

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Caught in Amber  
Page 14

MARCH 28, 2025

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The Mayor in repose

File photo

## A Light in the Coop

*The Mayor flies into eternity*

By Jeff Simms

Karen Finnegan never expected the bird to have such an impact.

Before The Mayor became the unofficial mascot of Beacon, the red hen was a scruffy, squawky stray who had a thing for laying eggs in people's yards. In the spring of 2020, about two months after the pandemic shutdown began, the hen was seen wandering around Harbor Hill Court and Davies Avenue. Neighbors dubbed her the Beacon Hood Chicken.

Finnegan already owned chickens, so when she read about the stray online, she drove from her home in Fishkill to rescue it from what surely would have been a lonely, and perhaps short, life on the streets. Once home with her new family, the hen carried herself like she owned the place. She was renamed The Mayor.

She would peck at the back door to be let inside. Unintimidated by larger members of the animal kingdom, she drank water from the same dish as the three family dogs.

Once, when The Mayor slipped into Finnegan's house, she hopped up on the kitchen table and took a sip from her husband Kevin's coffee. Exasperated, he could only muster: "There's a chicken in here. I need a new coffee."

That's the confident, outspoken bird that Finnegan recalled on Tuesday (March 25), a week after The Mayor died quietly in her arms. Finnegan said she doesn't suspect

(Continued on Page 9)

## Librarians Scramble as Trump Targets Agency

*Institute sends \$8 million annually to New York*

By Chip Rowe

Local librarians are campaigning against a March 14 executive order issued by President Donald Trump that could cripple a New York agency that distributes state

funds to local libraries.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, D.C., which has a \$290 million budget, sends federal money to cultural institutions and state library associations, including \$8 million annually that funds the New York Division of Library Development.

The DLD is responsible for distributing

state aid to public libraries — including \$70 million annually to those outside New York City — through regional organizations like the Mid-Hudson Library System, whose 66 members include the Howland in Beacon, the Butterfield in Cold Spring and the Desmond-Fish in Garrison. The DLD also oversees \$45 million in state funds distributed each year

(Continued on Page 6)



**SWEET!** — The Little Stony Point Citizens Association held its annual Maple Syrup Day at the park on March 23, with pancakes, live music, coffee, cocoa, lollipops and — did we mention? — maple syrup. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org). Photo by Ross Corsair

## Hudson Highlands Reserve Gets Final Approval

*Developer proposes million-dollar homes off Route 9*

By Leonard Sparks

The Philipstown Planning Board gave its final approval on March 20 to a site plan for Hudson Highlands Reserve, a 24-lot residential project revived in 2021 after being in limbo for more than five years.

Horton Road LLC, the developer, applied

to construct 22 homes on part of a 210-acre property between Horton Road and East Mountain Road North, setting aside 79 percent as open space. The homes, at 2,500-to-3,000 square feet, will be listed for \$1 million to \$3 million and built to "green" environmental standards. They will be clustered, along with two existing residences, on 31 acres and accessed from a new road off Route 9.

The development also will include a

commercial lot on the highway and a 15-acre common lot with a 19th-century barn for a homeowners' association clubhouse. As part of its agreement with the town, Horton Road LLC agreed to pay \$105,000 in recreation fees.

The project is Philipstown's first approved "conservation subdivision," which allows the developer to build more homes in exchange for leaving open space. Its 166 acres of

(Continued on Page 9)



# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: LILLIAN MOSER

By Joey Asher

Lillian Moser was elected in December as the first female president in the 129-year history of the Cold Spring Fire Co.

## How did you become a volunteer fire-fighter?

I graduated from college in 1994 and moved back to Cold Spring to care for my mother. We were living at 133 Main St., the home of my great-grandfather, Edward Joseph Engelbride, who had been the village tobacconist. The house was directly across from the firehouse. One day in 1996, I was sitting on the front porch, bored, when the fire truck pulled out. It was an old Ford engine that sounded like a fire truck should sound. I thought it was telling me to be a firefighter. That's when I joined. Next year will be my 30th.

## How many women were in the fire company at that time?

I was the third woman to join the company. The first was Barbara "Charlie" Murphy. The second was Nicole Miozzi, who was a friend. She told me it was going to be difficult being a woman in a male-dominated field. But most men have been supportive, especially when they saw that women could contribute just like them.



## What's it like to fight a fire?

I promised my mother and my best friends that I would not run into burning buildings, so I'm exclusively an exterior firefighter. Our fire trucks hold as much as 2,500 gallons of water. When that water runs out, you need to "hit" a hydrant. I love to do that; it is so cool. It kind of relates to giving someone a blood transfusion. One of the most memorable fires was at the Grand Union [grocery store] in February 2002. We couldn't use the hydrant system because the store's sprinkler system kicked in and killed the water supply. We lost the Grand Union, but we didn't lose the entire strip. The firewalls did their job. It became Foodtown when it was rebuilt.

## What is a misconception people might have about the fire company?

There are a lot of people in the area who don't understand that when you dial 911, the FDNY is not going to show up. When you have an oil burner malfunction, a gas leak or a fire, and you call the fire department, our members' pagers go off. Up in North Highlands, the siren is going to sound. And then your next-door neighbor is going to get in his or her car and drive to the firehouse. They're going to put on their gear, hop on a fire truck and come to your house. Some people, when they understand that, that's when they join. We've had an uptick in membership in the last few years; we have about 30 active members.

## What is the biggest challenge for the company?

Outfitting our personnel with the equipment needed to respond to calls. Putnam County has installed a new radio system, so our radios and pagers are going to be obsolete. Pagers cost \$450 and radios can cost \$8,000. We're starting a campaign soon to raise \$40,000 to pay for that, as well as other gear. We are also concerned about how our call volume may increase due to the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. We may need funding to deal with that extra work.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## What bird or critter's arrival means it's spring for sure?

“Robins. I love their eggs; there's not much blue in nature.”



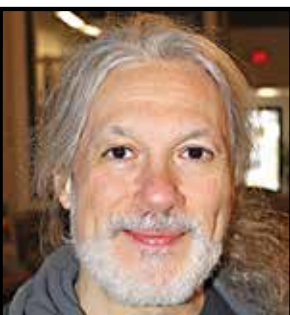
Luke McCoubrey, Cold Spring

“Do visitors from the city count?”



Leah Andrews, Cold Spring

“Peepers, but you don't hear them much in Beacon.”



Adam "Bear" Vitti

### MUSIC & MAPS FAMILY PROGRAM

Saturday, April 5th at 3pm • Howland Cultural Center, Beacon NY  
Free, advanced registration required

**Sat. Apr 5 – 3 PM**  
**MUSIC & MAPS FAMILY PROGRAM**  
Join Clearwater educators and Linda Richards Music. Travel the Hudson through music, movement, and songs. Navigate the river with a giant Hudson River puzzle. Free. Made possible by NYSOCFS grant - [bit.ly/cwkids45](https://bit.ly/cwkids45)

**Sat + Sun – Mar 29 +30 – 1-5 PM**  
**EXHIBIT - REALISM ON THE HUDSON**  
Art Exhibit & Sale - Thru Apr 13 - Most Fri/Sat/Sun

**Sat. Mar 29 – 3 PM**  
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**Sat. Apr 5 – 8 PM**  
**THE ARTICHOKE Presents: MARTIN DOCKERY**  
“Every Good Story Ends With One”  
*Tix: [artichokeshow.com](https://artichokeshow.com)*  
Mar 28 - Howland's Open Mic Night  
Apr 4 - LIT LIT  
Apr 10 - STEPHEN CLAIR & RJ COWDERY  
Apr 11 - LiveWriting: Presents Poets and Projects  
Visit; website, social media for more events, info, tickets

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For tickets and info on these and other Chapel events please visit [chapelrestoration.org](https://chapelrestoration.org)

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**TICKETS \$25**

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NEWS BRIEFS

Democrat Joins District 17 Race

West Point grad grew up in Orange County

An Army veteran from Orange County has declared as a Democratic candidate for the U.S. House district represented by Republican Mike Lawler, which includes Philipstown. The seat will be on the ballot in 2026.

Cait Conley, 39, a 2007 West Point graduate, served 16 years in the U.S. Army, including six overseas tours. She was director of counterterrorism for the National Security Council for two years and worked at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency until January. The Ossining resident also holds master's degrees in business administration and public policy from MIT and Harvard.

Two other Democrats have declared for the race: Beth Davidson, a Rockland County legislator, and Jessica Reinmann, a nonprofit executive in Westchester.



Conley

to apply for 14 open positions at the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center.

In an executive order, Gov. Kathy Hochul banned state agencies from hiring any of the 2,000 officers whom the state fired when they did not return to their jobs by a March 10 deadline. State law prohibits public service employees from striking.

Hochul's order prohibited counties and municipalities from hiring any of the fired employees for 30 days, or before April 9. The officers will need to recertify as peace officers within a year.

The strike began Feb. 17 and spread to most of the state's 42 facilities. Officers demanded more staffing, no forced overtime and safer conditions. The action was "wildly expensive for taxpayers — approaching \$100 million" and "created a very dangerous situation," the governor said.

Report: Bridge Needs Protection

Newburgh-Beacon among 12 named in state

Federal investigators identified 68 bridges in 19 states, including the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, that may be vulnerable to collapse after ship strikes.

The National Transportation Safety Board on March 20 recommended that owners of the bridges perform assessments. It pointed to a failure by the Maryland Transportation Authority to assess the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore,

which collapsed in March 2024 after being hit by a drifting cargo ship.

Twelve of the 68 bridges are in New York state, including Newburgh-Beacon and the Rip Van Winkle between Hudson and Catskill. The NTSB said the bridges are not in danger of collapse but that their owners should ensure they meet or exceed durability standards set by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Beacon Police Make Fourth Arrest in Killing

Suspect accused in 2022 drive-by shooting

Beacon police on Tuesday (March 25) arrested a fourth suspect in the May 2022 drive-by killing of Lionell Pittman Jr., 32, in the parking lot at the Forrestal Heights apartment complex on West Center Street.

Jarell Brown, 32, of Beacon, was charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy and sent to the Dutchess County jail.

Police last year separately arrested three men they say were involved in the shooting: Naije Perrette, 25, of Beacon; Khyree Pratt, 23, of Philadelphia; and Zyree Downing, 24, of Delaware. Police said they continue to investigate a motive.

Nelsonville Sued Over Flooding

Homeowner seeks \$50K in damages

A homeowner is suing the Village of Nelsonville for \$50,000 for damages to

her Secor Street home during storm flooding in 2023.

In the complaint, Susan Branagan accuses the village of routinely allowing branches, leaves and debris to block the drain grate for a culvert across the street from her home. On July 9, 2023, she said, the blockage caused the first floor of her home to fill with up to 35 inches of water.

Eight days after the storm, Branagan told the Village Board that she and a neighbor often cleaned the culvert themselves. According to the filing, Mayor Chris Winward warned them about do-it-yourself fixes, and Branagan responded: "Stop the water from rising in my house and I will not do dangerous things."

Water Fines Assessed in Beacon

Reversed if appointment made by April 21

About 500 Beacon water customers who have not scheduled the free replacement of a radio transmitter on their meters will be assessed a \$250 fine on their April 1 bills, the city said.

The fine will be reversed for residents who make an appointment for the switch before April 21. Once upgraded, the meters will use a cloud-based connection to provide real-time usage readings. See [dub.sh/beacon-meters](https://highlandscurrent.org/sh/beacon-meters) or call 877-860-8376.

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

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TUESDAY, APRIL 8

6:30 - 8:00PM

AT

BEACON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Selections from "Work in Decay: Mt. Beacon Photos by Patrick Prosser"

Enjoy a self-guided tour with docents on hand to answer your questions.

TICKETS:

Members: \$15\*

Non-Members: \$35\*

- includes *Current* membership!

Limited spots available! Reserve your tickets today.

Purchase tickets at [highlandscurrent.org/beacon-event](https://highlandscurrent.org/beacon-event).

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



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\* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 23

## Tell us what you think

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

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Beacon streets

All too often we take certain departments in Beacon for granted. But this past winter gave us the opportunity to appreciate the Highway Department. Keeping our 59 miles of roads clear of snow was no easy task, yet Michael Manzi's crews stepped up to the plate (as usual) to make driving as safe as possible.

We are fortunate to have such dedicated employees working to make our lives just a little bit better and safer.

Charles Dunn, *Beacon*

### Into the Woods

My wife and I attended Haldane Drama's performance of *Into the Woods* on March 21 and were blown away by the quality of the performance ("Into the Woods with Haldane Drama," March 21). We left deeply impressed that such a small school could put on such a great show. It was also a joy to see in the program how many community members came together to help build and paint the set, which was as first-rate as the acting.

The evening was a great testament to the quality of our community and school. Credit goes to the directors, Martha Mechalakos and Andrea McCue, who must be extraordinary people. To all those who missed this great performance, don't miss

the next one! No need to travel into the city. We have great theater right here.

Full disclosure: Our daughter Maria was a member of the stage crew. We are grateful she had this experience, which she will remember for a lifetime.

Peter McFadden, *Cold Spring*

Stephen Sondheim's music is not "atonal." Nor is the plot "campy." Please keep in mind that there are theatrical professionals living in the community who object to such inaccurate characterizations.

Lisa Sabin, *Philipstown*

### Village traffic

I appreciate *The Current's* coverage of this important study ("Rutgers Shares Cold Spring Traffic Report," March 21). However, some editorial choices removed the operative phrase in one of my responses and gave a false impression of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council recommendations for Routes 9D and 301.

When asked for my main takeaways from the report, I said the NYMTC report "emphasizes steps that are common sense and simple, and that we can do for ourselves, on our own terms, to improve pedestrian movement for residents and visitors alike."

*On our own terms* is the operative phrase.

Additionally, the primary NYMTC recommendations for 9D and 301 are for daylighting the intersection (i.e., moving parked cars farther away from the pedestrian crosswalks to improve visibility) and restriping the crosswalks, as well as lengthening the lead pedestrian interval and retiming the signal cycle.

Although some workshop participants advocated for left-turn lanes at the intersection, NYMTC stated that: "It is unlikely that there would be adequate roadway width to accommodate sidewalk/curb extension and the addition of a left turn lane. A complete engineering study would be necessary to move [that] forward."

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*

*Foley is the Cold Spring mayor.*

As tourism to Cold Spring increases, pedestrian safety will only become more important. The Rutgers report shows there is much work to be done. Kudos to Mayor Foley and Trustee Laura Bozzi for their support of its proposals, especially regarding crosswalks, which are too often ignored by speeding drivers.

Tom Stephens, *Cold Spring*

### Village election

I was sad to learn that Eliza Starbuck and Aaron Freimark won't be running in the fall for their seats on the Cold Spring Village Board ("Two Cold Spring Trustees Won't Run for Re-election," March 21). Over the past few years, they have been instrumental in delivering much-needed programs and bringing diversity of thought to the village administration.

Starbuck has done yeoman's work coordinating the implementation of a much-needed (but somewhat controversial) paid parking program. Likewise, Freimark's analysis and common-sense scrutiny regarding a plethora of initiatives has been refreshing and timely.

Both have exhibited fiscal responsibility and a genuine concern for our tax dollars, challenging expenditures that have, at times, seemed unnecessary. Perhaps most importantly, they have had the courage to speak truth to power, often voicing disparate viewpoints in what many in the village feel has become an autocratic environment that is hostile to different opinions.

Good luck to Trustees Starbuck and Freimark and thank you for your service and commitment to our little village.

Walter Ulmer, *Cold Spring*

### Beacon firehouse

This is sad news ("Beacon Engine Firefighters Want to Keep Station," March 21). Surely something can be worked out. It sounds like

(Continued on Page 5)





# Hooray for Open Government

Last week was the annual Sunshine Week, a national initiative to promote the importance of open government and freedom of information.

Below is a list of best practices that the New York Coalition for Open Government ([nyopengov.org](http://nyopengov.org)) recommends that taxpayer-funded boards and agencies adopt. Adherence to these guidelines locally is hit or miss.

- Advance Meeting Notices**
  - We will provide notice of all meetings at least one week in advance.
  - Notices will be posted on our website and sent via email to the media and the public.
- Public Access to Agendas & Documents**
  - Meeting agendas and related documents will be posted at least 48 hours before meetings.
  - An online archive will be maintained for easy access to past documents.

- Timely Meeting Minutes**
  - Meeting minutes will be posted online within two weeks after each meeting.
- Limited Use of Executive Sessions**
  - Government meetings should be conducted in public.
  - Executive sessions will only be held in rare cases and in full compliance with the New York State Open Meetings Law.
  - We support requiring a two-thirds vote for executive sessions instead of a simple majority.

- Public Participation**
  - Members of the public will be allowed to speak before votes on both agenda and non-agenda items.
  - Participation will be allowed in person or remotely.
- Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Compliance**
  - FOIL information will be prominently displayed on our website.
  - We will proactively post as much public information as possible to reduce the need for FOIL requests.
  - A user-friendly online FOIL request form will be available.
- Financial Transparency**
  - Elected officials should complete an Annual Financial Disclosure Form.
  - Forms will be posted publicly on our government website, just as state officials do.

- No Private Political Caucus Meetings**
  - While legally allowed, we will not hold private political caucus meetings.
  - There is no valid reason for local governments to discuss public business in private.
- Livestreaming & Video Access**
  - We support livestreaming meetings and posting video recordings online.
  - If not already implemented, we are committed to making this happen as soon as possible.
- FOIL Request Processing & Reporting**
  - We are committed to timely responses to FOIL requests.
  - Quarterly status reports on pending FOIL requests will be requested from the town clerk or appropriate staff.

| LETTERS AND COMMENTS  |   | AROUND THE REGION   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>(Continued from Page 4)</p> <p>the Reformed Church on Route 9D that was sold to a developer rather than to a congregation that needed a church; the congregation should have been given preference.</p> <p>Let the retired firefighters have the building — if anyone has earned the right to keep it, they have, and their pride in it will make careful use of it. It is unique and beautiful, with a wonderful history. What better space to tell the history of firefighting in our city, as well as a new place for community events.</p> <p>A building like this should not be sacrificed for yet more soulless luxury condos. Show our community that a building like this has more intrinsic value for our city than lining the pockets of real-estate agents.</p> <p>Mary Fris, <i>Beacon</i></p> <p>With the covenants and historic-place designation, what would a developer do with it anyway? Let the guys have it. They've been taking care of maintenance for five years — that should count for something. The city's argument seems to be that it owns it. OK ... so? That doesn't mean it needs to be sold to a developer.</p> <p>Ryan Palmer, <i>via Facebook</i></p> |   | <p><b>Carmel</b></p> <h2>Democrats Endorse County Candidates</h2> <p>The Putnam County Democratic Party has endorsed candidates to challenge two incumbents in November for their seats on the Legislature and pursue another that will be vacated.</p> <p>Brett Yarris, an entrepreneur and football coach, will attempt to unseat Greg Ellner representing Carmel Hamlet and Lake Carmel; Lenny Harrington, a senior project manager and 30-year county resident, will vie for the seat held by Erin Crowley to represent the Town of Carmel and Mahopac; and Thomas Sprague, who owns Bob's Diner in Brewster, will run for the seat representing Southeast being vacated by Paul Jonke.</p> <p>The only Democrat on the nine-member Legislature is Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley.</p> <hr/> <p>Visit <a href="http://highlandscurrent.org">highlandscurrent.org</a> for news updates and latest information.</p> |
| <h3>Correction</h3> <p>Due to an editing error, we reported in the March 21 issue that Second Wave Supplies is located at the KuBe Art Center in Beacon. In fact, it is located at Beacon Music Factory.</p> <p>Maybe the firefighters can hold some training at that location?</p> <p>Joseph Rutz, <i>via Facebook</i></p> <h3>Plan revision</h3> <p>Why not drop the gas station and build the solar farm ("Route 9 Plan to be Downsized," March 21)?</p> <p>Sean Conway, <i>Cold Spring</i></p> <h3>Town halls</h3> <p>This is not a "schedule" ("Lawler Announces Town Halls," March 21). Schedules include dates, times and locations. Dates, for those who are unaware, include months and specific numbered days. Times identify specific hours and minutes of specific numbered days. Locations must be narrowed down to a specific place within a county, so that people know where to report.</p>   | <p>Lawler "announced" this "schedule" to get a headline and a quote that said he announced a town hall schedule even though he has done no such thing. This should not have been published until it included real details for the benefit of the public. It's shameful to see this publication become part of Lawler's PR operation.</p> <p>Acacia Mauriello, <i>Ossining</i><br/><i>Mauriello is the director of communications for Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, whose district includes Philipstown.</i></p> <h3>Fjord Trail</h3> <p>Why is it necessary to publish a concept drawing/vague illustration of the future Breakneck Connector with only two people walking in the picture — as if this scene could ever be duplicated in reality ("State to Close Breakneck for Two Years," March 21)? This appears to be a partisan boost by this newspaper for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail administrators.</p> <p>We all know that hundreds of thousands of people will eventually be attracted to this \$80 million bridge, and it will never be a serene locale for just two casual strollers.</p> <p>Pete Salmansohn, <i>Cold Spring</i></p> |   |

## 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](http://highlandscurrent.org/scholarships).

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





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914-552-1136 | mindyjeseck65@gmail.com  
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www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com



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## Librarians (from Page 1)

for library construction projects. The Mid-Hudson Library System, which is based in Poughkeepsie and has a \$3.74 million budget, provides support services, programming grants and negotiates discounted group licenses from software, e-book and database providers (see right).

**762** Public libraries in New York

“The absence of DLD staff to facilitate aid programs that impact us is our largest, immediate concern,” said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, executive director of the Mid-Hudson system. “Severe delays in receiving our operating aid could deplete our reserve funds and compromise our ability to pay our bills.”

Along with shared resources, the Howland library expects to receive \$8,200 in grants from MHLS in 2025; Desmond-Fish, \$4,000; and Butterfield, \$54,000 for an HVAC project. “We pushed to finish the project so as not to incur additional costs as we were told by contractors that prices were set to increase in April due to tariffs” implemented by President Trump, said Joanna Reinhardt, the director at Butterfield. “This was prior to learning of the IMLS news; we may have held off had we known.”

Gillian Murphy, the director at the Howland, feels that same sense of uncertainty. “Grant money may not come through or will come late because lack of staff,” she said. “We have construction grants that we rely on and who knows what will happen to those.”

The IMLS, created by Congress in 1996, is one of seven small agencies named in Trump’s executive order, titled “Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy.” It directs that the agencies be “eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law.”

The acting director of IMLS, Keith Sonderling, said on March 20 that he planned to “revitalize” the agency and “restore focus on patriotism, ensuring we preserve our country’s core values, promote American exceptionalism and cultivate love of country in future generations.”

The federal money sent to states by IMLS should be funded through October, Smith Aldrich said, but 60 of the agency’s 70 employees have been placed on administrative leave, which “calls into question if this is happening. The Grants to States Program may need to be reauthorized this fall by Congress,” which is a focus of lobbying.

IMLS also distributes grants to museums. The Greater Hudson Heritage Network received \$269,038 in 2024 to conserve 35 objects at 10 museums, including Maj. John Andre’s flute at Boscobel in Philipstown.

## Catching Up

Highlights from 2024 and early 2025 meetings of the Desmond-Fish and Butterfield library boards are posted at highlandscurrent.org.

# E-book Boom

*Demand surges at libraries, but they are expensive*

By Joey Asher

A trip to the library used to mean driving into town, searching the shelves for the latest bestselling novel and taking the book to the circulation desk.

These days, more residents are opening their smartphones or tablets, scrolling through digital shelves and tapping “borrow.”

Librarians in the Highlands report dramatic increases in apps like Libby and Hoopla that allow patrons to borrow e-books, audiobooks and digital magazines.

“You can bring a piece of the library with you on the road,” said Johanna Reinhardt, director of the Butterfield library in Cold Spring. Reinhardt said the library circulated nearly 20,000 e-books, audiobooks and other electronic material last year, compared to 2,200 in 2015.

The demand is similar at the Howland library in Beacon and the Desmond-Fish library in Garrison. In January alone, nearly 80,000 e-books, audiobooks and other digital materials were circulated through the Mid-Hudson Library System to patrons using Libby. Ten years ago, it was 16,000.

Gillian Murphy, director at the Howland, said that digital loans will soon be dominant. “We’re still lending more print books, but it’s going to flip in the next couple of years,” she said. Dede Farabaugh, the director at Desmond-Fish, added: “We have patrons who never see us because they’re just doing things electronically.”

The growth of digital lending brings financial challenges because libraries must purchase licenses that are sometimes more expensive than the physical copy. For example, a digital copy of a bestseller may cost \$15 on Amazon, but libraries often must pay \$50 or more and are limited in how many times it can be lent. With print books, libraries may pay \$30 for a bestseller and lend it out until it falls apart.

Last year, Butterfield reduced the e-books and other items that patrons can check out on the Hoopla platform from 10 to five per month because of a surge in usage that raised costs.

Public libraries have lobbied for legislation to reduce e-book prices, but Gov. Kathy Hochul vetoed a bill that would have compelled publishers to lower digital prices for libraries. She said the legislation would violate federal copyright laws that give publishers and authors the right to determine what to charge.

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# Draft School Budget Includes Officer, Lunch

*Garrison proposal anticipates 3.58 percent increase*

By Joey Asher

The Garrison School soon may have an armed police officer and a lunch program if the board and voters approve a spending proposal for the 2025-26 academic year.

Both the officer and the lunch program are described as pilots in the latest version of the \$14.7 million budget, which was shared with the board at its March 19 meeting. It includes a tax levy increase of 3.58 percent, which is below the 5.78 percent allowed for the district under the state's complex tax-cap formula.

The district estimates that a Philipstown home assessed at \$300,250 would see its taxes rise by \$306 annually.

To avoid raising the levy any further, the administration proposed paying for the pilot programs with savings. The board will vote on the budget on April 9 and district voters will be asked for their approval on May 20.

The Special Patrol Officer (SPO) would be a retired officer whose role is limited to security. The school would not hire a School Resource Officer (SRO), which is a Putnam County Sheriff's deputy with training to work in schools and teach classes on topics such as personal safety, cyberbullying and drug awareness. The Haldane district has an SRO. The cost for the

SPO would be \$53,900 annually, according to the district, compared to \$100,000 for an SRO.

The Garrison Teachers Association has lobbied for an officer, but some board members expressed ambivalence or opposition.

"I continue to believe an SPO program really doesn't make us safer, but of course I can't speak to anyone's feelings of safety," said Peter Lesser on March 19. "If our teachers feel that an SPO program is an essential component to giving our students the best education possible, I can support a pilot."

Eric Arnold spoke against an armed officer. "We're introducing a person and a deadly object where it didn't exist," he said. "What happens if the gun falls out of the

holster in the hallway and goes off or a kid grabs it or the SPO is having mental health challenges of their own."

Superintendent Greg Stowell said that the district would be careful in selecting an officer. "If my own children were enrolled in this building, I would want an SRO or SPO," he said.

The lunch program would be available Monday through Thursday; on Fridays, the school would continue to sell pizza as a fundraiser. The district would need \$150,000 to pay for staff, kitchen upgrades and a checkout system, Stowell said.

The program will be a pilot because "if we don't find a partner to supply our meals and/or there are very low participation levels, it may not be feasible to move forward," he said.

# Beacon Asserts Firehouse Ownership

*Judge expected to rule on legal challenge*

By Jeff Simms

A title expert hired by the City of Beacon testified in court last week that the municipality has owned the Beacon Engine Co. firehouse at 57 East Main St. since 1889, the year it was built.

Earlier this month, a group of retired volunteer firefighters asked state Judge Maria Rosa to pause an order by the city for them to vacate the former firehouse by March 31 because Beacon intends to sell the building. The firefighters challenged the city's ownership, saying it relied on "aged, handwritten deeds" and "incomplete searches and conclusory assertions." They asked Rosa to stop any sale until she determined their rights.

Paul Conrad, the president of Real Property Abstract & Title Services, a Poughkeepsie firm, testified on March 21 that, after surveying the site and conducting an "extensive, thorough review" of deeds dating from 1860 to 1921, "the city's ownership of the property is clear." Conrad said the volunteer Beacon Engine Co. "never came into ownership of such reserved land."

The 2½-story brick firehouse was conveyed to the Village of Matteawan, he said, which

merged with Fishkill Landing in 1913 to become the City of Beacon. Property owned by the village was assumed by Beacon.

Rosa denied the firefighters' request for a pause on March 14. She is expected to rule on the ownership dispute next month.

The city intends to sell the empty Beacon Engine and Mase Hook & Ladder stations to offset the \$14.7 million it spent on a central fire station that opened near City Hall last fall. According to an agreement filed with the court, Gate House Compass Realty will list Beacon Engine in May for \$1.75 million and Mase, at 425 Main St., for \$1.95 million.

Gate House will receive a commission of 2 percent of the sales — or \$35,000 and \$39,000, respectively, if the buildings sell for the asking prices. The agency's agreement with the city gives it exclusive listing rights until Nov. 1.

Any delay in marketing the properties could prevent the city from obtaining the highest price, City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis wrote in a memo to the judge. He argued that the retired firefighters have failed to produce any title reports, recorded deeds or certified surveys showing ownership.

The City Council voted in February 2020 to close Beacon Engine, one of two stations in the city that had been headquarters for volunteer fire companies for more than a century. At the time, it was believed that the volunteer company owned the 1889 station, with the city

holding an engine bay that was added in 1924.

The city's plan was to modernize Mase and the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. building, a third volunteer station. But by 2023, two things had changed: Beacon officials conducted a title search that they said showed municipal ownership of Beacon Engine. In addition, the city pivoted, opting to tear down Tompkins Hose and build the central station at the site. When it opened, the Beacon Engine and Mase buildings became surplus.

According to testimony by Mayor Lee Kyriacou, the retired volunteers offered in

## \$1,750,000

Expected listing price for Beacon Engine Co. firehouse

2023 to lease or purchase Beacon Engine. The city rejected that offer but the mayor said he told the volunteers they could use the station rent-free as a social hub and to coordinate charitable campaigns. When the central fire station was completed, they were welcome to meet there, he said.

## AROUND THE REGION

### Poughkeepsie

## Social Security Office to Remain Open

The Social Security Administration office in Poughkeepsie, which appeared on a list compiled by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) for closure, has instead renewed its lease for 10 years, according to the agency.

However, the lease for the White Plains hearing office, which expires May 31, will not be renewed. The SSA closed its office in Kingston in 2023 and in Newburgh in 2024.

Leland Dudek, the acting Social Secu-

city commissioner, said Hudson Valley residents can travel to offices in Manhattan, New Haven, the Bronx or Goshen.

"Despite Westchester County offering alternate space to keep the office open, SSA has refused to explore that option," said Rep. Mike Lawler, a Republican whose district includes Philipstown, in a statement. "Dudek cited mold issues in the current building and claimed the closure wouldn't affect most claimants."

# THE STATION

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**7 days a week 11a-9p**






# Trees Required for Philipstown Project

*Neighbors seek to reclaim view and privacy*

By Leonard Sparks

When the Rosenberg family bought a house in 2013 on a hill rising from Route 9 in Philipstown, the views to the south and north were “1,000 percent blocked with trees,” said Beth Rosenberg.

To the south sat Cockburn Farms, which had been dormant for two decades. To the north was a single-family home at 201 Old West Point Road.

“We didn’t hear anything and didn’t see anything,” she said.

Three years later, in 2016, Sean Barton and Joshua Maddocks bought and reopened Cockburn Farms to sell Christmas trees. Five years after that, Barton bought the home to the north, cut down trees and began operating, without town approval, a landscaping business.

“I would have never bought the property if it was sandwiched between two commercial properties,” said Mark Rosenberg.

Now, some trees will be returning, courtesy of the Philipstown Planning Board, which is reviewing a request by Barton and his company, KPB Properties, to legalize its commercial use of 201 Old West Point Road.

KPB wants to construct a 7,400-square-foot, two-story building with an office and

storage for landscaping equipment and materials. It will have eight parking spaces and an access road from Route 9 that runs along the south side of the Garrison Garage. The residence will remain.

A planting plan reviewed during a public hearing in February shows young trees along the front of the structure to screen it from Route 9 but no screening along the border with the Rosenberg property. “He absolutely needs to find not just one level of depth [of trees] but a couple of levels for Beth’s side because that just seems like an unnecessary burden for a homeowner,” said board Chair Neal Zuckerman.

When the hearing continued March 20, project engineer Margaret McManus opened with a revised proposal reflecting changes based on the board’s criticisms. Chief among them: Two rows of evergreens — up to 8 feet when planted, and as high as 50 feet when mature — to replace weathered stockade fencing.

Between the hearings, Beth Rosenberg said she and Barton discussed her family’s concerns while walking the property together. “Since we were able to talk, it ironed out some things,” she said. “It’s just the privacy.”

Both properties are in the Highway Commercial zone, which allows single-family homes to coexist with businesses ranging from art galleries and bed-and-breakfasts to light-industry, retail and service businesses.



Beth and Mark Rosenberg said their view north looked like this when they bought their home in 2013. Photo provided



The current view from the Rosenberg property could soon include a two-story storage facility. Photo by L. Sparks

Cockburn Farms had not grown trees since the mid-1990s when Barton and Maddocks, both from Garrison, purchased the property. In 2018, KPB bought 201 and 203 Old West Point Road.

According to Ron Gainer, the town’s engineer, Barton moved his landscaping business to 201 Old West Point Road “without benefit of any permits or town approvals,” resulting in multiple violations and a stop-work order.

When Barton introduced the project to the Planning Board in January 2024, his appearance “had been mandated by the court,” which required that he get a site plan approved by the board, said Gainer.

Last month, Beth Rosenberg told the Planning Board that she and her husband and three children were sometimes awak-

ened as early as 6 a.m. by the sounds of mowers and other equipment, along with workers yelling and playing music. Those concerns spurred a discussion this month about ways to mitigate the impact on the family, including adjusting operating hours.

Barton told the board that when snowstorms occur, his employees arrive early to warm up the trucks and attach plows. Warming up a diesel truck can take up to 20 minutes, but “Route 9 traffic is louder than my trucks,” he said.

Beth Rosenberg said she understands that trucks need to idle but that the yelling and laughing from employees while they’re getting set up is a problem. “I’m not trying to stop them from doing business,” she said. “It’s just being more cognizant of what you’re doing at what hours.”

## EARTH DAY FEST 4.26.25

10-1 AT BOSCOBEL’S MAPLE LANE WITH THE COLD SPRING FARMERS’ MARKET

Shop the Farmers’ Market and explore iconic Hudson Valley views, walk through budding landscapes, hike the woodland trail, picnic on the Great Lawn and enjoy music and family fun.

Admission fees to Boscobel grounds, Visitor’s Center and Exhibition Galleries are waived thanks to generous support from funders.

## HEADS UP, HIKERS!

### BREAKNECK RIDGE AREA CLOSURES BEGIN 4/21/25

**CLOSED TRAILHEADS:**

- **BREAKNECK RIDGE** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- **WILKINSON MEMORIAL** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- **BROOK** closed from trailhead to Cornish Connector

**NO TRAIN SERVICE AT BREAKNECK RIDGE AND NO PARKING ON ROUTE 9D NORTH OF TUNNEL**

**WHY?** THE ROUTE 9D CORRIDOR IS **BEING MADE SAFER FOR HIKERS AND MOTORISTS!**

**VISIT [BREAKNECK.INFO](https://breakneck.info) TO SEE PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS** →



## The Mayor (from Page 1)

bird flu. “I think it was just old age,” perhaps exacerbated by fright from an encounter with a fox, she said. “Before anyone else says it, she was no spring chicken and she was a good egg,” Finnegan wrote on Facebook. The Mayor was about 6 years old, an average lifespan for a backyard fowl.

After adopting the chicken, Finnegan leaned into The Mayor’s unique character, livestreaming the hen’s bedtime routine on Facebook. “She was such a funny little animal,” Finnegan said. “She was making me laugh, and I wanted to spread that. She was a little bit of joy in a very dark period” of the pandemic.

Things snowballed after Halloween in 2020. Desperate to maintain a semblance of normalcy, volunteers collected donations and cleaned out the candy shelves at Walmart so The Mayor — wearing a pink tutu donated by a Beacon seamstress and wheeled in a stroller — could deliver treats to more than 100 houses. The exercise was repeated, only larger, at Christmas and Valentine’s Day.

By 2021 The Mayor had become a celebrity, attracting a crowd everywhere she went. That spring she met Marc Molinaro, then the Dutchess County executive and later elected to Congress, who proclaimed her the county’s Poultry Laureate. Drivers would slow down to say hello when Finnegan walked The Mayor down Main Street. In 2023, the hen threw out the first pitch at a Hudson Valley Renegades baseball game.

Something else was happening, too. Assuming The Mayor’s persona, Finnegan’s



Madelein Devin of Beacon became a “chicken wrangler” after meeting The Mayor.

Photo provided

voice became amplified. Online and in person, she began to comment on the cultural changes she saw happening during the pandemic, often with a biting sarcasm that she might not have used before.

“The Mayor led the charge,” said Alexandra Devin, whose 6-year-old daughter, Madelein, participated in a women’s march with the chicken and 100 other humans at Memorial Park in 2021. “She was like the face of what Karen wanted to put out into the world.”

When COVID-19 vaccines were introduced in December 2020, The Mayor and Finnegan, who has an immune-compromised child, hand-delivered cards congratulating people who took the shots. Inevitably, they were criticized by those opposed to the vaccines or the masks that



In 2021, then-Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro named The Mayor the county’s Poultry Laureate.

File photo

were still commonplace.

The Mayor “was able to be political and funny,” Finnegan said. If things got too heated, she would remind detractors to “stop arguing with a chicken, jackass.”

Finnegan also has four children who identify as queer — “I have an L, a G and a B; I don’t have a T,” she said. In 2022, she founded Defense of Democracy with Laura Leigh Abby, who co-owned a Beacon fitness studio. The organization mobilized around school board elections in Wappingers Falls, opposing candidates endorsed by a conservative group called Moms for Liberty. Finnegan says Defense of Democracy advocates cultural, gender, racial and religious inclusion.

In less than three years, the organization has grown into a network of 7,000 volunteers nationwide. But as Finnegan became more focused on advocacy, The Mayor retreated from public view. Worn down by the political division in the country, “things became not funny anymore,” Finnegan said.

She announced on Facebook on March 17 that The Mayor had departed for the Great Henhouse in the Sky.

“I’d like to think about a tribute to her and possibly a passing of the torch to a new ‘chicken of Beacon,’ but today I’m genuinely heartsick and just need to process this,” she wrote. “It seems silly to grieve over a bird, but she was genuinely a special little soul who brought joy to many during her handful of years on this Earth.”

More than 100 people responded with memories and condolences. Readers responded similarly to a note on *The Current’s* Instagram account.

“I was touched by how warm people were,” Finnegan said this week, pausing to collect herself. “In no uncertain terms, that chicken got me through COVID.”

Fear not. Finnegan has six “funky-looking” chicks on the way from McMurray Hatchery in Iowa. When they arrive, she plans to pair them with a family with children for a month or two to get the birds used to being handled.

“I’m outsourcing that because an 8-year-old will do it every day,” she said. “But this is something that will always be part of my life.”

## Highlands Reserve (from Page 1)

protected space will include portions of Clove Creek, the 5.7-acre Ulmar Pond, forests and wetlands, and a one-lane, stonewall-lined trail that is a remnant of a roadway connecting Horton Road and East Mountain Road North.

Under a conservation agreement between Horton Road LLC and the town, the open space will be reserved for “passive recreational uses” by the homeowners, such as cross-country skiing, hiking, picnicking and walking. The agreement also restricts new buildings, herbicides and pesticides and the clearing of trees and vegetation.

Although Horton Road LLC still has conditions to satisfy, such as obtaining a state Department of Transportation permit for the Route 9 entrance and approval from Putnam County for wells, the Planning Board approval caps a process that began in 2014.

Horton Road LLC is owned by the David Isaly 2008 Trust and the Jason Isaly 2008 Trust, and managed by Christina Isaly Liceaga, David Isaly’s sister and the wife of Ulises Liceaga, who was identified in 2014 as the project’s architect.

Ulises Liceaga told the Planning Board in 2014 that he and his wife purchased land on East Mountain Road North in 2000 to build a weekend home while living in New York City. “Avid horseback riders, we looked for a place to have some horses” and began envi-

sioning Hudson Highlands Reserve, he said. In 2013, Horton Road LLC had acquired parcels from Lyons Realty, Rodney Weber and Joseph and Denise Frisenda.

After a public hearing in 2019, the project went dormant while its owners prepared responses to detailed questions from the Planning Board and others and began drafting a state-mandated environmental impact statement. In 2021, Horton Road LLC reintroduced the project to the Planning Board, which granted preliminary site plan approval in September 2023.

### NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, April 8th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

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



## Soup & Salad Take Out



**Saturday, March 29 | 10:00am-2:00pm**

Christ Church, United Methodist  
60 Union Street, Beacon, NY | (845) 831-0365

**Delivery Available!**

**Dinner for 2 – \$15.00**

**Extra quart of soup – \$10.00**

**Extra bag of homemade cookies – \$5.00**

**DINNER FOR 2 INCLUDES:**

1 quart of soup: Lemon Chicken Orzo /or/ Beef Tomato  
+ Salad, Bread & Homemade Cookies

**Be sure to call ahead and order! We always sell out!**



AROUND TOWN



▲ **FIREFIGHTER HONORS** — The Garrison Volunteer Fire Co. recently hosted its 2025 Inspection Dinner and installed new officers. In addition, Brent Grafer was named Firefighter of the Year and Donna Corsi received the Presidential Award. Shown from left are Grafer, 1st Lieutenant Pat Strang, Capt. Robbie Klipple, 2nd Assistant Chief Brian Grafer, 1st Assistant Chief Rodney Tudor and Chief Fred Reich.

Photo provided

◀ **SECOND LIFE** — David Hart of Beacon stopped by *The Current* offices on Monday (March 24) to claim piles of our back issues to recycle in his garden. Sorry, horticulturists — that's all we had!

Photo by Michael Turton



▲ **GRAND FINALE** — For its spring musical, Haldane Drama presented Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* on March 21, 22 and 23. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

◀ **BLUE RIDGE SOUND** — Martha Spencer & The Wonderland Country Band, from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, performed at the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley on March 21.

Photos by Ross Corsair



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OUR 2024 AWARD WINNERS



**GOLD AWARD**  
Abbie Carey  
Associate Real Estate Broker



**GOLD AWARD**  
Craig Roffman  
Real Estate Salesperson



**PLATINUM AWARD**  
Melissa Carlton  
Associate Real Estate Broker



**GOLD AWARD**  
Linda Hoffmann  
Real Estate Salesperson



**SILVER AWARD**  
William (Bill) Pugh  
Real Estate Salesperson



Kathyrine Tomann  
Associate Real Estate Broker  
Branch Manager



Rebecca Bardes  
Real Estate Salesperson



Chelsea Carlton  
Real Estate Salesperson



Mark Carlton  
Real Estate Salesperson



Alissa Kronovet  
Real Estate Salesperson



Terese Olsen  
Real Estate Salesperson



Robert Runcie  
Real Estate Salesperson



Michael Seibert  
Real Estate Salesperson



Peter Tomann  
Real Estate Salesperson



Rudolf VanDommele  
Real Estate Salesperson



Sylvia Wallin  
Associate Real Estate Broker

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ALSO LIKE TO  
THANK THE  
FOLLOWING  
AGENTS FOR  
CONTRIBUTING  
GREATLY TO  
OUR OFFICE  
SUCCESS.





"Visitation" (2023-24)



"Lean on Me" (2024)



"The Open Gates of Spring (Persephone)" (2023)

## The Calendar

# ART IS THE MIX, NOT THE INGREDIENTS

## Lucio Pozzi 'zigs and zags' at Magazzino Italian Art

By Marc Ferris

For robust 90-year-old artist Lucio Pozzi, mixing and matching, "zigging and zagging" and getting lost in the process is a fruitful recipe for creativity. At his new exhibit, *In Here*, at Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown, a handwritten menu he titled "Inventory Game" lists around 140 concepts and techniques.

Created in 1968, "when everyone declared painting to be dead," he says, the menu directs artists to "mix ingredients at will" and transcend artificial constrictions.

Suggestions on approach include wings, relief, handmade, freehand, directed hand, mass producible, personal memories and to be walked around. There are conceptual directives like static, satyric, allusive, axiality, deceleration, randomness, long duration, short duration and hard political propaganda. Masonite is an approved material.

"How you mix things is the art — it's not what goes in," Pozzi says, standing in Gallery 8 on March 7, which was opening day.

Born in Italy, Pozzi moved to Manhattan in 1962 and occupied a front-row seat for the establishment and evolution of contemporary avant-garde art movements like Fluxus, minimalism, abstract expressionism and Arte Povera, the latter being the focus of the museum's permanent collection.

Pozzi moved to SoHo before it became an artistic mecca, helped launch art journals (*October* is still published), taught at several universities, including Princeton, and rubbed elbows with fellow travelers Hans Haake, Dick Higgins, Joseph Kosuth



Lucio Pozzi

Photo by Marco Anelli

and Nam June Paik.

Beyond sculpture, photography and paintings that include abstract and figurative subjects, he created performance-art pieces. For "Paperswim," Pozzi dressed in a leotard and strapped on blinders to dive into 8-foot piles of unspooled, crumpled newsprint.

"Instead of painting on the material, I dove into it, emerging like Venus from the sea every two minutes" to mark on the paper, he told *The Brooklyn Rail* in a recent interview. The sessions lasted eight hours.

At the Museum of Modern Art, Pozzi curated a showcase with works by Picasso, Mondrian and Newburgh-born Ellsworth Kelly that reflected his interest in dualities and helped coin the academic phrase "radical pluralism." The Kelly display paired an abstract with a flower drawing.

A similar dichotomy at the Magazzino

exhibit is represented by three compact landscape watercolors completed between 1981 and 2015 that are dwarfed by two abstracts and a smaller work with a similar motif.

As he selected older pieces and worked on site-specific installations for the Philipstown exhibition, Pozzi says he listened to music by Bach and Rage Against the Machine.

The artist treated the airy gallery as a cavernous canvas and climbed ladders to hang works 40 feet in the air. The show includes two rectangular texture studies, "4 of 40 Planets" and "Small Level Blueyellow Upfront (HLR)."

One standout painting, "Darkness of the Soul," is part of his *Rug Rag* series. He created the ragged texture with at least 1,000 close cuts with a palette knife. The result resembles a collage or a patchwork quilt.

Today, Pozzi splits his time between Valeggio, Italy, and a studio in Hudson that he bought decades ago after his real-estate agent advised him that it represented a once-in-a-lifetime bargain.

Pozzi says he enjoyed the exhibit's focus on abstracts but demurred about potential impact. "I like to quote the great art historian Erwin Panofsky: 'The symbolic value of a work of art seldom, if ever, corresponds to the intentions of the artist.'"

Coming from the do-it-yourself school, he also evokes his favorite anti-dogma catchphrase: "No rules, but tools."

*Magazzino, at 2700 Route 9 in Philipstown, is open Friday to Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$20 (\$10 seniors, students, disabled visitors; \$5 ages 5 to 10; free for ages 5 and younger and Philipstown residents). In Here continues through June 23. See [magazzino.art](https://magazzino.art).*



"Untitled" (2002)



"Small Level Blueyellow Upfront (HLR)"



THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

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)*

SAT 29

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 30 and weekends through April 13. Register online.

FRI 4

Tattoo Convention

POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon – 10 p.m. MJN Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org

More than 200 artists will show their work and ink clients. Also SAT 5, SUN 6. *Cost: \$26.50 (\$67 for a 3-day pass)*

SAT 5

Tacos & Tequila

COLD SPRING

6 – 9 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

The Friends of the Butterfield Library will host, with food provided by Juanita's Kitchen. *Cost: \$45*

SUN 6

Soup 4 Greens

BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Farmers' Market  
223 Main St.  
beaconfarmersmarket.org

Select soups at this fundraiser to eat on-site or take home and get a handmade pottery bowl. *Cost: \$8 (\$10 pints, \$20 quarts, \$30 with bowl)*

SUN 6

Lines of Demarcation

BEACON

2 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke  
15 South Ave.

In this documentary, members of Beacon's Black communities share memories from the 20th century. The screening is co-hosted with Beacon Climate Action Now and will be followed by a reception.

SUN 6

Evening with Friends

BEACON

5 p.m. The Roundhouse  
2 E. Main St. | beafriendproject.org

This fundraiser and 10th anniversary celebration for the Be A Friend Project will include a live auction and music by the Cabo

Project Band and students from East Mountain Studios. Mark Bertolini and Aidan Duver will be honored. *Cost: \$125 (\$75 ages 14 and younger)*

KIDS & FAMILY

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*

SUN 30

Prom Boutique Pop-Up

BEACON

Noon – 3 p.m. Howland Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

Students can show their school ID and select a free prom outfit.

THURS 3

Earring Making

GARRISON

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

Make your own bling with Joan Lloyd. Registration required.

SAT 5

Car Seat Check

PHILIPSTOWN

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
North Highlands Fire Department  
504 Fishkill Road

Ensure that your seat is installed and positioned correctly.

SAT 5

Family Nature Meet-Up

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. West Point Foundry Preserve  
80 Kemble Ave.  
philipstowngardenclubny.com

Families with children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take a nature walk with members of the Philipstown Garden Club and explore. Registration required.

SAT 5

The Secret Garden

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigside Drive  
haldaneschool.org

Middle-school students will perform the classic story about an orphaned girl who discovers a place to bring her new family together. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students)*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 29

Beacon Brickmaking

BEACON

1 – 3 p.m. Beacon Historical Society  
61 Leonard St. | beaconhistorical.org

The society's new exhibit, "From Haverstraw to Beacon: Inside the Brickyards that Built New York City,"



looks at the Hudson River institution that provided the material for urban development. Through July 19.

SAT 29

Alex Gonzalez & John Langan

BEACON

7 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | stanzabooks.com

The horror writers will discuss their works. In Gonzalez's debut, *rekt*, a loss sends a character into the dark web. In Langan's novel, *The Fisherman*, a loss sends a man into the occult to retrieve his beloved.



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*

WED 2

Writing Your Way to Thought Leadership

BEACON

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

Michael Schein and Hady Mendez will discuss how to influence and inspire with your ideas. *Free*

WED 2

Fear No Pharoah

BEACON

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-440-3906  
stanzabooks.com

Beacon resident Richard Kreitner will discuss his latest nonfiction book, about the role of American Jews in the Civil War and the fight to end slavery, with Rabbi Brent Spodek.

THURS 3

Poetry Writing

GARRISON

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

This Philipstown Aging at Home workshop will include prompts and exercises.

SAT 5

Chris Hayes

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

The MSNBC host will discuss his book, *The Siren's Call: How Attention Became the World's Most Endangered Resource*. *Cost: \$47 (includes book)*

SAT 5

In Conversation with The Sopranos

PEEKSKILL

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

Comedian Joey Kola will host this discussion with actors Steve Schirripa (Bobby Bacala), Vincent Pastore (Big Pussy) and Michael Imperioli (Christopher) about their roles and the show's impact. *Cost: \$71 to \$159*

SUN 6

The Chain That Saved the Colonies

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St.  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

For the museum's 119th annual meeting, Doc Bayne will share the history of the chain that was stretched across the Hudson during the Revolution between Constitution Island and West Point. Also via Zoom. Registration required. *Free*

SUN 6

An Evening with Lee Asher

PEEKSKILL

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

The founder of The Asher House sanctuary in Salem, Oregon, will discuss his journey in the animal-rescue community. *Cost: \$44 to \$59*

STAGE & SCREEN

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*

WED 2

Daniel Kelly and Ireena Gurvich

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

As part of the library's Creative Conversations series, Kelly will play piano while Gurvich makes art and they discuss their processes. *Cost: \$15 donation*

FRI 4

Microplastic Madness

COLD SPRING

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

The 2019 documentary shares the stories of Brooklyn students who become leaders against plastic pollution with solutions that others can implement.

FRI 4

Ariane Original One-Act Festival

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org

The 13th annual festival will include plays by Patrick Lennon, Keith Whalen, Nick DeSimone, Christopher Lukas and Anthony McKay. Also SAT 5, SUN 6. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 4

The Happy Medium

PEEKSKILL

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

Kim Russo guides people on their spiritual journeys. *Cost: \$59 to \$79*

SAT 5

Martin Dockery

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | artichokeshow.com

Dockery, a storyteller, playwright and performer, will share a mysterious romance. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 6

Lisa Marie Riley

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The comedian, best known as



@OneFunnyLisaMarie, will share thoughts on her daily life and parenting. *Cost: \$40*

SUN 6  
**Come From Away**  
**WEST POINT**

7 p.m. Ike Hall Theatre  
655 Pitcher Road  
845-938-4159 | [ikehall.com](http://ikehall.com)  
This musical is about stranded airline passengers welcomed on Sept. 11, 2001, by the residents of a Newfoundland village. *Cost: \$39 to \$89*

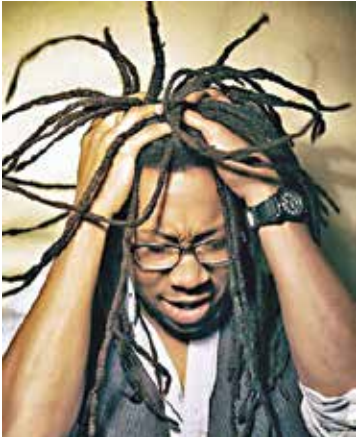
**MUSIC**

SAT 29  
**Secret Sounds of Ponds**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**

2 p.m. Fahnestock State Park  
1498 Route 301 | [dub.sh/pond-sounds](http://dub.sh/pond-sounds)  
David Rothenberg's concert will include plants and creatures singing in water. Also SUN 30 and SAT 5 with Michelle Shocked. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 29  
**Hubby Jenkins**  
**COLD SPRING**

7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | [chapelrestoration.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://townecrier.com)  
The blues-rock singer will play songs from her latest release, *Colorcrimes*. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

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

THURS 3  
**Benise**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)  
The performance features the high-energy Spanish guitarist accompanied by musicians and dancers. *Cost: \$51.50 to \$108*

FRI 4  
**Last Minute Soulmates**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The local band plays original music and covers by JJ Cale, Bob Dylan and Bonnie Raitt. *Cost: \$15 food or drink purchase*

SAT 5  
**Rob Flax's Boom Chick Trio**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)  
Flax (violin), Slava Tolstoy (guitar) and Noah Harrington (bass) combine songwriting, storytelling and swing with ragtime, blues and songs of the 1920s. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 5  
**Kat Lee Rivers**  
**COLD SPRING**  
8 p.m. Cold Spring Coffeehouse  
92 Main St.  
[katleerivers.com/april5tickets](http://katleerivers.com/april5tickets)  
The vocalist and songwriter will play music with Bob Lanzetti (guitar) and Matt Aronoff (bass) from her latest album. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 5  
**Joe Louis Walker**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)  
The Blues Hall of Fame inductee will play songs from his latest release, *Blues Comin' On*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



Eliza Neals, March 30

**VISUAL ART**

SAT 5  
**Melanie Delgado and Yoko Izu**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 – 7 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
123 Main St. | [busterlevigallery.com](http://busterlevigallery.com)  
Curated by Jennie Currie, *Field Trip* features paintings by the two artists in their distinctive styles. Through April 27.

**CIVIC**

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

MON 31  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall  
1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [beaconny.gov](http://beaconny.gov)

TUES 1  
**State of the County**  
**COLD SPRING**  
10:30 a.m. Philipstown Friendship Center  
6 Butterfield Road  
[putnamcountyny.gov/sotc2025](http://putnamcountyny.gov/sotc2025)  
Kevin Byrne, the Putnam County executive, will meet with constituents.

TUES 1  
**Putnam Legislature**  
**CARMEL**  
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800  
[putnamcountyny.com](http://putnamcountyny.com)

TUES 1  
**School Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Middle School | 15 Craigside Drive  
845-265-9254 | [haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org)

WED 2  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)

THURS 3  
**Town Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.  
845-265-5200 | [philipstown.com](http://philipstown.com)

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

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# CAUGHT IN AMBER

## Beacon art exhibit resinates

By Marc Ferris

A handwritten sign at Super Secret Projects in Beacon advises: "Please don't touch the art (it is as smooth as it looks)."

"I've never seen anything like this," said local artist Andrea Moed while browsing the gallery's current exhibit, *The Sandbox Chronicles*, by Melissa Schlobohm. "It would never occur to me to encase rabbit fur in resin, but it's fascinating."

During a visit to her commodious Red Hook studio, Schlobohm mixed a batch of resin compound, which looks like water, and stirred in a droplet of concentrated blue dye. She poured the liquid into a mold that would harden and create colorful layers. This was her first crack at encasing tree bark, a material she adores for its rough texture and adaptability.

For the jewelry-box sized "Terrarium" and smaller format *Wish We Could Go* series, on display in the Beacon show, she assembled a "completely rando" hodgepodge of kitschy miniatures that includes found objects and the contents of friends' junk drawers.

Many scenes appear to be underwater, with plastic sea creatures galore, but the mouse, butterflies and cigarette butts are real. She recently acquired a sack of dead bees.



Melissa Schlobohm

Photo provided

When the latest layer of resin hardens, Schlobohm, 35, will add more until the container is filled and the project is complete. The singular approach is special because she's creating art with a material that is typically used in a practical way to coat canvases.

"I can get really deep colors, and it lets me play with the light underneath," she said. But the technique requires a handheld blowtorch to remove bubbles that emerge and "things can go haywire," she said. "I've learned a lot through trial and error." She attempted to teach the method at the Garrison Art Center, "but it became a big fail."

In the circular glassine works of Schlobohm's more highbrow *Escape* series, the lush colors, which lean toward the darker end of the spectrum, change as viewers move around the room. Augmenting the specks of glitter, colored mylar strips akin to plastic wrap add extra layers of luminosity.

"Escape 5" channels a deep-space vibe with a central sun, reddish gas and elliptical orange ring. The deer and rabbit fur create a milky, feathery touch.

Other works on display showcase the artist's range. "Golden Ratio 3" exemplifies her obsession with tree bark, which looks ossified and glistens against a sky-blue background. Accentuated with scaly clay discs, the whitewashed Locust bark of "Tabula Rasa" evokes a group of spines.

In "Bloom," a purple resin flower that protrudes from a seashell resembles delicate glass and is speckled with glittering blue sprinkles. The reptilian bronze sculpture "Shell Home" weighs around 30 pounds.

Despite her move to Red Hook, Schlobohm maintains a close relationship with Beacon, where she lived for six years. Asked by *Shoutout Miami* to shout out, she praised the Garrison Art Center, BAU Gallery and Hyperbole, the boutique that hosts Super Secret Projects, for helping her develop strong ties to the community.

*Super Secret Projects, at 484 Main St., is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Sandbox Chronicles will close with a reception from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 5.*



"Escape 12" (rabbit fur, mylar, resin)



Detail from "Muted"

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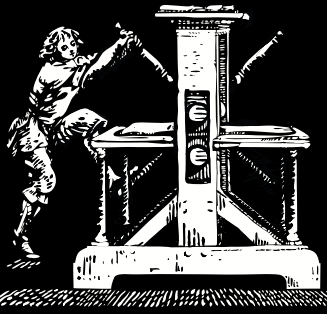
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**NOTICE**

**PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

*Public Hearing - April 7th, 2025*

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 7th, 2025 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

**Jeffrey & Christine Dain,**  
979 Old Albany Post Rd.,  
Garrison, NY 10524, TM#50.-2-4.2

Applicant is seeking a variance for a 1945 square foot accessory building.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York or by visiting the following link on the Town of Philipstown website.

[https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/march\\_1](https://sites.google.com/philipstown.com/townofphilipstown/march_1)

Dated March 10th, 2025

Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals



## The Artist Next Door

## Rick Rogers

By Marc Ferris

Hiding in plain sight, Rick Rogers' name and four of his photographs adorn an outside wall at the old City Hall at 412 Main St. in Beacon. Up the street, a more subtle wood panel marks the entrance to his cluttered studio beneath the Ron and Ronnie Sauers Bridge that spans Fishkill Creek. From a wooden deck, the infrastructure frames the falls and water roars past his door.

Rogers holds a perennial open studio for visitors who encounter his work online or are enticed by the sandwich board sign at the top of the stairs.

"I usually get 35 to 40 people on a good Second Saturday, sometimes more with perfect weather," he says. "People say it's a great view, especially in the summer, when the trees are lush and you have no idea you're in Beacon."

Four color contrasts from his informal, long-running bottle series are hanging in a group show at Big Mouth Coffee Roasters on Main Street through the end of this month. One offers an impressionistic rendition of three vessels that evoke vintage blue bottles, with enough white space and strong brush strokes to keep things inter-



Rick Rogers in his studio with a recent painting

Photo by M. Ferris

esting. Some serve as vases; the pointillist flowers burst like fireworks.

At Draught Industries, five pieces showcase a portion of his breadth, including a minimalist landscape of rolling hills dotted with red-and-white houses, rendered without detail. Another bottle/vase still life with flowers and sharper angles exposes more wood grain than usual (he handcrafts the frames and painting surfaces at the studio).

The cracked abstract with red blotches scarring the blurry blue and white horizontal stripes looks like the result of a

thousand cuts. The deep red bleeds over ill-defined lines, creating pink and purple accents at the margins.

Another panel, "Beers of Beacon, N.Y.," arranges 20 photos of pints from above. The circles are similar, but the contents vary from overflowing to needing a refill. A large painting of a glass of beer features prominent drips.

His output includes embellished stick figures, painted mirrors with uplifting slogans and what he calls "word art" with quotes from artists such as Monet's quip:

"I'm not performing miracles. I'm using up and wasting a lot of paint."

In conceptual pieces like "Killing Time," a wood-handled knife sticks out from an old-fashioned circular clock with blood oozing down its face. In his studio, a cellphone hangs off the silver cradle of a rotary phone.

Rogers merges creativity with his passion for bicycling. In the outdoor exhibit on Main Street, *Bikin' Beacon: Have Bike, Will Travel*, three of the large-format photos pose his ride at Long Dock Park, the dummy light and the foot of Mount Beacon.

The lone action shot provides an over-the-handlebar perspective as he cruises down the double yellow line of a deserted Main Street in the dead of night.

At 73, Rogers wakes at 3 or 4 each morning, "the time I used to roll in," he says. When the weather thaws, he plans to ride to and across the George Washington Bridge and back.

As a youngster, he attended the University Settlement camp on Route 9D, founded by a labor union in New York City. He kept returning to the area and, after retiring from the Westchester County Parks Department in 2010, he and his wife ended up in Beacon because "we wanted to move to a place we could go without driving a car for days," he says.

But they live in an apartment on Main Street that lacks parking, so "sometimes we forget where we left the car and have to trudge around, going to the three or four usual spots. That can be a hassle in the snow."



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April 4-6

**Depot Docs: Frida**

April 11 at 7:30pm

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**www.philipstowndepottheatre.org**



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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<br>Mt. Ebo ONLY                                  | 0.00%<br>0.00%                    |
| 8 Public Fire Service:<br>Long Island<br>Cambridge<br>Wild Oaks<br>Mt. Ebo ONLY | 0.00%<br>0.00%<br>30.00%<br>0.00% |
| 9 Private Fire Protection Service<br>Mt. Ebo ONLY                               | 0.00%<br>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%    |



Ruth Danon

Photo by Meredith Heuer

Beacon Resident Named Poet Laureate

Dutchess appoints Ruth Danon to honorary post

Dutchess County announced on Tuesday (March 25) that it has named Beacon resident Ruth Danon as its 2025 poet laureate to promote the genre through readings and workshops. “In all my work, whether writing, teaching or curating, my desire has been and will continue to be the creation of community,” said Danon in a statement. “We cannot allow ourselves to feel alone or powerless. Writing and performing poetry helps us

connect to one another and to the world; it also opens avenues to inner experience — so important to reclaim in a world dominated by social media and its many falsehoods and distractions. “Poetry asks us to pay attention, and when people pay attention, positive changes can occur,” said Danon, who has published four collections of her work, including *Turn Up the Heat* in 2023. She also taught writing for 23 years at New York University’s School of Professional Studies. The poet laureate program, launched in 2016 by then-County Executive Marc Molinaro, is administered by Arts Mid-Hudson.

Lillian Rosengarten, LCSW

Experienced Individual and Couple Therapist

Specializing in Grief, Loss, - 298 East Mtn Rd South, Cold Spring 10516, NY  
Marital, Depression - lillirose@optonline.net | (845) 265-2856



SAT., APRIL 5, 7:30 PM

Rob Flax’s  
Boom Chick Trio

Ragtime, Blues, and  
Songs of the ‘20s

TOMPKINS  
CORNERS  
CULTURAL CENTER

ADDRESS:  
729 Peekskill Hollow Rd, Putnam Valley, NY  
WEB:  
tompkinscorners.org





# Deep Blues

*Lydia Rubio maps the infinite at Butterfield Library*

By Brian PJ Cronin

For a few minutes, the artist Lydia Rubio held a small crowd at the Butterfield library in Cold Spring spellbound as she explained the inspirations and frames of reference she drew upon to create *Cosmos*, *Dystopia*, *Utopia*, a book of paintings and sketches on handmade paper. The piece is part of an exhibit of her work, *Empowering Narratives*, that continues at the library through April 15.

The book is protected by a thick sheet of plastic, so Rubio made a video to show it off. As pages turned on screen, Rubio name-checked the 12th-century mystic Hildegard of Bingen, blues singer Dinah Washington, the sacred geometry of a triangle standing in as a representation of Christ, what happens when finite tools are used to map the infinite and the cellist Julia Kent, who wandered into Rubio's studio in Hudson because she admired her work. Kent ended up composing the video's haunting score.

"Is your brain like this in everything you do?" an onlooker asked. Rubio responded: "I like to think of art as a mechanism of the imagination."

Rubio's work has been making unlikely connections for decades: art and architecture, South America and the Hudson Valley, lengthy rivers and the recesses of space. Born in Cuba, she learned painting from her grandmother, who wasn't allowed to further her studies because women were barred from advanced classes.

When Rubio was 14, her family fled to Puerto Rico. Her father, an engineer, decreed that everyone would have to study a practical profession. Rubio chose architecture because she saw it as a combination of art and engineering.

Not everyone saw the connection. "Architects are scared of art, because they're not trained in it," she said. When she taught architecture at Harvard and Parsons, she assigned readings on art theory and aesthetics to bridge the divide.



Lydia Rubio in her studio Photo provided

After 10 years of practicing and teaching architecture, the divide became too great for her to bear. She quit her job to paint full-time. "I saved \$5,000, moved to Long Island City and just painted," she recalled. "Crazy, crazy, crazy."

In 1998, she returned to Cuba and painted landscapes there, particularly the Viñales Valley. For guidance, she turned to America's first art movement: the Hudson River School painters of the 19th century, such as Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, who painted majestic and mystical interpretations to give Americans a sense of pride about their nascent nation.

Rubio was also interested in using the medium of landscape painting to make

a political statement but, in this case, it was about Cuba's instability. She used many Hudson River School techniques but painted famous views from unconventional angles and saturated the land in deep red tones, to suggest a world off-kilter and on fire. After leaving Cuba, she traveled through South America, retracing the routes that Church had taken on a painting trip 150 years earlier and painting many of the same landscapes.



A page from Lydia Rubio's *Cosmos, Dystopia, Utopia*



"Notes from the River #5"

In 2019 she moved to Hudson and began teaching at Olana, Church's residence. Rubio's "Notes from the River #1," part of the Butterfield show, reinterprets the view

of the Catskills that Church used in his 1845 painting, "Catskill Creek, N.Y."

Rubio trades Church's primordial sunrise with the deep blues of twilight and geographical coordinates of Hudson that she found from online maps. Her paintings inspired by deep-space photographs taken by the James Webb telescope and overlaid with star maps echo the same themes: the tension between the systems of measurement that humans have created and infinite spaces that can't be measured.

"People told me not to paint the river," she said. "Nobody paints marines anymore, it's passe — so I painted 45 of them." Any landscape with water is especially interesting to her as a painter because the water is always changing in relation to the sky. "When you have water, you'll see more changes in the land than you would in a landscape without water," she said.

In 2019, concerned about the effects of pollution and climate change on the Hudson, she created a series of erasable paintings. Viewers were invited to erase and redraw. "Obviously, that's a risky thing to do," Rubio said. "It's taboo to touch a painting. But if we destroy nature, we have a responsibility to restore it."

*The Butterfield Library, at 10 Morris Ave. in Cold Spring, is open daily.*

## Current Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

**FACILITIES TECHNICIANS** — Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison is looking to expand its facilities team. Duties include site stewardship of the 112-acre site, security, supporting programming and event setup/breakdown, equipment maintenance, custodial duties, supporting collections/museum care and landscaping. Several full-time positions are open at \$18-21/hour, with occasional overtime available. Medical, dental, life insurance, 401k, PTO and professional development opportunities available. Email Kevin Cancel, Facilities Manager, at [communications@boscobel.org](mailto:communications@boscobel.org).

**COORDINATOR** — The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown is looking to hire a part-

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

### SERVICES

**HEALING BODYWORK** — Featured in NY Magazine as "one of the 15 best massage therapists offering CranialSacral Therapy," with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish massage incorporating CranialSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupuncture, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years' experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit [Joymatalon.com](http://Joymatalon.com).

**MUSIC LESSONS** — Instruction in guitar, bass, saxophone, woodwinds, piano, jazz, Irish music. 40+ years' experience. Beginners to advanced, my studio or your home. Call or text 917-846-7020.

**MASSAGE THERAPY** — Bradford Teasdale, LMT, massage therapist for American Ballet Theater and Nation's Top Spas, with 20+ years of professional experience. Specializing in deep-tissue massage, medical massage, sports massage, assisted stretching, energy healing and sound medicine. Beautiful home office surrounded by nature in Garrison. Optimizing health of mind, body and spirit. Feel your best and be your best! To schedule your appointment, call 917-362-7546 or email [bradteasdale@gmail.com](mailto:bradteasdale@gmail.com).

### FOR RENT

**COLD SPRING** — Looking for a turn-key place to stay in the Hudson Valley? We offer furnished rentals in the heart of Cold Spring village. 2-

and 3-bedroom units; WD/AC/DW; 4-minute walk to train; off-street parking available; 1 month security deposit; discounted utilities; no smoking. Call/text Jim at 917-348-3300.

### FOR SALE

**WINE CLUB** — 12 world-class wines (and bonus gifts) for only \$79.99, plus s/h. Save \$160! 12 new wine selections plus a free \$25 Omaha Steaks E-reward card every three months. Cancel anytime. 100% guarantee! Call 1-844-284-9003 and mention code AGJF002 or visit [GetOSWine.com/sip181](http://GetOSWine.com/sip181).

**TAG SALE? Car for sale? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).**





**Bill Schlich Sr.**  
(1938-2025)

William Joseph Schlich Sr. of Garrison and Punta Gorda, Florida, passed away peacefully on March 19, 2025, surrounded by his loving children. He was 86.

Bill was born on Sept. 3, 1938, in Manhattan, to the late Edward and Mary Barton Schlich.

William grew up on Boyd Avenue in the Bronx. After high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Upon being honorably discharged from the Navy, he went to New York University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business management. He worked for ConEd from 1958 to 1993, when he retired as a superintendent.

He was an avid outdoorsman and an international hunter who hunted all over the world. He also enjoyed boating and his family.

On Jan. 28, 1961, he married Mary Kisselbrack and together they spent 55 wonderful years raising their family in Garrison until Mary passed away in 2015.

William is survived by his loving children, Anne E. Knapp and her husband Daniel, Susan S. Hayes and her husband Kelly, William J. Schlich Jr, MaryEllen Banker and her husband Scott and Eric E. Schlich and his wife Morgan. His cherished grandchildren are Frank, Ronald, Austin, Molly, Ednel, Mira, Meghan, Michael, Samantha, Billy, Scotty, Sarah, Dean, Elaina and Liam. He is also survived by his brother, Edward Schlich.

Friends called on Monday, March 24, 2025, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., in Cold Spring. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair St., in Cold Spring. Interment followed in Rose Hill Cemetery in Putnam Valley.

PAID NOTICE



**Joey Carano**  
(1948-2025)

Joey Carano of Cold Spring passed away peacefully on March 23, 2025, at home surrounded by his family. He was 76.

He was born on Nov. 18, 1948, in Peekskill to the late Salvatore and Yolanda Iaconangelo Carano.

Joey prided himself on his work. His love of landscaping and designing beautiful flower beds brought him, and many others, much joy. He retired from Amalgamated Housing Co-Op in the Bronx in February 2020.

During his rare moments of downtime, he enjoyed NASCAR, the New York Yankees and the Dallas Cowboys. He was proud of his Italian heritage, sharing meals with friends and family often. He had a love of dogs, in particular, his beloved late golden retriever, Kody. He was always quick to find the humor in any situation, and those in his presence were often smiling and laughing.

Joey is survived by his devoted wife of 45 years, Peggy Carano, his loving daughter, Kacey Carano, and his dear brother, Rick Carano and wife Pat.

Friends may call on Friday, March 28, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to the Animal Rescue Foundation, 54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508 (arfbeacon.org).

PAID NOTICE



**Ruth Eisenhower**

Ruth E. Eisenhower of Cold Spring, New York, passed away on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, with her loved ones by her side.

Born Ruth E. Vlachos, she was the beloved wife of David Dwight Eisenhower and mother to the late David Vlachos Eisenhower, who passed away in 2020 at the age of 42.

Ruth pursued higher education at West Chester University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University, where she earned a Masters of Library Science. She was an alumna of Swarthmore High School.

Ruth was an active member of the Cold Spring community and will be remembered for her dedication to her family and her contributions to local initiatives. For many years, she enjoyed working at Grey Printing.

Those who knew Ruth will remember her keen mind and fantastic sense of humor. She loved her family and friends and was often seen in the community walking her dog.

She is survived by her son Adrian Eisenhower and his wife Kristina and granddaughter Isla.

PAID NOTICE

**Ruth Would**  
*By Ruth Eisenhower's Neighbors*

- Ruth  
Would  
Swim the waters.  
Cross the borders.  
Set the camps.  
Paddle the boats.  
Till the tillers.  
Hike the hills.  
Unveil the veils.  
Walk the sides.  
Curb the dogs.  
Pray the prayers.  
Rock the babies.  
Kid the kids.  
Hope the hopes.  
Bake the breads.  
Picture the people.  
Cluck the chickens.  
Spin the yarns.  
Knit the stitches.  
Talk the talks.  
Endure the unendurable.  
Stuff the yard.  
Garden the garden.  
Love the loves.  
Unbale the bales.  
Be for the birds.  
Smile the laughs.  
ALL,  
Unfiltered of course.

PAID NOTICE

**Jerry Rubino (1944-2025)**

Jerome Michael Rubino, known as Jerry to family and friends, was born on Nov. 2, 1944, in Brooklyn, New York, to Gilda and Jerome Nunzio Rubino.



Jerry would often regale his children and their friends with stories from his childhood in Sunset Park. From stickball in the street and fountain sodas at the corner drug store to riding the Wonder Wheel on Coney Island, Jerry was a captivating storyteller with an indelible memory.

Jerry attended Xaverian High School in Bay Ridge where he made lifelong friends and graduated from Villanova University with academic honors and a fierce allegiance (tested every March) to the Villanova Wildcats. After traversing the Atlantic for a year with the Merchant Marine, Jerry pursued graduate study in clinical psychology at Columbia University and St. John's University, where he earned his master's degree.

In 1969, Jerry purchased tickets to "some music festival upstate" at the counter of an East Village clothing store and ended up at Woodstock, where he saw Carlos Santana perform and fell in love with the Hudson Valley. Jerry would later move into the Valley and worked for many years at the New York State Office of Mental Health in Peekskill as a clinical psychologist. Jerry was also instrumental in founding the Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Studies program at Iona College, where he taught and mentored students until his retirement in 2019.

In 1984, Jerry met Christine Schwartz at a work luncheon. They married in 1986 at the Chapel of Our Lady in Cold Spring and returned a few years later to settle in Lake Valhalla. It is here that they raised their three children — Brian, Lily and James — and have lived for the past 35 years.

Jerry was an active member of the Cold Spring community and served for over 10 years as president of the Lake Valhalla Civic Association, participated in the development of the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Philipstown, and served on the board of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

Jerry's kindness, generosity of spirit and genuine love of connection meant he always had time for friends and strangers alike; he could never be rushed when the company was good.

Jerry's most cherished role was that of father and grandfather. Whether as a tee-ball coach for Philipstown Rec, or a spectator watching his children and their friends compete for Haldane High School and later, his granddaughters practice ballet, Jerry's family brought him the greatest joy. Jerry instilled in them a love for learning, the outdoors, good music and good food.

At sunset on Saturday, March 22, 2025, after a long and heroic battle with cancer, Jerry passed on. He was surrounded and cared for by his loved ones up until his final moments and will be missed by many.

Jerry is survived by his siblings Peter and Carolyn Rubino (Richard); his loving wife Christine and their three beloved children: Brian, Lily (Robert) and James (Cara); seven wonderful nieces and nephews and his two darling granddaughters: Amaryllis and Zinnia.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Putnam Highlands Audubon Society (putnamhighlandaudubon.org), Haldane Blue Devil Booster Club (dub.sh/blue-devil-booster) or Our Lady of Loretto (ladyofloretto.org).

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home-Cold Spring

PAID NOTICE



Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Menagerie

4. Embedded spies

9. *Frontline* airer

12. Year in Spain

13. Empathic words

14. Land in la mer

15. Unfortunate soul

17. “Wham!”

18. Ga. neighbor

19. Tabloid subjects

21. Cal — (baseball’s “Iron Man”)

24. Scored 100 on

25. Buckeyes’ sch.

26. Crater edge

28. Succinct

31. Shakespeare title starter

33. LAPD alert

35. Peruse

36. Sasha’s sister

38. With it, once

40. Summer mo.

41. Norms (Abbr.)

43. In a morose way

45. Concludes by

47. Tank filler

48. Zodiac cat

49. Precinct canine

54. Fiddle stick

55. Ten — (long odds)

56. Flying saucer

57. New England cape

58. Trudges

59. Apply cream

10. Shapeless mass

11. Stitches

16. ’60s Atty. General

20. Lusty look

21. Meander

22. Actress Fisher

23. Earns

27. Speedometer stat

29. Biblical king

30. Jittery

32. Poses

34. Imploring

37. Conforms

39. Locales

42. Pub seat

44. Employ

45. Exile isle

46. Inert gas

50. Brit’s restroom

51. Flop

52. One — kind

53. Sailor
- DOWN
1. Microwave

2. Yoko from Tokyo

3. Tic-tac-toe win

4. Bette in *Beaches*

5. South Pacific region

6. Restroom, for short

7. Writer Jong

8. Choose

9. Fantasy

SUDOCURRENT

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

WORDSEARCH

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

FIVE SPOT

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

|   |   |   |   |   |                      |
|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|
| P | L | A | N | T | Sow                  |
|   |   |   |   |   | Flower part          |
|   |   |   |   |   | Fancy candle         |
|   |   |   |   |   | Dirt                 |
|   |   |   |   |   | Part of the proceeds |
|   |   |   |   |   | Charger or dobbins   |

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

Answers for March 21

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | 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 |

YIELD, DAILY, DIARY,  
RABID, BROAD, ABORT

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

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, April 7th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

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



## Roots and Shoots

### Test Your Soil

By Pamela Doan

NPK, pH, soluble salts, texture, organic matter and Pb ppm are the data points that thrill me at this time of year.



Yes, I'm talking about measurements of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in soil; the acidity or alkalinity that impacts how well plants can take up those nutrients; how well water and air move through the soil; how much plant and animal parts are decomposing in the soil; and lead measured in parts per million.

It's interesting and vital information that can change what you plant, how you plant and why you plant. With all the conversations I've had with gardeners over the years, the state of soil is the least-understood part of the process of growing things.

Soil is commodified, commercialized, removed, disturbed, polluted, vilified if it's on our floors and dismissed as "dirt." Given these situations, considering soil health to be a farmer's problem is not surprising.

But for plants, soil is their world. Imagine being unable to pick up and move when your home is drenched with road salt or Roundup. The world in the ground is worthy of our care and attention.

For your garden, start with a soil test. A lab analysis will tell you what your plants are working with. You won't need an advanced degree to understand the results, and the results can change your approach and the success of your plantings. In addition, healthy soil sequesters the carbon dioxide that contributes to global warming.

I've submitted samples for myself and clients to a few sources: the Cornell Soil Health Laboratory ([dub.sh/cornell-soil-test](http://dub.sh/cornell-soil-test)), the Urban Soils Lab at Brooklyn College ([brooklyn.edu/usl](http://brooklyn.edu/usl)) and the University of Connecticut Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab ([dub.sh/conn-soil-test](http://dub.sh/conn-soil-test)). They each accept soil from lawns, landscapes and vegetable or fruit plantings. Prices start at \$5 for individual tests and \$90 for packages. I've never used a commercial service for a soil test. I appreciate that university labs don't need to make a profit by upselling me based on the test results.

Back to those data points. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the key nutrients for plants and trees. Nitrogen



No matter what you grow, a soil test will tell you what the plants need.

Photo by P. Doan

helps plants make leaves and keeps them green. They use phosphorus for roots, fruit and blooms. Potassium (aka potash) helps plants thrive. When you buy fertilizer, the ingredients are expressed as N-P-K with numbers such as 10-10-10 that correspond to the ratio of each in the bag. If a soil analysis shows low nitrogen, for example, you will want more nitrogen in the bag.

The pH level of soil is measured on a scale of 0 to 14, from acidic to alkaline. This determines how well plants take up nutrients. Vegetables grow best at 6.2 to 8.2.

Some plants, like blueberries, need more acidic soil, so the range is 4.5 to 5.5.

The level of soluble salts impacts how well roots take up water and how well the soil holds it. The same goes for texture and organic matter. Each measurement is important because the levels influence each other.

At higher levels, lead can be a health hazard. It's worth knowing what you are dealing with before stirring up soil. Lead levels alone don't indicate risk, however. That can be affected by the amount of organic matter, the soil texture and other factors.

# EARTH MONTH FILM SCREENINGS

at Butterfield Library With Haldane's Habitat Revival Club

Want to learn more about the effect of plastic packaging on humans and wildlife and legislation pending in New York State to reduce it? We invite you to two movies at the Butterfield Library that will be screened in honor of Earth Month, in collaboration with Haldane's Habitat Revival Club:

**April 4 at 5 pm:** *Microplastic Madness\**, an award-winning movie about kids who take on the crisis of plastic pollution, including eliminating single-use plastic in their cafeteria.

**April 28 at 6 pm:** *Plastic People: The Hidden Crisis of Microplastics*, about the effect of microplastics on the human body.

Please register online at [www.butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](http://www.butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar) or call 845-265-3040.

*\*Special note from the film makers for all attendees: by registering for this screening of Microplastic Madness, you agree not to duplicate, download, stream online, or present live any part of the movie.*



Haldane  
Habitat  
Revival Club

