) paid a five-year high (\$1,252) in 2022, as did Philipstown homeowners in the 10516 ZIP code (\$2,353).

In a separate analysis using 2023 data from researchers at the National Bureau of Economic Research, *The New York Times* found that average premiums rose by 20 percent in Dutchess County (\$1,645) compared to three years earlier and by 41 percent in Putnam County (\$2,436) during the same period. (Manhattan premiums averaged \$7,941 in 2023, an increase of 87.3 percent from 2020.)

The Federal Insurance Office found that nonrenewal and cancellation rates for policies were higher in areas with the greatest risks of losses from extreme weather. Insurers can cancel policies for nonpayment of premiums or for other reasons, such as misrepresenting a home’s condition. They can also decline to renew policies based on climate risks or other factors, such as roof age.

In addition, customers can choose not to renew policies if rates jump, a decision more homeowners made in 2022, according to FIO. Nationally, according to the Insurance Information Institute, about 12 percent of homeowners don’t have insurance, up from 5 percent in 2019. Mortgage lenders typically require it, whatever the cost, but about 40 percent of Americans own their homes outright.

In the 10516 Philipstown ZIP code, the percentage of policies that insurers declined to renew, or that they canceled for nonpayment or reasons other than nonpay-

## Average Premiums

|      | Beacon* | Philipstown** | Garrison | U.S.    |
|------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|
| 2018 | \$1,219 | \$2,325       | \$3,264  | \$1,667 |
| 2019 | \$1,227 | \$2,296       | \$3,479  | \$1,693 |
| 2020 | \$1,220 | \$2,250       | \$3,464  | \$1,707 |
| 2021 | \$1,240 | \$2,281       | \$3,477  | \$1,741 |
| 2022 | \$1,252 | \$2,353       | \$3,379  | \$1,776 |

Source: U.S. Treasury Department  
\*12508 ZIP code includes part of Fishkill / \*\*10516 ZIP code

ment, reached a five-year high in 2022.

The percentage of policies canceled for nonpayment in Garrison fell but cancellations for other reasons reached a high. In Beacon, the percentage of policies that insurers canceled for nonpayment rose in 2021 and 2022 but remained below 2018 levels, and coverage canceled for other reasons fell to a five-year low.

Insurance companies are having to cover increasing amounts of damage from extreme weather. In 2024, the U.S. experienced 27 climate and weather events with at least \$1 billion in damage, after setting a record with 28 in 2023, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Last year’s losses totaled \$183 billion, \$67 billion more than NOAA’s estimate for 2023.

Hurricanes and the flooding and tree damage they produce are the biggest risk in the Northeast, according to the report. Hurricane Ida, whose rains spurred extensive flooding at The Lofts in Beacon when it reached the area as a tropical depression in September 2021, caused the most damage in the region during the study period, said the U.S. Treasury.

In addition to 17 deaths, the damage in New York from Ida amounted to \$7.5 billion and flooding affected 11,000 homes, according to the state.

Two years later, an intense storm

dropped more than 6 inches of rain in Cold Spring and more than 8 inches in Highland Falls on July 9, 2023, causing severe flooding in Philipstown and at West Point that swept away cars and bridges and shut down roads and Metro-North’s Hudson Line.

A report by the Dutchess County Transportation Council on infrastructure at risk from extreme weather concluded that the eastern edge of Main Street in Beacon, past the intersection of Verplanck Avenue, is particularly at risk because it runs along-

side Fishkill Creek before the water reaches the falls and drops to below street level.

Neighboring Ackerman Street, Herbert Street and Blackburn Avenue are also considered high-risk for flooding, and the report found that many neighborhoods near Mount Beacon and the Fishkill Ridge have a “very high” susceptibility to landslides, one of the products of heavy rainfall.

### Garrison Art Center

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February 8 - March 9, 2025  
Opening Reception: Sat., Feb. 8, 3 - 5 pm  
Artist Talk: Sat., March 1, 2 - 3 pm



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**Home Is Where the Heart Is**  
February 8 - March 9, 2025  
Opening Reception: Sat., Feb. 8, 3 - 5 pm  
Artist Talk: Sat., Feb. 22, 2 - 3 pm



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# Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

## *Busy year ahead for mayor and trustees*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board, at its Wednesday (Jan. 29) meeting, began what will be a continuing discussion of a long list of projects as the 2024-25 fiscal year nears its end on May 31, and the 2025-26 budget year begins.

In the first quarter, the board is expected to deal with tasks as varied as its comment on the environmental review of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, major Fair Street drainage repairs, updating permits for commercial filming in Cold Spring, revising the short-term rental law, renegotiating the contract with Royal Carting for trash and recycling pickup, reviewing paid parking and pedestrian safety.

“We have a lot of competing priorities and overlapping timelines,” Mayor Kathleen Foley said, adding that the board needs to set realistic expectations for what trustees can accomplish individually and as a team over the next year.

Below are highlights of the Jan. 29 and

Wednesday (Feb. 5) board meetings:

■ The board on Jan. 29 awarded a contract to Wind River Environmental EarthCare for video inspection of a sewer line that runs under private property between structures on Parrott and West Bank streets. The work is being done in conjunction with an application before the Planning Board to build an accessory dwelling unit. Although Wind River’s bid of \$7,850 was the highest of three, it was the only firm that included a no-damage guarantee.

■ The board approved the lowest of three bids, for \$15,115 from Bartlett Tree Service, for pruning and maintenance of village-owned trees recommended by the Tree Advisory Board.

■ The board rejected both bids for upgrading the entrances to Village Hall with impact-resistant doors, which are now required for municipal buildings. The lower bid was \$44,850; both were much higher than anticipated. The village will issue a second request for proposals.

■ Patrick Ferreira’s request to build and install a gaga ball pit in the northeast corner

of McConville Park as his Eagle Scout project was approved.

■ Hahn Engineering, which provides services to the village, will soon issue a request for proposals for repairs to the major stormwater drain along the northern section of Fair Street that failed during a severe storm in July 2023. Hahn’s William Angiolillo said construction could begin as early as late May. The project, estimated to cost \$1.5 million, will replace the failed 30-inch pipe with two 42-inch pipes. The Fair Street drain receives stormwater from a 160-acre drainage basin that extends upstream as far east as Bull Hill.

■ The project will also include construction of a new sidewalk along a portion of Fair Street. Hahn is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Highway Administration to determine how much funding the project will receive.

■ Cold Spring will renew its participation for 2025-26 in a community choice aggregation (CCA) electricity program, in which municipalities purchase energy for residents and small businesses at what is typically a discounted rate. The mayor

was authorized to sign a nonbinding agreement with Joule, the firm that oversees the program. Cold Spring was one of six founding municipalities for a CCA established in 2019; there are now 60 statewide, including 16 in the Hudson Valley.

■ The board approved a CCA plan that will purchase 50 percent of the electricity from renewable sources in New York state and 50 percent from renewable sources outside New York. The final pricing will be presented by Joule at the board’s Feb. 19 meeting. Residents are automatically enrolled but can opt out at any time. Central Hudson handles billing.

■ A public hearing was scheduled for Feb. 19 on a proposed law to grant a 10 percent property-tax exemption to volunteer Cold Spring Fire Co. firefighters after two years of service. Putnam County, Philipstown, Nelsonville and the Haldane and Garrison school districts already do so.

■ The board appointed Kimberly Sevilla to the Historic District Review Board.

■ Burke Electric’s low bid of \$4,250 was accepted for replacing damaged surge protectors and adding lighting at the wastewater treatment plant. SK Electric’s bid was nearly \$4,000 higher.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### West Point Disbands ‘DEI’ Clubs

*Commandant cites Trump orders*

West Point on Tuesday (Feb. 4) banned clubs for females and minority cadets in response to President Donald Trump’s executive orders closing federal diversity programs and initiatives, according to a memo obtained by *The Washington Post*.

Col. Chad Foster, the deputy commandant, cited Trump’s orders and guidance from the Defense Department and Army in ordering 12 clubs to disband, cancel events, meetings and trips and “unpublish, deactivate, archive or otherwise remove all public-facing content.”

Among the clubs are chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers and the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers, and clubs formed for Asian, Native American and Vietnamese American cadets.

Other clubs will undergo a review by the Directorate of Cadet Activities to “ensure that they are aligned” with the president’s orders, the memo said. West Point said in a statement on Wednesday (Feb. 5) that “more than 100 clubs remain at the U.S. Military Academy, and our leadership will continue to provide opportunities for cadets to pursue their academic, military and physical fitness interests.”

### Haldane Increases First Responder Tax Breaks

*Exemption rises from 5 to 10 percent*

Volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers with at least two years of service are eligible for increased property tax relief

under a resolution approved at the Tuesday (Feb. 4) meeting of the Haldane school board.

First responders are now eligible for a 10 percent exemption on the assessed value of their primary residence, according to Catherine Platt, the district business manager. The board voted to amend a resolution passed last year that created a 5 percent exemption.

Applicants must reside in and volunteer for an organization within the Haldane school district. A 10 percent lifetime exemption granted to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers with at least 20 years of service was unchanged. There are also 10 percent exemptions available to the spouses of long-time volunteers who have died.

Platt said that for the 2024-25 school year, 19 residential parcels qualified for the exemption. She expects that number to rise to 34 in 2025-26. The Garrison school district approved a 10 percent exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers in 2023.

### Beacon Adopts Expanded Tax Exemption

*Also, acting building inspector named*

Following a public hearing on Monday (Feb. 3), the Beacon City Council approved expanded property tax exemptions for senior citizens and disabled residents with limited incomes.

The new income brackets and exemp-

tion levels will offer savings to seniors and disabled residents earning up to \$49,999 annually and will apply to residential tax bills beginning in 2026. The changes bring the city’s exemptions in line with those used by Dutchess County. Taxpayers must apply for the exemptions annually; the deadline to submit applications to Kathy Martin, the city assessor, is March 1. See [dub.sh/beacon-assessor](http://dub.sh/beacon-assessor).

The City Council on Monday also named Cory Wirthmann as the acting building inspector, succeeding Bruce Flower. Wirthmann had been a deputy in the building department. Flower took a job with the Town of Poughkeepsie, where he worked for nearly 19 years before coming to Beacon.



**SIGN OF SPRING? —** Brian Zickafoose, the owner of Splash Art Mural and Window Painting, this week removed his winter creation from the windows at Cold Spring Pizza.

*Photo by Michael Turton*



## Feeding Beacon *(from Page 1)*

tradition of feeding the hungry at a moment's notice. It took Beacon Community Kitchen less than a week to go from conception to opening in 2015 when the Salvation Army's kitchen closed unexpectedly. In March 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, Beacon Mutual Aid was operating within 24 hours. Volunteers were never in short supply.

"We have a lot of people who are ready and willing to step up," said McCray. "They're just waiting for the Bat-Signal."

The Fareground dinner began after a volunteer who also helped at First Presbyterian noted the church has a commercial kitchen. "It was perfect timing because that's what we needed to make it happen," said Levato. (Fareground moved into a space just outside Beacon last year that has a commercial kitchen, but it needs major upgrades.)

The First Presbyterian kitchen needed a few minor fixes to pass inspection by the county health department, so Meyer's Olde Dutch Beacon donated pasta, meatballs, salad and bread for the Jan. 31 meal. Diners lingered and caught up with friends while music played and children colored.

The welcoming atmosphere is as integral to the program as the food, Levato said. "We want people to have access to fresh, healthy food because food is a human right," she said. "We also want people to engage with each other. There's a lot of issues that arise from people feeling lonely and a lack of connection."



Jamie Levato and Katrina Ross Zezza of Fareground

Photo by B. Cronin

"If you see somebody once a week, you can notice that something might be wrong. Maybe they need a ride to the doctor, or maybe they have some amazing news that they want to share with someone. If you can have those connections, you can build a network of support and community care."

"It's mutual aid," said Jason Hughes, a volunteer with Beacon's Backyard Kitchen, on Tuesday (Feb. 4) before breakfast was served at The Yard. "We're not feeding them — we're feeding us."

The Yard has a commercial kitchen inside a trailer. Professional chefs and enthusiastic amateurs spent the early morning preparing shakshuka, potato hash, bacon, toast and fruit salad, while volunteers laid out muffins and cereal. As the dining room filled, the kitchen staff made and packaged a dozen sandwiches to hand out for lunch.

McCray said Beacon's Backyard Kitchen decided to serve breakfast because many working people couldn't attend the Beacon Community Kitchen lunches. "With a dine-in and takeout option, people don't have to go to work hungry," McCray said. "We know there's been a lot of success with the Beacon schools' free breakfast program. But if the kids are food-insecure, that means that all those parents are also."

Because food served to the public must



Jeff Silverstein

Photo by Jamie Levato

be prepared in county-approved facilities, neither program can accept donated meals prepared in homes. But ingredients are always welcome, and Beacon's Backyard Kitchen needs a commercial refrigerator.

*The Fareground Welcome Table is held every Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 50 Liberty St. See [fareground.org](http://fareground.org). Beacon's Backyard Kitchen serves free breakfasts at 12 Hanna Lane from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. See [instagram.com/beaconsbackyard](https://www.instagram.com/beaconsbackyard).*



Chef Zeke

Photo provided



Beatrice Clay



Altrude Lewis Thorpe

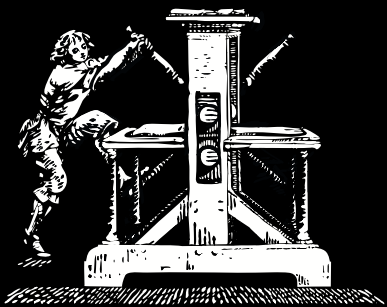
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### NOTICE

#### Philipstown Zoning Board

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, February 20th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

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



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AROUND TOWN



**BURNS NIGHT** — For the first time since the pandemic, the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band on Feb. 1 hosted its annual fundraiser to celebrate the Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759-1796). The sold-out event at The Garrison in Philipstown included bagpipes, drums, traditional toasts, poetry and a meat pudding containing sheep's pluck known as haggis.  
*Photos by Ross Corsair*





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## The Calendar



Greg Slick in his studio

Photo by M. Ferris

# DIGGING FOR ANSWERS

Show features paintings by 'archaeo-nerd'

By Marc Ferris

Greg Slick's studio in Newburgh is an interesting place. With a treetop view of brick apartments and Victorian-era homes, the former carriage repair shop dates to the 1870s.

A pulley system with a 4-foot-diameter gear, a larger flywheel and steel rope wound around a cylinder peeks over a wall in the modest space. "I am inspired by that," says Slick, a New Jersey native who has lived in Beacon since 2003.

Two umbrella lights, typically used for photo shoots, flank his desk. Slick is "partially sighted," he says. "With a little help, the brain is remarkably good at adapting to challenging conditions."

Slick crafts what he calls "weird little" sculptures, but his current approach is painting with acrylic on wood, a technique informed by an obsession with the late Neolithic era about 5,500 years ago, when humans settled into farming.

Evidence of his armchair archaeological studies is reflected in *Depth Perception*, a solo show at the Garrison Art Center that opens Saturday (Feb. 8). In the adjoining gallery, a group exhibit, *Home is Where the Heart Is*, features work by Amy Cheng, Erik Schoonebeck and Zac Skinner, who lives in Beacon.

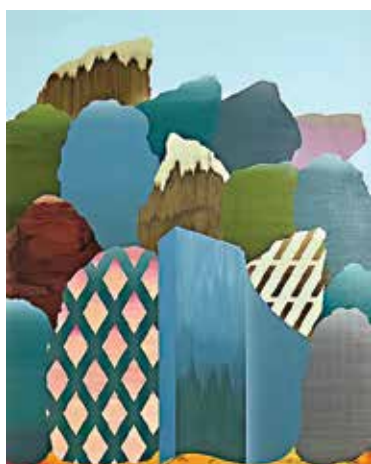
Though Stonehenge is the most famous monument, Neolithic societies arranged rocks and created elaborate structures with significant care and skill at thousands of sites across Europe and elsewhere.

Slick considers himself an "archaeo-nerd." In his studio, he flips through *The Old Stones: A Field Guide to the Megalithic Sites of Britain and Ireland*, a thick, illustrated listing of more than 1,000 places. Two copies of *The Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, an academic journal published by Cambridge University Press, sit on another table.

(Continued on Page 14)



"Sueño Oscuro" (2023)



"Bocan" (2024)



"Guadalperal" (2024)



Jerry Vivino



Hugh Panaro



André Raphael

Photos provided

# A SYMPHONY WITH SAX APPEAL

Beacon concert will celebrate Broadway

By Marc Ferris

In a rarity for classical music ensembles, the Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra will feature a saxophone soloist for its program of Broadway arrangements at Beacon High School on Feb. 22.

The orchestra recruited Jerry Vivino, a member for 25 years of the house bands for Conan O'Brien's late-night shows, to sit in, although the headliner will be Hugh Panaro, who played the lead in *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway more than 2,000 times.

Panaro will indeed sing "Music of the Night," along with songs from *Chess*, *Jersey Boys*, *Les Misérables* and *The Wizard of Oz*. In addition, the orchestra will perform instrumental arrangements of selections from *Evita*, *Wicked*, *Chicago*, *42nd Street*, *On the Town* and *The Music Man*.

This is the Poughkeepsie-based ensemble's second recent concert in Beacon. It performed *Messiah* in December and returns in May to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of French composer Maurice Ravel with a program of his *Ma Mere l'Oye Suite* (*Mother Goose*), Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 107*, John Adams's *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

Founded in 1932, the orchestra began as an independent entity but partnered with the Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie in 1999 after tough times. Over the years, its programming dropped from 12 concerts and 130 school visits annually to three concerts, says Executive Director Rachel Crozier. Last year, it became a nonprofit and is again operating independently.

The Pete and Toshi Seeger Theater at Beacon High School is one of the few venues in the Hudson Valley that can accommodate a full symphony orchestra, says Crozier, who plays second violin. In addition to the guest soloist and saxophonist, about 60 musicians will fill the stage, including two substitutes who live in Beacon, Eva Gerard (viola) and Adrienne Harmon (violin).

Crozier praises the auditorium's acoustics: "The sound is warm, and it carries throughout the hall," she says.

André Raphael, who last year became the symphony's principal conductor and artistic advisor, assembled the program. Raphael, who previously worked with the New York Philharmonic and the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra in West Virginia, seeks to recreate the versatile sound heard on original cast albums from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

"Hearing Broadway material performed by an orchestra is going to be sonically superior to attending the show itself

(Continued on Page 14)



THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

SAT 8  
Lunar New Year Celebration  
BEACON

2 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke  
15 South Ave.  
dub.sh/beacon-lunar-2025  
The cultural organization Asian Enough will host a Chinese Lion Dance and other activities. Food will be available for purchase. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 children)*

SUN 9  
Lantern Making  
BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Beacon Farmers Market  
223 Main St. | beaconspring.org  
Beacon Spring will provide materials to make lanterns for the Celebration of Light parade scheduled for Feb. 22.

TUES 11  
Blood Drive  
BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Veterans Building  
413 Main St. | 800-733-2767  
redcrossblood.org  
Register online or walk in to ease a shortage.

WED 12  
Seniors Support Group  
COLD SPRING

1 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Susan Freeman will lead this weekly group hosted by Philipstown Aging at Home.

THURS 13  
Mending Night  
BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Bring damaged clothes and learn ways to repair them.

SAT 15  
Washington's Birthday  
NEWBURGH

Noon – 3 p.m.  
Washington's Headquarters  
84 Liberty St. | facebook.com/WashingtonsHeadquarters  
An actor portraying Gen. George Washington will greet visitors and celebrate with cake. Also SUN 16, MON 17. *Free*



SAT 15  
Skill Swap  
COLD SPRING  
1 – 2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Share a skill or learn one. Sign up for a table in advance. Rescheduled from January.

SAT 15  
Assembly Town Hall  
GARRISON  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 914-941-1111  
nyassembly.gov/mem/Dana-Levenberg

Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, whose state district includes Philipstown, will discuss legislative priorities and hear feedback.

SAT 15  
Rodney and Juliet's Wedding  
BEACON  
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
bit.ly/hccfriendsfundraiser

Put your detective skills to work at this fundraiser for the cultural center to figure out who is trying to stop the wedding. Presented by Frank Marquette and Theatre on the Road. *Cost: \$65*

KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 11  
Valentine Storytime and Cards  
COLD SPRING  
11 a.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Children can celebrate love with a story and craft.

FRI 14  
Valentine's Day Card Making  
GARRISON  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

People of all ages can drop in anytime during the day to make a card.

FRI 14  
Chocolate-Covered Treats  
BEACON  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 to 12 can make their own delicious candies. Registration required.

VISUAL ART

SAT 8  
Greg Slick | Amy Cheng, Erik Schoonebeek & Zac Skinner  
GARRISON  
3 – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
garrisonartcenter.org

Slick's paintings in *Depth Perception* bring together prehistoric forms in contemporary art. See Page 11. The group show, *Home Is Where the Heart*



Erik Schoonebeek, Feb. 8

*Is*, showcases three artists' perspectives on the concept. Through March 9.

FRI 14  
Baggage Claim  
BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | theyardbeacon.com  
Guitarist Andrew Jordan will perform during this opening reception for the Beacon Open Studios exhibit. Also SAT 15 and SUN 16 and SAT 23 and SUN 24.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 8  
BAU Open Winners  
BEACON  
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Briana Babani, the winner of the BAU Open, will share her sculptures in Gallery 1 and the work of two other winners, Irja Bodén and Choro Leslie Meyers, will be displayed in Gallery 2. The Beacon Room will have photos by Pamela Vlahakis and Sile Marrinan. Through March 2.

SAT 8  
Currents of Love  
BEACON  
6 – 9 p.m. Super Secret Projects  
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com

This group show will include work by Cappy Hotchkiss, Kaitlyn Niznikand and Jessica Bottalico. Through March 1.

SAT 8  
The Evolution of Mark Making  
BEACON  
7 – 9 p.m. Distortion Society  
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com

Kipton Hinsdale's multimedia abstract work explores the environments in his life, including the urban streets of Brooklyn and the woods of the Hudson Valley. Through April 5.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 8  
Wicked  
COLD SPRING  
1:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Watch the hit 2024 musical starring Cynthia Erivo (Elphaba) and Ariana Grande (Glinda). Registration required.

SAT 8  
Cirque Zuma Zuma  
PEEKSKILL  
5 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The African troupe performs dazzling acts with a live musical score. *Cost: \$27 to \$54*

SAT 8  
John Fugelsang  
GARRISON  
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org

The comedian, known for his interviews on *Tell Me Everything*, will do stand-up. *Cost: \$30*

SAT 8  
Gabe Mollica  
BEACON  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | artichokeshow.com

The Artichoke storytelling series presents the comedian, whose show is *Horse Lawyer*. *Cost: \$25*



WED 12  
Creative Conversations  
COLD SPRING  
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Pianist and composer Daniel Kelly, vocalist Sofia Kelly and actor Sean McNall will perform scenes by Shakespeare. *Cost: \$15 donation*

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 8  
From Sap to Syrup  
WAPPINGERS FALLS  
9 a.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane  
stonykill.org/adulteducation

Learn tree-tapping techniques and how to turn sap into syrup. Ages 17 and older. Register online. *Cost: \$35*

SAT 8  
Eagle Watch  
GARRISON  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org  
Spotters from the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will assist visitors in viewing eagles at this 10th annual event. *Cost: \$14 (\$12 seniors, \$7 ages 5 to 18, free for members)*

SAT 8  
Maple Sugar Kick-Off Day  
CORNWALL  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506  
hnnaturecenter.org

Tours, which begin hourly until 3 p.m., include a short walk to Maple Lane or a mile hike to the Sugar Bush Shack. Also SUN 9 and weekends through March 9. *Cost: \$18 (\$15 members, free for ages 4 and younger)*

SAT 8  
Winter Seed Sowing  
COLD SPRING  
2 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Prepare a planting container to germinate seeds from native plants.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 8  
Caroline Hagood | Lisa Marie Basile  
BEACON  
7 p.m. Stanza Books  
508 Main St. | 845-440-3906  
stanzabooks.com

The authors will read from their new books. Hagood's *Death and Other Speculative Fictions* takes place in stories as she mourns her father. Basile's *Saint Of* is a poetry collection.

WED 12  
Crappy Craft Club for Adults  
COLD SPRING  
3 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Watch the 1971 cult film *Harold and Maude* while making bouquets out of found objects.

SUN 16  
Plan C Abortion Zine Workshop  
COLD SPRING  
3 p.m. Split Rock Books  
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080  
splitrockbks.com

Color and design materials provided by Plan C, a public health campaign on access to abortion pills.

MUSIC

SAT 8  
Regimental Brass Quintet  
BEACON  
2 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

The quintet, part of the West Point Band, will perform.



**SAT 8**  
**Le Vent du Nord**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
This band from Quebec plays francophone folk. *Cost: \$40 (\$45 door)*

**MON 10**  
**Billy F. Gibbons**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
7:30 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St. | bardavon.org  
The ZZ Top guitarist will play blues and rock. *Cost: \$55 to \$95*



**FRI 14**  
**Home Again**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Deb De Lucca and her band will perform the music of Carole King. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

**SAT 15**  
**Westchester Chordsmen**  
**COLD SPRING**  
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com  
The barbershop quartet will do

a Valentine's show. See Page 15. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SAT 15**  
**Concert of Concertos**  
**NEWBURGH**  
4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College  
845-913-7157 | newburghsymphony.org  
The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra's program at Aquinas Hall will include works by Tchaikovsky, Copland and Rachmaninoff. *Cost: \$35 to \$80*

**SAT 15**  
**Natalie Forteza | Kendra McKinley**  
**BEACON**  
8 & 9 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | theyardbeacon.com  
The singers will each perform original music during the opening of the Beacon Open Studios winter show. *Cost: \$15*

**SAT 15**  
**The Nighttimes**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Industrial Arts Brewing Co.  
511 Fishkill Ave.  
industrialartsbrewing.com  
The psychedelic garage band will play. Hundo opens.

**SAT 15**  
**Mary Fahl**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The singer will play music from

her latest release, *Can't Get It Out of My Head*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

**SUN 16**  
**Clayton Stephenson**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org  
As part of a winter piano festival organized by the Howland Chamber Music Circle, Stephenson will play music by Schubert, Stravinsky, Jarrett and Gershwin. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*



**SUN 16**  
**Portrait of Aretha**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
5 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
Cece Teneal and her band will perform the hits of Aretha Franklin. *Cost: \$35 to \$50*

**SUN 16**  
**Rachael Sage & The Sequins**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The alt-pop singer and songwriter will do a Valentine's show with guests Noga, Lila Blue and the Beacon Songsmiths. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



Rachael Sage, Feb. 16

**CIVIC**  
**MON 10**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

**MON 10**  
**School Board**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org

**WED 12**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

**WED 12**  
**School Board**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D  
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

**WED 12**  
**CCA Workshop**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov  
The Village Board will host a presentation by Joule about community choice aggregation and energy choices.

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).

# Hudson Beach Glass

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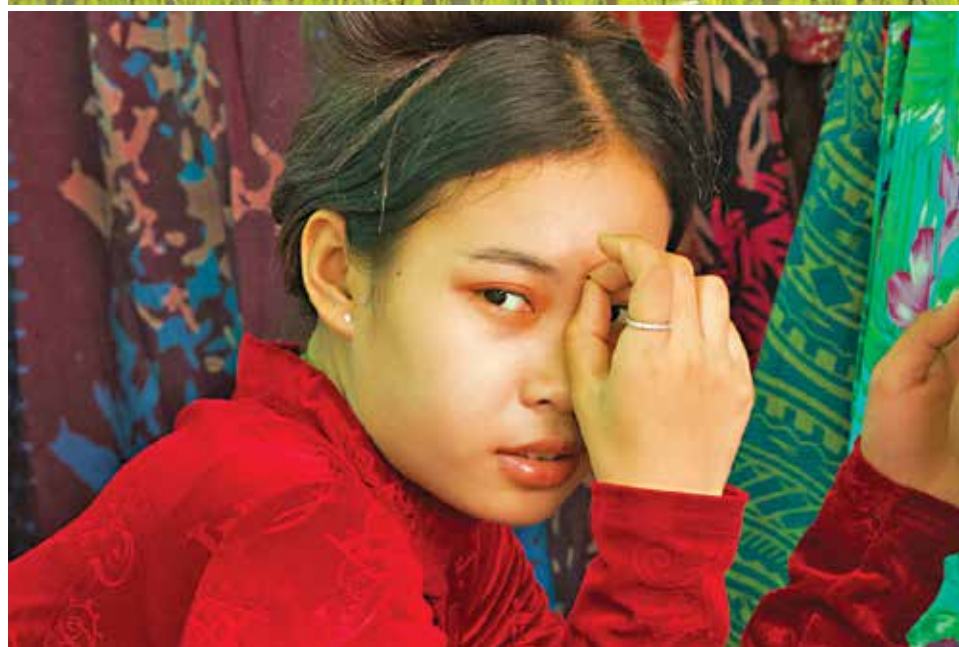




## Photographer's Notebook

# A Visit to Laos and Cambodia

In our Jan. 3 issue, we shared photographs taken by Ross Corsair on a recent trip to Vietnam, where he was born. He also visited Laos and Cambodia, and photos from that part of his trip, such as these, are posted at [highlandscurrent.org/laos-cambodia](http://highlandscurrent.org/laos-cambodia).



## Greg Slick (from Page 11)

"I joined the society so I could get the journal," says Slick, who has visited several ancient architectural constructs and is the chief docent at the Magazzino Italian Art museum in Philipstown.

The new show's title is apt because Slick's striated series has evolved to feature what resembles layers of rocks beneath the Earth's

surface. Early iterations consist of piles of abstract stones (or scoops of ice cream).

The work developed into what he calls "stratigraphic, research-based" pictures with three layers separated by a stone-like wash created by dragging and dabbing a brush roller across the surface with his hands.

Up close and from the side, the works look like collages, with textured surfaces. Covering a stone with grids or a chevron

breaks up the colors and evokes shamanistic and hallucinogenic rituals from prehistoric times, he says.

Some of the featured shapes are textured and scratched, while others are rendered with flat surfaces and brighter colors, like red and blue. At the bottom, a layer of what seems like dark yellow goo suggests magma.

"If you dig down far enough in the Earth, you'll find a wall, a pot, a skull," Slick says.

"All this materiality connects us to the past. It's the history underneath our feet and a bridge to 5,000 years ago."

*The Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Garrison's Landing. The exhibits open with a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 8 and continue through March 9. An artist's talk is scheduled for March 1. For more of Slick's artwork, see [gregslick.com](http://gregslick.com).*

## Sax Appeal (from Page 11)

because, no matter how good the pit musicians are, you're getting a lush performance with so many more instruments," he says.

One challenge for the future of classical music is its aging audience. "The way we

talk about it needs to shift," says Crozier. "Classical is for everyone, and we want people to be comfortable."

Mixing things up, like offering a holiday choral work, providing accompaniment for a silent film and rolling out a pops or Broadway program, help orchestras engage

with larger audiences, says Raphael.

"Movies would be much less engaging or emotional without the background music, which is usually recorded by a full orchestra," says Crozier. "Just as music makes movies better, people can enhance their days by making classical music part of the

soundtrack to their lives."

*Beacon High School is located at 101 Matteawan Road. Tickets are \$55 (\$68 reserved seating, \$38 seniors, \$15 students, children ages 5 and younger free) at [hudsonvalleysymphony.org](http://hudsonvalleysymphony.org).*



# Harmony in Cold Spring!

## Barbershop quartet to perform at St. Mary's

By Marc Ferris

On Feb. 15, the acapella quartet Heartfelt, consisting of members of the Westchester Harmony chorus, will perform at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring. Beacon resident Scott Kruse is substituting to sing baritone, which insiders call the "junk notes" because they sound almost unmusical when performed solo.

The tones are "integral to the overall chord, but hearing them alone is rough sledding," says Bill Kruse, Heartfelt's lead singer and Scott's father.

Traditional barbershop repertoire consists of popular songs from more than a century ago, like "Sweet Adeline," "Hello! Ma Baby" and "By the Light of the Silvery Moon." Heartfelt will deliver some comedy, lead sing-a-longs and perform numbers appropriate for Valentine's Day.

The spelling of "Ma Baby" hints at the genre's roots in minstrelsy, where white performers corked up their faces and caricatured Black people, a portrayal perpetuated by Hollywood through the 1950s. Early barbershoppers appropriated the style from Black singers who secularized four-part gospel harmony.

Louis Armstrong sang in a New Orleans quartet and ragtime composer Scott Joplin's 1910 opera *Treemonisha* includes a barbershop number, "We Will Rest a While."

The groups that recorded in the late 1890s and early 1900s, like the Edison and the Haydn quartets, "got to do so because they were white," says Brian Lynch of the Nashville-based Barbershop Harmony Society. "The Black groups couldn't get that kind of exposure."

Then came the porkpie hats, red vests, maybe a mustache and always the cornpone humor. The style is characterized by a tenor pitched above the melody (or lead). The bass nails down the low end and the baritone fills in the mid-range notes. Chords are held for emphasis, notes are bent, repeated and inverted to create sounds that can be stirring.

In 1938, toward the end of the Great Depression, a group of singers in Tulsa formed the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, known by the awkward acronym SPEBSQUA, which lampooned federal New Deal agencies. After a stint in Wisconsin, the organization moved to Nashville in 2007 and became the Barbershop Harmony Society a year later.

"There's a lot of experimentation going on" in the genre, says Lynch, but at competitions, the society enforces rules regarding



The Heartfelt barbershop quartet will perform on Feb. 15 at St. Mary's.

Photo provided

the number of seventh notes that must be sung. Known as the "blue note," the seventh emphasizes a half-step drop of pitch from the keynote and is the genre's signature sound.

The Westchester group dates to 1953. Like many other ensembles, it has performed concerts dedicated to the Beatles, Broadway, the music of the 1960s and composers associated with the Great American Songbook.

For a traditional style of music, things are in flux. Known as the Westchester Chordsmen for many years, Westchester Harmony rebranded last year and began accepting women as members following the Barbershop Harmony Society's lead in 2018, Lynch says. Today about 20 percent of the 650 choruses in North America include

women (along with seven of Westchester Harmony's 55 singers).

Beyond tight harmonies and corny humor, barbershop choruses are known for constant and consistent recruiting. "We're always looking for voices," says Bill Kruse. "The beauty of being among a lot of singers is that you can easily blend in, but if you're in a quartet and someone hits a wrong bass note, it's easy to identify the culprit. The beauty of the larger group is that anyone can sing this style of music, and it's fun."

*St. Mary's Church is located at 1 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring. The free concert, which is part of the ongoing Music at St. Mary's series, begins at 2 p.m.*

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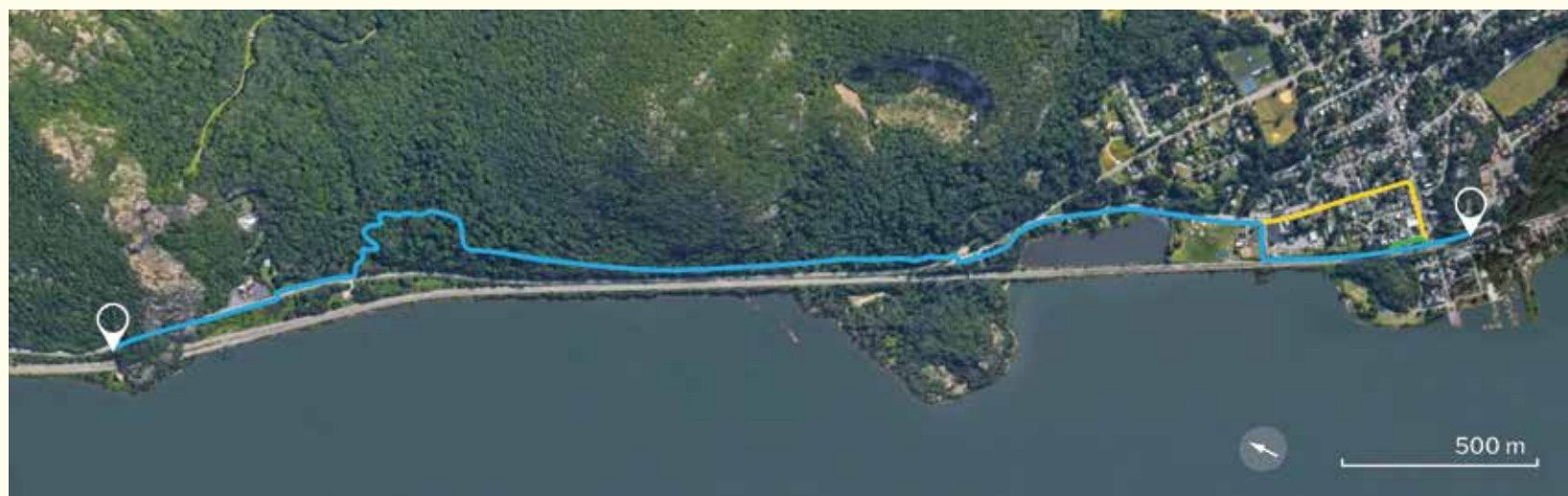
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# The Upland Alternative: A Path from Cold Spring to Breakneck Ridge.



The Upland Alternative is based on two decades of community input and planning, and is backed by a feasibility study that was completed by Philipstown in 2007. A truly community-driven plan connecting Cold Spring to Little Stony Point to Breakneck Ridge, the Upland Alternative would protect hikers, improve ADA accessibility, and promote sustainable levels of tourism in Philipstown.

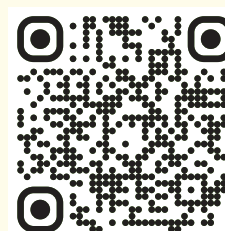
## Advantages of the Upland Alternative:

- No new parking lots and current parking remains free and open access
- Improves access points to existing trails, giving people more freedom to explore
- Preserves the viewshed by not building the Fjord Trail's elevated boardwalk and fencing
- Cheaper, faster, and easier to build, operate, and maintain, minimizing costs to taxpayers
- More resilient to climate change and adaptable to climate disruption
- Less disruptive to wildlife
- Improves ADA access from Metro-North train platform directly to at-grade trail
- Improves ADA access to Little Stony Point

## The Fjord Trail does not have to be built in the river. There is a viable alternative.



ProtectTheHighlands.org







Classic Wheels

# 1938 Chevy Master Deluxe

By Michael Turton

This 87-year-old beauty is proof that those myths about vintage cars aren't always fiction. The sedan did sit in a barn in Vermont for 30 years, although that isn't where Wayne MacIsaac found it.

The Wappingers Falls resident first saw it in 1999, years after it had been rescued, at the annual Rhinebeck Antique Car Show and Swap Meet. "I traded my two-door, two-seater 1930 Ford Model A coupe because the Chevy was a four-door with a back seat where I could put three or four kids," MacIsaac says.

He also liked "the beautiful styling they had, the flowing lines, the fenders, the suicide doors. And I like the wing windows that let air in."

MacIsaac appreciates the cowl scoop, a



flap outside the windshield. When a handle under the dash is pushed, the flap opens, allowing air to flow at the driver's feet.

"It's an easy car to drive," MacIsaac says. Although it lacks power steering, it handles well on the highway and he has no problem keeping up with traffic at 65 to 70 mph.

Chevrolet produced six Master Deluxe models from 1933 to 1942. The body on MacIsaac's 1938 version is original, but he made changes to the interior and under the hood. The 216 cubic-inch, six-cylinder engine became a 350 cubic-inch V8. The three-speed stick shift gave way to a four-speed automatic transmission with overdrive. The suspension was replaced and he added front disc brakes, along with a Mustang front end for better steering.

The mohair fabric bench seat was replaced with brown leather buckets, and the rear bench was reupholstered in the same leather. The odometer and speedom-

eter were upgraded; MacIsaac thinks the car has been driven about 150,000 miles, including 30,000 with him behind the wheel.

The original sedan had no radio, but MacIsaac added an after-market radio and CD player, hidden in the glove box. The speakers were also placed out of sight under the front seat. "When the music's on, you'd swear it's coming from the dash," he says.

The paint is a story in itself. When he bought the car, it was black. He had it painted in Cadillac pearlescent white with purple flames on the sides. That lasted 12 years before he painted it Army green. An Army veteran, MacIsaac said the color and "Rat Patrol" painted on the hood and rear are an homage to the 1960s TV show that followed the exploits of a World War II allied jeep patrol in North Africa.

He hasn't needed replacement parts but acquired fenders and a hood from other collectors "just in case" and because the price was right.

Since buying his first car, a 1952 Chevrolet, MacIsaac has leaned toward that brand.

## The Specs

- Main assembly:** Flint, Michigan
- Models:** Coach, Coupe, Sedan, Sport Coupe, Sport Sedan, Town Sedan
- Total production:** 302,726
- Four-door sedan production:** 236
- Engine:** 216 cubic inch, overhead valve, straight six-cylinder
- Horsepower:** 85
- Transmission:** 3-speed synchro-mesh, manual floor shift
- Carburetor:** Carter single barrel
- Weight:** 2,920 pounds
- Cost:** \$795 (about \$17,700 today)

He has three Chevy hot rods, a 1954 Suburban, a 1956 two-door handyman station wagon and a 1965 panel van.

He isn't afraid to take the '38 on longer drives, including a 300-mile roundtrip to an annual car show in Lake George, one of many where he has shown his cars. "I have probably 100 trophies in my garage," MacIsaac says. "But I don't know which is which!"

SERVICE DIRECTORY

BLACK & WHITE

FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup>

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### Out There

## Justice for All

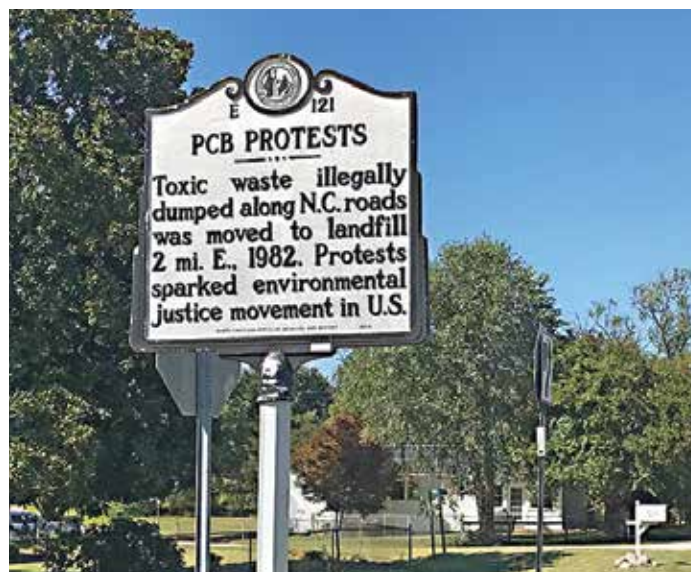
By Brian PJ Cronin

When discussing local history, I always refer to the Highlands as *one* of the birthplaces of the modern environmental movement. The movement has many mothers. One of them is in North Carolina.

In 1978, a Raleigh company disposed of 30,000 gallons of industrial waste by dumping it on the rural roads of Warren County, which at the time had the state's highest percentage of Black residents, many of them with limited incomes. Although the waste was cleaned up, the state announced that the waste would be moved to a landfill to be built nearby. County residents began years of protests.

Just as the battle over a plan to plant an electric plant in the side of Storm King inspired the idea of environmental law, the fight in Warren County inspired the idea of environmental justice.

There had been earlier movements: Caesar Chavez's mobilization of Hispanic farmworkers, a battle in 1968 to prevent a sewage plant in West Harlem, hundreds of years of Indigenous resistance. But the Warren County protests brought the concept



A state highway sign in Afton, North Carolina

*Indy Beetle/Wikipedia*

to the mainstream, with news photos showing Black protesters lying on dirt roads to block dump trucks of toxic waste. Hundreds of people, including members of Congress, were arrested. The landfill was built anyway.

The idea of environmental justice became even better known in 1990 with the publication of *Dumping in Dixie*, by Robert Bullard. He wrote the book after learning that, although the population of Houston was 25 percent Black, every single city landfill was in a Black neighborhood. President George H.W. Bush created the Office of Environmental Justice at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) two years later.

The concept of environmental justice is

one of our greatest gifts to the world, but these days, you wouldn't know it. On Jan. 21, President Trump issued an executive order that attempts to rescind the Biden administration's environmental justice initiatives. Websites dedicated to environmental justice at the Department of Energy and the Department of Transportation vanished overnight. As of Feb. 6, the EPA's environmental justice page was still available, although its Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool is gone. (Researchers who suspected the page might be a target mirrored it at [dub.sh/ej-screening-tool](http://dub.sh/ej-screening-tool).)

It will take time for local and state governments, as well as nonprofits, to assess how the erasure of environmental justice at the federal level will affect their initiatives. New York State has its own Office of Environmental Justice, but the New York chapter of Black Farmers United announced this week that, because of the executive order, it lost key funding and was forced to cancel programs and potentially lose staff.

How might this affect us locally? The toxins dumped in rural North Carolina nearly 50 years ago were polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, the same industrial waste dumped in the Hudson River by General Electric that led to the decades of legal battles over a federally mandated cleanup that so far has not been nearly as successful as anyone had hoped.

What if the world had stood with those Black protesters in North Carolina? Would it have set a precedent that might have helped clean up the Hudson sooner than the 40 years it's taken, with disappointing results? I was born in 1975 and have lived near the Hudson River for 28 years. I very likely will never know a time when it was safe to eat the fish.

Because of the long history of pollution, negligence and disinvestment, both Beacon and Newburgh are designated in state climate laws as “disadvantaged communities” — and regardless of where you live, anything that happens to the Hudson happens to all of us. As the history of environmental justice has shown, when you start creating reasons that someone else's home should be a dumping ground, you lay the groundwork for polluters to come to your front door.

### NOTICE

#### PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

##### Public Hearing – February 20th, 2025

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 20th, 2025 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 to consider the following application:

**KPB Properties, 201 Old West Point Rd. W, Garrison, NY 10524, TM#71.20-1-4**

Project: Major Site Plan; Applicant seeks site plan approval for the construction of a 5,000 square foot building to house an office, equipment and material for a landscaping company operation, along with an access drive, parking and outside storage. The site contains a single-family house that will remain. A new driveway entrance for the landscaping company is proposed from the Route 9 frontage. The driveway for the single-family house will remain from Old West Point Road West. Landscaping and a fence are proposed to separate the uses on the site.

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

Application and supporting materials for this application can also be seen at the below links:

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/october-2024>

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/december-2024>

*Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 16th day of January, 2025.*

*Neal Zuckerman, Chair*



Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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- ACROSS
1. Beanies

5. Enfold

9. Stanley Cup org.

12. Luau dance

13. Roof overhang

14. Parisian “yes”

15. Pedestal occupant

16. Sketch

17. Trio after Q

18. Church organ feature

19. Retrieve

20. Bogus

21. Canonized Fr. woman

23. Soul, to Sartre

25. *Fantasia* ballerinas

28. Esteem

32. Commence

33. Biblical king

34. Gave a speech

36. Sipping aids

37. Weep

38. Spigot
39. “Holy cow!”

42. Away from SSW

44. Foot fraction

48. Flight stat

49. *Misery* star James

50. Olympian Lipinski

51. Altar promise

52. Bullets

53. Family

54. Fresh

55. Low digits

56. Warmonger
- DOWN
1. Poker token

2. BMW rival

3. Fall into a chair

4. Merchant’s spiel

5. Hunks of cheese

6. Exceptional

7. Online icon

8. Church seat

9. Director Ephron
10. Corn cover

11. Low-calorie

20. Frenzied state

22. Photocopier need

24. Maestro Zubin —

25. *Westworld* network

26. Suffix with hotel

27. Links org.

29. Notable time

30. Tier

31. Mag. staff

35. Energetic person

36. Shorthand pros

39. Profit

40. Shoppe description

41. Pack cargo

43. Handle

45. *The Lion King* lion

46. Gullet

47. Slugger Aaron

49. Purring pet

SUDOCURRENT

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WORDLADDER

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

SEARS

LAIRD

WORDSEARCH

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| I | F | N | S | E | L | H | V | B | R |
| T | B | J | R | T | A | S | I | L | E |
| J | S | X | P | J | Y | F | M | P | H |
| B | A | R | T | E | G | R | A | M | T |
| F | F | W | H | P | R | E | S | H | I |
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CACTI

SORE

MACHO

CHOO

SAWS

GRUB

RENE

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RUSTS

PAN

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Answers for Jan. 31 Puzzles

RYXCAPBSKD

ZRTONGSIBU

TVRELEEPWA

UYCWTARHIL

KNIFEEDJU

HXMEDSYNNT

KXXNKFNROA

CUEGOADZMP

ELLADLELPS

BXTIOIOIVKC

SLAKE, SLATE, PLATE,

PLANE, PLANK, PRANK

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## Sports

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — The Blue Devils won a thriller on Jan. 31 at home over North Salem, 60-56, after honoring its four seniors: Brody Corless, Fallou Faye, Nate Stickle and Andalou Frezza. (Stickle did not play after rolling his ankle the day before.) After a slow start, Haldane trailed by three at halftime but opened the third quarter with a 13-0 run during which Faye had a layup, a 3-pointer and a nifty full-court pass to Cooper Corless for an assist.

Haldane led, 45-37, after three quarters, but the Tigers kept climbing back, despite 11 straight points from Faye. With 3:12 left, the Tigers tied the game at 51. But Faye made a layup and a free throw and Luke Bozsik hit a floater and a corner three — his favorite spot on the floor — to outscore North Salem, 7-1, and extend the Blue Devil lead to six.

Bozsik finished with 23 points and Faye with 20, including 18 in the second half. "I thought Fallou, on Senior Night, was phenomenal," said Coach Joe Virgadamo.

On Feb. 2, the Blue Devils competed in the Officials vs. Cancer Tournament at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, defeating Spackenkill, 52-47. Bozsik again led the team with 22 points. Haldane (10-5) traveled to Croton-Harmon on Thursday (Feb. 6) and today (Feb. 7) at 5:30 p.m. will host Beacon for the annual Battle of the Tunnel game.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — The Blue Devils endured a rough week, losing at North Salem on Jan. 31, 62-14, and at Dobbs Ferry on Monday (Feb. 3), 64-27. Haldane's seven-game losing streak ended, however, on Tuesday when the Blue Devils defeated Keio Academy at home, 50-18, after opening the contest with a 21-0 run. Before the game, the team honored its lone senior, Martha McBride, who scored eight points. Stella Gretina led the team with 11.

The Blue Devils hosted Croton-Harmon on Thursday (Feb. 6) and will host Lake-land at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

On Jan. 31, the New York State Sports-writers Association named Camilla McDaniel, a 2024 Haldane graduate who plays for Oberlin College, to the 10th team of its Class C All-State squad.

**WINTER TRACK** — Haldane traveled to The Armory in New York City on Feb. 1 for the 81-team Purple Champions Invitational. For the girls, Near Sevilla finished 41st in the long jump at 11-07.5, Hazel Berkley was 41st in the 1,000 meters in 3:54.43 and Savannah Duggan was 44th in the 200 meters in 33.5. For the boys,

## VARSITY ROUNDUP



Zane Del Pozo fires up a shot against Spackenkill in the Blue Devils win. For more photos, visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Photo by Cadence Heeter

Silas Emig finished ninth in the high jump (5-6), Emmett Horner was 10th in the 600 meters (1:35.58), Jack Ilian was 18th in the 3,200 meters (10:21.83) and Milo Pearsall was 12th in the long jump (19-7). The Blue Devils return to The Armory on Feb. 16 for the Section I, Class C championships.

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — Beacon had three

wins this week — including a stunning upset of a top-ranked Pine Bush team — to improve to 10-5. On Jan. 31, the Bulldogs won at Cornwall, 53-45, behind 20 points from Reilly Landisi and 14 from Rayana Taylor. Before its 66-25 victory on Monday (Feb. 3) over Port Jervis, the Bulldogs honored their five seniors: Landisi, Taylor, Rory LaDue, Lila Burke and Daveya Rodriguez. Burke scored a career-high 20 points and Landisi had 17.

On Wednesday, Beacon traveled to Pine Bush and toppled the previously undefeated Bushmen, 61-57, behind Landisi's 22 points.

Pine Bush, at 14-0, is the fifth-best team in the state's largest class, AAA, according to the New York State Sportswriters Association (Beacon is unranked in Class A).

Fallsburg was scheduled to visit Beacon on Thursday (Feb. 6) but forfeited. The Bulldogs travel to Marlboro (8-5) on Saturday before visiting league rival Liberty (3-10) on Monday and hosting Liberty at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. They wrap up the regular season Feb. 20 hosting Wallkill (7-7).

On Jan. 31, the New York State Sports-writers Association named Landisi to the 12th team of the Class A All-State squad for her play during the 2023-24 season.

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — After 12 days off, Beacon extended its winning streak to eight games, knocking off Fallsburg (76-34); Saugerties (64-61) at the Officials vs. Cancer Tournament at Dutchess Community College that was a rematch of Beacon's loss in last year's Section IX, Class A title game; and Port Jervis (71-53). Jahcier Ballard had 22 points against Fallsburg and 17 against Port Jervis. In a balanced attack against Saugerties, Ryan Landisi scored 15, Marci Rodriguez finished with 14 and Ballard added 11, including a 3-pointer with 1:24 left to break a 59-all tie. Beacon (14-4, 5-0 league) visits Haldane today (Feb. 7) at 5:30 p.m. for the annual Battle of the Tunnel and closes the regular season hosting Liberty (6-10) at 6:30 p.m. on Monday.

**WRESTLING** — Beacon defeated Goshen, 42-33, on the road, with Mark Aakjar (108 pounds), Jude Betancourt (160), Avery Davis (170), Brody Timm (190) and Elijah Rupp (285) each winning by pin. The Bulldogs hosted Monticello on Wednesday (Feb. 5) and will compete in the sectional tournament starting Feb. 15.

**WINTER TRACK** — Beacon competed on Feb. 2 in the Section IX Invitational at The Armory in New York City. For the boys, Zachary Schetter finished third in triple jump (39-2), Jayden Mihalchik was fourth in the pole vault (10-6) and seventh in the shot put (35-1), Noah Spiak placed seventh in the 300 meters (36.88) and Caelum Tripaldi was ninth in the 600 meters (1:27.39). For the girls, Lily Mack was second in the high jump (4-10), Katherine Ruffy placed ninth in the shot put (27-10.5) and Mikaela Sanchez was 11th in the 600 meters (1:45.77). Beacon travels to West Point on Saturday (Feb. 8) for the Section IX, Class A championships.

**BOWLING** — The boys' and girls' squads each lost 5-0 to Middletown and 5-0 to Franklin Roosevelt, falling to 1-10 on the season. The Bulldog teams played Saugerties and Highland this past week and travel to Kingston on Tuesday (Feb. 11).