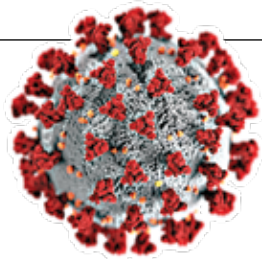


# The HIGHLANDS Current



COVID Five Years Later  
Page 8

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## Haldane, Garrison Budgets Under Cap

*But is it smarter to ask for the maximum hike?*

By Joey Asher

While the Haldane school board debated on Tuesday (March 4) whether to take advantage of the full property-tax increase allowed by the state for 2025-26, the Garrison district said on Wednesday it would ask for 2.2 percent less.

In either case, voters will decide on May 20 whether to approve the budgets, which as of this week were \$30.2 million at Haldane and \$14.5 million at Garrison. At Haldane, the budget proposed by interim Superintendent Carl Albano would translate to a 2.8 percent tax increase, the same approved last year. But the district's maximum allowable for 2025-26 under a complicated state tax-cap formula is 3.38  
*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Beacon Line Trail: 'No Major Roadblocks'

*No commitments yet as feasibility study continues*

By Jeff Simms

Although it's not yet known if Dutchess County will commit to a 13-mile rail trail connecting Beacon and Hopewell Junction, a planning firm it hired told the City Council on Monday (March 3) that it has found no major roadblocks.

"This is all buildable," Tom Baird, an engineer from Barton & Loguidice, the Albany firm conducting a feasibility study with the county, told the council. "There aren't big obstacles, there aren't major environmental concerns. We don't have any real hazardous materials to worry about, either." Dutchess County released a report on conditions along the Beacon Line, an abandoned rail spur, in November. A final report,  
*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Puzzle Masters

*Some people happy with life in pieces*

By Joey Asher

Tessie Monck designed her Cold Spring kitchen with jigsaw puzzles in mind. "This counter had to be one slab with no seams where I could do my puzzle," says Monck, a retiree who typically starts a 1,000-piece puzzle every Friday. "It's like my Friday night date. Opening a puzzle is like Christmas morning. I'm full of joy." Along with being fun, jigsaws provide "meditation and peace for my brain," says Monck, who started puzzling about 20 years ago, around the time her husband died and she was dealing with her own health issues. A recent jigsaw boom began during the pandemic, when some manufacturers saw their orders quadruple. "Jigsaw puzzles saved my business," says Fran Farnorotto, who owns The Gift Hut on Main Street in Cold Spring. "I didn't sell anything else, but I sold puzzles." During the shutdown, Farnorotto accepted orders online, then "drove around Philipstown and dropped them off on people's  
*(Continued on Page 18)*



**PUSHBACK** — Protestors have gathered at the corner of Main Street and Route 9D in Cold Spring at 10:30 a.m. on the past two Saturdays to demonstrate against policies enacted by President Donald Trump. Organized by Alex Dubroff, the group grew from 25 people on Feb. 22 to more than 60 on March 1.

Photo by Ross Corsair



Felicita Pinto works on a puzzle at the Beacon Friendship Center. Photo by J. Asher

## Local Farmers Concerned about Federal Freeze

*Axed program designed to help with climate change*

By Brian PJ Cronin

Local farmers, racing to figure out how to adapt to a rapidly changing climate that has buoyed pests and led to both droughts

and flooding, thought help was on the way from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But a major source of funding looks like it is about to disappear. The Hudson Valley is one of four regions in the country to receive a Climate Smart Commodities Grant through a USDA pilot program to make farms more resilient

while improving air and water quality. Contracts had been signed, and planning was underway on eight local farms when the program was cut following the re-election of President Donald Trump. "We have partners who received letters out of the blue telling them that their  
*(Continued on Page 9)*



# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: TOM CHAPIN

By Marc Ferris

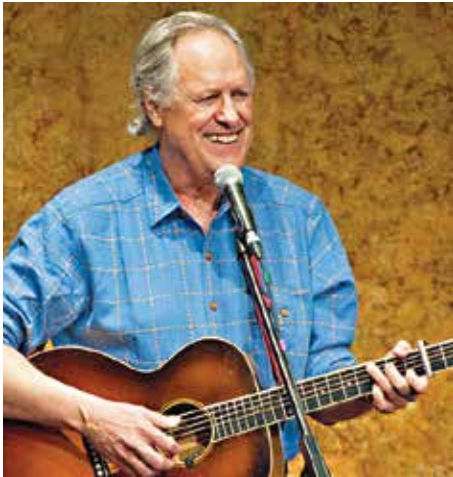
Tom Chapin will perform at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon on Saturday (March 8) to celebrate his 80th birthday and a new album, *The Make a Wish Songbag*.

## How many times have you played the Towne Crier?

It's impossible to count. I go back to the early Pawling days. I've been there for my birthday for the last eight or 10 years. The move to Beacon upgraded the restaurant and the venue itself — it's one of the truly great rooms on the East Coast. It's amazing that Phil [Ciganer] has kept it going for more than 50 years.

## What do you recall of Pete Seeger?

He was a hero and mentor of ours. When I was 10, [my brother] Harry was 13 and Steve was 9, we heard The Weavers at Carnegie Hall. The recording of the concert, released in 1957, spawned the Kingston Trio, the Lime-lighters and Peter, Paul and Mary. We said the same thing — “We can do that” — and became The Chapin Brothers for 10 years. We lived in Brooklyn Heights, two subway stops from Greenwich Village, and we started doing open mics at The Bitter End.



## You've won three Grammy Awards for your children's albums. How did you get into that genre?

When my daughters were 6 and 8 years old, they'd outgrown “little kids' music” — even Pete's early children's records. I was doing a family-oriented TV show [*Make a Wish* on ABC], and we figured I needed a record that catered to the 4-to-10 set. The girls weren't ready for love songs or rebellion, but they understood humor and irony, and you can write songs that their parents like, as well. That's the deal: kid-friendly and adult-safe. I released a record

with Judy Collins singing three songs [*Life is Like That*] and, all of a sudden, I had another career playing for families, not the kids up front and adults in the back.

## Do you have a favorite opening-act story?

I got a phone call: “If you can get down to Maryland tonight and open for Charlie Daniels, it's \$1,500 plus airfare.” I'm ready to go onstage and the announcer says, “Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Charlie Daniels show.” People went nuts. They didn't hear my name at all. When I came out, they started booing. After a couple of songs, I said, “Look, Charlie Daniels isn't even in the building, so it's you and me for the next half hour, let's make this work” — and we pulled it off.

## What's your take on the future of folk?

The time when singer-songwriters topped the charts is long gone. Folk music isn't on the radio. But when I do concerts, no matter what age people are, the idea of someone playing real songs about real people doing real things will always resonate. A folk song is a ballad with a story verse and a repeated chorus. Pete said that he wasn't a folk singer, he was a singer of songs. Same with me.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Did you see the recent, rare alignment of the planets?

“Yes! Especially one planet, so bright and low in the sky.”



Angie Speranza, Cold Spring

“I didn't even realize it was happening. Maybe next time.”



Jim Flanagan, Beacon

“No, but I'll bet astrologers had a lot to say!”



Demitra Kane, Beacon

**FRIENDS APPEAL KICKOFF EVENT!**  
  
**Rodney and Juliet's Wedding**  
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**RODNEY & JULIET'S WEDDING**  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Bridge Authority to Host Meeting

*Will discuss projects for Bear Mountain*

The New York State Bridge Authority will host a meeting on Thursday (March 13) at the Desmond-Fish library in Garrison to discuss the upcoming replacement of the deck on the Bear Mountain Bridge.

The bridge, which opened in 1924, last had a deck replacement in 1976, the NYSBA said. Concrete decks typically last between 30 to 50 years; the project is in the design phase with construction expected to begin in September 2026.

The authority is also evaluating other projects, including widening the sidewalks to make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, improved drainage, anti-climb fencing and barriers and new scenic overlooks. For more information, see [bearmountainbridgeproject.com](http://bearmountainbridgeproject.com).

## Shakespeare Names President

*Pepper Evans to succeed Robin Ardit*

Hudson Valley Shakespeare on Feb. 28 announced that Pepper Evans will succeed Robin Ardit, its longtime board president, who is stepping down in May.

Arditi, who was president for 15 years, will remain on the board. The board also named actor Michael Emerson as a trustee. Emerson most recently began a recurring role on *Elsbeth*, which stars his spouse, Carrie Preston; he earlier won Emmy Awards for

his roles on *Lost* and *The Practice*.

Evans, a retired marketing executive who has been on the board since 2017, is a trustee for Constitution Marsh, the New York City Bird Alliance and SongwritingWith: Soldiers.

## Resident Sues Cold Spring Judge, Clerk

*Alleges mishandling of traffic, parking tickets*

A Cold Spring resident has sued the Village of Cold Spring and its court justice and clerk in state court over traffic and parking tickets he considers “facially defective and jurisdictionally deficient.”

Daniel Branda alleges in a lawsuit filed Feb. 18 in Carmel that Justice Thomas Costello and Court Clerk Cathy Costello missed deadlines to rule on three motions he filed last year to dismiss tickets issued between June 2023 and June 2024, while granting the village “extraordinary extensions.”

He said the court improperly reported the contested tickets as unpaid fines, temporarily preventing renewal of his residential parking permit, and that Thomas and Cathy Costello, who are married, failed to disclose their relationship in violation of state law.

Branda has asked the court to remove the Justice Court from its jurisdiction over his cases and to dismiss his tickets. According to the *Journal News*, Branda rented his apartment on Church Street in Cold Spring in 2022 for his family but retained his resi-

dency in Somers to run as a Republican for the Westchester County Legislature. He lost in November 2023 to Democratic incumbent Vedat Gashi.

## Fishkill/Teller Rehab to Resume

*Repairs to Beacon street to finish in summer*

The \$9 million repair and repaving of Fishkill/Teller Avenue in Beacon will resume on Monday (March 10) after pausing for the winter.

The contractor will finish Teller Avenue (the street’s name south of Main Street) first, including milling and paving, and then move to Fishkill Avenue, where plans to replace sidewalks on the north side of the street have expanded, now stretching from Blackburn Avenue to Mill Street. The city hopes to complete the repairs, which also include replacing drainage structures, and repave the street by July.

## Depot Owner Wins Reductions

*Lawsuit challenged property tax increases*

The owner of The Depot in Cold Spring won reductions in the assessed values for his restaurant and a tranche of Main Street properties he purchased in February 2023 for prices ranging from \$768,000 to \$2.3 million.

In a settlement approved by a state judge in Carmel on Feb. 13, the reductions in assessed values — the percentage

of market value on which properties are taxed — ranged from \$36,108 for 80 Main St. to \$116,701 for 93-97 Main St.

Greg Pagones, in a lawsuit filed Oct. 29 against Philipstown, Cold Spring, the Haldane school district and Putnam County, challenged increases in assessed values that ranged from \$39,600 for 80 Main to \$128,050 for 93-97 Main.

The revisions caused “significant” tax increases, including a 20 percent rise in the Haldane levy, according to Pagones. Under the settlement, the increase in the assessment for 89-91 Main St. remains in place.

## Graymoor Names New Director

*Will head interreligious institute in NYC*

For the first time in its 58-year history, the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of Atonement in Philipstown, has appointed a lay executive director.

Aaron Hollander, an Episcopalian, was most recently president of the North American Academy of Ecumenists. He has a doctorate in theology from the University of Chicago Divinity School and degrees from Trinity College Dublin and Swarthmore College. He is the author of *Saint George Liberator: Hagiography and Resistance in the Modern Mediterranean* and editor of *Ecumenical Trends*.

Based in Manhattan, GEII focuses on unity among Christian faiths.

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One free copy per week per person. Additional copies are \$1 each.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT  
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785  
March 7, 2025  
Volume 13, Issue 10

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

**T**he *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see [highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards](https://highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards).

### LETTERS AND COMMENTS

#### Fjord Trail

To clarify, the Breakneck Connector and Bridge construction for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will begin this spring and is slated to conclude in 2027, rather than 2026 (“Beacon to Fjord Trail: ‘Enthusiastic Support,’” Feb. 21).

Lori Moss, *Poughkeepsie*  
*Moss is the communications manager for HHFT.*

Despite the headline of the article and the blitz marketing of Chris Davis and Scenic Hudson, I hope a compromise will be reached that will honor the beauty and environment by reducing this overblown idea back to where it belongs, a simple trail, and not a Highline of the North for thousands more day-trippers. Let's put wildlife habitat and residents' quality of life first, instead of last.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*  
Your story noted the HHFT plans have “a segment containing a boardwalk elevated over the river between Dockside and Little Stony Point” (“Philipstown OKs Fjord Trail Response,” Feb. 28). The plans also include a boardwalk between Little Stony Point and Breakneck.

Kelly House, *via Facebook*

Planning Board applications require the applicant to pay for the municipality's consultants (“Consultant Critical of Fjord Trail Report,” Feb. 21). The developer, Scenic Hudson/HHFT, is a private nonprofit. It is only because state parks asserts an occasional shared ownership of the project that the developer is able to claim exemption from village and town laws requiring Planning Board application and review.

That application process would have required Scenic Hudson/HHFT to pay for the cost of planning consultants to the village and town. Shame on Scenic Hudson/HHFT for shirking this responsibility simply because they are not “required” to.

The village and town boards are acting responsibly, engaging professionals and subject matter experts to inform and guide their decision-making. They have my thanks. They show us good government at work.

Stephanie Hawkins, *Cold Spring*

Where is the funding for the Fjord Trail going to come from? New York State will have to make up for the loss of federal jobs, high unemployment and lack of federal funding.

Terry Hockler, *Beacon*

I was excited by the initial plans for the

Fjord Trail going on 20 years ago. The idea of making it possible to walk safely between the two communities was very appealing. But that appeal has faded completely with the current plans. There are many aspects that concern me, but the ones that stand out are the shoreline trail sections that go alongside and in the river. How ironic that Scenic Hudson is engaged in endangering the ecosystem of the river and its shoreline. It amounts to sacrilege.

I know that the shoreline has been heavily impacted by industry. Humans have been exploiting this river with little regard for its health for more than 400 years. It gives me no comfort to learn that the designers plan to minimize the number of piles that will be in the river.

As Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley has said: “Once you build in the river, there's no going back.” What would Pete and Toshi Seeger say? Good people who went before us worked tirelessly to protect, restore and preserve our precious river for those who would come after; I don't want to be party to breaking that trust.

Ann Borthwick, *Garrison*

#### Brockway

Thank you to *The Current* for showcasing this history and, above all, thank you to Daniel Pruitt for investing years of research and sharing such important information (“Always Present, Never Seen: A Response,” Feb. 28). I can't wait to buy his book in June!

Mary McTamaney, *Newburgh*

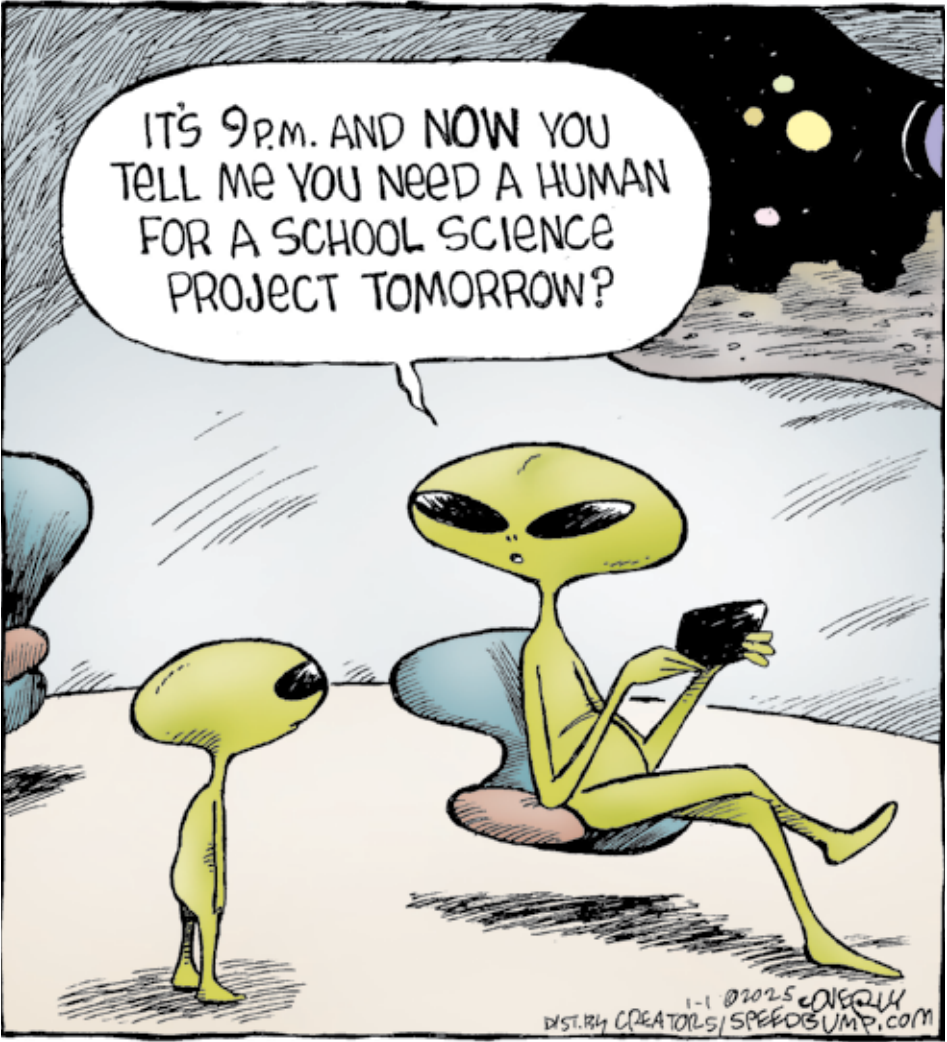
As a former Beacon resident, I found this article especially enlightening because I knew very little about Brockway, even though many of my close relatives lived there after migrating from Virginia. By the time I arrived in New York, many of them had moved to Beacon, where I grew up. Dan's article fills an important gap in the history of the local African American community and my personal family history. William Bugg, *Charleston, South Carolina*

I truly enjoyed this piece by Dan Pruitt, and his earlier one in August. He brings to life the trials and tribulations of Beacon's Black community of days gone by. He fills in the blanks and brings the records of Ancestry.com to life, weaving in the stories of his ancestors and the people of Brockway and surrounding areas. *Always Present, Never Seen* was a reckoning, of sorts, of the good and the bad of a specific time period in the not-too-distant past.

Carol Bugg, *Charleston, South Carolina*

My father, Philip Aaron Jackson, worked

(Continued on Page 5)





LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

at Brockway until Hank Ford opened his Mahwah plant. I remember Pa covered in red brick dust, with Ma cleaning his ears with Q-tips. The Jacksons moved from 28 River St. in Beacon to Dutchess Junction in 1954; I'm looking forward to Dan's memories of the Junction. I'll write mine and history will have the tale of two Black families to compare.

Shabazz Jackson, *Clintondale*

I am definitely biased, but this is an excellent accounting of Brockway. Reading these words makes me feel like I was there and helps me better understand my family's history.

Laurel Pruitt, *Laurel, Maryland*

Thank you for sharing this. I have heard mention of Brockway but knew no stories. I'll explore this further at the Beacon Historical Society.

Susie Giannoni, *Beacon*

Medicaid

Now that Rep. Mike Lawler has voted to cut Medicaid in the budget resolution that passed the U.S. House on Feb. 25 and headed to the Senate ("How They Voted," Feb. 28 online), he doesn't have to pretend to be bipartisan anymore. His hypocrisy is exposed by his previous statement that he "will not cut Medicaid benefits to our constituents, period."

According to the House Budget Committee Democratic Caucus, there are 230,000 people enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program in District 17 [which includes Philipstown and Putnam Valley], including 113,000 under the age of 19 and 19,000 over 65. Lawler has abandoned them in the hope that Elon Musk's America PAC, which contributed \$1.4 million to his 2024 campaign, will generously support his 2026 run for re-election to the House or possibly his campaign for governor.

I have called Lawler's office repeatedly to request that he hold Town Hall meetings to explain his vote. Neither he nor anyone on his staff has responded.

Judy Allen, *Putnam Valley*

Town Board

The nomination petitions for the two open Philipstown Town Board seats this year are confusing. Combining the two board candidates and the supervisor candidate endorsed by Philipstown Democrats on one petition assumes voters are in lock step.

Philipstown Democrats need to do more training of the canvassers. I had a lovely couple ask me to sign the petition for candi-

Honor Rolls

Because of space restrictions, we are not always able to publish academic honor rolls for the middle and high schools in Cold Spring and Beacon, or the names of residents who make college deans' lists. But we always post them online — see [highlandscurrent.org/tag/honor-roll](http://highlandscurrent.org/tag/honor-roll).

dates John Van Tassel, Ned Rauch and Ben Cheah. When I said I supported one candidate but not the others, they said they'd come back with individual petitions, then asked: "Which ones don't you want?"

That's really none of their business. It bothers me that they responded: "Well, we'll find out anyway once you do sign." That felt snarky coming from a party that crows about its "big tent" approach, which seems exaggerated when a candidate who consistently shows his dedication to our town is rejected because he hasn't been a Democrat long enough. Shouldn't we be cheering people who have come to understand and reject the divisive and racist attitudes embraced by Republicans?

I've been a Democratic voter all my life, welcomed by the party everywhere else I've lived, except for Philipstown. It's this approach that alienates the party from middle-income and working-class voters and cements the image of Democrats as a party of elites. This is a perfect example of how and why Democrats bear a good portion of responsibility for the horror show engulfing the White House, Congress and judiciary.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*

Mystery owner

My understanding was that the historic schoolhouse is owned by Stony Kill ("Little Red Schoolhouse Reborn," Feb. 28).

Susan Pignatello, *Newburgh*

A Dutchess County map lists the owner as New York State. It's likely part of Stony Kill, since it got what was the Verplanck property. The school was probably built on that land, without a formal deed, which was common. Land can't exist without someone owning and paying taxes on it.

Toni Houston, *via Facebook*

*Leonard Sparks replies: According to a 1977 memorandum provided by the Stony Kill Foundation, a title search undertaken by the state Department of Environmental Conservation concluded: "Ownership of the area known and distinguished as the 'Red School House' is unknown." Although Fishkill's title search is incomplete, Stephen*

*Gaba, Fishkill's town attorney, said on Feb. 19 that he is "very certain that title to the property is in the [Beacon] school district."*

For nearly four years, I've maintained the Little Red Schoolhouse property, put signs up and lost a good chainsaw (ran over it with a brush hog). And it's been cut down and mowed. Hopefully, we can get this project rolling, but the Beacon City School District seems to be stalling. It hasn't answered any of our requests.

Tom Masch, *via Facebook*

Environmental concerns

With the U.S. facing imminent bankruptcy — we have a \$36 trillion debt — the money will no longer flow like water ("This Feels Reckless," Feb. 28).

David Baylis, *New Windsor*

We are facing a turbulent future under the current dictatorship. I feel for all the people being laid off but more for the decrease in funding for important agencies such as the EPA, NOAA, USAID and FDA.

Jeff Kover, *East Fishkill*

Central Hudson

I'm encouraged to read that Gov. Kathy Hochul will review the salaries of the management at Central Hudson ("Central Hudson Faces Audit," Feb. 21). How I wish she would audit the dreadful, erroneous and

time-consuming errors of its billing department. Each time I think I've worked out the amount I owe, Central Hudson comes up with a new number. First it blamed the alleged lack of meter reading, although I often met my reader and knew his name. After a year, Central Hudson sent me 16 "corrected" monthly bills. When does it stop?

I'm going to urge state Sen. Rob Rolison and Assembly Member Dana Levenberg to advance the Hudson Valley Power Authority Act to replace Central Hudson with a public benefit state corporation designed to act like a community institution.

Dinky Romilly, *Philipstown*

No readings for months, and sometimes nearly a year, then Central Hudson charges whatever it wants per kilowatt hour after it does read the meter. I'm sure it didn't charge the lowest price it paid the provider over that time. I haven't heard anyone talk about this. How is Central Hudson up for a rate increase? It has shown incredible incompetence.

Alan Flynn, *via Facebook*

People are talking about it. I've been battling Central Hudson since the pandemic: one month my bill is \$250 and another month it's \$600, without any change [in usage] on my part. Its call center has zero ability, right or wrong.

Paul Yeaple, *via Facebook*

UPCOMING HUB EVENTS

MARCH 2025



<b>MARCH 11, 18 &amp; 25TH (VIRTUAL)</b> <b>6-7PM</b> Register at <a href="http://philipstownhub.org">philipstownhub.org</a>	<b>STRESS ON THE JOB SUPPORT GROUP</b> VIRTUAL support group offering a space to connect with others facing job-related stress. Work with HR Executive pursuing Masters in Counseling to explore strategies to manage pressure.
<b>MARCH 10, &amp; 24TH (AT 5 STONE STREET)</b> <b>7-8PM</b>	<b>WOMEN WITH ADHD SUPPORT GROUP</b> Peer support group for women with ADHD looking to connect with others to share experiences and support.
<b>MARCH 13 6PM</b> DESMOND FISH LIBRARY *REGISTER AT <a href="http://DESMONDFISHLIBRARY.ORG">DESMONDFISHLIBRARY.ORG</a>	<b>NARCAN TRAINING</b> We will be teaching individuals how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and administer the opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone. Narcan kits provided upon completion.
<b>MARCH 27TH 5-6PM</b> 5 STONE STREET	<b>ADULT GRIEF PEER SUPPORT GROUP</b> Peer support group for adults needing a safe space to share their experiences and feelings with others who have experienced loss.

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## Beacon Trail *(from Page 1)*

with detailed concepts, cost estimates and phasing recommendations, should be finished by the summer. The Monday presentation to the City Council can be viewed at [highlandscurrent.org/rail-trail-deck](http://highlandscurrent.org/rail-trail-deck).

The proposed trail would begin at the Beacon Metro-North station, a stone's throw from the Hudson River, then wind for 4 miles around the city's southern perimeter before running parallel with Tioronda Avenue and the east end of Main Street. Major crossings would include Churchill Street and East Main Street (at the dummy light). The trail would run underneath Route 9D (at Tioronda Avenue) and hug northbound Route 52 (Fishkill Avenue) to the city line.

The trail would connect with the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail near the bridge at Madam Brett Park, where the planners said a trailhead could be located. Scenic Hudson, which is building the Fjord Trail between

Beacon and Cold Spring, is a member of the Beacon-to-Hopewell Trail Advisory Committee.

Once the rail trail leaves the city, it would veer back and forth over Fishkill Creek on its way through the Village of Fishkill and the towns of Fishkill and East Fishkill. At Hopewell, it would connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail, the Maybrook Trailway and, overlaying both, the 750-mile Empire State Trail.

The abandoned rail line is owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. A year ago, Metro-North, an agency of the MTA, "railbanked" the line, reserving the right to revive service, although an agency representative told *The Current* in February 2024 that it had no plans to do so.

The important takeaway from the conditions study is that "the majority of the corridor is in really good condition," said Chris Hannett, another Barton & Loguidice engineer, on Monday.

There are two options for constructing a trail, although one would be a much heavier lift. A

"rail-with-trail" conversion, in which the tracks remain in place, would present many challenges, including a 20- to 25-foot buffer required between the tracks and any trail. Bridges in the corridor, which are no longer safe for trains, would have to be rebuilt, adding significant cost and environmental impacts, and right-of-way acquisitions would be required.

The second option, a "rail to trail," would permit the reuse of bridges and ballast stones, the rocks used to stabilize the tracks, but the rails would be removed. A rail to trail would minimize environmental impacts, with little and possibly no rights-of-way needed.

When the study began, Metro-North's abandonment of the line had not been approved by the federal Surface Transportation Board, so the engineers studied both options. The final report will include both but won't recommend either, instead letting "the engineering and the cost speak for itself, as well as the environmental impacts," Baird said.

The planners anticipate a 12-foot-wide

path made with a crushed-stone mix or asphalt, depending on the location. It would likely be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and could be lighted because of its proximity to dense urban areas.

Baird said the county is conducting the study because funders often consider projects "and some will scratch their heads [and say], 'Can they really do that?'" With a report analyzing environmental impacts and other factors, "it's a lot easier to get funding and move these projects forward," he said.

The study team last year received more than 1,350 responses to an online survey, with 95 percent supporting construction of a trail in the corridor. Respondents asked for the pathway to include bathrooms, benches, waste receptacles and directional signs.

A virtual public meeting will be held at noon on March 20; participants can register at [beaconhopewellrailtrail.com](http://beaconhopewellrailtrail.com). A second public meeting will be held in the spring, before the release of the final report.

## School Budgets *(from Page 1)*

percent. If the district asked voters for the maximum, it would mean another \$132,000 for the bottom line.

Albano said that he believes Haldane can go with the lower increase, especially after voters last year approved an increase of 6.95 percent over three years to pay for a \$28.4 million capital project. "We are mindful that the community supported a pretty signifi-

cant tax increase," he said. "Therefore, we are doing our best to be efficient with the operating budget."

In response, Trustee Ezra Clementson wondered if failing to take advantage of the full cap was shortsighted. "I want to make sure that what we're doing is not unduly causing a problem down the road," he said.

Clementson noted that failing to budget \$132,000 for 2025-26 translates to a reduction of more than \$600,000 over five years, a

financial decision that the board could come to regret, especially with higher inflation.

"When you're short, you have to pierce the cap, which is not easy to do," said Clementson. Under state law, a district can raise taxes over the cap only if 60 percent of voters approve, rather than a simple majority.

Maggie Valentine, the vice president, said she was concerned about raising taxes on top of the capital spending. "There are so many people on fixed incomes," she said. "Not everybody has a dual income. There are people really stressed out about" the tax hike.

Like Clementson, Sean McNall and Michelle Kupper wondered about the long-term impact of not raising taxes to the max. Peggy Clements, the president, noted the district has not, during her 10-year tenure, ever proposed a budget under the cap, which New York State enacted in 2012.

Following the discussion, Albano said he would bring a more detailed spending plan with the maximum cap to the March 18 meeting. He said "there's a long list of things that we could do" with another \$132,000, such as replacing fluorescent lights in classrooms with more-efficient LEDs.

The draft budget presented on Tuesday includes funding for a science-of-reading curriculum (\$50,000); software to improve student outcomes (\$10,000); a new pre-K program (\$100,000); special education funding for out-of-district placements (\$200,000); increased field trip spending (\$20,000); a softball field dugout (\$20,000); classroom air conditioners to comply with new state maximum temperature requirement (\$30,000); auditorium stage and performing arts equipment (\$30,000); and a transportation system analysis (\$20,000).

The Haldane budget anticipates that the district will receive \$4.4 million in expense-based state aid, a reduction of \$161,000 from 2024-25, and an additional \$58,000 in Foundation Aid.

At the Garrison school board meeting on Wednesday, Superintendent Greg Stowell proposed a budget that includes a 3.58 percent tax increase, or 2.2 percent less than the 5.78 percent cap set by the state for

the district for 2025-26. Last year, Garrison raised taxes by 4.44 percent, the maximum.

The proposed 3.58 percent increase "is reflective of what we need, is respectful to the taxpayer and continues to promote the high-quality education that our community has come to expect," said Stowell. "We're very happy with what we put in this budget to really move the district forward."

Joseph Jimick, the district business manager, said Garrison is able to keep its projected tax increase well below the cap by relying on \$1.3 million of its \$2.7 million in savings, or "unappropriated fund balance."

Jimick said the district's auditor recommended Garrison reduce its savings, which state law says must not exceed 4 percent of the budget. Jimick said the fund balance had risen because of increased state aid and grants and lower special-education costs.

The largest new expense would be \$650,000 to repair the roof and fix sidewalks, outdoor staircases and retaining walls. Jimick said that, because those projects are considered capital expenditures, they allow for a higher tax cap under the state formula.

The district is also considering allocating funds to hire an armed police officer and launch a lunch program. The Garrison Teachers' Association has urged the district to add the armed officer.

Other expenses that will increase in 2025-26 under the draft budget include a summer scholars program that is no longer funded by grants (\$30,000); tuition paid to Haldane, O'Neill and Putnam Valley for the district's high school students (\$67,520); transportation (\$112,211); tuition for special-education students who attend other schools (\$155,000); new science textbooks (\$41,000); legal expenses (\$63,000); employee health insurance (\$149,441); energy-saving improvements (\$93,212); design work for Garrison Forest improvements (\$10,000); consultants to improve environmental education (\$15,000); copier lease-purchase agreements (\$15,000); the annual Youth Climate Summit (\$10,000); field trips (\$25,000); and professional development for teachers (\$30,000).



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# Cold Spring Details Fjord Trail Concerns

*Consultant: Traffic study 'woefully' lacking*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board on Monday (March 3) adopted a report by two consultants detailing concerns with the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

In a meeting that lasted less than 15 minutes, Mayor Kathleen Foley and trustees Tweeps Phillips Woods and Laura Bozzi voted to adopt the report from Greenplan consultant Ted Fink and John Canning of Kimley-Horn Engineering. Trustees Eliza Starbuck and Aaron Freimark voted no.

Canning was hired by the village on Feb. 12 to analyze sections of the DGEIS dealing with traffic. Fink presented his draft report on Feb. 19 and revised it after input from the Village Board.

The final reports, prepared at a cost of \$12,000, were forwarded to New York State Parks, the lead agency for the DGEIS, to meet a Tuesday deadline.

As proposed, the 7.5-mile Fjord Trail will connect Cold Spring and Beacon, with the southern terminus at Dockside Park, which is owned by the state and managed by the

village.

The report identified 14 areas of concern, including:

- The role of the village in land-use approvals as an “involved agency,” including site-plan approval, identified in a 2017 scoping document has been reduced to “potential approval for possible sidewalk improvements,” Fink noted.

- The analysis of village planning documents is “selective,” relying only on policies favorable to HHFT, he said. Insufficient consideration is given to Cold Spring’s local setting, especially regarding community character, traffic and parking.

- The assessment of the impact of increased visitation on the village is insufficient, Fink said.

- The impact on emergency services requires detailed analysis with mitigation and/or alternatives for law enforcement, fire protection and EMS response, he said.

- There is a lack of clarity regarding future fiscal and management responsibilities of HHFT compared with other agencies, including the village, Fink said.

- The analysis of alternative routes is inadequate, he said.

- The proposed HHFT phasing is concurrent and doesn’t call for constructing trail

segments north of the village first, which would allow mitigation measures to be tested and designs modified as needed, Fink said.

In an email to *The Current*, Starbuck said she voted against adopting the report because it was “produced at great cost to taxpayers [and] uses fearful speculation to justify predetermined opposition to the new park.” She added that “it shuts out the many residents yearning for the project’s benefits.”

Freimark said by email that the 143-page report “ballooned into an embarrassment” that he could not endorse. “We had an opportunity to focus on serious and solvable issues, but instead, it throws in every worry possible to try to bury the project in paperwork and delays,” he wrote.

In response, Foley said the Village Board’s review of the DGEIS was about “taking a hard look at a project, understanding its potential impacts” and identifying weaknesses. “We must assess if the potential generosity of HHFT ultimately costs the village too much financially and in quality-of-life impacts,” she said.

She said Canning’s comments underlined that the DGEIS is “woefully lacking” in its analysis of village parking and traffic, noting that the impact statement only addresses three village intersections and

fails to evaluate impacts at Dockside.

According to the mayor, the Putnam County planning commissioner, Barbara Barosa, identified similar concerns in comments she submitted to state parks.

The complete response to the DGEIS by the Village Board and its consultants, along with submissions by the Historic District Review Board, planning and zoning boards and police and fire departments, are posted at [dub.sh/CS-HHFT](https://dub.sh/CS-HHFT).

## In other business...

- The Village Board on Wednesday held its first discussion on the 2025-26 budget. Foley highlighted new revenue sources, including paid parking and a hotel occupancy tax, along with a few “surprises,” such as film production fees and lower employee insurance plan premiums. At the same time, the village must address several costly infrastructure projects, such as dam repairs and fronting the cost of Fair Street repairs before being reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Under state law, the village must have a balanced preliminary budget by March 20.

- The wastewater system suffered a massive clog caused by “flushable” wipes, Foley said. “No matter what the packaging says, wipes do not break down,” she said.

- An electric vehicle charging station is planned for High Street near McConville Park.

# Byrne Promises Historic Tax Cut

*Putnam County to sponsor Shakespeare grant*

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam Executive Kevin Byrne said his budget proposal for 2026 will include the largest property tax cut in county history as he announced other initiatives during his annual State of the County address on Monday (March 3).

Byrne delivered the address at Ace Endico, a food distributor in Brewster that is Putnam’s largest private employer. If the budget legislators approve this fall contains the biggest-ever tax break, it will follow a cut

in the 2025 budget that reduced the county’s tax rate to its lowest level in 18 years.

Along with a tax cut, the budget proposal will “fully fund” the Board of Ethics, said Byrne. He also noted that construction is nearly complete on a training center for firefighters and emergency medical personnel that will be named for Michael Neuner, a Brewster firefighter who died in 1997 while battling a house fire.

In addition, he announced that the county will bring farmers and local officials together for an agriculture forum and that two Philipstown residents — former Gov. George Pataki and George Whipple — will co-chair a committee organizing events to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026.

## Shakespeare grant

The Legislature on Tuesday (March 4) approved a resolution to have the county sponsor a \$3.5 million grant the federal government awarded Hudson Valley Shakespeare for environmental restoration projects at its Philipstown property.

Former President Joe Biden enacted legislation in March 2022 that included the funding for the Environmental Protection Agency’s State and Tribal Assistance Grants program. The money will underwrite the remediation of damage from the site’s prior life as the Garrison Golf Course, including for projects such as native meadows and restoration of the property’s pond.

Davis McCallum, the HVS artistic direc-

tor, said on Wednesday that some remedial measures have been completed. The organization needed the Legislature to ratify the county’s role as sponsor so HVS can begin requesting reimbursement from the grant funds. “We’ve been really fortunate to have broad and bipartisan support for this project,” he said.

## Rules updates

Several contentious amendments to the Legislature’s rules approved in January will not be enforced until at least Oct. 15 so the revisions can be reviewed by the Rules Committee.

A moratorium passed by the Legislature on Tuesday covers rules codifying legislators’ power to issue subpoenas, allowing them to require that speakers swear an oath and changing the process for reviewing and approving the county executive’s nominees to lead departments.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, joined with three Republican colleagues — Erin Crowley (Carmel), William Gouldman (Putnam Valley) and Laura Russo (Patterson) — in January to vote against the changes, saying they were being rushed.

The Rules Committee will also review a proposal to allow public comment on agenda items before a vote is held, rather than after, a change Montgomery has repeatedly requested.

## Legal spending

The Legislature approved an additional \$150,000 to pay private law firms — a

request that had been on hold since January because the Law Department had already made two earlier requests for extra funds.

Michael Lewis, the county finance commissioner, said in January that the Law Department received \$200,000 after exhausting its \$300,000 budget for outside counsel. He said a “good amount” of the billing was from Harris Beach, a firm defending the county in a lawsuit filed by a contractor hired to reconstruct Peekskill Hollow Road.

“I hope going forward that we can budget more responsibly so that we don’t have surprises at the end of the year,” said Amy Sayegh, the Legislature’s chair.

## New director

Legislators approved the appointment of Marlene Barrett as director of the Office of Senior Resources. Her responsibilities include managing senior centers in Cold Spring, Carmel, Mahopac and Putnam Valley.

Barrett joined the agency in 2011 and became deputy director in 2023. She has been leading the office since the retirement of Doug Cunningham on Dec. 31.

## Livestreaming

For the first time, the Legislature livestreamed its meeting, which Montgomery in a statement called “a long-overdue milestone.” She added: “When I proposed livestreaming in 2020, committee chairs refused to include discussion of this important topic on the agenda, and the Legislature’s chair dismissed it as unnecessary since it wasn’t mandated by New York State. Now we have finally taken a simple but crucial step toward government transparency.”



## The House of Lattisville

Written by Nan Nelson Ewing

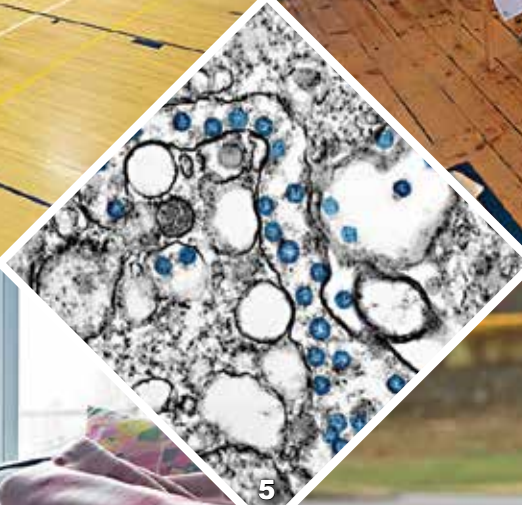
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## COVID-19: FIVE YEARS LATER

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the 2019 Novel Coronavirus to be a pandemic. Within days, the Highlands closed. Here is a look back at the first weeks of the shutdown.

### Wednesday, Feb. 26

*The Current* spoke by video conferencing with Dong Xin Gong, a retired industrialist from China, who had visited Cold Spring several times on business between 1980 and 2010. He reported that, in his city of Xuzhou, “all public places, including malls, restaurants and parks have been closed. Only grocery stores and supermarkets have remained open. My city of 8 million has 60 to 70 cases of coronavirus but no deaths, and no new cases have been reported in the past two or three weeks. Measures are tough. Families are given a permit allowing one person to go out every two days. If you don’t cooperate, obey the rules, you are detained, possibly for two weeks.”

Asked what he thought caused the virus, Dong said: “The government is trying to trace the cause. There are rumors it started with people eating bats. There are parts of southern China where bats are eaten but not in Wuhan. However, wild animals were traded at the seafood market there.”

### Sunday, March 1

State officials said a 39-year-old health care worker in Manhattan who recently returned from Iran was New York’s first confirmed case. A New Rochelle lawyer in his 50s was the second; his wife, two children, a friend, the neighbor who drove him to the hospital and the neighbor’s wife and three children also tested positive.

### Tuesday, March 3

Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown, requested that the Legislature hire an epidemiologist for the Health Department. The position had been eliminated in 2019.

### Saturday, March 7

Gov. Andrew Cuomo declared a state of emergency.

### Monday, March 9

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said that its Health Department “has been informed a limited number of residents may have had contact with an Ulster County individual who tested positive.”

### Wednesday, March 11

After two venues backed out, state officials allowed Haldane to host a girls’ basketball playoff game against Millbrook. No spectators were allowed but the players were not required to wear masks; parents watched the game on a monitor in the cafeteria. Millbrook won but the tournament was canceled.

### Thursday, March 12

Dutchess confirmed its first case after a resident went to the hospital with a fever and cough. Health officials began contact tracing.

### Friday, March 13

*The Current* recommended that readers call ahead or check online before attending an event, because most had been canceled.

A Cold Spring coffee shop said it would remain open but that its surfaces, door-

1. No spectators were allowed into the gym to watch a game at Haldane on March 11, 2020. A few oversized photos were placed in the home section.

Photo by Skip Pearlman

2. Bob Hayes, co-owner of Hudson Hill’s Market & Cafe in Cold Spring, sits in his empty restaurant on March 17, 2020.

Photo by Ross Corsair

3. August Wright did his schoolwork at home in Beacon on March 19, 2020.

Photo by Meredith Heuer

4. Stefani Dobert, a cafeteria worker for the Beacon school district, wheels some of the 2,500 meals prepared on March 23 to distribute to residents. On March 25, they gave out 6,000. Photo by Ross Corsair

5. An electron microscope image of a sample from the first documented case of COVID-19 in the U.S. in 2020. The viral particles have been colored blue. CDC

knobs, iPads and bathrooms would be sanitized every 30 minutes.

### Sunday, March 15

Putnam County reported its first cases. County Executive MaryEllen Odell closed  
(Continued on Page 9)



## Farmers (from Page 1)

government contracts — contracts that have been signed and that they were already doing work toward — have been canceled,” said Megan Larmer of the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming in Philipstown, which was overseeing the program. “Your government contract should be the most secure type of funding you could have.”

The Climate Smart Commodities Grant is one of many sources of funding for local farms that has been frozen or canceled in the past six weeks. Rocksteady Farms in Millerton had over \$400,000 cut for projects such as farmer training, food access and water mitigation. A \$2.5 million grant from the USDA to help Rocksteady and a dozen other farms build a food hub with barns and processing facilities is on hold.

Farming is, by nature, a famously unpredictable undertaking, even without climate change. But financial cuts and freezes at the beginning of the growing season have added another layer of uncertainty, leading farmers to downgrade their plans and projections. It’s also giving younger farmers second thoughts about the profession.

“The fact that all this is sowing fear amongst all these organizations that are dedicated to the public good is psychologically damaging, and the repercussions of it are going to be felt for a long time,” said Larmer.

Among those affected is Jackie Matza, a Hudson Valley native who was living in Germany and graduated from Kiel University with a degree in sustainability. Speaking with her classmates from around the world made her realize how much her talents were needed back home.

“The U.S. needs to catch up with the rest of the world in terms of climate change planning, resiliency planning, protecting land and protecting Indigenous communities,” she said. “All of these things are



Jackie Matza

routine in a lot of European countries. They have such a clear plan. Even the general public takes things like ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ very seriously. Americans don’t. It was a wake-up call for me to come back to my own country and be a part of actual change for the people who need it.”

Matza was hired in the fall to help administer the Climate Smart Commodities Grant at Glynwood as part of the Working Lands Climate Corps, a Biden-era program partly inspired by the Civilian Conservation Corps that helped build parks, plant trees and restore farms in the 1920s and ’30s. After the November election, the program changed its name to the Working Lands Conservation Corps because of a Trump directive to eliminate any program with the word *climate* in it.

That didn’t help. The program has been canceled and Matza is out of a job that she traveled thousands of miles to take. Finding a new one will be difficult. “Anything simi-



Zach Wolf

Photos provided

lar to what I was doing here has either been cut or has thousands of other government employees who were just fired applying for it,” she said. “The competition is quite fierce.”

Zach Wolf of EZ Farms in Columbia County is also out of a gig. He was helping to develop plans for the eight local farms taking part in the Climate Smart Commodities Grant, including his own. “It’s a lot of things that farmers would like to do but just don’t have the money,” he said. The practices included planting cover crops, as well as integrating more trees to act as a windbreak, improving soil, water and air quality, and providing perennial crops in the form of fruit.

“Traditionally, most small farms had a combination of some sort of annual crop, a livestock pasture and an orchard or other perennial production,” he explained. “That system of agriculture has stood the test of time. A lot of the regenerative agriculture movement is about trying to get back to diversification, keeping the farm as a whole system.”

Without the grant, Wolf won’t be able to undertake any of those projects at his farm. The same is true for Fishkill Farms, which was in the enviable position of adding land. “It’s unusual for a farm in the Hudson Valley to be expanding,” said Mark Doyle, the farm’s general manager. “It’s hard enough to just hold on to the land you have.” In this case, the farm is buying land owned by the Morgenthau family, the founders of Fishkill Farm.

The land had been neglected for decades and needs a lot of help. Doyle had planned to use the federal funds to build pollinator gardens and plant trees to store more carbon from the atmosphere and stop the rapid erosion on its slopes.

The farm had been experimenting with spreading mulch around its apple trees to help them in droughts and was working with Cornell Cooperative Extension to see if the practice could be replicated on other farms. “I’m not saying that I won’t still try to do it, but it’s not going to be very thorough,” said Doyle. “The other things, like the pollinator gardens, I just won’t be able to get to.”

On Feb. 27, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand sent a letter to the USDA in response to the concerns of New York farmers whose funding has been frozen. “Farmers have taken on incredible financial risk due to the guarantees and signed contracts that were provided by the USDA,” she wrote. “Making America healthier starts and ends with New York farmers and rural communities, and they deserve the support Congress has already committed to giving them.”

The letter asks for a more detailed explanation of why the funds were frozen and what the USDA expects farmers to do instead.

“If you don’t have healthy soil and you don’t have healthy air, you don’t have healthy food,” Matza said. “It shouldn’t be political.”

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

(Continued from Page 8)

daycare centers and nursery schools; prohibited public gatherings of more than 20 people and banned buffets.

### Monday, March 16

Odel and Molinaro ordered schools to close. Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered bars and restaurants to close by 8 p.m. and banned indoor dining.

### Tuesday, March 17

There were 1,324 positives statewide, including 644 in New York City. The first deaths were an 82-year-old Brooklyn woman who had emphysema and a 65-year-old man in Rockland County who had other health problems.

### Wednesday, March 18

Local schools began online classes.

### Thursday, March 19

After offering takeout for a few days, the Riverview in Cold Spring closed. “Business was good, but we’re in a danger zone now,” said owner Jimmy Ely.

### Friday, March 20

Cuomo ordered local governments to have employees work from home, except for police, fire, water, sewer and other departments deemed essential.

The first Dutchess resident, a 69-year-old man, died in Poughkeepsie from complications related to COVID-19.

Putnam had six cases, and Dutchess had 31. Marianne Sullivan, a Garrison resident who is a professor of public health at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, noted in *The Current*: “Those are the *reported* cases. We are so behind on testing that we don’t yet understand the magnitude.... A big deal here is that it appears the virus may be passed even when a person doesn’t have symptoms, or when he or she has mild symptoms.”

Asked how COVID compared to the flu, Sullivan said: “As many as 50,000 people die in the U.S. each year from seasonal flu, but its fatality rate is around 0.1 percent. If 100 million people in the U.S. were to get COVID-19, and the fatality rate is 1 percent, that’s a million deaths. Unlike the seasonal flu, we

have no known immunity, and no vaccine.”\*

\*As of Feb. 22, 2025, more than 1.2 million people in the U.S. have died of complications of the virus, including 37,561 in the past year.

### Monday, March 23

For three weeks, local real estate agents had been scrambling to find houses for people fleeing New York City, which had about 20 percent of the nation’s COVID-19 cases and 25 percent of its deaths. “It was a panic,” said Bill Hussung of McCafrey Realty in Cold Spring. “All of us were nonstop showing houses last weekend and the weekend before — houses that hadn’t seen a lot of activity had lines to get in.”

### Tuesday, March 24

Concerned about the crowds flocking to Breakneck Ridge, Philipstown closed trailheads and parking along Route 9D. The next day, the state reopened them but began promoting less-popular trails.

### Tuesday, March 31

Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel

reported its first deaths related to the virus.

### Saturday, April 4

Cold Spring resident Darrin Santos died at age 50 of virus complications. A Navy veteran, he was a transportation supervisor for NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital who drove doctors between hospitals in White Plains and New York City.

### Friday, April 10

David Esteban, a professor of biology at Vassar College, told *The Current*: “This is going to last a long time.... One of my worries is that if we relax social distancing too early, it could lead to another wave of infections. Do we wait things out until we have a vaccine? That’s putting a lot of weight on the hope that one can be discovered, manufactured and distributed rapidly.” [Vaccinations began Dec. 14; the first person to receive a shot in New York was a critical-care nurse in Queens.]

For more coverage, see [highlandscurrent.org/tag/covid](https://highlandscurrent.org/tag/covid).



AROUND TOWN



▲ **JAZZ NOTES** — Kahlil Kwame Bell and his band performed at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Feb. 22. As well as recording his own albums, Bell has performed with Prince, Luther Vandross, Nora Jones, Wynton Marsalis and Roberta Flack, who died Feb. 24.

*Photo by Ross Corsair*



▲ **TALKING POLITICS** — Dana Levenberg (center), whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown, met with constituents on March 1 at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison.

*Photo by Ross Corsair*



◀ **GREAT MINDS** — The newly created Haldane Science Bowl Team on March 1 reached the quarterfinals of a regional competition in Manhattan. From left: Lincoln Wayland, Seth Lunin-Pack, Alice Stevenson, Max Kupper, Kaito Kester and faculty advisor Lee Posniack.

*Photo provided*

MUSIC  ST MARY'S



Tara O'Grady's  
Black Velvet Band

featuring Tara O'Grady, vocals  
with Daniel Kelly, piano, Trifon Dimitrov, bass,  
Charles Frommer, saxophone/clarinet

Saturday, March 15, 2025 @ 2 PM

 Free - donations in support of  
Music at St Mary's accepted

St. Mary's Episcopal Church • Corner of 9D & Main Street • Cold Spring, NY

UPCOMING HUB EVENTS

APRIL 2025 

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30TH (AT 5 STONE STREET) 7-8PM	<b>FERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP</b> Trying to have a baby? Has the journey been surprisingly difficult? You are not alone. One out of every six people experience fertility challenges, often leading to stress, anxiety, grief, and depression. We are here for you.
APRIL 7, 14, 21, & 28TH (VIRTUAL) 6-7PM Register at philipstownhub.org	<b>JOB SEARCH BOOT CAMP</b> VIRTUAL group with seasoned HR executive who will provide insider knowledge and emotional support to help you land your next opportunity. Resume updates, interview prep and compensation discussions as well as mental health support. Attending all 4 sessions is highly encouraged
APRIL 3 (AT 3590 ROUTE 9 SUITE 100) 10-11AM MARCH 7, & 21ST (AT 5 STONE STREET) 7-8PM	<b>WOMEN WITH ADHD SUPPORT GROUP</b> Peer support group for women with ADHD looking to connect with others to share experiences and support.
APRIL 24TH 5-6PM 5 STONE STREET	<b>ADULT GRIEF PEER SUPPORT GROUP</b> Peer support group for adults needing a safe space to share their experiences and feelings with others who have experienced loss.

Questions?  
Call: 845-809-5050  
Email: admin@philipstownhub.org  
PHILIPSTOWNHUB.ORG

Any last minute group schedule changes  
will be posted on our social media accounts  
 @philipstownhub  




## The Calendar



"Doorknob"



"Swift"



"Test"



"Doorway"

# So Many Questions in Buster Levi Show

*Answer them yourself, says artist Grace Kennedy*

By Marc Ferris

The exhibit, *Colorforms*, by Grace Kennedy at Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring is disorienting due to odd cropping and strange angles. Its macabre, mixed-media works with disconnected figures may trigger a lot of questions, but don't expect many answers.

"The whole point is to be perplexing — it's not my job to tell you what it is," says Kennedy, who lives in Garrison. "There's nothing to tell anyway."

She created one of the works a day before the exhibit's March 1 opening, after being told that the display would look better with another piece. She had nothing in the same vein and dashed one off on the fly. Two

women who toured the gallery with intent on Saturday picked it as their favorite.

Of the exhibit's 11 oil paint-with-collage pieces, seven depict interiors, some of which are dark, spooky and cramped, like the walls are closing in. A piece inspired by the civil war in Syria, "Doorknob," is the brightest and most upbeat.

Kennedy also designs gardens, which she maps out like blueprints. Here, her view is nearly always slanted downward. Each piece in the informal series begins with the floor. "That turns it into an interesting shape instead of a plane or an overhead," she explains.

In several pieces, including a bathroom floor study, "Chinese Dancers," angles are askew. As the wall and doorframe tilt the perspective, the focus is on four shoes. Another recurring motif is a scratchy texture created with a hard-bristle brush that looks like the

result of scraping with a sharp instrument.

The show's title refers to a toy with vinyl cutouts of shapes or characters that can be arranged on a background scene. It took a fervid imagination to make the characters come alive.

Kennedy cut her figures from an 8-year-old copy of *The New York Times Magazine* because the ink dissolves well with solvent and she liked the subject matter. Many resemble blobs after being manipulated and painted over.

According to gallery notes written by Bill Kooistra, another Buster Levi member, the pieces are like stage sets that give an impression that "the viewer has unexpect-

edly come upon some drama."

In "Angel" (many titles are enigmatic), a handful of detached people appear to be loitering in an alley. As with other images, no one is looking at anyone else.

Why are they there, and what are they doing? In "Pond," is that Bigfoot? Why is one work called "Decision," and why is a person standing on a giant red ball as he hurtles toward a crowded ... beach?

Interiors elicit claustrophobia. A giant red ball blocks the portal in "Doorway," yet doors and windows abound. Why?

"To give them someplace to go," says Kennedy. Where are they going? "I don't know. Out?"

*Buster Levi Gallery, at 121 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. See [busterlevigallery.com](http://busterlevigallery.com). Colorforms continues through March 30.*

## The Norwegian Invasion

*Pop star finds a new home and following in Beacon*

By Marc Ferris

After a gig at the Industrial Arts Brewing Co. in Beacon, guitarist Josh Stark of the Vibeke Saugestad Band returns to break down his gear after going outside to smoke a cigarette. "I love playing with this group," he says.

Two hours earlier, the band took advantage of their wireless setup to dance and twirl like unleashed children.

The first time Saugestad, who stands 5-foot-11 in heels, waded into the crowd, she stepped up to straddle two curved plastic chairs. The stunt looked dangerous. Later, after hopping on a table, two spectators volunteered as spotters, holding it steady until the dismount.

"I remember seeing people close to me, but when you're playing, it's all a blur," Saugestad says. "Good thing nothing happened."

Saugestad achieved stardom in her native Norway in the mid-1990s with the band Weld, leading her to sign with Sony and Universal. "I never lived up to what they wanted," she recalls. "Someone said I was the least ambitious person they ever met. The handlers had a lot of plans and tried to

pair me with other songwriters, but I had to stay true to my vision and write my songs."

After Weld disbanded, Saugestad played with a "mellow duo" and a "noise rock" group, according to her website, and launched her own record label. In 2008, two singles off her most recent album (for now) became indie radio darlings in the U.S.: "Tonight," which appeared on Little Steven's Underground Garage compilation, *The Coolest Songs in the World, Vol. 8*, and "He's Peculiar."

At that point, she detached from rock 'n' roll and turned toward a job translating novels from English and Swedish to Norwegian. In Spain, she met Ken Fox, the bass player for garage-rock mainstays The Fleshtones, and they fell in love. He moved to Beacon in 2005, they married in 2012 and she arrived in 2014.

At a gig on Feb. 21, Fox kicked around shiny blue sequined shoes, taking advantage of empty spaces in "17 Hours" to lay down busy fills.

The band delivered a miniclinic on how to make an energetic and entertaining 14-song musical and theatrical show look easy by executing tight consensus endings, supplying harmonious backup vocals with precision and pulling off shifts in tempo or abrupt stops and starts without a hitch. The set had people bouncing like pogo sticks.



The band: Mark Westin, Ken Fox, Vibeke Saugestad, Josh Stark and Adam Napell

Photo by Mark Westin

Drummer Adam Napell wore a T-shirt touting The Veatles. "Some of the guys think we should be Vibeke Saugestad and the Somethings," she said. "That's an inside joke." Her simple, hooky tunes evoke the Fab Four's catchy melodies, upbeat sound and occasional chime of a complicated chord.

Saugestad grew up listening to ABBA; most of her songs are up-tempo. During an exuberant rendition of "Quality Control," guitarist Mark Westin bounded across the stage to cavort with Stark and almost knocked over his lead singer.

The band cohered in September 2023 for the final bash at Dogwood on East Main Street in Beacon (now Cooper's) after Saug-

estad, a regular patron, decided to dust off five of her rock tunes.

Since then, the group has gigged at Quinn's, Happy Valley Arcade and venues in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. She is writing new material with plans to record at Beacon AV Lab.

"Though short, the Dogwood set was such a blast, and we had the right chemistry," she says. "It's always about joy and having fun. If someone comes up to me after a show and says my songs make them happy, that is the best compliment I could ever get."

*For more about Saugestad and her band, see [vibeke.rocks](http://vibeke.rocks).*



THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

SAT 8  
Parade of Green  
BEACON

Noon. Main Street  
facebook.com/paradeofgreen  
The 10th annual St. Patrick's Day parade will begin at Route 9D and proceed to the dummy light.

SAT 8  
Time Machine Dance Party  
COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Move | 37 Chestnut St.  
dub.sh/move-dance-party  
This Haldane Arts Alliance fundraiser will highlight a musical decade every hour. *Cost: \$45 (\$75 for two)*

SUN 9  
Daylight Saving Time Begins

2 a.m. Set clocks ahead one hour



SUN 9  
St. Patrick's Day Parade  
MAHOPAC

2 p.m. Lake Plaza | 987 Route 6  
facebook.com/NWP.  
St.PatricksDayParade  
Park at the shopping center and take an event bus from Stop and Shop to the 48th annual Northern Westchester-Putnam parade, which proceeds along Route 6.

TUES 11  
Poem for a Pickle  
GARRISON

5 – 8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Record yourself reading a poem for a National Poetry Month podcast and receive an edible or stuffed pickle.

THURS 13  
Bear Mountain Bridge  
GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403  
bearmountainbridgeproject.com  
Learn about a deck replacement project scheduled to begin in 2026 and share your feedback on improvements for pedestrians. See Page 3.

THURS 13  
Narcan Training  
GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | philipstownhub.org  
Staff from the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub will explain how to recognize signs of an opioid overdose and administer life-saving medication. Participants will receive a Narcan kit. Registration required.

FRI 14  
Dance Party  
BEACON

7:30 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery  
10 N Chestnut St. | beaconlitfest.org  
Dance to your favorite '90s hits and dress for the era to win prizes at this Beacon LitFest fundraiser. *Cost: \$15*

KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 9  
One Earth So Green and Round  
BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Min St. | 845-831-4988  
bit.ly/earthsogreenhcc  
Puppeteer Lydia Adams Davis will be joined by guitarist Elly Winner to tell musical stories in this interactive show. Registration required. *Free*

WED 12  
Rainbow Suncatchers  
GARRISON

3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Children ages 3 to 12 are invited to make a St. Patrick's Day-themed craft. Registration required.

FRI 14  
Origami  
BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Students in grades 5 to 12 can learn the art of paper folding.

SAT 15  
Prom Boutique  
BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library  
311 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Students can shop at this pop-up for formal wear and accessories. Also SUN 16.

VISUAL ART

SAT 8  
Renée Green  
BEACON

2 p.m. Dia Beacon | 3 Beekman St.  
845-231-0811 | diaart.org  
Curator Jordan Carter will have a conversation with the artist for the opening of Green's exhibit, *The Equator Has Moved*. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for ages 5 and younger and Beacon residents)*

SAT 8  
Poetry of Place  
BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org  
Karen Allen and Jean Wiggs share a conversation through their paintings. In *Translucent Hues*, Eileen Sackman exhibits hand-carved porcelain reliefs with celadon



Parade of Green, March 8

glazes. A member show, *Passages*, is in Gallery 2. Through April 6.

SAT 15  
Oh, Freedom! Quilts  
POUGHKEEPSIE

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Family Partnership Center  
29 North Hamilton St.  
mhahp.vassarspaces.net  
At 12:45 p.m. during the opening of this exhibit, the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project will host a program that includes Thadine Wormly discussing her quilts and Moonlight and Morningstar performing Civil Rights songs.

SAT 15  
Lydia Rubio  
COLD SPRING

2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
As part of the library's Diverse Voices: Empowering Narratives art program, the Cuban artist will talk about her series, *Notes from the Sky* and *Notes from the River*.



SUN 16  
The Art of Therapy  
PUTNAM VALLEY

2 – 4 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org  
Andrea Jaffee, an artist and therapist, will share her paintings, which depict nature intermingled with age-old wisdom. Through May 4.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 8  
Dark Spores  
BEACON

7 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com  
Carol Gyzander, who co-edited this anthology of horror stories inspired by mushrooms and fungus,

will host readings by five writers who contributed.

TUES 11  
Is It All It's Cracked Up to Be?

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
dub.sh/hens-4-eggs  
Amy Barkley, an educator with the Cornell Cooperative Extension, will discuss how to raise chickens, including costs, regulations and selling eggs. Register online.

THURS 13  
Susie Barstow and Her Circle

7 p.m. Via Zoom  
putnamhistorymuseum.org  
In this Putnam History Museum program, Nancy Siegel will talk about the Hudson River School artist and the friends who supported and influenced her. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

SAT 15  
Chris Campanioni & C.O. Moed  
BEACON

7 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com  
The writers will discuss their work with Kathy Curto. Campanioni's latest is the poetry collection, *Windows 85*, and Moed's debut memoir is *It Was Her New York: True Stories and Snapshots*.

NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 8  
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 9. *Cost: \$18 (\$15 members, free for ages 4 and younger)*

WED 12  
Living with Black Bears  
COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
The library and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust invited Budd Veverka, a wildlife biologist, to discuss bears' biology and needs and how to avoid interactions. Registration required.

FRI 14  
The Future of Northeastern Forests  
MILLBROOK

7 p.m. Cary Institute  
2801 Sharon Turnpike | caryinstitute.org  
Angelica Patterson, a plant ecophysiologicalist, will address the changes that shifting weather patterns and temperatures are having on our forests and how to mitigate the impacts. Join in person or via Zoom.

SAT 15  
Search for Salamanders  
WAPPINGERS FALLS

5:30 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org  
Learn about salamanders that live in our area and help to count them as part of a citizen-science project. *Cost: \$5*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 8  
CP2 Series Readers Theatre  
WAPPINGERS FALLS

2 & 8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
countplayers.org  
Actors will perform readings of *Witch*, a modern fable by Jen Silverman, and *The Burdens*, a dark comedy by Matt Schatz. Also SUN 9. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 for both)*

SAT 8  
The House of Lattisville  
GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org  
This new play by Nan Nelson-Ewing, directed by Shona Tucker and starring Richarda Abrams and Genevieve Ngosa, is set in a Harlem brownstone owned by elderly woman after a young woman breaks in. Also SUN 9, FRI 14, SAT 15, SUN 16. *Cost: \$30*

SAT 8  
The Irish Comedy Tour  
PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
Derek Richards and Michael Malone will perform stand-up about Irish culture and stereotypes, accompanied by musicians. *Cost: \$30 to \$45*

SAT 8  
The Artichoke  
BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | artichokeshow.com  
This month's featured storytellers are Andrew McGill, Bailey Swilley, Jack Blankenship, Britt Genelin, Johanna Gohmann and Neil Intraub. *Cost: \$25*

TUES 11  
The Peekskill Riots, Episode 1  
GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
In the first part of his five-part documentary, Jon Scott Bennett examines a 1949 concert by Paul



Robeson, the Black singer and activist, that prompted racial violence.

FRI 14  
**Take Our Words for It**  
PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org  
Actors will stage short plays about women's experiences by Carol Mark, Tara Meddaugh, Lori Myers, Kathy Rossetter and Misha Sinclair. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 15  
**Rodney and Juliet's Wedding**  
BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
Figure out who did it at this murder mystery fundraiser for the cultural center. Rescheduled from February. *Cost: \$65*

SAT 15  
**Town Criers**  
COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org  
The improv comedy group takes inspiration from local history. *Cost: \$20*

MUSIC

SAT 8  
**West Point on the March**  
WEST POINT

2 p.m. Ike Hall Theatre  
655 Pitcher Road | westpointband.com  
The West Point Band program will include classics from the American military genre. *Free*

SAT 8  
**Ears with Eyes vs Zed Star Seven**  
BEACON

7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
theyardbeacon.com/upcoming  
The electronic music groups will stage an audio and visual performance to benefit the Beacon Backyard Kitchen. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 8  
**Hudson Valley Freestyle Jam**  
POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. MJN Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org  
Groups such as TKA, George

Lamond, The Cover Girls, Cynthia, Johnny O, Coro, Lisette Melendez and C-Bank will perform to celebrate the 40th anniversary of freestyle. *Cost: \$65 to \$158*

SAT 8  
**Bruce Foley and John Nolan**  
PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org  
Foley (guitar, uilleann pipes) and Nolan (button accordion) play traditional Irish music. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 8  
**Kris Davis**  
BEACON

8 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke  
15 South Ave. | krisdavis.eventbrite.com  
The pianist and composer, who won a Grammy in 2023 for best jazz instrumental album (*New Standards Vol. 1*), will perform as part of a series of solo concerts hosted by Elysium Furnace Works. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 8  
**Tom Chapin's 80th Birthday Bash**  
BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The three-time Grammy winner will be joined by Michael Mark and Jon Cobert, as well as other friends. Non-perishable food donations will be collected for Fareground. See Page 2. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 9  
**Jim Messina**  
PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The former member of Buffalo Springfield and Poco and bandmate of Kenny Loggins will play music from his album, *In the Groove*. *Cost: \$30 to \$48*

SUN 9  
**Kevin McKrell**  
BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The singer and songwriter plays American Celtic music, mixing Irish and bluegrass. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*



Jim Messina, March 9

WED 12  
**A Taste of Ireland**  
PEEKSKILL

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The off-Broadway touring show celebrates the country's history with dances and music. *Cost: \$39 to \$69*

FRI 14  
**Leah Valentine**  
BEACON

7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
theyardbeacon.com/upcoming  
As part of the SongSmith series, the singer will play a set and talk about her creative process. *Cost: \$30 (\$22.50 students, seniors, \$15 artists)*

FRI 14  
**Spyro Gyra**  
PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The contemporary jazz-fusion group is celebrating 50 years of recording and performing. *Cost: \$30 to \$45*

FRI 14  
**Old Blind Dogs**  
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The Scottish folk band will play music from its catalog and its most recent release, *Knucklehead Circus*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 15  
**Tara O'Grady and the Black Velvet Band**  
COLD SPRING

2 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com  
The singer will play Celtic jazz with Daniel Kelly (piano), Trifon Dimitrov (bass) and Charles Frommer (saxophone/clarinet). Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 15  
**The Michael Jackson Experience**  
PEEKSKILL

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
A 14-piece ensemble will play the music of the King of Pop and be joined by When Doves Cry, a Prince tribute band. *Cost: \$34 to \$77*

SAT 15  
**Alexis Marcelo**  
BEACON

8 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke  
15 South Ave. | marcelo.eventbrite.com  
The keyboardist has played with a range of musicians, from GZA to the Metropolitan Opera, for its performance of *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. His concert is part of a series of solo concerts hosted by Elysium Furnace Works. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 15  
**JigJam**  
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The Irish bluegrass and Americana quartet will perform. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 16  
**Cherish the Ladies**  
PEEKSKILL

4 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The St. Patrick's Day celebration will feature the Irish-American musicians, who are on their 40th anniversary tour, along with violinist Daisy Jopling. *Cost: \$40 to \$100*

CIVIC

SAT 8  
**Voter Registration**  
NELSONVILLE

Noon – 5 p.m. Village Hall | 260 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

SUN 9  
**Fishkill Avenue Corridor**  
BEACON

2 p.m. Industrial Arts Brewing  
511 Fishkill Ave.  
The Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee will discuss its recommendations and hear feedback.

MON 10  
**City Council**  
BEACON

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

MON 10  
**School Board**  
BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org

WED 12  
**Village Board**  
COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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).

**NOTICE**

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

If you are unable to join in person but would like to watch, the meeting will be livestreaming on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board March 2025.

**NOTICE**

**Philipstown Planning Board**

*Site Visit- Sunday, March 16th, 2025*

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, March 16th, 2025 at 9:30am to inspect the following site:

Fergus/Chen,  
236 Old Albany Post Rd.,  
Garrison, NY    TM#72.18-1-12.1

**POSITION AVAILABLE**

*FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN*

**FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR**

The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown is looking to hire a part-time food pantry coordinator for the Philipstown Food Pantry.

The duties primarily involve administrative tasks, coordination of volunteers, and communication with volunteers, clients, and the local community. Seeking an organized, reliable person with good interpersonal and computer skills. Approximately 20-30 hours per month with an hourly salary based on experience.

If interested please contact the church office administrator at **845 265 3220** (feel free to leave a message) or by e-mail at **1presbyterian@gmail.com**.



# THANK YOU

**...TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE FJORD TRAIL! YOUR ENGAGEMENT IN THIS PUBLIC PROCESS HAS BEEN INSPIRING.**

**THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS NOW CLOSED.**

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Lead Agency New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) will review and respond to the comments in writing, which will be incorporated in the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS). Once the FGEIS is completed, OPRHP will publish a notice of completion, as well as a Findings Statement.



Classic Wheels

# 1953 Farmall Super H

By Michael Turton

Fans and owners of great old cars, motorcycles and pickups needn't worry: This column will return to classic road vehicles next month. But with spring nearly here, it's time to honor another genre of classic wheels. Farmers have been putting food on our tables for centuries and no invention helped them do that more efficiently while taking a giant load off their backs than the tractor.

John Froelich built the first gas-powered tractors in Ohio in 1892. After three years only four had sold and each was returned to the manufacturer, the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Co. The company gave tractors a try again in 1913, offering the much-improved Waterloo Boy. By 1918, it cost \$1,000 (about \$21,000 today), the same year the firm was bought by Deere & Co., later John Deere.

Henry Ford was the first to mass produce tractors, introducing the Fordson in 1917. Also known as "the automobile plow," it cost \$395 (\$9,800 today) and by 1925, Ford had sold 500,000 of them. But it wasn't until 1954 that tractors outnumbered horses and mules on U.S. farms.

Peter Davoren, who with his wife Stacey Farley operates Davoren Farm in Philipstown, purchased his 1953 Farmall Super H from a farm near Oneonta in 1994 for \$1,800 (\$3,900 today).

"I wanted to cut hay, but couldn't afford a new tractor," he recalled. "I didn't realize my Super H would become such a collector's item." He bought a Massey Ferguson baler on the same trip upstate.

Manufactured by International Harvester, the tractor would become the first of a collection. Davoren later bought a 1950



## The Specs

- Assembly:** Rockport, Illinois
- Total production:** 28,784
- Weight:** 3,800 pounds
- Engine:** International Harvester C164
- Engine Type:** 164 cubic inch, inline 4-cylinder
- Horsepower:** 32
- Transmission:** manual 5 forward speeds, reverse
- Drive:** rear, two-wheel
- Brakes:** mechanical disc
- Steering:** manual
- Electric Starter:** 6 volt
- Fuel Tank:** 17 gallons
- Top speed:** 18 mph
- Cost (1954):** \$2,100 (\$24,800)

Massey Harris Pony, a 1952 Ford 9N and a 1965 Massey Ferguson, although the Super H remains his favorite.

One trait he appreciates is the tractor's simplicity. "It's a four-cylinder that I knew I

could work on," he said. "I've changed valve springs right out in the field."

The Super H is a "row-crop" tractor; its pigeon-toed front tires and wide rear wheels allow it to straddle crops without damaging them. "It's perfect for vegetables," Davoren said, although the tricycle design can be hazardous. "If you go too fast and turn too hard, you can flip it. I've come close." With no power steering, it doesn't handle easily. "It's difficult to steer; you gotta really lean into it," he said.

Early tractors were not built for comfort. Asked about his Farmall's features, Davoren said: "It has an ammeter and an oil-pressure gauge — that's it!" He's had to change little. "I've replaced the starter, generator, regulator, brake shoes, things like that, but I've kept it all stock parts," he said, "Most people convert to a 12-volt starter; I kept the 6-volt." And it has a crank in the front, just in case.

Seventy-two years after it was built, the Farmall still runs well. "It doesn't burn a lot of oil; it runs beautifully, purrs like a kitten," Davoren said.

He no longer uses the Super H for farming, but he takes it out from time to time at

speeds of "maybe" up to 20 mph. "It's not built for the road," he said with a laugh.

Cars have evolved tremendously since Henry Ford's heyday but consider the specs on Davoren's 1953 Farmall compared with a present-day Case International Harvester Steiger 620, which has a standard air-conditioned cab and four-wheel drive. Its 455-gallon fuel tank feeds a 787-cubic-inch diesel engine that puts out up to 682 horsepower. And it costs as much as \$648,000.

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### HELP WANTED

**FACILITIES TECHNICIANS** — Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison is looking to expand its facilities team. Duties include site stewardship of the 112-acre site, security, supporting programming and event setup/breakdown, equipment maintenance, custodial duties, supporting collections/museum care and landscaping. Several full-time positions are open at \$18-21/hour, with occasional overtime

available. Medical, dental, life insurance, 401k, PTO and professional development opportunities available. Email Kevin Cancel, Facilities Manager, at [communications@boscobel.org](mailto:communications@boscobel.org).

**DRIVER** — The Philipstown Food Pantry needs a driver and truck to bring food from area food banks, farms and other organizations to Cold Spring weekly. Fee paid. Call 845-265-3220 and leave a message.

**COORDINATOR** — The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown is looking to hire a part-time coordinator for the Philipstown Food Pantry. Duties include administrative tasks and communication with volunteers, clients and the local community. Seeking an organized, reliable person with good interpersonal and computer skills. Approximately 20-30 hours per month, with an hourly salary based on experience. Interested parties may contact the church office at 845-265-3220 or [1presbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:1presbyterian@gmail.com).

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NOTICE

## PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

*Public Hearing – March 20th, 2025*

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

**Kingsley, 50 Old Albany Post Rd. North, Cold Spring, NY 10516, TM#17-172.2**

Project: Amended Site Plan, Minor: Applicant is seeking amended site plan approval to convert 4-bay garage into two 1-bedroom apartments. Two 2-bedroom upper floor apartments in the current mixed-use building shall remain. The multi-family dwelling shall be served by an existing separate subsurface sewage treatment system to be expanded and an existing private water supply well.

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

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

<https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/planningboard/feb-2025>

*Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 20h day of February, 2025.*

*Neal Zuckerman, Chair*

Public Notice

### YEAR TWO OF RATE PLAN FOR LIBERTY UTILITIES (NEW YORK WATER) CORP.

The New York State Public Service Commission · (PSC) approved a three-year rate plan for Liberty Utilities (New York Water) Corp. retroactive to April 1, 2024 with new rates beginning September 1, 2024. The **company’s overall annual base revenues are authorized** to increase by \$15.5 million (13.07%), \$15.5 million (11.56%), and \$15.5 million (10.36%), in the first, second, and third years, respectively. Rate Year 3 includes the levelization surcharge amount of \$9.7 million. **Please see below for the average customer impacts for each service classification for Rate Year 2. Service Area 1 includes: Beaver Dam Lake, Cambridge, Dykeer, Hoey-DeGraw, Kingsvale, Long Island, Mt. Ebo, Waccubuc, West Branch Acres, and Wild Oaks Districts:** For the average residential customer using 8,000 gallons of water a month and serviced with a 5/8-inch meter, the bill would increase by \$12.93 per month. The monthly bill for the average non-residential customer using 20,000 gallons of water a month and serviced by a 5/8-inch meter would Increase by \$28.33 per month.

Service Classification	% Change
1 Residential Water Service	15.00%
2 Non Residential Water Service	16.00%
7 Private Fire Hydrant Service Mt. Ebo ONLY	0.00% 0.00%
8 Public Fire Service: Long Island Cambridge Wild Oaks Mt. Ebo ONLY	0.00% 0.00% 30.00% 0.00%
9 Private Fire Protection Service Mt. Ebo ONLY	0.00% 29.46%

**Service Area 2: Merrick District:** For the average residential customer using 8,000 gallons of water a month and serviced with a 5/8-inch meter, the bill would increase by \$2.62 per month. The monthly bill for the average non-residential customer using 20,000 gallons of water a month and serviced by a 5/8-inch meter would increase by \$4.47 per month.

Service Classification	% Change
1 Residential Water Service	5.00%
2 Non Residential Water Service	4.00%
7 Private Fire Hydrant Service	0.00%
8 Public Fire Service	0.00%
9 Private Fire Protection Service	29.50%

**Service Area 2: Sea Cliff District:** For the average residential customer using 8,000 gallons of water a month and serviced with a 5/8-Inch meter, the bill would increase by \$2.82 per month. The monthly bill for the average non- residential customer using 20,000 gallons of water a month and serviced by a 5/8-inch meter would Increase \$4.95 per month.

Service Classification	% Change
1 Residential Water Service	3.00%
2 Non Residential Water Service	2.00%
7 Private Fire Hydrant Service	0.00%
8 Public Fire Service	0.00%
9 Private Fire Protection Service	0.00%



## Out There

# Bird Flu: What's Next?

By Brian PJ Cronin

I recently heard about two people who were discussing our Feb. 21 report on the spread of avian influenza among birds and cows, and to humans in close contact with them.

One reader said the article made her less worried. The other said it made her *more* worried.

The next day, my journalism students at Marist University asked what, exactly, was going on with this bird-flu thing. I took questions for 20 minutes. After class, someone asked on social media if bird feeders are safe. I figured it might be helpful for me to write about how I'm changing my own behavior in response to the wave of avian influenza and make recommendations.

In the short term, I'm cautiously optimistic. It's true that the H5N1 virus has mutated in the past year and is spreading in mammals. That's worrisome, to say the least. But the virus still hasn't gained the ability to spread person-to-person. The more we can keep the virus out of humans, the less chance it will be able to do that. So far, no one in New York has been infected. After a high-profile case that shut down a Long Island duck farm, there hasn't been another outbreak on a commercial farm. The monitoring and detection systems throughout the state appear to be working.

On that news, I've stopped researching the history of zoonotic diseases in my spare time — instead, I'm looking into how polluted America was before the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Unless you keep chickens in your yard or work on a farm, there's not a lot to do,



although some precautions are still prudent:

■ Heat kills the H5N1 virus. If you don't have a fast and accurate digital meat thermometer, it will be \$12 well spent. Make sure any chicken you're cooking reaches at least 165 degrees, ground beef and sausage hits 160 degrees and all other beef hits 145 degrees after resting for three minutes. Cooked egg dishes like quiches should reach 160 degrees. Give runny yolks a miss for the time being.

■ Louis Pasteur did not suck out the saliva from the mouth of a rabid dog so you could drink raw milk. Pasteurization is your friend. Neither you nor your pets should be eating raw meat or drinking raw milk.

■ Cats are particularly vulnerable to H5N1. Keep them indoors. If your cats like time outside, they will not be happy. But the mortality rate for infected cats is high and their deaths are painful and horrific.

■ During a recent Q&A session with Kevin Hynes, the wildlife health program leader for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, I asked about bird feeders. He said that, so far, songbirds don't appear to be affected by avian influenza. As long as your feeders don't attract geese or ducks, it's OK to leave them up.

■ Don't get goose poop on your shoes. This can be hard if you spend any amount of time at Long Dock Park in Beacon. If you do step in it, wash off your shoes before you go inside.

My long-term outlook is much less optimistic. It's not because I think H5N1 is on the verge of evolving. But if it does, I don't have faith in our current institutions to help us through another pandemic.

You remember what those first few weeks were like (if not, see Page 8). People took care of one another, sewed masks, delivered food and worked heroically long and dangerous shifts at hospitals, clinics, supermarkets and drugstores. But once the outrage merchants began to exploit the crisis, people were getting shot for wearing masks or harassed for recommending vaccines. The president suggested injecting bleach. It was all bad.

Now, here we are again. The same president is gutting scientific research. A measles outbreak is sweeping through Texas. One of the most notorious spreaders of conspiracy theories about vaccines, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., is head of the Department of Health and Human Services. This week, he suggested people with measles should take more vitamin A and cod liver oil. Time is a flat circle.

My final recommendation, as you're

reflecting on March 2020, is to recall what worked and what didn't. If you had to set up caretaking networks at a moment's notice, could it be done? Do you have the capacity to join the local volunteer networks that are already feeding the hungry and checking in on the elderly?

With a new pandemic, those networks will be the first line of defense. The best thing we can do is shore them up now.

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### Susan LaWare (1952-2025)

Susan Ellen LaWare — sister, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend — died suddenly on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025. She was 72 years old.

Sue was born in Brooklyn, New York, and moved with her family to Yonkers as a small child. Eventually her family relocated to Peekskill, where she graduated from Peekskill High School with honors and a long list of intellectual and academic achievements. She earned 100s on every math test she took, except for one where she got a 98. She told this story many times.

Sue was a bookworm, a crafter and an excellent baker. She was happiest at home knitting, reading or doing a crossword puzzle. During her life she had many careers — bookkeeper, taxi driver, truck driver, EMT and entrepreneur. She took a college math class in Spanish — she did not speak Spanish — but loved nothing more than a problem to solve. She was stubborn, brilliant, and very articulate and would argue just for the sake of argument — it was her love language.

Her luck was such that there was never an easy path in her life. She suffered many setbacks and hardships but always picked herself up, brushed herself off and continued on her way.

In her final years, she flourished. She lived on her own but found a place in her community. She frequently spent time with, and was greatly loved by her many grandchildren, who miss her already. She was making plans for the future.

While we, her family, are heartbroken that she won't have the opportunity to see those plans through, we are joyful that she found an island of stability and peace in her life. Wherever she is now, we know she's finally at ease, hopefully with a huge pile of books and crossword puzzles nearby.

Susan was predeceased by her parents, John and Jean LaWare, and her longtime partner, Fred DiMichele. She is survived by her brother, Bill LaWare (Maureen), her sister Maureen Oberman (Chris), her four children: Rob Hurley (Sonia), Jim Cairl (Vic), Stephanie Varricchio (Jed) and Tim Cairl (Sandra), as well as a small army of grandchildren: Jaden, Gianna, Madeline, Ava, Finn, Morgan, Connor, Nolan, Will, Jackson, Jovie and Greyson.

A wake and visitation was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Dorsey-Carlone Funeral Home, 1100 Cortlandt St., Peekskill, New York. A private burial service for immediate family followed.

PAID NOTICE

## Puzzles (from Page 1)

porches." She opened her shop 14 years ago with her late husband, Jim, after working in retail merchandising for JCPenney.

Farnorotto stocks about 100 jigsaws, many featuring covers from *The New Yorker*. As a lifelong puzzler, she understands the joy. "There's something satisfying about that moment when you put the piece in place and you know it's the right piece," she says.

In Beacon, about 40 people participated in the Howland Public Library's inaugural puzzle swap in January, says Michelle Rivas, the adult services and community engagement librarian. Rivas expects to have another later this year. The Desmond-Fish library in Garrison and the Butterfield library in Cold Spring also have held swaps.

At the Howland event, Maria Hernandez grabbed a puzzle made by Bgraamiens (the name scrambles the letters from *brain* and *games*), a brand that specializes in puzzles with complex designs. This one had a kaleidoscope of colorful, swirling squares. The brand's puzzles are so difficult that the backs of the pieces are numbered, as a cheat code.

Hernandez doesn't cheat. She has her own system for tough puzzles. "I have little bowls and put the same shapes together," she says.

The Beacon resident fell in love with jigsaws growing up in Puerto Rico. She returned to them in recent years in part to deal with chronic depression. "It distracts me — I don't have to think," she says.



### Lolly Merante (1947-2025)

Laura J. "Lolly" Merante entered into eternal rest on Feb. 28, 2025, at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Born on Sept. 3, 1947, in Cold Spring, she was the daughter of the late John R. Merante Sr. and Sidnee Allyn.

Lolly was a well-known hairdresser/beautician who worked for Roberts Salon for many years before opening her own shop, Headlines in Cold Spring. Most recently she worked at Studio 9 Hair Design.

Lolly is survived by her older brother, William Merante, and his wife Diane and her younger brother, John Merante, and his wife Carolyn. She is also survived by her nephews, Ryo Merante, Peter Merante and his wife Christine, Zachary and Timothy Merante; her niece, Amy Merante Hardin and her husband Michael; her great nephews, Aiden and Matthew; her great nieces, Madison, Emma and Violet; and her sister-in-law, Lynda Ann Merante. She was predeceased by her brother, Anthony Merante.

Lolly will be laid to rest in Cold Spring Cemetery in July alongside her parents. She was loved and will be missed by everyone.

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

PAID NOTICE



Fran Pergamo works on a puzzle at home.

As Hernandez has learned, there is evidence that puzzles provide mental health benefits such as improving mood, cognitive function, problem-solving, patience and relieving loneliness.

At the Friendship Center for seniors in Beacon there is always a jigsaw in progress. Felicita Pinto, 76, is usually there, poring over the pieces with her one good eye. "It helps keep her mind clear," says her daughter and translator, Jenny Ayala. Her mom also does puzzles at home. "That way she's not just watching TV," she says.

Pinto always tackles a puzzle on the annual trip to Puerto Rico at Christmas to visit family. Last year it was a picture of Snoopy. "Everybody in the family has to contribute," says Ayala. "You have to put in at least one piece. That's the rule."

Fran Pergamo says her first jigsaw was a map of the U.S. that she put together repeatedly. That was 60 years ago, before she could read. As it happened, she had the map upside down; she still tends to imagine the U.S. with Florida in the northwest corner.

At her Cold Spring home, she is working on a puzzle obtained from a "friend of a friend" she met at a dinner party. When they discovered a mutual love for jigsaws, they arranged a swap. "She opened her trunk, and I picked out a couple of ones I wanted."

Pergamo prefers new jigsaws because secondhand puzzles sometimes have missing pieces. She always has a puzzle going and has 80 stacked on basement shelves.

When she finishes a puzzle, she doesn't linger. "I smooth it out and look at it," she says. "Then I drag it apart so I can move on to the next one."



Fran Farnorotto owns The Gift Hut.



Tessie Monck works on a puzzle on her kitchen counter.

Photos by J. Asher



Maria Hernandez shows off the puzzle she selected at a Howland Public Library swap.



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Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18				19		20				
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45			
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS
1. Rug cleaner, briefly

4. 500 sheets

8. Nursery cry

12. — -de-France

13. *Prometheus* actor Idris

14. Tehran’s country

15. Pottery

17. Dweeb

18. Ecol. watchdog

19. Church meetups

21. Mellow yellows

24. Calendar abbr.

25. Train unit

26. Actress Cattrall

28. Rural buildings

32. Pharmaceutical

34. Crosses (out)

36. Cranny

37. *The Stranger* author

39. Drone

41. Roman 1006

42. Judge in 1995 news

44. Polite denial

46. Height

50. Sunbather’s goal

51. Part of N.B.

52. Mob bully

56. Composer Stravinsky

57. Baltic feeder

58. Big bird

59. Brady and Hanks

60. Scatters seeds

61. Filch
- DOWN
1. London’s Old —

2. Pub serving

3. Part of the brain

4. Comment

5. Inventor Whitney

6. Grade-school basics

7. Brick worker

8. SUV’s kin

9. Location

10. Crumbly earth

11. Common conjunctions

16. Mimic

20. Male swan

21. Outlet letters

22. Actress Kate

23. Half dozen

27. “Whatever”

29. Lothario

30. PBS science show

31. Nonfat

33. Fender instruments

35. Heat source

38. *Rugrats* dad

40. Engines

43. Two-tone cookies

45. Scratch

46. Tizzy

47. Takeout request

48. Physics bit

49. Within (Pref.)

53. Hardly any

54. Punk-rock subgenre

55. Massage

SUDOCURRENT

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

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

FIVE SPOT

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

P	I	A	N	O	It’s softer in Italy
					Yogurt option
					What Caesar spoke
					Michigan city
					Schnitzel, for example
					Fancy glass

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

Answers for Feb. 28 Puzzles  
C Z K E C X M D F I  
U I P N N E M U A Z  
O A N X O O Z M N O  
T S K D A A N B T D  
N B U N E E W O A U  
A L A T Z R U H S A  
C U G O C I E X I Y  
N P R K V G W L A R  
E F Y I B M A B L D  
X Y A L A D D I N A

BRAND, BRAID, BRAIN,  
TRAIN, TRAIT, TRAIL

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

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## Sports

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

## BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — It was a bitter end to an otherwise stellar season for the top-seeded Beacon boys' basketball team: The Bulldogs were upset at home on Monday (March 3) in the first round of the Section IX, Class A tournament by No. 8 Marlboro, 53-50.

Marlboro (10-9) dominated the Bulldogs on the glass, getting plenty of rebounds and second-chance scoring opportunities in what turned out to be a tense tournament matchup.

The teams were tied at 11 at the end of the first quarter; Beacon scored several key baskets in the final three minutes of the half to take a 29-22 lead, including a buzzer-beater.

Several turnovers in the final minutes of the third quarter gave the Dukes extra possessions, and they capitalized, with Chris DeNatale hitting 3-pointers and two free throws after a Beacon player was assessed a technical foul.

Behind 38-36 to start the fourth quarter, Beacon took the lead with 6:25 left on a deep three by Jah'Real Whitted, but on the next possession Marlboro took a lead it would never relinquish.

With eight seconds left, and Beacon behind 51-46, Michai Thompson launched a deep three falling backward and was fouled, but the shot rattled around the rim before falling out in what could have been a four-point play. Thompson made two of three free throws to cut the lead to three. But after being intentionally fouled, a Marlboro player hit two free throws before Marci Rodriguez hit a consolation bucket for the final.

Whitted led the Bulldogs with 13 points, while Thompson had 12. DeNatale scored 26 for Marlboro.

"We got outplayed and out-coached," said a disappointed Coach Patrick Schetter. "Tonight doesn't define what the season was for us — we are a young team who will bring most of our guys back. The future is bright for our guys."

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — The top-seeded Bulldogs dominated in the opening rounds of the Section IX, Class A playoffs, knocking off No. 8 seed Saugerties, 50-10, on Monday, and No. 4 Red Hook, 55-42, on Wednesday to advance to the championship. Beacon had lost in the tournament semifinals for three straight seasons, including to Red Hook in 2024.

The Bulldogs (17-5) will face No. 3 Marlboro (13-9) at 7 p.m. tonight (March 7) at Mount Saint Mary's College in Newburgh

for the sectional title. See [beaconk12.org/athletics](http://beaconk12.org/athletics) for a livestream. Beacon defeated Marlboro, 51-39, during the regular season.

Against Red Hook, Daveya Rodriquez hit a 3-pointer in the final minute of the first half to give the Bulldogs a 19-17 lead that they extended to 10 points by the end of the third. Reilly Landisi led the Bulldogs with 16 points, followed by Drew Kelly and Rodriquez, who each had 14.

"It was our last home game, regardless, and we didn't want to end with a loss to them," said Landisi, a senior. "I'm excited to get past this stage — we want to be here." Added Coach Christina Dahl: "They wanted it — they came out in the second half, did what they needed to do."

Against Saugerties, Beacon led 22-3 at halftime and held the Sawyers scoreless for 12 minutes, including the entire third quarter. Landisi finished with 18 points and Lila Burke had 14.

**WINTER TRACK** — Beacon sent eight runners to the Section IX state qualifiers on March 1 at The Armory in New York City. Caellum Tripaldi placed sixth in the 600-meter run in 1:26.67; Jayden Mihalchik was sixth in the

weight throw at 58-3.5; and Elijah Epps was ninth in the long jump at 19-10. For the girls, Katherine Ruffy placed fifth in the weight throw at 36-4.25 and 10th in shot put at 28-7.25, while Lily Mack was sixth in the high jump at 4-10 and Mikaela Sanchez finished ninth in the 600 meters at 1:46.62.

**WRESTLING** — Jude Betancourt (39-4), seeded No. 15 at 152 pounds in the state tournament, on Feb. 28 won his first match over No. 18 Tyler Ritter of Chenango Falls (21-13) with a 10-6 decision. He advanced to face No. 2 Anthony Tresch of Minisink Valley (43-2) in the second round but lost on points, 12-2.

**FLAG FOOTBALL** — Beacon Youth Football has opened registration for flag football for boys in grades K-8 and girls in grades 6-8. The season begins April 11. The cost is \$110 for boys and \$75 for girls and includes a jersey and flags. See [beaconyouthfootball.com](http://beaconyouthfootball.com).

## HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** — After losing to North Salem twice during the regular season — by scores of 49-42 and 62-14 — Haldane upset the Tigers, 48-43, on

Monday (March 3) in the semifinals of the Section I, Class C tournament at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

Seeded No. 3 in the four-team field, the Blue Devils (5-16) advance to the title game at noon on Saturday against No. 1 Tuckahoe (14-7), again at the county center. The game will be broadcast at [events.locallive.tv/schools/haldane-hs](http://events.locallive.tv/schools/haldane-hs).

Against No. 2 North Salem, the Blue Devils were led by Marisa Peters, who scored 25 points, including 16 in the second half. "Going into the game, we knew that it was going to be close," she said. "I knew that I had to at least attract another defender and get my teammates open."

Haldane held a 9-6 lead after the first quarter and the Tigers led, 22-20, at the half. In the third quarter, Haldane went on an 8-0 run that included back-to-back 3-pointers by Kayla Ruggiero. After the Tigers cut their deficit to two, Peters hit two straight 3-pointers.

With 6:11 left in the game and Haldane up by eight, the Tigers scored five straight to cut the lead to three. Peters answered with a huge three and the Blue Devils held on.

"It feels fantastic," said Coach Scott Timpano, in his first season with Haldane. "To see them execute the things that we worked on, it makes you feel proud, makes you feel accomplished."



Marci Rodriguez scores against Marlboro.



Michai Thompson releases a 3-pointer just before the end of the third quarter.

Photos by Cadence Heeter