

# The HIGHLANDS Current



MAY 9, 2025

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## Haldane Board Reinstates DEI Policy

*Residents question  
decision-making process*

By Joey Asher

After hearing parents criticize its decision-making process, the Haldane school board voted unanimously on Tuesday (May 6) to reinstate the district's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy. It had suspended the policy on April 22, fearful of losing \$450,000 in federal funding threatened by the Trump administration's opposition to DEI programs.

The board said it reversed course after federal judges in three jurisdictions on April 24 temporarily blocked the administration from cutting funding to schools that have what the White House characterizes as "illegal" practices.

Six residents who spoke at the meeting expressed gratitude for the board's decision to reinstate the policy but also voiced frustration with how the initial decision was made.

"I don't think the board is doing a good job of making those decision-making processes transparent to our community," said Paul Cummins, who has two children at Haldane.

After the meeting, Peggy Clements, president of the five-member board, said the decision to suspend the policy happened "at a really fast and furious pace and certainly didn't allow for the careful consideration and outreach that we would ordinarily engage in."

(Continued on Page 6)

## Philipstown Losing Energy Option

*Customers again will be  
returned to Central Hudson*

By Leonard Sparks

Philipstown residents and businesses receiving fixed-rate electricity through

Hudson Valley Community Power will be transferred back to Central Hudson because the program administrator ran out of time to extend the contract.

In what is known as a community choice aggregation (CCA) program, municipalities contract with a third-party supplier to

offer residents and businesses a fixed rate for electricity, although Central Hudson continues to provide delivery and billing.

Cold Spring, Nelsonville, Philipstown and nine other municipalities (not including Beacon) agreed to participate. Residents and businesses are added to the program automatically but can opt out.

Hudson Valley Community Power was

(Continued on Page 6)



**COLD SPRING STOP** — Through an arrangement with the village, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater offered a free morning sail for residents on May 3. (An afternoon sail was canceled because of bad weather but will be rescheduled.) Here, Noah Chris Bibula, the second mate, and Violet Murillo, a volunteer, lead passengers in hauling up the main sail. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org). Photo by Ross Corsair

## Can We Solve the Housing Crisis?

*Checking in with CEO of  
Pattern for Progress*

By Jeff Simms

Pattern for Progress, a nonprofit think tank based in Newburgh, is celebrating its 60th year. We spoke with Adam Bosch, its president and CEO.

**How did the organization begin?**

When we were founded in 1965, the Hudson Valley was going through a lot: urban renewal in city centers, people

moving from New York City to suburban areas, the beginning of the environmental movement and the seeds of innovation at places like IBM in Poughkeepsie. In addition, the U.S. Army was getting ready to sell Stewart Airbase into private hands. There was a need for an objective, independent research and planning organization.

Today, we're again in a period of rapid change. We have a housing crisis in afford-

(Continued on Page 9)



Bosch

## Beacon Bans Drive-Thrus

*Fishkill Avenue Dunkin'  
in limbo after 6-1 vote*

By Jeff Simms

It is unclear what's next for a Dunkin' coffeehouse planned for Fishkill Avenue in Beacon after the City Council on Monday (May 5) banned drive-thrus citywide.

The proposal — to build a Dunkin' with a drive-thru and three apartments at the former Healey Brothers Ford site at 420 Fishkill Ave. — was approved by the Planning Board in March. But while the Plan-

ning Board reviewed the application, the council began weighing zoning amendments that would ban drive-thrus and self-storage facilities.

Council members decided during their April 28 workshop to split the two. They will continue discussing the self-storage measure, but the law prohibiting drive-thrus went to a vote Monday and was adopted, 6-1, with Mayor Lee Kyriacou voting "no."

The ban originated in the city's ongoing study of the Fishkill Avenue corridor, where a citizen committee recommended last year

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# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: PHIL CIGANER

By Larry Epstein

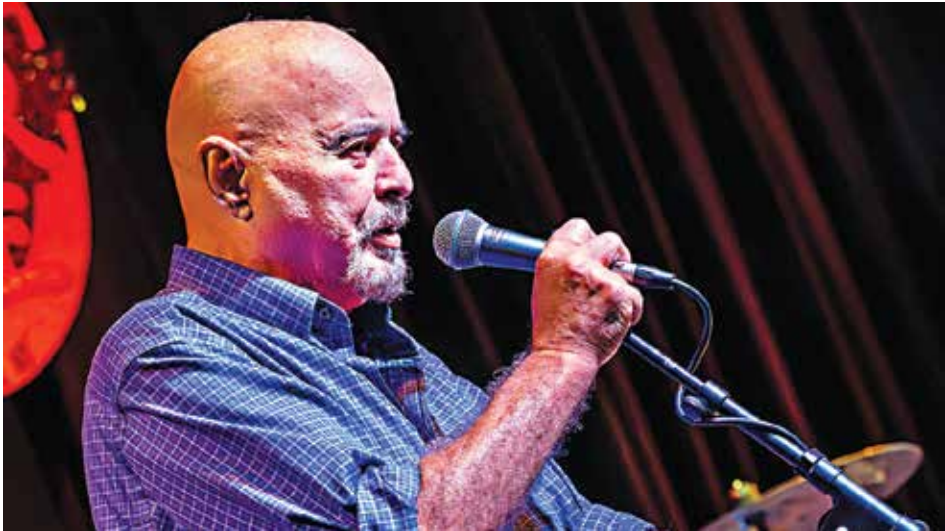
Phil Ciganer owns the Towne Crier Cafe, which he moved to Beacon in 2013 after 15 years in Beekmanville and 25 years in Pawling. On Thursday (May 15), the Howland Cultural Center will honor Ciganer and Neil Caplan of the Bannerman Castle Trust at its annual gala.

## How did you get into the music business?

In the 1960s, while I was working on Wall Street, I spent my evenings in Greenwich Village in the clubs as that scene was blossoming. I was a floor trader who was offered a seat on the exchange, but I realized that wasn't the world I wanted to live in. What I wanted was a life in the club scene. It was exploding and coming at you from all angles. I wanted the excitement of live music.

## Why did you move the Crier to Beacon?

I was disenchanted with the location in Pawling. Things that were supposed to happen never did, and there was no real community surrounding the club. A friend who was a real-estate agent knew I was unhappy and had a location on Main Street in Beacon for me to look at. It had been vacant for 20 years and looked like an empty warehouse. It was an eyesore. My friends thought I was out of my mind for



even considering it. I took a walk to people-watch and check out the new businesses. A light went off in my head, and I realized the possibilities.

## What is your favorite part of owning a business in Beacon?

Beacon has the community that I lacked in Pawling. I like being able to present the artistic programming that people here come out to see. Music, theater, film, dance and poetry all have audiences here. Feedback from the customers is what keeps me going. They look me in the eyes, and I can tell they have experienced happiness. Hearing what a great place, what a great show, what a great meal. That keeps me going. We attract people from throughout the tri-state area; Beacon is a weekend destination. With Dia in the mix, the city attracts international tourists, as well. Many people are buying condos and homes and consider them their country homes, and I enjoy giving them some nightlife and a city vibe.

## How do you book acts and discover new ones?

I only book people whom I would go see. If it's a maybe, I won't book them. We had a nine-piece group from Mongolia, followed by a group from France, followed by a jazz

band. Artistically, it's all over the place. Music is the universal language. There are no categories. I personally book all the talent. Since I've been doing it for half a century, it falls into place. There is no manual. Many big-name acts over the years have played here, including Pete Seeger. I have been blessed with so many. Seeger was one of the first performers I booked, and it was just by chance. I had another folk singer scheduled but his car broke down on his way from Cape Cod. He offered to call friends in the area to fill in, and a few minutes later I got a call from Pete [who lived just outside Beacon]. I didn't know what to say. I was thrilled. That started a decades-long friendship.

## How do you feel about being honored by the Howland center?

I am honored to be included. The Howland was here long before the Crier showed up. It's been a cultural hub for decades, presenting a variety of music and art. I have always had a lot of respect for what they were doing there. I am flattered to be honored by a cultural hub of the community. Tom Chapin will be performing at the gala, and I adore Tom. He's a sweetheart of a human being and a mainstay of the folk scene.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

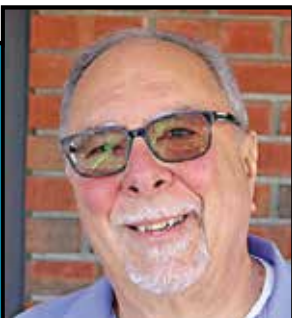
## How much jazz is on your playlist?

“Not much — but a lot is inspired by jazz.”



Izzy Dabashi, Beacon

“In my estimation, jazz is the music of the world.”



Bob Cavorti, Cold Spring

“We listen every morning: Herbie Hancock, Alice Coltrane, Thelonious Monk...”



Zoraida Lopez-Diago, Beacon

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Voters Approve Howland Library Budget

*Also fill three open seats on board*

Beacon voters on May 1 approved the Howland Public Library's \$1.569 million budget by a vote of 325-29 and elected three candidates to five-year terms on the board. The vote was open to residents of the Beacon City School District, which collects taxes for the library.

About \$1.254 million of the expected spending in 2025-26 is for employee salaries and benefits and \$116,000 for programming and materials. The library plans to raise \$1.488 million from taxes.

Voters returned incumbent David Lemon to the board and elected Sarah From and Ruth Danon to fill seats vacated by Jessica Conway and Jeffrey Yang, who did not run for re-election.

From is a leadership coach and organizational consultant who works with nonprofits and social change organizations and Danon is a former New York University teacher and the Beacon and Dutchess County poets laureate. Jason Chase and Kathy Furfey were not elected.

The other board members are Helen Lowery, Emily Murnane, Elizabeth Murphy, Emily Pullen, Brooke Simmons and Joe Vergolina.

## Shakespeare Loses NEA Grant

*Trump administration cancels funding*

Hudson Valley Shakespeare in Philipstown said on Tuesday (May 6) that it was among the cultural organizations nationwide notified that its most recent National Endowment for the Arts grant had been rescinded.

HVS said in a fundraising appeal that it been notified by email that a \$10,000 grant approved for fiscal year 2024-25 had been canceled. The award was intended for Tent Pole Commissions, in which HVS arranges for the creation of new works.

The email sent to HVS said that the NEA was "updating its grantmaking policy priorities to focus funding on projects that reflect the nation's rich artistic heritage and creativity as prioritized" by President Donald Trump.

The federal government has not released a list of canceled grants, but another local organization awarded a grant at the same time as HVS was Space at Ryder Farm in Brewster, which was to receive \$20,000 to support residencies for theater artists and organizations. (It did not respond to a request for information.) In Peekskill, Paramount Hudson Valley said it was notified it would not receive \$10,000 it had been awarded to support performances celebrating the arts of Africa.

A 2024-25 grant recipient from Beacon — Darina "Dasha" Sikmashvili, awarded \$25,000 for a creative writing fellowship — said she earlier received her funds.

## Rite Aid Returns to Bankruptcy

*Fate of Beacon drugstore uncertain*

Rite Aid is again seeking bankruptcy protection as the struggling drugstore chain says it will try to sell its assets, meaning its Beacon location will close soon unless the company can find a buyer.

Rite Aid has 1,245 stores in 15 states. It will return to Chapter 11 bankruptcy and immediately begin selling locations and assets.

"Any store operations or assets we do not sell through this process will no longer be owned or operated by Rite Aid," it said in a statement. "This means that over the next few months, all Rite Aid distribution centers will close, and all stores will either close or be operated by a new owner. During this process, customers can continue to access pharmacy services and products, including prescriptions and immunizations, both in stores and online."

Rite Aid filed for bankruptcy protection in October 2023, when it ran more than 2,300 stores in 17 states. It emerged as a private company owned by its creditors.

## Sheriff Makes Burglary Arrests

*One incident in Cold Spring, another on Route 9*

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday (May 6) announced two arrests connected to burglaries in Philipstown.

Jason M. Blume, 46, of Peekskill, was detained on April 28 in connection with the overnight burglary on April 1 of a Main Street building. The Sheriff's Office said deputies were called to assist the Cold Spring Police Department after a report that someone had taken jewelry and spray-painted graffiti on the interior and exterior walls and village street signs.

After an investigation that included a review of surveillance footage, Blume was charged with felony burglary and grand larceny and a misdemeanor for graffiti. He was arraigned in the Village of Nelsonville Court and released pending a court date in the Village of Cold Spring.

The sheriff said Luis Sanchez, 53, of Fishkill, was arrested by deputies on May 4 at 12:45 a.m. near a business and residence on Route 9 following a report of a burglary in progress. The owners told officers that they had been awakened by someone banging on their door; when they checked, they saw someone run away. The front glass door of the business was smashed and the door to a car on the property was open.

Using a handheld infrared camera in the nearby woods, deputies observed the heat image of a man crouched in the bushes. Sanchez was arraigned on felony charges of attempted burglary, attempted grand larceny and criminal mischief in the Town of Philipstown Court and released pending his next court date.

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**June 13:** Beacon Residents

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Community Nursery

The Community Nursery School and Learning Center has been a cherished preschool and center of our community for 57 years ("Community Nursery to Close," April 18). We have shared millions of magical moments and unforgettable memories with hundreds of children and their families, who gave their love and support in amazing ways. It will forever live in our hearts, and we hope yours, as the "Happiest Place in Town."

Rosemary Rodino, *Philipstown*  
*Rodino directed the Community Nursery School for 38 years until her retirement in 2023.*

Sales tax

The Putnam County Legislature is failing to listen to the people they were elected to serve. It continues to misrepresent the sales tax proposal before them by referring to it as the "Kevin Byrne proposal" — clear evidence that some legislators are playing politics ("Putnam Legislature Debates Plan to Share Savings," May 2).

Let's set the record straight: This proposal was brought forward by the nine duly elected town supervisors and village mayors of Putnam County — Republicans and Democrats — who understand the critical need for

sustainable revenue across our municipalities. The county executive's only involvement was signing and advancing the proposal with a veto of the Legislature's resolution to reduce the sales tax by a quarter of a percent. That reduction would save consumers just 2 cents on every dollar, or \$25 for every \$10,000 spent, a minimal benefit with serious long-term consequences.

Let us also be clear: This proposal was not drafted behind closed doors. It was not the product of a secret meeting. We openly invited the Legislature's chair to attend a meeting at the Putnam Valley Ambulance Corps at which we met with state senators and Assembly members from both sides of the aisle to discuss the financial realities our towns and villages are facing. The chair never responded. Transparency and bipartisanship were at the core of this process — unlike the political games being played now.

The Legislature claims this proposal is "unsustainable." In fact, if passed, it becomes state law, creating a reliable and equitable funding source. What's truly unsustainable is the Legislature's approach: drawing down the county's fund balance without a responsible plan. It has publicly acknowledged the existence of millions in unknown future expenses yet still moves

forward without securing the continuation of this critical 1 percent sales-tax revenue.

A \$22 million loss doesn't just threaten county operations, but it puts every town and village in financial jeopardy. Without this funding, Putnam cannot remain a viable, affordable place to live for our seniors, veterans, working families and children.

Putnam's state representatives have done their part by acting on the home-rule request. Now it's up to the county Legislature to act. The people of Putnam are watching and we're asking you to do the right thing: Approve the 1 percent sales-tax extender and commit to sharing the revenue fairly with local governments.

Jacqueline Annabi, *Putnam Valley*  
*Annabi is the Putnam Valley supervisor. This letter also was signed by Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley, Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward, Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel, the supervisors of Kent, Carmel, Patterson and Southeast and the mayor of Brewster.*

Haldane DEI

In response to a letter in the April 25 issue, working for it and *not* getting it because of bigotry is exactly what diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility is meant to challenge ("Haldane Suspends DEI Policy," April 25). Why is it so controversial to admit that for centuries, women, people of color, queer and trans folks and Indigenous Americans have been treated like second-class citizens and denied jobs, opportunities, business licenses, mortgages, you-name-it, because bigots in positions of power didn't want "them folks" holding societal power as well?

DEIA is an attempt to say, "Hey, sorry, we did some messed-up things for a long time and ruined a lot of lives. Although we probably can't ever make it up to you, we're going to at least try to make things better for your kids by addressing the systemic barriers that we put in place to benefit white men and exclude the rest of y'all."

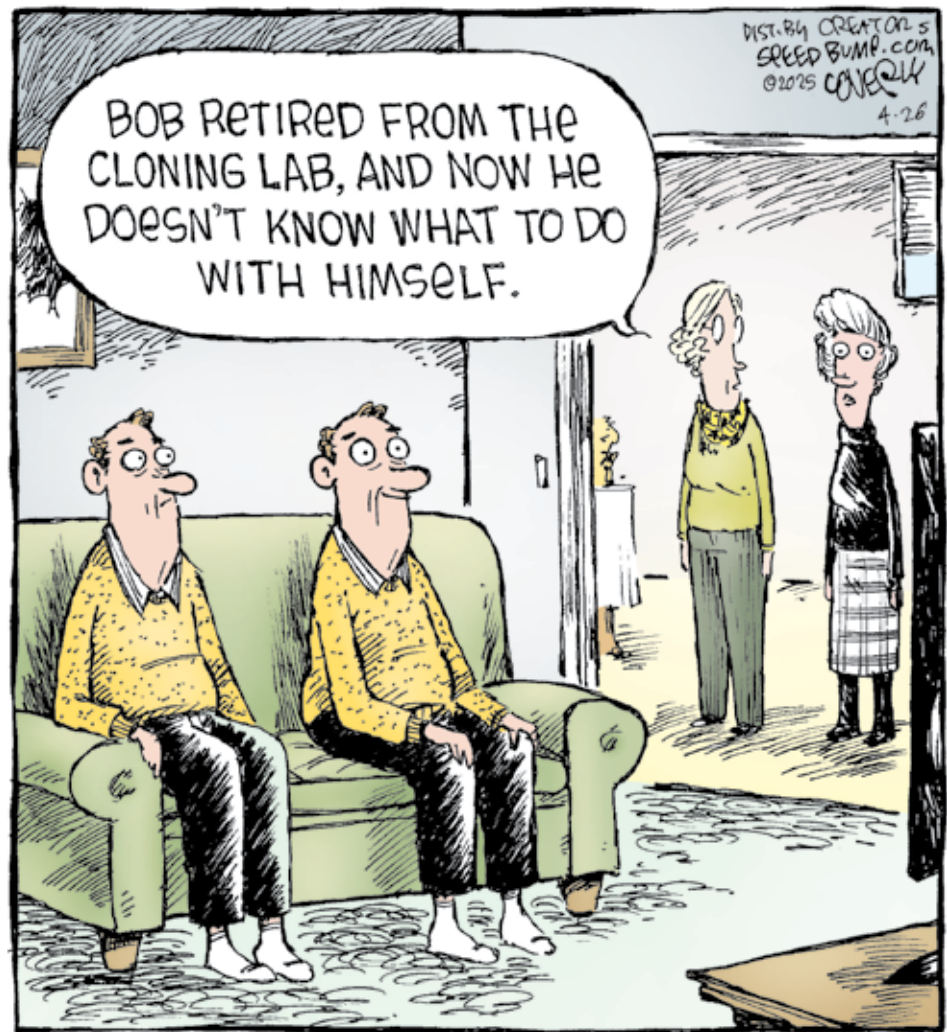
Roberto Muller, *Putnam Valley*

DEI is not just about race. It's about leveling the playing field for students who face adversity like autism, Down Syndrome, ADD, ADHD, body type and physical impairment — not just skin color. Anyone who thinks it is OK to do away with it has major privilege and must believe all students are the same (they aren't).

Lorraine Turner, *Cold Spring*

The federal decision to quash DEI, and in practice to never say the whole name, "diversity, equity and inclusion," is a thinly veiled attempt to promote one ethnic group

(Continued on Page 5)





LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

over others by re-introducing institutionalized suppression of those others.

That is the policy of those holding the majority of seats, including the presidency, in the federal government; it is only policy because they claim to have a popular mandate and because they do not face sufficient organized opposition. They presume too much. We should not allow this, and we should oppose them and replace them with sane, public-spirited politicians at our earliest opportunity.

Our school board and superintendent should be questioned about their motives in accommodating racist government overreach and encouraged to fight for their constituents — children — tomorrow’s leaders.

David Limburg, *Nelsonville*

A more accurate headline for *The Current’s* story is that the school board is planning to reinstate the DEI policy (“Haldane Will Reverse DEI Decision,” May 2). I stand by my vote based on the information I had at the time. Based on new information, we plan to reinstate the policy at our next meeting [on May 6]. I will do so with delight and relief. I am a major proponent of schools and organizations having DEI policies because they provide a formal way of codifying our values. They provide a framework and a lens through which to view everything that goes on at the school.

My vote on April 22 to suspend the policy was a practical decision, not an ideological one. We want our elected officials to be thoughtful and strategic, and that’s what I was demonstrating with my votes.

Michelle Kupper, *Cold Spring*  
*Kupper is a member of the Haldane school board.*

I was disappointed to hear that Haldane had suspended its DEI policy but happy to see that it is planning to reinstate the policy in response to pushback from the community. I applaud the board’s willingness to reverse course and stand strong against intolerance and overreach. Now, more than ever, it is critical for institutions and organizations, both private and public, to hold the line against forces that would tear us apart as a community and a society.

Jeff Mikkelsen, *Cold Spring*

By the Numbers

GOOD EATING

The following restaurants had a single minor violation or a **perfect score (\*)** during their most recent county health inspections. Food service facilities are inspected at least annually.

Beacon

- Great Wall (April 29)
- Trixie’s Pizza (April 11)\*
- Estilo y Vino Wine Bar (April 11)\*
- Paul Brady Wine (April 11)\*
- Beacon Coffee & Mercantile (April 11)\*
- MoMo Valley (April 8)
- Ron’s Ice Cream (April 4)\*
- Red Pepper Diner (April 4)\*
- Roundhouse (March 20)\*
- Kitchen & Coffee (March 12)
- Pillow & Oats Brewing (Feb. 28)\*
- Roma Nova (Feb. 28)
- Yankee Clipper (Feb. 28)\*
- La Barbirria (Feb. 28)
- Café Amarcord (Feb. 21)\*
- Ember & Grain (Jan. 29)\*
- Matcha Thomas (Jan. 2)\*

Philipstown

- El Descanso (April 16)\*
- B&L Deli (March 11)
- Carlo’s Pizza & Restaurant (March 11)
- Nicola’s Italian Restaurant (Nov. 15)
- Barber & Brew (Nov. 15)
- Philipstown Senior Center (Nov. 14)\*
- Angie’s Bake Shop (Nov. 5)\*
- Café Silvia at Magazzino (Oct. 24)\*
- Valley Restaurant (Oct. 24)\*
- Sweet Harvest (Oct. 18)
- Rowseelee (Oct. 17)\*
- Cold Spring Coffeehouse (Oct. 17)
- Paulette’s (Oct. 17)\*

Source: New York State Department of Health, via data.poughkeepsiejournal.com



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## Losing Energy *(from Page 1)*

negotiating to extend a contract that ends June 30. Mike Gordon, founder and chief strategy officer for the program administrator, Joule Assets, said in a letter to municipalities that “times are deeply uncertain at the moment and electricity prices rose quickly in response.” Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward read the letter at the April 21 Village Board meeting.

Although prices have fallen more recently, Gordon said Joule lacked enough time to meet new guidelines created by the state utility regulator, the Public Service Commission, to notify and educate customers about new pricing before June 30.

Because the “political and economic envi-

ronment is so volatile,” Joule does expect “opportunities to lock in some advantageous pricing” over the next two to three months. Joule will spend those months learning “how best to work through” the new PSC regulations, said Jessica Stromback, the company’s CEO.

“The order is, let everybody go back to the utility and not scramble,” she said on Wednesday (May 7). “That process is smooth; the utility understands it. There’s no interruption in service.”

Under the current contract, residents and businesses in the CCA pay a default rate of 12.24 cents per kilowatt hour for 100 percent renewable energy in Cold Spring and 11.24 cents per kilowatt-hour for 50 percent renewable energy in Nelsonville and Philipstown. Those customers will be charged Central

Hudson’s variable rate starting July 1.

As of April 10, Central Hudson’s standard supply rate was 10.3 cents per kilowatt-hour. Last year’s summer rates, when electricity demand is higher, averaged 9.6 cents per kilowatt-hour. (Central Hudson charges a separate rate for delivery.)

“[The CCA] pricing was high, but it was locked in and we knew what it would be,” Winward said at last month’s meeting. “We don’t know what the volatility of Central Hudson’s rates are going to bring us.”

The July 1 transition will mark the second time residents and businesses enrolled in Hudson Valley Community Power have been sent back to Central Hudson. A former supplier, Columbia Utilities, defaulted on a contract to provide renewable energy at

6.6 cents per kilowatt-hour for residences and 7.1 cents for small businesses, including those in Beacon, Cold Spring and Philipstown. In April 2022, Columbia notified the PSC that it intended to return customers to Central Hudson.

A state judge on Dec. 5 approved a \$1.5 million settlement in a lawsuit filed by the municipalities against Columbia Utilities. The company admitted no wrongdoing but agreed to a \$1 million payment into a settlement fund and \$50,000 monthly payments by June 1, 2025, to cover the balance. The Ulster County judge overseeing the case also approved \$286,585 in attorney fees and up to \$56,500 in administrative costs. Eligible customers began receiving checks for about \$50 last month.

## DEI Reinstated *(from Page 1)*

“This was nothing that any of us wanted to do,” Clements said. “It did make us deeply uncomfortable. But we felt like the district was truly at risk of losing \$450,000.”

During the meeting, Board Member Michelle Kupper said she regretted “not communicating more about the future of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy months before the vote. A lot of us in the school community knew that the current presidential administration takes issue with diversity, equity and inclusion, and we should have been talking about how to

handle it.”

Carl Albano, the interim superintendent, said the decision to suspend the policy on April 22 was rushed because of an April 24 deadline set by the Trump administration.

In early April, the U.S. Department of Education ordered states to gather signatures from local districts certifying their compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as well as rejection of what the Trump administration calls “illegal DEI practices.”

The directive did not carry the force of law but threatened to use civil rights enforcement to rid schools of DEI prac-

tices. Schools were warned that continuing such practices “in violation of federal law” could lead to Justice Department litigation and the termination of federal grants and contracts. New York State responded that it would not comply.

Despite that, Albano said that on April 11 the district’s law firm, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, recommended that the board certify compliance with Title VI. Many other districts did the same. At the time “we didn’t see an issue certifying, because, again, we believe we are in compliance,” Albano said. “None of that raised concern for me or the board.”

However, on April 18, “our attorney, after reviewing the DEI policy, had concerns about the diversity hiring provision,” Albano said.

That provision states: “The district will strive to create a workforce that is not only diverse and inclusive, but one that recognizes and values the differences among people. As part of this effort, the district will seek to (a) recruit and retain a diverse workforce in all areas and at all levels [and] (b) provide staff with opportunities for professional development on cultural responsiveness.”

Albano said that on April 22, just hours before the board was scheduled to meet, he gave members the attorney’s recommended resolution to suspend the DEI policy because it “may, in part, be inconsistent” with the Department of Education’s interpretation of Title VI. After suspending the DEI policy, the board certified compliance with Title VI.

The Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery district, which includes O’Neill High School, which Garrison district students can attend, also voted last month to suspend its DEI policy. Halfway into its April 10 meeting, the board went into executive session for an hour. When it reconvened, the members voted unanimously to rescind the policy, without discussion, then adjourned. The board also uses Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert for its counsel.

In addition, across the country, a handful of districts rescinded their DEI policies ahead of the Trump administration’s deadline, including in Palm Beach, Florida; Virginia Beach, Virginia; and Decatur, Georgia, according to news reports. Decatur, like Haldane, on April 29 reversed its decision.

In other business on Tuesday, the board appointed Erin Piquet as director of pupil personnel services, effective July 1. She succeeds Regina Kaishian, who left to become an assistant superintendent with the Arlington school district.

Piquet is the secondary supervisor for special education for the Mahopac school district. Before that, she was the principal of the Alternative High School and worked as a special education teacher at Dutchess BOCES. She began her career as a special education teacher in New York City.

San Damiano Farm

# Mother’s Day Plant Sale

**WEDNESDAY MAY 7**  
THROUGH  
**SUNDAY MAY 11**  
10:00AM - 5:00PM

Plants will be sold at  
“That Nothing Be Lost” Thrift Shop  
at Graymoor, The Holy Mountain  
40 Franciscan Way, Garrison

Martha Washington Geraniums,  
Dish Gardens, Zonal Geraniums,  
Lucky Shamrocks, Begonias,  
and Coleus



**Cash or checks made out to St. Christopher’s Inn only**

### The Worst Drug Crisis in History: The Past, Present and Future of Addiction and Overdose in the United States



A conversation with Regina Bell, former Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and Dr. Brandon Del Pozo, health policy professor and former chief of police

FRIDAY, MAY 9 AT 7PM | FREE



**Charlotte Hu, Solo Piano**

SUNDAY, MAY 18 AT 4PM | FREE



RESTORATION ROADHOUSE

### Dirty Grass Players

THURS. MAY 22 | DOORS AT 7PM

**TICKETS \$25** Octavio’s Food Wagon  
Beer thanks to Industrial Arts



45 Market St.,  
Cold Spring

For tickets visit  
**chapel**

**restoration.org**





# Records Sought in Local Prison Death

## Medical examiner rules fight led to heart attack

By Leonard Sparks

The mother of an Albany man whose death at the Fishkill Correctional Facility just outside Beacon has been ruled a homicide is seeking a court order for documents from the Orange County Medical Examiner's Office in preparation for a lawsuit.

Ameek Nixon, who was serving a five-year

sentenced for dealing drugs, died at Montefiore St. Luke's Hospital in the City of Newburgh on Oct. 23 following an altercation with another inmate. The fight was "violently broken up" by correction officers, who did not activate their body-worn cameras, according to a petition filed Monday (May 5) in state court.

Witnesses interviewed by the New York State Police reported that correction officers "slammed" Nixon to the ground after separating him from the other inmate, and that a guard kneed Nixon's head and slammed

him into a counter, according to the petition. Prison personnel found him "unresponsive" within minutes of being taken to the infirmary, according to court documents.

The Orange County medical examiner determined that Nixon, 39, died from a heart attack caused by homicide, in this case, a "physical altercation." The New York State Police closed its investigation in January, concluding that "no suspects had been developed whose actions directly led to the death of Mr. Nixon," according to Debra Greenberger, the attorney for Nixon's mother.

Greenberger is seeking photos and video of Nixon's body, tissue samples, medical

records from the prison and the emergency personnel who treated Nixon, and other records, so they can be examined by an independent pathologist.

"To date, Mr. Nixon's grieving family has received no answers regarding the circumstances of his death, and the complete absence of body-worn camera footage only deepens their concerns and raises serious questions," said Greenberger.

Orange County has not responded in court to the request for documents.

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

## Drive-thrus (from Page 1)

that, to encourage more pedestrian-friendly growth, the council prohibit new self-storage facilities, drive-thrus, gas stations, car washes, auto lots and repair shops. Existing businesses would remain. On Monday, Kyriacou called a walkable, more residential Fishkill Avenue "a laudable goal," but said "it's a long, long way off."

He cautioned that zoning today for the council's vision for the corridor could backfire. "My concern is that if we don't permit some transitional uses — and I do think a drive-thru would be a transitional use — we will end up with many more years of car dealerships, probably used-car dealerships, instead of seeing the change that we want," Kyriacou said.

The rest of the council disagreed. Pam Wetherbee, who represents Ward 3, which includes the Fishkill Avenue corridor, said that prohibiting drive-thrus would allow the area to evolve quickly. Nobody could have predicted Beacon's rapid growth, she said, "and I think it's going to happen just as quick" on Fishkill Avenue.

George Mansfield said that "we have to zone for what we want ultimately to see." Drive-thrus "go up fast" and "one follows the other," he said. Paloma Wake said that "in motion" changes in the corridor, such as sidewalk improvements, will increase accessibility and make restricting drive-thrus "the best long-term decision for Beacon."

It remains to be seen where the move leaves the approved Dunkin' application. City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis told the council in

January that the project would be regulated by whatever zoning is in place when a foundation is poured and "something substantial has come out of the ground."

Taylor Palmer, the attorney for Jay Healey, the developer (who is a member of the committee studying Fishkill Avenue), told the council last month that the project would not be viable without the drive-thru. Healey could ask the Zoning Board of Appeals for a use variance allowing it to proceed; Palmer said Wednesday that no decision had been made.

When asked in March for their opinions, Planning Board members expressed concern in a memo with the "categorical prohibition" of drive-thrus. Instead, they suggested a district-by-district approach or identifying areas within zoning districts where the use should be prohibited.

## In other business...

■ The council on Monday approved an extension of the contract for garbage and recycling collection with Royal Carting. The city will pay \$60,177 monthly for garbage and \$19,369 for recycling, or 1 percent increases, in 2026. The company had not increased its fees since 2019, said City Administrator Chris White.

■ Bulk trash drop-off at the Transfer Station on Dennings Avenue opens for the season on May 17 and runs through Sept. 20. Residents current on their taxes may bring up to 250 pounds of construction or household waste. The Transfer Station is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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

Join us for the

## 10th Annual ARF 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs

Sunday, May 18, 2025 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Memorial Park, Beacon, NY

Bring your family, friends, and dogs for a fun-filled day supporting the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF).



Check-In and Registration start at 9:00 AM  
Race begins at 10:00 AM  
• Family- and Dog-Friendly Activities  
• Raffles, Vendors, Awards, and More!

Register now:

[www.arfbeacon.org/5k](http://www.arfbeacon.org/5k)

Sponsorship & Vendor opportunities available, email [arfbeacon5k@gmail.com](mailto:arfbeacon5k@gmail.com)



Every step you take makes a difference!

## Thanks from the Philipstown Food Pantry

To all who donated— your support feeds hope and food insecure neighbors! A heartfelt thanks also to the many of you who dashed in with food and out before we could say a proper thank you.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Maloney  
Maureen Rooney  
Kathleen Paprata in Honor of Marilyn Schlaeser  
Joseph Barbaro  
Roberta Shayo  
Carolyn Harlan  
Taconic Outdoor Education Center -NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
The Residents of Glassbury Court  
Women of the Methodist Church  
Grey Printing  
The Endless Skein & Haldane Knitting and Crochet club  
Putnam County SPCA— Volunteer Irene Weiss  
St. Philips Episcopal Church  
Our Lady of Loretto Church  
Highlands Choral Society

Second Chance Foods  
Cold Spring Thrift Alliance  
Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming  
John J. Cimino and Rachel S. St. Vincent  
Dr. Frank E. Lucente  
Diana Geller in honor of Renee Cruikshore  
Delmar Harlan in honor of the Gordon Family (Garrison)  
Santa Frisenda  
Clara Staples  
Katherine Smelter  
Andrew Faust, Kristi Ruggiereo and Faust Kids' 100 Cans of Kindness  
Betsy  
Marie Early  
Kelley Linhardt and the Easter Candy Posse  
Joan Crouch



AROUND THE REGION

Peekskill

Man Charged with Blocking Bike Path

A Peekskill man was charged with placing tree limbs and debris along a trail used by mountain bikers at Blue Mountain Reservation.

Jeffrey Jarvis, 44, was charged with misdemeanor criminal nuisance and released pending a May 19 court date.

Westchester County Police said the investigation began in the fall, when the agency received complaints about debris placed at the bottom of a descending rock face, or “granite roller.” An association of mountain bikers placed a trail camera that recorded a suspect. Blue Mountain Reservation is a 1,538-acre county park in Peekskill and Cortlandt with 20 miles of trails for mountain biking.

Storm King

Art Center Completes \$53M Expansion

The Storm King Art Center reopened on May 1 with new buildings, landscapes and parking. The \$53 million project was supported by \$11.3 million in state grants.

Located in New Windsor, the 500-acre art center specializes in outdoor sculpture. It now has a ticket and information pavilion, restroom pavilion and group pavilion united by an outdoor lobby. It also opened the David

R. Collens Building for Conservation, Fabrication and Maintenance and reclaimed two former parking lots to create 5 acres of landscape for art and programming.

Brewster

\$300K State Grant to Build Mini-Forest

New York State announced on April 25 that it had awarded \$15 million in grants through its newly created Community Reforestation program, including \$300,000 to Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County to install a 1-acre, fast-growing grove of native plants known as a Miyawaki mini-forest at Tilly Foster Farm.

Each funded project will record its plantings in the online Tree Tracker maintained by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Goshen

Priest Who Stole \$300K Gets Weekends in Jail

A priest who pleaded guilty in 2024 to stealing \$300,000 from the St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta parish in Newburgh was sentenced to spend 16 weekends in the Orange County Jail.

Father William Damroth, who paid restitution to the parish, also must serve 500 hours of community service. His attorney

told *Mid Hudson News* that the weekends-only sentence will allow Damroth to receive ongoing medical treatment. Along with Newburgh, the priest served parishes in Port Jervis, Pine Bush, Stony Point, Mount Kisco and Staten Island.

Kingston

School Board Member Posts Photo with Knife

A school board member posted a photo on April 15 that showed him flashing a knife inside a restroom stall at the Ulster County Building.

According to the *Daily Freeman*, Anthony Fitzpatrick said he had smuggled the knife into the chambers, writing: “I appreciate how the wand cannot find your weapons when you have a suit and tie on.”

“What poor, poor, poor judgment this gentleman showed,” said Peter Criswell, the chair of the Legislature. Three days later, Fitzpatrick said his stunt was designed to improve security at the county building and claimed officers only used their metal-detector wands on poor people.

Chester

Highway Supervisor Charged in Shooting

The town highway superintendent was arrested May 3 on charges that he shot

a DoorDash delivery driver.

According to the New York State Police, John Reilly fired his weapon while the victim attempted to deliver an order to a residence at about 9 p.m. The driver became lost and approached several homes for directions. According to police, Reilly told the driver to get off his property, then shot at him as the victim attempted to drive away. He was struck once in the back.

Reilly, 48, a federally licensed firearms dealer, pleaded not guilty to felony charges of assault, criminal possession of a firearm and criminal possession of a weapon and was remanded to the Orange County Jail.

West Point

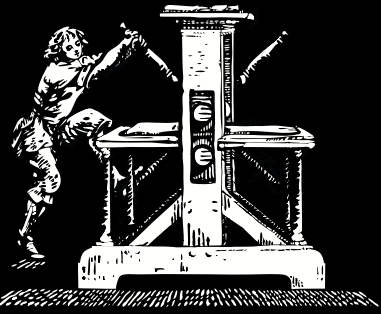
President to Deliver Commencement Address

President Donald Trump is scheduled to give the commencement address at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on May 24. He also spoke at graduation in 2020 at the height of the COVID pandemic.

President Joe Biden spoke at commencement in 2024 and Vice President Kamala Harris delivered the address in 2023. The speech typically rotates among the president, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, vice president and defense secretary.

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

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
& HIGH SCHOOL  
FILMS SCREENING**

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7:00PM**

**the BEACON  
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BEACON, NY**

**SEE YOU ON THE  
RED CARPET!**



## Housing Crisis *(from Page 1)*

ability and availability. We have a new wave of technology in the form of AI and remote work, and we have generational investments being made in our downtowns, bringing small cities back to life. And the pandemic drove tens of thousands of residents into the region. Our job is to look at those things, measure them and try to explain their effects on our communities and regionwide.

### What are you working on in 2025?

We're creating community-driven plans for the reuse of buildings or parcels that have been abandoned for decades. We can set up tax credits on parcels that make them more feasible to be redeveloped as housing, mixed-use or as new manufacturing centers. The idea is to create development in our downtowns that provides progress without displacement.

With housing, there's an indication that corporate actors are moving into the region. There's not a lot of data, but I'll give you my anecdotal evidence. At my house in Ulster County, I am getting two flyers per month from corporations offering to buy my house — all cash, sight unseen.

We're going to trace these LLPs and LLCs to their common corporate owners and be able to quantify the extent of corporate homeownership and how it's changed over the past decade. The governor has proposed that if a company owns 10 or more properties or has \$50 million or more in assets, it shouldn't be allowed to bid on a home for the first 72 hours it's on the market. In places like Arizona, Nevada, or down to the Carolinas, there are entire neighborhoods owned by a single corporation that rents homes back to people. We want to understand the effect it has on access and the cost of homeownership.

### What do you see as the most important issues facing the region?

Housing is No. 1. There's not even a close second. We do not have enough homes to sustain the population we have, and the cost of both homeownership and rent have outpaced our growth and wages by a lot. That means housing is gobbling up more and more take-home pay.

No. 2 would be workforce. We have awesome



Adam Bosch of Pattern for Progress (right) speaks at a housing forum in Rockland County last month.

Photo provided

training facilities at Dutchess Community College, Orange Community College, Marist and SUNY New Paltz, but the data show our labor pool is getting ready to shrink by about 120,000 people in the next 15 years. It's the size of the workforce that's a concern in the near- and medium-term, along with what I call the "youth crunch." We have seen births — not birth rates — decline over the past two decades by about 25 percent to 35 percent in each of our counties. Dutchess is down by 25 percent. Putnam is down the most of any county. If you look at the population of infants, children and teens now and compare it to a decade ago, we have 40,000 fewer kids in the region.

After that, I would say community development in terms of: Are we able to attract and retain jobs to the region? Do they pay a living wage? The other two to mention are childcare businesses shrinking by 40 percent in 15 years and outdated water and sewer infrastructure.

### The redevelopment of the former Downstate Correctional Facility in Fishkill and a transit-oriented development at the Beacon train station could add 1,600 housing units in and around Beacon. What does the community need to see from the developers?

When we did a report on the adaptive reuse of dead shopping malls, we called a lot of architects and engineers out west because they were doing more of those projects. They told us the same story over and over: They would present a development plan to the local planning board, and it would have parks, entertainment, restaurants, office space and, in one case, 1,600 housing units. Then they would come back the next month and the planning board would say, "What do we need to do to turn 1,600 units into 2,000?"

It underscored that those communities were in a growth and vibrancy mindset. They knew what the needs for housing were likely to be. But it got me thinking about our mindset in the Hudson Valley and if I had to sum it up over the past 20 years, it has been, "How do we shut it down, slow it down or cut it in half?"

If you look at our youth population and our workforce, what does it show you? Our full-time population is slowing down, shutting down and cutting in half. What I would say to communities like Beacon with projects in the pipeline is to be thoughtful about the things you need to do. Make sure there's enough water and sewer capacity. Make sure the roads can handle the number of cars. Don't assume the number of cars is going to be higher than it's likely to be. The reason you're putting housing at the train station is those people shouldn't need vehicles. Figure out the challenges that can be overcome through sound engineering and planning.

Keep in mind that the student popula-

tion of the Beacon school district, like the districts that surround it, has shrunk. Keep in mind that many of the people who will live in these developments will provide us with goods and services that we want in our communities. They might be the person who works at the grocery store or the doctor's office or the certified nursing assistant who is going to care for your grandmother in supportive living. If we don't build the housing, then the people who fill these jobs and, in fact, those goods and services, become harder to get.

The goal of any community needs to be to base its decisions on evidence, not feelings. It's a tricky balance. We can see the difference in income in people moving into and out of a place and how the real-estate market has tilted away from the blue-collar, service-industry worker. The good news is there are tools that local governments can use to tilt things back, to ensure that these developments have an adequate number of units at a price point that should be affordable for local people.

It's important to make sure our regulations require that developers set aside housing at a price point that is affordable for the local workforce, and at every level of income. I'm not only talking about the lowest of the low income. I'm talking about people like my dad, who worked at ShopRite for 48 years, or my mom, who is a medical records clerk. We want these people in our neighborhoods because they provide goods and services that we would cry and whine about if they weren't available anymore.



**JOIN IN FOR BUZZING A DECENTRALIZED MURMUR**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS :: MAY 14 - JUNE 18**  
**WORK THAT RECONNECTS HELPS US...**

- ...remember our mutual belonging to the Earth and to each other.
- ...foster emotional resilience in these times.
- ...dwell in the healing power of community.
- ...become unafraid of our pain for the world.
- ...open to awe, wonder and gratitude for being alive.
- ...replace stories of separation with stories of Interbeing.
- ...understand that we have an ecological identity.
- ...remember that we are in collaboration with the more than human world: the plants, the animals, the fungi, the air, the water, the fire, the soil...

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**May 14, 21, 28 & June 4, 11, 18**  
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AROUND TOWN



▲ **SIGN OF SPRING** — Members of the Cold Spring Boat Club assembled the seasonal slips on May 3 at the waterfront.



◀ **INTERLUDE** — Richard Kolb played classical works on the lute at the East Fishkill library on May 2 in a pop-up concert sponsored by the Howland Chamber Music Circle. The lute was popular in Italy, France and England during the dawn of the Baroque era (1563-1651). The next day, Kolb performed at the Beacon Music Factory.



▲ **DANCE AT THE DEPOT** — This weekend (May 9-11) and next, the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison will present the final six performances of *The Tango Diaries*, directed by Alice Jankell and featuring three professional dancers. Only a few seats remain. *Photos by Ross Corsair*

Thursday | May 15 | 5:30 PM | Roundhouse



Join us for our premier event of the year, the "Jewel of Beacon" fundraiser! Food, drink and live music and entertainment! We will honor Neil Caplan of the Bannerman Castle Trust & Phil Ciganer of the Towne Crier Café. Featuring the legendary Tom Chapin & Friends, Zohar and Adam Cabo, and Jessica Welch. Emceed by Eli Walker.



Act quickly! Limited seats available! Visit [bit.ly/HCC2025GALA](https://bit.ly/HCC2025GALA) For more info: [howlandculturalcenter.org](https://howlandculturalcenter.org)

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"Squirrel Island Assemblage"

### The Calendar

# A PRINTMAKER BLURS THE LINES

When Lisa Diebboll needs inspiration for her landscape paintings, she walks next door from her Philipstown home to a town park that has a meadow and pond. "It's like a laboratory" for creativity, she says.

The artist's first solo show, *Between Observation and Abstraction*, continues through May 31 at the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring.

The Rhode Island School of Design graduate says the abstract and formal work together to make a landscape come alive — "all of sudden everything makes sense when

## Philipstown artist mounts first solo show

By Sharon Rubinstein

you look at it." But, she says, she has little interest in abstraction alone. "I need reality."

"I'm looking for certain juxtapositions of shapes and colors, and I use them as my jumping off point," adds Diebboll, who co-owns The Highland Studio, a fine art printmaking business off Route 9 that she established 28 years ago with her husband, Joe.

She studied painting and printmaking at RISD (where she met Joe, also a gradu-

ate of the school). "I love printmaking and the process," she says. "I love that way of thinking about images and imagery." The business "turned into a way for us to stay in the art world and have a career that could support a family."

Lately, Diebboll has taken a step back from the printing business. "In the past five years I've been working to get back to my first love, which is painting, and it's where I'm happi-

est," she says. To reach that goal, Diebboll reclaimed a home bedroom as a studio.

The Buster Levi show includes 15 oil paintings, as well as prints and sketches. A few paintings are framed conventionally, but Diebboll otherwise used a light aluminum support onto which she affixes her works on linen. The aluminum is attached to wood that can be suspended from the gallery's hooks. The result: a strong, light panel that is easier to store than the usual stretched canvas and can be displayed with or without a frame.

In the works, Diebboll's greens and blues are in dialogue with salmons and pinks; some are energized by yellow and orange. In one small piece, a modest house peeks through trees; hills inject diagonal verve into others. Diebboll says it gives her satisfaction to explore the interplays.

Growing up, her family leaned into science more than art, but her father was an accomplished painter in pastels. She remembers being transfixed by her parents' oversized art books, which she would spread open on the floor to gaze at the images. "I always wanted to put marks on paper and draw or paint what I saw," she recalls.

Spying her young daughter's interest, Diebboll's mother enrolled her in oil painting lessons; she continued with the same teacher through high school. Diebboll's own two daughters studied art but did not pursue artistic careers. One works in biological and environmental science and the other in the food industry.

The opening of her show on May 3 was "a perfectly lovely evening," Diebboll says. She sold several paintings. "My biggest goal now is not to lose the thread and to keep going with the path that I've established."

*The Buster Levi Gallery, at 121 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, or by appointment. See [busterlevigallery.com](http://busterlevigallery.com).*



Lisa Diebboll at the Buster Levi Gallery

Photo by S. Rubinstein



THE WEEK AHEAD

COMMUNITY

**SAT 10**  
**Hudson Valley Fair**  
**WAPPINGERS FALLS**  
Noon – 11 p.m. Heritage Financial Park  
1500 Route 9D | dub.sh/HV-fair-2025  
The fair will include rides, games and food. Also SUN 11. Free admission and parking. Unlimited rides are \$37.

**THURS 15**  
**Church Rummage Sale**  
**BEACON**  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. Joachim's  
51 Leonard St.  
This annual fundraiser organized by the Women's Parish Club of St. Joachim / St. John the Evangelist Church will have values galore, as well as a red-carpet section with higher-end items. Also FRI 16, SAT 17.

**THURS 15**  
**HCC Anniversary Gala**  
**BEACON**  
5:30 p.m. The Roundhouse  
2 East Main St.  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
To celebrate the Howland Cultural Center's 46th year, Neil Caplan of the Bannerman Castle Trust and Phil Ciganer, owner of the Towne Crier, will be honored (see Page 2). Tom Chapin and Jessica Welch will perform. *Cost: \$100+*

**THURS 15**  
**Skilled Trades Fair**  
**WAPPINGERS FALLS**  
6 – 8 p.m. Ketcham High School  
99 Myers Corners Road  
dutchessny.gov/RCKTradesFair  
Dutchess County students are invited to learn about careers in construction, plumbing, electrical work and other vocations. Registration required.

**SAT 17**  
**Birdathon**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org  
Join the annual bird count led by Putnam Highlands Audubon guides to raise money and collect data. Donate or join a walk. *Cost: \$10*

**SAT 17**  
**Modern Makers Market**  
**COLD SPRING**  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthehudson.com  
Shop for art, jewelry, candles, accessories and crafts from more than 60 makers. Rain or shine. Also SUN 18.

**SAT 17**  
**Pride in the Sky**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
4 – 10 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson  
61 Parker Ave. | biggayhudsonvalley.com  
The daytime festivities will include a fun run, tours and drag story time, along with entertainment, food and booths. At sunset, there will be a procession unfurling a 500-foot-long Pride flag and the world's largest Trans Pride flag. *Free*

**SUN 18**  
**ARF 5K Run/Walk**  
**BEACON**  
9 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Park  
Robert Cahill Drive | bit.ly/arf-5K  
Support the Animal Rescue Foundation's work by joining this 5K run or the 1K fun run. Dogs welcome. *Cost: \$35 (\$20 ages 3 to 10)*

**SUN 18**  
**Tango with the Depot**  
**GARRISON**  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing  
depottheater.org  
This benefit on the theater patio will include live music, group tango lessons and Argentine food. *Cost: \$145+*

KIDS & FAMILY

**SAT 10**  
**Paws & Paint**  
**BEACON**  
12:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Pat Schories, the illustrator of the *Biscuit* series, will talk with children ages 4 to 8 about how books are made and her creative process. Registration required.

**SAT 10**  
**Between the Lines**  
**BEACON**  
2 – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org  
Artwork by local elementary, middle and high school students will be on view through June 1.

**FRI 16**  
**Student Film Festival**  
**BEACON**  
6:30 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
forbeaconschools.org/film-festival  
Films by elementary school students will be shown on this, the first night of the fourth annual festival organized by the Foundation for Beacon Schools. Films by middle and high school student films will be screened at 7 p.m. on MON 19 at the Beacon Movie Theater, 445 Main St. *Cost: \$8 (\$4 students; \$12/\$6 for both screenings)*

**SAT 17**  
**Car Seat Check**  
**GARRISON**  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Putnam County Sheriff's deputies will ensure children's car seats are properly installed.

**SAT 17**  
**Family Nature Meet-Up**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
2 p.m. Humble Bee Hollow  
Snake Hill Road  
philipstowngardenclubny.org  
Families and children ages 4 to 12 are invited to join a scavenger



Between the Lines, May 10

hunt led by Jackie Grant of the Philipstown Garden Club. Rain date: SUN 18. Registration required.

PLANT SALES

**SAT 10**  
**Master Gardeners**  
**CARMEL**  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Memorial Park  
201 Gypsy Trail Road  
845-278-6738 x 220  
putnam.cce.cornell.edu  
Browse garden accessories, flowering plants, pollinator favorites, vegetables and herbs, and bog and carnivorous plants. Families and children can enjoy a fun 4-H day of pony rides, crafts and educational displays.

**SAT 10**  
**Verplanck Garden Club**  
**FISHKILL**  
9 a.m. – Noon. Town Hall | 807 Route 52  
facebook.com/verplanckgardenclub  
The sale will include flowers and vegetables.

**SAT 10**  
**Common Ground Farm**  
**BEACON**  
Noon – 4 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery  
7 E. Main St. | commongroundfarm.org  
The offerings will include herbs, veggies, flowers and fruit.

**FRI 16**  
**Master Gardeners**  
**MILLBROOK**  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Farm and Home Center  
2715 Route 44 | ccedutchess.org  
The sale will feature vegetables, herbs and flowers. Also SAT 17.

MOTHER'S DAY

**SAT 10**  
**Garden Party**  
**COLD SPRING**  
5 – 7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.  
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com  
Katherine Whiteside and Dr. Peter Gergely will sign books and there will be bouquets for sale to benefit a Memorial Sloan-Kettering program that provides books to children.

**SUN 11**  
**Cupcake Festival**  
**WAPPINGERS FALLS**  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Heritage Financial Park  
1500 Route 9D  
k104online.com/cupcake  
This annual event, hosted by the K104 radio station, will include vendors selling sweet treats and other items.

SECOND SATURDAY

**SAT 10**  
**Radical Fun**  
**BEACON**  
10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Savage Wonder  
139 Main St. | savagewonder.org  
The group show at this new gallery will include works by 13 artists. See Page 18. Through July 6.

**SAT 10**  
**Diana Vidal**  
**BEACON**  
4 – 7 p.m. Super Secret Projects  
484 Main St. | supersecretprojects.com  
For her solo show, *The Hard and Soft of It*, Vidal looks at lived experiences through painting, sculpture and text. Through June 7.

**SAT 10**  
**Karen Bamonte | Robin Tedesco**  
**BEACON**  
5 – 8 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St. | hudsonbeachglass.com  
Bamonte and Tedesco will present works on paper and paintings in their respective shows, *Oceans Apart* and *Reconnected*. Through June 8.

**SAT 10**  
**Daniel Berlin | Iain Wall**  
**BEACON**  
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org  
Berlin's show, *Swallowing the Sun*, explores the concept. *In This Place*, a group show, will fill Gallery 2 and Wall's *Precious Stones* is in the Beacon Room. Through June 8.

TALKS & TOURS

**SAT 10**  
**Poetry in the Garden**  
**GARRISON**  
Noon. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Mary Newell, Alison Granucci and Heller Levinson will read their poetry.

**MON 12**  
**Riverside Moguls**  
**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
In the first of a series of talks on historic wealth and power in the Hudson Valley, Alex Prizgintas will focus on the rise of steel rails and the Gilded Age moguls who were part of the railroads' growth.

**MON 12**  
**Hold My Hand**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Ascend Center  
75 Main St. | ascendcenter.com  
At this book launch, Sandra and



Lidija Slokenbergs will share their perspectives as a survivor and a caregiver dealing with anorexia.

FRI 16  
**Nerd Nite Hudson Valley**  
BEACON

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

Gabriel Mckee will speak on the UFO hoaxes of Gray Barker, Steve Lambert will discuss helping artist to “use creative means to effect power” and Rebecca Cossa will share information on “the everyday magic of agriculture.” *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SAT 17  
**The Sundowner’s Dance**  
BEACON

7 p.m. Stanza Books | 508 Main St.  
845-440-3906 | [stanzabooks.com](http://stanzabooks.com)

Todd Keisling, a horror and suspense author, will read from his latest novel about growing old and dealing with grief and dementia.

SUN 18  
**Death is Not Real**  
BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
[theyardbeacon.com](http://theyardbeacon.com)

This workshop will explore ancient spiritual teachings, near-death experience accounts and practices such as guided meditation, sound journeys and heart-brain coherence. *Cost: \$55 (\$65 door)*

SUN 18  
**Suzanne Cleary**  
PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

The poet will read from her new collection, *The Odds*, followed by an open mic. *Cost: \$10*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 10  
**The Tango Diaries**  
GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing  
845-424-3900 | [depottheater.org](http://depottheater.org)

Alice Jankell directs this play framed by the passionate dance form. Also FRI 16, SAT 17, SUN 18. *Cost: \$25 to \$45*



SAT 10  
**Big Fish: The Musical**  
WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
[countyplayers.org](http://countyplayers.org)

This musical adventure tells the larger-than-life story inspired by a father’s tales. Also SUN 11, FRI 17, SAT 17, SUN 18. *Cost: \$30 (\$28 seniors, military, students)*

SAT 10  
**The Artichoke**  
BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | [artichokeshow.com](http://artichokeshow.com)

This month the storytelling series will include Kelli Dunham, Carly Ciarrocchi, Carly Ann Filbin, Calvin Cato, Adam Wade and Scott Gabriel. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 10  
**Marlon Wayans**  
PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The actor and comedian will do stand-up as part of his Wild Child Tour. *Cost: \$68 to \$108*

THURS 15  
**Liturgy for Longing**  
BEACON

7:30 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center  
327B Main St.  
[liturgyforlonging.brownpapertickets.com](http://liturgyforlonging.brownpapertickets.com)

Emily Clare Zempel, a multi-

disciplinary performing artist, explores longing with the audience through a series of questions. Also FRI 16, SAT 17, SUN 18. *Cost: \$15 to \$40*

FRI 16  
**Notorious**  
BEACON

6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Boats leave dock  
845-831-6346 | [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org)

Visit Bannerman Island to watch Ingrid Bergman and Cary Grant in an outdoor screening of their 1946 spy film noir directed by Alfred Hitchcock. *Cost: \$45*

SAT 17  
**The Bald Soprano**  
BEACON

7 p.m. Savage Wonder  
139 Main St. | [sagawonder.org](http://sagawonder.org)

The new theater will present a “ludicrously staged reading of the absurdist classic” by Eugène Ionesco. See Page 18. *Cost: \$25*

MUSIC

SAT 10  
**Jazz of Now**  
COLD SPRING

2 p.m. St. Mary’s Church  
1 Chestnut St. | [musicatstmarys.com](http://musicatstmarys.com)

Lindsey Horner (bass) and Neil Kirkwood (piano) will play originals and classics. Donations welcome. *Free*

SAT 10  
**New Muse 4tet**  
BEACON

7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
[theyardbeacon.com](http://theyardbeacon.com)

Gwen Laster (violin), Teddy Rankin-Parker (cello), Melanie Dyer (viola) and Andrew Dury (drums) will debut their album, *Keepers of the Flame*. *Cost: \$22 (\$25 door)*

SAT 10  
**Ensemble Sangineto**  
PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
[tompkinscorners.org](http://tompkinscorners.org)

The group brings a contemporary take to ancient Irish, Scottish, Breton and Italian songs. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 10  
**Elgar’s Friends & Ravel at 150**  
BEACON

7:30 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Ave.  
[hudsonvalleysymphony.org](http://hudsonvalleysymphony.org)

The Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the French composer’s birth. *Cost: \$55 to \$68 (\$38 seniors, \$15 students, ages 5 and younger free)*

SAT 10  
**John Blum & Michael Foster**  
BEACON

8 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Luke  
15 South Ave. | [blumfoster.eventbrite.com](http://blumfoster.eventbrite.com)

The firebrand pianist and saxophonist will perform jazz. *Cost: \$20 (\$30 door)*

SAT 10  
**Shark?**  
BEACON

8 p.m. Quinn’s  
330 Main St. | [quinnsinbeacon.com](http://quinnsinbeacon.com)

The band celebrates middle age with their songs from *A Simple Life*.

SAT 10  
**StrangeMagicNY**  
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The Electric Light Orchestra tribute band will perform. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 11  
**Satisfaction**  
BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

This Rolling Stones tribute band has been playing together for 20 years. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

MON 12  
**Advance Base | Kristin Daelyn**  
BEACON

7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
[theyardbeacon.com](http://theyardbeacon.com)

Advance Base is the melancholic soft-rock recording project of Chicago singer/songwriter Owen Ashworth, while Philadelphia-based Daelyn sings indie folk. *Cost: \$22 (\$25 door)*

WED 14  
**Daniel Kelly and David Gonzalez**  
COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

As part of the monthly Creative Conversations series, Kelly and Gonzalez will share their version of Orpheus, the Greek myth, through improvisation, music and movement. *Cost: \$15 donation*

FRI 16  
**Uyanga Bold and Bansara Mc**  
BEACON

8 p.m. The Factory  
147 Main St. | [dub.sh/beacon-bonfire](http://dub.sh/beacon-bonfire)

The Mongolian vocalist Uyanga Bold and the flutist Bansara Mc will collaborate for the first time to create soundscapes. Donations welcome. Registration required. *Free*

FRI 16  
**Shakedown Citi**  
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The jam band is inspired by the Grateful Dead. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 17  
**Here Comes the Sun**  
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

This Beatles tribute band celebrates the hits. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

(Continued on Page 14)

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THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)

**SUN 18**  
**Toland Brothers Band**  
**BEACON**  
11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Boats leave dock  
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org  
The local duo will play rock and pop classics, as well as originals, during tours of Bannerman Island. *Cost: \$45 (\$35 ages 11 and younger)*



**SUN 18**  
**Beacon Rising Choir**  
**BEACON**  
1 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road | compassarts.org  
The choir performs music that celebrates community and social justice. Come early to meet local organizations and enjoy snacks. See Page 16. *Cost: \$10 to \$40*

**SUN 18**  
**Let's Sing Taylor**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
2 p.m. MJN Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza  
midhudsonciviccenter.org  
This tribute band performs the songs of Taylor Swift. *Cost: \$40 to \$78*

**SUN 18**  
**Jon Shain**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
3 p.m. Marbled Meat | 3091 Route 9  
marbledmeatshop.com  
The blues guitar singer and songwriter will play a solo set that includes a BBQ pop-up. *Cost: \$20 donation*

**SUN 18**  
**Charlotte Hu**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org  
The pianist's program will include works by Liszt, Granados and Debussy. Donations welcome. *Free*

**SUN 18**  
**Imani Winds**  
**BEACON**  
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org  
The quintet's program will include works by Simon Shaheen, Kalevi Aho, Valerie Coleman, Paquito D'Rivera and Stevie Wonder. *Cost: \$35 (\$10 students)*



Charlotte Hu, May 18

**VISUAL ART**  
**SAT 10**  
**Pallas Athene**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
2 – 4 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org  
The artist will exhibit her sculptural collage series. Through July 4.

**SAT 10**  
**Art Now in the Hudson Valley**  
**GARRISON**  
3 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org  
A live auction and raffle will feature works by Hudson Valley artists and benefit the art center. *Cost: \$25*

**SAT 17**  
**Llèncols de Aigua**  
**COLD SPRING**  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino  
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art  
The art institute will open an installation by Antonio Marras and Maria Lai. There will also be a full-day symposium about Lai. *Cost: \$30 (\$20 seniors; students and members free)*

**SAT 17**  
**Elizabeth Blake**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 – 6 p.m. Studio Tashtego  
160 Main St. | studiotashtego.com  
The ceramic artist's solo show, *Arcadia*, will be on view until July 13.

**SAT 17**  
**Jeremy Dennis**  
**GARRISON**  
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org  
The visiting artist's show, *Rise: Scenes of Resistance*, explores Indigenous identity and storytelling. Dennis will lead two workshops on SUN 18, including one for families.

**CIVIC**  
**MON 12**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

**TUES 13**  
**Library District**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | beaconlibrary.org

**WED 14**  
**Village Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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

The Philipstown Depot Theatre presents:

**The TANGO DIARIES**

A new play with music & dance

by Ron Hutchinson & Alisa Taylor

Directed by Alice Jankell

May 2-18

photo by Cecilia De Bucourt

www.DepotTheater.org

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Sunday May 18

4:30-6:30 p.m.

on the Depot Patio

Group Tango lessons

Roving bandoneon player

Argentine food & drinks

Tickets at [www.DepotTheater.org](http://www.DepotTheater.org)



# 80 Films to Premiere in Beacon

*Student short-form  
festival begins May 16*

By Marc Ferris

Of the many grassroots, community-based organizations in Beacon, only one turns the city into a mini-Hollywood for a few months.

Next week, 80 two-minute shorts produced by some 200 school-age filmmakers and their assistants will be screened at the high school auditorium and the Beacon Movie Theater on Main Street.

Volunteers at the Foundation for Beacon Schools are pulling all-nighters to ensure accuracy and quality control, says Anna Sullivan, the foundation's first president, who stepped down in 2023 but remains active with the organization.

"We're taking the extra time to increase production value across the board and edit the program, line up the title cards with accuracy and make sure the students' names correspond with their school," she says. "We want to value and honor these films, which are so creative; people are going to be amazed."

Founded in March 2020, the nonprofit launched the festival in 2022 and receives cooperation and participation from students, teachers, administrators and local filmmakers, including Ophir Ariel, Lucas Millard and Rob Featherstone.

Beyond stimulating creativity and bringing people together, the festival raises money for teacher grants and other enrichment programs. "We're trying to foster innovation in education and the primary function is to help teachers and administrators get classroom equipment and enhance their skills," says Jean Huang, a board member.

Since its creation, the foundation has distributed more than \$60,000 in grants, supporting the high school's *Breaking Beacon* newspaper, supplying waders for elementary students to walk in the Hudson River and sending seventh and eighth graders to the Italian and English play *Caccia al Tesoro* in White Plains.

The film festival originated because "we were looking to do one event each year that could bring the community together and we heard about the PS 187 festival [in New York City], went down there and it checked all the boxes," says Sullivan.

In addition to promoting the arts, the foundation supports projects like *History of the Bell*, a short film about the JV Forrester Elementary



Young Beacon filmmakers posed for a group photo following the 2024 festival screenings.



A scene from "Lego Dimension," a film by Logan



A scene from "Best Friend Scare," by Perry and Jourdan

school's cherished chime that students ring at graduation, and *Lines of Demarcation*, an oral history of Black residents' experience in Beacon during the 20th century.

The foundation is a descendant of the longstanding Beacon Arts and Education Foundation, which disbanded amicably in 2020. Several of the group's board members helped get the new organization off the ground, which explains their initial focus on the arts. Now, they've branched out to cover the wider curriculum, says Sullivan.

Beyond raising money and building community, there is another practical element to the festival. "There's also a vocational component," says Sullivan. "Every industry values people who can communicate ideas visually, so knowledge of editing and telling stories clearly and thoughtfully is another wrench in the toolbox for our students."



Beacon students film a scene during a green-screen workshop in 2024.

Photos provided

The fourth annual Beacon Student Film Festival opens at 6:30 p.m. on May 16 at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, with screenings of films by elementary students. It continues May 19 at 7 p.m. at the Beacon Movie Theater, 445 Main St., with screenings of films by middle and high school students. Tickets are \$8 or \$4 for students for either screening, or \$12 and \$6 for both. See [forbeaconschools.org/film-festival](https://beaconschools.org/film-festival). The Current is among the sponsors of the event.



# Singing with the Resistance

*Inspired by feminist anthem, Beacon Rising marches on*

By Marc Ferris

Lisa Andretta loves singing in the car but never figured she could be a real vocalist. After joining the Beacon Rising Choir, she found her voice.

"When I went to my first rehearsal, I instantly fell in love," she says. "I had no idea something like this existed."

The chorus, which started in 2017 with 13 members, now has 70, says founder Gina Samardge. Its next concert is May 18 at Beacon High School.

Beacon Rising is a "resistance choir," Samardge says, open to women and nonbinary singers. A feminist anthem from the 2017 women's march in Washington, D.C., "Quiet," by Milck, inspired the choir's formation. The song includes the lyric, "I can't keep quiet for anyone anymore. ... Let it out now."

Cellphone videos of flash mobs performing to the song went viral and Samardge responded. "I needed to sing it with other women," she says.

Her activist roots are reflected in the choir's repertoire, with songs that preach love, acceptance and a fight-the-power attitude such as



The Beacon Rising Choir will perform on May 18 at Beacon High School.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Gina Samardge directs the Beacon Rising Choir during a concert in March 2024 at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon.

"The Hymn of Axiom," by Vienna Teng; "Refugee," by Moira Smiley; "On Children," by Ysaye E. Barnwell (with lyrics by Khalil Gibran); and "People Have the Power," by Patti Smith.

"The 2016 election spawned a lot of choirs," Samardge says. "Singers always tell me that this is a healing force in their lives."

A trained music educator and curious musician who lights up when speaking about playing clawhammer banjo, Samardge conducts the choir and arranges some songs. She came to Beacon in 2010 after getting priced out of Brooklyn.

"I grew up in a small town in Ohio [Marion] and there is such a stronger community feeling here," she says. Samardge and her husband, musician Andy Reinhardt, who assembles the band that accompanies

the choir, are childless by choice.

Yet she's touched the lives of many youngsters in Beacon and beyond through Compass Arts, a grassroots organization she founded that runs programs in the schools and from the First Presbyterian Church on Liberty Street.

Compass Arts initially rented a 1,000-square-foot space at Beacon Music Factory, then expanded to the church's Fellowship Hall, which features a stage, kitchen and new flooring installed by the nonprofit.

In 2023, when the Beacon City School District called with an arts emergency — the middle school drama club had no teacher — she arranged for three visiting artists to structure a 10-week afterschool program teaching dance and choreography, improv and theater games and a glee club-

style singing and movement class.

"I remember being 18 years old and saying to my mother, 'I only want grandchildren,' and she said, 'Well, that's not how it works,'" Samardge says. "But I was at an event and some teenagers waved to me, and it turned out that they had attended a bunch of [Compass Arts] programs. I realized that somehow, somehow, I got my wish. These kids are my temporary grandchildren."

Beacon High School is located at 101 Matteawan Road. Tickets to the May 18 concert start at \$20 (\$10 seniors, teens; \$5 ages 6-12; free ages 5 and younger); see [compassarts.org/beacon-rising](http://compassarts.org/beacon-rising). The doors open at 1 p.m. for a free event with community organizations, a raffle and bake sale, followed by the concert at 2 p.m.

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ST MARY'S

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Neal Kirkwood, piano

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# 43 Years Later, Beacon Shots Get Second Show

*College student's 1982 photos revisited by modern pros*

By Marc Ferris

For his 1982 senior project at SUNY New Paltz, Patrick Prosser toted a camera around the streets of Beacon, his hometown. In May, about the time he received his bachelor of fine arts, Prosser exhibited 20 photos at what is now the Howland Cultural Center.

When Prosser, who grew up at 14 Miller St., died from pancreatic cancer in 2023 at age 64, his widow, Kathy, donated the 1982 shots to the Beacon Historical Society.

Theresa Kraft, president of the Howland Cultural Center, read about the gift in the society's newsletter and arranged to display excerpts from the collection. A team that included photographers Tony Cenicola, Michael Goldfarb, Pierce Johnston and Willam Loeb winnowed the selections to 38 photos before three of the curators fanned out to revisit some of the locations.

The exhibit's title, *Work in Decay*, borrows from Prosser's 1982 exhibit. His subtitle had been "The City of Beacon, New York"; the new one is "The Renaissance of Beacon — Then and Now."

In 1982, Prosser captured mostly decay.



Nearly every pane of glass in the abandoned factories and weatherbeaten buildings on and near Main Street is broken or boarded up, including the picture windows at Moze-kos Market by the dummy light. In one photo, a crossing guard stands in front of the door.

Prosser combed ruins from the inside. In the factory that became the Roundhouse, he was enamored with the bathroom stalls: "The shape of the toilets and the simple arithmetic of the walls give this great feel-

ing for the working man's environment in Beacon," he wrote. He also took interior shots of the abandoned Highland Hospital and a junk-filled apartment.

One photo shows Cisco, a white dog sitting in the decrepit doorway of Certified TV Sales & Service. Goldfarb's photo of what is now the Maria Lago Studio captures a life-size sculpture depicting a human figure in anguish.

Enticed by structures, Prosser climbed vantage points like the Beacon Theatre and

the firehouse that is now home to Hudson Beach Glass. Though he took a well-situated shot of the Mount Beacon Incline Railway gear-house, the photos of people could be Prosser's apex. In "High Noon at Richie's Bar," a grizzled bartender plays cards with a patron wearing a dapper hat. Regulars scratched scrawl onto a 2x4 beam at the bar's edge, along with the panel below, including the jab, "\$100 fine to write here."

(Pierce Johnston's modern reply, "A Day at Melzingah Tap House," focuses on a relaxed young bartender polishing a pint glass, flanked by two fancy, backlit cases with high-end hooch. In the background, the shelves are stocked with swag.)

One of Prosser's favorite photos captured the owners of Beacon Auto Salvage, which once filled the Churchill Street parking lot with heavy machinery, car parts and mud. The father makes no attempt to smile while the son's half-cocked grin hints at a brighter future, although he may just be resigned to his lot. "The whole history of Beacon can be told by their faces," Prosser wrote.

*The Howland Cultural Center, at 477 Main St., is open from 1 to 5 p.m. on most Saturdays and Sundays. Work in Decay continues through July 21.*

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

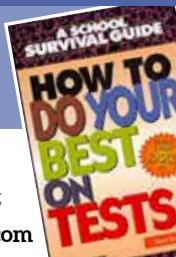
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# After Move, Vet/Rep Becomes Savage Wonder

Theater and art gallery opens in Beacon

By Marc Ferris

Vet/Rep, the theater company that moved from Cornwall to Beacon last year and is transforming the former bank building at 139 Main St. into a showcase for talented veterans and their family members, has been rechristened Savage Wonder.

This weekend (May 9-10) kicks off the institution's inaugural season of productions in The Parlor, a 50-seat room. Most of the staged readings will be presented every Saturday for a month, although exceptions include the sold-out debut tonight (May 9) of *The Bald Soprano*, by Eugene Ionesco, three future dates and a six-week run of World War II veteran Noel Coward's scandalous 1920s comedy, *Fallen Angels*.

All the performers are members of the Actors' Equity union, which includes Broadway-caliber professional actors and stage managers.

On Saturday (May 10), Savage Wonder will unveil Savage Wonderground, a 4,000-square-foot basement art gallery, and The Grape Rebellion, a wine and dessert bar. The first exhibit is *Radical Fun*, curated by gallery director Jeannie Freilich, who commutes from New York City. It runs through July 6.



Chris Meyer, the founder and artistic director of Savage Wonder

Photo provided

A 60-seat theater, named The Kristofferson (after Kris, who turned down a position teaching literature at West Point, spurned the Army to write country songs and earned the wrath of his military family) is scheduled to open next year. A second bar and another main stage with 125 seats is planned for 2027.

"One reason for the rebranding is that every time I spoke to groups about Vet/Rep, I had to make it clear that we're not providing art therapy — we rarely do war stories and not everyone onstage is a veteran,"

says Chris Meyer, founder and artistic director. "We're also going beyond theater by adding the art center and wine component."

Meyer came up with Savage Wonder during a deployment in New Mexico (he served in the Army for 14 years after 9-11): "It's where the warrior and artist intersect." The revamped logo, which resembles a paint, wine or blood splotch, is a Rorschach test. "Our brand's spirit animal is the octopus, which encapsulates what the Savage Wonder thought experiment is about: inti-

mate, absurd, whimsical and jarring."

To expand the talent pool and repertoire, immediate family members of veterans may act onstage, direct a play or contribute a script. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde (coming in June), makes the cut because the playwright's son served in the British military.

Beyond the veteran thread, many of the season's themes convey a farcical sensibility. The absurdist *Bald Soprano*, from 1950, contains several exchanges with nonsensical dialogue. Nicolay Gogol's *Inspector General*, scheduled for October, premiered in 1836 and satirizes Russian bureaucracy.

The son of actors, Meyer's flair for the dramatic enhances the staged readings. At the launch party on May 3, a hubbub interrupted his presentation and startled the audience. It turned out to be two actors shaking things up with a short performance set in a VA hospital waiting room to nowhere.

"We're not sitting around or using music stands, we can stage the hell out of our readings," says Meyer. "We've had five-minute fight scenes; people enter through a window or trip and fall into the wall. Anything can happen."

*Savage Wonder is located at 139 Main St. in Beacon. The Bald Soprano will be performed at 7 p.m. on May 17, May 24 and May 31; tickets are \$25 at [sawagewonder.org](http://sawagewonder.org). Radical Fun will open at The Savage Wonderground on Saturday (May 10) from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.*

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## NOTICE

**BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

The bond resolution, summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 18, 2024, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Such resolution was duly approved by a majority of the qualified voters of said School District voting at the Annual Budget Vote duly called, held and conducted on May 21, 2024.

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the School District Clerk for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

*Dated: May 7, 2025*

*Victoria Jackson, School District Clerk, Beacon, New York*

## BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 18, 2024.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUSES FOR THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BEACON, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$990,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$990,000 BONDS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

Objects or purposes:	Purchase of two zero-emission school buses
Maximum estimated cost:	\$990,000
Period of probable usefulness:	Twelve years
Amount of obligations to be issued:	\$990,000

## NOTICE

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, will hold a public hearing on the budget at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7:00 P.M, for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2025-2026 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2025-2026 school year (the Budget), as prepared by the Board of Education, as well as the Exemption Report, listing every type of exemption granted, as provided in Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, may be obtained by any resident of the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, commencing May 6, 2025, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at each of the District's schoolhouses, at the Administrative Offices, and on the District's website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education as follows: Three (3) members to the Board of Education for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028; and

B. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the 2025-2026 School Year (the Budget).

C. To vote on any other proposition legally proposed.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that for the purposes of voting, the School District has been divided into two (2) election districts and that an accurate description of the boundaries of these school election districts is on file and may be inspected at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular work hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the 2025 Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held at the following polling places in the School Election Districts hereinafter set forth;

**SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1**

**POLLING LOCATION: BEACON HIGH SCHOOL**

**Description:** - First Ward, First and Second District  
- Second Ward, First, Second, and Third Districts  
- Third Ward, First, Second and Third Districts  
- Fourth Ward, First and Second Districts

**SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2**

**POLLING LOCATION:**

GLENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Description:** Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County; south by the common town line of the Towns of Fishkill and Wappinger and west by the Hudson River.

Bounded on the north by the common town line of the Towns of Fishkill and Wappinger, east by Wappinger Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Union Free School District No. 3, Town of Fishkill, south by Beacon City line and west by Hudson River.

Bounded northerly by former Common School District No. 4 in the Town of Fishkill and Wappinger, easterly by Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Dutchess County; southerly by Central School District No. 1 in the Town of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Putnam County and the Town of Fishkill in Dutchess County; westerly by the Hudson River and the City of

Beacon being the former Union Free School District No. 3 of the Town of Fishkill.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M. on the 20th day preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, April 30, 2025. Such petitions must be signed by at least one hundred (100) qualified voters of the District, shall state the name and residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, has fixed Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York, as the date on which the Board of Registration of said School District will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of preparing the register of the School District for each election district for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register if known or proven to the satisfaction of the registrars to be then or thereafter entitled to vote. Persons whose registration to vote with the County Board of Elections is current, pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law, shall be qualified to vote without further registering with the School District's Board of Registration, as well as all persons who shall have previously registered for any annual or special district meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special district meeting or election held or conducted at any time during the 2021, 2022, 2023 or 2024 calendar years.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the register of voters so prepared shall be filed in the Office of the District Clerk and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, beginning fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Said register will be open for inspection in each of the polling places during the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee and early mail ballots for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk or downloaded from the school district website. The completed application must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the election, and at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed, or the day before the election, if the ballot will be picked up at the Office of the District Clerk. The completed application can be sent by email, or delivered by a designated agent. Absentee ballots and early mail ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the election.

A list of all persons to whom absentee and early mail ballots shall have been issued will be available in the said Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as qualified voters of the school district. Military voters may request an application to register as a qualified voter from the District Clerk. Military voter registration application forms must be received in the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2025. In order for a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the school district must have received in the office of the school district clerk a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 pm on May 5, 2025. A military voter may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail in their request for such registration, ballot application, or ballot. Such designation shall remain in effect until revoked or changed by the military voter. Ballots for military voters shall be mailed, or otherwise distributed, no later than May 6, 2025.

By the Order of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District      Vickie Jackson, School District Clerk





# Fishing Derby

The Nelsonville Fish and Fur Club hosted its 36th annual fishing derby at the Cold Spring reservoir on Fishkill Road on May 4 in memory of Tony Savastano, who founded and ran the event for many years. His son, Mike, has kept the tradition going, and Tony's 2-year-old grandson caught the first fish of the day. Despite an ominous forecast, 87 children signed up (rain ended the derby early). Cash Amato, 8, caught the largest fish, a 14.5-inch rainbow trout, and received a 1-ounce Silver Eagle coin. Mike Savastano said the village and local businesses and individuals donated poles, bait, hot dogs, lemonade, brownies and coffee. Most of the fish were small and returned to the water.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*





Roots and Shoots

Another Season, More to Learn

By Pamela Doan

If the only question you're asking about the plants in your landscape is "Friend or foe?", step back and look through a different lens — maybe closer, maybe farther away.

After 15 years of watching the forest behind my house flush with green over-night when the barberry foliage appears, I'm no longer full of anguish over the ecosystem it displaces. All of it — the multi-flora rose, bittersweet, burning bush, wine-berry, mugwort, etc. — fills up the space, voiding the habitat I wish to see. Even with the native plants I've added, these plants introduced from other locales dominate.

The rain this week makes for good weeding. The saturated soil makes it easier to pull garlic mustard, so that is my task now. Instead of focusing time and energy on sowing, I prioritize not losing more ground. The biennial garlic mustard is more realistic to control than others: If I pull it before it stops blooming, I can prevent it from seeding. It feels achievable, whereas the acres of barberry will always be there, barring a weather event or natural disaster that reshapes the land.

My goals have been revised from repairing the disturbance and neglect to coexistence



and boundaries. The strategy is to stake out areas we access most frequently to hold the line. My budget and time don't allow for goats or widespread removal with a restoration plan and maintenance. But the more I learn about plants and ecosystems, the more I realize I must find ways to live with this natural system and stop seeing it only as "broken."

Tending to small plots instead of acres under these circumstances is my current experiment. I'm creating fenced zones in the forest where I'll remove the non-natives and see what the seedbed will offer up. The fencing excludes deer. What would be growing there if they didn't eat it all? Not that I fault them. As with the state of the barberry, we humans did this with our clearing and building and moving fauna and flora around the planet.

I had to stop reading *The Light Eaters*, a book by Zoë Schlinger about plant consciousness. Given the force of the undoing of environmental and climate protection, I can't grapple with the concept, as fascinating and cool as it is. The weight of devastation and recklessness is too heavy to pile on the responsibility that garlic mustard has feelings as I yank it from the soil.

Every day as a gardener, every year of tending a plot, is an opportunity for my relationship with the non-human world to



Unwanted plants like garlic mustard can also be pretty. Photo by P. Doan

evolve and shift. Before, I could see a green, lush landscape. When I put names and personalities to the plants and trees in my landscape and understood the impacts they have on birds, wildlife and other plants, I was determined to fight back. I made plans, I dug things up, I weeded and burned and planted the right things, adding biodiversity. I'm always trying to learn more.

Yet here I am, 15 years later, trying to reframe the situation to find moments of peace and to not feel like the world is burning every moment of the day. As I pick a tick off my neck, I know it isn't a battle with nature. This is all of nature, with the spongy moth caterpillars and the big jerk that is thorny barberry. While I can do my little part in my pockets of fenced woods, I have to recognize that these plants and creatures are holding the soil from washing away and feeding birds with their berries. Perhaps they have impacts that I might not live long enough to understand.

Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for March and April at Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.

1	<i>On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century</i> by Timothy Snyder
2	<i>Martyr! A Novel</i> by Kaveh Akbar
3	<i>The Saucerian: UFOs, Men in Black and the Unbelievable Life of Gray Barker</i> by Gabriel McKee
3	<i>Taking Manhattan: The Extraordinary Events That Created New York and Shaped America</i> by Russell Shorto
4	<i>Great Big Beautiful Life</i> by Emily Henry
5	<i>The Employees: A Workplace Novel of the 22nd Century</i> by Olga Ravn
5	<i>Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature and Spirit</i> by Lyanda Lynn Haupt
1	<i>Sunrise on the Reaping (A Hunger Games Novel)</i> by Suzanne Collins
2	<i>Dog Man: Big Jim Begins (Dog Man 13)</i> by Dav Pilkey
3	<i>Hilo Book 11: The Great Space Iquana</i> by Judd Winick
4	<i>Songs of the Birds: A Guide to North American Bird Calls and Songs</i> by Isabel Otter
5	<i>Mallory and the Trouble with Twins (Baby-Sitters Club 17)</i> by Ann Martin



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NOTICES

**BEACON CLASS OF 1965** — We are searching for our Beacon High School classmates to hold our 60th reunion in Beacon on Oct. 4. If you graduated with us, we’d love to hear from you. Please reach out to one of the following: Linda Salvatore Beasimer (lbeasimer@gmail.com), Barbara Conley Gosda (bgosda4765@gmail.com) or Connie Perdreau (corneliaperdreau@yahoo.com). Please feel free to share this information with other classmates from the Class of ’65 so we can reach everyone. We also welcome suggestions for a venue and other comments.

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[highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).

Larry Codacovi (1933-2025)

Lawrence M. Codacovi, aka Larry, passed away peacefully at Calvary Hospital, located in the Bronx, New York, on April 27, 2025, at age 91. His life was a testament to an unwavering love for family and friends, generosity and an amazing sense of humor.



Born in Manhattan, New York City, on Sept. 17, 1933, Larry was the eldest of three children born to Charles and Myrtle Codacovi and often told entertaining stories about life and the characters he met while growing up in New York’s Lower East Side.

Larry served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was honorably discharged on Oct. 6, 1955, whereupon he returned to New York City. Shortly thereafter he met his future wife, Rose, whom he married on Dec. 7, 1957.

Larry joined RCA Global Telecommunications in Manhattan as a junior clerk in their mailroom prior to his military service. He rejoined RCA after his return, whereupon he began an amazing career in telecommunications sales and services that eventually saw him traversing the globe. Along the way he managed to take advantage of the GI Bill and graduated from New York University in 1963 while working full-time and supporting a growing family.

In 1970 he was promoted to the position of Director-European Affairs and moved his family to Lausanne, Switzerland, where they resided until June 1974. Upon his return to the U.S., Larry rose to the position of Vice-President RCA Global Telecommunications. The company was eventually sold to GE, and ultimately MCI International, where he continued to hold senior executive positions at both organizations while contributing greatly to their success.

Upon his retirement from MCI International, Larry helmed a start-up telecommunications company which oversaw the construction of a high-speed fiber optic cable that enhanced telecommunications services in Northern Europe. He also worked with a venture capitalist on various projects around the globe.

Larry is survived by his wife of 68 years, Rose; his three sons, Robert, David and Scott; his seven grandchildren, Gabrielle, Kyle, Kayla, Amber, Vanessa, Peyton and Dylan; his daughters-in-law, Alexandra and Wendi; his sister, Amelia; and his brother, Joseph.

Larry leaves behind a legacy of love, friendship, caring, hard work, determination, loyalty, success and a love of food that made the world a better place and will continue to inspire everyone who had the great fortune to know and work with him. His memory will forever be cherished.

A wake for Larry was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Clinton Funeral Home, located in Cold Spring, New York, followed by 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Loretto Church and interment ceremony on Friday, May 9, 2025, at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Alzheimer’s and dementia prevention organizations.

PAID NOTICE



Jean Roberts  
(1927-2025)

Jean M. Roberts of Cold Spring passed away peacefully on April 30, 2025. She was 97.

She was born on Oct. 13, 1927, in Queens, New York, to the late Arthur and Margaret Gunn Boehle. Jean graduated from St. Catherine’s Hospital School of Nursing in Brooklyn in 1948 and went on to work at Brooklyn State Hospital, Butterfield Hospital and as the nursing supervisor at Putnam Hospital Center, where she retired at the age of 80.

Jean married Thomas Ely in 1950. He passed away in 1969. In 1974, she married John Roberts, who passed away in 1981.

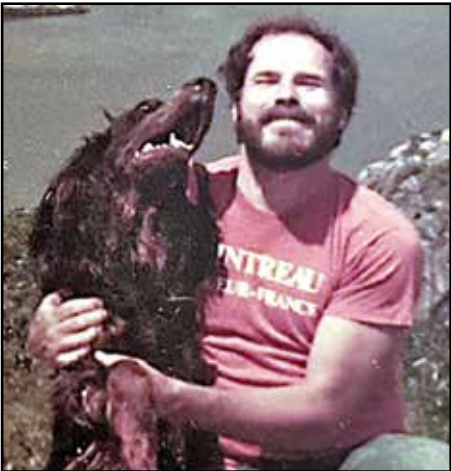
Jean was a woman of quiet strength and enduring dedication, working into her 80s with unwavering commitment. Known for her wit and understated humor, she could make you laugh with just a glance or a perfectly timed remark. A devout Catholic, she approached the world with practicality and grace.

She is survived by her children, Margaret Ely Roberts of Loudon, Tennessee; James Ely and his wife Lori of Cold Spring; and Mary Ely of Parkersburg, West Virginia, as well as six grandchildren (Michelle and Mark Roberts, Kathryn Demers and Nicholas, Natalie and Naomi Ely), three stepsons (John Roberts, George Roberts and Richard Roberts) and her sister, Margaret Gendreau, in addition to numerous nieces and nephews. Along with parents and husbands, she was predeceased by her sister, Anne Sperber.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair St., in Cold Spring, followed by interment at Cold Spring Cemetery.

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

PAID NOTICE



Michael Klubnick  
(1948-2025)

Michael Patrick Klubnick, a longtime resident of Cold Spring, passed away on May 1, 2025. He was 76.

Born at Butterfield Hospital in 1948, Mike was the son of the late Marie and Frank Klubnick. A graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Mike won a merit scholarship to Marist College. After college Mike worked as a counselor at Open Gate and as a mail carrier in Beacon. He later received a masters of science in education and taught English at Haldane High School.

While at Haldane, Mike formed The Blues Devils, a popular blues band comprised of high school students. The Blues Devils performed at Haldane concerts and at the Haldane High talent shows.

Mike taught himself to play guitar at a very young age. He formed numerous rock bands, including The Humbugs, the Other Side, Bound for Glory, Private Joke and the ROTC Blues Band, Chazy Band and The Satellites. For six decades, Mike’s bands entertained adults and children alike, performing at high school dances, concert venues, the 1964 World’s Fair, and weddings throughout the Hudson Valley. Mike’s enthusiasm for music was contagious! This was evident at every event he played for.

Mike is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and Louie DeCaro; his brother, Dennis Klubnick; his sister and brother-in-law, Patty and Ron Klubnick-Vogt; his best friend, Andy Scecina; eight loving nieces and nephews; and many beloved friends. Always a lover of animals, Mike’s motto was: “To live a balanced life, you need a dog to adore you and a cat to ignore you.”

Mike will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough to enjoy his music, his wit, his poetry, his enthusiasm and his smile. His was a life well-lived.

Friends may call on Tuesday (May 13) from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Clinton Funeral Home in Cold Spring. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mike’s name to the Putnam County Humane Society (puthumane.org).

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

PAID NOTICE



Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

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

- ACROSS
1. Completely  
4. Playwright Levin  
7. Done with  
11. Secular  
13. Collection  
14. Water carrier  
15. Airline to Tel Aviv  
16. ET's craft  
17. Dutch cheese  
18. Ersatz chocolate  
20. One-named supermodel  
22. Tree fluid  
24. Trombone parts  
28. Grassy tract  
32. January, to Juan  
33. Grassy area  
34. Shade provider  
36. FBI guy  
37. Alpha's opposite  
39. *The Hunger Games* heroine  
41. Dance clubs  
43. Prefix with athlete
44. Tom Joad, for one  
46. Urged (on)  
50. Hive population  
53. Schlep  
55. Luau dance  
56. Vegetarian's no-no  
57. Mine material  
58. Russian ruler  
59. Saturates  
60. Scale member  
61. Blasting stick
- DOWN
1. Sir Guinness  
2. In — land  
3. Deceitful person  
4. Terre Haute sch.  
5. Mortgage again, for short  
6. Molecule parts  
7. Exciting Broadway event  
8. YouTube clip, for short  
9. Clean air org.  
10. "The One I Love" band
12. Loan application fees  
19. *Cheers* setting  
21. Pub order  
23. Bakery purchase  
25. Singer Lovato  
26. Historic periods  
27. Male children  
28. Trudge  
29. Actor Malek  
30. Dazzles  
31. Caribou kin  
35. Yoga pad  
38. Fine, to NASA  
40. Italian "three"  
42. Farm towers  
45. Franc replacement  
47. Sudden wind  
48. Flair  
49. Scurry  
50. German auto  
51. Shoe width  
52. Have breakfast  
54. Solidify

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

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

FIVE SPOT

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

B	U	R	M	A	Word with road or shave
					Wall art
					Area under control
					The ship of the desert
					Local weather
					South American country

WURSTSTEPH  
TINIERNPANOOUT  
INSANEINTIME  
MOADDALESRET  
ONITTAGTORO  
NADALGELATIN  
PEGLEN  
BRUEGEL  
LENDLOGSUMO  
ICKSPOOLMAR  
SANTEE  
SPOKENUHAULS  
STOPSPRESS

Answers for May 2  
P D F P E D A J E R  
G C I U M C L M P H  
A L F A Z Q E W E Y  
R C X A M R M L A Z  
N L P A A O P D R L  
E O Y L A Q N Y L W  
T T D B L O F D H B  
V R Y H U V W E H B  
F K P X A R L T Z C  
S A P P H I R E L S

BASIC, ASPIC, SPICE,  
SCOPE, OPENS, PHONE

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

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## Sports

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BASEBALL** — Beacon defeated Port Jervis, 12-2, on April 30, extending its winning streak to three. Allen McKay, Derrick Heaton, Mercer Jordan, Ryan Smith and Zach Schetter each had two hits and Elijah Epps hit an inside-the-park home run, his first varsity homer. James Bouchard recorded the win on the mound. The Bulldogs hosted FDR High School on May 3, but the game was cut short by rain and will be resumed on May 17. They were scheduled to play O'Neill on Thursday (May 8) at Heritage Financial Park and travel to Liberty for a doubleheader on Tuesday before visiting O'Neill on Thursday.

**BOYS' GOLF** — The Bulldogs won three matches, knocking off Valley Central, 244-266, on May 1 before finishing third with a team score of 206 strokes in a five-team tournament on Monday (May 5). The Bulldogs (4-10) traveled to Monticello on Thursday (May 8) and will compete in the 21-team OCIAA Sectional Championship on Monday (May 12).

**GIRLS' GOLF** — Beacon won a close one on the road Wednesday (May 7), edging Ellenville, 162-166. It was the second straight match decided by fewer than five strokes. Beacon (9-6) hosted Pine Plains on Thursday before beginning a run of five matches in four days (including Arlington at home on Tuesday) to wrap up the season. The sectional tournament begins May 20.

**BOYS' TENNIS** — The Bulldogs struggled at home on Wednesday (May 7) against Washingtonville, losing 5-2. Beacon (10-4) will close out its regular season on the road, traveling to Minisink Valley on Thursday (May 8) and facing Warwick on Monday.

**TRACK AND FIELD** — Beacon competed at the Race at the Oval Office on May 3 in Staatsburg. For the boys, Caellum Tripaldi finished third in the 800 meters (2:01.5); Noah Spiak was second in the 400-meter hurdles (57.04); Dylan Herrick was fifth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase (11:24.87); Jahcier Ballard was third in the high jump (6-2); Jaiden Rivera was seventh in the triple jump (38-8); and Jayden Mihalchik was fourth in the discus



The Beacon boys' tennis team fell at home to Washingtonville on Wednesday (May 7), 5-2.

Photos by Cadence Heeter



(136-2) and ninth in the shot put (40-11).

In the freshman/sophomore races, Shane Signorelli won the 1,600 meters (4:50); Brevin Timm was second in the 110-meter hurdles (17.28); Tripaldi was second in the high jump (5-3); Sofien Queslati was second in the triple jump (37-4.75); and Beacon won the sprint medley relay (3:46.65).

For the girls, Christine Robinson was 14th in the 100-meter dash (14.16); Mikaela Sanchez was second in the 800 meters (2:33.21); Mira Miller was sixth in the 2,000-meter steeplechase (9:57.28); Bethany Rudolph was 10th in the discus (76-5); and the sprint medley team finished second (4:39.43). Beacon will compete on Saturday (May 10) in the Middletown Invitational.

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** — The New York State Sportswriters Association named its 2024-25 all-state team, including honorable mentions among Class A schools for Beacon juniors Jahcier Ballard and Michai Thompson.

**E-SPORTS** — After going 6-0 in Madden 25 and Rocket League and 4-2 in Super Smash Bros., the Bulldogs headed to a seven-team playoff on May 3 at Contender eSports Hudson Valley in Wappingers Falls. Beacon won the Madden 25 and Wii Chess titles and was runner-up to Poughkeepsie in Rocket League.

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BOYS' LACROSSE** — Haldane won twice by forfeit, over Westlake and Yonkers, to improve to 6-6. The Blue Devils host Briarcliff (5-6) at 5 p.m. today (May 9) and undefeated North Salem at 5 p.m. on Tuesday before traveling to Dobbs Ferry (5-6) on Thursday.

**GIRLS' LACROSSE** — Haldane won twice on the road, defeating Keio Academy, 14-5, on May 2 and Port Chester, 21-4, on Wednesday (May 7). Ten players scored

against Keio, including Kayla Ruggiero with three goals and Marisa Peters, Martha McBride and Samantha Thomas with two each. The Blue Devils (5-5) travel to Tuckahoe (4-4) today (May 9) and host Tuckahoe on Monday at 4:30 p.m. before visiting Rye Neck (2-8) on Wednesday.

**BASEBALL** — After two brutal losses at powerhouse Putnam Valley, by scores of 14-0 and 19-2, the Blue Devils hoped to rebound on Wednesday (May 7) against Pawling but were rained out. The game was postponed to Thursday and on Saturday (May 10), Haldane (2-9) is scheduled to travel to Edgemont and on Monday to the Leffell School. The Blue Devils end their regular season hosting Blind Brook at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

**SOFTBALL** — The Blue Devils (7-3) had two games rained out this week but are scheduled to return to action on Saturday (May 10) at Valhalla, Monday at Putnam Valley and Wednesday at Irvington.

**TRACK AND FIELD** — Haldane competed in the Race at the Oval Office in Staatsburg on May 3. For the boys, Rhys Williams was 11th in the 100-meter dash (11.68) and fifth in the long jump (20-0); Owen Powers was third in the 1,600 meters (4:33.83); and Merrick Williams finished eighth in the 110-meter hurdles (17.43). Haldane was third in the 4x800-meter relays (9:26.10). For the girls, Shayla Ochoa was fifth in the 400-meter dash (1:04.81), followed by Clara Schmitt in seventh (1:05.50). Schmitt finished 11th in the 100-meter hurdles (18.89) and 11th in the long jump (14-11.75). The Blue Devils traveled to White Plains on Thursday (May 8) for the Glenn D. Loucks Games.

**BASKETBALL** — The New York State Sportswriters Association named its 2024-25 all-state teams, including honorable mention among Class B schools for Haldane junior Luke Bozsik and honorable mention among Class C schools for junior Marisa Peters.



The Beacon team won the Madden 25 e-sports tournament on May 3.



The Bulldogs were runners-up in the Rocket League tournament.

Photos provided