

The HIGHLANDS  
Current

FEBRUARY 14, 2025

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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Love Song

Page 15



Educators Question Electric-Bus Mandate

*Cost, range, garage space present huge challenges*

By Joey Asher

Is the transition to electric school buses too expensive and too complicated?

That's the question being asked by legis-

lators and educators in the Highlands as New York's mandated, seven-year transition to a zero-emission fleet begins in 2027.

Electric school buses can cost \$400,000 or more, three times the cost of a diesel bus. And there are concerns about range, electrical capacity and the need for larger garages to accommodate the buses and chargers.

So far, the Beacon, Haldane and Garrison districts do not have any electric buses, although Garrison has two hybrid vans. Haldane is seeking grants to buy four electric buses and Beacon voters have approved the purchase of two.

Statewide, only about 100 of 45,000

(Continued on Page 9)

Healeys Ask City to Let Dunkin' Proceed

*Zoning amendments could nix Beacon drive-thru*

By Jeff Simms

The Healey family, which for 40 years operated auto dealerships along Fishkill Avenue in Beacon, says the City Council is unfairly targeting its effort to redevelop one of its lots, according to a letter addressed to Mayor Lee Kyriacou and council members.

The letter, sent Monday (Feb. 10) on behalf of Dwight Healey and his sons, Jay and Dylan, accuses the mayor and council of expediting "incomplete recommendations" made by the Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee, a citizen workgroup assembled by Kyriacou to study the corridor. (Jay Healey is a member of the committee.) The recommendations contradict Beacon's comprehensive plan and lack analysis by traffic consultants and other experts contracted by the city, wrote Taylor Palmer, the Healeys' attorney.

(Continued on Page 6)



**WE GOT THE BEAT** — Members of the Mid-Hudson Chinese Language Center, based in Wappingers Falls, performed a traditional lion dance at St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church in Beacon on Feb. 8 to celebrate the Lunar New Year. They were accompanied by drums, gongs and cymbals, and afterward children were invited to try the instruments. The event was organized by the cultural organization Asian Enough. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).

Photo by Ross Corsair

Small Village, Big Issues

*Cold Spring mayor on the year ahead*

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring covers 400 acres and has fewer than 2,000 residents. But the issues it faces are not unusual and often reflect state and national trends. *The Current* spoke with Mayor Kathleen Foley about priorities in 2025; her responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

**Has the work of running the village changed in recent years?**

The regulatory environment and planning around infrastructure needs have become more complex. It's hard to do the work as a part-time mayor. My family situation allows me to focus on the job and move things forward, but we're going to have to look at that. We added a deputy

(Continued on Page 7)

First Responders Sound Alarm

*Survey highlights mental health challenges*

By Leonard Sparks

Beacon firefighter David Brewer has performed CPR on five people he knew, including a friend who collapsed on Labor Day weekend in 2023 and died despite his efforts.

Then there are the other stressors: being

away from his family for 24-hour shifts, the rush of adrenaline when an alarm sounds and the anxious efforts to extinguish a fire. A panic attack hospitalized him on Christmas Eve a few years ago, said Brewer.

"Your bucket just gets filled up and filled up and filled up until, eventually, it overflows," said Brewer.

That is the situation for many first

(Continued on Page 6)



Beacon firefighter David Brewer

Photo by L. Sparks



# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: ELLEN PEARSON GERSH

By Joey Asher

Ellen Pearson Gersh is the site manager of the Beacon Friendship Center, part of the Dutchess County Office of the Aging.

## How did you start working with seniors?

My father worked for Beacon High School and had the summers off. He believed in helping people who were having hard times, so we would deliver meals to the elderly. I would go to the door and hand them their meal. They were so happy, some of them jumping out of their skin. They'd say, "Ellen, you're so cute." I would say, "Oh, thank you." That's when I realized that it doesn't take much to make somebody smile. A few years ago, when I left my role as cantor at Beacon Hebrew Alliance, I thought, "What do I want to do, for what will likely be my last job? I want to work with a population that is being ignored." Many of the elderly live alone and don't have a social life. Some don't have enough food. They want to be seen and heard.

## What are some of the more popular activities at the senior center?

They love word games. We'll do *The New York Times* Spelling Bee. When they get the Panagram, we all cheer and I give out candy. Or sometimes I'll put a long word on

the board and we'll see how many words we can find. One time I put up supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. We got 102 words. They were so pleased with themselves. They were saying, "We still got it." Another popular activity is Joke Day. They love telling jokes, the cornier the better. On National Chocolate Day, Oct. 28, we watched the *I Love Lucy* episode where Lucy and Ethel work in a chocolate factory. We also had a chocolate tasting. Of course, we do a lot of movement programs, such as dancing. You need to keep the joints lubricated. Cornhole is popular.

## What is one of the most important skills you need in this role?

I'm a good listener. Sometimes I'll call one of my seniors on the phone and say: "It's Ellen. How are you doing? I'm just checking in. I just want to catch up." And we'll talk about lots of different things. Sometimes we'll talk about the Mets. Sometimes we'll talk about music. I have a guy who reminds me of my father telling horrible jokes that are



so horrible, they're hysterical,

## Many older people seem impatient or angry. Why is that?

When the elderly seem crabby or angry, it's usually because they're lonely. They're realizing that they've lost their independence. But to deal with that, just do something fun, even silly. Try playing a board game like Trouble. Why not? Or do an art project like you did in elementary school. Have fun. Be present. Listen to them. They have a lot of great stories. And lots of corny jokes.

## How can people volunteer?

We deliver 60 meals a day to people who are bedridden, in a wheelchair or have other needs, so we always need help in the kitchen putting together the meals, preparing the trays and rolling the knives, forks and spoons into napkins. We also need people to lead activities. I have one person who comes every couple of weeks and plays Hangman. It's very popular. I'm always looking for artists to lead activities for an hour or so. For St. Patrick's Day. I was thinking of having them paint mugs. Then we'll all drink Irish coffee — minus the alcohol, obviously.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## What's the most romantic place you've had dinner?

“At home. Couldn't go to Paris; my husband bought French wine and cheese.”



Liesel Vink, Philipstown

“The Bird & Bottle in Garrison in the 1980s.”



John Lombardi, Beacon

“Beer and pizza on a Hudson River pier, watching the sunset.”



Shannon Herman, Cold Spring



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## NEWS BRIEFS



John Maasik



Nat Prentice

## Two More Candidates for Philipstown Board

*Prentice, Maasik announce campaigns*

Nat Prentice and John Maasik announced last week that they plan to campaign for two open seats on the Philipstown Town Board.

The Philipstown Democratic Committee last month endorsed two other candidates, Ben Cheah and Ned Rauch. The seats are held by Jason Angell and Megan Cotter, who are not running for second terms.

Prentice and Maasik are both Democrats. If at least three candidates gather the signatures needed to appear on the ballot, a primary will be held in June.

Following a career as an investment manager in New York City, Baltimore and Philadelphia, Prentice in 1999 purchased the Garrison home where he grew up. He is a commissioner for the Garrison Fire District, president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Putnam County Business Council and a board member for Stonecrop Gardens and Paramount Hudson Valley Arts. In 2018, he served as chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Maasik, a marketing executive, has served on the Philipstown Recreation Commission since 2012 and as a board member for Friends of Philipstown Recreation since 2014. A 20-year resident, he also volunteered for Scouting America and the Philipstown Soccer Club.

## Beacon Police Tase Suspect

*Teen said to be endangering children*

A Beacon police officer on Feb. 2 used a Taser to subdue a 17-year-old whom officers said was throwing rocks at a window of a home with children inside.

In a news release, Chief Tom Figlia said officers responded at 5:30 p.m. to Tompkins Terrace, where a woman said a teenager who also lives in the complex had forced his way into her apartment and attacked her son and his young children.

Police went to the suspect's apartment to interview him. At one point, he walked out the door and past them, ignoring commands to stop. He walked to the apartment of the woman who had called police, reached into his pocket and threw what appeared to be a rock at her window but missed. As he prepared to throw a second rock, an officer applied a Taser.

The suspect, whom police did not name, was arrested and charged with burglary, criminal mischief, endangering the welfare of a child and attempted assault.

The officers who responded were trained in crisis intervention. "At no time, however, did he respond to the officers or even acknowl-

edge their presence as he approached the female caller," Figlia said. In that situation, the officers needed to "take prompt action."

## Philipstown Adopts Expanded Tax Break

*Raises income limits for seniors, disabled*

The Philipstown Town Board on Feb. 6 approved expanded property tax exemptions for elderly and disabled residents by raising the income limits for the first time in 16 years.

Residents who are age 65 and older or disabled with annual incomes below \$50,000 will be eligible for a tax exemption on 50 percent of their homes' assessed value. The exemption decreases on a sliding scale that tops out at \$58,399, where the tax break is 5 percent.

A qualifying owner with an income below \$50,000 and a property with an assessed value of \$200,000 would save \$347 on their annual bill, based on the 2025 tax rate.

Under the previous scale, adopted in 2009, seniors and disabled property owners had to earn less than \$29,000 annually to qualify for the 50 percent exemption or less than \$37,400 for 5 percent.

## H.V. Shakespeare Hires Two

*Names development, marketing execs*

Hudson Valley Shakespeare in Philipstown announced on Feb. 7 it had hired Martha Pearson as director of development and Kirsty Gaukel as the director of marketing and communications.

Most recently, Pearson was the director of development at Boscobel House and Gardens for two years. Earlier, she held the position at the Irish Repertory Theatre and the La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, both in New York City.

Gaukel most recently worked with the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston and was executive and programming director at the Denizen Theatre in New Paltz. She also worked in marketing for 59E59 Theaters in New York City and Actors Theatre of Louisville. She began her career at the Edinburgh Fringe and International festivals and other venues in her native Scotland.

## Former Legislator Named as EPA Regional Director

*Takes over as Region 2 administrator*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced on Feb. 6 that Michael Martucci has been named its administrator for Region 2, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight federally recognized Indian Nations.

A former Republican state senator, Martucci is a family farmer and the founder of Quality Bus Service, which provides school transportation. The Orange County resident has an MBA from Marist University and in January 2023 purchased the *Mid Hudson News*, where he is publisher.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

**Jan. 6**  
My family and I feel less safe knowing that convicted violent insurrectionists have been released, most likely into neighboring communities, without serving out their sentences or undergoing rehabilitation with the help of groups like Life After Hate ("Trump Pardons Jan. 6 Rioters," Jan. 24). To add insult to injury, it appears that a few *Current* readers believe it is perfectly acceptable to trespass, invade and defile or destroy property without consequence or, at the very least, condemnation. Following the rule of law is a hallmark of a civil society.  
Jo Pitkin, *Nelsonville*

I know where Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer stand on the pardons, but where does Rep. Mike Lawler stand? Is he OK with Trump pardoning violent felons who brutalized cops? If not, he should publicly and loudly denounce Trump for doing so. I'm not holding my breath.  
Nicholas Kuvach, *Putnam Valley*

**Greg Slick**  
After reading this article ("Digging for Answers," Feb. 7), with all its vibrant description and detail, I feel like I have just visited Greg Slick's studio. I love learning

about the artist's thoughts and inspirations as he creates his colorful tableaux. Also, the photos with the article were well-composed and added so much interest.  
Vivienne Courtney, *Croton-on-Hudson*

**Ag board**  
Jocelyn Apicello embodies leadership with the deepest integrity and highest commitment to create trust and health for us and our neighbors in the Hudson Valley ("Philipstown Farmer Removed from Ag Board," Jan. 10). Her recent experience on the Putnam County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board is extremely disturbing. No one deserves such disrespectful, abusive and hurtful treatment — least of all her.  
I wish to thank Jocelyn for her many years of dedicated work to build a positive, responsible, flourishing community. With extraordinary leaders like Jocelyn working on our behalf, we all benefit. With the loss of smart, grounded leaders such as Jocelyn, we are impoverished.  
Imogene Drummond, *Garrison*

**Fjord Trail**  
If it is not broken, don't fix it ("Riverkeeper Voices Fjord Trail Concerns," Jan. 31). For many years, this beauty has

endured. To add manmade items would not improve it one bit.  
I have seen what concrete and metal light fixtures look like after 20 years on the river. Check out the train stations, for example. Proceeding with the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT) is a big mistake. Just think what this stuff will look like in 20 or 30 years, when it will need to be cleaned up.  
John Ianni, *via highlandscurrent.org*

Thank you, Riverkeeper, for highlighting the many dangers the Fjord Trail design poses to the ecosystem and the many creatures who inhabit this irreplaceable landscape of the Highlands.  
As mentioned, there are alternative routes that could avoid harmful impacts and still bring about public safety and recreational access to nature — please, state parks, consider these less-invasive options. I concur with Riverkeeper's call to avoid all impervious surfaces, particularly the hundreds of new parking spaces proposed along Route 9D, which will only bring more cars into the area — hardly an environmental win, however you look at it.  
Mai Yee, *Philipstown*

The comments by Riverkeeper are right on the mark, and while I respect the science behind their concerns, anyone with common sense knows that the best way to protect and avoid degradation of wildlife habitat is simply to keep people out of it.  
This swath of habitat is both unique and irreplaceable and deserves our utmost respect. It's also disingenuous of HHFT to offer up environmental bandage fixes to ameliorate planned 14-foot concrete walkways, such as removing all invasive trees and shrubs in an area full of wildlife, both native and migrating, who've made their home there. I defy anyone who says they can remove a single Japanese Knotweed plant successfully. Scenic Hudson's attempts to remove it in Madam Brett Park in Beacon were fruitless; it poked right through the landscape fabric and went on its merry way.  
It's disheartening to hear groups like Scenic Hudson and the mayor of Beacon pooh-pooh local concerns about the park causing permanent habitat degradation, as if they are easily remedied. If only *The Current* had thought to post side-by-side photos of how this area looks versus what it will look like after the proposed concrete walkway is installed, with hundreds of new pilings driven into the riverbed — a beautiful, wild landscape, compared with a razed and overdeveloped one. A picture is indeed worth a thousand words.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

*Park* is a very general word, used for everything from industrial parks to city parks to Adirondack Park. Some parks preserve land in its natural state, or close to it. The great majority, of course, don't. Right now, the Highlands parkland is not Disneyland, the High Line or ballfields. It's something much more unique and vanishingly rare: plants, animals and vistas in an almost natural state. The foresighted preservation efforts of the past have saved for us a spectacular, unique treasure.

What will this natural gem become once we carve into it and graft onto it a pedestrian highway on concrete pilings at the edge of the river? It will be a different place, less unique, less spectacular and far less natural.

Why throw away what we have and replace it with a suburban "pjark"? Why not do what parks around the country and the world do: limit access to preserve what is unique and, once altered, can never be restored. The urge to drive a pedestrian highway through parkland is the epitome of human arrogance. Have we no respect for the terrain, for the nature people come here to experience, for the natural history on display here? There is no "mitigating" the loss of nature.

Hope Scott Rogers, *Nelsonville*

As I remember it, in 2016 Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson were against building in the water. That's the difference between environmentalists who we can depend on to

## Correction

A listing in *The Week Ahead* in the Feb. 7 issue identified Daniel Kelly as a composter, rather than a composer. In fact, Kelly is also a composter, but that is not what he was planning for the Butterfield Library. The event, in which the pianist will be joined by vocalist Sofia Kelly and actor Sean McNall to present scenes from Shakespeare, has been postponed until Feb. 26.

stick to their grassroots and the land barons chasing their world-class linear park.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

According to the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), the Fjord Trail is intended to "express reverence for the regional landscape" and "cultivate the ecological sublime."

How is that consistent with the destruction of critical wildlife habitat, or the construction of an elevated concrete boardwalk that would look more like the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway than a trail? The Fjord Trail as proposed would not cultivate the sublimity of the Hudson and its Highlands, it would, heartbreakingly, diminish it. The trail would not express reverence for our regional landscape, it would desecrate it.

Alice Krakauer, *Philipstown*

## Putnam Legislature

Thank you to the four Putnam County legislators for advocating fair practices and outing corruption ("Our View: Putnam Needs Change," Jan. 31). Our county needs more legislators like you. It's time to vote out self-interest and bias in our county seats.

Gina Sanchirico, *Putnam Valley*

## Vietnam beauty

Thank you for sharing the two beautifully written articles by Ross Corsair ("Photographer's Notebook: Return to Vietnam," Jan. 3, and "Reporter's Notebook: A Visit to Laos and Cambodia," Feb. 7). His photographs are stunning. The photograph of Ha Long Bay [in Vietnam] is breathtaking. I was not aware that Ross lived in Southeast Asia as a child. We are so lucky to have him in our midst.

Barbara DeSilva, *Garrison*

## New Bohemia

Sitting on Anna West's right in the *New York* magazine cover photo was Lisa Jane Kohner ("Back to Williamsburg," Jan. 31). Alas, she is no longer with us. But she was a great painter — and she always kicked my ass at Scrabble.

Kim Waldhauer, *via Instagram*

## West Point DEI

Highland Falls, Garrison and Cold Spring neighbors (businesses, religious institutions, public spaces) should offer the West Point

cadets places to meet and hospitality ("West Point Disbands 'DEI' Clubs," Feb. 7). Freedom of assembly isn't lost for students.

Melissa Aase, *via Facebook*

## Vets outdoors

All veterans today work or are disabled from wars. Don't use this for the Fjord Trail garbage ("Guardian Revival Names CEO," Feb. 7).

Timothy Hynes, *via Facebook*

*Editor's note: Aaron Leonard, the newly appointed CEO for Guardian Revival, had been executive director of its program that organizes outdoor activities for veterans.*

## Beacon honorees

It is wonderful that Neil Caplan of the Bannerman Castle Trust and Phil Ciganer of the Towne Crier Cafe will be honored at the Howland Cultural Center's gala in May ("The Castle and Crier," Jan. 24). They are two gentlemen who have done a lot for Beacon, as well as for the arts and culture. Kudos to them both.

Susan MacDonald, *Wappingers Falls*

## Fishkill Avenue

The Beacon City Council wants to temporarily allow what it's planning on not allowing until the things come that allow for the not-allowing ("Fishkill Avenue 'Quick Fixes' on Table," Feb. 7).

Gabriel Añel, *via Facebook*

## Hudson Beach Glass


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## Dunkin' *(from Page 1)*

Kyriacou said Wednesday that he had been away because of a family matter and had not had time to read the letter in full.

After purchasing a Ford dealership on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie and constructing a Hyundai facility on Route 52 in Fishkill, the Healey family placed four substantial Fishkill Avenue parcels on the market in 2023. The Planning Board last year approved applications from Carvana, the used-car retailer, and Soka Gakkai International, a Buddhist organization, to occupy two of the parcels.

In November, the family brought a proposal to the board to convert a building at 420 Fishkill Ave., its former Ford dealership, to a Dunkin' coffeehouse with a drive-thru, three apartments and additional commercial space.

At the same time, the council in November asked the Fishkill Avenue committee to develop interim zoning recommendations for the corridor while continuing its work, which includes studying streetscapes and pedestrian accessibility. J.C. Calderon, the committee chair, delivered the recommendations during the council's Jan. 27 workshop:

- Prohibit self-storage facilities.
- Prohibit drive-thrus.
- Reduce the minimum front-yard setback for new development and require parking behind, underneath or to the side of a building.
- Prohibit gas stations, car washes, auto lots and repair shops, but allow existing auto-related uses to remain as non-conformities.

Calderon noted that committee members had not unanimously agreed but said the proposals align with input received during three public "pop-ups" last summer and an online survey. Another public information session is scheduled for March 9 at Industrial Arts Brewing Co.

Planning Board members also questioned the committee's recommendations, Calderon said. During a work session before its Dec. 10 meeting, John Gunn, the board chair, said that auto-related uses and drive-thrus "could be considered appropriate" in the Fishkill Avenue corridor while emphasizing traffic-calming and the pedestrian experience "in context of some of these types of uses."

The City Council on Monday agreed to send a draft law prohibiting self-storage facilities and drive-thrus to the city and county planning boards for review. Council members said they requested the "quick-fix" measures to preserve the city's vision for a walkable corridor that would complement recreational uses such as biking and hiking before incompatible development is approved.

The Planning Board held a public hearing the next night on the Dunkin' proposal. Three residents, one of them the husband of Council Member Pam Wetherbee, opposed the plans. One person favored the project. Thirteen more (eight for, five against) submitted written comments.

In the letter from Palmer, the Healeys asked the council members, if they decide to prohibit self-storage and drive-thrus, to exempt their project because it had been proposed beforehand.

### Rose Hill Manor

The owner of Rose Hill Manor Day School, a preschool located for 40 years at 1064 Wolcott Ave., has proposed redeveloping the site as a three-story, 41-room hotel with a gym, spa and 56-seat restaurant.

The hotel would be open year-round with the spa open Tuesday through Sunday. The restaurant would offer breakfast to hotel guests, dinner to guests and the public every night, and brunch to guests and the public on weekends.

On Wednesday (Feb. 12), owner Mark DeFabio said he does not plan to close the preschool, which operates out of two homes, one of them

a historic Victorian, at the site. Rose Hill will relocate, although he has not found a site, DeFabio said. The school is licensed to care for 120 children, but enrollment has dropped since the Beacon City School District began offering a pre-K program, he said.

Planning Board members on Tuesday (Feb. 11) marveled at the scale of the proposal, which calls for constructing a 2½-story addition linking the homes. "I can't imagine this is going to get a lot of positive feedback unless it is severely scaled back," said Board Member Kevin Byrne.

The Rose Hill parcel is part of Beacon's protected historic district, which requires a special-use permit for some commercial uses, including hotels.

### 291 Main St.

This project returned to the Planning Board on Tuesday for the first time since November. Originally proposed as a three-story addition with four apartments to the historic Telephone Building, it now includes a setback so that only two stories are visible on Main Street, keeping the cornice intact. It would have three apartments (one was removed from the plans) over retail space on the first floor. There would be covered spaces for four cars on the ground floor of the addition, behind the Telephone Building.

The board will hold a public hearing on the plans next month.

### 45 Beekman St.

The Planning Board held a public hearing Tuesday on this proposal to construct two 4-story buildings with 64 one- and two-bedroom apartments along Beekman Street, up to its intersection with Route 9D. It would also include 15,000 square feet of commercial space. A building at the site would be demolished.

An adaptive traffic signal system has been installed by the state Department of Transportation along 9D from Beekman to

Interstate 84 that will soon be functional. DOT said it does not support adding a southbound right-turn lane onto Beekman for the project but said one could be considered if traffic increases.

A half-dozen residents spoke during Tuesday's hearing, with all but one opposing the project. A High Street resident whose property borders the site said he fears construction will damage a retaining wall that supports his parcel, while another said the buildings would be incompatible with the colorful Victorian homes on High Street.

A West Church Street resident said the project would "dwarf all buildings in the immediate area significantly." The board kept the hearing open, so it will continue next month.

### Prophecy Hall

Project officials asked the Planning Board in December to amend their approved plans for a hotel, cafe and event center at the former Reformed Church of Beacon on Wolcott Avenue. Instead of the event venue — a contentious proposal that was scaled back several times — they said they hope to open a 150-seat restaurant.

The developers said Tuesday that the restaurant would remain, but the hotel, approved in 2023 for 30 rooms, would be reduced to 16. The site's 33 parking spaces would expand to 39.

The restaurant would offer brunch and dinner to the public and breakfast and snacks to hotel guests. Proposed hours are 4 to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 1 to 10 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. The developers anticipate hosting a "limited number" of weddings and other private events.

Plans to restore and maintain the historic cemetery behind the church, as well as noise-mitigating measures included in the initial approval, remain in place. The developers said they would return with renderings and more details.

## First Responders *(from Page 1)*

responders, according to an inaugural statewide survey of 6,000 emergency personnel, including 900 from the Mid-Hudson region, that asked about their mental health. Released on Feb. 5, the report is a collaboration between the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, the Institute for Disaster Mental Health and the Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz.

Of the police officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency dispatchers and emergency managers surveyed, 94 percent cited stress as a challenge and nine out of 10 mentioned burnout and anxiety. A majority also reported stress from traumatic events such as shootings and accidents (56 percent) and suffering symptoms of depression (53 percent). Another 40 percent experienced symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and 16 percent thought of suicide.

Being exposed to constant trauma "can destroy relationships, it can destroy families, it can destroy that person," said Aaron Leonard, a lieutenant with the Cold Spring

Fire Co. and the newly appointed CEO of Guardian Revival, a Beacon organization that provides services for veterans and first responders, including peer counseling.

"I have had my own experiences of sitting at my house having dinner, and then five minutes later, I'm doing CPR, the person passes away and you just go back home," he said. "Where do you unpack that experience?"

The list of barriers that prevent first responders from getting help is long, with about 80 percent citing the stigmas surrounding mental health and concerns that colleagues will deem them unreliable. Others worried that seeking help would impact their career or cause supervisors to treat them differently (74 percent), or lead to losing their firearms license (68 percent).

"It used to be, push that stuff down," said Brewer, whose 43-year firefighting career includes 25 years as a volunteer. "You were a lesser firefighter if you talked about that."

Brewer was "circling the drain" before a 45-minute phone call with a peer counselor at Guardian Revival helped him understand that he did everything possible to save his friend.

He has also attended a Guardian Revival workshop where veterans and first responders congregate around a campfire to talk about stressors. "Sometimes you go, 'Wow, I'm not alone,'" said Brewer. "Sometimes you go, 'I'm not that messed up.'"

In addition to peer counseling, survey respondents expressed interest in training on topics such as managing stress and coping with anxiety or depression. Their wish list of solutions includes access to gym memberships or in-house equipment, like the weight room at Beacon's new firehouse, and paid time for mental health care.

Guardian Revival has memorandums of understanding to assist 25 fire departments in Dutchess and Putnam counties with wellness programs, said Leonard. The Cold Spring Fire Co. launched its program on Monday (Feb. 10) with a yoga class.

Shari Alexander, a Cold Spring firefighter, coordinates the program with Leonard's wife, Leslie. Alexander said two personal trainers have volunteered to lead strength training, she will lead a class on breathing techniques and there will be a pushup challenge and sessions on topics

such as healthy eating.

"Calls can be difficult and emotional and taxing," she said. "Part of it is preventative and part of it is being prepared to support people when they need extra help after calls or for things going on in their lives."

Last year, Dutchess County appointed Melissa Lawlor, a midwife and nurse practitioner who has worked with firefighters and paramedics on wellness for 30 years, as its deputy coordinator for first responder health and wellness, said Colleen Pillus, the county communications director.

In March, 40 first responders attended a daylong training in mental health topics hosted by the county Emergency Response and Mental Health departments, 400 underwent peer-support trainings between April and November, and 30 spent three days in October learning how to identify mental health needs in their organizations.

"Beyond individual training, we want to see agencies embed resiliency, physical health and emotional well-being into their daily operations, through peer support, leadership modeling and ongoing conversations," Pillus said.



## Cold Spring *(from Page 1)*

clerk and board secretary so the clerk can do what he's supposed to: filing local laws, managing FOIL requests, compliance issues, grants. His job has more of a chief-of-staff feel than before.

### Your 2025 project list has 20-plus items. Is that unusual?

The volume of work and capital projects we need to address have always been there, but we haven't always been able to act. I created the spreadsheet so we can stay centered on the work of running the village and determine priorities. And there's everything else that pops up. In the past week, we've had a service-line break, a water-main break and a valve failure. The extreme cold wreaked havoc; we have aging infrastructure that is like whack-a-mole.

### You advocate the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail beginning at Little Stony Point. Can the village influence HHFT's preference to start it at Dockside Park?

I hope so. There's a lot of money and political weight behind HHFT. We are outgunned. We have a state park within our boundaries, but a day trip for someone from the city or a weekend experience for someone from Watertown shouldn't destroy our village's quality of life. That's going to be a hard balance. Our biggest tool is advocacy as an involved agency. We are taking our review of the DGEIS [Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement] very seriously.

### Damage to Fair Street stormwater drainage caused by the July 2023 storms will cost about \$1.5 million to repair. How is that progressing?

The project was originally eligible for FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] damage reimbursement and mitigation funding, but the roadway is now eligible for Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] funds, as well. The process is very slow. We have not had formal confirmation of the portions of the project either agency will fund, or dollar amounts they will provide. The federal regulatory and documentation requirements may prove more costly than the reimbursement we could receive. FHWA is questioning our engineer's assessment to upsize the culverts, which FEMA considers essential. It's a bureaucratic tangle. We can't leave Fair Street unfixed; it's a public safety issue. Once SEQR [the state environmental review] is complete and bids are out, we will proceed with the work, as early as June. Upstream from Fair Street, multiple points along Back Brook must be engineered and upgraded in the future, including key locations near The Endless Skein [on Main Street], at the intersection of Mountain and Fishkill avenues and at Cedar Street.

### New York State recently awarded \$2.5 million toward \$8 million in Upper Dam repairs at the reservoirs. What is the project status?

Schematic engineering is done. We need access across private property to do the work



Mayor Kathleen Foley in her office at Village Hall

Photo by M. Turton

and bring in big equipment. We're in talks with the property owners about easements; one has agreed to donate the property to the village. This year will be spent on land acquisition, then fine-grained engineering and planning, with construction next year.

### Will the 2025-26 budget process differ from previous years?

We have a pile of expensive capital projects, and we don't have the option of not doing them. We'll need to bond [borrow] but have to be able to afford the bond payments. We'll have some hard conversations about tax rates, water and sewer rates, and maybe the tax cap. The cap gives people a sense of security because it constrains local government spending. But infrastructure keeps deteriorating, costs keep increasing and at some point, it's a race to the bottom. I'm not saying we're going over the cap this year, but we might have to have the conversation.

### Why is updating the short-term rental law a priority?

It's hugely significant in terms of revenue. It's one of the few ways we can offset the cost of tourism. The first quarter of the new hotel occupancy tax brought in about \$10,000. Leveling the playing field between hotels and short-term rentals [STRs] will be helpful. There was hyperbole around the impact of STRs and a couple of problematic properties initially, but we haven't had a complaint since 2022. We're living with STRs now; they're part of our local economy.

I see the update as future-proofing. With overtourism rising and the prospect of large-scale park development, we have to think about what comes next. Last fall, there were several busy weekends when we had to add two police officers; that comes out of our budget. If our numbers keep going up, we have to think about the invisible costs.

### What are the issues around pedestrian safety?

The spine of our commercial district is Route 9D, a state highway. DOT [the state Department of Transportation] works to keep traffic flowing, not slow it down. That's fine outside the village but not in a dense

residential area where 9D crosses through senior housing, medical facilities, a post office, grocery store, gas stations, a pharmacy, school crossings and a playground. We're so lucky to live in a walkable place and there are ways 9D can be made safer, including safety islands, crossing mechanisms and activated flashing signs. On Main Street, big delivery trucks are a safety issue. We've made visibility zones wider at crosswalks. We'd like to try those floppy crosswalk signs in the middle of the street. We're not Massachusetts, where if a pedestrian even thinks of using a crosswalk, drivers stop. We have to build that culture here.

### What's your assessment of the parking changes initiated last year?

This summer we'll have a full year of data to review. It's working really well on residential streets; feedback has been generally positive. There are kinks to work out, including a smoother system for visitors and service provider passes. There's always drama around something new like paid parking, but I think people are getting in the habit. We need to improve signage. We've struck a good balance having Main Street parking free during the week and paid on weekends. We increased parking fines; \$25 tickets were just another cost for visitors. It has to hurt, there has to be a consequence. And, we don't have an option; we need parking revenue to offset visitation costs.

### It's been over a year since "First Amendment auditors" disrupted village meetings. Will you reinstate public comment as a routine agenda item?

Public comment is always available. The process is different now, but well within the boundaries of the [state] open meetings law. If people have things to say or want to comment on an agenda item, we take a vote to open public comment. I hate that we had to do that. The village was always informal; you could come in, speak about anything. There were few limitations. But people were coming in and filming at village employees' desks. This allows us to establish boundaries and to keep our employees and records safe.

## Real Estate Market Reports

### JANUARY

Beacon Homes	2024	2025
New Listings	10	13
Closed Sales	10	16
Days on Market	90	74
Median Price	\$546,000	\$657,500
% List Received	95.5	97.1
Inventory	37	24

Beacon Condos	2024	2025
New Listings	4	3
Closed Sales	1	3
Days on Market	253	47
Median Price	\$730,000	\$450,000
% List Received	85.0	97.2
Inventory	13	9

Philipstown Homes	2024	2025
New Listings	5	4
Closed Sales	12	7
Days on Market	81	79
Median Price	\$692,500	\$975,000
% List Received	93.2	101.0
Inventory	22	21

### ANNUAL

Beacon Homes	2023	2024
New Listings	181	137
Closed Sales	100	108
Days on Market	55	55
Median Price	\$523,100	\$550,000
% List Received	99.1	99.9
Inventory	38	34

Beacon Condos	2023	2024
New Listings	47	39
Closed Sales	24	30
Days on Market	124	64
Median Price	\$567,500	\$547,500
% List Received	98.4	98.8
Inventory	17	10

Philipstown Homes	2023	2024
New Listings	113	129
Closed Sales	75	83
Days on Market	72	73
Median Price	\$650,000	\$735,000
% List Received	97.2	95.6
Inventory	32	35

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.



# Submit your public comment to protect the Hudson Highlands



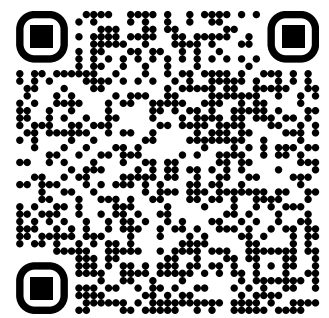
The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail was released on December 4, 2024 and New York State is accepting public comments in response to the DGEIS through March 4, 2025.

**The public comment period represents one of the most important opportunities for the public to review the scope of the proposed Fjord Trail and contribute feedback.**

If built as currently conceived, the Fjord Trail would touch every aspect of our local communities. It would threaten the character of our towns and our quality of life with years of heavy construction. It would bring more traffic and crowding, straining the limited carrying capacity of two-lane roads. It would pave over parkland and fragment fragile habitats used by protected species of wildlife. It would impact how our tax dollars are spent and the response capacity of our local emergency services. **Submit your public comment today to protect the Hudson Highlands for tomorrow.**

## Scan the QR code to submit our template public comment:

[protectthehighlands.org/dgeis/#submit-a-template-comment](https://protectthehighlands.org/dgeis/#submit-a-template-comment)



ProtectTheHighlands.org





Many school districts would need to construct garages for electric buses, which require more space. These buses are charging in a garage built last fall by a district in Illinois.

McClatchy Tribune

## Electric Buses *(from Page 1)*

buses are electric, although about 1,000 have been approved or ordered, according to Adam Ruder, director of clean transportation for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). At the same time, residents in a handful of districts, including Hyde Park, have voted against electric bus purchases, even with state grants cutting the cost.

State Sen. Rob Rolison, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, said he supports the transition to zero-emission buses. But he said the state needs to “listen to the school superintendents, school boards and taxpayers who are saying, ‘Can we just slow down? Let’s get it done. But the time frame is unrealistic.’”

The New York State Educational Conference Board, a coalition of groups that represent superintendents, PTAs, school boards, teachers, business officials and administrators, has raised concerns. Last month, the board published a paper stating that the mandate “will force districts to reduce educational opportunities for students, increase taxes and spend exorbitant sums, and cause voter unrest.”

It proposed changes that include giving districts more money toward the estimated \$15 billion in costs; allowing hybrid and low-emission buses; certifying range estimates from manufacturers; better access to funding by third-party transportation providers; and special utility rate structures for districts.

Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, said it’s too soon to start “kicking the can down the road” by pushing back the zero-emission bus mandate. “We need to continue to work toward the goal. If we can’t reach the goal, we can extend the deadline.” She said she is not aware of any plans to add funding for electric buses to the 2025 state budget.

Jonathan Jacobson, a Democratic member of the Assembly whose district includes Beacon, said the conversion to electric buses “has presented more challenges than anticipated” including rising fleet costs, a lack of charging stations and electrical capacity and that “the buses would be too heavy for many of the small bridges in suburban and rural districts.” But he said

he was optimistic legislators and state agencies could find “affordable solutions.”

At NYSEDA, Ruder said districts should get started, regardless. “We’ve been encouraging districts to buy one or two, kick the tires and get a sense of how they perform,” he said, adding that 75 percent of districts have the electrical capacity to charge at least 10 buses.

Haldane, with a fleet of 15 buses and six vans, is trying to piece together financing to buy four electric buses, at a cost of \$375,000 each, said Carl Albano, the interim superintendent. Albano said grants would cover all but about \$50,000 of the cost if the district is approved for funding for each bus from the state (\$147,000) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (\$170,000). Whether the EPA grant will be allowed to go forward under the Trump administration is unclear.

“Being patient and measured is the way to go,” Albano said. “Teaching and learning should be the priorities, along with safe buildings. Protecting the environment is a high priority, but I don’t think it should come at the expense of cutting programs or adding taxes to the local homeowners.”

Even if Haldane can afford the buses, he said, the district will need to pay for electrical infrastructure upgrades. “We’re on a mountain,” he said. “There’s a lot of rock. The cost could be prohibitive.”

Although the Garrison School doesn’t own most of its buses — they are provided under contract with Orange County Transit — the district is studying the range of the electric buses that would transport students to and from Garrison’s K-8 campus and to Haldane, Putnam Valley and O’Neill high schools. The vendor’s seven buses are parked at Garrison during the day. If they were electric, the district would need to install chargers and the electrical capacity to run them, said Joseph Jimick, the district business manager.

Last spring, voters in the Beacon district approved the purchase of two electric buses at a cost of about \$500,000 each, including chargers. The district has been able to finance more than half the cost through state grants. However, Superintendent Matt Landahl said the district, with a fleet of 57 buses and vans, would need to upgrade its garage before buying any additional electric buses.



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **OFFICER HONORED** — The Beacon Police Department on Feb. 1 named Officer Michael Connor as its First Responder of the Year in a ceremony at the Elks Club. Connor assisted an officer from another agency who was suffering from possible fentanyl exposure. Connor, second from left, is shown with Chief Tom Figlia, Michael Zanzarella of the Elks and state Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson.



▲ **COLD DUTY** — Beacon firefighters earlier this month simulated rescues on the Hudson River using the department's ice sled. Mayor Lee Kyriacou (left) joined them on Feb. 5.



◀ **STATION VISIT** — Sue Serino, the Dutchess County executive, visited the new Beacon firehouse on Feb. 7 for a tour. She is shown with the mayor (center) and retired volunteer firefighter Dennis Lahey Sr.

Photos provided

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## The Calendar



Photo by Jon Slackman

Guitar at the Bar

# RIK Mercaldi

By Marc Ferris

Rik Mercaldi acquired his main electric guitar at age 15 and has been mastering its intricacies ever since. Give him a country song, a three-chord vamp or a funky bass line and he will execute an impressive solo with impeccable tone.

Playing with Last Minute Soulmates at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon on Feb. 7, he balanced feeling with technique and made his *wah wah* effect pedal cry like a baby as he sang along.

"People tell me that I sing, but it's not conscious and I guess I can't help it," he says. "I wasn't trying to draw undue attention, but sometimes the adrenaline kicks in when you're playing live, and you lose yourself."

Though he can rip out ferocious licks up and down the neck, Mercaldi only unleashes the beast at the proper time.

"That's the goal of a sideman, to make everything sound better," he says. "It's not about showboating."

Delivering tasteful lead guitar parts in an original pop/rock band is one skill, but over the years he has performed a wide range of styles, including the Cosmokaze project, which performs at 8 p.m. on Feb. 20 and every third Thursday at Quinn's.

The sound is as far out as the name because, unlike the more pat blues and rock that first forged Mercaldi's sound and style, this instrumental trio improvises for 45 minutes to an hour at a time, like one long jazz solo.

Drummer Todd Guidice produced and engineered the group's two albums at Roots Cellar Studio in Philipstown.

Regarding the band's name, which sounds like an exotic cocktail, "we were kicking stuff around with the general feeling of trippy, spacey, astral and the word *cosmic* came up and Josh [Enslin on bass] blurted it out," he says. "It's a cosmic kamikaze if that makes any sense."



Instead of crashing and burning, the music soars like a Grateful Dead space jam, sometimes gelling into a steady chord pattern and then fading into an ambient wash of sound or a low frequency rumble. Solos can break out at any time.

"It's not a jam band, we're doing spontaneous composition," he says. "We're like a jazz group with rock instruments."

No two performances are alike, but they can incorporate "a riff or chordal thing we've used before, which works well as a springboard."

There is plenty of musicality for listeners to latch onto a groove, or pocket, as segments lurch along then morph into a pattern with a strong backbeat.

Exotic sounds augment the mix, including two twangy lap steel guitars, a digital sitar effect and found backgrounds, like snippets from old films and answering machines. An electromagnetic EBow device transforms the guitar's timbre into an otherworldly, high-pitched buzz with sustain for forever.

Mercaldi moved to Beacon in 2016 from Hastings-on-Hudson, his first suburban stop. Visiting Dogwood (now Cooper's) sealed the deal.

(Continued on Page 15)



Photo by Joseph Linksman

Guitar at the Bar

# GREG Linksman

By Marc Ferris

As many critics and moviegoers gush over the new Bob Dylan biopic, *A Complete Unknown*, Greg Linksman shrugs. He has already dived deep into the music and background of one of his heroes but saw the film on a lark.

"I've read all the books and watched the concert footage and documentaries, so there's no real need to see a re-creation of a scene that I've already seen in its original form," he says.

Due to thirsty ears and a curious mind, he has accumulated at least a degree's worth of facts and knowledge about popular music, especially from the 1950s to the 1970s.

"I get excited listening to Motown when you know 30 seconds in that you're getting a hooky chorus in a perfectly crafted song, or knowing that Paul Simon will have amazing arrangements," he says. "But I also appreciate Buddy Holly and that punk rock thing with two chords."

Linksman, 36, hails from Westchester County. He knew Beacon because an aunt lived in the city. He started coming up more often in the 2010s to take breaks from Brooklyn and fell in with the Dogwood music crew. Then he met Kyra Auffermann, got engaged and relocated last year.

Over the years, he's performed semi-monthly pop-up shows at local bars and joined DIY events like a five-band event at the VFW Hall in December.

On Friday (Feb. 21), his group, Mickey Green's Off-Track, will play at Industrial Arts Brewing Co. For New Yorkers of a certain age, a word is missing from the name and indeed, his grandfather, Mickey Green, frequented the Off-Track Betting parlors that once dotted neighborhoods across New York City and showed horse races via closed-circuit analog television feeds.

Onstage, Linksman wears a shamrock-green cap knitted by his great-grandmother. "It's always been my color," he says.

(Continued on Page 15)



Linksman performing in the East Village in 2023.

Photo by Kyle Ostrander



THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

SAT 15  
Maple Sugar Tours  
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 16 and weekends through March 9. *Cost: \$18 (\$15 members, free for ages 4 and younger)*

SAT 15  
Washington's Birthday  
NEWBURGH

Noon – 3 p.m. Washington's Headquarters  
84 Liberty St. | facebook.com/washingtonshheadquarters

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 district includes Philipstown, will discuss state 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*

MON 17  
MLK Singing Parade  
BEACON

8:30 a.m. – Noon.  
Springfield Baptist Church  
8 Mattie Cooper Square

Enjoy a continental breakfast and opening ceremony at the church before the parade begins at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome to march and bring signs that reflect King's beliefs. A program will follow the parade at the church with speakers, music and lunch. Rescheduled from January.

SAT 22  
Walking the Labyrinth  
PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Graymoor  
40 Franciscan Way | atonementfriars.org

Lynn Brown will guide participants in the meditative practice during this retreat. Register online.

SAT 22  
Celebration of Light  
BEACON

5:30 p.m. Polhill Park  
Main and South | beaconspring.org

Bring a homemade lantern and join a parade to spread cheer and light for the Lunar New Year and the coming of spring. The parade will end at The Yard for music and tea.

STAGE & SCREEN

THURS 20  
Brother Outsider  
BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

Watch the 2003 documentary about the civil rights activist who mentored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and organized the 1963 March on Washington. His life partner, Walter Naegle, will attend for a Q&A with Kenya Gadsden.

THURS 20  
Little Richard,  
I Am Everything  
POUGHKEEPSIE

7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Learn about Richard Wayne Penniman, known as the architect of rock 'n' roll, in this screening of the 2023 documentary. *Free*

FRI 21  
Nerd Nite Hudson Valley  
BEACON

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
hudsonvalley.nerdnite.com

Environmental scientist Ramesh Laungani, writer Julie Kling and cellist Yvonne Caruthers will present on various topics, including breastfeeding, science and music. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

FRI 21  
Tracy Morgan  
PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The comedian and actor will do stand-up in a show rescheduled from the fall. *Cost: \$68 to \$89*

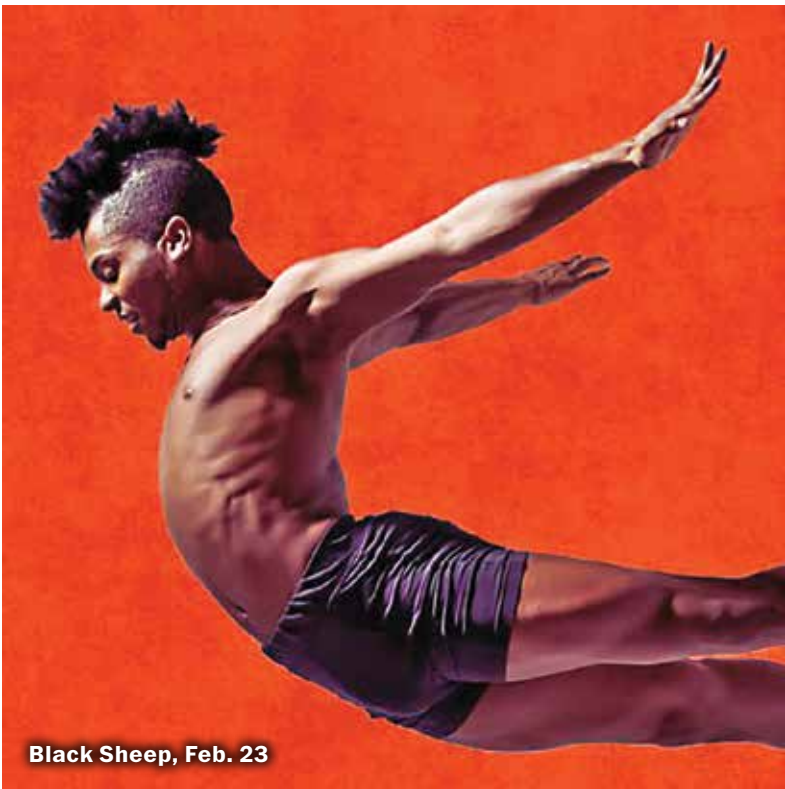
SUN 23  
Black Sheep & Scapegoats  
NEWBURGH

7 p.m. Lobby at The Ritz | 107 Broadway  
safe-harbors.org/the-ritz-theater

The Emotions Physical Theatre will stage a dance about Black self-love choreographed by Shawn Rawls. *Free*



Brother Outsider, Feb. 20



Black Sheep, Feb. 23

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 17  
Winter Break Workshop  
GARRISON

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
garrisonartcenter.org

Children ages 5 to 11 are invited to explore art-making methods. Also TUES 18. *Cost: \$95*

WED 19  
No-Sew Heart Pillow  
GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 6 to 12 can make a pillow to take home. Registration required.

THURS 20  
Diamond-Painted Magnets  
BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 to 12 can add sparkly resin gems to create magnets.

FRI 21  
Soul  
GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children are invited to watch this 2020 Disney animated film about following your passions.

SAT 22  
Cooking Club  
COLD SPRING

1 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 to 12 can join this new monthly gathering. This month's theme is chocolate. Registration required.

VISUAL ART

SAT 15  
Baggage Claim  
BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | beaconopenstudios.com

The group exhibit, organized by Beacon Open Studios, includes work

by local artists. Also SUN 16, SAT 22, SUN 23.

SAT 22  
Artist Talk  
GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Greg Slick, Amy Cheng, Erik Schoonebeck and Zac Skinner will discuss their work, which is on display in two shows.

TALKS & TOURS

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.

TUES 18  
Know Your Rights for Allies  
BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

Stephanie Carnes will discuss how to respond to immigration enforcement actions.

THURS 20  
How to Build Belonging  
Through Play  
BEACON

6:30 p.m. Beahive | 6 Eliza St.  
845-418-3731 | dub.sh/beahive-events

Eli Walker will explain how to have engaging interactions with co-workers, community members and yourself. RSVP requested. *Free*

THURS 20  
The Economic Diversity  
of the 19th-Century Black  
Community

7 p.m. Via Zoom | dchsny.org/feb20

Bill Jeffway of the Dutchess County Historical Society will use personal accounts pieced together from diaries to explore the lives of Blacks in Dover and eastern Dutchess County after the Civil War. Register online. *Free*



**FRI 21**  
**Tracking the Fate of the World's Big Trees**  
**MILLBROOK**  
7 p.m. Cary Institute  
2801 Sharon Turnpike | [caryinstitute.org](http://caryinstitute.org)  
Evan Gora, a fellow at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, will discuss working among the largest trees in the world to understand how conservation and restoration can save them. Attend in person or via Zoom.

**SAT 22**  
**Ambiguity is the Answer**  
**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)  
Kyle Crawford will discuss his book on “timeless strategies for creating change.”

**SAT 22**  
**Sam Rebelein & Clay McLeod Chapman**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | [stanzabooks.com](http://stanzabooks.com)  
The horror authors will discuss their new books. Rebelein's *The Poorly Made and Other Things* is a collection of connected stories. Chapman's *Wake Up and Open Your Eyes* is a novel about families tearing each other apart.



**SAT 22**  
**Cannons & Cocktails**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery  
10 N. Chestnut St. | [beaconhistorical.org](http://beaconhistorical.org)  
In this program organized by the Beacon Historical Society and hosted by Scott Ramsey, military historian Sean Sculley will discuss Beacon's revolutionary past. Donations welcome. *Free*

**MUSIC**  
**SAT 15**  
**Westchester Chordsmen**  
**COLD SPRING**  
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | [musicatstmarys.com](http://musicatstmarys.com)  
The barbershop quartet will perform a Valentine's show. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SAT 15**  
**Dance with Me**  
**WEST POINT**  
2 p.m. Ike Hall Theatre  
655 Pitcher Road | [westpointband.com](http://westpointband.com)  
The West Point Band program will include works by Rachmaninoff and Michael Bublé. *Free*



**SAT 15**  
**Concert of Concertos**  
**NEWBURGH**  
4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College  
845-913-7157 | [newburghsymphony.org](http://newburghsymphony.org)  
This Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra performance at Aquinas Hall will include works by Tchaikovsky, Copland and Rachmaninoff. *Cost: \$35 to \$80*

**SAT 15**  
**The Nighttimes**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Industrial Arts Brewing Co.  
511 Fishkill Ave.  
[industrialartsbrewing.com](http://industrialartsbrewing.com)  
The psychedelic garage band will play. Hundo opens.

**SAT 15**  
**Natalie Forteza | Kendra McKinley**  
**BEACON**  
8 & 9 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | [theyardbeacon.com](http://theyardbeacon.com)  
The singers will each perform original music at the Beacon Open Studios winter art show. *Cost: \$15*

**SAT 15**  
**Mary Fahl**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The singer will play music from her latest release, *Can't Get It Out of My Head*. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

**SAT 15**  
**Neil Alexander**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Lyonshare  
246 Main St. | [lyonsharebeacon.com](http://lyonsharebeacon.com)  
The pianist and composer plays jazz and rock.

**SUN 16**  
**Portrait of Aretha**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
5 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://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](http://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)*

**WED 19**  
**A Night of Authenticity**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Silica Studio 845 | 211 Fishkill Ave.  
[dub.sh/night-authenticity](http://dub.sh/night-authenticity)  
Chris Ams and Leah Valentine

will play sets at this festival, which will include video art by Rooster, art vendors, flash tattoos and a clothing swap. *Cost: \$10*

**THURS 20**  
**Jeremy Schonfeld**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Lyonshare  
246 Main St. | [lyonsharebeacon.com](http://lyonsharebeacon.com)  
The singer, songwriter and composer will perform.

**FRI 21**  
**Kenny White**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The singer and musician will play music from his latest release, *Long List of Priors*. Maia Sharp and Antje Duvekot will open. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

**FRI 21**  
**Vibeke Saugestad Band**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Industrial Arts Brewing Co.  
511 Fishkill Ave.  
[industrialartsbrewing.com](http://industrialartsbrewing.com)  
The power pop singer and songwriter will play with her band. Barnaby! opens.

**SAT 22**  
**A Night of Broadway**  
**BEACON**  
7:30 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
[hudsonvalleysymphony.org](http://hudsonvalleysymphony.org)  
The Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra will be joined by singer Hugh Panaro (*Phantom of the Opera*) and saxophonist Jerry Vivino for a night of showtunes. *Cost: \$55 to \$68 (\$38 seniors, students \$15, free for ages 5 and younger)*

**SAT 22**  
**Gratefully Yours**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
This Grateful Dead tribute band will play set lists submitted by the audience. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SAT 22**  
**Kahlil Kwame Bell**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)  
The percussionist and composer has played with jazz greats and contributed to more than 150 albums. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SUN 23**  
**Open Mic Invitational**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The top talent from past open mics will perform. *Cost: \$10*

**CIVIC**  
**TUES 18**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

**TUES 18**  
**Village Board**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | [nelsonvillenyny.gov](http://nelsonvillenyny.gov)

**WED 19**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)

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).

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup>  
  
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[lillirose@optonline.net](mailto:lillirose@optonline.net) | (845) 265-2856

**GOT RUBBISH?**  
10-30 YARD DUMPSTER RENTAL  
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37A Albany Post Rd. Ossining, NY 10562  
[MrCheapeeInc@aol.com](mailto:MrCheapeeInc@aol.com)  
914-737-0823  
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[lynneward99@gmail.com](mailto:lynneward99@gmail.com)  
(917) 597-6905



# THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE FJORD TRAIL DGEIS IS OPEN UNTIL MARCH 4



## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

**EMAIL your comment** to the Lead Agency, New York State Parks at: [hhft.plan@parks.ny.gov](mailto:hhft.plan@parks.ny.gov)



SEND EMAIL

or

**MAIL your comment** to Nancy Stoner, Environmental Analyst  
NYS OPRHP, DESP  
625 Broadway, 2nd Floor  
Albany, NY 12238

**THANK YOU** to the nearly 100 people who made verbal comments at the public hearing sessions, including 14 regional organizations. Public comment is critical to the environmental review process and we are grateful for all of the input received thus far.

### WATCH THE PUBLIC HEARING RECORDINGS



2 PM SESSION



6 PM SESSION

[dub.sh/state-parks-HHFT](https://dub.sh/state-parks-HHFT)



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE DGEIS**

[qrco.de/ft\\_linktree](https://qrco.de/ft_linktree)







A.J. Vitiello with his mother



For Romantics Only is being released today (Feb. 14).



Rochelle Gambino performs at her wedding at Dockside Park.

Photos provided

## A.J. Vitiello's mother died when he was 7.

Today he's releasing her music online.

By Marc Ferris

Rochelle Gambino, who lived in Cold Spring for nearly a decade and owned a dog grooming business on Main Street, died suddenly, apparently of heart failure, in 2007 at age 44. A singer and guitarist, she left behind a trove of analog recordings and ephemera.

Today (Feb. 14), after working with a sound studio in the city, her son A.J. Vitiello is releasing 20 songs recorded by his mother in a compilation called *For Romantics Only*.

"She lived in the pre-streaming era, so I had to get this project done before the tapes break," says Vitiello, 25, a travel writer. "Deciding what to release took a long time, and I had to kill some darlings. A good song

could be ruined by a scratchy recording or be so '80s that it sounds stale."

The process of sifting through hundreds of songs and transcribing lyrics brought him closer to a woman who died when he was 7. Gambino also left behind diaries, letters and photos. "This project is almost an attempt to reconstruct her persona," he says. "It's as if she's using me as a vessel to get her music out there."

He adds: "People used to ask, 'When are you going to pick up the guitar?' That's not my thing — the talent didn't transfer. But I do long for a time when rock 'n' roll was the only thing that mattered."

After Vitiello's parents divorced, he lived with his mother in Nelsonville before moving to Connecticut with his father. Sometimes, he travels from Brooklyn to spruce up her gravesite at Cold Spring Cemetery.

One vivid memory is a visit she made to his kindergarten class at Haldane Element-

tary. "She wrote a song for every student using their names," he says. "She was known for sheer kindness and being bubbly. My mom had a lot of devoted fans in the Hudson Valley and played shows all the time."

Gambino, who grew up in Croton-on-Hudson, received a scholarship to the Berklee College of Music in Boston. She dropped out and moved to Nashville but returned to New York, where she told a newspaper reporter: "I'm not some piece of plastic to be molded and make somebody else rich."

Gambino met Vitiello's father at one of her Black Jacket Band shows and the couple settled in Cold Spring. At their Dockside Park wedding, she strapped a black electric guitar over her white dress and wailed away.

Her music ranges from acoustic ballads to hard rock and includes a few religious songs. Toward the end of her life, she spent more time at Our Lady of Loretto on Fair

Street, says Vitiello.

"She could shred on guitar and also compose on piano," he says. "She had vocal chords of steel. I still remember her fingernails being cracked and mutilated, as if she'd been to war. I still find [guitar] picks in her stuff."

Gambino chafed at comparisons to Janis Joplin. After she died, a close friend held tributes in Croton that raised money for music students.

The melancholy breakup song "Cold Spring" tells of "too much fighting / too many angry lies." The chorus refrains: "I didn't know what you meant to me / That night in Cold Spring / Where we fought to save our dreams / It was a dream we had when young / As the Hudson River runs / That night in Cold Spring."

*For Romantics Only* is available at Spotify ([dub.sh/gambino-spotify](https://dub.sh/gambino-spotify)) and YouTube ([dub.sh/for-romantic](https://dub.sh/for-romantic)).

### Mercaldi (from Page 11)

Cosmokaze is a 180-degree departure from Last Minute Soulmates and The Subterraneans, which gigged all over the city and New Jersey during the 1990s. They're still

around, putting together a concept album.

The Jersey native also spent five years playing mandolin and other acoustic instruments with Yonkers-based Spuyten Duyvil, which made a name in folk music circles touring the country and performing

at big festivals before disbanding in 2018.

"I need to scratch every musical itch," he says. "I love [Cosmokaze's] creative freedom and relaxed pace; I don't need to be out there wanking a solo all the time. At home, this is something I would be noodling with, so now

I'm just doing that in front of an audience."

Quinn's is located at 330 Main St. in Beacon. Mercaldi also will play a solo set at the Towne Crier Café on Feb. 22. See [cosmokaze.bandcamp.com](http://cosmokaze.bandcamp.com).

### Linksman (from Page 11)

Linksman is still perfecting his sound and says he has yet to record anything serious, so he works out arrangements and approaches during his laidback solo gigs. On guitar, he delivers a full sound with hybrid picking, where his thumb and forefinger squeeze a triangular flat pick to play the low end and the other three fingers pluck out higher notes.

The technique is associated with country guitarists (who call it "chicken picking") and helps fatten up Linksman's feel-good pop tunes. In general, verses are simple and well-placed minor chords color the mood, taking songs in different directions.


"If you're doing what you love and you have to do it, you can feel the support in this town even if only nine people show up."

During "What Cha Gonna Do About It?," the opening number at an informal Tuesday gig on Feb. 4 at Draught Industries on Main Street, he launched into a lush solo based on the tune's main riff and ended the song by holding a bell-like falsetto note for what seemed like a minute.

In the second set, he reeled off the iconic opening riff of AC/DC's "Thunderstruck" as a finger exercise. "I do it just to warm up my hands; it's a parlor trick that's more flashy than difficult."

Tuesday nights are typically slow in Beacon, especially in the winter. "It's a relaxed atmosphere; I can try out some new things," he says. "If you're doing what you love and you have to do it, you can feel the support in this town even if only nine people show up."

*Industrial Arts Brewing Co.* is located at 511 Fishkill Ave. in Beacon. The Feb. 21 show, which begins at 8 p.m., also will include performances by Barnaby! and the Vibeke Saugestad Band.



## The House of Lattisville

**Written by Nan Nelson Ewing**  
**Directed by Shona Tucker**

**March 7-16**

[www.philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://www.philipstowndepottheatre.org)



# LOOKING BACK

## IN PHILIPSTOWN

By Chip Rowe

### 150 Years Ago (February 1875)

Amid a water shortage because of frozen pipes, *The Cold Spring Recorder* noted that many residents had tubs and cisterns positioned to catch rainwater. But because most of the tin leaders were also frozen, “drainage from the roofs spirited forth in every direction but that of the receptacles, deluging doorways and basements, streaming down the clapboards and into the windows, overflowing the gutters to mimic Niagaras, to the distress of everyone who put a head from a window or porchless door.”

The Main Street gutter clogged and “the drainage of the whole north part of the village from Orchard Street down to that point went pouring down Garden Street for an hour or two until Mr. Myers, the mason, with a snow shovel, and an eye to the public weal, removed the snow dam.”

The Total Abstinence Society of Cold Spring encouraged residents to sign and return a temperance pledge left with each household.

Merritt’s cottages on Garden Street were ready for occupants, ideally men with small families.

As he prepared at 3 a.m. on a Saturday to make his rounds, Abner Merritt heard a noise in the Nelsonville henry of his employer, Mr. Organ. Upon investigation, the milkman found 16 hens and four turkeys dead and a wild cat chasing the few survivors. Before he could get his gun, the cat escaped through a hole in the roof.

The Cold Spring Library Association held its fifth annual Literary Entertainment in the basement of the Reformed Church, including a debate on the question, “Resolved: That the reading of works of fiction is detrimental to the human race.” In an unsigned letter to *The Recorder*, one resident noted the Bible itself “partakes largely of the imaginative,” which must have value because that’s how God decided to do it.

The Highland Falls newspaper complained that Garrison was sending over its “surplus tramps” on the free ferry. Five newly disembarked men reported to the poor master just in time to be sent back on the last boat. “If the wily Garrisons attempt to play such a game again, our people will ‘go for’ them and their unwelcome boarders, too,” the paper warned.

The roof and woodwork of the stone tower in the conservatory of F.P. James, Esq., burned overnight. The plants and flowers in the main building were not damaged but three dogs restrained in the tower perished. The blaze was thought to have started when the gardener stepped away from a fire he kept going to make steam and prevent the intense cold from injuring the plants.

A wagon driven by Allen Owen speeding

down Main Street with a load of wood collided at Furnace Street with a wagon driven by Milton Perry, who had a load of charcoal.

An ear trumpet (see example at right) that Peter Rose lost in the village was found and returned by Phil Riley of the Pacific Hotel.

In a letter to *The Recorder*, Alfred Webb recalled how, during the gold rush in California, he and Robert McKane created the Cold Spring Exploring Co. After the partners returned to New York two years later with \$9,000 [about \$365,000 today], Webb said McKane cut him out. When Webb discovered 25 years later that McKane was running for mayor in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he made a modest demand of the candidate for \$500 [\$14,000] “if he did not want the statement of our affairs published.” McKane told the Scranton *Daily Times* that he was being blackmailed but left out “everything about my claim” and “abused me in a shameful way,” Webb said.

### 125 Years Ago (February 1900)

*The Recorder*, while dismissing concerns that football was too dangerous because 11 players had died during the previous season, noted that 35 hunters had been killed just in the Adirondacks during the same period.

Gen. Daniel Butterfield, a Cold Spring resident who was a member of the State Battlefields Monument Association, returned from an official visit to Gettysburg with a piece of a tree trunk scarred with shot and shell that had been varnished and affixed with a silver plate identifying it as a relic.

*The Recorder* offered that “Cold Spring streets on the first of the week have been like Putnam County politics — slippery.”

Spalding, the druggist, reported that the price of boric acid had risen from 18 cents to 53 cents [\$15] because of the Boer War in South Africa.

John Donohue, the former Putnam County sheriff who resided at the Garrison Hotel, was gifted two sea turtles by a friend on Long Island. Donohue said he planned to host a dinner once he fattened them up.

During a minstrel show at Town Hall, the six kerosene foot lamps were knocked off the stage, triggering a rush for the exits.



Fortunately, they did not break. The potential disaster promoted a call for electric lights.

Eva Owen, 22, died at the Parsonage Street home of her father, Abram Ireland, of consumption [tuberculosis].

Pettegrino Pacia, a 16-year-old native of Italy who lived with his parents in the Grove house in the Beverly cut south of Garrison, was struck and killed by a train on his way to work at King’s Quarry. He stepped out of the way of a northbound train and was hit by a southbound train.

William Turner, a Cold Spring native living in Georgia, passed the civil service exam to be a watchman at the U.S. Capitol.

Thieves stole every lead pipe from an unoccupied Philipstown mansion.

The Board of Trade surveyed women to see if there would be enough workers for a proposed woolen factory.

Michael Clune, proprietor of the Cold Spring Bottling Works, was in Michigan taking sulfur baths for his rheumatism.

George Biker of North Highlands, a Civil War veteran who had twice been wounded, in the leg and head, died at age 55. He enlisted soon after he turned 18 and fought in the Virginia battles of Brandy Station, Wilderness, Cold Harbor and Spotsylvania.

The Colored Jubilee Singers, featuring 8-year-old Little Mamie Diggs, performed medleys and plantation songs at the Methodist Church.

Dr. C.C. Longnecker, a former resident, visited the village and “proceeded to load up on knock-out drops” [chloral hydrate]. Because of the freezing weather, Officer McCaffrey deposited him in the Town Hall lockup.

A reporter for the *Matteawan Journal* observed an older woman at the Fishkill Landing [Beacon] station buying a ticket to Cold Spring. The agent told her the next train left at 1:42 p.m., but the woman said that she wanted to wait for the 4:15 p.m. train because that was the one she always took. “There must be some queer people in Cold Spring,” the reporter wrote.

The Garrison Library added a card catalog.

The Rev. E.J. Runk, the former pastor of the Reformed Church, was arrested for skipping out on a \$50 [\$1,900] hotel bill

(Continued on Page 17)

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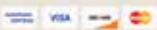


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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

##### VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cold Spring will hold a public hearing on Wednesday February 19, 2025 at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring NY and via videoconference beginning at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider updates to the Village Code to amend Chapter 118 – Taxation.

The proposed amended chapters are available on the Village website at Public Hearing for Chapter 118 (Taxation) | Cold Spring, NY (coldspringny.gov) or you may request a copy by emailing the Village Clerk (vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov).

All interested parties are encouraged to attend as follows:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88983853791?pwd=NG1RWU5VVVG9RVTRZaStQaW9kMXBMZz09>

Or by phone: 646-558-8656 / Meeting ID: 889 8385 3791 Passcode: 365616

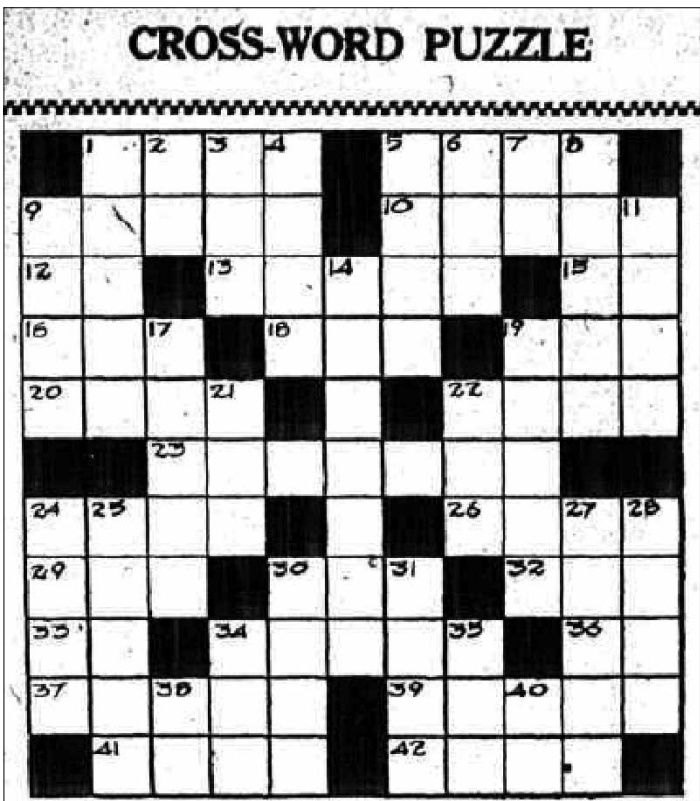
Written comments may be submitted prior to and oral comments may be made at the public hearing. The Village Board of Trustees is the Lead Agency pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act for this Unlisted Action.



The first book of crosswords, published in 1924 with a pencil included, was an unexpected bestseller, prompting many newspapers to add them. This puzzle appeared in *The Cold Spring Recorder* on Feb. 27, 1925. See Page 19 for answers.

HORIZONTAL

- 1. Plane
- 5. Particular place
- 9. Evergreen shrub
- 10. Ever (poetic)
- 12. Denoting hesitation
- 13. In good season
- 15. River in Italy
- 16. Engine of war for battering
- 18. Snare
- 19. Through
- 20. Pen name of Charles Lamb
- 22. Foundation
- 23. Unites by interweaving
- 24. Irritate
- 26. Well-known volcano
- 29. Organ of hearing



- 30. Dry (French)
- 32. Over there
- 33. College degree
- 34. Father (Sp.)
- 36. Within
- 37. Periodically rising and falling
- 39. Obliterate
- 41. Sweet fruit
- 42. Facility

VERTICAL

- 1. Untamed
- 2. Note of musical scale
- 3. Devoured
- 4. Particle expressing comparison
- 5. Seasoning
- 6. To work at
- 7. Exclamation of pain
- 8. Narrow filet or band of cotton (pl.)
- 9. In this place
- 11. Long ago
- 14. Declaimed
- 17. Covetous grasping person
- 19. A meat pie
- 21. Suitable
- 22. Four-winged insect
- 24. Exploit
- 25. Furious
- 27. Outery
- 28. English queen, last of Stuart sovereigns
- 30. Auction
- 31. Tribe of Indians
- 34. Appropriate
- 35. Epoch
- 38. Baby's first word
- 40. Like

(Continued from Page 16)

in Kingston, where he was attending the YMCA convention.

Dr. Amos Squire was among the physicians who witnessed the electrocution of Antonio Ferraro at Sing Sing. It took five shocks to kill Ferraro, who had been convicted of killing a man in Brooklyn in 1898. Squire assisted with the autopsy.

David McGuire of Garrison killed an ox and hosted a barbecue for his friends and neighbors with music by a Peekskill orchestra.

Sen. Chauncey Depew introduced a bill to authorize the federal government to purchase Constitution Island for \$150,000 [\$5.6 million].

100 Years Ago (February 1925)

Warren Ferris underwent ear surgery at his home on Rock Street.

The Cold Spring Village Board awarded a five-year contract for street lighting to the upstart Philipstown Electric Corp. The firm promised to replace the six lights suspended over Main Street with 14 globes on poles.

The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital opened on Feb. 19. The first patients were Thomas Davis, who had pneumonia, and Robert Murray, who an X-ray confirmed broke his wrist after slipping on ice. Rooms were \$25 [\$450] per week and operating room rentals began at \$5 [\$90], excluding surgical fees. Donations of vegetables, canned fruit, bedding and clothing were welcomed.

75 Years Ago (February 1950)

The Haldane basketball team had three narrow victories in a row. First, it edged St. Mary's of Katonah, 57-55, when Frankie Cerny stole a pass and scored at the buzzer.

It defeated Mahopac, 35-34, after a confused Mahopac player scored at the wrong basket in the third quarter. Finally, Haldane edged Brewster, 48-46, to win the league title.

Local performers in blackface, top hats and white gloves filled the stage at the Cold Spring Fire Co.'s second annual minstrel at Haldane to raise money for a Brockway fire truck.

The Butterfield Hospital celebrated its 25th anniversary, having treated nearly 13,000 patients.

During the annual meeting at the Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Richard Norton showed color slides he had taken in China during his missionary work.

In his front-page, weekly column in the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, "Wake Up, America," the commander of the American Legion chapter asked: "Will the charges by Sen. McCarthy that our State Department is riddled with card-holding Communists be substantiated?"

A partnership of five men purchased Bill Brown's Health Farm in Philipstown for \$150,000 [\$2 million]. The deal was made in 36 hours in response to rumors that a Boston millionaire wanted to convert the property into a treatment center for alcoholics. The new owners were Broadway producer Joshua Logan; Chinese restaurant owner Sou Chan; Broadway actor Ray Middleton; and two attorneys, David Brady and Harry Kalish. Brown had created the resort in 1915 as "a haven for run-down tycoons of business, sports and the professions," according to *The Recorder*. [The property was on the site of what became the Garrison golf course.]

50 Years Ago (February 1975)

A 68-year-old Paulding Avenue woman

and her 75-year-old sister-in-law, visiting from Onondaga County, were killed in a one-car crash on Route 9D in Garrison when her husband lost control of their sedan and it hit a tree and split in two.

Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr., a Republican whose district included Philipstown, co-sponsored legislation to fine employers who hired "illegal aliens."

Mrs. Robert Patterson of Cold Spring made her annual trip to Fort Benning in Georgia to present the Robert P. Patterson Award to a graduate of the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School. The 22nd recipient of the award was Lt. William Gary Butler of Andalusia, Alabama. Patterson was a federal judge and secretary of the War Department from 1945 to 1947.

The Juilliard Players visited Haldane to perform an abbreviated version of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Barbara Flowers announced she would run for a second term as Cold Spring mayor.

Chris Helbock of Nelsonville, a senior at Haldane, set a state high school record in the shotput at 38 feet and 6¾ inches. [She competed wearing jean shorts and Nikes, which had been introduced in 1973.]

Over the weekend, vandals broke windows in the Haldane cafeteria, the visitors' locker room and five buses. They also removed fuses from the buses, causing school to be delayed on Monday morning.

25 Years Ago (February 2000)

Citing fire code violations, Philipstown revoked a certificate of occupancy for a Subway franchise planned for the Countryside Motel on Route 9.

Jesse Bassignani of Cold Spring was

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HELP WANTED

**WRITER/SOCIAL MEDIA** — Seeking two writers/social media image makers who have experience writing articles and documenting social/event and business photos. If you can network in the community and offer marketing, social media/event, plus online growth opportunities to businesses, makers, services and nonprofits in the Beacon, Cold Spring, Fishkill and Wappingers area, we need to chat! The work/creative opportunity includes income, ownership and a local platform to display your work. Email [mainstbeacon@gmail.com](mailto:mainstbeacon@gmail.com).

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Place your ad here for \$9.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).

promoted to the rank of Chodan (1st degree black belt) at Baran's Soo Bahk Do in Fishkill.

The Philipstown Town Board received its first timber harvest application, to remove 247 trees from 35 acres on East Mountain Road South.

Mayor Anthony Phillips said he took exception to a letter from Valerie Hickman of the Putnam Visitors Bureau in which she complained there was no public access to the Hudson River at Cold Spring. He said 2,400 people in 800 boats had visited the village through the boat club dock in 1999.

The Butterfield Library hosted an *Antiques Road Show*-style event in which a resident brought in a dragonfly Tiffany lamp with a bronze base signed by Louis Tiffany that appraiser Ron DeSilva valued at \$60,000 [\$110,000].





**Beth Murphy**  
(1954-2025)

Elizabeth (Beth) C. Murphy, 70, passed on Feb. 11, 2025, from melanoma at her home in Peekskill with her immediate family at her bedside.

She was born on Long Island on Nov. 18, 1954, and grew up in both Long Island and Lexington, Kentucky. A longtime resident of Westchester County, Beth previously lived for 33 years and raised a family in Yorktown Heights.

Beth is survived by her husband of 43 years, Henry (Harry) Murphy; her daughter Sarah Murphy, son Brendan Murphy and daughter-in-law Dana Ferine; her parents Virginia Louis and Harry P. Colgan, Jr.; her siblings Suzanne Shea, Harry Colgan III, and Belinda Colgan; and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews. Beth is also survived by her almost 2-year-old granddaughter, Fiona Murphy. Fiona brought great joy and happiness to Beth over the last two years of her life.

Beth enjoyed hiking in the Hudson Valley, going to art museums, and traveling with her husband. Beth was happy doing anything as long as she was with family. She was a voracious reader, tackled *The New York Times* crossword puzzle and Wordle every day, and looked forward to springtime flower planting. Beth loved music and always had something good playing through a speaker. But the thing that Beth enjoyed most was sitting and reading books with her granddaughter, Fiona — they were inseparable, and spent several days together every week.

Beth graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 1976 with a degree in education. After working with developmentally disabled children for several years, she utilized her education skills with the IRS in their training division. While her children were young, she worked from home for American Sports Data, Inc. performing data analysis. Beth later worked in school administration for the Yorktown Central School District, Somers Central School District, and finally, until her retirement in 2020, in the Garrison Union Free School District as district clerk and assistant to the superintendent.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service at the Nardone Funeral Home in Peekskill on Feb. 23, 2025, from noon to 4 p.m. In honor of Beth's love of hiking in the Hudson Valley, and in lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made to the Jolly Rovers ([jollyrovers.org/donate](http://jollyrovers.org/donate)), a Hudson Valley nonprofit that builds and rehabilitates trails in many of Beth's favorite parks.

PAID NOTICE



**Betty Ann Shields**  
(1940-2025)

Betty Ann Shields, age 84, of Cold Spring, New York, died peacefully on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, with her family by her side.

Born in Cold Spring on Sept. 25, 1940, she was the daughter of the late Margaret and William McKenna. She is survived by her husband of 61 years and two-time prom date, Patrick Shields, as well as her brother, Richard McKenna of Putnam Valley, and her sister, Margaret Schatzle of Cold Spring. Her sons Patrick (Erin), Jonathan (Guen) and Christopher (Megan) Shields of Cold Spring, 10 nieces and nephews, and seven grandchildren, Brittany, Katie, Julie, Patrick, Ellie, Audrey, and Tucker, also survive her.

Three brothers William McKenna, Jr. of Thornwood, New York, Donald McKenna of Rotonda, Florida, and Kenneth McKenna of Newburgh, New York, predeceased her.

Betty Ann graduated from Haldane High School in 1959, having grown up and raised her family just a few doors down from the school. In addition to corralling her three sons, she spent many years caring for young children in Cold Spring, but saved her best toys, muffins, and hugs for her grandchildren.

She loved Cold Spring and retelling its many stories. She spent lots of days taking her grandchildren to the tot lot and the river, but never without her red lipstick. Every baby and puppy she met was quickly scooped into her arms, and she never turned down a full cup of tea or a trip to Marshall's.

Betty Ann and Packy enjoyed a lifetime of vacations and parties with family and close friends, including cruises, camping, and international trips with the Kiefers and the Dillons. She was the last to leave any party, especially Fourth of July at Toni and Joe DeMarco's. Betty Ann and Packy's greatest days were spent holding hands on the couch with a good movie.

Friends may call on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring. Interment will follow in Cold Spring Cemetery.

One of Betty Ann's greatest joys was cheering on Haldane's Lady Blue Devils basketball team. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Haldane Blue Devil Booster Club, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

PAID NOTICE

## Roots and Shoots

# Digging Deeper with Hudson Valley Seed

By Pamela Doan



The Hudson Valley Seed Co. began as the country's first seed library at the Gardiner Library in Ulster County in 2004 and in the last 20 years has evolved to offer everything you could need for your home garden: organic vegetables, herbs, flowers and even fruit tree seedlings.

In 2024, Hudson Valley Seed opened a retail location adjacent to its farm in Accord and now offers plant and tree seedlings in addition to art and growing supplies. I spoke this week with co-founder Douglas Muller about the operation; his responses have been condensed.

## There's an emphasis among native-plant growers on ecotype seeds that are "trained" for local regions to benefit pollinators. Does that work with vegetables?

I wouldn't call vegetables an ecotype. They are super-developed and substantially different from a wild species. Heirlooms are analogous in some ways in terms of preserving genetic diversity. Since we started the company, the climate has been outpacing some of the varieties. The challenge is about helping them to adapt to where we are now.

When we started, we were focused on preserving local heirlooms and genetics. While we still value that work, we had to shift to collaborating with Cornell University, for example, because the breeding work can't keep up with the intensity of the extreme weather. Active seed breeding takes years and the climate is changing faster than that.

## What trends do you see? What are the most popular plants?

During the pandemic, we saw a big increase in demand for vegetables, and then those gardeners discovered flowers. Dahlias are front and center. People are attracted to them because tubers are easier to grow out than seeds. The trend is rebalancing now with vegetables on the rise again.

## How do you decide which plants to include in your catalog?

We are always keeping an eye on how balanced it is, evaluating tomatoes versus lettuce, for example. We trial seeds to see how the plants perform in season. It could be a wet year or a dry year. We never "baby" plants in trials. We try to put them through the conditions that an average home gardener would, assuming a certain amount of benign neglect. Things need to thrive autonomously.

## You offer apple, pear and fig tree seedlings. How did that come about?

Five or six years ago, we partnered with a certified organic farm. They are propagators, and we were their first commercial company. What's new is that we are ship-



The Beauty Blue Phlox was added to the catalog after a trial planting in 2024.



Doe Hill peppers grow abundantly and have a sweet flavor. Photos provided

ping bare-root seedling trees.

## What is your current favorite plant?

I'm not good at favorites — I turn a corner in the garden and there's my next new favorite. We added a hatch pepper from a New Mexico breeding program that isn't super spicy and can be used in a lot of ways, the NuMex Joe E. Parker chile. I love the Holly Hill Black Widow dahlia, too. It's a dark, decorative, formal style. The Doe Hill pepper is a longtime favorite because it's very sweet.

## What staples should every garden have?

One lesson from the pandemic is that a lot of people learned that gardening is hard work. I encourage gardeners to focus on things you love and to get that hook to want to keep doing it. Recognize that you have limited bandwidth and ask yourself what you would be most happy to see coming out of this project. When you try to be more realistic, you can set up that feedback loop to make it positive.

*The Hudson Valley Seed Co., at 11 Airport Road in Accord, is about an hour's drive from the Highlands. Its retail shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday to Monday, or order online at [hudsonvalleyseed.com](http://hudsonvalleyseed.com). The greenhouses are open from April to October.*



Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Water, in Mexico

5. Sprite

8. Pedestal

12. Like holiday decorations

14. Ogled

15. D.C. veteran

16. Ms. Moore

17. Pentagon gp.

18. Mild cheese

20. Singer Mann

23. “— Las Vegas”

24. Not that

25. Verbal attack

28. Yr. parts

29. Some latte sizes

30. Cut the lawn

32. Italian cornmeal recipe

34. Race finish

35. Rascallions

36. Word list, for short

37. Goldberg on *The View*

40. — Lingus

41. Honker

42. Refines

47. Duel tool

48. Investigates

49. Holler

50. “Mayday!”

51. Taxpayer IDs
- DOWN
1. Venomous viper

2. Earth (Pref.)

3. “Friendly skies” co.

4. Stage comments

5. Oklahoma city

6. Fond du —

7. Fleet of ships

8. Pandemonium

9. Pro votes

10. Big rig

11. Tend texts

13. Oklahoma tribe

19. Currier’s partner

20. \$ dispenser

21. Denny’s rival

22. Japanese soup

23. Battery measures

25. Primitive flutes

26. Apple desktop

27. Club in a Manilow song

29. Office part-timer

31. Charlotte’s creation

33. Toy train maker

34. Sculpted trunks

36. Bridal cover

37. Curds’ partner

38. Great expectation

39. Hurler Hershisier

40. Swiss peaks

43. Tic-tac-toe loser

44. Storefront sign abbr.

45. Poetic dusk

46. Hot wok sound

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDLADDER

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

CHILL

WROTE

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WORDSEARCH

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

CAPS WRAP NHL  
HULA EAVE OUI  
IDOL DRAW RST  
PIPE GET FAKE  
STE AME  
HIPPOS REVERE  
BEGIN HEROD  
ORATED STRAWS  
CRY TAP  
GOSH NNE INCH  
ALT CAAN TARA  
IDO AMMO CLAN  
NEW TOES HAWK

Answers for Feb. 7 Puzzles  
K G O P R S Y H E D  
X R N W D N O O S R  
N E U E X M B N R S  
I F N S E L H V B R E  
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  
M R B U R N S P Y M  
Y W H T M Y N P Y S  
SEARS, HEARS, HEIRS,  
HAIRS, LAIRS, LAIRD

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

Answers from Page 17  
FLAT SPOT  
HEATH ALWAYS  
ER EARLY PO  
RAM NET PER  
ELIA C BASE  
SPLICES  
FRET T ETNA  
EAR SEC VON  
AB PADRE IN  
TIDAL ERASE  
DATE EASE



## Sports



Fallou Faye (2) makes a nice block on Ryan Landisi.  
Photo by Skip Pearlman

# BULLDOGS HOLD OFF HALDANE SURGE

## Beacon boys claim seventh Battle of the Tunnel

By Skip Pearlman

The Bulldogs of Beacon High came into a hostile environment on Feb. 7 — the packed Devils Den at Haldane High School — and dropped a pair of bombs on the Blue Devils (one early, one late) to silence the home crowd.

Beacon opened with a blitz, inflicting a first-quarter 23-8 run on Haldane and sending an early message: The Bulldogs have a lot of scorers and a pestering defense that gave the Blue Devils problems.

The second bomb came in the fourth quarter, when the Bulldogs turned an 11-point game (52-41 at the end of three) into a laugh, closing with another 23-8 run to secure a 75-49 victory, and the trophy, in the seventh annual Battle of the Tunnel game between the Highlands neighbors. (Haldane has a 4-3 edge in the series.)

“I thought we played really well in the first quarter, on offense and defense,” said Beacon Coach Patrick Schetter. “We lost a little focus in the second, and they got it to a three-point game in the third. But our leaders stepped up when we needed them, and allowed us to pull away.

“Jahcier [Ballard, who scored eight points] did a great job inside for us early,” Schetter said. “Michai [Thompson, with 19] hit some big shots and Marci [Rodriguez, with 22] had a great game. He turned it on in the third.”

“They’re very good,” said Haldane Coach Joe Virgadamo. “They have six guys who can score, who can go off on any given night. Offensively, they were the better team. I was hopeful that we were a better defensive team. But they hit big shots. Michai and Marci crushed us. And they had others who hit big shots.

“Fallou [Faye, with 18 points] was phenomenal for us,” Virgadamo said. “Luke [Bozsik, with 16] was also phenomenal. I thought our energy tonight was great. We went down big,

then got it to three. You can’t ask for more.”

Rodriguez led an offense for Beacon that ran whenever it could and forced turnovers that the Bulldogs turned into points, opening the game with a 20-7 lead. Ryan Landisi contributed 10 points.

Beacon went cold in the second quarter, scoring just seven points, but Haldane was unable to take advantage, scoring only six.

The Blue Devils won a more spirited and competitive third, 27-22, playing their best ball of the game, and managed to bring the deficit to three points, 44-41, with 2:10 left in the period. But Beacon responded with a 13-0 run to close the quarter and open the fourth, pushing the lead to 16.

“It was a phenomenal game — we came out with a lot of effort,” said Rodriguez. “Our defense was fast and we kept pushing the ball on the break.”

“I thought we almost had them,” said Haldane’s Bozsik. “We got it close in the third, but then we let it slip.”

## VARSITY ROUNDUP

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BOYS’ BASKETBALL** — After defeating Haldane in the Battle of the Tunnel on Feb. 7, the Bulldogs closed their regular season with a 66-32 win over Liberty on Monday (Feb. 10). Before the game, the team honored seniors Derrick Heaton, Ryan Smith and Jazziah Whitted. Beacon (16-4; 6-0 league) awaits its seeding and opponent in the Section IX, Class A tournament.

**GIRLS’ BASKETBALL** — Beacon knocked off Marlboro, 51-39, on Feb. 8 behind 16 points from Lila Burke and 15 from Reilly Landisi. The Bulldogs trailed, 22-18, at half-time. Beacon followed that with a 74-17 blowout at Liberty on Monday (Feb. 10); Burke had a career-high 21 points. The Bulldogs, who started the year 3-5, have rattled off 10 straight wins to get to 13-5 (5-0 league). They host Liberty on Wednesday (Feb. 19) before wrapping up the season at home on Thursday against Wallkill. Both games start at 4:30 p.m.

**WRESTLING** — In its final regular-season match on Feb. 5, Beacon dominated Monticello, 63-6. Nixon Salinas (215 pounds), Brody Timm (190), Avery Davis (170), Connor Murphy (160), Jude Betancourt (152), Mason Alencastro (138), William Flynn (131) and Benjamin Betancourt (116) all won by pin. The team finished 6-2 overall and 5-0 in

the league. Four wrestlers will compete in the 16-team Section IX tournament today (Feb. 14) and tomorrow at Monroe-Woodbury High School. Each weight class among larger schools has eight competitors: Jude Betancourt (33-2) is seeded No. 2 at 152 pounds; Murphy (16-15) No. 7 at 160 pounds; Davis (17-4) No. 4 at 170 pounds; and Timm (21-3) No. 5 at 190 pounds.

**WINTER TRACK** — Beacon competed on Feb. 8 in the Section IX, Class A Championship hosted by West Point. The top finishers for the boys were Jayden Mihalchik, who was fifth in the pole vault (10-6) and Caellum Tripaldi, who was eighth in the 1,000 meters (2:44.66). For the girls, Katherine Ruffy placed third in the weight throw (33-7) and Lily Mack was 11th in the high jump (4-6). The Bulldogs will send runners to The Armory in New York City today (Feb. 14) for a meet hosted by North Shore High School on Long Island.

**BOYS’ SWIMMING** — Beacon competed at the OCIAA Division I Championship at Newburgh on Feb. 7, placing seventh of 13 teams. Alistair Cunningham was seventh in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:10.6) and Alejandro Herrera was ninth in the 200-yard medley (2:24.88). The Bulldogs will compete in the Section IX tournament Feb. 20-22 at Montgomery.

**BOWLING** — The boys’ and girls’ squads each lost, 5-0, to Saugerties, Highland and Kingston, both ending their seasons at 1-13.

**GIRLS’ SOCCER** — Gabriela Del Castillo, a 2021 Beacon graduate who played for

the University of Mount Saint Vincent in New York City, was named to the Skyline Conference Honor Roll for the fall semester. A senior, Del Castillo played in 52 games for the Dolphins over four years.

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS’ BASKETBALL** — After losing to Beacon on Feb. 7, Haldane bounced back with a 53-50 win at Pawling on Monday (Feb. 10). The Blue Devils led by 11 points in the second quarter before Pawling cut the deficit to two. But 3-pointers from Ryder Griffin and Zane Del Pozo in the last 1:14, and a layup at the buzzer by Fallou Faye, brought the lead back to 10.

Down by 12 at the end of the third quarter, Pawling ripped off a 10-2 run to trail by one with 3:14 to go. With 1:56 left, Del Pozo made one of two free throws to make it a two-point game, but Pawling tied it on a layup. Del Pozo stormed down the court for a layup of his own and, with 19.6 seconds left, hit another free throw for the final margin.

“We did just enough to sneak out with the win,” said Coach Joe Virgadamo. Luke Bozsik led the Blue Devils with 15 points, followed by Faye with 14 and Griffin with 11. “Ryder played well, he rebounded, he shot it, he’s going to the basket, he’s playing confident,” Virgadamo said. “We need that out of him, especially without Nate [Stickler],” a senior who is out with an ankle injury.

On Wednesday (Feb. 12), Haldane lost,

58-46, at Putnam Valley. “We just couldn’t get anything going,” said Virgadamo, or slow down the Tigers’ James Apostolico, who scored 31 points. The Blue Devils travel today (Feb. 14) to league rival Croton-Harmon for their final game before the Section I, Class B tournament. The Blue Devils (11-7) are ranked sixth among 11 teams.

**GIRLS’ BASKETBALL** — Although Haldane kept its Feb. 8 home game against Lakeland close early, the Hornets went on a 14-0 run to end the half and take a 20-point lead. The final was 52-30. The Blue Devils put together a better effort on Monday (Feb. 10) against visiting Briarcliff but came up short, 54-51. Haldane trailed 50-37 in the fourth quarter but went on a 14-4 run to get it close. Marisa Peters scored 22 points, followed by Kayla Ruggiero (12) and Miley Pena-Rider (10).

The Blue Devils lost at home against Putnam Valley on Wednesday, 46-37. Haldane (4-14) finishes the season hosting Croton-Harmon on Thursday and Blind Brook at noon on Saturday before the Section I tournament begins. Haldane is No. 2 among four Class C teams; Tuckahoe (12-7) is No. 1 and North Salem (3-17) and Keio Academy (0-16) are at No. 3 and No. 4.

**WINTER TRACK** — The Blue Devils participated in the Section I Novice Invitational at The Armory in New York City on Feb. 5. For the boys, Eli Hudson was 28th in the 1,600 meters (5:25.92) and, for the girls, Tyler Schacht was 37th in the 1,000 meters (5:48.87). Haldane returns to The Armory on Sunday (Feb. 16) for the Section I, Class C championship.