

The HIGHLANDS Current

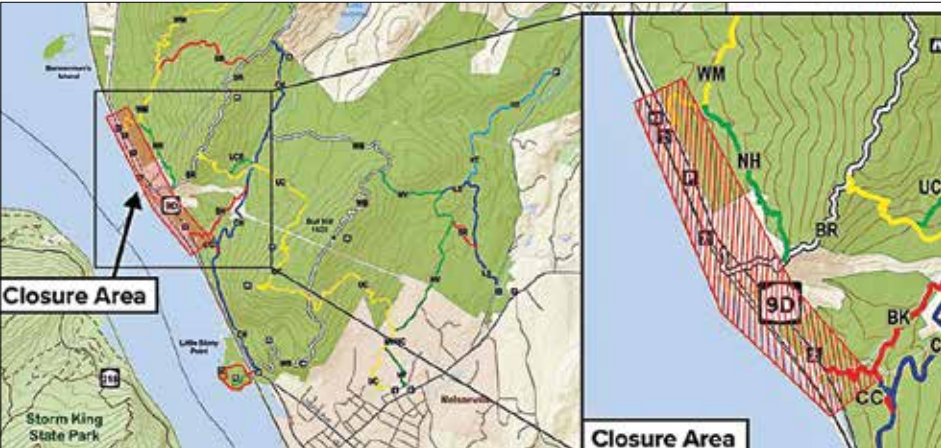


Into the Woods
Page 11

MARCH 21, 2025

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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A map shows the area that will be closed to hikers.

State Parks

State to Close Breakneck for Two Years

Trail will shutter on April 21 for Fjord Trail work

By Chip Rowe

The state parks department announced on March 14 that it will close Breakneck Ridge to hikers on April 21 for up to two years for Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail construction. HHFT is building the Breakneck Connector and Bridge in the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve just north of the tunnel as part of its planned 7.5-mile linear park

between Cold Spring and Beacon. The train station will also be closed for renovations. During construction, there will be no access to the Breakneck Ridge, Wilkinson Memorial and Lower Brook trailheads. The Washburn/Cornish trailheads, Notch Trail and Little Stony Point will remain open. State park staff and stewards from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will assist hikers. The connector trail and bridge “will provide hikers with an alternative to walk-
(Continued on Page 6)

Beacon Engine Firefighters Want to Keep Station

Judge rejects request to delay eviction on East Main

By Jeff Simms

A Dutchess County judge last week rejected a request by retired volunteer firefighters to pause a city order to vacate a 136-year-old station on East Main Street. The firefighters argue it is not clear that Beacon owns the property. City officials plan to sell the Beacon Engine Co. and Mase Hook and Ladder stations and apply the proceeds to a \$14.7 million central station that opened in October near City Hall. Gate House Compass Realty was selected to facilitate the sales, and the buildings should go on the market next month.

The Beacon Engine Co. station was built in 1889 at 57 East Main St. by the Village of Matteawan, which merged in 1913 with Fish-kill Landing to become the City of Beacon.

(Continued on Page 7)



The Beacon Engine Co. station on East Main Street
Photo by J. Simms



LUCKY DAY — Tara O'Grady performed traditional and original songs with Irish themes on March 15 as part of the Music at St. Mary's series in Cold Spring. She was backed by her Black Velvet Band: Daniel Kelly (piano), Charles Frommer (saxophone, clarinet) and Trifon Dimitrov (bass).

Photo by Ross Corsair

Fulbright Fellow in Limbo

Philipstown resident sees program frozen

By Joey Asher

If things had gone as planned, Sophia Ptacek would be making the final arrangements for her Fulbright fellowship, a nine-month stint working on industrial decarbonization and air pollution reduction for a Colombian government ministry.

But because the Trump administration paused funding for her program, the 28-year-old is living with her parents in Philipstown and checking her email.



Ptacek

“I’m holding on to hope that it could still happen,” said Ptacek, who grew up in Garrison and Cold Spring and attended the Poughkeepsie Day School. “But I am in limbo. It’s sad.”

Ptacek last year completed a dual master’s program at Yale University in environmental management and public health. She also was selected for a Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship, part of a U.S. State Department international exchange and education program suspended by the White House in February. Founded in 1946, the Fulbright program typically awards 9,000 scholarships each year to promote international cooperation and an exchange of ideas.

“The freeze on State Department grant programs threatens the survival of study abroad and international exchange programs that are essential to U.S. economic and national security,” said Fanta Aw, executive director and
(Continued on Page 6)

Despite Cuts, Hudson River Cleanup Still Priority, Says EPA

Agency says PCB monitoring and mitigation will continue

By Brian PJ Cronin

For many people, much of the news coming out of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the second Trump administration has been disheartening.

Lee Zeldin, the former New York State legislator who was recently appointed to lead the agency, has said he intends to roll back dozens of regulations, slash the agency budget by 65 percent and eliminate

its scientific research department. “We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate-change religion,” he said in a news release on March 12. Zeldin described regulations targeting greenhouse-gas emissions, the primary driver of climate change, as “hidden ‘taxes’ on U.S. families.” But announcements from the EPA’s Albany office, which oversees the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site, have a different tone. “We are full speed ahead with our full team,” said Project Director Gary Klawinski, an EPA veteran, earlier this week.
(Continued on Page 7)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: MARGOT KINGON

By Sharon Rubinstein

Margot Kingon operates Second Wave Supplies, an arts-and-crafts supply thrift store in Beacon that she opened in November at 333 Fishkill Ave. It is open Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m. and Thursday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What is your background?

I grew up in New York City. I attended the High School of Music and Art and majored in sociology and photography at SUNY Purchase. I worked in the film industry for 34 years, the last 20 making commercials. We moved to Wappingers, where my son [now 18] went to a community-minded school. A few years ago, I began to co-host a clothing swap and a weekly dance party. I hadn't grown up with much of a sense of community, and I found that.

Why did you start Second Wave?

I didn't want any part of the advertising world anymore, getting people to buy products they don't need. I discovered a materials-reuse store called Scrap in a warehouse in Portland, Oregon. It had barrels filled with keyboards, springs and old brushes. I started dreaming of a space like that. When Retake/Remake opened in Peekskill, I saw a way of doing it small, curated



and organized. Second Wave is about green equity and access: keeping materials out of the landfill, keeping materials cheap and accessible. It's less of a business and more of "social practice art." I'm in it as a response to my own questions about community: How do we come together?

What supplies can people donate?

Any arts or crafting material, except incomplete projects, machines that don't work or anything mildewy or moldy. Nothing toxic. Thread and buttons and fabric that grandmothers passed on. Maybe someone has given up a hobby or hands got too arthritic to knit, so they donate to a place where stuff will be well-used and well-loved.

Who are your customers?

Parents looking for ways for their kids to express their creativity. Artists who don't have money to spend on supplies. Anybody who's interested in scratching a creative itch without laying out a lot of money. Educators and librarians. I generally price at 75 percent less than retail. I'm surprised by how long people linger — it's a small space, but there's so much to go through. There's this sense that art is for people who went to art school, and materials must be fancy, unusual or hard to find. I believe we're all born artists, and I want to inspire creativity.

Have people been supportive?

They have been so welcoming. They want to support the store and clean up their homes. They appreciate a place that is easy to get to, with things they need. They message me: "Do you have glue sticks?" They run over, get one for a quarter and don't have to drive to the mall and spend \$5. Someone says, "I was looking for a piece of Plexiglas exactly this size; I can't believe you have this." People show me photos of things they've made with materials they bought here. I have regular customers, especially when the world is kind of falling apart. When I'm having a bad day, it feels great to have these small connections with people I hadn't known before.

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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.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

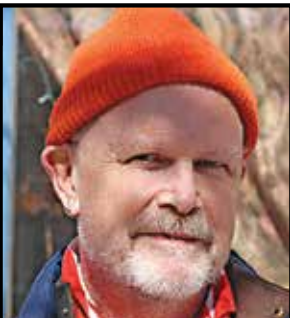
Have you ever performed on stage?

"In fifth grade I danced to C+C Music Factory in the talent show."



Marissa Bennett, Beacon

"Many times, from children's theater to lip-syncing at The Roxy until 2002."



Lithgow Osborne, Cold Spring

"I was a ballerina in third grade in Switzerland."



Solange Muller, Cold Spring

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AND THE BEACON HISTORICAL SOCIETY


A Night of Local History in Beacon

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

AT

6:30 - 8:00PM

BEACON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Cocktails sponsored by
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Reserve your tickets today.

To register, email Lauren Cook at lcook@highlandscurrent.org.

TICKETS:

Current Members: \$15*

Non-Members: \$35*

› includes *The Current* membership!

*\$10 per ticket donated to the Beacon Historical Society

The HIGHLANDS
Current

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021-23)

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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Measles

I'm glad *The Current* is reporting measles vaccination rates ("By the Numbers: Measles Vaccinations," March 14), just as once upon a time it reported COVID-19 rates and vaccine status.

I'm one of those relics who got measles as a kid. It was miserable. At one point, I was hospitalized for two weeks and doctors thought I had polio — it was "going around." Less fortunate people walked with a limp for the rest of their lives, or were confined to an iron lung or died. Today there's no reason to get measles or polio; we have highly effective vaccines.

One thing to know about measles: Even a mild case resets a child's immune system to newborn status, meaning 6- or 7-year-olds will again bring home all the sniffles, coughs, ear infections and pinkeye they brought home when they first started in daycare or school.

Please get your children vaccinated. It's simple, nearly painless and keeps all of us healthier.

Yvonne Caruthers, *Beacon*

Federal funding

Thank you to Brian PJ Cronin for his excellent reporting on how the Trump adminis-

tration's funding freezes and Project 2025 policies are impacting our communities.

I'm afraid we are about to get a serious civics lesson on how the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institutes of Health and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration help our country run and keep us healthy and safe. We are going to experience the impacts on fish migration, water quality, cuts in school programs that teach children about the natural world, maintenance and restoration of important marshlands, weather forecasting, air quality and health issues because of climate change.

We're going to see local farms struggle, too. As a gardener, I know of the increasing challenges of pest infestations and climate change. I can't imagine dealing with these issues on the scale required by farming. Cutting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Climate Smart Commodities Grant program is cruel business. Farming is tough enough. I'd like our government to help these people, if only for selfish reasons: I like delicious, fresh food. The practices the farmers would have been able to implement with this program would have improved soil, water and air quality.

I don't think it's a good thing when our government breaks its promises and contracts with the American people. I hope

more people will start paying attention to what we are losing.

Diane Perea, *Beacon*

We need local farms and dedicated farmers to sustain locally grown food and help interested people have smart food choices ("Local Farmers Concerned About Federal Freeze," March 7). We belong to three CSA [community supported agriculture] farms and the benefit to our health and choices of food is tremendous. We don't need government opposition to healthy options, and cutting funding for farming is wrong. We will always support local farming in my household.

Jeff Kover, *Hopewell Junction*

School taxes

School districts really stick it to everyone ("Beacon Schools Eyeing Max Cap," March 14). If you don't approve the budget, they cut the programs for students instead of looking at what they are spending or paying.

Sean Hatfield, *via Facebook*

If you voted yes for the capital projects [in May 2024], you can't complain.

Tom DiCastro Jr., *via Facebook*

Dunkin'

People are more upset about an affordable fast-food option than the hundreds of yuppie condos that have been built and 1,500-square-foot, renovated houses selling for over \$1 million ("Beacon Approves Dunkin'," March 14).

Howie Dewitt, *via Facebook*

If the developers add four stories to block the mountain view and 16 apartments that rent for \$3,500 per month, while asking for variances, will the city then approve a drive-thru?

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

There was a Dunkin' across the street that closed. How long will this one stay open?

Dave Cataldo, *via Facebook*

I get anxious if I can drive more than 5 miles without being able to get a Bavarian-cream donut.

Russell Macrini, *via Facebook*

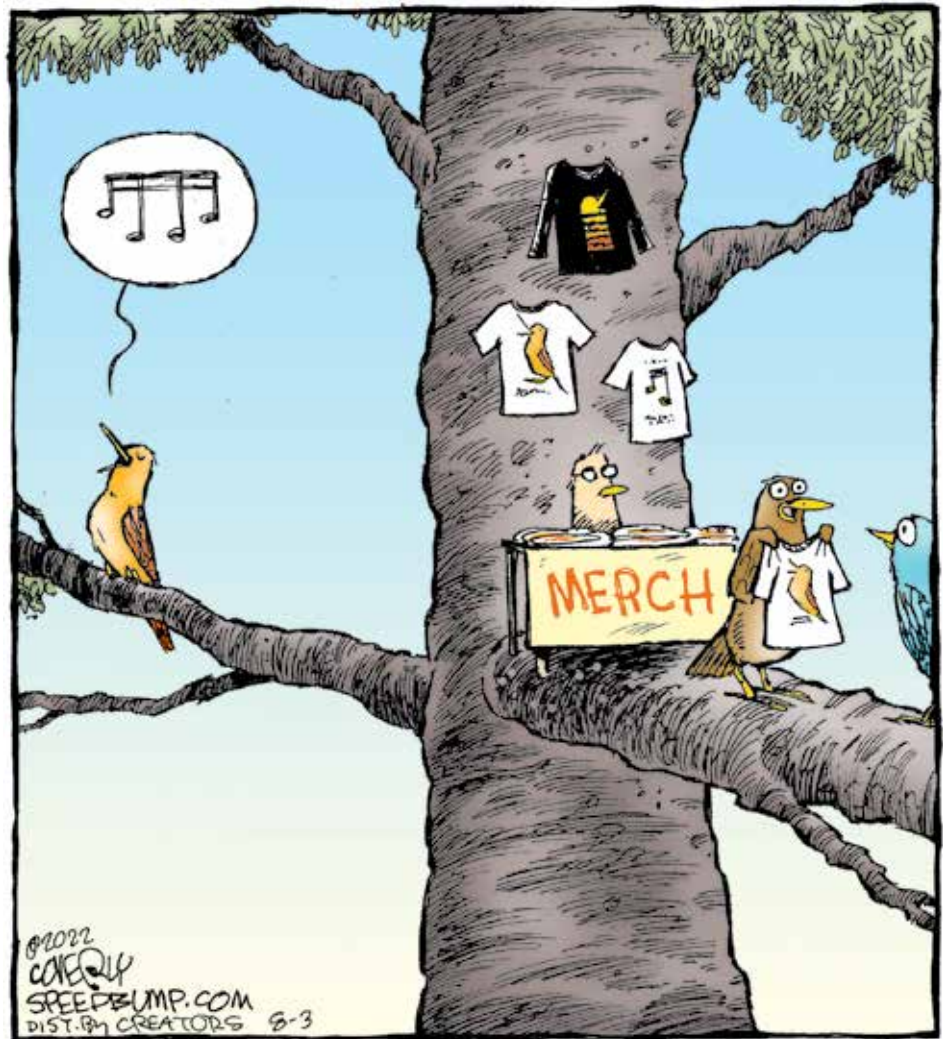
I thought the problem with the last Dunkin' on Route 52 was that it had no drive-thru. It certainly wasn't because of business because it was very busy.

Donna Idema, *via Facebook*

I miss the independent food shops. Beacon has too much commercial poison already.

Kelly Femiak, *via Facebook*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

It's insane the proposals that people have made for these spots. I'm from New England, and I remember Dunkin' taking over the world. It gets worse and worse.

Matthew Robinson, *via Instagram*

The Fishkill Avenue committee is crushing it! Way to go! 52 looks amazing!

Robert VanCott, *via Instagram*

Theft charge

It's frustrating that the Putnam "civic organizations" found to have been pilfered were not identified by law enforcement ("Philipstown Man Charged with Theft," March 14). The situation sounds like a classic case of "Little League treasurer steals bake-sale proceeds." Over the years, I have noticed dozens of stories in which a nonprofit board slept at the switch while their treasurer siphoned off funds raised by the blood, sweat and tears of their members.

Shielding the identity of the nonprofits because they are victims of a crime does not relieve the volunteer directors from the responsibility of overseeing its finances, even if they signed up to advance the organization's mission and not pay attention to the arithmetic.

Rob Abbot, *Croton-on-Hudson*

The editor replies: Mark Kenny, the Philipstown resident who has been accused of embezzling at least \$208,000 from two organizations, was the treasurer for the Garrison Fish & Game Club, according to New York State records. It shares a mailing address with the Cat Fish Pond Association.

Mayor's report

What a whitewashed lie ("Mayor: Beacon Continues to Thrive," May 14). Beacon is not working for most residents. There are not enough full-time jobs; the cost of living is through the roof, creating gentrification; there is too much pollution and no political diversity.

The pattern of development has made no sense except for the few benefiting. Houses/commercial properties take two-plus years to finish. Water and infrastructure issues are years behind schedule. None of this has led to a better quality of life. We are suffering for it, not benefiting from it.

Paul Yeaple, *via Instagram*

Nelsonville Approves Draft Budget

Mayor floats overriding state-mandated tax cap

By Leonard Sparks

The Nelsonville Village Board on Monday (March 17) approved a \$370,000 tentative budget for 2025-26, with Mayor Chris Winward saying she may recommend a vote to exceed the tax cap.

In the proposed budget, spending would rise by 2.94 percent and the tax levy, at \$319,130, would increase by \$8,600 over 2024-25. That increase represents the maximum 2.77 percent jump that Nelsonville is allowed under the state's tax cap. By a majority vote, the five-member board can exceed the 2.77 percent.

The village may see increased revenue from higher permit fees approved in December and electricity savings. But fees for the village attorney, Keane & Beane, will rise by 20 percent, to \$15,000.

The village has already exceeded its \$12,500 budget line for legal services for 2024-25, in part because of a fourth lawsuit filed by a resident seeking to overturn the construction of a home on a property he contends was designated for a park.

Winward said she proposed to Keane & Beane that it agree to a flat fee rather than hourly billing, but "there are concerns that we're a little too volatile" right now. "They're going to think it over. It would

have to be capped at the hours to make it beneficial to them," she said.

Nelsonville also has exceeded its \$25,000 budget for insurance for its buildings (including the building it leases to Putnam County for a sheriff station) and to protect its elected and appointed officials. The tentative budget increases insurance spending by 13.6 percent, to \$28,411.

The proposed budget also includes a 9.42 percent increase for employee benefits and 3 percent raises for court and village clerks and 2.55 percent for the deputy village clerk. "While I squeezed every penny we could out of this budget to have a balanced budget, I squeezed more than I would have liked," said Winward.

The board will hold a public hearing on April 9 and expects to vote on a final spending plan on April 21.

Healy Road repairs

After considering five proposals, the board accepted the low bid of \$414,205 from Sun Up Construction Corp. of Wappingers Falls to repair Healy Road, which was damaged by flooding in the July 2023 storms. Sun Up will widen the road, repatch and crown a section and install catch basins, a drainage pipe, curbs and swales.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will cover 75 percent of the costs and the state will contribute 12.5 percent, leaving 12.5 percent for the village.

Village election

Residents cast ballots on Tuesday (March 18) for two trustees who ran unopposed. Maria Zhynovitch (53 votes) was elected to a third, 2-year term and Alan Potts (62) won the seat vacated by Travis Biro. Their terms begin April 1.

Potts served on the board from 2017 to 2019 and ran for a seat in 2019, 2021 and 2022. The other members are Winward, David Moroney and Douglas Anderson. Board members thanked Biro during their Monday meeting.

ATVs in the woods

Over the past week, residents have called the Sheriff's Department to report ATV riders plowing through the Nelsonville Woods, ignoring signs prohibiting motorized vehicles.

Winward said she has contacted state parks staff, alerted local law enforcement and called Haldane because there is evidence riders have driven ATVs on James Pond, which is owned by the school district.

"It's extremely unsafe for the riders, it's extremely unsafe for our folks who are walking the trails, it's terrible to break up the trails and it's hurting our habitat for animals," said Winward. "Obviously, this needs to stop."

Community solar

The trustees reapproved a 21-year agreement with RWE Clean Energy Solutions Inc. for community solar that will save the village 10 percent on electricity at municipal buildings and \$400 annually on streetlights. The trustees approved an agreement in November but the village attorney requested changes.

NEWS BRIEF

Howland Friends to Honor Departing President

Marcia Frahman led group for 15 years

The Friends of the Howland Public Library will honor its longtime president, Marcia Frahman, on Wednesday (March 26), before she moves to California. The event will be held from noon to 6 p.m. at Beacon Reads, 309 Main St.

Frahman has been president for 15 years. She also served on the library board and volunteered for the Beacon Sloop Club. In



2016 she received the Helen Savoit Award for Library Advocacy from the Howland.

Burn Ban Gets Early Start

Through May 14 to prevent wildfires

Because of dry, windy conditions and relatively low humidity, Gov. Kathy Hochul on March 9 issued an immediate residential burn ban for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley, including Dutchess and Putnam counties. It remains in effect until May 14.

The annual ban, designed to prevent wildfires, prohibits burning brush or debris, uncontained campfires and open fires used for cooking. Backyard fire pits

and contained campfires less than 3 feet high and 4 feet in length, width or diameter are allowed, as are small, contained cooking fires.

Beacon Groups Campaign to Upgrade Piano

School foundations lead fundraising

Beacon Advocates for Music and the Foundation for Beacon Schools have launched a fundraising drive to upgrade the piano at Beacon High School that supports student concerts.

The goal is to raise \$10,000 to purchase a baby grand. Visit bit.ly/BHSpiano.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE

Each year *The Current* compiles a list of scholarships available to students who live in Beacon and Philipstown. Each listing includes who qualifies to apply, the amount of the award and the application deadline.

The 2025 version of the guide has been posted at highlandscurrent.org/scholarships.

Don't delay:
Many applications
are due April 1.



Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ At its March 12 meeting, the Cold Spring Village Board authorized Mayor Kathleen Foley to call for bids for a Fair Street drainage and sidewalk improvement project. The work, estimated to cost \$1.5 million, will replace a 30-inch storm-water drainage pipe that collapsed during the storms of July 2023 with two 42-inch pipes. It also will include the installation of a concrete sidewalk.

■ The board approved an agreement with the Cold Spring Fire Co. for coverage of Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown. The department will receive \$143,126 toward its operating expenses. Cold Spring will pay 52 percent, Philipstown, 29.5 percent and Nelsonville, 18.5 percent.

■ Cold Spring retained Catania, Mahon and Rider to defend against a suit filed in state court on Feb. 18 against Justice Thomas Costello, Court Clerk Cathy Costello and the village. Daniel Branda alleges the judge and court clerk improperly reported parking tickets he had contested and alleged they violated state law by failing to disclose that they are married. John Furst, a partner at the law firm, acts as the village attorney.

■ Two Cornell MBA candidates who are part of the university's Sustainable Tourism Asset Management Program (STAMP) will help Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown assess the impact of tourism. "What are the visitor numbers; what are the costs?" Foley asked in explaining the program. "How can we identify what costs we can attribute to tourism versus regular uses?" The assessment will help establish a no-cost framework for evaluating tourism.

■ A \$40,000 grant from the Anahata Foundation has enabled the Tree Advisory Board to prune 80 village-owned street trees, including many along Main Street. The grant also funded 30 trees planted in November. Chair Jennifer Zwarich said it was the most trees the board has planted at one time.

■ Officer-in-Charge Matt Jackson reported that the Police Department responded to 95 calls in February, including 16 traffic stops and 14 assists to other first responders. The department is accepting applications for part-time police officers and parking enforcement officers.

■ Fire Chief Matt Steltz reported that 20 volunteer firefighters responded to 15 calls in February, including five medical assists.

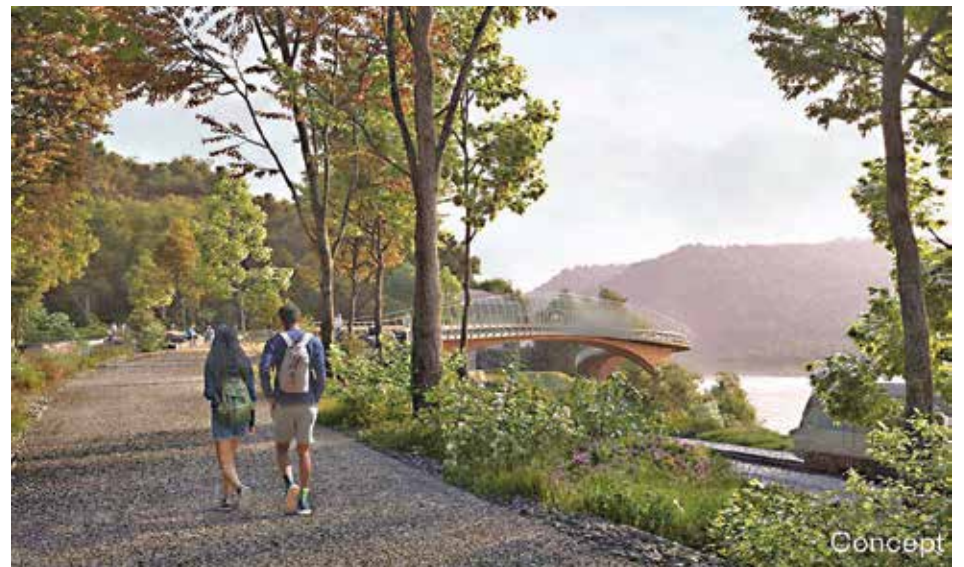
Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Breakneck (from Page 1)

ing on the dangerous and narrow Route 9D" and "create cohesive access to and from" the train station," HHFT said in a news release. "The addition of sidewalks, organized and formalized parking, including small lots on the west side of Route 9D, enhanced crosswalks and wayfinding signage will facilitate a safer experience for both motorists and trail users."

The site will also have public restrooms, an information kiosk, a bike tune-up station and new overlooks, HHFT said.

"The interior trail system will remain open during construction, and we encourage hikers to use this as an opportunity to learn about the many other fabulous hiking areas in the vicinity," said Linda Cooper, regional director for state parks.



A concept drawing of the bridge looking south. For more renderings, see highlandscurrent.org.

HHFT

Fulbright (from Page 1)

CEO of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, based in Washington, D.C. "Halting inbound and outbound exchanges shuts the United States off from a vital flow of ideas, innovation and global understanding and influence, creating a vacuum that could easily be filled by competing nations."

Ptacek wants to help reduce air pollution in Colombia. "There's quite a lot of manufacturing and heavy industry, and as a result, a lot of air pollution that has public health impacts

for communities near these plants," she said.

The details of her fellowship were still being confirmed, but Ptacek was scheduled to travel to Bogotá to work for the ministry of health, environment or energy and mines. Last month she received an email telling her to "pause making travel arrangements" because of "ongoing administrative issues affecting the transfer of funds from the U.S. State Department to Fulbright implementing partners."

Last week she received a second email informing her of layoffs at the Institute for

International Education, the organization that administers her program.

As to what happens next, "I have no clue," said Ptacek.

Because of the uncertainty, she has taken a job with Turner Construction helping clients figure out how they can implement energy-efficiency measures, electrification and building decarbonization, she said. She'd also like to work in maritime decarbonization, moving ships and ports away from fossil fuels to mitigate climate change and reduce air pollution.



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL

Home of the Highlands Choral Society

THIS SUNDAY:
ROBIN ARDITI
"FORGIVENESS
IN TODAY'S
WORLD"
MAR 23 @ 11:00AM
FOR WORSHIP
REFLECTION
& SONG

March 30 Alison Anthoine
April 6 Millie Solomon
April 13 Carol O'Reilly
April 20 Jan Anderson

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

216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY
HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG



313 Main Street
Beacon, New York 12508
845.831.1134

PETITIONS DUE:
APRIL 1, 2025 BY 5 PM

ELECTION DAY:
MAY 1, 2025

ELECTION HOURS:
12 PM TO 8 PM

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Are you passionate about our community and the library?

If so, we invite you to consider becoming a HPL Trustee!

THE ELECTION DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

What does the role entail?

As a Trustee, you'll be involved in a variety of exciting initiatives, including addressing the needs of our aging building and facilities, enhancing diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusivity within the board and library policies, and ensuring responsible financial oversight. Trustees also play a vital role in crafting library policies, engaging with the community, and advocating for the library's mission. Working closely with the Director, Trustees help shape the library's Long Range Plan.

What's the time commitment?

Trustees convene in-person for board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM, typically lasting one to two hours. Regular committee meetings usually occur monthly, and you should expect to dedicate around two hours per week to library-related matters. Trustees are also required to complete two hours of trustee education annually, provided by MHLS. It's worth noting that many of our Trustees are parents and/or hold full-time jobs.

Who is eligible to run?

Any United States citizen aged eighteen or older who has been a resident of the Beacon City School District for at least thirty days prior to the election is eligible. We currently have three vacancies on the board, each for a five-year term.

What are the steps to candidacy?

Prospective candidates must obtain petitions from the library, have them notarized, and return them to the library clerk by **5PM on April 1, 2025**. Petitions must bear the signatures of at least 25 eligible voters within the Beacon City School District.

QUESTIONS? Contact trustee Elizabeth Murphy at elizabeth@howlandlibrary.org

Beacon Firehouse *(from Page 1)*

The 2½-story brick structure was constructed in the Second Empire style of 19th-century France. The Mase firehouse is a 113-year-old, three-story brick building at 425 Main St.

Together with the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. station, which was on the site of the new firehouse, the buildings were the headquarters for generations of volunteers. Beacon Engine closed in 2020 and Mase was vacated when the new station opened, but retired volunteers have continued to use Beacon Engine for social and charitable events.

On March 12, a group of those volunteers asked Judge Maria Rosa to set aside a city order that they vacate the building by March 31. The volunteers also asked Rosa to stop any sale until she determined their rights to the station.

After Rosa denied the petition two days later, Beacon Engine Co. trustees said they are preparing to move out, although they dispute city ownership.

When the City Council voted in February 2020, just weeks before the pandemic shutdown, to close Beacon Engine, both the retired volunteers and city officials believed the fire company owned two-thirds of the building — the original structure, which



Trustees Joe Green, Tom DiCastro Sr. and Mike Angeloni stand near a historical plaque at the Beacon Engine Co. station.

Photo by J. Simms

is believed to have housed the first motorized fire engine in Dutchess County — with the city holding a larger bay added in 1924.

Since that time, the firefighters say, Beacon officials conducted a title search that showed municipal ownership of the entire building. In their petition, the volunteers disputed that, saying ownership is unclear because of “aged, handwritten deeds” and “incomplete searches and conclusory assertions” by the city.

City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said Tuesday (March 18) that Beacon provided the volunteer

trustees with documentation of its sole ownership two years ago and would file supporting evidence with the court today (March 21). The volunteer company offered to lease or purchase the building but was turned down, he said.

“While the city recognizes and appreciates the years of contribution from the volunteer firefighters,” the company has provided no evidence of ownership, Ward-Willis said.

Since the city closed the station in 2020, volunteers say they have paid for its maintenance, including roof, floor and window repairs and insurance, despite the unclear

title. It continued to be the headquarters for charitable efforts such as the annual Toys for Tots drive and fundraising for a campus in Hudson for volunteer firefighters who can no longer care for themselves.

The building is a social hub for retired volunteers and could attract more members if the city halted or paused plans to sell, said Joe Green, a Beacon Engine Co. trustee. “There’s a lot of guys who would use this firehouse if they could,” he said, estimating that as many as 250 retirees from the three companies live in the area.

Mike Angeloni, the company treasurer, said the volunteers approached the Beacon Historical Society about creating a City of Beacon Firefighters Museum at the site and, if given the green light, would have pursued grants to continue rehabbing the building. The company had a good working relationship with the city “until the dollar signs came out,” he said.

The Beacon Engine firehouse was listed in 2004 on the National Register of Historic Places, which limits what can be done by a private buyer. According to a December request for proposals from brokers, the two empty stations will be sold with covenants that restrict renaming them or altering or defacing historical features.

EPA *(from Page 1)*

He said that includes the continuing monitoring and clean-up of pollutants called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that General Electric dumped into the river from two manufacturing plants over a 40-year period that ended in 1977. The pollution ended commercial fishing in the river and kicked off decades of legal battles.

The EPA will continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to clean the river, Klawinski said. He noted that, as part of a settlement agreement with the agency, GE has to reimburse his office for the work.

“It’s all set up under different, various legal agreements, and those legal agreements are important,” he said. Klawinski said Superfund programs appear to be off the table from funding cuts and freezes that are taking place elsewhere. The agency also receives some of its funding from outside the federal government. “It’s my understanding that the Superfund program remains an important part of both the EPA and this administration’s work, regardless of who is reimbursing the projects,” he said.

At EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C., a representative said “work continues apace at Superfund sites” because “the president’s priorities and Administrator Zeldin’s first pillar of Powering the Great American Comeback is providing every American with clean air, land and water.”

In the last days of the Biden administration, Klawinski’s office released a final version of its latest five-year review of the cleanup. It confirmed the findings of a draft released in July 2024 that determined the EPA doesn’t have enough information to determine if GE needs to continue to dredge sediment from the Upper Hudson

to remove PCBs. Klawinski said that the agency plans to release an addendum by 2027 — and possibly as soon as this year — which will make that determination.

Local environmental groups, banding together under the name Friends of a Clean Hudson, released their own report in November 2023, analyzing the data that the EPA used and concluding that it has enough to rule the cleanup hasn’t worked. For more than a decade, the groups have warned that the clean-up was doomed to fail because initial measurements of the contamination were flawed and GE wasn’t targeting PCB “hot spots.”

Last week, 15 members of Congress from New York and New Jersey, including Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, and Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose district includes Philipstown, signed a letter to Zeldin urging him to declare that the cleanup has not worked, based on 2023 and 2024 data.

But in Albany, Klawinski said “we just don’t scientifically have enough years of data in order to be able to, with enough confidence, make a decision” about the effectiveness of the cleanup. While the data shows that the level of PCBs in fish and sediment are declining, “are they going down in a way that meets the expectations of the record of decision in those legal agreements?” he asked.

Klawinski said his office is analyzing the most recent data, which wasn’t included in the five-year report. It will also collect more data in 2025, including sampling in the Lower Hudson, which runs through the Highlands.

“GE is required to write a report” about the state of the Lower Hudson, he said. “Once we have that report, we’ll share it,

as well as what we think of it in terms of our own findings, and what the next steps should be. I’m focused on cleaning up the Hudson River and holding GE accountable

for its PCBs.” Despite the flood of deregulation announcements from EPA headquarters, “we like to stay focused on the task at hand, and that’s what we’re doing.”

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Planners recommend improvements at the foot of upper Main, such as a crosswalk and lighting.



Rutgers Shares Cold Spring Traffic Report

Designs would ‘calm’ traffic, protect pedestrians

By Michael Turton

Rutgers University has released a traffic study of Cold Spring that includes recommendations to improve safety at four busy village locations. The study was conducted by the Voorhees Transportation Center at the university and funded by the New York Metropoli-

tan Transportation Council (NYMTC). It outlines measures to reduce and “calm” traffic and improve pedestrian safety. NYMTC, created in 1982, is the metropolitan planning organization for Putnam, Westchester and Rockland counties, New York City and Long Island. The report, posted at dub.sh/CS-traffic-study, makes recommendations for Main Street at the Visitors’ Center; Fair Street; Lunn Terrace at Market Street; and Main at Route 9D. It also considers the trolley

operated by Putnam County. During its research, Voorhees conducted a resident survey and hosted a workshop. Its 39-page report was also reviewed by Putnam County and state agencies.

Main Street at Visitors’ Center

The report notes this is the only Main Street location where legal U-turns can be made and is a busy area with frequent encounters between drivers and pedestrians. It recommended adding high-visibility paint and patterns to crosswalks; adding a crosswalk across Main; and installing signage and pedestrian lighting. It also suggested the village consider a mini roundabout.

Fair Street

The street is a challenge because it’s narrow, frequently used by delivery trucks and congested with hikers on busy weekends. Inconsistent parking rules and one-way traffic on weekends create confusion, the report said. It recommends adding sidewalks to both sides between Main Street and Mayor’s Park, installing pedestrian lighting, restricting on-street parking and encouraging drivers to use the municipal parking lot.

Lunn Terrace at Market

The area is described as “the most challenging” of those examined for the study because it provides the only vehicle access to the Metro-North parking lot and the lower village, and it’s busy. It suggested a crosswalk across Market and better signage, road markings and striping to direct pedestrians and drivers. It also said the village could consider a small roundabout with splitter islands and a flashing sign at the crosswalk.

Cold Spring trolley

The researchers observed what most residents already knew — people don’t know how to find it and can’t get real-time data about its schedule. The recommendations included payment options besides cash; route modifications to encourage ridership; updated signage with timetables; and shelters at popular stops.

Main Street at Route 9D

The researchers found that, between 2019 and 2022, there were 68 vehicle crashes in the village, and that 44 percent were on

Route 9D and 20 percent at its intersection with Main Street. Its recommendations included reflective crosswalk markings; the removal of obstacles that interfere with driver sightlines (“daylighting”); no parking within 25 feet of the intersection; increasing the interval on pedestrian crossing signals; and streetscaping to slow traffic. It also suggested examining the addition of left-turn lanes on Route 9D.

In response to the report, Mayor Kathleen Foley said there is a perception that the village is so overrun with visitors, that it can’t do much on its own. But she said the report “emphasizes steps that are common sense and simple, and that we can do ourselves to improve traffic and pedestrian movement for residents and visitors alike.”

She noted that the report could help the village make the case for grants to address the issues it identifies. Foley said eliminating parking on Fair Street has made driveways safer, reduced driver confusion and created a wider roadway for trucks, buses and emergency vehicles. “Shifting Fair to one-way northbound during the busy season, as we did in the fall, provided an alternate loop for vehicles to move around the village and eliminated tangle-causing left turns onto Main Street,” she said.

Stronger visual cues could make a tremendous difference at the “dense, ill-defined intersections” of Lunn Terrace, which are too car-focused, she said.

Once the village assesses which projects can be done relatively quickly and in-house, the Village Board will approve implementation “sooner rather than later,” she said. For example, she thought daylighting at the intersection of Main and Route 9D could be done by village crews with permits from the state Department of Transportation.

For larger projects, such as long stretches of sidewalk, structural upgrades and pedestrian lighting, Foley said contracting out would make sense but will require time to research and apply for grants.

Trustee Laura Bozzi is working with the county Planning Department on proposals for crosswalks on Routes 9D and 301 that will have pedestrian-controlled flashing signs, safety islands where needed and other visual indicators to slow cars.

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15,214 ± SF | 0.75 Acre

New Windsor / Newburgh - 187 & 184, 30,000 SF High Bay
28,700 ± SF | 4.46 Acres

Poughkeepsie - Business District US Rt 44 & NYS Rt 55 Exposure
4,556 ± SF | 0.12 Acre

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Putnam Hospital Nears Union

Northwell agreement awaits approval by Connecticut

By Leonard Sparks

An application to turn Putnam Hospital in Carmel and the six other Nuvance healthcare facilities into affiliates of Northwell Health could earn approval within two months, according to the hospital's president.

Speaking Tuesday (March 18) to the Putnam County Legislature's Health Committee, Dr. Mark Hirko said the companies are awaiting approval from regulators in Connecticut, where Nuvance has four hospitals. They received "tacit" approval from New York State in September, he said.

Instead of merging with Nuvance, which operates Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie and Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, the much-larger Northwell (\$17 billion in annual revenue and 21 hospitals) would become its corporate parent.

Nuvance faces increasing financial pressure because of sustained operating losses. Despite \$1 billion in annual revenues, it lost \$220 million during the two most recent fiscal years before its May 2024 application to merge with Northwell, and it was projected to lose nearly \$150 million in 2024. Putnam Hospital lost \$32.5 million for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2023, and Vassar Brothers, \$40 million.

In February, Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy concluded that Nuvance's application to join Northwell will result in "materially higher" median prices for patients but "the transaction appears to be positive by nearly every other measure" because of Nuvance's financial struggles.

Northwell says Nuvance will gain financial stability and funding for capital upgrades, access for patients to a larger pool of primary-care doctors and specialists, and integration with Northwell's electronic health records system.

"We are anticipating good news [from Connecticut] in regard to this affiliation within the next four to six weeks," Hirko told the Putnam Legislature.

During his presentation, Hirko outlined developments at Putnam Hospital, which has been beset by the layoffs of nurses, the yearlong closure of its maternity ward and complaints from employees about low pay.

The maternity ward reopened in February 2023 and is projecting 100 childbirths this year, said Hirko. In addition, the hospital has more demand for its cancer treatment and primary care services.

Putnam Hospital has received two consecutive "A" patient safety ratings from the Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit watchdog, after receiving a "C" 18 months ago, he said. Wait times have also improved "to the point where people are recommending us at much higher levels than we've ever seen before," said Hirko.

Putnam Readies Radio System

Local agencies raise concerns about rollout

By Leonard Sparks

An eight-year project in Putnam County to replace an emergency communications system that has frustrated firefighters and police officers with static and garbled voices is nearly ready to go live.

County employees, sheriff's deputies and police officers from Cold Spring and Brewster are testing the \$13 million system. Tom Lannon, the county's director of information technology and geographic information systems, provided an update on March 11 to the Legislature's Protective Services Committee.

Fire departments in Brewster, Putnam Lake and Patterson and emergency medical services in Patterson will be the next first responders to have their radios programmed for the system. The system should be deployed to the rest of the county by May, Lannon said.

During tests, the system has "passed with flying colors," he said, even without three towers that have yet to be erected at the Philipstown Highway Department garage, Airport Park in Mahopac and Piano Mountain in Putnam Valley.

Robert Lipton, a Philipstown resident who is the county's emergency services commissioner, has the old low-band and new high-band radios in his car. He told legislators that, as he drove along Route 9 near the North Highlands Fire Department, the Carmel Fire Department received a dispatch.

"On low band, it was all garbled — every

other word you could make out," he said. "On the new radio, I could hear it perfectly clear."

Full deployment has "been a slow process" as the county secured funding, Lannon said. State grants provided \$6.4 million for the new towers and equipment and "as we got more grants, we were able to accelerate it."

In 2023, the Philipstown Town Board agreed to allow Putnam to build a tower and building on 2,600 square feet at its highway garage for \$1 annually for 35 years, but Lannon said the county is negotiating with the Open Space Institute, which has a conservation deed restriction on the property. "We have to give them property back to allow us to use that property, even though it's owned by the Town of Philipstown," he said.

Paul Jonke, the legislator who chairs the Protective Services Committee, and

Legislator Erin Crowley, a member of the committee, each questioned Lannon and Lipton about a litany of concerns raised in letters from elected officials and first responders in Carmel, Mahopac, Putnam Valley and Southeast.

Some departments expressed concern about their ability to communicate under the new system with first responders in neighboring counties and Connecticut, and some claimed Putnam had given them the wrong radios.

Lannon said the county is replacing low-band pagers used by fire departments,



Haldane Names Superintendent

Fishkill resident will begin district job on July 1

By Joey Asher

The Haldane school board on Tuesday (March 18) appointed Gail Duffy as superintendent. She will begin July 1.

Duffy succeeds Philip Benante, who left in 2024 to become the superintendent of the Arlington school district. Carl Albano, a former Garrison superintendent, has been serving as interim for the 2024-25 academic year.

The Fishkill resident is assistant superintendent for instruction and human resources at the Irvington district in Westchester County. She previously worked as an administrator for the Sleepy Hollow and Cornwall districts and has been an elementary and special education teacher and principal.

Duffy has a bachelor's degree from SUNY Plattsburgh, a master's degree in education and educational administration from Pace and a doctorate in educational leadership



Gail Duffy

from Manhattanville. She is also an adjunct professor at Hunter College.

2025-26 budget

The school board reached an informal consensus on Tuesday to move ahead with a budget that includes a proposed levy increase of 2.8 percent, or 0.6 percent less than the state-mandated tax cap.

That would put spending at \$30.2 million. Under a complex formula, Haldane can raise its levy for 2025-26 by up to 3.38 percent without requiring 60 percent of voters, rather than a majority, to approve.

Two weeks ago, administrators presented a budget with a 2.8 percent cap. But board members debated at the time whether to ask for the maximum 3.38 percent or minimize taxes following the approval by voters last fall of a \$28.4 million capital project that will raise taxes by 6.95 percent over three years.

This week, the board heard a presentation from administrators about what could be accomplished by seeking the maximum levy cap, which would mean an additional \$132,000 in revenue, including energy efficient LED lighting, refurbishment of the

which are no longer manufactured, with high-band pagers, but that it will continue to provide low-band paging with the new system. Lipton said departments need to clear channels to install the county settings into their radios. They can then reload their channels, he said.

Lipton added that, during testing, Putnam wants to use Motorola radios because allowing multiple manufacturers gets confusing. Once the system is cleared for countywide use, departments can deploy radios from other companies, although they will not have the capabilities available to Motorola users.

The county has been attempting to replace its system since 2016. In 2019 the Legislature approved a recommendation from its Radio Project Committee to spend up to \$10 million with Motorola Solutions.

Under the old system, Lannon said, dispatchers and emergency personnel had to choose a tower to use; if they chose separate ones, their messages could be garbled. Communications were especially poor between eastern and western Putnam.

County officials highlighted the communication problems in 2020 after a man in Putnam Valley stabbed Deputy Sheriff Benjamin Levine in the arm, severing an artery. Levine tried to radio for help but could not connect, according to police officials. He survived after undergoing two surgeries.

Under the old system, first responders needed to manually select a frequency, which could lead to crosstalk. The new system automatically selects idle channels. "We've already heard back from police officers saying that now they can hear what's going on — the village of Brewster can hear what's going on in the Village of Cold Spring," said Lannon. "We didn't have that before."

gym floor and auditorium upgrades.

After the discussion, President Peggy Clements said the five-member board had reached consensus to move ahead with the lower increase. "It is sufficient to achieve the goals that we set out early in the budgeting process, as well as which include some capital improvement," she said. The board is expected to adopt a budget on April 22 and the public vote will be May 20.

Library taxes

The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring is proposing to raise its tax levy to \$98,150, an increase of \$25,000, Director Johanna Reinhardt told the school board. The vote to approve the higher levy will be included on the Haldane ballot because the district collects taxes for the library.

Reinhardt said that the library has not increased its levy in 10 years. The funds will be used for tech help, maintenance, ebook licenses and wages. The library's expenses for 2025 are projected to be about \$413,000, she said.

If approved, the increase would raise the annual taxes on a \$500,000 home by \$8.40, Reinhardt said. She and other staff will answer questions about the proposition at 1 p.m. on Sunday (March 30) at the library at 10 Morris Ave.

AROUND TOWN



▲ **FREE-THROW CHAMPS** — Anthony Lopez of Beacon this month won the Elks Hoop Shoot state championship for boys ages 12-13, hitting 23 of 25 free throws. He is shown with Mike Zanzarella and Joe Green of the Elks. Meanwhile, three Philipstown students (top) — Alivia Amato (age 10), Jack Fitzgerald (14) and Cormac Cotter (9) — advanced to the downstate level in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition. *Photos provided*



▲ **REVOLUTION 250** — In preparation for Putnam County's celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence, Tourism Director Tara Keegan (left), former Gov. George Pataki, County Executive Kevin Byrne, philanthropist George Whipple, Putnam History Museum Board President Mark Forlow and County Historian Jennifer Cassidy met in Carmel to begin planning. Pataki, Whipple and Forlow are Philipstown residents.

◀ **IRISH ALL-STARS** — Putnam Executive Kevin Byrne (left) and Legislator Bill Gouldman greeted Ireland's consul general to New York, Helena Nolan, at the annual St. Patrick's dinner hosted in Albany by the American Irish Legislators Society of New York. Byrne (bagpipes) and Gouldman (drum) also performed. *Photos provided*



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March 23 at 7pm

Youth Players present:

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March 26 at 5pm &
March 30 at 2pm

Comedian John Fugelsang

March 30 at 7pm

Ariane One Act Play Festival

April 4-6

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April 11 at 7:30pm

Followed by Q&A and
reception at Dolly's

www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



THE NEXT FLOW BY DASSI ROSENKRANTZ

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Special Event - Saturday, Mar 22, 1-3pm
STILL LIFE PAINTING DEMO with Brian McClear
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Sat. Mar 29 – 3 PM
PAPER HEART PUPPETS with Brad Shur
Children & family free. Made possible by NYSOCFS grant
bit.ly/PaperHeartPuppetsHCC

Mar 28 - Howland's Open Mic Night
Apr 5 - The Artichoke Presents: Martin Dockery

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

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER



Listed on the NRHP – 477 Main Street, Beacon New York



Louise Denehy as The Witch



Oliver Petkus as The Baker



Lucius Bell as Jack



Nadine Alayon as Little Red Riding Hood



Sophie Koch as Cinderella



Amelia Alayon as The Baker's Wife

The Calendar

By Marc Ferris

A week before the opening tonight (March 21) for the Haldane Drama production of *Into the Woods*, spontaneous applause erupted seven times during a four-hour rehearsal at the high school.

It takes musical dexterity to sing atonal songs that sometimes shift tempo midway through, but the actors pulled off the elaborate production with a joie de vivre that belied the play's dark themes.

Cast and crew have worked for the debut since January. The longtime Haldane Drama director, Martha Mechalakos ("Ms. Mek"), holds everyone to high standards and claps out each beat as the action unfolds, offering sporadic diction advice and stage directions.

A Broadway hit in 1986, the play is a staple of high school performances in part because it can accommodate a large cast and there are good female roles, says Mechalakos.

The trippy mishmash of fairy tales has a somewhat grim ending that cautions storytellers to think about what "you say to your [children] in the night" because they "will listen." Several characters die in the second act and the woods are filled with fright.

Into the Woods

WITH HALDANE DRAMA

Students present twisted fairy-tale musical

The plot gets knotty but the musical can be fun to perform because it's campy, there's plenty of movement and the dialogue is challenging. Several scenes require players to exchange rapid-fire lines with precision. Even the sung-spoken part of narrator Lincoln Wayland sometimes requires him to deliver a firehose of prose.

The expansive, elaborate set includes Rapunzel's tower and a tree from which characters pop out to deliver lines and disappear like whack-a-moles or jump onto the stage and keep talking (often it's Louis Ferreira as Mysterious Man). Some scenes call for

30-plus actors to swirl around the stage.

An early showstopper, "The Witch's Rap," unfolds at a machine-gun clip and earned Louise Denehy the rehearsal's first ovation. She received two more later. Playing the juiciest role helps, but Denehy has a strong stage presence and a sly comedic undertone that disarms any menace.

"I love the role's complexity, and it's so over the top," she says. "The witch is selfish and wants to control everybody, but it all backfires and her daughter dies, so be careful what you wish for."

Oliver Petkus, a senior playing his final

role at Haldane, portrays The Baker. He's headed to SUNY New Paltz to study jazz drums and is a "legend" in the theater program, according to Lucius Bell, who plays Jack, the beanstalk guy.

Spontaneous ovations followed Bell's rendition of "Giants in the Sky," "On the Steps of the Palace," by Sophie Koch as Cinderella, and the duet "Agony," performed by Owen Powers and James Llewellyn as the princes. Plum Severs plays up Rapunzel like a victim in a horror flick, screaming like a banshee when danger appears.

During downtime, cast members sat on the auditorium floor to finish homework or clustered in the stairwells to talk. Somehow, the constant clatter of the heavy doors opening and closing as the players head backstage and return to their books and computers never rattled anyone's focus.

"We're so locked in," says Petkus. "We don't even notice it."

Haldane is located at 15 Craigside Drive in Cold Spring. Into the Woods will be performed at 7 p.m. today (March 21) and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 (\$8 students and seniors) at dub.sh/woods-tickets, or at the door.



Lucia Petty as The Stepmother



Owen Powers as Cinderella's Prince



Plum Severs as Rapunzel

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

SAT 22
Pet Rabies Clinic

CARMEL
10 a.m. – Noon. Veterans Park
201 Gipsy Trail Road
845-808-1390 ext. 43160
putnamcountyny.com/health
Bring your dog, cat or ferret for a free vaccination. Bring proof of Putnam residency and prior rabies shot, and have pets leashed or in cages.

SAT 22
Defensive Driving Course

COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
New drivers can learn skills and experienced drivers can qualify for reduced points and insurance discounts. Registration required. *Cost: \$40*

SAT 22
Citizenship Application Assistance

BEACON
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Howland Public Library
311 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Specialists will review documents and offer legal advice. Registration required.

SAT 22
Lantern Workshop

PHILIPSTOWN
Noon & 3 p.m. HVSF
2015 Route 9 | hvshakespeare.org
Make lanterns for the fourth annual Highland Lights procession. The theme for 2025 is microcosmos, which celebrates pollinators and other insects. Also SUN 23 and weekends through April 13. Register online.

SAT 22
PHAS Annual Dinner

PHILIPSTOWN
5 p.m. Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will honor state park staff from Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands at its spring benefit. *Cost: \$100*

SUN 23
Mid-Hudson Reptile Expo

POUGHKEEPSIE
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Vendors will have snakes, amphibians, invertebrates and supplies for their care at this annual show. *Cost: \$12 (\$6 ages 7 to 12, free ages 6 and younger)*

SUN 23
Maple Syrup Day

PHILIPSTOWN
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D
facebook.com/littlestonypoint
Hosted by the Little Stony Point

Citizens Association, this annual event features pancakes, a syrup-making demonstration and live music. *Free*

TUES 25
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.

MON 24
Blood Drive

PUTNAM VALLEY
1:30 – 7:30 p.m. Ambulance Corps
218 Oscawana Lake Road | nybc.org
Register for an appointment or walk in.

SAT 29
Pancake Breakfast

WAPPINGERS FALLS
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road | 845-486-2555
facebook.com/dutchesscountyparks
Sample Dutchess County maple syrup and enjoy pancakes. Park naturalists will hold workshops, weather permitting. *Cost: \$5 (ages 6 and younger free)*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 22
Hudson Valley Puppetry Festival

POUGHKEEPSIE
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Academy
33 Academy St. | artsmidhudson.org
Puppet theater groups from around the region will put on all-ages shows. There also will be workshops and demonstrations. *Free*

TUES 25
Table Talk

COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Cold Spring Pizza
120 Main St. | 845-225-2700 ext. 117
covecarecenter.org
Enjoy dinner for the family hosted by the CoveCare Center to promote connecting. Email prevention@covecarecenter.org to register. *Free*

TUES 25
Spy Science

GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Family Science Night will focus on detection, misdirection and other spy techniques. Register online.

WED 26
Art Thieves Conservatory

GARRISON
5 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The Depot Youth performers

(grades 4-8) stole the Hansel & Gretel script and reimagined it. Also SUN 30. *Cost: \$12*

THURS 27
Wildlife Wonders

BEACON
4:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Students in kindergarten through the fifth grade can learn about animals through activities.

FRI 28
Charm Bracelet Workshop

COLD SPRING
3:15 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Students in grades 5 to 12 are invited to make a personalized bracelet. Register online.

SAT 29
Cardboard Explosion!

BEACON
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
bit.ly/PaperHeartPuppetsHCC
Brad Shur will help audience members design cardboard puppets and make them come alive. Register online. *Free*



TALKS & TOURS

SUN 23
Jim Zimmerman

PUTNAM VALLEY
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The poet will read from his collections, which include *Little Miracles* and *Family Cookout*. An open mic follows. *Cost: \$10*

TUES 25
Women in Business: Busting Barriers

BEACON
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
dub.sh/busting-barriers
This panel discussion, led by financial advisor Lena Rizkallah, will “celebrate the stories, struggles and success of fierce and fabulous” entrepreneurs. Register online. *Free*

TUES 25
The Irish in Beacon

BEACON
7 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | beaconhistorical.org
Patrick Miskell, a trustee with the Beacon Historical Society, will share the local history of Irish immigration. *Free*



Maple Syrup Day, March 23

SUN 30
Losing the Dark

PUTNAM VALLEY
11 a.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
Jill Eisenstein will screen a short documentary about light pollution and its impacts on health and wildlife, followed by a discussion. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 22
Sing Sing

GARRISON
1 p.m. Graymoor | 40 Franciscan Way
atonementfriars.org
Watch a 2023 dramatic film about Rehabilitation Through the Arts, followed by a discussion with Charles Moore, who participated in the program. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 22
Into the Woods

COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium
15 Craigsides Drive
dub.sh/woods-tickets
Haldane Drama will stage the Stephen Sondheim musical, which remixes the plots of Brothers Grimm fairy tales with a witch, a childless couple and a journey. Also SUN 23. See Page 11. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 students, seniors)*

SAT 22
Vic DiBitetto

PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The “Italian Hurricane” has a new comedy album, *Working Class Zero*. *Cost: \$54 to \$69*

SUN 23
Wizard of Oz on Ice

PEEKSKILL
3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Dorothy and her gang will skate down the Yellow Brick Road in this new production. *Cost: \$37 to \$52 (\$27 ages 12 and younger)*

SUN 23
Diversion

GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
A cast of six actors will stage a reading of a Scott Organ play in this new series, *Sometimes Sundays*. Register online. *Free*

FRI 28
I Wanna Dance with Somebody

GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Watch the 2022 biopic about singer Whitney Houston, which will be screened as part of Women's History Month.

FRI 28
La Haine

COLD SPRING
5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Watch and discuss the 1995 thriller set in the Parisian suburbs that explores police brutality and social unrest. The screening is part of the library's *Reel Talk* series.

FRI 28
Kathy Griffin

PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The comedian will perform as part of her stand-up tour, *My Life on the PTSD-List*. *Cost: \$47 to \$87*



SUN 30
Women Talking

COLD SPRING
12:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
The library will screen this 2023 drama about women in an isolated religious community deciding how to react to a brutality that challenges their faith.

SUN 30
The Addams Family Musical

WEST POINT
5 p.m. Ike Hall Theatre | 655 Pitcher Road
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com
America's kookiest and darkest family comes to life in this musical about love, family, honesty and growing up. *Cost: \$39 to \$89*

SUN 30
John Fugelsang
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
The comedian and host of *Tell Me Everything* stars in this solo show, which was rescheduled from February. *Cost: \$30*

VISUAL ART

SAT 22
Still Life Painting
BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Brian McClear will create an oil painting as part of the *Realism on the Hudson* exhibit.

MUSIC

SAT 22
Twen
BEACON
7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
theyardbeacon.com/upcoming
The “van-life” rock band will be joined by Grumpy. *Cost: \$22 (\$25 door)*

SAT 22
Dassi Rosenkrantz
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The bass player and composer will debut her latest album, *The Next Flow*. Noga Cabo opens. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



SAT 22
Eri Yamamoto
BEACON
8 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke
15 South Ave.
yamamoto.eventbrite.com
The longtime presence in the downtown jazz scene will play a set as part of the Elysium Furnace Works piano series. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 22
Bill Birdsong Miller
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Grammy-winner plays flute and guitar, sings and composes. Blues artist Kevin Burt will open. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

THURS 27
Anda Union
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Inner Mongolian band plays Indigenous music reflecting tribal and musical traditions from its oral culture. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

FRI 28
Justin Furstenfeld
POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St. | bardavon.org
The lead singer of Blue October will perform his one-man show. *Cost: \$40 to \$80*

FRI 28
All About the Song
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
For this series focused on music, storytelling and connection, KJ Denhart brings together Rebecca McCartney and Mark McIntyre as openers, followed by Michele Gedney and Jen Clapp. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 29
Secret Sounds of Ponds
PHILIPSTOWN
2 p.m. Fahnestock State Park
1498 Route 301 | dub.sh/pond-sounds
David Rothenberg’s concert will include plants and creatures singing in water. Also SUN 30 with Michelle Shocked. *Cost: \$20*



Anda Union, March 27

SAT 29
Hubby Jenkins
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
The multi-instrumentalist plays music that weaves African American history through old-time songs. He is also part of the Carolina Chocolate Drops. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 29
Jamie Saft
BEACON
8 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke
15 South Ave. | jamiesaft.eventbrite.com
Saft, who has recorded with everyone from Iggy Pop to John Zorn, will perform from his diverse projects for the final concert in a piano series organized by Elysium Furnace Works. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 29
The Fabulous Thunderbirds
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The blues-rock band will play its hits and new music. *Cost: \$44 to \$59*

SAT 29
Tatiana Eva-Marie
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The French pop artist will perform songs from her album *Djangology*, a tribute to Gypsy jazz and Django Reinhardt. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 30
Eliza Neals
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The blues-rock singer will play from her latest release, *Colorchimes*. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 30
Willie Nile
PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
The singer-songwriter has a catalog spanning four decades, including the hit “The Innocent Ones.” *Cost: \$32 to \$45*

CIVIC
MON 24
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

WED 26
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

SUN 30
Ballot Proposition Q&A
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Library staff will discuss why Butterfield will ask voters for funds on the Haldane budget ballot in May.

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



RESTORATION ROADHOUSE PRESENTS

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SATURDAY, MARCH 29
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TICKETS
\$25



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

A summer camp located in the Hudson Valley, near the Hudson River, is seeking proposals for an exterior lighting project. This project is using grant monies and has MWBE requirements. MWBE businesses are strongly encouraged to apply.

The project includes developing a lighting schematic, furnishing, and installing LED exterior lights at one or several program areas. We are interested in receiving proposals for one program area, some, or all.

Proposals will be accepted until midnight on April 3, 2025, and installation must be completed by June 1, 2025. For more information, please email summerrec02@gmail.com and we will provide an RFP.



TJ Del Reno and Anne Hogan of The Town Criers



Aaron Kheifets, Anne Hogan and TJ Del Reno

Photos by Ross Corsair

THE TOWN CRIERS COME TO TOWN

Improv comedy mines Cold Spring's past

By Michael Turton

It's one thing to get a laugh at a party, but imagine if the host announced that within a few minutes you'd spin it into a witty performance.

That was the challenge for The Town Criers, an improv group that performed at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring on March 15, using odd moments of local history as prompts.

The concept is the brainchild of Beacon resident Joanna Castle Miller, who runs Wait Don't Leave Productions. Lisa Pertoso, a former Beacon resident who lives in Manhattan, co-produced the show and performed. The pair have written for Comedy Central, *The Onion*, *Funny or Die* and *McSweeney's*. Four veteran comedians — TJ Del Reno, Anne Hogan, Aaron Kheifets and Valerie Lynn Brett — rounded out the cast.

The Town Criers emerged from an idea Castle Miller and Pertoso had to base improv on letters to the editor of small-town newspapers. They tested the concept at the Beacon Bonfire Festival in 2023 when Castle Miller read letters aloud and Pertoso and her compatriots improvised scenes. Castle Miller said an audience favorite tackled the "old Beacon versus new Beacon" debate.

Because Castle Miller likes projects about historical memory, she wanted to expand the idea to include old news stories. In a 2024 performance at the Chapel Restoration, The Town Criers focused on West Point Foundry history, which proved to be a hit.

Before a full house on March 15, the format expanded to include three sources: Castle Miller interviewed Philipstown native Nat Prentice, asking him about local life in his teenage years; she read 19th-century news clips; and the audience

shared examples of quirky incidents.

The improvisers heard the material for the first time along with the audience.

"We want to give people a different window into how interesting and deeply human our history can be," Castle Miller said, adding that "a little absurdity" in historical events helps create entertaining skits.

Prentice talked about the 1960s, including his memories of Palen's Drug Store and sneaking an underaged beer at McConville's (now Doug's Pretty Good Pub). He shared less-pleasant accounts of his Little League team in Garrison losing virtually every game to the Cold Spring Yankees.

He said teenage boys got their haircuts at Sam Sunday's Barber Shop while the barbers smoked foul-smelling cigars. The boys' mothers would not let them go near Gus' Barber Shop because it had adult magazines.

Castle Miller provided historical tidbits from "Looking Back" columns in *The Highlands Current* and the newspaper archives at fultonhistory.com. One story from around 1900 described how a resident swindled out of \$10 decided not to prosecute but was quoted saying he "hoped to get even."

She was especially taken by Irving P. McCoy, who made news as a boy by falling through the river ice near the Pacific Hotel (now the Hudson House). At least one other boy also fell in before friends formed a human chain to rescue them.

McCoy, quoted as yelling, "I want to be dry!" grew up to become editor of *The Cold Spring Recorder*. He claimed his office cat wrote letters for him.

When McCoy angered local Democrats by publishing a letter from Republican Gov. Teddy Roosevelt, McCoy formed his own political party. When no one else attended



Joanna Castle Miller and Lisa Pertoso on the steps of the Chapel Restoration

Photo by Jon Slackman

its first meeting, he appointed himself president and his cat as secretary.

The audience contributed oddities including unsolved mysteries, such as how B Street got its name, the theft of a disco ball from the bandstand and someone who found a stranger in their car after a pizza date. They also mentioned a desperate shopper who urinated in an antique shop vase and ceramic bells that conjured up elves, fairies and spirits in the Nelsonville Woods.

Asked which scenes went especially well, Pertoso said, "Our shows go by so fast, it's hard to remember," although she did single out the barbershop girly mags. "One of my favorite things about improv is when we subvert expectations," she said. "The implication was that there were adult magazines there, but we flipped it around to be feminist literature, like Gloria Steinem."

"They turned it into, 'Your mom doesn't want you to see feminist literature, it might

radicalize you!'" Castle Miller said.

With only a few chairs as props, the cast relied on pantomime and quick wit to create scenes from Garrison-Cold Spring baseball games, visits to Palen's and witches in the Nelsonville Woods. There was also young Irving McCoy stuck in the frigid Hudson and a scene starring his literate cat. The troupe even pinned the theft of the disco ball on a B Street resident.

Pertoso said one principle of improv is that there are no mistakes. "As long as we support our fellow players, it can't go wrong," she said. "We go in with zero expectations — the beauty of this art form is that shows are once-in-a-lifetime."

Castle Miller noted the importance of research. "The better you know the town you're performing in, the more audience reaction you'll get," she said.

Will The Town Criers return? "Absolutely!" Castle Miller said.

Garrison School Shows Off Its Artists



Library show continues through April 17

By Joey Asher

Artwork by every student at the Garrison School — about 400 pieces — will be displayed through April 17 in the downstairs gallery at the Desmond-Fish Public Library. The exhibit opened Thursday (March 20) with a performance by the student jazz ensemble. With assistance from art teacher Coulter Young, we visited with three students to find out more about their influences.

◀ **Roman Caccimise**, 12, is a seventh grader. He created a series of prints by carving a piece of rubber and applying ink. “I wanted to do something that was simple but looked cool,” he said. “I did a bunch of orange prints. That’s the color I liked the most.”



◀ **Jasper Dion**, 9, is a fourth grader. She made a Harry Potter chair, complete with Gryffindor scarf and lightning-bolt scar. Jasper has read or listened to every book in the series, which she loves because “they’re so adventurous and open your mind to creativity.”



Coulter Young Photos by Ross Corsair

◀ **Poppy Oakes**, 9, is a fourth grader. She created a *Wicked* chair sculpture that represents the main characters, Elphaba and Glinda. Poppy has seen the movie twice. “There’s lots of cool parts,” she said. “The story is really fun. The sets are really pretty.”



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%



Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hard-cover and paperback sales reported for January and February at Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.



ADULT

- 1 **Murder Your Employer: The McMasters Guide to Homicide** by Rupert Holmes
- 1 **Onyx Storm (Deluxe Limited Edition)** by Rebecca Yarros
- 1 **The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World** by Robin Kimmerer
- 2 **Martyr! A Novel** by Kaveh Akbar
- 3 **Small Things Like These** by Claire Keegan

CHILDREN

- 1 **Big Jim Begins (Dog Man 13)** by Dav Pilkey
- 2 **What Brings Us Joy Zine** by Manitou Students
- 3 **The Hotel Balzaar** by Kate DiCamillo
- 4 **Bluey Colortivity: I Can Paint!** by Studio Fun
- 4 **Hey! Look at You!** by Sandra Boynton
- 5 **Songs of the Birds** by Isabel Otter

LOOKING BACK IN BEACON

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (March 1875)

Henry Green of Matteawan was selected as Rep. John Whitehouse's nominee to attend West Point. *The Cold Spring Recorder* noted that Whitehouse "set a good example by submitting his appointment to the public for a fair competition." There were concerns that if the 35-foot-high ice gorge in Matteawan Creek melted with a sudden change in weather, it would flood at least four factories.

According to *The Cold Spring Recorder*, a Fishkill man received a telegram from a Chicago hotel that his wife had died there. He replied: "Send the body. Let her come through in style. I'll make it right with you." Her remains arrived COD.

John Van Benscoten's young daughter died in Matteawan of measles. There also were at least 40 cases in Glenham.

The Recorder noted that Black workers were arriving from the South in large numbers for seasonal employment at the brickyards.

Richard Haley, a railroad employee who lost his leg in 1873 when he was hit by a train at Dutchess Junction, won a \$6,500 [about \$188,000 today] judgment. Haley was fixing the track when a locomotive pulling 15 cars passed by. He stepped back on the track and was hit by six cars that had been detached for a siding.

The Episcopal Church at Fishkill owned a silver communion platter inscribed to honor Egleburt Huff, a Norwegian who died in 1765 at age 128. According to one account, Huff claimed he served as a British soldier during the reign of King James II (1633-1701), married for the first time at age 70 while working in New York as a smuggler and fathered 12 children. [Family historians believe he was born Engel Hof in 1687 rather than 1637.]

On March 16, it took the ferryboat 12 hours to break a passage from Fishkill Landing to Newburgh through the ice, which was 8- to 11-inches thick.

125 Years Ago (March 1900)

The Fishkill Herald published an advertisement signed by S. Miller Van Wyck, a retired lawyer in Fishkill Landing, offering a \$25 [\$945] reward for the conviction of whomever was attempting to poison him and his wife with mercury placed in the bottles of milk delivered to their doorstep. Van Wyck noted his wife stood to inherit considerable property in New Haven and, should she die, other heirs would receive it.

Frank Spencer, a railroad fireman who disappeared a month earlier from an engine on the New Haven line, was presumed dead. The railroad spent \$100 [\$4,000] to drag the Housatonic River. But a former co-worker spotted Spencer working as a brakeman on the New York Central line when a train stopped at Fishkill Landing. He said Spencer told a confused story about where he'd been.

For the first time in years, Democrats swept the Fishkill Landing election.

John Ackerman and his family lived in a secluded home near Glenham. On a Sunday night, after he left for an errand in Fishkill Landing, his wife found a stranger in the kitchen. She scooped up their two children and ran upstairs into a bedroom, shutting the door and retrieving a gun from the closet. When the man followed her upstairs, she fired through the door. The recoil knocked her down, but she reloaded and fired again. The man cried out and fled, possibly wounded.

100 Years Ago (March 1925)

A \$200 [\$3,600] reward was offered for the identity of the culprit who poisoned 10 dogs on the same Beacon block.

While making his rounds at the Carroll Straw Hat Factory, night watchman James Corrigan was held up by four men who he said bound and gagged him and stole his wallet, which had \$3 [\$50] in it. He said he was only carrying a lantern and did not get a look at their faces. Corrigan wriggled to a door, where a passing boy untied him.

More than 500 workers at five brickyards went on strike; they were paid \$3.50 [\$64] a day but wanted \$4.75 [\$86]. Loaders asked for an increase of 25 cents per 1,000 bricks.

Fred Hignell, the undertaker, was asked to remove the body of Carl Klien, 18, who died at his home at 73 Ferry St. The coroner mentioned that Klien lived above a bakery, but Hignell misunderstood. Instead, he showed up at Carl Kling's bakeshop on Main Street, asking, "Where is the body?"

John Van Houghton, a Beacon manufacturer, purchased 300 acres of forest in Fishkill for hunting.

Parishioners at St. John's Church presented Father James Prendergast with a purse of \$1,000 [\$18,000] shortly before he left for a two-month pilgrimage to Rome.

The Beacon Herald, a Republican paper, endorsed City Judge Thomas Hassett, a Democrat, for a county judgeship.

Donato Cuziello, 49, a trackwalker employed by the New York Central, was killed about 2 miles north of Beacon by a passenger train. It usually traveled on Track 1 but had been switched to Track 2. Cuziello, who lived on Beekman Street with his family, applied for the job to replace his friend, Coamo De Carlo, who was killed two months earlier at nearly the same place.

Mrs. Milton Smith told police that two men robbed her home at 26 Ferry St. but took only men's clothing. The men later identified themselves as divorce detectives from Poughkeepsie looking for evidence for a lawsuit brought by her estranged husband. During their visit to the Smith home, the men also encountered Harold Montross. He was taken into custody on a parole violation, but because he was under 21, the judge did not jail him. After the court session, Montross left with Mrs. Smith, despite protests from Montross' parents about her undue influence. They complained to the judge, who issued arrest warrants for both.

75 Years Ago (March 1950)

With the arrival of spring, Dutchess Manor resumed its Saturday floor shows at 10:30 p.m. and 12:20 a.m. The Ivy Room, with a view of the Hudson, served lobster, oysters and frog legs.

The Beacon Civic Music Association concluded its 1949-50 season with a performance by a young piano duo, Gold & Fizdale, at Beacon High School. Arthur Gold and Robert Fizdale, who were a couple, met at Juilliard; they later wrote musical biographies and cookbooks.

When the official scorer fired a starter pistol to end the first quarter of a basketball game at Beacon High School, a prankster threw a dead crow onto the court, as if it had been shot.

Stanley Barker, assistant director of the state Bureau of Environmental Sanitation, told members of the Beacon Tax and Rentpayers Association that cities along the Hudson would eventually be forced to build plants to treat the raw sewage they were dumping into the Hudson. Mayor J. Lewis Bolton responded that the city would not construct a plant, which he said would

(Continued on Page 17)



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(Continued from Page 16)

cost at least \$250,000 [\$3.3 million], until other municipalities committed.

A thief stole \$800 [\$10,500] from the Bank Square tavern on Ferry Street. Owner Vincent Megna said that when he left the bar at 2:30 p.m., there were 15 patrons and a bartender inside. The cash was in a cigar box in an unlocked safe.

The school board approved spending \$7,500 [\$98,000] to build a fieldhouse at Hammond Field with dressing rooms.

A 50-year-old Main Street man was expected to lose his arm after it was caught in a machine at the Atlas Fibre Co. on South Avenue.

Jim Barry hit a set shot with 40 seconds left to send St. Joachim's to the title game of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Parochial League, where the Dutchess County champs fell to Our Lady of Refuge of the Bronx, 29-24.

A 24-year-old Beekman Street man was accused of stealing an 11-inch butcher knife from a block in the meat department at Reliable Food in Bank Square and waving it around inside a nearby tavern until a patrol officer forced him to drop it.

A 23-year-old Main Street man pleaded not guilty to disorderly conduct after a confrontation with a police officer who was ticketing his vehicle at 456 Main St. The officer said the man asked if he "was looking for another feather in your cap" and if he would get promoted for ticketing him. He also called the officer "uncivilized." The accused said he was delivering lobsters to a restaurant.

A Fowler Street woman sued New York Central for \$100,000 [\$1.3 million] following the death of her husband, who was fatally injured in the Beacon yards while dismantling a crane car. She said the assignment was not part of his job and that he was unfamiliar with the work.

50 Years Ago (March 1975)

Although it was uncertain whether the Howland library would receive a \$200,000 [\$1.2 million] loan from the Urban Development Corp., it still planned to move from 477 Main St. to a former department store at 313 Main. The Van Wyck Society wanted to use the current library as an arts and history museum.

After an inspection, the state corrections commissioner criticized the Beacon jail for using one of its six first-floor cells for storage, because inmates might use the items as weapons. He recommended the city build a closet.

George Hughes of Beacon High School won the Dutchess County Scholastic League basketball scoring title, averaging 23.1 points per game.

A state trooper testified during the trial of a 21-year-old Cliff Street woman accused of distributing heroin that he had written "R" with a ballpoint pen on the aluminum-foil packet she sold him. But when the prosecutor removed a piece of tape used to mark the evidence, there was no "R." The trooper said: "It was there before you took the tape off."

The Fishkill Correctional Center had five inmates escape within a week. In the first



Pete Seeger (left) and other members of the Sloop Club dig out a canoe in 1975.

Poughkeepsie Journal

break-out, two prisoners who could barely walk because of serious leg injuries put dummies in their Handicapped Unit beds and somehow scaled a 20-foot fence. One was caught two days later on Red Schoolhouse Road but the other remained at large.

In the second incident, three prisoners, including two killers, chipped their way with a screwdriver through the 3.5-inch-thick concrete floor of the recreation

room (hiding their progress under a piece of furniture), dropped to the basement and filed through a barred window. They walked to a Dunkin' Donuts on Route 9 and took a cab to Bard College, where a female student who volunteered at the prison as a social worker drove them to Kingston to barhop. All three were soon caught.

A county judge denied youthful offender status to a 17-year-old burglar and sentenced him to state prison instead of probation. As the teen was being handcuffed, his parents hugged him and he and his mother both cried. The prosecutor said that during the six months since his arrest, the boy had not been able to stay out of trouble.

Pete Seeger and other members of the Beacon Sloop Club worked to finish a 50-foot dugout canoe. The project began after Seeger approached Dennis O'Leary of Hudson River Sloop Restoration. "Pete said he had always dreamed of building a dugout canoe, made from a tulip tree in the same way the Indians used to build them," he said. Two weeks later, while O'Leary was working for ConEd on a power line west of Bear Mountain, a 120-foot tulip tree needed to come down and the utility agreed to donate and deliver the trunk to the Sloop Club.

25 Years Ago (March 2000)

The City Council issued a special-use permit for Haven at Beacon Mills, a 180-unit assisted-living facility at 248 Tioronda Ave.,

the former Tuck Tape site. The Planning Board still needed to approve the site plan.

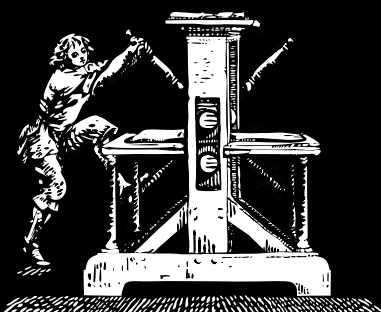
The Poughkeepsie Journal profiled Ed Murphy and Lawrence Hancock, who had been friends for 83 years. They grew up in Glenham and, after graduating from Beacon High School, both worked for the Texaco Research Center and the Town of Fishkill (Murphy as a constable and dog warden and Hancock as a judge for 62 years) and volunteered as firefighters with the Slater Chemical Co.

The City Council voted 4-3 not to create a police captain position, despite a request from Richard Sassi, who had been captain before being named chief in 1994. He said a captain would take a load off the shift commanders, but most council members felt the 38-man department was top-heavy with six lieutenants and six sergeants.

The state education commissioner visited South Avenue Elementary during a two-day tour of the Hudson Valley. "This is a high-performing school that is doing something right," he said. "I wanted to see why they are doing so well."

The City Council tabled a plan to demolish the ski lodge on Mount Beacon after receiving a proposal to restore the building and subdivide the 6-acre property into four home lots. James Bopp, one of the applicants, in 1978 had operated the last trolley up the mountain. "I always had in the back of my mind that I didn't want the ski lodge to go," he said.

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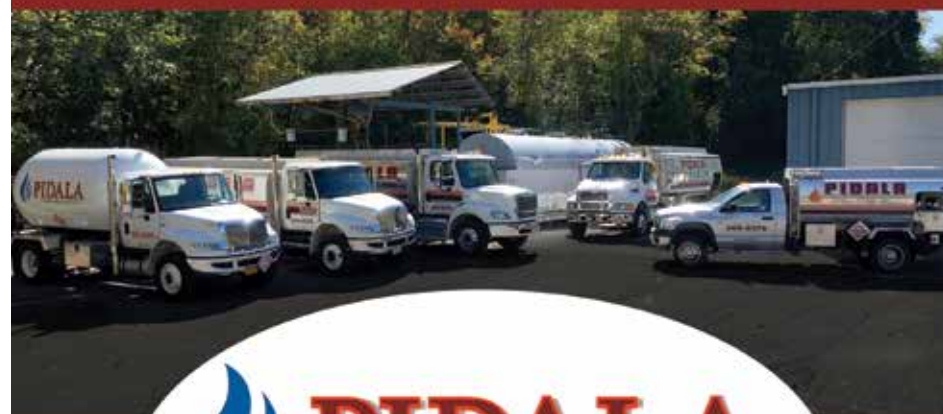
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Ralph Landolfi (1937-2025)

Ralph A. Landolfi was born to the late John and Mary (Musto) Landolfi on August 13, 1937, at Butterfield Hospital in Cold Spring, New York. He passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by family on March 14, 2025.

Ralph is survived by his devoted wife, Mariann. They were wed at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish on June 3, 1967. In their faithful 57 years together, they shared four children: Janine (Kevin), John (Tina), Maria (Michael) and Andrea (Thomas); 12 grandchildren: Christopher (April), Nicholas (Bridget), Luke, Julianna (Anthony), Emily, Jaclyn, Delaney, Sarah, Mary, Brody, Cooper and Declan; and one great granddaughter, Genevieve.

He is also survived by his in-laws, Richard and Sharon Maurice and Ralph Manzoeillo, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. In addition to his parents, Ralph was predeceased by his sister, Mary Manzoeillo.

As a lifelong Cold Spring resident, Ralph attended Our Lady of Loretto Catholic School and graduated eighth grade and then went on to Haldane, where he graduated in 1954. He took pride in the fact that each of his children and grandchildren followed in his footsteps.

He loved going to Haldane for their many sporting events, proms and graduations over the years. After high school, he joined the U.S. Army to serve his country. He shared many stories of his time overseas throughout Europe. Following his service, he spent 36 years in a fruitful career at IBM until he retired in 1992. He started a second career with the Village of Cold Spring Highway Department, where he worked for 10 years with many great people.

Ralph was a parishioner at Our Lady of Loretto parish and member of No. 536 Council of the Knights of Columbus. He also held many active roles in the community that were dear to him. He was a volunteer for the Cold Spring Fire Co., where he held many firematic roles, including chief and president, and a life member.

Ralph was also a former trustee for the Village of Cold Spring. He took great pride in the celebrations of this community, especially in his role as a chairman to the Recreation Committee for many years. He never missed a chance to wave the American flag at a parade on Main Street or partake in a celebration at the riverfront. In addition to his dedication to the Village of Cold Spring, he served as the Putnam County fire coordinator.

He was adored by many friends in the community and could be seen on Saturday mornings sipping coffee with the Cold Spring “old timers.”

Calling hours were held March 17, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring, New York. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital (stjude.org) or Our Lady of Loretto (ladyofloretto.org).

PAID NOTICE

Judge William Braatz (1930-2025)

William Bennett Braatz, 94, a former Cold Spring and Philipstown justice who served as a Putnam County court judge for 16 years, died March 11 in Port Charlotte, Florida.



He was born June 21, 1930, in Brooklyn, the only son of William Otto Braatz and Florence Ploof. After graduating from Mount Vernon High School, he earned a bachelor’s degree from the SUNY Teacher’s College at Cortland in 1952 and a law degree from Syracuse University in 1958. He served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954.

Bill practiced law for over 20 years in Carmel and Cold Spring, serving as a Cold Spring justice, Philipstown justice, president of the Putnam County Bar Association, president of the Haldane PTA, and secretary-treasurer of the Putnam County Legal Aid Society. He was elected as a Putnam County judge in 1982 and served until his retirement in 1999.

He was also a member of the Cold Spring Fire Co., the Philipstown Masonic Lodge, the American Legion and the Cold Spring Lions.

After retiring, he moved to Florida. Bill enjoyed boating, jazz and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Christensen, his children, Janet Braatz, Donna Engle, John Braatz and Jean Braatz, and his grandchildren, Taryn, Christopher, Julian and Joseph. His sister, June Petersen, and his granddaughter, Brenna Engle, died earlier.

A memorial service was held in Port Charlotte on March 14. Memorial donations may be made to the Brenna Engle Foundation (brennaenglefoundation.org) to support children in Ukraine.

Bill Cross (1931-2025)

William “Bill” A. Cross, 93, died March 3 in Redmond, Washington.



He was born in Beacon on Dec. 23, 1931, the son of William and Myrtle (Root) Cross. He graduated in 1951 from New York City College.

On Nov. 22, 1954, he married Helen Clee, who died in 1979. On June 18, 1983, he married Lois McAllister, who died in 2018.

In his younger days, Bill was a hunter and fisherman who enjoyed the mountains and streams of the Hudson Valley. Later he took up tennis. He also enjoyed the arts, growing bonsai, playing the piano and listening to classical music. He had a great sense of humor and loved telling stories, particularly of growing up in Beacon, his family said.

Bill was an accountant and general manager, which necessitated moving back and forth across the country. He retired in 2014, at age 83, from Corporate United Van Lines in Washington state. He also sat on the board of several charitable organizations.

He is survived by his children: William (Laurie), Joe (Patty), Tom (Anne Wehrly), Veronica Ryan (Bruce Pyles), Robert (Sally), Edward, John (Rose Brant); and his stepchildren, Ross McAllister and Megan Johnson (Mike). He also leaves behind 22 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. His siblings, Theresa Travis and Francois Cross, died earlier.

A brief graveside service will be held at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon at 11:30 a.m. on April 4, followed by a reception at the Southern Dutchess Country Club.

Brice McMasters (1945-2025)

Brice P. McMasters, 79, of Cold Spring, died March 5.

He was born June 12, 1945, in Brooklyn, the son of Brice and Ruth (Hueglin) McMasters. On Dec. 31, 1969, at Trinity Methodist Church in Denver, he married Linda Jean Travis.



Brice served in the U.S. Air Force from 1963 to 1967 and worked for many years as a supervisor for the Local 60 Laborer’s Union.

People in Cold Spring could find Brice on walks or drives in town with a friendly wave or by the river watching for eagles with his binoculars. He found immense fulfillment in his role as a grandfather, leaving a legacy of love for his grandchildren, his family said. He always brought a smile to their faces with his playful spirit and endless love.

Although his home remained in Cold Spring, Brice spent his last months in Poughkeepsie with his wife, daughter Lisa DiStefano (Michael) and grandchildren Madylin, Makayla and Brayden. Brice is also survived by his son Todd McMasters, his grandson Derek McMasters and his siblings, Margot Lonabaugh (Lonnie), Elyse Hendricks (Billie) and Edward McMasters.

Memorial donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice (hvhospice.org).

Other Recent Deaths

<i>Philipstown</i>	
Jean Brady, 85	Barbara Ann
Susan LaWare, 72	Vetoulis, 69
Lolly Merante, 77	
<i>Beacon</i>	
Kevin Atwell, 58	Sharon Plattner, 78
Harold Cohen, 89	Carol Santos, 70
Gail Ott, 81	Giselle Valentin, 39

For obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

Current Classifieds

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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.

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.

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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			

- ACROSS
1. Huck’s raftmate

4. Peeve

8. “Phooey!”

12. Docs’ bloc

13. List-ending abbr.

14. Bassoon’s kin

15. Dyeing vessel

16. Video-streaming brand

17. Radiate

18. Vulnerable spots

21. Physique

22. Youngster

23. “Taste!”

26. Chaps

27. Brit. sports cars

30. Stretches (out)

31. Polite address

32. Hawaiian coast

33. Speck

34. Aunt, in Mexico

35. Nodded off

36. Cyndi Lauper’s “— Bop”

37. Tennis feat

38. Spinning disks used by ceramic artists

45. Latin love

46. Authentic

47. Tic-tac-toe loser

48. Hindu royal

49. Bern’s river

50. — carte

51. Journey

52. Dance move

53. Tourist’s chart
- DOWN
1. Coffee, slangily

2. Apple since 1998

3. Calc. or trig

4. Red wine

5. “— you so!”

6. Bogus

7. Befuddle

8. Thesaurus compiler

9. Competent

10. Hammer or sickle

11. Gives a darn?
19. Nile wader

20. Sweetie

23. *Dilbert* engineer

24. MGM rival

25. Still

26. Soccer’s Hamm

27. *The Simpsons* barkeep

28. Econ. statistic

29. Plopped down

31. Western ranges

32. Swiss artist Paul

34. “That’ll be — day!”

35. Drag

36. Vegas area

37. Cognizant

38. Fraction

39. Sharif of film

40. Author Morrison

41. Pants part

42. Physical

43. Classic Kinks song

44. Bath bar

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

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

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.

Y	I	E	L	D

- Make way
- Type of paper
- Journal
- Incensed
- Expansive
- Cut short

HANFOPMADAM

ARAAOVAARETE

REDNEVEREVER

RNA TREKSE

YALLDDE DAMP

EGOSLIDER

GRAND ECOLE

PARISHBIT

ADIN ECOAJAR

PROXYOBI

FATCHANCE NOG

AMORE DALADE

BYNOW ORLSEL

Answers for March 14

XEYIIDALGI

BILMBJGEVR

LWLAVGQNM

IUXUTFOEUR

SYOHFERUBD

SLQGARDPHU

ZLCIYPESEKM

SODEOWPEOW

DJDGJZNYHD

OEOJOYFULTC

PEARL, CLEAR, DECAL,
CADET, CITED, DITCH

869453127

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512967384

681724539

295638471

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Small, Good Things

In-Betweening

By Joe Dizney



As of 5:01 a.m. yesterday (March 20), it is officially spring. Writing this on Monday, four days earlier, there is no way for me to know what the weather truly is or will be. The forecast says rain with a high of 49, which isn't particularly spring-like, but I have to concede it actually is.

We're firmly in that fuzzy gray bardo between the end of (the seemingly and unbearably long) winter and the traditional season of rebirth or, as a friend put it, "that infinitesimal quiver when despair bumps up against the whisper of hope."

The encouraging signs are — or have been — there: The snowdrops and crocuses emerged over the last couple of weeks from the composting mat of leaves and detritus

left from the fall. In my garden, hellebores, woodland peonies, lungwort and ferns are reintroducing themselves, with more activity surely on the way, and given the discouragement with national affairs, we need nature's optimism more than ever.

Likewise, the palate longs for some sweetness, light and sunshine after a season of stews, soups and heartier stick-to-the ribs staples, and while we're not 100 percent ready to give up those culinary comforts with the seasons still working out their differences, there are solutions to that conundrum.

Sweet spring green peas are a harbinger of the season, and while it is too early for peas from the garden, let's not forget the perennial charm of frozen peas, one of two freezer staples (the other being sweet corn) that may be better than fresh.

Picked at the peak, pre-shelled (another bonus), quickly blanched and flash-frozen, well-stored organic sweet peas (I'm partial to the Woodstock brand) require nothing beyond defrosting.

Yotam Ottolenghi recently sang their praises in his *New York Times* column with

a Spiced Pea Stew with Yogurt. The Green Shakshuka from a past *Small, Good Things* (highlandscurrent.org/shakshuka) is a brunch staple, and as a snack, Joshua McFadden's English Pea Toast from his *Six Seasons: A New Way With Vegetables* is always satisfying.

This week's recipe is a seasonal compromise, offering the warmth and cheesy

creaminess of a risotto with the brightness of lemon added at the last minute, along with the peas, and amplified by a sprinkle of whatever fresh-chopped herbs you prefer — parsley, mint, basil, dill, tarragon or a combination — for a verdant kick.

That should hold you over until the seasons work their thing out.

Sweet Pea Risotto with Lemon & Herbs

Serves 4

1 quart vegetable broth (homemade or good quality organic)
3 tablespoons butter
1 small yellow onion, chopped fine
Salt and ground black pepper
1½ cup Carnaroli rice (or Vialone Nano or Arborio varieties)
¼ cup dry white wine (optional)
1½ cups organic frozen peas, thawed; patted dry
2 teaspoons grated lemon zest, plus 2 tablespoons lemon juice
½ cup finely grated Parmesan cheese + more for serving
2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, basil, mint, dill or tarragon, or a combination

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, bring the broth plus 2 cups water to a simmer. Reduce heat to low and keep warm.
2. In a large saucepan adjacent to the warm broth, melt 2 tablespoons butter over medium. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the rice and cook, stirring constantly, until the edges are translucent, about 1 to 2 minutes.
3. If using wine, add and cook, stirring until the rice is just slightly moist. Then add 3 cups hot broth; raise heat to a boil over medium-high. Immediately reduce to medium and cook, stirring briskly, until almost all the broth is absorbed, about 10 to 12 minutes, adjusting heat as needed to maintain a strong simmer.
4. Adding about ½ cup broth at a time, stir until most of the liquid has gone. Repeat process until you've used most of the broth and the rice is cooked al dente at its center, about 8 to 10 minutes. (You may not need all the broth.) The risotto should be loose but not soupy — Venetians call this state *all'onda*, or "like a wave."
5. Off heat, stir in remaining 1 tablespoon butter. Add peas, lemon zest and juice. Add the ½ cup Parmesan and stir to incorporate. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve sprinkled with the herb(s) of your choice. Serve hot in individual bowls; pass additional freshly grated Parmesan to add at the table.



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