

The HIGHLANDS Current



Eel Appeal
Page 2

APRIL 4, 2025

Support our nonprofit: highlandscurrent.org/join

Food Bank Shipments Threatened

Federal cuts affect other hunger programs

By Leonard Sparks

A need to accommodate the tractor-trailers delivering food bought through a U.S. Department of Agriculture program is partly why the Regional Food Bank last year built a 50,000-square-foot distribution hub in Montgomery.

Now, five months after the administration of then-President Joe Biden announced \$500 million in funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, the administration of President Donald Trump has canceled shipments destined for pantries in Beacon, Philipstown and other parts of the Hudson Valley.

Created in 1981 to help farmers with excess crops feed people with a shortage of food, TEFAP is one of several anti-hunger initiatives facing federal cuts.

In a statement issued on Thursday (April 3), the USDA said it terminated the “Biden-era TEFAP slush fund,” which “inflated” programs “without any plans for long-term solutions.”

(Continued on Page 7)

Putnam OKs Lower Sales Tax

Meeting draws rally by farmers

By Leonard Sparks

The Putnam County Legislature took the first step toward lowering its portion of the sales tax rate during a Tuesday (April 1) meeting filled with farmers protesting lawmakers’ refusal to add operations to a special district.

Legislators, by a 5-4 vote, approved a request for state legislation to lower the sales tax collected by Putnam from 4 percent to 3.75 percent. The higher rate had been in place since 2007, when the state enacted a law allowing Putnam to increase its sales tax from 3 percent. The law has been extended every two years since, with the most recent extension expiring Nov. 30, 2025.

Consumers in Putnam County pay 8.375

(Continued on Page 9)

Beacon Engine Case Dismissed

Firefighters say they will continue fight for station

By Jeff Simms

A state judge on Monday (March 31) dismissed a request by the Beacon Engine Co. that she prevent its members from being “excluded” from a 136-year-old firehouse

and delay the city’s sale of the building.

Two weeks earlier, Judge Maria Rosa had rejected a request from the retired volunteer firefighters that she pause a city order for them to vacate the station by March 31.

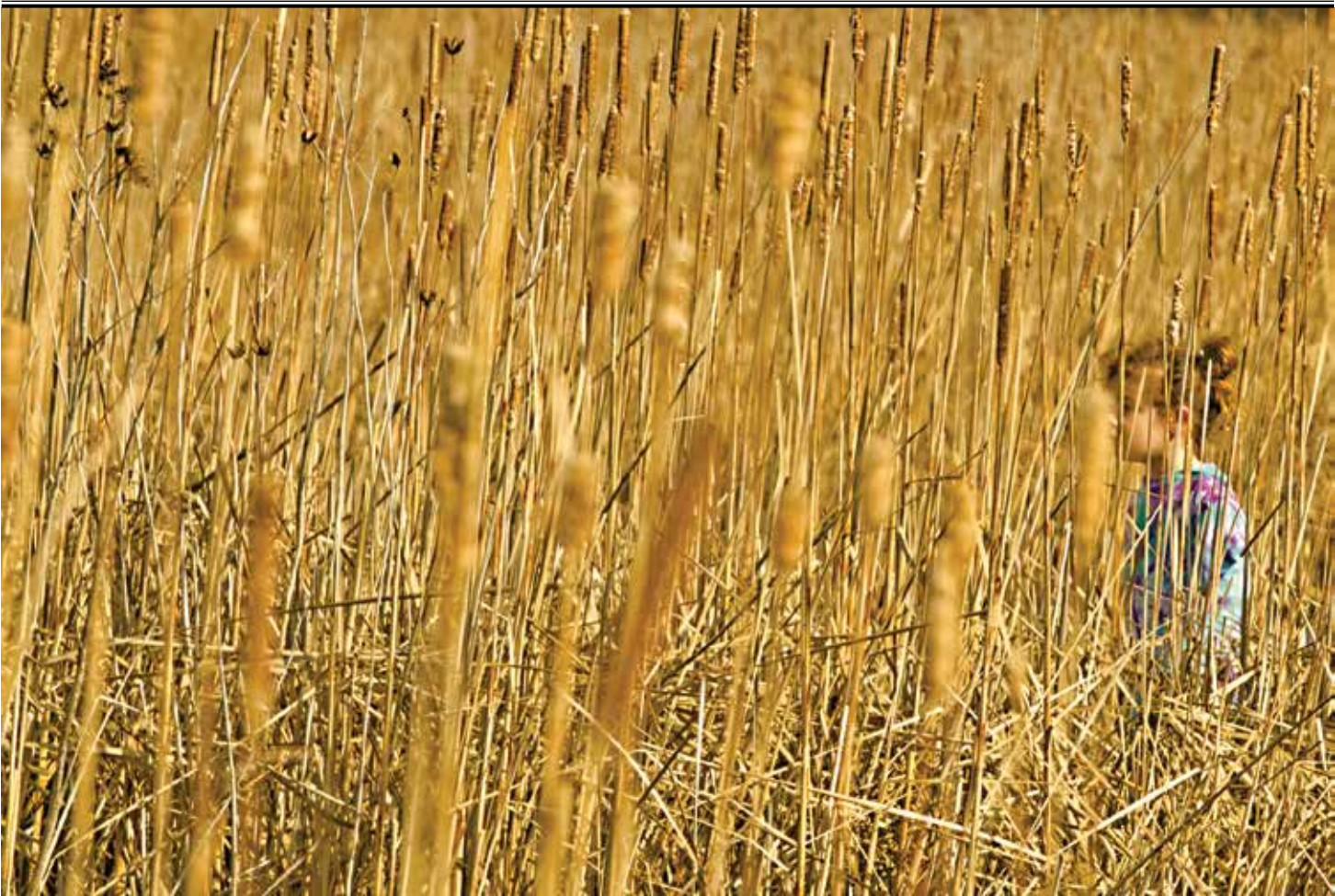
The East Main Street firehouse, inactive since 2020, has been at the center of an ownership dispute as Beacon officials prepare to sell it and the 113-year-old Mase

Hook & Ladder station on Main Street. The city hopes to raise \$3.7 million.

The retired firefighters argue that Beacon Engine Co. owns the original 2½-story structure, with the city holding an adjacent engine bay added in 1924. In fact, that was what all parties believed for decades, including when the City Council voted to close the station five years ago as part of a plan to consolidate operations.

However, Beacon officials in 2023

(Continued on Page 8)



WINTER WALK — The Constitution Marsh Audubon Society in Philipstown hosted two hikes on March 29, including on its boardwalk amid the reeds. A bald eagle was spotted in its nest, along with a turkey vulture and red-wing blackbirds — a sign of spring. For more photos, see Page 10.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Court Orders Beacon Trail Payout

Other cases pending in rail conversion

By Leonard Sparks

A court ruled last month that nine property owners are entitled to compensation for land they own along a 41-mile dormant rail line, a portion of which is eyed as a

hiking and biking trail between Beacon and Hopewell Junction.

Judge David Tapp of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims ruled on March 24 that the easements granted to Metro-North for the segment, which extends from the Beacon waterfront to the Connecticut border, are limited to rail use, meaning landowners can proceed with claims for compensation.

Tapp also found that the federal Surface Transportation Board “blocked” the interests of the landowners when it issued a “notice of interim trail use or abandonment” to Metro-North in February 2024.

The decision rejected the federal government’s argument that seven of the nine landowners represented by the law firm Lewis Rice failed to prove that they owned the land adjacent to and underneath the tracks. Tapp also dismissed an argu-

(Continued on Page 8)

5 FIVE QUESTIONS: VENURI ATULUGAMA

By Brian PJ Cronin

Venuri Atulugama, who grew up in Dutchess County, is a junior at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. On Sunday (April 6), she will receive the Next Generation Environmental Leader Award at the annual gala of the Beacon-based Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

How did you get into ecology?

Through both the TIDES program [The Institute Discovering Environmental Scientists] at the Norrie Point Environmental Science Center [in Staatsburg] and the Mid-Hudson Young Environmental Scientists Programs at the Cary Institute [in Millbrook]. Both are great programs for high school students. A bunch of my teachers recommended them, and because I didn't know what I wanted my career to be,



Photo by Chris Bowser

I figured I'd try it. They let their interns conduct scientific research on the Hudson River watershed. I focused on how invasive species like Japanese knotweed affect water quality in the Fall Kill and Wappingers creeks.

Your research on the effects of manmade barriers on creeks and eels is about to be published. What did you learn?

We were testing to see if eel ladders, which are a trap-and-pass device [tubes downstream of a dam deposit migrating eels into buckets so they can be released upstream], are effective. American eels migrate from the Sargasso Sea near Bermuda to the Hudson River. As they're migrating, they come across barriers like dams. Most of these dams are historic, so it's difficult for them to be torn

down. The state Department of Environmental Conservation implemented these trap-and-pass devices more than a decade ago. My research asked: Has there been an increase in eels and their size distribution since the implementation of these methods?

In June at the Saw Kill, near Bard College, we found that as we went further upstream, there was an increase in eels, which is great because it shows the trap-and-pass device is working. In July, we went to our sampling site at the Crum Elbow Creek, in the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site [in Hyde Park]. For that one, we didn't find the same results. We believe it's because as eels migrate upstream at Crum Elbow Creek they have to overcome three dams, while at Saw Kill, there's only one.

Are you encouraged by the push to take down inactive dams?

Yeah, especially after conducting my research. I've been working with eels since 2021 and even I didn't realize the harm that dams have on our ecosystem and migratory patterns. It opened my eyes to how important dam removals are and the importance of restoration.

What do you want to do after you graduate?

I plan on working at Norrie Point and then getting a master's degree.

Are you worried about entering the field while so many federal positions are being cut?

It's disheartening. As a young scientist, you want to be as optimistic as you can. But with these federal policies and executive orders, it's becoming more difficult. A lot of my peers and I are worried about our future, especially because many of us are graduating next year, and will we have jobs? Will there even be an Environmental Protection Agency or these important, federally funded programs for environmental science and protection? A lot of policymakers have lost sight of the meaning of their jobs because they're causing more harm than good.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Where is baseball on your 1-10 "love it" scale?

I'm a 10. My family is split Yankees/Mets.



Jeff Silverstein, Cold Spring

I was a 10 in 1986!



Yasmine Awais, Philipstown

I'm a 2. I haven't seen a Renegades game in years but want to.



Jeremy Carey, Beacon



HIGHLANDS CHAPEL
Home of the Highlands Choral Society

THIS SUNDAY:
MILLIE SOLOMON
"DECISIONS
NEAR THE
END OF
LIFE"
APR 6 @ 11:00AM
FOR WORSHIP
REFLECTION
& SONG

April 13 Carol O'Reilly

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

216 MAIN STREET COLD SPRING, NY
HIGHLANDSCHAPEL.ORG

St. Philip's
Nursery School

Please Join Us for
Drinks and Appetizers
to Celebrate our Year
and to Honor
SARAH BAYNE
for her support and service

Saturday, April 5
5 to 7 p.m.

RSVP to stphilipsparents@gmail.com
1101 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
Event is free of charge;
donations appreciated

BEACON, NEW YORK
artisan
wine shop

where food meets its match

www.artisanwineshop.com

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

your source for organic, biodynamic &
low-intervention wines, ciders & spirits since 2006

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Hotel Tax Delayed

2 percent will also apply to short-term rentals

A 2 percent tax on hotel stays and short-term rentals in Beacon that was expected to go into effect on April 1 has been delayed until July.

The city could have imposed a tax of up to 5 percent under a 2023 state law introduced by Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson and state Sen. Rob Rolison, whose districts include Beacon. The charge will be in addition to a hotel tax collected by Dutchess County that increased in November from 4 to 5 percent.

City Administrator Chris White said an online platform for Beacon businesses to administer the tax, which can be passed on to customers, was not ready for the April launch and some local hotels already have bookings for the first and second quarters.

New York State Awards Development Grants

\$3 million sent to Philipstown

New York State announced on Monday (March 31) that it had completed distributing its latest round of capital grants through Empire State Development.

Its recent awards included \$2.5 million to the Village of Cold Spring toward the cost of raising the upper reservoir dam by 2 feet, installing a waterproof membrane on its face and improving the outlet and abut-

ments; \$75,000 to Philipstown to complete the mapping of its stormwater infrastructure; and \$500,000 to Hudson Valley Shakespear in Philipstown to create a national marketing campaign focused on “destination tourism.”

Legislation Would Limit Tariffs

Jacobson proposes banning utility hikes

Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, last month introduced legislation that would prohibit utilities such as Central Hudson from raising rates to cover any tariffs imposed by the U.S. or Canada on gas and electricity.

At the same time, Central Hudson has asked the Public Service Commission for permission to delay a hearing on its most recent rate hike request until at least Sept. 30.

In August 2024, electric delivery rates rose by 7.85 percent and gas rates by 9.19 percent. That same month, Central Hudson asked the PSC for approval to raise rates by an additional 5.3 percent and gas by 5.9 percent beginning in July 2025.

Lawler Among ‘Most Effective’

Seven of 58 bills passed by Congress

Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes Philipstown, was one of the 10 most effective Republican members of Congress during the 2023-24 term, accord-

ing to an analysis released March 25.

The ratings were calculated by the Center for Effective Lawmaking, an institute run by the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University. It considered 15 metrics based on the bills each member sponsored, how far they moved through the process and how substantial their policy proposals were.

Among the 228 Republican members of Congress, Lawler ranked No. 6. The House passed seven of his 58 bills, and two were enacted into law. Marc Molinaro, the former Dutchess County executive, was No. 7.

Rep. Pat Ryan, whose district includes Beacon, was ranked 168th of 220 Democratic members. The only New Yorker in the Top 10 was Gregory Meeks, who represents Queens. The report is at thelawmakers.org.

Putnam Recognizes Haldane Students

Honored for volunteer service

The Putnam County Youth Bureau and Youth Board on March 11 announced

the recipients of its annual Youth Awards, including two seniors from Haldane High School. The students will be honored at a dinner on Thursday (April 10).

The 19 honorees, selected for their volunteerism, include Christian Ferreira and Josephine Foley-Hedlund from Haldane and Andrew Barti from Putnam Valley.

Beacon Roadwork To Begin Sunday Night

Drivers to use detour while manholes are reconstructed

The intersection of Fishkill/Teller Avenue and Main Street in Beacon will be partially closed from Sunday night (April 6) to Wednesday, as the city performs around-the-clock manhole excavation and reconstruction. Teller and Fishkill near the intersection will be fully closed; Main Street will be limited to one lane of travel regulated by temporary traffic lights. Signs will direct drivers to a detour route along Henry and North Chestnut streets and Verplanck Avenue.

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

JOIN THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT AND THE BEACON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Night of Local History in Beacon

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

6:30 - 8:00PM

AT

BEACON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

61 LEONARD ST, BEACON, NY

Your ticket includes a **signature historical cocktail** courtesy of Diane Lapis, co-author of *Cocktails Across America*. Sponsored by Cooper's Bar.



Delve into the past with the Beacon Historical Society's main exhibit: “From Haverstraw to Beacon — Inside the Brickyards that Built New York City.” Discover the fascinating stories behind the bricks that shaped our iconic skyline.

EXPLORE EVEN MORE:

- › “Irish Immigrants and Their Descendants Who Settled in Our Community”
- › Selections from “Work in Decay: Mt. Beacon Photos by Patrick Prosser”
- › Enjoy a self-guided tour with docents on hand to answer your questions.



Limited spots available! Reserve your tickets today. Purchase tickets at highlandscurrent.org/beacon-event.

TICKETS:

Members: \$15*
Non-Members: \$35*
- includes *The Current* membership!

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



The HIGHLANDS
Current

PUBLISHER
Highlands Current Inc.
Board of Directors:
Damon Banks, Christine Bockelmann,
Yaslyn Daniels, David Duffy, Will Felder,
Kyle Good, Nicholas Groombridge,
Todd Haskell, Robert Lanier, Mel Laytner,
Joseph Plummer, Frances S. Reilly,
Scott Tillitt, Jia Jia Ye

FOUNDER
Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR
Chip Rowe editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR
Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR
Jeff Simms

REPORTERS
Jacob Aframian • Joey Asher
Brian PJ Cronin • Joe Dizney
Pamela Doan • Marc Ferris • Deb Lucke
Nick Robbins • Michael Turton

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Ross Corsair • Skip Pearlman

STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM
REPORTERS: Nadeen Ahmed, Charlotte
Bowen, Ash Marcus, Annabelle
Notarthomas, Kayla Selander (*Beacon*);
Lincoln Wayland (*Haldane*); Jude
Morrison (*St. Regis*); Clara Tripp
(*Fieldston*) / PHOTOGRAPHERS: Leo Grocott
(*Haldane*), Aron Li (*Beacon*)

LAYOUT DESIGNER
Pierce Strudler

GROWTH DIRECTOR
Lauren Cook

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Michele Gedney
• For information on advertising:
845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org
highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP
Emily Hare membership@highlandscurrent.org

The Current is a nonprofit venture supported by donations from its members. To join, see highlandscurrent.org/join.

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

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

April 4, 2025
Volume 13, Issue 14

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

© Highlands Current Inc. 2025

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanical or electronic, without written permission of the publisher.

NYFA* Winner: 156 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR (2021-23)
* New York Press Association, 2013 - 24

NNA* Winner: 127 Better Newspaper Contest Awards
* National Newspaper Association, 2016 - 23

NYNPA* Winner:
34 Awards for Excellence
* New York News Publishers Association, 2017 - 23

Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Route 9 development

Open space aside, we don't want more development, more traffic or more people clogging up our communities, which have been driven to look like White Plains ("Hudson Highlands Reserve Gets Final Approval," March 28). And homes that cost \$1 million each? Ridiculous. So much for small-town charm.

Jeff Kover, *Hopewell Junction*

City people have ruined this area. What a shame we lost our beloved country living. And wait till they start with their left-wing politics.

Scott King, *Philipstown*

What a joke! Conserved land for the use of its residents. Don't you mean private property?

Ralph Basso, *via Facebook*

That is not affordable housing; the taxes will be astronomical and the homeowners' fees ridiculous. No wonder people are fleeing New York.

Laurie Nuch, *via Facebook*

I don't remember voting on this. It should be up to the taxpayers, not politicians.

Michael Jones, *via Facebook*

Fur in resin

Melissa Schlobohm's work never fails to take my breath away ("Caught in Amber," March 28).

Julia Famularo, *Philipstown*

Route 9 Dunkin'

The site for the proposed Dunkin' is one of the worst places to be pulling out onto Route 9 ("Route 9 Plan to be Downsized," March 21). I thought there were no chain stores allowed in Philipstown?

Dave Cataldo, *via Facebook*

That's only within the historic district of the Village of Cold Spring. The Dunkin' near Foodtown was grandfathered in when the formula business restrictions were put in place. I was on the Historic District Review Board when it was reviewed, and we did the best we could within the guidelines. This proposed site is a disaster waiting to happen. I live and work within five minutes of the location and the turn-off being proposed onto Route 9 is insane. There's going to be a horrible collision that you can add to the dozens of others that occur with the traffic on that stretch. I hope they consider a different use.

Andrea Connor, *via Facebook*

Doesn't the developer realize that the Hudson Valley's finest donuts are already across the street [at Vera's Marketplace]?
Christopher Pascarella, *via Facebook*

Fired guards

The sad part is it took a better part of a week after Oneida, Rensselaer and Steuben counties announced they would hire corrections officers dismissed by the state before Dutchess did so ("Dutchess Recruits Fired Guards," March 28). I called the county executive's office to say, "Look what's going on up there." Steve McLaughlin, the Rensselaer executive, has been pounding away at the governor.

Tom Masch, *via Facebook*

Fulbright

You think anyone who was conned into voting for this snake-oil salesman for "our" president is opening their eyes to the reality of the damage he is doing to valuable programs ("Fulbright Fellow in Limbo," March 21)? The dumbing down of America is in full force, but so are the results of it. I'm so sorry for Sophia Ptacek and hope this is not a lost opportunity for her. The world needs this type of research. Industrial decarbonization? Air pollution? More "fake news," I suppose.

Maryann Syrek, *via Instagram*

It's not what she expected but as one door closes, another opens. I hope she does well. Turner is a great American company with international interests. Good for her [getting a job there].

Jeff Phillips, *via Facebook*

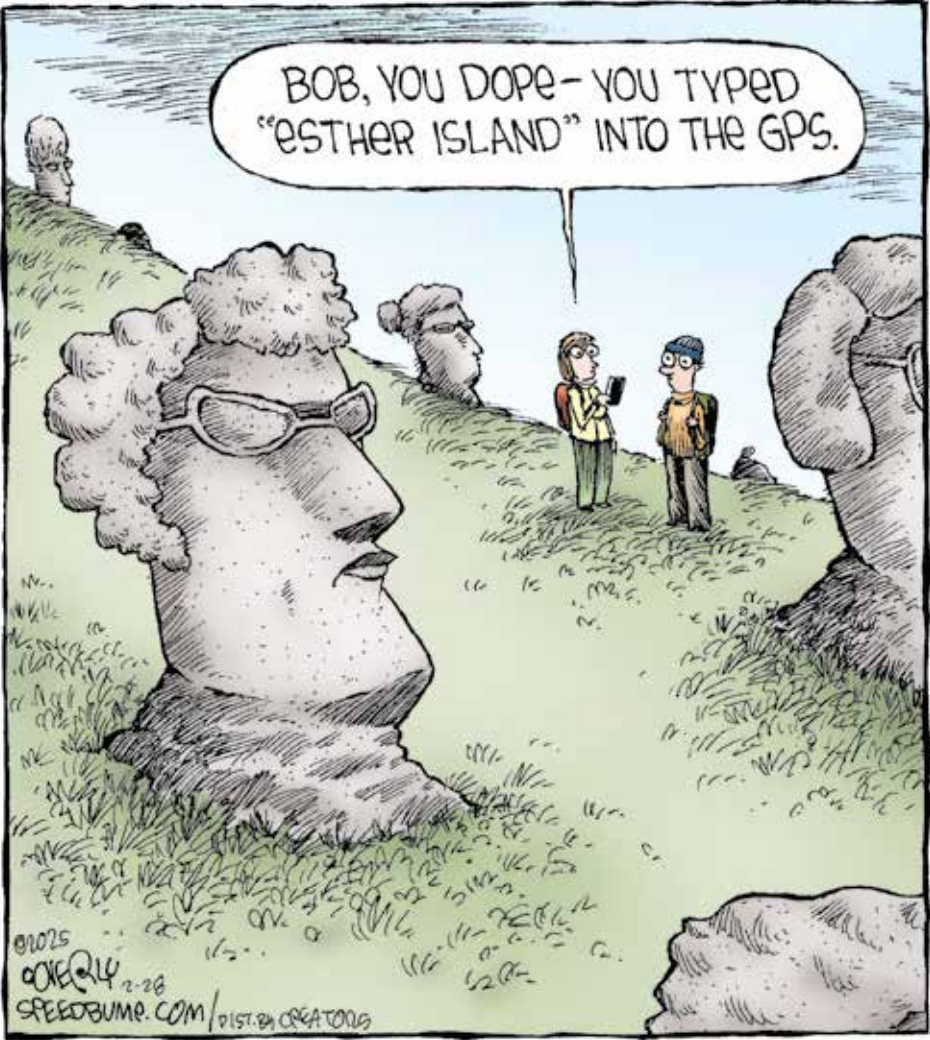
Beacon firehouse

Although Mayor Lee Kyriacou has offered up the new central firehouse as a meeting place, it is regrettable that he and the City Council chose to sacrifice a beautiful and distinctive firehouse to the highest bidder, rather than offer it as a museum and/or gathering place for retired firemen. Beacon Engine has a rich history that is irreplaceable, including being the first in Dutchess County to house motorized fire trucks.

The new firehouse has been paid for, so giving the old one to the firefighters as a thank you for their service will cost the city nothing and honor the many volunteers who served there for well over 100 years. Only a few short years ago, in 2020, Mayor Kyriacou declared: "We will find ways to preserve that history and to honor the proud legacy of our first responders." It seems like the best time to do so is now.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

For the record, all deeds from that era are "aged handwritten deeds."
Tom Cerchiara, *via Instagram*



How Dutchess County Spent \$57M in Federal Aid

Comptroller issues final pandemic funds report

The Dutchess Comptroller’s Office on March 24 released the last of 12 reports on how the county spent \$57 million provided by the federal government in response to the pandemic. The county was required to spend its American Rescue Plan funds, which it received in 2021 and 2022, by Dec. 31. The last \$378,772 was allocated to education, said Comptroller

Dan Aymar-Blair. In the report, Aymar-Blair said that the county “accomplished a lot of good with the funds” but noted that nearly half the money was reallocated from the original plan. For instance, \$9.3 million earmarked for a Housing Trust Fund was reallocated to Dutchess Community College and preschool special education because it was unlikely to be spent by the deadline, and \$11.6 million for Dutchess Stadium improvements was reduced to \$1.4 million. The report is online at dub.sh/dutchess-invests.

Where the Pandemic Relief Money Went

YOUTH	2021 Plan	2024 Spent
Learn, Play, Create grants	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Summer jobs for teens	\$100,000	\$100,000
Youth Center (Poughkeepsie)	\$10,000,000	\$4,490,415
Education (community college, special ed)	\$0	\$25,751,133
PARKS		
Park upgrades (trails, playgrounds)	\$5,000,000	\$1,298,746
Stadium land purchase from Beacon schools	\$636,000	\$634,082
Stadium addition	\$11,600,000	\$1,446,503
ECONOMY		
Emergency radio system	\$6,000,000	\$4,599,432
Marketing training for small businesses	\$284,250	\$284,250
Build Now NY (near Hudson Valley airport)	\$350,000	\$246,301
Leisure and hospitality skills training	\$150,000	\$149,898
Regional skills training center	\$1,215,750	\$1,201,632
High-speed internet	\$1,000,000	\$270,790
Water storage	\$730,000	\$0
COMMUNITY		
Pandemic grants to service nonprofits*	\$3,000,000	\$2,852,929
Emergency housing design (Poughkeepsie)	\$0	\$388,780
Homeless shelter (Poughkeepsie)	\$6,000,000	\$2,323,712
Municipal grants**	\$1,000,000	\$938,757
Behavioral Health RV	\$150,000	\$150,000
Drug Task Force vehicles (3)	\$0	\$102,794
GOVERNMENT		
Fill vacant positions from retirements	\$4,635,397	\$4,691,262
One-time pandemic employee bonuses	\$1,727,000	\$1,726,981
Administration costs for ARP funding	\$500,000	\$500,000

*Included \$97,317 to Land to Learn
**Included \$89,387 to Beacon for fire rescue gear

Total: \$57,148,397

Source: Dutchess County Comptroller



Current Wins 17 State Awards

Top prizes for illustration, column, features

The Highlands Current won 17 awards at the annual New York Press Association conference on March 20 and 21 in Saratoga Springs. The weekly newspaper has won 156 NYPA awards since 2013. Winners were selected in 68 categories by members of the Missouri Press Association from 2,082 entries submitted by 132 news organizations. The Current won seven prizes among papers of all circulations, including first place for graphic illustration (Deb Lucke for “The New Improved Anopheles Mosquito”); video (Erin Holton, Facundo Martinez and Sofia Milojev of Marist University, in partnership with The Current, for “A Mother’s Fight for Bridge Barriers”); advertising media

kit; and audience development promotion (Emily Hare and Eleanor Hare for Ice Cream Passport). The paper won second place for design excellence (Pierce Strudler) and third place citations for solutions journalism (Brian PJ Cronin for “Talking Trash, Part III”) and editorial cartoon (Clay Jones). Among smaller papers, The Current won first and third place for columns (Michael Turton and Joey Asher, respectively) and the top prizes for sports feature (Asher, for “Reporter’s Notebook: Jogging with Jimmy”), feature story (Cronin for “Out There: Pond Rock”) and feature photos (Ross Corsair, for “Planet Parties,” which also won third place for picture story). The Current won second and third place for advertising that promotes the paper, third place for coverage of education and third place for small ad.

The HIGHLANDS
Current

15 YEARS OF NEWS.
NOW HELP SHAPE
OUR FUTURE!

Brief survey.
Big impact.

Your perspective is invaluable as we plan for the years ahead. We're dedicated to being your trusted local news source.

And we need your input.

DUB.SH/HC-SURVEY



Rep. Pat Ryan Holds Town Hall

Stories of funding cuts and calls for action

By Brian PJ Cronin

Keith Thompson stood before 700 people in the auditorium at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie on March 19 and held up a photo of his father.

Both Thompson and his father were veterans. Both men struggled with PTSD, or post-traumatic stress disorder, he said.

Thompson said his father had not been able to get the critical care he needed before his death years ago. He said that was on his mind during a recent visit to the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls for a routine appointment. Thompson said that when the elevator door opened, all he saw was a darkened floor with empty desks.

Thompson was able to get the help he needed but asked what might have happened if a veteran undergoing a mental health crisis had been greeted with darkness.

Thompson was one of several Hudson Valley residents invited to speak at a town hall organized by Rep. Pat Ryan, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon. The room was filled — many were turned away — a reflection of concerns about sweeping spending cuts and freezes put in place by the Trump administration. A few weeks

earlier, a telephone town hall hosted by Ryan had 22,000 attendees.

On March 19, Rick Osofsky of Ronnybrook Farms, a third-generation dairy farm in Ancramdale, said the U.S. Department of Agriculture had awarded Ronnybrook \$500,000 last year to build a solar power array to offset its monthly \$10,000 electricity bill.

Like many federal grants, the money wasn't awarded upfront. Ronnybrook had to build the array and be reimbursed. Osofsky said he took the grant award letter to a bank to obtain a loan but recently learned the reimbursement has been frozen. A \$500,000 debt could threaten the existence of the farm, he said.

Christa Hines of Hudson River Housing described 48 people who may become homeless because of federal cuts. Josh Wojehowski, the Democratic supervisor for the Town of Cornwall, said that it was out \$1.1 million for a sewage treatment plant because of cuts to earmarks.

In a Q&A with Ryan, residents expressed frustration not only with the Trump administration but with Democratic leaders.

"Where is the coordinated effort?" asked Richard Mardex, a retired teacher. "We need representatives who are going to be on our side in these things. I'm sure a lot of people here have given money to the party. Where is the ad campaign?"



Rep. Pat Ryan held a town hall in Poughkeepsie on March 19.

Photo provided

Ryan said that he believed there was a national leadership vacuum. "I think it's political, and I think it's moral," he said. "It frustrates me. I'm not a patient person. But we can agonize or we can organize."

He noted the Republican majority in the House is only a few seats, and that Democrats need three Republican votes to block spending bills. He said Republicans in neighboring districts had won by slim margins and might bend to public pressure, an apparent reference to Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district includes Philipstown.

The event was not entirely peaceful. Shortly after it was announced that anyone

disturbing the meeting would be asked to leave, protestors supporting Palestine began yelling at Ryan, accusing him of genocide. Ryan has voted to continue sending weapons and funding to Israel for use in its attacks on Gaza.

After the protestors were escorted out, Ryan called the disturbance "democracy in action" and called Israel's breaking of a ceasefire agreement "unacceptable."

"Every American has the right to do what those patriots just did," he said. "That is courageous, that is something I myself have personally fought to defend and protect, and we all have to continue to hold onto that right."

Former Beacon Couple Seeks Acquittal

Orsinis convicted of killing wife's ex-husband

By Leonard Sparks

Federal prosecutors say a jury relied on "overwhelming" evidence against a former Beacon couple challenging their conviction for killing the woman's former husband, who disappeared in April 2020 after returning his daughters to West Church Street following a custody visit.

Jamie and Nicholas Orsini filed separate motions for acquittal or a new trial after a jury convicted them on Sept. 27 of killing Steven Kraft, whose body police have never found after discovering his car abandoned in the City of Newburgh.

Both Orsinis claim that prosecutors failed to prove that Kraft was killed, with Jamie Orsini alleging that surveillance video capturing Nicholas Orsini driving Kraft's car in Newburgh showed evidence of a passenger, suggesting her ex-husband was still alive after he returned their teenage daughters to Beacon.

Jamie Orsini also claims that supplies bought from the Home Depot in Fishkill before and after Kraft's disappearance — a 100-foot tarp, duct tape, painters coveralls, grinder and galvanized trash cans — were "everyday household items," not tools used to dispose of Kraft's body and evidence as alleged by prosecutors.

In addition to challenging the court's admission of the purchases, Jamie Orsini claims the court erred by allowing the testimony of two neighbors who said they smelled something burning from the yard outside their apartment.

Both Orsinis alleged that the federal crime under which they were convicted — carjacking resulting in death — does not apply because prosecutors failed to prove a carjacking took place.

The claims mirror those made by the defense during the trial, according to prosecutors in a response filed on March 22. "The evidence was not just sufficient, it was overwhelming," they said.

After a two-week federal trial in White Plains, a jury found each Orsini guilty of carjacking resulting in death and conspiracy to commit carjacking in the disappearance of Kraft on April 28, 2020, less than two months after he filed a request to have the custody order modified. A hearing on his request had been scheduled for June 10.

On the day he disappeared, Kraft picked up his daughters from his ex-wife's home in Beacon at 4 p.m., drove them to a Sonic restaurant in the Town of Newburgh and then to his apartment in Marlboro, before returning them to Beacon at 7 p.m. Police said they used location data to confirm that Jamie and Nicholas Orsini followed him to the restaurant.

The next day, Kraft failed to show up to

his job at a deli in Marlboro, and on May 4, investigators found his 1999 Camry abandoned in Newburgh.

Prosecutors allege the couple planned the murder, buying items before Kraft disappeared that could be used to dismember and burn a body. Security footage and a store receipt from April 8, 2020, from the Home Depot on Route 9 in Fishkill showed that Jamie Orsini bought a tarp, duct tape and coveralls.

After Kraft's disappearance, Nicholas Orsini bought trash cans and a grinder, an ax, charcoal, lighter fluid, a lighter and 16 bundles of firewood at the same Home Depot, prosecutors said.

One of the earliest pieces of evidence was surveillance footage showing Kraft's car crossing the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge on April 28. Nicholas Orsini was accused of being the driver. According to investigators, he parked the car, walked a mile to a Sunoco station on Route 9W, discarded one of Kraft's phones along the way (another was left in the car) and used a burner phone to call a taxi to take him back to Beacon.

More than three years later, on June 15, 2023, police arrested the Orsinis in Amsterdam, the city near Albany where they had moved. Each faces a maximum penalty of life in prison on the carjacking resulting in death charge and five years on the conspiracy charge.



Thurs. Apr 10 – 7:30 PM

STEPHEN CLAIR & RJ COWDERY

Don't miss out! Stephen has the great honor to bring to you the incredible RJ Cowdery

Sat. April 5 – 12-2 PM

EXHIBIT - REALISM ON THE HUDSON

Art Exhibit & Sale - Thru Apr 13 - Most Fri/Sat/Sun

Sat. Apr 5 – 8 PM

THE ARTICHOKE Presents: MARTIN DOCKERY

"Every Good Story Ends With One"

Tix: artichokeshow.com

Apr 4 - LIT LIT

Apr 11 - LiveWriting: Presents Poets and Projects

Apr 13 - DIFFERENTPEOPLE is sold out!

Apr 18 - NERD NIGHT Hudson Valley

Apr 19 - LITTLE LIES - Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band

Thur. May 15 – 5:30 PM

The Howland Cultural Center's

46th Anniversary GALA Celebration

Join Us in Honoring Two Remarkable Visionaries!

Neil Caplan - Bannerman Castle Trust

Phil Ciganer - Towne Crier Cafe

Visit: [website](http://website.com), social media for more events, info, tickets

**HOWLAND
CULTURAL
CENTER**



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

Current Names Three Board Members

Highlands Current Inc., the nonprofit corporation which publishes *The Highlands Current*, has named three members to its board of directors.

Yaslyn Daniels, of Cold Spring, is a digital marketing executive and former resident of Garrison and Beacon. She served on the Cold Spring Planning Board from

2021 to 2023 and for five years on the board of the nonprofit Art in General. Daniels holds a degree in journalism and new media from New York University and an MBA from Howard University.

Will Felder, of Garrison, originates



Daniels

and structures corporate debt financings. A West Point graduate, he has an MBA and a law degree from Emory University and founded and directs Tarjoman Relief, a nonprofit focused on the evacuation and legal immigration to the U.S. of Afghan interpreters.

Scott Tillitt moved to Beacon from Brooklyn in 2006 and in 2009 founded



Felder

Beahive, a network of local work clubs. He was also a co-founder of Re>Think Local and has served on the board of BeaconArts.

The other Current board members are Damon Banks, Christine Bockelmann, David Duffy, Kyle Good, Nick Groombridge, Todd Haskell, Robert Lanier, Mel Laytner, Joe Plummer, Fran Reilly and Jia Jia Ye.



Tillitt

Food Bank (from Page 1)

Tom Nardacci, the CEO of the Regional Food Bank, said his agency expects to lose 200 tractor-trailers delivering an estimated 8 million pounds of produce, dairy products and other food. Calling the loss “disheartening,” Nardacci said the food bank faces a gap it hopes to partly close by expanding a partnership with Hannaford, ShopRite, Walmart and other grocery chains that yields 12 million pounds of surplus food annually.

However, that expansion will be costly and resource-intensive, “requiring more staff, vehicles and volunteers,” he said. “We are asking community partners, businesses and donors to support our critical mission in any way they can.”

That mission is more urgent because hunger has been increasing due to inflation and other factors, food providers say. A USDA report released in September found that 18 million households struggled in 2023 to feed themselves at some point during the year, up from 17 million a year earlier and 13.8 million in 2020.

The Regional Food Bank, which serves 23 counties, supplied 54 million pounds of food last year from its facilities, which include another distribution center in Latham, near Albany. Providers in Dutchess County received 5.4 million pounds and those in Putnam, 1.2 million.

“We have seen this increased need with inflation and other economic instability,” said Felicia Kalan, the Regional Food Bank’s executive vice president for the Hudson Valley. “This isn’t a time to make those cuts because the need is there and it’s growing.”

Local Food Providers

- **Philipstown Food Pantry**
presbychurchcoldspring.org/food-pantry
10 Academy St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
- **St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church**
beacon-episcopal.org/food-pantry
15 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
- **Mutual Aid Beacon**
beaconmutualaid.com
P.O. Box 148, Beacon, NY 12508
- **Beacon’s Backyard Kitchen**
instagram.com/beaconsbackyard
- **Fareground**
fareground.org
P.O. Box 615, Beacon, NY 12508
- **Regional Food Bank**
regionalfoodbank.net
580 Route 416, Montgomery, NY 12549

Along with the Philipstown Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring, the agency delivers to three pantries in Beacon — the Community Action Partnership, Salvation Army and St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal Church. In addition, its partners include Fareground in Fishkill and Second Chance Foods in Brewster.

Seventy percent of the food the Regional Food Bank receives is not from grocery stores but vegetables, fruits and other products purchased from farms, said Kalan. Although the extent of federal cuts remains uncertain, she fears the regional bank could lose 12

percent of the food it receives.

“Food banks are incredibly resilient,” she said. “We have a strong network and we’re going to do everything we can to continue the work that we have across the board.”

Elected officials, providers and advocates are also protesting cuts to two programs — Local Foods for Schools (LFS) and Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) — that allow food banks, schools and childcare programs to buy food from farmers.

Using LFPA funding, the state’s Food for New York Families program awarded \$2 million in 2023 to the Regional Food Bank and \$2 million to Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County, which has bought and distributed 290,000 pounds of farm products via pantries and a truck whose stops include the county senior center and Chestnut Ridge in Cold Spring and the Brookside mobile home park in Philipstown.

The Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming in Philipstown received \$811,460 in LFPA funds in 2024 to expand its Food Sovereignty Fund by contracting with 35 farms to distribute \$600,000 worth of food to 23 communities. Megan Larmer, Glynwood’s senior director of programs, said it has been assured the funding is safe but that money for an additional round of

LFPA grants in 2025 is gone.

“We are moving forward with the expectation that the [2024] funds will reach us, but out of an abundance of caution are holding off on incurring additional expenses until our first reimbursement request of approximately \$200,000 is fulfilled,” she said.

There is concern that the White House and Congress also will cut funding for the USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), aka food stamps. Two-thirds of the program’s 40 million recipients are seniors, children and people with disabilities, according to Feeding America, a network of food banks, pantries and meal programs.

A list of potential cuts issued by the House Ways and Means Committee outlines several strategies for paring \$300 billion from SNAP spending over 10 years. They include eliminating \$274 billion in expanded benefits approved by the Biden administration.

Further Reading

For more about local food insecurity, see our series *Hunger in the Highlands*:

highlandscurrent.org/hunger



Carol Filmanski Memorial Service

The Memorial Service for Carol Filmanski will be held **Saturday, April 12, 11:00am** at the Cold Spring United Methodist Church, 216 Main St., Cold Spring NY 10516. We look forward to everyone’s attendance and the sharing of their memories of our wife and mother.

~ Ken, Carly, & Ed

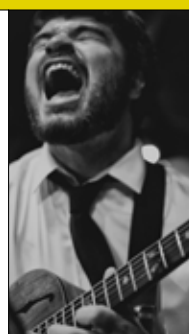
PAID NOTICE

Marty O'Reilly

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 | DOORS OPEN AT 7P

Marty O'Reilly's raw voice and gritty, soulful guitar accompanied by Jeff Kissell on upright bass and Kyle Turek drums.

BEER, WINE, AND OCTAVIO'S FOOD WAGON



45 Market St.,
Cold Spring

For tickets please visit
chapelrestoration.org



SUNDAY MUSIC SERIES

**Eric Cha-Beach with
the Bard Percussion Studio**

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 AT 4:00P FREE



iGuitar®
Workshop

- Custom Guitars
- iGuitar USB
- Factory Direct Sales
- Expert Repairs & Setups
- USB/Synth Upgrades
- Lessons

Patrick G. Cummings

290 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

845•809•5347 x226

www.iguitarworkshop.com | sales@iguitarworkshop.com



Beacon Engine *(from Page 1)*

conducted a title search that they say revealed municipal ownership of the entire facility. A real-estate expert told the court that a deed recorded in 1889, the year the station was built, showed that the Village of Matteawan, which preceded Beacon, owned the site.

Rosa noted in her decision that the volunteer company, which uses the decommissioned firehouse for social gatherings and to coordinate charitable campaigns, stands to suffer “irreparable injury” — a criterion required for the order it sought — if the

station is sold. But at the same time, the firefighters “failed to sufficiently demonstrate” either a valid ownership claim or “any defect in the city’s claim of title” in the dozens of documents submitted to the court, she said.

Conversely, Paul Conrad, the title expert hired by the city, provided “copies of the recorded deeds, as well as a survey depicting how the city acquired” the parcels that comprise the property, Rosa said.

Her decision would appear to give Beacon the go-ahead to sell the station. City officials have commissioned Gate House Compass Realty to list Beacon Engine in May for \$1.75

million and Mase for \$1.95 million.

The stations are to be sold with covenants that restrict renaming them or altering historical features. The proceeds will offset the \$14.7 million the city spent to build a central fire station that opened near City Hall last fall.

Nonetheless, Joe Green, a Beacon Engine Co. trustee, said Wednesday that the firefighters are preparing another legal challenge. In a document submitted to the court on March 27, Lauren Scott, the firefighters’ attorney, said the fire company’s claim that it owns at least two-thirds of the property is based on a title search it commissioned.

Scott, who called the testimony by the city’s title expert “glaringly deficient due to its lack of analysis” of historical deeds, argued that Beacon’s charter prevents a litigant from enforcing a claim, debt or demand against the city for at least 30 days after filing a notice of claim in court.

Because Beacon Engine filed notice on March 7 signaling its intention to seek judgment on the ownership challenge and “unjust enrichment” for building maintenance and insurance the volunteers say they funded, the company cannot submit its complaint until Monday (April 7), Scott said.

Rail Trail *(from Page 1)*

ment that the landowners misapplied the “centerline presumption” — a general rule that property conveyed for a right-of-way extends to the center of a road or rail line.

The case now moves to the compensation phase, which could include site visits and a trial, according to Lewis Rice. Another law firm, Stewart, Wald & Smith, has filed three federal lawsuits on behalf of more than 260 landowners along the line.

Both firms specialize in “rails-to-trails” cases. Lewis Rice’s recent victories include \$5 million for 164 landowners in Henderson and Transylvania counties in North Carolina and \$460,000 for three landowners in Sarasota County, Florida.

Metro-North, which acquired the line

in 1995, is negotiating to relinquish the tracks to the state for the proposed 13-mile Beacon-to-Hopewell trail, according to court documents. It would begin at the city’s Metro-North station, then wind for 4 miles around the city’s southern perimeter before running parallel with Tioronda Avenue and the east end of Main Street.

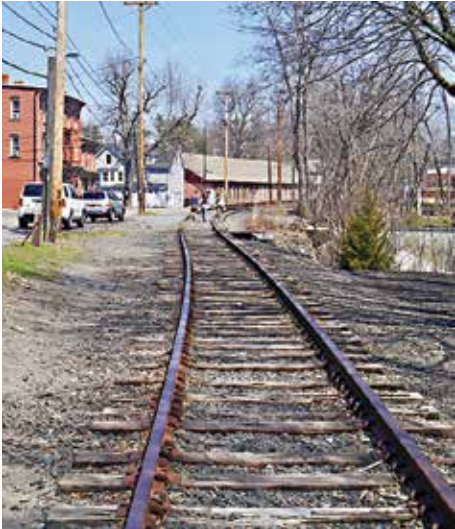
Major crossings would include Churchill Street and East Main Street (at the dummy light). The trail would run underneath Route 9D (at Tioronda Avenue) and hug northbound Route 52 (Fishkill Avenue) to the city line.

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

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

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

A planning firm hired by Dutchess County told the Beacon City Council last month that it has found no major roadblocks to the trail’s construction. Dutchess County released a report on the corridor’s condition in November. A final report, with detailed concepts, cost estimates and phasing recommendations, should be finished by the summer.



The proposed rail trail would follow the tracks through Beacon. *File photo*



FREE LANTERN-MAKING WORKSHOPS



SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS THROUGH APRIL 13

4TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND LIGHTS-APRIL 26

Hudson Highlands Land Trust's Humble Bee Hollow

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
hvshakespeare.org



Adult-use Cannabis Dispensary



THE STATION BEACON NY



Open 7 Days a Week
11:00a - 9:00p



463 Station Inc. (License #OCM-RETL-24-000259)
For use only by adults 21 years of age and older. Keep out of reach of children and pets. In case of accidental ingestion or overconsumption, contact the Poison Center hotline 1-800-222-1222 or call 9-1-1. Please consume responsibly. Cannabis can be addictive.
Concerned about your cannabis use? Contact the New York State HOPELine by texting HopeNY, calling 1-877-8-HOPENY or visiting oasas.ny.gov/HOPELine.

thestationbeacon.com

463 Main St., Beacon

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

■ The Cold Spring Village Board has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday (April 9) on its proposed 2025-26 budget. Mayor Kathleen Foley said the village will increase taxes to the maximum allowed by the state for 2025-26 under its mandated tax cap, which is 2.7 percent. Water and sewage usage rates will also increase. Foley said infrastructure projects such as the Fair Street culvert upgrades and Upper Dam repairs have made budgeting challenging. She said combining user rate increases for water with a state \$2.5 million grant for dam repairs enabled the village to borrow less and save on interest.

■ At its Wednesday (April 2) meeting, the board approved requests from Matt Jackson, the officer-in-charge of the Police Department, that will affect parking and traffic after Breakneck Ridge is closed for construction for two years beginning April 21 and drainage repairs begin on Fair Street. Parking will be

suspended on Fair and traffic one-way north from Main Street to Route 9D as needed on weekends. There will also be barriers on its northern section to separate pedestrians. Parking will be banned on the north side of Northern Avenue from Fair to Route 9D at least until the drainage repairs are complete.

■ The village plans to request a \$4.5 million earmark as part of the federal highway infrastructure program. At the March 26 meeting, Trustee Laura Bozzi outlined the Cold Spring Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project, which would include two phases: (1) a safety assessment of the Route 9D and Route 301 corridors and (2) sidewalk improvements, lane-striping, signage, crosswalks, pedestrian-control signals and islands, curb cuts, ramps and traffic calming measures as needed. Putnam County provided the cost estimate; the village would contribute \$500,000. Given ongoing cuts in federal spending, Foley commented: “Who knows if it’s going to work or not, but why not take a shot?”

Putnam Sales Tax *(from Page 1)*

percent sales tax, which includes 4 percent for the state and 0.375 percent for the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District. If Putnam’s request is approved by the state, the new tax rate will be 8.125 percent.

County Executive Kevin Byrne and four of the nine legislators, including Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, opposed the reduction, which will cause an estimated \$5 million reduction in annual revenue for the county. Byrne said the proceeds from sales taxes have funded property-tax reductions and a sales tax exemption for clothing and footwear under \$110.

Town and village officials, who have demanded for years that Putnam share sales tax revenue with their governments, also support the higher rate, said Montgomery.

“They’re the ones who hold the burden of generating the sales tax,” she said. “They’re the ones who pick up the garbage; they’re the ones who provide and pay for the EMTs who respond to people falling off the mountain or falling on your sidewalk.”

Legislator Dan Birmingham, who had initially proposed a reduction to 3.5 percent, said the county’s savings, or “unrestricted reserve funds,” of \$134 million justified giving residents a break. During his first stint as a legislator, from 2004 to 2012, Birmingham supported the 2007 increase to 4 percent to cover county losses attributed to the Great Recession.

Now, Putnam is “sitting on top of the largest fund balance-to-budget ratio this county has ever seen,” he said.

In one confusing sequence during the Tuesday meeting, Montgomery voted for the 3.75 percent reduction, proposed a motion to reconsider its approval and argued with Chair Amy Sayegh before being allowed to change her vote to “no.” “Robert’s Rules say that if you vote yes on a resolution, you can make a motion to reconsider,” said Mont-

gomery, explaining her initial vote.

Montgomery also tried to place on the agenda a resolution authorizing the county to share 50 percent of sales tax revenues above the budgeted amount with towns and villages.

Ag district

With farmers standing in solidarity, Montgomery asked her colleagues to suspend the April 30 deadline for applications to the county’s Agricultural District while the process undergoes a review. Farms approved for the district gain protection from “unreasonable” local restrictions, and other benefits, under a 1971 state law designed to preserve agriculture.

A vote in August to reject five farmers recommended by the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board for inclusion not only spurred a lawsuit from Ridge Ranch, a livestock operation in Patterson, but protests by farmers and their advocates. Amid the backlash, Paul Jonke, then chair of the Legislature, removed a Philipstown farmer, Jocelyn Apicello, from the board.

The farmers accuse a faction of the Legislature and Neal Tomann, a Philipstown resident who is the interim Soil & Water District manager, of being hostile to farming, and their complaints led Byrne to convene a roundtable meeting last month.

Before Tuesday’s meeting, farmers gathered in the parking lot behind the Historic Courthouse, their vehicles draped with banners — “Save Putnam County Farms” and “Learn More About Ridge Ranch and the Fight for Fair Farming.” Inside the courthouse, they lined up to speak, often talking over Sayegh as she reminded them that public comment is limited to agenda items.

“We’re your constituents,” said Joey Mancuso, whose Big Red Barn Farm in Putnam Valley was among those rejected for the Agricultural District. “We need your help and support; we don’t need the animosity; we don’t need the politics.”

By the Numbers

Beacon Police

By Jeff Simms

Beacon Police Chief Tom Figlia presented the department’s 2024 annual report to the City Council during its Monday (March 31) workshop. Figlia reviewed some of the higher-profile incidents that police responded to last year, including the arrest of multiple suspects in a 2022 shooting death at Forrestal Heights.

Figlia noted that traffic stops by his officers dropped in 2024, “frankly, to a number that I don’t really like.” However, stops in 2025 are up 41 percent from a year ago. “Anybody who’s been to a Traffic Safety Committee meeting knows that one thing everybody wants is more traffic enforcement,” he said.

Here are other notable statistics from 2024. Figlia pointed out some caveats, such as that arrests can be made in a different year than the charging incident or that multiple individuals may be arrested for involvement in the same crime.

184

Calls answered with officers by a specialist provided by Mental Health America of Dutchess County

7,400

Calls for service
–12% from 2023

114

Individuals connected by police with services such as mental health treatment, crisis shelters and substance abuse treatment

943

Traffic stops
–27% from 2023

331

Auto crashes

6

Open positions on 36-person force

269

Arrests

10

for guns

19

for vandalism

	2024	2023	% change
Calls for service	7,400	8,416	–12%
Domestic incidents	102	106	–4%
Mental health calls	97	89	+9%
Traffic stops	943	1,300	–27%
Auto crashes	331	335	–1%
Arrests	269	247	+9%
Use of force	25	25	—

Property offenses 2022-24				Violent offenses 2022-24			
(Reported)	2024	2023	2022	(Reported)	2024	2023	2022
Burglary	13	15	24	Aggravated assault	19	16	21
Vandalism	55	78	87	Simple assault	53	47	59
Larceny	95	129	143	Robbery	5	1	2
Poss. stolen property	8	5	5	Rape	0	1	0
ID theft	14	28	19	Illegal weapons	13	9	8
(Arrests)				(Arrests)			
Burglary	3	9	8	Aggravated assault	12	14	9
Vandalism	19	22	26	Simple assault	24	23	26
Larceny	15	12	15	Robbery	1	1	2
Poss. stolen property	5	4	4	Rape	0	0	0
ID theft	1	0	0	Illegal weapons	10	10	7

AROUND TOWN



MARSH MOMENTS — Lexi Klahn, the program manager for the Constitution Marsh Audubon Society in Philipstown, and Pranjul Tyagi, an intern, led two hikes for about a dozen people on March 29. Klahn explained the formation and history of the marsh and pointed out wildlife, skunk cabbage and greenbrier and oak, hickory and pitch pine trees.



BOX TALES — For his show *Cardboard Explosion!* at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on March 29, Brad Shur of Paperheart Puppets told three stories, inviting audience members to vote on their twists and turns. When a child said a story needed a snake, Shur created one on the spot.

Photos by Ross Corsair

The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society Presents

Basics of Bird ID with Puffin Pete



Just in time for spring! This hands-on workshop at the Butterfield Library is perfect for kids and adults. Join "Puffin" Pete Salmansohn, local educator, to learn the basics of bird identification so you'll feel confident telling one bird from another. Recommended for ages 7 and up. No experience necessary!

FREE EVENT • REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Register: butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar

**Sunday
APRIL
13
3pm**



Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

New Classes Make a Pumpkin

Apr 25, 26, 27



SIGN UP ONLINE

Make a Flower

ONE day only
May 10



162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

The Calendar

An Art Walk in the Garden

Stonecrop mounts first of three 2025 exhibits

By Marc Ferris

Stonecrop Gardens has hosted exhibits for more than 20 years. But since building its Gardeners' Bothy in 2021 — it still smells of fresh-cut wood — the sprawling Philipstown property now has a proper place to showcase art.

"We're all about gardening, but a lot of people come through here and it's nice to put something on the walls and collaborate with others," says Barbara Scoma of Stonecrop, who helped coordinate *A Hudson Valley Sampler*, which opens with a reception at 3 p.m. on Sunday (April 6).

It is the first of three shows scheduled for 2025. Kate Cahill, gallery coordinator at the Garrison Art Center, brought together six artists with a focus on flora from the area.

The oil paintings on wood by Jackie Skrzynski, who lives in Newburgh, capture hyper details, like the delicate folds of withered leaves after a killing frost. The veins and burned, rumpled gray edges convey realism. A painting of mushrooms, "Late Oysters," shows the texture of the gills underneath some of the caps and plays with a sheen of light.

A few artists share works that resemble scientific drawings. The fine technique involved is apparent but they also radiate humanity.

In her gesso, acrylic, gouache and pencil works, Monique Luchetti details the root systems of four weeds rather than what's visible. She uses fibrous Nepalese lokta paper, which presents an absorptive, crinkly texture, like a leaf.



"City of Peace," from the *Planting Utopia* series by Julia Whitney Barnes

Wendy Hollender's watercolors of apples, a Stone Ridge tomato, sweet cherries and a watermelon radish, fine-tuned with colored pencils, include seeds and a depiction of each subject cut in half.

Her shading and detail are masterful. In "Red Delicious Apple," a hint of light shines off the skin; another glint reflects from a seed. She documents the location (Westwood Orchard in Accord) and adds tasting notes: "Flavor sweet and lemony."

The most mystical works — four pieces from the series *Planting Utopia* by Julia Whitney Barnes — are created with watercolor, gouache and India ink. The cyanotype process (created by exposure to the sun) is integrated into the designs. The scenes seem cosmic and, like Skrzynski's work, dark backgrounds make the colors and plant-based patterns pop.

Ruth Leonard's two oils and three watercolors focus on inviting outdoor scenes that

burst with color, including the lush, inviting pathway meadow that cuts through towering plants and flowers as mountains beckon in the distance.

The work of Allyson Levy embeds cactus, seaweed, spurge weed, birch bark, poppy flower tops and chrysanthemum petals in wax paint, which encases the material onto the wood panels. The white wax is laid so thick over the four smaller square frames, it looks like she melted candles.

Stonecrop Gardens, at 81 Stonecrop Lane in Philipstown, off Route 301, is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and select Sundays (weekend visits require reservations at stonecrop.org). Admission is \$10 (\$5 seniors, children, teens; free for members). A Hudson Valley Sampler continues through June 21. Stonecrop's other exhibits will be Bloomers and the Bugs They Love (July 7) and Tri-State Botanical Artists (Sept. 1).



"Mums the Word," by Allyson Levy



"Angelica sylvestris," by Monique Luchetti



"Meadow," by Ruth Leonard



"Red Delicious Apple," by Wendy Hollender



"Daucus Carota," by Monique Luchetti

THE WEEK AHEAD

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 12
Elizabeth Mihaltse Lindy
BEACON
4 – 8 p.m. Super Secret Projects
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com
The artist's paper shrouds will be on display with photographs and videos in *An Offering of Gravity and Grace*. Through May 4.

SAT 12
Robin Adler
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
Adler's contemporary abstract works will be on view in *Breathing Room*. The curated member show is *Nest*. Through May 4.

SAT 12
Inner Excess
BEACON
7 – 9 p.m. Distortion Society
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com
Evan Paul English curated this group show with works by Gracelee Lawrence, Kat Ryals, Sam Reeder, Colleen Rae Smiley, Jared Freshman and Emma Jackson. Through June 7.



COMMUNITY

SAT 5
Lantern Workshop
PHILIPSTOWN
Noon & 3 p.m. HVS
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 6, SAT 12, SUN 13. Register online.

SAT 5
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 SUN 6. *Cost: \$26.50*

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
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)*

WED 9
Spring Ephemerals
PHILIPSTOWN
5:30 p.m. Stonecrop | 81 Stonecrop Lane
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org
Take a guided tour of the spring bulb displays and the first flowers. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 seniors, children, teens; members free)*

SAT 12
Funminster Dog Show
PATTERSON
Noon – 3 p.m. Rec Center
65 Front St. | putnamservicedogs.org
All friendly dogs are welcome to compete for prizes in 10 categories, including best ears, at this annual fundraiser for Putnam Service Dogs.

SUN 13
Plantella
POUGHKEEPSIE
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Browse houseplants of all kinds – rare, unique and common – at this expo, along with botanical art and crafts. *Cost: \$12*

SUN 13
Home Bakers Meetup
BEACON
Noon – 3 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
7 East Main St.
dub.sh/home-bakers-meetup
Create something to bring to this gathering and talk technique with bakers of all experience levels. *Cost: \$20*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 5
Car Seat Check
PHILIPSTOWN
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. North Highlands F.D.
504 Fishkill Road
Ensure that your seat is installed and positioned correctly.



Highland Clearances, April 13

SAT 5
Family Nature Meetup
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
Music & Maps
BEACON
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
At this family program, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater educators and musician Linda Richards will present an interactive program about the river. Registration required. *Free*

SAT 5
The Secret Garden
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigsides 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. Also SUN 6. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students)*

FRI 11
Cookie Decorating
BEACON
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Students in grades 5 to 12 are invited to get creative with icing.

SAT 12
Easter Egg Hunt
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Tots Park
4 High St. | 845-265-3191
The Knights of Columbus organize this annual celebration for children ages 8 and younger. Bring baskets and a can of food to donate to the Philipstown Food Pantry. The rain date is SAT 19.

SUN 13
Magic in a Drop of Water
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Split Rock Books
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080
splitrockbks.com
Julie Winterbottom will read from her new children's book about Ruth Patrick, who "taught the world about water pollution," at this Earth Day story time.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 5
Composting 101
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave.
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Ajax Kofsky will cover the basics, including how to get started.

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 chains stretched across the Hudson between Constitution Island and West Point during the Revolution. 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*

TUES 8
A Night of Local History
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
61 Leonard St.
highlandscurrent.org/beacon-event
Browse the society's new exhibit

on local brickyards and enjoy drinks mixed by Diane Lapis, co-author of *Cocktails Across America* at this event co-sponsored by *The Highlands Current*. *Cost: \$35 (\$15 Current members)*

THURS 10
The Great Gatsby
100th Anniversary
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com
The bookstore will have games and snacks related to F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, which was published in 1925.

THURS 10
Grape Growing & Wine in the Hudson Valley
FORT MONTGOMERY
7 p.m. Historic Site | 690 Route 9W
dub.sh/hudson-grapes
Stephen Casscles, author of *Grapes of the Hudson Valley*, will discuss the period from 1840 to 1900, when the Highlands was one of the top growing and breeding areas in the U.S. and Europe. Registration required; call 845-446-2134. *Cost: \$5 donation*

SUN 13
Highland Clearances
BEACON
2 p.m. The Factory Hotel
147 Main St. | bannermancastle.org
At this fundraiser for the Bannerman Castle Trust, Steve Blamires, a native of the Isle of Arran, will discuss five significant depopulation incidents in Scotland, with a focus on the Highland Clearances, a forced displacement of farmers. *Cost: \$10 donation*

POETRY

FRI 11
Poets and Projects
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
In this event curated by Ruth Danon, the newly named Dutchess poet laureate, the Sister Arts, Eva Salzman, William Allen, Joanna Fuhrman, Nan Ring, Elaine Sexton and John Yau will read their work. *Cost: \$15*

SUN 13
Poetry Open Mic
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Read an original or favorite poem for a maximum of five minutes, or come to listen.

SUN 13
Diana Goetsch
PUTNAM VALLEY
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The poet, essayist and journalist will read from her collections, including *In America* and *Nameless Boy*. An open mic follows. *Cost: \$10*

VISUAL ART

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

FRI 11
Roni Horn
BEACON
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dia Beacon
3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811
diaart.org

This new exhibit complements “Post Work 3” and will include sculpture and drawings from the collection. *Cost: \$20 (\$18 seniors, \$12 students and disabled visitors, \$5 ages 5 to 11, free for ages 5 and younger and Beacon residents)*

SAT 12
Amy Talluto | Heather Cox
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Talluto’s exhibit, *Skeleton Key*, includes paintings and Cox’s show, *Roundels: Running Together*, has photo portraits and photo-sculptures. Through May 4.



MUSIC

SAT 5
The Last 7 Words of Christ
PHILIPSTOWN
2 p.m. Graymoor | 40 Franciscan Way
atonementfriars.org

The Hudson Lyric Opera will perform this piece by Theodore Dubois at Our Lady of Atonement Chapel. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 5
Jennifer Justice
BEACON
2 p.m. Beahive | 6 Eliza St.
howlandmusic.org
The Howland Chamber Music Circle will present this pop-up concert as Justice and Gabe Weitzman perform everything from Eastern European folk to Top 40 pop. *Free*

SAT 5
Rob Flax’s Boom Chick Trio
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
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
The vocalist and songwriter will play from her latest album with Bob Lanzetti (guitar) and Matt Aronoff (bass). *Cost: \$25*

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

SUN 6
The Polonsky Shifrin Wiley Trio
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org
Anna Polansky (piano), David Shifrin (clarinet) and Peter Wiley (cello) will perform. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*

THURS 10
RJ Cowdery
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The folk singer, songwriter and

guitarist will play original music. Stephen Clair will also perform. *Cost: \$15*



FRI 11
Dwight Yoakam
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. MJN Center
14 Civic Center Plaza
midhudsonciviccenter.org
Backed by The Mavericks, Yoakam will play songs from his latest release, *Brighter Days*. Jason Scott and the High Heat open. *Cost: \$72+*

FRI 11
Brickyard Saints
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Simon Kirke (drum, piano), Frank Carillo (guitar), Danny Miranda (bass) and Eddie Seville (guitar) will perform. Their latest EP is *Cobblestone*. Rescheduled from Jan. 19. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SAT 12
The Magic of Motown
POUGHKEEPSIE
7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
The group that formed from the 1960s quartet Shades of Blue will perform hits by the Temptations, Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson and others. *Cost: \$35 to \$85*

SAT 12
Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Known as the “godfather of the New Jersey sound,” the band will play classics from its more than 30 albums. *Cost: \$56.50 to \$71.50*

SAT 12
Christine Lavin
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The singer, songwriter and guitarist, who began performing in 1975, will play songs from her new album, *Drum School Dropout*. Seth Glier opens. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 13
Eric Cha-Beach
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org
With assistance from the Bard Percussion Studio, Cha-Beach will perform works by John Cage, Olivier Tarpaga, Nathalie Joachim and Lukas Ligeti. Donations welcome. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 5
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 includes plays by Patrick Lennon, Keith Whalen, Nick DeSimone, Christopher Lukas and Anthony McKay. Also SUN 6. *Cost: \$25*

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
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 by Beacon Climate Action Now and will be followed by a reception.

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
This musical is about stranded airline passengers welcomed on Sept. 11, 2001, by the residents of a Newfoundland village. *Cost: \$39 to \$89*

SAT 12
Your Bizarre Day
BEACON
8 p.m. Passion | 473 Main St.
dub.sh/duke-comedy
Watch an improv comedy show based on weird days experienced by the audience or the performers. *Cost: \$15*

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

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

WED 9
Village Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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

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

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Village of Nelsonville, Putnam County, New York, does hereby seek sealed bids for contractors for the purpose of **snow plowing, salting/sanding and street cleaning and maintenance** in accordance with the specifications on file with the Village Clerk.

Bids are requested for a three-year period beginning **June 1, 2025**. The bid instructions and specifications will be available at the Village Office, 258 Main Street, Nelsonville, New York 10516 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday, by emailing villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov, and on the Village website homepage, www.nelsonvilleny.gov.



Gergely Pediatrics
Boston Children’s Health Physicians

Gergely Pediatrics has joined Boston Children’s Health Physicians!

We’re proud to share that we’ve joined Boston Children’s Health Physicians, the most comprehensive pediatric multispecialty group in the Hudson Valley and Connecticut.



Learn more

SPACE MUSIC

Philipstown resident wants tracks to be felt

By Marc Ferris

Lucas Gonze makes futuristic tones with a century-old mandolin.

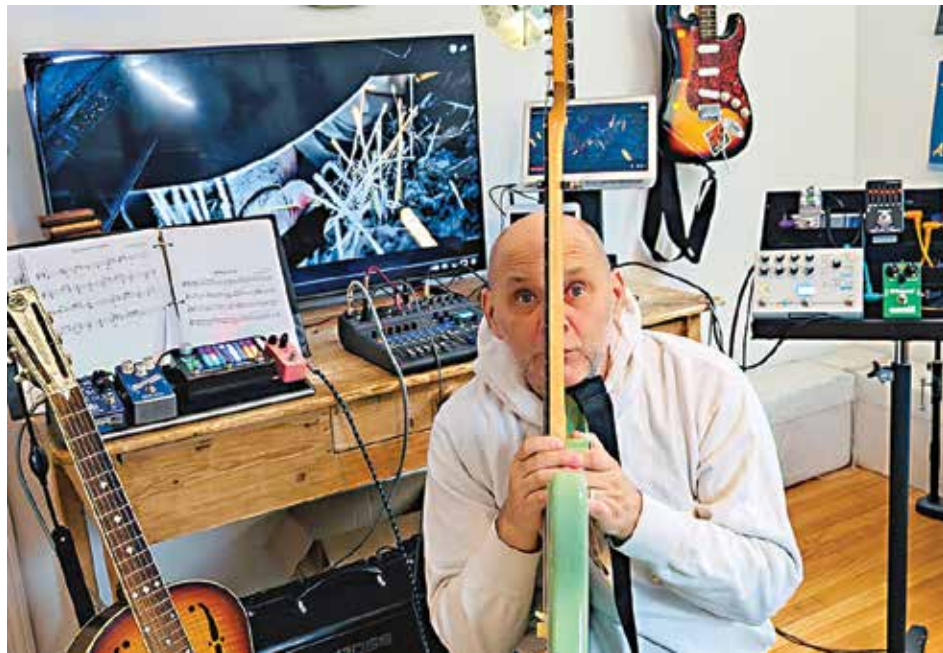
In his home at the foot of Mount Taurus, a computer dedicated for IT work is spartan compared to Gonze's sound rig, which has a larger screen and a cluster of auxiliary hardware, including eight effects pedals.

Gonze released his debut album, *there is only*, in January and plans on Monday (April 7) to drop his second, *Astomatus*, which translates as "voiceless" because he lets his instrumental music do the talking.

He performs as Playing in Tongues, a reference to the Pentecostal practice of speaking in tongues, which sometimes includes snake handling, writhing on the ground and talking in unknown languages.

"This is not intended to be technical music — it's something to be felt and hopefully take listeners to another place," Gonze says. "It's not rational, just as the people who speak in tongues don't determine what they're going to do. They let it happen."

Gonze grew up in Rockland County and spent many years in Oakland, California.



Lucas Gonze in his home studio

Photo provided

He returned east a couple of years ago, choosing Philipstown for its beauty and the Haldane school system for his sons.

Having the tools and freedom to create whatever he wants, no matter how outlandish, is liberating. "I don't worry about fret buzz or other imperfections like that," he says. "I lean into things that others would edit out."

Despite his experimentation, the musician can conform to structure, playing lead guitar and mandolin on a new four-song EP by the neo-hippie Philipstown-based group House on the Hog. He also sits in with Soil

& Soul and Johnny Hoppe's Lush.

As a music student at Bard College, Gonze became attracted to roots Americana, bluegrass and other acoustic styles. But he veered toward the anti-commercial and designed moody soundscapes by twiddling knobs.

In the video "Folk Noir," released in March, he plucks a chord on the mandolin, lets it ring and reaches outside the frame to turn the dial of an oscillator, which adds a wash of psychedelic waves. (See dub.sh/folk-noir-gonze.)

Gonze's meditative, ambient work, which he calls "space music," ambles in the slow lane.



Gonze released his debut album, *there is only*, in January.

Less is more and the microphone captures his breathing toward the end of the ghostly video.

Recently, choreographer Ida Manaserian of the National Ballet of Armenia found his title track to *Astomatus* a perfect fit as the soundtrack for a 3½-minute video created with two male dancers in an expansive landscape (see dub.sh/astomatus-video). Gonze describes the work as an "intense cinematic" to "searing dark ambient guitar." The piece sounds like large insects flitting in slow motion.

"This pairing is so ludicrous," Gonze says. "But it works because emotionally, the music paints a picture and they gave it a narrative."

To download Gonze's music, see playingintongues.bandcamp.com.

OPEN WEEKDAYS TIL 7
PLENTY OF WEEKDAY PARKING

stanza

NEW BOOKS
FOR ALL AGES

all genres, fiction, non-fiction,
children's books

508 main beacon
stanzabooks.com
845-674-4707

every day: 10-7
sat storytime: 9AM



Serving Putnam, Dutchess and Westchester counties

Small company with competitive pricing. Try us!

914-906-2596 — FREE ESTIMATES
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

Call us for all aspects of tree care, including:

- Emergencies
- Trimming and Pruning
- Takedowns and Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Cabling and Bracing
- Planting
- Plant Health Care
- Land Clearing

brotherstreeservicecorp.com

Certified Arborist
#NY-5763A #NY-325767

LICENSED AND INSURED Putnam License #PC8148
Westchester License #WC32958-1420

The Artist Next Door

BETTY STAFFORD

By Marc Ferris

The scraped-up underbellies of skateboards add an organic texture to Betty Stafford's sculptures and hanging works. The scratches multiply when riders slide across curbs, railings and other urban obstacles while performing tricks.

Stafford disfigures and reshapes the discarded boards to create abstract sculptures, wall hangings and mobiles that convey movement. They are carved with a handheld jigsaw and assembled with a drill. Beyond the wood decks, Stafford uses ball bearings and the metal trucks that connect the wheels.

Like many of her low-lying sculptures, the components of "Catch of the Day" (a bird going after fish) fit together with slots and seem to lean into each other around a solid center of gravity. "Fiddlehead" features curlicues that resemble flowers.

Cross-cutting the decks reveals from six to a dozen plies of laminated wood, some darker than others, though bright pinks, blues and greens peek through on occasion. Stafford often leaves the edges unfinished and incorporates the boards' natural bends.

Her bane is removing grip tape, the sandpaper-like coating atop the deck. In the summer, after letting the boards bake



Betty Stafford in her home studio with skateboards converted to art

Photo by M. Ferris

in the sun for a few hours, she can peel it off with minimal effort. Otherwise, it can take hours, she says.

Her fractured portraits, inspired by modern English painter Francis Bacon, include a work encased in a purple plastic milk crate and others that use the covers of wooden boxes that once shipped plumbing supplies. Thin, oxidized copper wires culled from boat windows sometimes add a minimalist touch.

Stafford has a BFA from the University of Texas, Austin and studied drawing and watercolor at the Art Students League in Manhattan before moving to Philipstown more than three decades ago. She worked in the fashion industry and still draws but began making art with skateboards following the death of her son Sam, an avid rider, in 2013 at age 19.

Skateboards usually contain colorful designs beneath the deck, the part that gets



"Kingsize Slim"

scratched up. Riders will cover the damage with stickers and those images sometimes are reflected in Stafford's work, which caused a stir when a skateboard sculpture was accepted for a recent group show. The gallery asked her to remove any copyrighted images, so she pulled the piece.

Stafford's *Ishod and Mask* series goes for an Oceanic look, including an image reminiscent of Easter Island. A profile of Bob Dylan during the 1960s conveys lightness because of circles and ellipses drilled into his faux Afro.

No matter what medium she uses, Stafford says her art is "all over the place." Daily walks in the woods help inform her style.

She gets the raw material from 2nd Nature Skatepark in Peekskill and Hacienda Skate Shop in Newburgh. "I've received some seriously broken boards that made me wonder if the skater was all right," she says.

For more of Betty Stafford's work, see bettystafford.com.

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 TO SEE PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS →

HUDSON
VALLEY
SHAKESPEAREMUSICIANS
NEEDED

NOW SEEKING A FIDDLER, ACCORDIONIST & GUITARIST

TO COLLABORATE ON OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF **THE MATCHMAKER** BY THORNTON WILDER featuring original music by award-winning composer Alex Bechtel.

hvshakespeare.org



Start Reading Now

April book club selections

- Nonfiction Book Club**
MON 7, 6:30 P.M.
The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here, by Hope Jahren
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](#).
- Fantasy Book Club**
TUES 8, 7 P.M.
Lavinia, by Ursula K. Le Guin
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at [stanzabooks.com/book-clubs](#).
- Sci-Fi Book Club**
TUES 15, 7 P.M.
Childhood's End, by Arthur C. Clarke
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at [stanzabooks.com/book-clubs](#).

- Page-to-Screen Book Club**
THURS 17, 3 P.M.
The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](#).
- Activist Book Club**
THURS 17, 7 P.M.
Abortion: Our Bodies, Their Lies, and the Truths We Use to Win, by Jessica Valenti
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at [splitrockbks.com/event](#).
- Page-to-Screen Book Club for Kids**
FRI 18, 2 P.M.
The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](#).
- High School Book Club**
MON 21, 2:30 P.M.
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder, by Holly Jackson
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](#).

- Wednesday Book Club**
WED 23, 2 P.M.
North Woods, by Daniel Mason
Howland Library, Beacon
Register at [beaconlibrary.org](#).
- In Comparison Book Club**
WED 23, 7 P.M.
The Assault, by Harry Mulisch
The Sunflower, by Simon Wiesenthal
Stanza Books, Beacon
Register at [stanzabooks.com/book-clubs](#).
- Beacon Book Club**
THURS 24, 7:15 P.M.
By Any Other Name, by Jodi Picoult
Tradicionnez, Fishkill
Register at [meetup.com/beacon-bookclub](#).
- Butterfield Book Club**
MON 28, 7 P.M.
The Painted Veil, by W. Somerset Maugham
Poems by Langston Hughes & H.D. (Hilda Doolittle)
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](#).

- Middle School Book Club (Grades 5-8)**
TUES 29, 3:15 P.M.
The Inheritance Games, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar](#).
- Graphic Novel Book Club**
TUES 29, 3:30 P.M.
Brooms, by Jasmine Walls
Fables, Vol. 1, by Bill Winningham
Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
Register at [desmondfishlibrary.org/events](#).
- Graphic Novel Book Club (Grades 3-6)**
TUES 29, 6:30 P.M.
Chickenpox, by Remy Lai
Howland Library, Beacon
Register at [beaconlibrary.org](#).
- Queer Book Club**
TUES 29, 7 P.M.
Nepantla: An Anthology Dedicated to Queer Poets of Color, edited by Christopher Soto
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring
Register at [splitrockbks.com/event](#).

Current Classifieds

- 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](#).

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](#).
- DON'T LOSE POWER** — Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a free 7-year

- warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 631-498-7851 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.
- VICTORY OVER STAIRS** — Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today at 855-607-1518.
- 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](#).
- TAG SALE? Car for sale?**
Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$9.95. See
[highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](#).

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Study Skills & Writing Coach
for Good Grades & Great Communication

Learn Effective Steps Toward School Success
In-Person or Remote

Sara D. Gilbert, MA
Editorial & Educational Professional | Cold Spring
914-443-4723 • [positivecoach10516@gmail.com](#)

MELANIE DELGADO | YOKO IZU
Field Trip
APRIL 5th - 27th

121 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York
Saturday and Sunday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM

Lynne Ward, LCSW
Licensed Psychotherapist

Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation
Addiction Counseling

75 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516

[lynneward99@gmail.com](#)
(917) 597-6905

GOT RUBBISH?
10-30 YARD DUMPSTER RENTAL
RUBBISH REMOVAL SERVICES
DEMOLITION SERVICES

37A Albany Post Rd. Ossining, NY 10562
[MrCheapeeInc@aol.com](#)
914-737-0823

www.MrCheapeeInc.com

HAVE YOUR OWN BUSINESS CARD

You can advertise your business here starting at \$24.

For more information,
email [ads@highlandscurrent.org](#).

ALLENS DUMPSTER SERVICE
LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY

(646) 772-2673
[allens-dumpster-service.business.site](#)

Out There

Sacred Ground

By Brian PJ Cronin

As a reporter and resident of the Highlands, one of the spots where the modern environmental movement began, I've been reading news releases



from the federal Environmental Protection Agency for years. They often have the tone of an overexcited eighth-grade science teacher at the beginning of a field trip. We've created a new online tool to map toxic releases! We're giving out grants to help towns fight climate change! We think farmers are great!

But over the past two months the releases have sounded like something Dr. Doom yells at the Fantastic Four.

"We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion," said newly appointed EPA chief Lee Zeldin — a former New York legislator and gubernatorial candidate — in a release proclaiming "the greatest day of deregulation our nation has ever seen." The phrasing — implying faith, not facts — took many people aback, as we assume the EPA wants to fight climate change.

Zeldin also announced the EPA would "reconsider" the Endangerment Finding, a 2009 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that because greenhouse gas drives climate

change, it can be classified as a dangerous pollutant, which gives the EPA the authority to regulate it under the Clean Air Act. Zeldin called this "the Holy Grail of the climate change religion."

This week Zeldin said in a video release that the EPA was shuttering the tiny museum at agency headquarters, partly because there is nothing in it that praises President Trump. As he vowed that the "shrine" to environmental justice and climate change would be "shut down for good," the camera lingered on a photo of a Black scientist in a museum display.

What has changed in the releases seems to be an underlying belief that climate change is a mirage, despite overwhelming scientific evidence and public support to mitigate its effects. Even in the realm of faith, the most concise and clearest text on the science behind climate change and the moral case for doing something about it was written by Pope Francis in his 2015 encyclical letter *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*. He went into greater detail eight years later in an addendum in which he wrote: "It is no longer possible to doubt the human — 'anthropic' — origin of climate change."

Francis addresses those who warn that reducing fossil fuels will lead to fewer jobs, noting that rising sea levels, droughts and other phenomena "have left many people adrift. Conversely, the transition to renewable forms of energy, properly managed, as well as efforts to adapt to the damage caused by climate change, are capable of



Seagulls scavenging at the Croton landfill on the Hudson River in 1973, the current site of Croton Point Park.

National Archives/
EPA

generating countless jobs."

The EPA says that it's still committed to providing clean air, land and water — including the Hudson River. Those three things continue to poll extremely well with Americans of all political persuasion. But it's hard to square that with news releases that boast about rolling back regulations that control the pollution that contributes to climate change.

If you can't sleep tonight, visit the EPA's Documerica (dub.sh/documerica), which the fledgling agency created in the early 1970s by hiring freelance photographers to take pictures of how polluted the country had become. The Statue of Liberty surrounded by an oil slick says it all.

On social media recently, the EPA posted

an article praising President Trump for pledging to build and deregulate coal plants. That's like a fire department praising an arsonist. Local environmental leaders suggest, half-kidding, that perhaps some progress can still be made if they focus on upgrades to water treatment plants and soil remediation programs and avoid the phrase *climate change*.

Maybe the "religion" doesn't involve people who are worried about climate change but those who aren't. It must take a lot of faith to still believe it's a hoax, to keep trudging ahead when nearly every scientist, and the pope, says we're making a terrible mistake. Even His Holiness knows that no divine power is going to swoop down and fix the problem for us.

PIDALA OIL CO. IS FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED,
SERVICING THE COLD SPRING, GARRISON AND
SURROUNDING AREAS FOR NEARLY FOUR DECADES.



3524 ROUTE 9 | PO BOX 249
COLD SPRING, NY

- Automatic Oil & Propane Deliveries
- Budget Plans - Service Contracts
- Furnace / Boiler Installations
- 24-hour Emergency Service
- BBQ tanks filled at our site
- Licensed Technicians

PIDALAOIL.COM | 845.265.2073

Credit and debit cards accepted

PC3348

PC038



Ariane One Act Play Festival

April 4-6

Depot Docs: Frida

April 11

Q&A following film and
reception at Dolly's

The Tango Diaries

Written by
Ron Hutchinson and Alisa Taylor
Directed by Alice Jankell

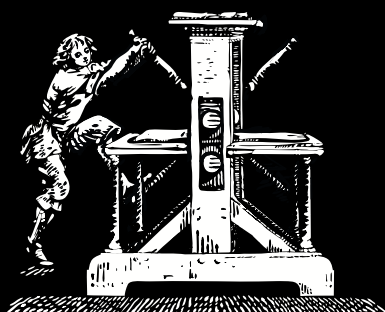
May 2-18

Depot Spring Benefit!

May 18 at 4:30-6:30p

Tickets at
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

HIGHLAND STUDIO



PRINTMAKERS

FINE ART
PRINTING
SCANNING
LARGE FORMAT

HUDSON VALLEY'S
ARCHIVAL PRINTING
SINCE 1997

PICTURE FRAMING
print & map gallery

845-809-5174

31 STEPHANIE LANE
COLD SPRING, NY
www.thehighlandstudio.com

AROUND THE REGION

Putnam Valley

School Board Approves New Proposal

The school board voted to put a revised capital plan on the May 20 budget and trustee ballot. In January, a \$14.2 million proposal was defeated by 42 votes, with 16 percent turnout.

The board was expected to cut about \$1 million, although the savings will only be half that because of increased costs caused by the delay, according to *Watching Putnam Valley*.

After hearing feedback from residents, the district removed a fitness/dance studio, performing arts lighting and improvements to the elementary school library and middle school classrooms. The superintendent noted that, because the state is expected to cover two-thirds of the cost, Putnam Valley “has the distinction of being the only town in the region to have defeated a school bond referendum that would not have raised taxes.”

Mahopac

Energy Company Withdraws Battery Plan

An energy company controlled by Norway withdrew its plan to build the largest battery storage facility in New York on the Putnam-Westchester line.

The Town of Carmel was informed last

month that East Point Energy was dropping its plans, reported *The Journal News*. Its facility would have a capacity of 116 megawatts; the largest battery storage in the state holds 20 megawatts.

Opponents had raised concerns about fires that have occurred at lithium-ion facilities. In response, Carmel officials enacted a six-month moratorium, then banned battery storage where East Point wanted to build its facility. Batteries are important for solar power because they store energy for later use.

Poughkeepsie

Airbnb Hosts Charged in Deaths

Two Airbnb hosts were arraigned in Dutchess County Court on March 19 on manslaughter charges in the death of a Cape Cod woman and her daughter in a fire.

Dennis Darcy, 57, and Meredith Darcy, 55, of Hastings-on-Hudson, were charged with the deaths on Oct. 13 of Shannon Hubbard and her 1-year-old daughter. Hubbard’s husband and their 3-year-old son survived.

According to prosecutors, the rental in Salt Point did not have smoke detectors, although the listing said it did. Prosecutors say the owners also did not have a town permit for short-term rentals.



An osprey in the nest structure constructed by workers atop the Bear Mountain Bridge. NYSBA

Bear Mountain Bridge

Workers Create Home for Ospreys

Six crew members at the Bear Mountain Bridge constructed a nesting site for ospreys atop the 2,255-foot suspension bridge just south of Philipstown.

Ospreys survive by diving for fish in the Hudson River. When the birds nested atop the bridge, large sticks and branches fell onto the roadway, according to the New York State Bridge Authority, which maintains the crossing.

If the nests had no eggs, crew members would dismantle them. But the birds kept returning, so the team created a galvanized steel structure with mesh to contain the sticks.

Maxine Kavanda (1944-2025)

Maxine Kavanda (nee Silver), longtime resident of Bronxville, New York, and most recently Ossining, New York, passed away peacefully on April 2, 2025. She was 80.

Born June 25, 1944, she was proud to have been born and raised in the Bronx. She told fond stories of her childhood: playing and attending programs in Crotona Park, walking to the Bronx Zoo, and summers teaching herself to swim at Orchard Beach.

Maxine graduated from Roosevelt High School in the Bronx in 1962. She began her professional career first as a CO-OP student with Metropolitan Life in Manhattan, transitioning to full-time working with key punch (the predecessor to today’s computer systems), becoming manager of the department. After taking a short break to have her children, Max started her long career with IBM, starting in the publishing department, graduating from Mercy College, becoming a department manager and ending her career with the facilities space planning department, where she was instrumental in moving IBM out of leased properties into owned properties.

After retiring from IBM after 25 years, she started her next chapter as the director of human resources at the Tarrytown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, where she would retire after 23 years.

A fiercely strong woman, she raised her children during a time when single motherhood was not an acceptable norm. Living in the Bronx, she would take many bus trips with the kids to Jones Beach. After moving to Bronxville in 1977, those beach trips continued almost every weekend. Max loved the ocean! Every summer for the last 50 years has been spent at the beach in Cape May, New Jersey.

Maxine enjoyed traveling with her family and friends, especially on cruises! Memories were made traveling to both coasts of the U.S.; Max having the opportunity to visit both Disneyland in California and Disney World in Florida with her children and grandchildren.

Maxine is survived by the loves of her life: her children, Dawn and Timothy Etta and Frank and Christina Kavanda; and grandchildren: Morgan Etta, William Etta, Emma Kavanda and Eleanore Kavanda.

She will be missed immensely by her many lifelong friends, especially Marvin and Susan Raskin, and their children Alexandra and Cara. She will always be Auntie Max!

Family and friends may attend calling hours on Monday, April 7, 2025, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the Cold Spring Cemetery, Peekskill Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Maxine Kavanda’s name to support Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Checks, made payable to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, should be mailed to: Attn: Community Fundraising, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Office of Development P.O. Box 27106, New York, NY 10087. Please indicate on the check memo line that the gift is in memory of Maxine Kavanda.



Gayle Needelman (1955-2025)

Gayle L. Needelman, aged 69, of Cold Spring, New York, died on March 28, 2025, at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital after a valiant battle with esophageal cancer.

Raised in Yonkers, New York, Gayle graduated from Yonkers Public Schools and the St. Joseph’s School of Nursing. After many years working in skilled nursing facilities, she retired and most recently did private care for the elderly. She was always taking care of somebody.

Gayle is survived by her sister Mindy Jessek (John); her daughter, Lauren Lulgjuraj (Johnny); her grandchildren, AJ and Serena; and many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral arrangements are private and being arranged by Clinton Funeral Home. Donations in Gayle’s memory to the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps (philipstownvac.com) or the Philipstown Food Pantry (dub.sh/PH-food-pantry) are appreciated.

PAID NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 15, 2025 7:30PM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Historic District Review Board for the Village of Cold Spring will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider the application by **Richard Vail, 4 Mooney Hill Road, Holmes, NY 12531** to add a new renovated kitchen/mudroom on the first floor, and a guest room on the second floor.

The subject property is **190 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, 10516**, designated as Tax Map Section 48.8-4-70. The property is located within the R-O Zoning District as well as the National Register and Local Historic Districts.

Hard copies of the application materials are available for review in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516, by appointment only. Please call the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 to make an appointment.

Application materials are also available to view on the Village website: <https://www.coldspringny.gov/historic-district-review-board/pages/current-applications>

Written comment on the application can be mailed or hand-delivered to Village Hall, or emailed to the Village Clerk, vcscclerk@coldspringny.gov. Written comment must be received by Monday April 14, 2025 to be included in the public record.

The public is welcome to join the hearing via videoconference: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85246257150?pwd=SHlaMm5rbTRVaVpVS0F1UzlGeFhwZz09>

Join by phone: +1 646-876-9923
Meeting ID: 852 4625 7150 Passcode: 005635

BY ORDER OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD ALBERT ZGOLINSKI, CHAIR
Albert G. Zgolinski, Chair; Lauren Wallis Hall, Vice Chair; Todd Seekircher, Kathryn van Voorhees, Kimberly Sevilla

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			

- ACROSS
1. *Li'l Abner* creator
5. Yellowstone grazer
8. Cymbal's kin
12. Petri dish gel
13. Sturgeon product
14. Ancient Dead Sea land
15. Fierceness
17. Milan money, once
18. PC alternative
19. Sheryl Sandberg best seller
21. Grating
24. Harangue
25. "Rhyme Pays" rapper
26. With passion
30. Monk's title
31. Piquant
32. Tic-tac-toe win
33. Hit song by ABBA
35. Friend
36. Curved lines
37. Jiggly dessert

38. Rum cocktail
41. Pear-shaped fruit
42. Spumante source
43. Agitates
48. Actor Schreiber
49. Colorful card game
50. Sleek, in car lingo
51. Salinger girl
52. Journey part
53. Must have

- DOWN
1. Half- — (latte option)
2. Candle count
3. Standard
4. On time
5. Idle or Bana
6. Parcel of land
7. Bogart/Bacall classic
8. Trattoria desserts
9. Valhalla VIP
10. Sushi wrapper
11. Fed. agents
16. Low isle
20. Jealousy
21. Jazz phrase
22. Estate measure
23. Burn somewhat
24. Tears apart
26. Imaginary
27. Toy store buy
28. Lounge
29. Cellist Ma
31. Actress Reid
34. Indigenous
35. Sea off Greece
37. Comic Carrey
38. Like ganders
39. Unrepaired
40. Detail
41. Toad's kin
44. Away from WSW
45. Formerly called
46. Three, in Rome
47. Turf

SUDOCURRENT

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

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

WORDSEARCH

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

FIVE SPOT

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

T	A	L	O	N	Hawk foot
					A word with go, or get
					A body part
					Spelt or millet
					Tree age markers
					Gets traction

ZOO MOLES PBS
ANO ICARE ILE
POORDEVIL POW
FLA CELEBS
RIPKEN ACED
OSU RIM TERSE
ALLS APB READ
MALIA HEP AUG
STDS GLUMLY
ENDSAT GAS
LEO POLICE DOG
BOW TOONE UFO
ANN SLOGS DAB

Answers for March 28
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
PLANT, PETAL, TAPER,
EARTH, SHARE, HORSE

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

For interactive puzzles and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.

Watch for *The Current's*

Special
Health &
Wellness
Insert

coming April 18!

Sports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

BOYS' LACROSSE — After finishing 8-8 and losing to No. 1 seed Pleasantville in the Section 1, Class D tournament, the Blue Devils lost a good chunk of the team when its 12 seniors graduated. There were familiar faces on the Cold Spring turf in a 12-1 loss to Mahopac on Tuesday (April 1) — including Coach Ed Crowe and seniors Brody Corless, Serigne Faye, Nate Stickle and Gabriel Reyes — but also 10 ninth graders and an eighth grader. The Blue Devils (0-1) host Edgemont at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday (April 5) and Tuckahoe at 5 p.m. on Monday.

GIRLS' LACROSSE — Haldane finished 8-8 last season before falling to Briarcliff in the first round of the Section I, Class D tournament. Unlike the boys, the girls' squad has many returning players. The Blue Devils lost their season opener, 19-13, on March 29 at Putnam Valley. Haldane trailed for most of the first half, then, down 12-8 in the third quarter, Kayla Ruggiero scored three goals in 1:28 to cut the lead to one. She led the team with 10. On Monday (March 31), the Blue Devils fell again, at North Salem, 20-9. Haldane hosted Arlington on Thursday (April 3) and on Monday will travel to Tuckahoe.

BASEBALL — Despite finishing 4-14 last season, Haldane reached the Section I, Class C title game, which was won by Tuckahoe, 12-3. The team lost three seniors to graduation, notably Jeremy Hall, who is playing for Bard College. The Blue Devils faced Tuckahoe again on Tuesday (April 1) in their season opener, losing 16-1. They bounced back, winning the next day at Peekskill, 10-0, behind a no-hitter by sophomore Hudson Yeaple. Hunter Erickson went 2-for-3, including an RBI, and Jake Hotaling was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Haldane (1-1) hosts Valhalla at 4:30 p.m. today (April 4) at Mayor's Park and Lincoln at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

SOFTBALL — Returning last year after a five-season layoff, the Blue Devils finished 7-11 and reached the Section I, Class C title game. This season, they won their opener on Wednesday (April 2) at Ossining, 9-6. Callie Sniffen went 3-for-4 with a home run and 4 RBIs, while ninth-grader Lainey Donaghy was 3-for-4 with 4 RBIs. On the mound, eighth grader Allegra Clementson



Alexander Gaugler races around a Mahopac defender on Tuesday (April 1).

Photos by Skip Pearlman



Brody Corless advances the ball during Haldane's loss to Mahopac on Tuesday.

had seven strikeouts, reaching 100 for her career. Haldane (1-0) traveled to Leffell on Thursday (April 3) and will host Woodlands at 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

BEACON

By Nick Robbins

BASEBALL — First-year coach Ryan Koval, who takes over for Robert Atwell, has a senior-heavy squad. The Bulldogs, who reached the Section IX, Class A title game, return starters Derrick Heaton (who has committed to Springfield College), Ryan Smith (Utica College), Mercer Jordan, Ryan Landisi and Zach Schetter, and Koval hopes to see impactful play from seniors Nicholas Albra, Matthew Apostolou Jr., Christopher Carton Jr., Allen McKay and Morgan Varricchio. Heaton, Jordan and Landisi

will lead the starting rotation.

The Bulldogs opened the season on Wednesday (April 2) at home, defeating Lourdes, 8-6. Tye Elias had a triple and three RBIs, Kayden Durkin had two doubles and two RBIs and Alex Young drove in two. On the mound, Landisi threw five innings and Heaton recorded the save. Beacon (1-0) travels to Burke today (April 4), Franklin Roosevelt on Tuesday and Chester on Wednesday.

SOFTBALL — The Bulldogs finished 6-11 last season — an improvement over 2023 — and have seven players leading the 2025 squad: Emma Soltish, Katherine Ruffy, Sally Betterbid, Madison Mianti, Holly Whittemore, Megan Nicholson and Isabella Baffuto. The team opened with a disheartening 20-0 loss at Warwick on March 27 but came back to knock off Monticello at home on Wednesday (April 2), 8-7. Beacon (1-1) travels to Spackenkill on Tuesday and hosts O'Neill at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

BOYS' TENNIS — Beacon returns four players hoping to improve on the 7-9 campaign in 2024: seniors Beckett Anderson, Charlie Klein, Charlie Zellinger and Frank Zezza. Two juniors, Ashland Assael and Jonathan Richards, will also play key roles. The Bulldogs won, 7-0, over O'Neill on March 26 but fell at Cornwall, 4-3, on Tuesday (April 1). Beacon (1-1) hosted Lourdes on Thursday and will host Warwick at 4:30 p.m. on Monday (April 7) and Goshen at 4 p.m. on Tuesday before traveling to Washingtonville on Wednesday.

BOYS' GOLF — Beacon returns seven players but must fill a large hole left by Will Martin, the first Bulldogs golfer to reach the state tournament. The squad will look to seniors Mason Alencastro, Ronan Moran, Michael VanBuren and Jake Signorelli to step up. Jonah Espinosa, Chance Hunter and Thomas Senior also return. Beacon opened the season on Wednesday (April 2) with a 241-263 loss at Newburgh and will travel to Arlington on Monday.

GIRLS' GOLF — The Bulldogs, who finished 10-10 last season, lost nine seniors to graduation. The squad this year has four seniors and six juniors; it opens on Tuesday (April 8) hosting Marlboro.

TRACK AND FIELD — The Bulldogs began the season on Wednesday (April 2) with a meet against Monroe-Woodbury, Washingtonville and Kingston. Jayden Mihalchik placed fourth in discus at 113-8 while ninth grader Caellum Tripaldi was fourth in the 1,600-meter run at 4:40.47. Noah Spiak tied for fourth in the 100-meter dash at 11.98 and Khloe Franklin placed sixth in long jump at 14-1. Beacon travels to Goshen today (April 4) for the Coliseum Classic.

BOYS' BASKETBALL — The Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Basketball Coaches Association of New York selected its Section IX All-Stars, including, in Class A, Jahcier Ballard and Michai Thompson of Beacon. Both are juniors.