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Current

Baseball  
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JUNE 6, 2025

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Beacon's  
Big Plans

*Council considers next five  
years of capital projects*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon's five-year schedule of capital projects, presented to the City Council on May 27, includes more than \$6.5 million in equipment and infrastructure upgrades planned for 2026.

The city updates a five-year plan annually; it includes projects scheduled for the coming year, along with conceptual blueprints for the four subsequent years. Council members must approve capital spending for the coming year by the end of July. A public hearing on the 2026 plan is scheduled for June 16.

The most visible project will likely be the renovation and greening of the southwest corner of Memorial Park, estimated to cost \$400,000. The city plans to resurface the basketball courts, install pickleball courts, construct a softball batting cage and renovate the bathroom at that end of the park for public use.

The adjacent skateboard park has been repaved and will have new skating elements and an "art wall" installed. Phase 2 of that work, including new lighting, is expected to cost \$57,500. The parking lot in front of the skate park will be reconfigured, with tree cover added, and numerous trees will be planted in that corner of the park.

Further improvements being considered for Memorial Park, if budget allows, include exercise stations and tennis courts. In addition, the city could contract with a food truck to cater to teenagers and young adults.

"We've heard over and over again that  
(Continued on Page 6)



The southwest corner of Memorial Park, including this tennis court, is scheduled for upgrades in 2026. Photo by J. Simms



ONCE UPON A DANCE — More than 180 dancers from the Ballet Arts Studio and Dutchess Dance Company, both based in Beacon, presented 33 dances based on fairy tales in two performances on May 31 at the Bardavon in Poughkeepsie. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org). Photo by Ross Corsair

Putnam Issues Measles Alert

*Individual visited Mahopac  
tavern while contagious*

By Chip Rowe

The Putnam County Department of Health issued a health alert on Wednesday (June 4) for an exposure to measles on May 28 at Arturo's Tavern in Mahopac.

Anyone who visited the location between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on that day should call the Health Department at 845-808-1390 and ask to speak to a nurse. Symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose, red/watery eyes and a rash. Symptoms may start 7 to 14

days after contact with the virus. Measles is caused by a highly contagious airborne virus that spreads easily when an infected person breathes, sneezes or coughs.

The Health Department said the individual is no longer contagious but that it wants to locate anyone who may have encountered the person while contagious to avoid its spread. The individual contracted the illness while abroad, Public Health Director Rian Rodriguez said in a statement.

"An infected person can spread measles from four days before to four days after the rash appears," he said. "Fortunately, the  
(Continued on Page 7)

Putnam Sheriff Ends Reelection Bid

*Kevin McConville was  
seeking second term*

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville is ending his campaign for a second term because of health issues, the Sheriff's Office said on Thursday (June 5).

A Republican, McConville was elected in 2021, defeating incumbent Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. with 57 percent of the vote.

The sheriff, who lives in Philipstown, had

filed to run in November on the Republican and Conservative party lines for another 4-year term. He began his career in law enforcement as a Cold Spring police officer and rose to become chief of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority police force. He ran unsuccessfully for Putnam sheriff in 2009 as a Democrat and in 2013 as a Republican.  
(Continued on Page 10)



McConville

Beacon, Dutchess,  
Putnam on  
'Sanctuary' List

*County executives dispute  
federal designation*

By Leonard Sparks

Officials from Dutchess and Putnam counties say they should not have been listed with New York State and other localities, including Beacon, on a roster of jurisdictions the Department of Homeland Security accused of "obstructing" the Trump administration's effort to deport millions of undocumented immigrants.

The list, posted by DHS on May 29 to comply with a presidential order (and taken down two days later), named more than 500 jurisdictions, including New York state, 15 of its counties and 12 of its cities, identifying them as "sanctuaries" for immigrants who live in the country without authorization.

Those states and municipalities, also including Orange and Westchester counties and Newburgh and Poughkeepsie, are accused by the DHS of "deliberately and shamefully obstructing" federal immigration enforcement and protecting "dangerous criminal aliens."

The agency demanded that they "immediately review and revise their policies to align with federal immigration laws," but also cautioned that the list was subject to change and "no one should act on this information without conducting their own evaluation" of the municipalities.

On May 30, Kevin Byrne, the Putnam executive, said: "Let's set the record straight: Putnam County is not a sanctuary county and never will be on my watch as county executive. We have consistently worked with our partners in law enforcement and encourage the continued collaboration and sharing of information with all federal, state and local law enforcement."

Despite Putnam being named by DHS as a sanctuary jurisdiction, Byrne also on May 30 posted on Facebook a video in which he accused "liberal journalists at the Wall Street Journal," which published a story about the agency's announcement, of "inaccurately" adding Putnam to the list "before gathering all the facts." He added that "the biased media is wrong and needs to get the facts straight."  
(Continued on Page 26)



# 5 FIVE QUESTIONS: JEREMY DUCKLES

By Leonard Sparks

Jeremy Duckles owns Supreme Pianos of New York in Fishkill.

## How did you get into restoration and tuning?

I come from a musical family. My father was a professor of music at the University of California, Berkeley, and one of my brothers was principal cellist in the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. I grew up playing viola and went to the Manhattan School of Music. I needed part-time work and became friends with its piano tuner. I got into tuning and learned about restoration. I've been in the business for 40 years and worked for some of the top shops in Manhattan. I have tuned pianos for Roberta Flack and Philip Glass and restored pianos for Annie Leibovitz, David Strathairn and Rosie Perez.

## What brought you to the Hudson Valley?

When the time was right, I decided to open my own shop on Main Street in 2003. One restorer for the Manhattan School of Music, John Hartman, had a shop in Cold Spring and didn't like tuning. He would give me his tuning work, so I developed a client base in the Hudson Valley. It just seemed like a nice area. I have a fellow who



does refinishing, woodworking and soundboards, and a number of tuners work in the shop.

## When did piano-making flourish?

The heyday was the 1920s. This was before computers and TVs, and radio was just starting. Your piano was your home entertainment. There were 1,800 manufacturers in the U.S. They were made much more like a craft — small stations, three people working on one piece — so there are these beautiful old pianos with ornate cases with beautiful carvings. After World War II, pianos were made on assembly lines. You had 45 people working on a piano, so the quality went down. Of those 1,800 manufacturers, only a few hundred were still going by the 1950s.

## How old are some of your commissions?

I worked on a Steinway upright from 1883; it was a unique piece. There was a famous furniture designer in the early 1900s who designed the body for three or four pianos made by Erard, a French company. One of them is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This guy is paying us to restore another made in 1903 and bought from an auction house in Massachusetts for \$50,000. I have one piece that was made in 1905 and has a removable painting on it. We took it to an art restorer.

## Which is most satisfying? Improving the sound or the look?

I'm a musician, so the sound, the feel and the way it plays is the most important. If you're a musician and you have a good ear, it's easy to tell if it's out of tune. It's like a lake that, in a storm, has ripples all over it. When it's tuned, it's calm and clear.

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## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Bacon makes everything better, but what's the best way to have it?

I love a bacon, egg and cheese breakfast sandwich; it's a classic.



Michael Cucinella, Beacon

I'm a vegetarian; the substitute bacon sucks!



Jeanne Stauffer-Merle, Nelsonville

Just bacon. Just a pile of bacon.



Richard McDonough, Cold Spring



## NEWS BRIEFS

## Beacon Schools Name Administrators

*Board confirms three appointments*

The Beacon school board made three administrative appointments at its meeting on Monday (June 2).

John Giametta, the director of physical education, athletics, health and recreation for the past eight years, was named executive director of human resources and operations, effective July 1. He will succeed Brian Archer, who is retiring. The district must still hire a new athletic director.

Vanessa DeFonce, who twice in recent years served as interim Beacon High School principal as well as replacement principal at J.V. Forrestal Elementary, was named director of technology and data systems, effective July 1. DeFonce was also previously a principal and guidance counselor in the Lakeland district.

Leah Raftis will begin July 9 as assistant director of pupil personnel services. She was a special education chair for four years in the Wappingers Central School District and, most recently, assistant director for special education at Ulster BOCES.

## Lawler Schedules Putnam Town Hall

*Set for Sunday at Mahopac High School*

Rep. Mike Lawler, whose House district includes Philipstown, has scheduled the third of four town halls for Sunday (June 8) at Mahopac High School.

As of Tuesday, the event was full. Lawler previously hosted town halls in Rockland and Westchester counties. He has said he also will host an event in Dutchess County. The town halls are open only to District 17 residents.

In the list of conditions for ticket requests, Lawler's office wrote: "If our office has information indicating that you are actively planning to disrupt the Town Hall, or if you have disrupted prior Town Halls, you may be denied entry."

According to the other terms, no signs or face coverings will be allowed; questions must be limited to 30 seconds; and except for members of the press, no flash photography or audio or video recording will be allowed.

## Dutchess Expands Home Rehab Program

*Helps get low- and moderate-income houses up to code*

Dutchess County on May 21 announced the expansion of its Owner-Occupied Property Rehabilitation Program to include more low- and moderate-income residents.

The program originally helped seniors bring their homes up to code but now will be offered to other residents. It provides up to \$40,000 per project to address health, safety or fire hazards.

The focus is on major systems such as furnaces, plumbing, structural (roofs, walls, decks, porches), electrical, handicapped accessibility, bathrooms and kitchen

and appliances.

To qualify, applicants must own and live in a single-family home and meet income-eligibility requirements. See [dub.sh/dutchess-planning](https://dub.sh/dutchess-planning).

## Overdose Deaths Drop in State

*32 percent decrease in 2024*

Preliminary data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a 32 percent drop in drug-related deaths in New York state last year compared to 2023.

An estimated 4,567 New Yorkers died of drug overdoses, compared to 6,688 in 2023. About 77 percent of the deaths involved an opioid such as heroin or fentanyl. There were two deaths in Putnam in 2024 and 38 in Dutchess as of Sept. 30.

Nationally, the U.S. marked its largest one-year decline in drug overdose deaths in 2024, according to the CDC, which has been tracking data for 45 years. An estimated 80,000 people died from overdoses last year — down 27 percent from the 110,000 in 2023. The previous largest drop was 4 percent in 2018.

New York State offers free fentanyl and xylazine test strips and the opioid antidote naloxone, paid for with opioid settlement funds. See [dub.sh/harm-reduction](https://dub.sh/harm-reduction). If you or a loved one is struggling with addiction, call 877-846-7369 for help.

## Report Measures Air Quality

*Dutchess, Putnam graded for smog levels*

The American Lung Association last month released its annual State of the Air report, looking at fine particulate matter and ozone (smog) over a three-year period.

Based on the number of days when there was enough ozone to trigger warnings, Putnam received a C grade and Dutchess received a B. (By comparison, New York City received an F.) Putnam had two days and Dutchess had four that triggered the lowest-level smog alert for people who are especially sensitive, such as those with asthma.

Only 25 of New York's 62 counties could be graded for at least one measure of air quality, according to the report. Putnam and Dutchess are among those that do not collect data on fine-particle pollution, which comes from sources such as wildfires, wood-burning stoves, coal-fired power plants and diesel engines.

## Libraries Launch Phone App

*Available for Philipstown and Beacon*

The Mid-Hudson Library System, which includes the public libraries in Cold Spring, Garrison and Beacon, has launched an app for Apple or Android phones.

The app allows library users to request books and see the status of items they have borrowed. In addition, users can scan a book's barcode to see if it is available, store their library card digitally and access eBooks, audio books and digital magazines. Search the app store for "Mid-Hudson Libraries."



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## Tell us what you think

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

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Booming Beacon

Another great roundup by *The Current* and Jeff Simms of development in Beacon ("Booming Beacon," May 30).

I'd like to see the City Council and Planning Board move its meeting to discuss improving the zoning regulations from September to now. A preliminary discussion in three months means that Beacon won't develop, review and enact improvements to protections for historic properties and neighborhoods for at least six months, and perhaps a year.

The council and Planning Board rushed to immediately discuss and pass zoning to outlaw drive-thrus, seemingly to prevent an approved project on Route 52. This discussion and new legislation should be an even higher priority.

Scott Lerman, *Beacon*

Very few of these projects have been supported by the local community and fewer still have been executed without issues. The demand for new zoning and more comprehensive historical consideration is high. I agree that the Planning Board and City Council should escalate their meeting to ASAP.

We are lucky to have high demand but with that comes increased responsibility and care to foster considered growth. An

additional layer of regulation is far less costly than thoughtless overdevelopment.

James Zellinger, *Beacon*

### Presidential protest

I'm puzzled by *The Current's* under-reporting of a major protest against Donald Trump's West Point commencement speech over Memorial Day weekend. While Trump was speaking, over 200 people gathered at Garrison's Landing and 25 boats, led by the Clearwater, circled below West Point.

As a sea of American flags waved, speakers focused on what patriotism means today — how our democracy was forged right here during the Revolution, how George Washington and his troops ousted a tyrant, how the soil here is rich with the blood of patriots. They spoke of the urgent need to defend our democracy, to stand up for the Constitution and to preserve the rule of law from the attacks of a wannabe dictator.

They spoke of the white crosses on the lawn of St. Mary's Church, and the heroic sacrifice of our veterans who died so we could live as free people. Because if we lose our freedoms to another dictator, what was it all for? As we sang "America the Beautiful," people waved flags and hoisted signs that said "Hands Off Our Democracy" and

"No Tyrants, No Kings." We chanted to the cadets across the river "We Are With You" and "Go Army, Beat Tyranny." Trump, meanwhile, was giving his embarrassing speech about trophy wives, yachts and drag shows.

Our protest received national television coverage from NBC and MSNBC and local coverage from News 12. Print coverage was led by *USA Today* — accompanied by 34 photos — and ABC on their digital platform, along with extensive reporting by at least five Hudson Valley newspapers. *The Current* gave it 12 words in the 16th paragraph of its coverage of the day. Puzzling.

Peter Bynum, *Garrison*

I agree with Peter Bynum's articulate and thoughtful perspective on the quality and quantity of *The Current's* coverage of this major local event. It was a failure, pure and simple. Why this historic demonstration was relegated to a small story and photo on Page 5 ("Presidential Protest," May 30), instead of being on Page 1, is both a mystery and a major embarrassment. Did Roger Ailes make a visit from the grave to influence editorial policy?

Shame on *The Current*, especially when the Trump administration is making mincemeat of our democracy and the rule of law, and residents come together in large numbers to stand for justice and the concept of truth.

Pete Salmansohn, *Garrison*

Leave it to *The Highlands Comrade* to publish another Trump hit piece by a couple of left-wing "journalists" ("Trump Gives Address at West Point," online). *The Comrade* never lets me down.

Ralph Pettorossi, *Fishkill*

*The editor replies: So we're too conservative or too liberal. Which is it?*

I am a member of the Garrison's Landing board. I was not aware of this protest at the gazebo on West Point graduation day. I do not support this. Graduation day is a day to honor the hard work of the cadets. I am a proud aunt of Matthew Giachinta, West Point graduate and former football captain.

Donna Pidala, *Garrison*

### NY-Presbyterian

I believe the nurses. If the New York State Nurses Association says these cuts come at the same time the hospital must pay a lot of money for one of its doctor's abuses, I am taking note ("NY-Presbyterian to Cut Staff," May 23).

You could say this is like robbing Peter to pay Paul, but given that the hospital is taking away 70 nursing jobs (nurses are still overwhelmingly female) to compensate the female victims of a male doctor, perhaps it's

(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

*(Continued from Page 4)*

robbing Martha to pay Mary? It's a doubly sad day for healthcare in the Hudson Valley and for the nurses and (almost certainly mostly) female office staff who will again bear the brunt for criminal male behavior.

Mary Sokolowski, *Beacon*

## Coming home

The Sevilla family has been rooting for Theresa Timmons since Day 1 ("Injured Garrison Teen Returns Home," May 30). I drive by the site of the tragedy nearly every day — a somber reminder of how fragile and miraculous life is.

Theresa, you have an angel watching over you and clearly a greater purpose ahead. Lavender (Near), William, Enrique and I are so proud of your strength. Your extended family is holding you close in our hearts.

Kimberly Sevilla, *Cold Spring*

This is such a heartwarming (and heart-breaking) story. Theresa has endured so much, and her recovery is nothing short of miraculous. Many, many thanks to the medical staff who made her survival possible, and a great deal of credit goes to her wonderful, loving family. As we all know, it's hard to achieve anything without the love and support of family and community.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

## Democratic primary

In an era when voter turnout for local elections is shockingly low, your headline seems to be deliberately discouraging Democrats in Philipstown from voting on June 24 ("Philipstown Primary Could be a Wash," May 30). To say the primary is a "wash" implies that it doesn't matter if people vote. On the contrary, a Democratic primary is the first time that voters of that party have a real choice of Town Board candidates (and the outcome matters a great deal to the candidates John Maasik and Nat Prentice). Your headline could have emphasized the greater democracy that this primary represents.

Margery Bobb, *Philipstown*

What a strange headline and article for something Team Philipstown has done in every election: Run as both Democrats

and independents. Don't recall *The Current* ever flagging it before.

Dave McCarthy, *Nelsonville*

*The editor replies: There hasn't been a primary before.*

The Philipstown Democratic Committee has often chosen to run their candidates on a separate ballot line for two reasons. One, it allows voters to vote for a great candidate without voting for a party they may not support. Secondly, and I believe more importantly, it gives the candidate an opportunity to meet hundreds more voters before an election.

This may be one of the reasons that the Philipstown Democratic candidates have fared well in our community: They show from the get-go that they're willing to put in the extra effort to be a contributor to the excellence of our community and its governance.

Shelley Gilbert, *Cold Spring*

*Gilbert is co-chair of the Philipstown Democratic Committee.*

## Beacon scene

Russ St. George! Best friend ever ("Dean of the Music Scene," May 16). I call him the grandfather of the Beacon music scene — heck, in 1988, we couldn't even walk to Joe's from Falconer Street because it was too dangerous. There was no music. Russ started it all. Congrats, Russ, you deserve recognition. He has pages on Facebook and Instagram and other places: Look them up!

Pete Calanni, *Fredonia*

## City corn

I started growing corn, peppers, carrots and blueberries in pots on my terrace in Manhattan when I was 10 years old ("Roots and Shoots: Tallest Corn in Brooklyn," May 23). Everyone said I was nuts, and that nothing would ever grow. Then, one day, when my mom and I were walking home, I pointed to our terrace, on the 20th floor, and I said, "Look Mommy, my corn!" Sure enough, there was my corn peeking over the top; it eventually grew to 5 feet, with a beautiful ear.

I grew corn and vegetables on that terrace every summer for another decade, until my husband and I bought our first home in Croton. Now we grow vegetables in our garden!

Kim Bjorge, *Montrose*

## Primary Election

The primary for two open seats on the Philipstown Town Board — open only to residents who are registered with the Putnam County Board of Elections as Democrats — will be held on June 24 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The polling sites are the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department at 1616 Route 9 (which Continental Village voters should use) and the Cold Spring Methodist Church at 216 Main St. (which North Highlands voters should use).

Registered Democrats can vote early from June 14 to 22 at the Putnam County Board of Elections, 25 Old Route 6, in Carmel. See [boe.putnam-countyny.gov](http://boe.putnam-countyny.gov) for hours.

The last day that the Board of Elections can receive an application for a mail ballot is June 14. They must be postmarked by June 24. The registration deadline for the primary is June 15; the deadline to change party affiliation has passed. See [boe.putnam-countyny.gov](http://boe.putnam-countyny.gov). You can check registration status, including party affiliation, at [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](http://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov).

For reader endorsements, see [highlandscurrent.org/town-board-25](http://highlandscurrent.org/town-board-25).

For the candidates' responses to questions from *The Current*, see **Page 22**.

## Current Wins State Awards

*Recognized by SPJ, NYNPA*

*The Highlands Current* won awards last month from the New York City chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the New York News Publishers Association.

In the SPJ competition, *The Current* won for reporting by New York City area newspapers with circulations of less than 100,000 for the series *Modern Immigrants*, by Joey Asher. It was the paper's third consecutive win.

In the NYNPA Awards for Excellence, *The Current* won eight categories among papers with circulations of 10,000 or less: feature writing (Asher, for *Modern Immigrants*); business reporting (Leonard Sparks, for "Who Will Watch the Kids?"); investigative reporting (Richard Kreitner, for *Wildfires: What Are the Risks?*); column writing (Brian PJ Cronin, for *Out There*); sports column (Asher, for *Reporter's Notebook*); community service (Cronin, for *Talking Trash*); page design/presentation (Pierce Strudler); and feature photography (Ross Corsair, for "Martial Art").

Always Present,  
Never Seen:Black History of  
the Hudson Highlands

**Saturday, June 21 at 3P.M.  
at Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison**

During this presentation, the senior editor of *The Current*, Leonard Sparks, will delve into the newspaper's award-winning series on the Black history of the Highlands, which examined an overlooked history of our area.

## About the Presenter:

Leonard Sparks has been reporting for *The Current* since 2020. The Peekskill resident holds a bachelor's degree in English from Morgan State University and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland and previously covered Sullivan County and Newburgh for *The Times Herald-Record* in Middletown.





## POTTERY ON THE PATIO

**Sale • in good weather**  
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**June 15, 22 & 29 • 12-5pm**  
**Pot Swap 6/22**  
**34 Talbot Ave, Beacon**




**BETH WEINTRAUB**





Trail stewards gather in 2018 at the Breakneck trailhead. A sign warns: "This is not just a walk in the park!"

File photo

## Trails May Lose Stewards

### *Federal cuts threaten AmeriCorps program*

By Brian PJ Cronin

For more than 10 years, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's stewards have built and maintained trails, removed invasive species and prevented an untold number of hikers from hurting themselves.

"We've plotted it out on a graph, and during the times when the trail stewards are on duty, the need for EMS [emergency medical services] is almost completely eliminated," said Hank Osborn, a Philipstown native who is director of programs for NYNJTC.

This is most noticeable at Breakneck Ridge, he said. Before the Trail Conference assigned stewards to the trailhead, local first responders assisted with two or three rescues every weekend.

That may change this season because of cuts to AmeriCorps by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, although a federal court on Thursday (June 5) issued a preliminary injunction to prevent them. The initiative typically provides stipends for living expenses for about 50 volunteers to assist the Trail Conference each spring. Essentially a domestic version of the Peace Corps, the 30-year-old program also offers educational funding for volunteers, such as financial aid for college and the repayment of student loans.

This year, the Trump administration cut funding right before the stewards were scheduled to begin, Osborn said. Volunteers around the country were told to pack up and go back home. State grants have allowed NYNJTC to retain about half of its original crew, and the Trail Conference has launched a fundraising campaign to

keep the rest. A matching grant of up to \$50,000 is in place through Saturday (June 7), which is National Trails Day.

The money raised so far will provide stipends for stewards at Breakneck every weekend through mid-October, Osborn said. The lower section is closed because of construction of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail's Breakneck Connector, scheduled to open in 2027. But the upper sections are open, and stewards will be stationed at the flagpole after the first ascent and at key intersections of the Ninham, Wilkinson and Undercliff trails.

"They'll continue to greet visitors, teach Leave No Trace principles and help people figure out the best routes to take so that they don't accidentally stumble into the construction zone," he said.

At the Breakneck trailhead, the stewards made sure visitors knew what they were getting themselves into — a rocky, steep ascent. If they arrived ill-prepared, such as by wearing flip-flops or not having water, stewards directed them to a more appropriate hike. "They keep people who shouldn't be going up Breakneck from ever getting hurt or lost," Osborn said.

Usually, Breakneck stewards spend their weekdays on trail maintenance. But with fewer stewards, the crew instead will help with rebuilding trails at Harriman State Park damaged in the July 2023 storms.

Despite the partial closure at Breakneck, Osborn expects a busy season. "With all of these changes at the federal level, it appears that the need for nature and to get out into the woods for people is more important than ever before," he said.

To donate to the National Trails Challenge, see [dub.sh/trails-challenge](https://dub.sh/trails-challenge). For information on volunteering, see [nynjtc.org/trail-crews](https://nynjtc.org/trail-crews).

## Big Plans (from Page 1)

they're not always welcome in a lot of the restaurants, and they can't afford the local places," said City Administrator Chris White. "People say they don't have a place to go, and the thought is that might be a place to go."

Earlier this year, the city was tentatively awarded a \$3 million federal grant to rehabilitate Beekman Street. If the funding comes through — confirmation is expected this month — the city plans to spend \$245,000 next year on design and engineering. Later, in addition to repaving, crews would repair sidewalks, crosswalks and curbs and add sidewalks where there are gaps. A bike lane would be added on the uphill side of Beekman.

The most expensive project planned for next year is the \$1.6 million construction of a water storage tank on Mount Beacon. Other high-dollar expenditures include a vacuum truck for the Water Department (\$670,000), the ongoing milling and paving of streets and installation of Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible curb ramps citywide (\$500,000), replacement of a sanitary sewer pump station near Monell Place (\$400,000) and a street sweeper for the Highway Department (\$340,000).

The city anticipates using about \$1.73 million of its savings on the 2026 projects, which, if approved by the council, would leave a combined fund balance between the general, water and sewer funds of more than \$15 million. State and federal aid is expected to contribute \$1 million, while \$200,000 from a recreation fund that developers pay into will be applied to the Memorial Park improvements. The city would borrow the rest, \$3.59 million, through bonds.

Notable expenditures in subsequent years include nearly \$3.5 million to complete the Beekman Street project in 2028 and \$1.6 million in upgrades to Seeger Riverfront Park in 2027, although timing there will depend on whether a transit-oriented development at the Metro-North station proceeds, White said. Replacement of aeration tanks at the wastewater treatment plant is expected to cost \$2.6 million in 2028.

As in the 2024 plan, the five-year schedule pushes a \$5.25 million community center to its last year, now 2030. White cautioned that for it and other long-term projects, such as splash pads at Riverfront and Memorial parks and a new municipal pool, "we're not sure how they fit right now, or, frankly, how we afford them."

Realistically, he said, a community center could cost up to \$15 million and, Mayor Lee Kyriacou added, that's only if the city upgrades the Recreation Department building at 23 West Center St. "This is \$10 million to \$20 million for something new, depending on where it's located," Kyriacou said.

### Public hearings

The City Council held three public hearings on Monday (June 2). The first, on revisions to the city's law regulating accessory apartments, will remain open until the coun-

cil's June 16 meeting. Along with a handful of administrative changes, the revisions would remove the 1,000-square-foot cap on accessory apartments, instead requiring Planning Board approval for accessory units with floor space of more than 1,000 square feet. The revisions also would remove the requirement of one off-street parking space per accessory apartment.

Three residents spoke during Monday's hearing. One questioned whether the changes, which the city says will streamline the approval process, would cut property owners' costs, as intended. Two speakers suggested the city would have trouble enforcing an owner-occupancy clause, and that accessory apartments would be used as short-term rentals.

No one commented during a hearing on amendments to the city's drought emergency plan. The changes would allow the mayor to declare a drought emergency without approval from the City Council.

The third hearing was on code updates that would bring the city's anti-loitering law into conformance with state regulations, which in 2021 legalized marijuana use in public for adults over 21. The changes would update the code to allow marijuana use everywhere but in city-owned buildings and public parks, where smoking tobacco is already prohibited.

Two speakers asked the council to restrict marijuana use in public, but "state law doesn't allow the city to regulate it," City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said. "It is permitted, so we're preempted from banning it on public sidewalks."

The council is expected to vote on the drought emergency and anti-loitering measures on June 16. It also will discuss and may vote on the accessory apartment law.

### Self-storage

The council voted Monday to allow self-storage and warehouse storage facilities in the general business and industrial (both light and heavy) zoning districts, except on parcels that front Main Street, Fishkill Avenue, Beekman Street, Herbert Street or Tioronda Avenue, where the facilities will require a special-use permit.

If granted permits, self-storage and warehouse storage facilities on those streets would not be allowed along the street-facing property line and must be located behind active ground-floor uses, below grade or in a secondary structure that is set back at least 10 feet from the primary street-facing structure.

The vote was 6-1, with Amber Grant opposing it. Grant said she agrees with the Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee's finding that self-storage facilities do not contribute to "vibrant corridors."

The council last month chose to separate measures it was considering to regulate self-storage and drive-thru facilities. It voted May 5 to prohibit drive-thrus citywide.

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



# Putnam Legislator Sues County

*Seeks own lawyer for ethics case*

By Leonard Sparks

A Putnam legislator accused of ethics breaches in a complaint filed by the county attorney over her son-in-law's attempted purchase of a government-owned property is suing to stop his office from choosing who will represent her.

Toni Addonizio, who represents Kent on the Legislature, alleges in a lawsuit filed May 30 in state court that Putnam's Law Department approved her request for a county-funded lawyer but "has outrageously and improperly" asserted that it has the right to choose who will defend her against the complaint filed by Compton Spain, who heads the department as county attorney.

Both Spain and the county are named in the lawsuit, which says that Addonizio asked the department for "a counsel of my choosing" when notified that the Putnam Board of Ethics scheduled a hearing on the complaint for April 28. (Amid the dispute, the hearing was canceled.)

Addonizio's request for a county-funded attorney is based on a state law, adopted by Putnam, that requires it to defend employees in federal and state civil cases for "any alleged act or omission" occurring while they are working.

Municipalities are exempt from the requirement if they are the ones bringing the case against an employee. The law also entitles an employee to choose their attorney if the chief legal officer of a municipality, such as a county attorney, or a judge determines that a conflict of interest exists.

In response to Addonizio's request, the Law Department said its insurer verbally concluded that she was ineligible for legal assistance but, "after careful review," it would select one of the firms from its list of contractors — Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux — to represent her. The department also said that Addonizio could choose to pay out-of-pocket for an attorney who is not on its approved list.

"There could not be a more patent conflict of interest than the complainant in a politicized ethics proceeding selecting the accused's attorney," said Jeffrey Gasbarro, who is representing Addonizio in the lawsuit.

Spain's 191-page complaint, filed with the Board of Ethics in June 2024 and also forwarded to the Attorney General's Office, accuses Addonizio of failing to disclose that her son-in-law, Byron Voutsinas, was the buyer initially agreeing to purchase a county-owned property at 34 Gleneida Ave. in Carmel.

According to Spain, Voutsinas sought to use Addonizio's influence with the Legislature to include parking spaces from a nearby county-owned lot in the sale. He also claims that the agreed-upon price, \$600,000, represented a "veritable windfall" from a recommended listing price of \$900,000 and market studies valuing it as high as \$1.2 million.

Spain's office moved to void the contract, arguing that Voutsinas failed to satisfy conditions for the sale to be finalized, including getting the Legislature's approval, which never occurred. After Voutsinas filed a claim accusing the county of breach of contract, Spain successfully petitioned a judge to have the contract canceled.

During a May 2024 meeting of the Legislature's Rules Committee, then chaired by Addonizio, lawmakers accused the Law Department of filing the petition without first getting their approval. Addonizio "spoke frequently and freely on the matter," but should have recused herself, said Spain.

The Legislature's former counsel, Robert Firriolo, defended Addonizio in a response to Spain's complaint sent to the ethics board. He also accused Spain of failing to disclose, when asked on his employment application about criminal convictions, that he was found guilty in 1993 of criminal contempt of court.

A judge found Spain guilty under state Judiciary Law, which does not classify the charge as a misdemeanor. Because the penalty can include jail time, Firriolo argues it is equivalent to a misdemeanor as defined under state Penal Law.

## Measles *(from Page 1)*

positive individual was only in one local establishment while considered contagious. Measles is not a foodborne illness although the virus can live for up to two hours in airspace after an infected person leaves the area."

New York now has 13 confirmed cases: six in New York City and seven elsewhere, including Putnam. There were 1,088 confirmed cases in the U.S. as of May 30, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including 738 across 35 counties in Texas. Two elementary school students in West Texas and an adult in New Mexico have died. Each was unvaccinated.

Other states with outbreaks — which the CDC defines as three or more related cases — include Colorado, Kansas, Michi-

gan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. There are also outbreaks in Ontario, Canada (1,888 cases since October), Alberta, Canada (628 cases) and the Mexican state of Chihuahua (1,693 cases and three deaths).

At the same time, according to a Johns Hopkins University study published on Monday (June 2), childhood vaccination rates against measles fell in the years after the pandemic in 78 percent of 2,066 U.S. counties in 33 states with available data.

The study compared average kindergarten rates from the 2017-20 school years to averages from 2022-24. Where data wasn't available, the researchers used a comparable rate. New York State requires students to be vaccinated.

*The Associated Press contributed reporting.*



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# The Democratic Primary is June 24



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**Garrison voters**

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**Putnam County Board of Elections**  
25 Old Route 6, Carmel NY 10512

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# Fix-It FEST

The Beacon Recreation Center hosted a repair cafe on June 1; more than 80 people came out and nearly 100 items were fixed. Some of the more unusual requests were repairs to well-loved stuffed animals and a vintage lamp that needed both wiring and lampshade fixes. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org).

Photos by Ross Corsair



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Fifi, Dallas, and Egypt perform pop  
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**Depot Docs: Folktales**

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## What's Online at HighlandsCurrent.org

These resources can be accessed through the pulldown menu on the top of each page.

### Editorial Standards

This document explains our policies, including for corrections and legal issues.

### Community Calendar

This is the full Monty — we only have room for the highlights in print.

### Storm Updates and Resources

Storm-watcher resources and contacts for when the power goes out.

### Local Government Video Guide

OK, it's not Netflix, but here's a list of sites where you can watch videos of local and county public meetings.

### Podcast Archives

Here are links to all the episodes of our podcast, for easy listening. The three most popular downloads so far have been interviews with a barefoot Ironman competitor; Dinky Romilly of Philipstown, who discussed her civil rights work and her famous mother; and the author of a book about stone walls.

### How They Voted (Congress)

Summaries of consequential and newsworthy legislation in the U.S. House and how Rep. Mike Lawler (Philipstown) and Rep. Pat Ryan (Beacon) voted. Updated weekly when Congress is in session.

### Community Directory

This is a continually updated guide to local businesses and cultural sites, with addresses, phone numbers and web links.

### Obituaries

We don't have room to publish most obits in print, but we seek them out and post them online. You also can sign up for email alerts.

### Back Issues

This is an archive of our past issues, in PDF format, from June 2012 to date, except for the latest issue, which is emailed to *Current* members on Friday morning.

### Local Officials

This is a list of elected and appointed officials at the local, state and federal level and how to contact them with your praise or protests.



### Harrison

## Police, DEC in Dispute Over Black Bear Killing

A police officer shot and killed a black bear on Monday (June 2) that the department said endangered residents of a neighborhood on Columbus Avenue.

Harrison police and an officer from the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) responded to the sighting. Earlier, a bear seen in the same area had retreated into the woods.

The DEC said in a statement that it determined that “the bear should be left alone to leave the area on its own, as it posed no immediate threat to residents and had access to reasonable escape routes to nearby wooded areas.” It said it advised the Harrison police “to take action if they believed

the bear became a threat to public safety.”

The police, in response, said they could not get the bear to leave a backyard and that DEC officers “were unable to provide any assistance whatsoever, up to and including non-lethal services, such as tranquilizing or trapping the bear to relocate it.”

### Peekskill

## Teacher Arrested on Child Porn Charges

A substitute teacher who worked in the middle and high schools was arrested on May 30 on felony charges related to child pornography.

Brian Mishk, 28, of Yorktown Heights, was charged with felony counts of promoting and possessing an obscene sexual performance by a child. He was arraigned and held on bail. According to the *Peekskill Herald*, citing district records, Mishk was a permanent substitute teacher from 2022 to 2025 for social studies grades 7 to 12.

In Lagrangeville, meanwhile, a 68-year-old Hyde Park man was arrested on Tuesday (June 3) and charged with improper conduct with three high school students

## McConville *(from Page 1)*

Andres Gil, who chairs the Putnam County Republican Committee, said on Thursday that he learned of the decision

the day before and that it left him “heartbroken.” In a letter sent to the committee members, he said McConville and his family were the primary concern.

“We are grateful for his leadership, his

during the 2024-25 academic year.

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office said it had investigated the case for a month before detaining Robert Siniscalchi, known to students as “AV Bob.” He was charged with three counts of forcible touching and three counts of endangering the welfare of a child, all misdemeanors.

Siniscalchi was released until his next court date on June 17. Superintendent Philip Benante said Siniscalchi has been placed on administrative leave.

### Brewster

## Green Chimneys Cancels Birds of Prey Day

Green Chimneys canceled its annual Birds of Prey Day, scheduled for June 2, because of concerns about avian flu.

The popular event, first held in 1992, typically included over 100 raptors. The 2026 event is scheduled for June 7. Green Chimneys ([greenchimneys.org](http://greenchimneys.org)) is soliciting donations for its Avian Flu Emergency Appeal and plans to convert a large pond into a \$75,000 enclosed aviary to prevent exposures from migrating birds.

accomplishments and, most importantly, his friendship,” Gil wrote. “Anyone who has ever met Sheriff McConville knows that he is truly a remarkable human being who will give you the shirt off his back when in need.”

In terms of a replacement, the Republican Committee's leaders are “exploring all available options as we are identifying and reviewing the process to substitute a qualified Republican candidate” for the November ballot, said Gil. “It is going to take us a little bit of time to make sure that we are dotting our i's and crossing our t's,” he said.

McConville is scheduled to receive the Conservative of the Year Award on Thursday (June 12) from the Putnam County Conservative Party, which did not immediately respond to an email about its plans, if any, for a new candidate for its ballot line.

There is no Democratic candidate, but Larry Burke, a Cold Spring police officer and formerly the officer-in-charge, is running as an independent on the Serve & Protect party line.

A general objection to his nominating petition was filed on May 30 with the Putnam County Board of Elections by Cindy Trimble, a member of the Philipstown Republican Committee. If specific objections are filed by the June 5 deadline, the two election commissioners will review the disputed signatures.

Burke, 59, has worked in law enforcement for 37 years, including 26 years with the New York City Police Department. He joined the Cold Spring department in 2013 and served as officer-in-charge for seven years, until 2024. Burke has also been a volunteer firefighter with the North Highlands Fire Co. for 12 years.

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

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## Young Merchants

### *Cold Spring hosts second Kid's Business Fair*

By Michael Turton

Last August, 15 businesses operated by 6- to 14-year-olds displayed their wares on the lawn of St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring.

More than twice as many — 32 — have registered for this year's four-hour Cold Spring Kid's Business Fair, scheduled for June 14 at the same location. They represent about 70 entrepreneurs, said organizer Julie Arora.

Arora attributes the increase to support from the Haldane and Garrison school districts in publicizing the fair. Registration is open for students and adult

volunteers at [childrensbusinessfair.org/coldspring-ny](http://childrensbusinessfair.org/coldspring-ny).

At the August fair, the merchandise ranged from handmade greeting cards, coffee sourced from local roasters and homegrown flowers to dog cookies, baked goods and jewelry.

New businesses this year will offer handmade soaps and candles, slime, handwoven potholders, customized dog collars and books by young authors. One service-oriented enterprise pledges to "help our clients with their problems and disagreements."

"We're gaining serious momentum," Arora said. "I'd like to have 100 booths next year and host two fairs." Arora said she also plans to create a Young Entrepreneurs Club with mentoring by Philipstown business owners.



An entrepreneur sells jewelry at the Cold Spring Kid's Business Fair in August.

File photo by Ross Corsair

## Haldane District Considers Leasing Electric Buses

### *District would pay \$30K to \$42K per vehicle annually*

By Joey Asher

As it waits to learn whether it will receive grants to purchase four electric buses, the Haldane school district is considering whether it should lease instead.

Under state law, all new school buses must be zero-emission starting in 2027. Districts must be fully electric by 2035.

Haldane is considering a partnership with Highland Electric Fleets, a Massachusetts company that leases electric school buses. Emily Parish, a manager with the firm, traveled to Cold Spring on Tuesday (June 3) to make a presentation to the school board about its "turnkey fleet electrification services."

Electric buses typically cost \$400,000 each, or three times a bus that burns diesel. Parish said Haldane would pay between \$30,000 and \$42,000 a year to lease each bus, depending on the amount of grant money the district receives from state and federal sources.

In addition to the buses, Parish said that Highland Electric would provide charging stations, electrical capacity, electricity, bus management software, driver training and maintenance assistance. The buses would be driven by district employees and housed on campus.

The vehicles would be provided under a "capital lease," which under state law is capped at eight years. (Legislation has been introduced to extend the limit to 12 years, which is the typical lifespan of a school bus.) Haldane voters would have to approve the contracts.

"For a small district like Haldane to attempt the transition independently would be very difficult," said Carl Albano, the interim superintendent. "They have the knowledge, and it minimizes risk."

Adam MacNeil, Haldane's director of facilities and transportation, said that, given the district's inexperience with electric buses, partnering with a firm like Highland Electric "allows us to focus on other things."

"We have never outsourced our transportation," noted Board President Peggy Clements during the meeting, calling it a source of pride. "The district has done a very good

job of buying buses and maintaining" buses. She added that the transition to an electric fleet "is another kind of risk."

Highland Electric has assisted Haldane with grant applications, including a bid to obtain \$170,000 for each bus from the federal Environmental Protection Administration. The district can also apply for state grants.

Parish said she was optimistic the EPA would continue its bus grants despite the cost-cutting and turmoil in Washington D.C. "Hopefully we get some news in the next couple of weeks," she said.

Highland Electric said it has contracts with 130 districts across the country to manage some 900 buses, although it does not yet have any agreements in New York. Parish said her firm is also pitching the Scarsdale district on its services.



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#### Submission Deadlines

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**June 17:** Beacon Residents

For more info, email Michele Gedney [ads@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org)

**KEEP THEM CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY.**



**YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT** — The Garrison School hosted its annual environmental summit on May 30 with students from five districts. Seventh-grader Lucy Berenson (right) was presented with the Angela Award, given annually by the National Science Teaching Association to one female middle school student. "Lucy has led the charge for Garrison's environmental program," said Rachel Arbor, the teacher who nominated her.

*Photos provided*



**A LITTLE FISHY** — The Clearwater hosted a sail for toddlers on May 13 from the Cold Spring pier with songs, stories and a catfish.

*Photo by Ross Corsair*



**GOATS RETURN** — Chocolate and Chip are back on the job behind Haldane High School. The invasive-species-munching goats returned on May 19 to finish cleaning out space for an expanded pollinator garden. The project is sponsored by the student Habitat Revival Club, which won a Greenlight Award last month from Bedford 2030, a Westchester environmental group, and an honorable mention in a *National Geographic* contest for a video it made.

*Photo by Joey Asher*



## The Calendar

## Writers, Readers to Converge on Beacon

*Third annual LitFest  
scheduled for June 12-15*

By Larry Epstein

Beacon LitFest returns June 12 to 15 for its third year, again bringing one-stop shopping for all things literature to the city.

For its first two years, in 2023 and 2024, LitFest was centered at the Howland Cultural Center and attracted 100 to 125 people. This year, organizers are preparing for 450 attendees at multiple venues.

The lineup includes a Pulitzer Prize-winner, a double poet laureate, bestselling authors and literary voices from near and far.

“Working with businesses on Main Street, we were able to expand LitFest into a larger citywide event,” said Hannah Brooks, its founder, who is producing the event with Andrea Talarico, co-owner of Stanza Books. “We are both here for the same reason: to make literature accessible, experiential and fun,” Talarico said.

Ruth Danon, a poet who is a founding producer and curator, called LitFest “a galvanizing force for the community. It’s bringing people together for literature, and it engages the community in a joint venture.”

Brooks, Danon and writer Danielle Trussoni were the driving forces behind the Newburgh Literary Festival, which began in 2019. When they brought it across the river, Beacon LitFest was born.

Brooks, a retired surgeon, is a poet and essayist working on her first novel. Talarico, also a poet, formerly owned a bookstore in Scranton, Pennsylvania, called Anthology.

“It was a literary destination and a haven for writers and helped to form a literary community,” she said. “We’re working on the same in Beacon. The first day Stanza opened, Hannah was there with a lot of enthusiasm.”

“I was so excited,” says Brooks. “I knew that after meeting Andrea we would be perfect partners. I’ve been here for a while so I had connections from prior festivals, and Stanza was new, so it was fortuitous to meet and grow something bigger than it ever could be before.”

Adds Talarico: “Naturally a bookstore is the perfect place to find writers.”

Rounding out the team is producer and curator Shane Killoran of Hit House Creative, who has been with Beacon LitFest from the start.

Here is a look at the schedule:

#### Thursday (June 12)

Denning’s Point Distillery, 10 N. Chestnut

The kickoff party, hosted by Drew Prochaska of The Artichoke, will include storytellers Jamie Mulligan, Bridget O’Neill and Linda Pratt and writers Lily Friedrich, Nina Robins, Sam Petty and Matan Broshi. Distillery owner Susan Johnson will be mixing cocktails and



Hannah Brooks (left) at the 2024 LitFest with Lucy Sante, author of the memoir *I Hear Her Call My Name*



Ruth Danon (left) spoke at the 2024 LitFest with Jennifer Egan, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her novel *A Visit from the Goon Squad*.

Photos provided

Donna Minkowitz, author of *Donnaville* and the host and founder of the monthly writers’ open mic, Lit Lit, will read from her work.

#### Friday (June 13)

Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St.

Women in Noir will feature crime and thriller novelists Margot Douaihy, Jode Millman and Julia Dahl, who will read from their books and answer questions from Cynthia Weiner of The Writers Studio and Jackie Corley of Townsquare Media.

#### Saturday (June 14)

Beacon Beahive, 6 Eliza St.  
Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St.  
Memorial Building, 413 Main St.

The festival wraps up with morning poetry at Beahive with Danon (the Beacon and Dutchess poets laureate); John Yau (2018 winner of the Jackson Prize in Poetry) and Gregory Pardlo (2015 winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry) and evening fiction and non-fiction writers’ panels at the

Memorial Building with Francine Prose, Kris Jansma, Co Moed, Stacey D’Erasmus and Dinaw Mengestu, moderated by writer Caroline Eisner and Brian Mahoney of *Chronogram*, followed by book signings and cocktails. An afternoon drama session at the Howland with Vieve Radha Price and Chuk Obasi of TEA Artistry on how dramatic pieces are conceived, adapted and expressed has been rescheduled for June 28.

#### Sunday (June 15)

The Dutchess Inn, 151 Main St.

The festival will launch LitWorks, a series of two-hour writing workshops that begin at noon with Kristen Holt Browning (poetry), Stephen Clair (songs), Josh Boardman (memoir/nonfiction), Andrew Harris Salomon (journalism/essay) and Peter Ullian (fiction).

Tickets range from \$15 to \$45 per event, or an all-access pass is \$125, excluding the Sunday writing workshops, which are \$30 each. See [beaconlitfest.org](https://beaconlitfest.org).



Melinda Huff (center) of Segundo Beso with Jessica Albert (left) and Catherine Graham of the Garrison Art Center

Photo provided

## A Kiss for Stephanie

*New Cold Spring store honors  
spirit of late shopkeeper*

By Marc Ferris

Brown letters taped to the door of Segundo Beso boutique in Cold Spring read, “Be More Doucette,” a nod to Stephanie Doucette, who championed keeping industry footprints “as light as a kiss.”

The Spanish name of the new store, which fills a space at 65 Main St. formerly occupied by Doucette New York before Doucette died suddenly in May 2024 at age 52, translates as “second kiss” — a reference to what Doucette described as her mission to “rescue forgotten fabrics.”

Melinda Huff, a friend and collaborator of Doucette’s, plans to maintain that mantra by saving offloaded spools of fabric marred by machinery errors and other imperfections from landfills. The store also stocks designs by other like-minded creators.

“It’s my personal mission to keep Stephanie’s spirit alive at Segundo Beso, not just by giving new life to discarded fabric and material, but also paying forward her disarming kindness and honesty,” Huff says.

In a back workshop filled with tape measures, sewing machines and other accoutrements of the trade, Huff and her partners make alterations, experiment with prototypes and create custom outfits. The changing area’s curtain is a canopy of sewn-together blue jeans.

Seeking to broaden local relationships, she jumped at the chance to partner with the Garrison Art Center on a juried group exhibit, *Urban Jungle*, which includes 13 pieces, including six sculptures, displayed

(Continued on Page 17)



# THE WEEK AHEAD

## PRIDE EVENTS

FRI 13

### Queer Dance Party

BEACON

6:30 – 10 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | queerfam.org

This fundraiser will benefit the Queer Family Network and Beacon's Backyard. There will be food and merchandise for sale. Ages 18+. *Cost: \$25 donation*

SAT 14

### Putnam Pride Parade

CARMEL

1 – 5 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
40 Gleneida Ave. | putnampride.com

This sixth annual event will include a rally with speakers, followed by a celebration at Veterans Memorial Park with vendors, food trucks, an open mic and children's activities.

SAT 14

### Drag Queen Cabaret

GARRISON

4 & 7 p.m. Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3900 | depottheater.org

The first show is for all ages and the second show for ages 13 and older. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 15

### Beacon Family Pride

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | queerfam.org

The celebration will include food, games and activities for all ages. *Free*

## KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 8

### Youth Business Market

BREWSTER

Noon – 4 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm  
100 Route 312 | putnamcountyny.gov

Shop for crafts, art and food made by young entrepreneurs.

SUN 8

### Kids' Open Mic

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Move | 37 Chestnut St.

Children and teens ages 18 and younger can sign up to play or sing at this event hosted by East Mountain Studios. *Cost: \$10 (\$20 family)*

THURS 12

### Teen Rainbow Hangout

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

LGBTQ+ youth and their allies in grades 9 to 12 are invited to connect with friends and meet new people.

FRI 13

### Teens vs. Librarians Trivia

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 to 12 can compete against librarian trivia teams. Registration required.

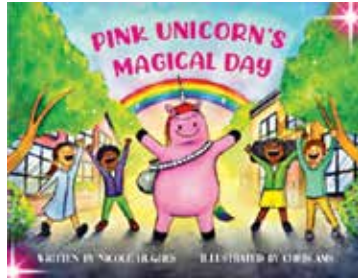
SAT 14

### Pink Unicorn's Magical Day

BEACON

10 a.m. Kitchen & Coffee | 420 Main St.  
dub.sh/pink-unicorn-day

Celebrate community and connection at the launch of this children's book inspired by Beacon's pink unicorn, Dave Shelly. Sales benefit the Beacon Unicorn Fund, which supports local arts.



SAT 14

### Kid's Business Fair

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Mary's Lawn  
1 Chestnut St. | childrensbusiness-fair.org/coldspring-ny

Children and teens ages 6 to 14 will show off their entrepreneurial skills with services and goods for sale. See Page 10.

## COMMUNITY

SAT 7

### Centennial Picnic

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

The library will celebrate 100 years with dramatic readings by actors portraying Daniel and Julia Butterfield, music by Lüsh Life and the Foundry Four, a 1920s cooking contest and a children's book sale. Rain date: SUN 8. *Cost: \$5 donation*

SAT 7

### Modern Makers Market

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Lawn  
1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthehudson.com

Browse the creations of dozens of artists, jewelers and other artisans. Rain or shine. Also SUN 8.

SAT 7

### Five Points Fest

BEACON

11 a.m. – 10 p.m. The Yard  
4 Hanna Lane | fivepointsfest.com

Clutter Gallery has organized a community art and toy con with artists, exclusive toys, vendors, hangouts, music, food trucks, pop-up galleries and film screenings. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$30/\$40 (\$20/\$30 students; \$50 weekend; \$130 VIP; ages 12 and younger free)*

SUN 8

### Strawberry Festival

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park  
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660  
beaconsloopclub.org

This annual Beacon Sloop Club event will include performers and



Appreciation, June 12

bands on two stages, strawberry shortcake, games, crafts, activities and displays. Donations welcome. *Free*

THURS 12

### Putnam County Day

CARMEL

9 a.m. Memorial Park  
200 Gipsy Trail Road

At this reception at Whipple-Feeley Chapel honoring the county's 213th anniversary, there will be local history awards, a talk on Chief Daniel Ninham and an interview with former Gov. George Pataki. RSVP required to historian@putnamcountyny.gov.

SAT 14

### Citywide Yard Sale

BEACON

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Various  
dub.sh/beacon-sale-2025

See the website for listings on the morning of the sale or to register to participate for \$10. The deadline is WED 11.

SUN 15

### Cocktail Party

PHILIPSTOWN

5:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
desmondfishlibrary.org

This benefit for the Desmond-Fish library will feature an interview with actor, director and author Griffin Dunne by filmmaker Ivy Meeropol. Kim Conner and Nick Groombridge also will be honored for their community service. *Cost: \$250+*

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 7

### Glass Ceiling Breakers

GARRISON

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

Watch plays and films by women presented by Theatre Revolution. See the website for the titles in each block. See Page 17. Also SUN 8. *Cost: \$27*

SUN 8

### The Matchmaker

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Shakespeare  
2015 Route 9 | 845-265-9575  
hvshakespeare.org

Nance Williamson stars as Dolly Levi in the Thornton Wilder play that inspired the 1969 film *Hello, Dolly!* Also WED 11, FRI 13. *Cost: \$10 to \$75*



FRI 13

### Michael Carbonaro

PEEKSKILL

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The star of truTV's *The Carbonaro Effect*, in which he does tricks around people who don't know he's a magician, will perform illusions. *Cost: \$64 to \$84*

SUN 15

### Gary Vider

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

In this Father's Day show, the comedian and former host of the podcast *#1 Dad* will do stand-up. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 7

### Giant Love

GARRISON

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

Julie Gilbert will talk about her new book on Ferber's Pulitzer-winning novel about Texas and the making of an Oscar-winning film adaptation.



SAT 7

### Things Become Other Things

BEACON

7 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St.  
binnaclebooks.com

Sam Anderson will interview Craig Mod about his "walking memoir" of Japan.

SUN 8

### Ruth Danon

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org

The Beacon and Dutchess County poets laureate will read from her collections, followed by an open mic. *Cost: \$10*

WED 11

### Amelia, If Only

GARRISON

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

Becky Albertalli will read from her novel and discuss it with Page Powers in this Pride event co-hosted with Split Rock Books.

THURS 12

### LitFest

BEACON

7 p.m. Dennings Point Distillery  
10 N. Chestnut St. | beaconlitfest.org

The kickoff party for this annual festival will be hosted by Drew Prochaska of The Artichoke storytelling series and include stories and readings. See Page 13 for a full weekend schedule. *Cost: \$25*

(Continued on Page 15)



THURS 12

### Indigenous Diplomacy and Settler Revolt

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St.  
[putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://putnamhistorymuseum.org)

BJ Lillis of the American Antiquarian Society will discuss a group of Wappinger and Mohican diplomats who sailed to London in 1766 to petition the crown to support their Hudson Valley land claims. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

### NATURE & OUTDOORS

SAT 7

#### Litter Cleanup

PHILIPSTOWN

11:45 a.m. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D

Help the Garrison School's Civics Seal group beautify the park. Trash bags provided. Bring gloves if possible. Rain date: SUN 8.

SAT 7

#### Secret Gardens Tour

BEACON

Noon - 4 p.m. Various

Pick up a map at the Howland Cultural Center (477 Main St.) for a self-guided tour of unique gardens organized by the Tioronda Garden Club. Email [fullergeri@yahoo.com](mailto:fullergeri@yahoo.com) or [gbarrack1@gmail.com](mailto:gbarrack1@gmail.com) for tickets.

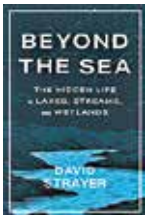
FRI 13

#### Beyond the Sea

MILLBROOK

7 p.m. Cary Institute  
2801 Sharon Turnpike | [caryinstitute.org](http://caryinstitute.org)

Freshwater ecologist David Strayer will discuss his book on the hidden life in lakes, streams and wetlands. Join in person or watch via Zoom.



SAT 14

#### Garden Photography

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Stonecrop  
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000  
[stonecrop.org](http://stonecrop.org)

After a presentation on composition, color and light,

explore the gardens practicing the techniques. Rain or shine. Bring lunch. *Cost: \$80 (\$60 members)*

### VISUAL ART

SAT 7

#### Koyoltzintli

BEACON

Noon - 6 p.m. River Center  
8 Long Dock Park Road | [soonisnow.org](http://soonisnow.org)

The Ecuadorian-American artist's ceramic sound objects will be on view, along with a video of her recent performance. Through June 27.

SAT 7

#### Gretchen Kane | Maria Pia Marrella

COLD SPRING

4 - 7 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St. | [busterlevigallery.com](http://busterlevigallery.com)

In *Shifting Ground*, both painters will share landscapes. Through June 29.

SAT 7

#### Art Bloom

BEACON

6 p.m. Blooming Heart Studios  
41 Mason Circle  
[supersecretprojects.com](http://supersecretprojects.com)

To launch their Art CSA, Super Secret Projects and Blooming Hearts Studios will host a silent art auction and soundscape experiences. *Cost: \$75*

SUN 8

#### Artists' Talks

BEACON

4 & 5 p.m. Bau Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | [baugallery.org](http://baugallery.org)

Iain Wall will discuss his work on exhibit in *Precious Stones*, followed by Daniel Berlin discussing *Swallowing the Sun*. Both exhibits close today.

THURS 12

#### Jeremy Dennis

GARRISON

6 p.m. Via Zoom  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

The fine art photographer and Shinnecock Indian Nation member, whose exhibit, *Rise: Scenes of Resistance* is on view at the Garrison Art Center, will discuss his work. Register online.



Jeremy Dennis, June 12



### MUSIC

SAT 7

#### Fibers and Filaments

NEWBURGH

7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College  
330 Powell Ave. | 845-913-7157  
[newburghsymphony.org](http://newburghsymphony.org)

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra's program at Aquinas Hall will include works by Yoshimatsu, Beethoven and Bartok. *Cost: \$55 to \$80 (\$35 seniors, students free)*

SAT 7

#### John John Brown

BEACON

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

Brown will play guitar and sing during his solo show, *Songs, Stories, & Art - Lessons from Strangers*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 7

#### The American Pink Floyd Show

BEACON

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

The tribute band will recreate a live concert experience. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 8

#### Brazilian Choro Concert

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. 10 Whitehill Place  
[dub.sh/choro-cold-spring](http://dub.sh/choro-cold-spring)

Catherine Bent (cello) and Ian Coury (Brazilian mandolin) will perform as part of Sandy McKelvey's Hudson Valley House Concert Project. Bring a drink or dish to share. Reserve a seat online. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 8

#### CompCord Ensemble

BEACON

5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[dub.sh/CompCord2025](http://dub.sh/CompCord2025)

Presented by Composers Concordance, this concert will also feature B3. See Page 19. *Cost: \$20 (\$10 students)*

SUN 8

#### Big Band Night

PHILIPSTOWN

6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-3638 | [boscobel.org](http://boscobel.org)

Big Band Sound, a 20-piece jazz band, will play standards of the Great American Songbook. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 ages 4 to 18)*

(Continued on Page 16)

## FARM CAMP 2025

"Having a farm such as Common Ground within the community is such a value for our family. We all think it is a special place and love how camp allows such a wonderful experience."  
-Farm Camp parent, 2024.

## HARVEST! EXPLORE! MAKE ART! EXPERIMENT! COOK! GET DIRTY!

**8 WEEKS:** June 30 - Aug 22  
\* **AGES 4-9** June 30 - July 18 \*  
\* **AGES 4-12** July 21 - Aug 22 \*

**The Camp Day Runs 9am - 3pm**  
\* Before Care Begins at 8:00am \*  
\* After Care Ends at 5:30pm \*

For more information about Farm Camp 2025 and to register visit:  
**[commongroundfarm.org/farm-camp-registration](http://commongroundfarm.org/farm-camp-registration)**



Questions? Email Kate at [education@commongroundfarm.org](mailto:education@commongroundfarm.org)



THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 15)

**WED 11**  
**Creative Conversations**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Pianist Daniel Kelly will be joined by guitarist and composer Jesse Lewis to observe nature and write a song for the final collaboration of the series. *Cost: \$15 donation*

**THURS 12**  
**Gaelic Storm**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The Celtic band plays traditional and contemporary Irish music. *Cost: \$44 to \$58*

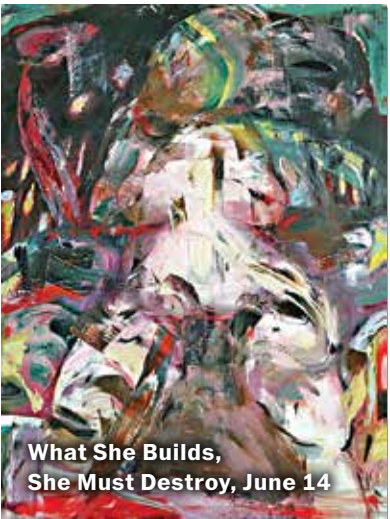
**FRI 13**  
**Tom Chapin**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners C.C.  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org  
The three-time Grammy winner, storyteller and activist will play music from his six-decade career. *Cost: \$30*



Nansi Lent, June 12

**FRI 13**  
**Grayson Hugh with Polly Messer**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The husband-and-wife duo will play their hits. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SAT 14**  
**Robin and the Hoods**  
**COLD SPRING**  
2 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | musicatstmarys.com  
The classic-rock group plays songs from the 1960s. Donations welcome. *Free*



What She Builds, She Must Destroy, June 14

**SAT 14**  
**Jog Blues**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
5 p.m. Magazzino  
2700 Route 9 | maggazzino.art  
For their fourth annual concert, the band will blend raga, jazz and blues. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 seniors, \$5 students, children)*

**SAT 14**  
**The Rascals**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
Founding members Felix Cavaliere and Gene Cornish and their band will

perform their hits as part of a 60th anniversary tour. *Cost: \$68 to \$88*

**SAT 14**  
**The Weeklings**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The tribute band plays music by the Beatles. *Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)*

**SUN 15**  
**Claremont Trio**  
**COLD SPRING**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org  
Emily Bruskin (violin), Julia Bruskin (cello) and Sophiko Simsive (piano) will perform. Donations welcome. *Free*

SECOND SATURDAY

**SAT 14**  
**Holly Sumner**  
**BEACON**  
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St. | hudsonbeachglass.com  
The artist's paintings on maps and cloth will be on display for her show, *Drifters*. Through July 6.

**SAT 14**  
**Bob Barry | Nansi Lent**  
**BEACON**  
6 – 8 p.m. Bau Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org  
Barry's show, *the other world*, will feature his ceramic sculptures. In Gallery 2, Lent's show, *Said, Not Said*, has paintings and photographs. Through July 6.

**SAT 14**  
**What She Builds, She Must Destroy**  
**BEACON**  
7 – 9 p.m. Distortion Society  
155 Main St. | distortionsociety.com  
The solo exhibition of Michelle Silver's paintings marks moments of motherhood. Through Aug. 10.

CIVIC

**WED 11**  
**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).

# Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

## Holly Sumner: Drifters

acrylic on map on cloth

June 14 — July 6, 2025

Curated by Kirsten Kucer

Opens SECOND SATURDAY June 14, 5:00 — 7:00 PM

162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068

[www.hudsonbeachglass.com](http://www.hudsonbeachglass.com)

# Join us June 15

Desmond-Fish Public Library's  
Associates Cocktail Party  
honoring special guest

# Griffin Dunne

Producer, director, actor, author

Interviewed by Ivy Meeropol

and honoring Kim Conner  
and Nick Groombridge  
for their community service

Tickets at [desmondfishlibrary.org/cocktails](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/cocktails)



# Beyond the Glass Ceiling

*Women organize film, theater fest in Garrison*

By Marc Ferris

Inside the dynamic duo at the helm of Theatre Revolution, “I’m the brawn and she’s the brain,” says Nora Matz about her collaborator, Gabrielle Fox.

After a beat, Matz quips: “Well, I’m also half the brain.”

“True, but I am zero percentage brawn,” Fox replies.

The team writes and produces plays and films but also presents what’s become an annual weekend festival of work by women artists. Glass Ceiling Breakers begins tonight (June 6) at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison and continues Saturday and Sunday.

“This is a good way to elevate female voices and those of other marginalized groups, especially in theater and film, where we’re still not well-represented,” says Matz, who lives in Garrison.

The two created Theatre Revolution in 2016 to oppose Trump administration policies, says Matz, so it’s fitting that members of the Beacon Rising Choir, which gelled after the Woman’s March in Washington in 2017, will close out the weekend with a performance.

All the plays and most of the festival’s movies are written by people who identify as female. The bare minimum criteria for film submissions is two women in the key roles of writer, editor, producer, director or cinematographer.

Five short plays, which run about an hour back-to-back, will be presented each day, but only tonight’s performances will be followed by a discussion with the playwrights. Four live in Westchester County and one in Rockland.

Writers produce their own vignettes, supplying props and set pieces. Fox is presenting “Artistic Integrity,” which she says lasers in on “a generational clash of playwrights about the future of human creativity.”

Four film blocks of about 75 minutes each will showcase a total of 24 shorts culled from 200 worldwide submissions, followed by Q&As with the filmmakers. Three blocks will screen on Saturday and one on Sunday, followed by a closing-night mingle and the Best of Fest Awards.

On Saturday at 3 p.m., the Depot Theatre will host a free panel discussion, “A Conversation with Women in the Business,” featuring director C. Fitz (a Los Angeles resident best known for her documentary *Jewel’s Catch One*) and filmmaker Annetta Marion, whose two most recent short films are



Nora Matz and Gabrielle Fox of Theatre Revolution

Photo provided

*Welcome to Theatre* and *The History of Carol*, about censorship in education.

Theatre Revolution tries to select pieces that give voice to other marginalized groups, but “there are misconceptions,” says Matz. Attendees at past festivals sometimes got confused when film and play topics veered from women’s liberation or strident politics.

“The festival showcases women’s talent;

it’s not necessarily about feminist topics,” says Matz. “We have horror, drama, comedy and the whole spectrum of life, like all other plays and films.”

The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison’s Landing. Tickets are \$17 for each film block and \$27 for the short-play performances. See [depottheater.org](http://depottheater.org).

## Segundo Beso (from Page 13)

throughout the store.

Many businesses in Beacon and Philipstown display work by local artists, but this one offers more gravitas: Last week’s opening attracted a crowd that spilled onto the sidewalk and filled up the benches outside.

The partnership emerged after Catherine Graham, executive director of the art center, attended a marketing workshop sponsored by the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce and met matchmaker Michael Dardano.

“For years, I’ve been trying to get nonprofits and private businesses together, and this came about pretty fast,” says Dardano, who runs BuzzPotential, a social media and marketing firm in Westchester.

The exhibit includes items that evoke a jungle groove, like the manipulated photo “Spring Growth” by Sandra Belitza-Vasquez, and “Wandering Flowers” by Vivien Collens, a series of five sculptures that brighten a picture window.

Many artistic items lean into a gritty city vibe, like the touched-up photo “Red Firebox—Bklyn” by Mitchell Brozinsky, which captures a graffitied streetscape in Greenpoint long before the Yuppies moved in. The mossy yellow grunge on the building and the gray sidewalk looks like it could be scraped off.

Philipstown resident Jane Soodalter’s close-up photo of rusted machinery pres-



“Applegg” by Kara Wilson

ents the illusion of rough texture rising from the surface. A wall-mounted, mixed-media piece by Maxine Feldman suggests an urban street grid.

The sculpture “Modern Ruins” by Lisa Knaus, who teaches at the Garrison Art Center, sits in a precarious location, ripe for getting knocked over or being mistaken for goods on sale. (The store carries accessories beyond clothes.)

Covered with melted glass that looks like bright glaze or colorful paint, the brick and other components are attractive. Knaus makes clay objects and dislikes throwing things away. After her car windshield shattered, she found a use for the shiny pile.

The work fits with the store’s exposed



Lisa Knaus at the opening with her sculpture “Modern Ruins”

Photo provided

brick decor, but for Knaus, the material contains symbolic meaning. “I’m really into bricks,” she says. “For me, using the glass is a bling-like way to connect with the history of civilization.”

*Segundo Beso*, at 65 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday to Monday. See [segundobeso.com](http://segundobeso.com). Urban Jungle continues through July 13.

**JOG BLUES**

June 14, 2025, 5:00–8:00pm  
Outdoor concert in the courtyard

Doors open at 5:00 pm  
Concert begins at 7:00 pm  
Tickets available on [magazzino.art](http://magazzino.art)

Mommò Pizza Truck will be on the grounds starting at 5:00 pm. Drinks will be available for purchase.

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*All are Welcome!**Rain or Shine***June 12 - June 15**

# *Feast of St. Anthony at Graymoor*

**Thursday, June 12****Jubilee Mass at 4:00pm with Bishop Gerardo J. Colacicco**

Outdoors at St. Anthony Shrine

**Friday, June 13****Feast of St. Anthony of Padua Celebration**11:00am | Trilingual Mass & Exposition at  
Our Lady of Atonement Chapel  
(English, Italian and Spanish)

3:00pm | Novena &amp; Benediction

**Saturday, June 14****Our Lady of Atonement Chapel****Mass Schedule**

11:00am | English

12:00pm | Creole &amp; French

4:00pm | English &amp; Spanish

**Sunday, June 15****Our Lady of Atonement Chapel****Mass Schedule**

11:00am | English &amp; Italian

1:00pm | Creole &amp; French

4:00pm | Novena and Benediction



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# Where Jazz and Classical Meet

*Eclectic mix of musicians to perform at Howland*

By Marc Ferris

Of the 14 saxophones, from tenor to contrabass, Brad Hubbard gravitated to the baritone.

"It's my voice and just a different animal for me," he says. The instrument facilitates honking — the twisted mouthpiece resembles a gooseneck.

Hubbard plays several woodwind instruments, but when the New York City Ballet orchestra selected a piece from *West Side Story* with a baritone sax part, or if Woodstock-based Americana mainstay Professor Louie & the Crowmatix wants that low-end presence, he's a go-to.

Though he graduated from a classical music conservancy that eschewed jazz, Hubbard enjoys bending genres and playing unlikely styles.

"When I first came to New York, I got hired by a country guitarist because I knew all the old songs, though I can't sing a lick," says the North Carolina native, whose voice still resonates with a faint twang. "I'm grateful for my education, but it's taken my entire professional career to recover from it in some ways."

On Sunday (June 8), Hubbard will perform at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at Composers Concordance, an



Brad Hubbard

Photo provided

annual confluence of eclectic musicians. Nine composers, five of the players and conductor Gene Pritsker created works specifically for the concert. (They call themselves the CompCord Ensemble.)

"This is about as 'winging it' as classical music gets," says Hubbard. The instrumentation (including members of the B3+ brass trio) consists of horn, trumpet, piano, clarinet, bass trombone and, of course, baritone sax. Roger Aplon, one of the three poet narrators, and pianist Debra Kaye live in Beacon.

The concert is an offshoot of the New York City-based collaborative Composers Concordance, which presents a packed schedule of performances. Hubbard has participated in all six of its concerts at the Howland Center.

Though classical music and the jazz-oriented sax make strange bedfellows, he points to famous crossover musicians who fused classical training with other forms, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma and bass player Edgar Meyer, who jumped from Beethoven to country.

Bluegrass banjo player Bela Fleck and jazzman Wynton Marsalis, who recorded three trumpet concertos by Haydn, Hummel and Mozart in 1983, arrived at classical from other genres. Hubbard also recalls the Kronos Quartet's stirring string arrangement of "Purple Haze," by Jimi Hendrix, in 1986.

Like jazz, "there's plenty of space for improvisation in Baroque music," a precursor to the classical period, along with "many compositions called 'theme' and 'variation,'" he says. "The continuo [underpinning bass or cello lines] are also open to alteration and interpretation."

Hubbard got his start in the 1990s with the New Century Saxophone Quartet before branching out. In addition to teaching at the Beacon Music Factory, he honks with

the Funk Junkies and Hot Wrk Ensemble, which plays original music along with Beatles and Dolly Parton covers.

On Saturday (June 7), the Hot Wrk crew will perform at the Kingston Public Library with Beacon violinist Gwen Laster. Blame Google (or human nature) for the creative spelling. According to Hubbard, "people are weird — so weird that all kinds of crazy stuff comes up [when searching for 'hot work'], none of which has to do with music."

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. Tickets for the show, which begins at 5 p.m., are \$20 at [dub.sh/CompCord2025](http://dub.sh/CompCord2025) or \$30 at the door. Tickets for seniors and students are \$10.

## NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, June 19th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.**

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

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Home of the Highlands Choral Society

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**June 22** Cat Guthrie  
**June 29** Kacey Morabito-Grean

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

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-Kathy Groves (42 miles)  
-Julie Mayville (38.5 miles)

**Most Miles Walked:**  
-Lisa Rasic (119.59 miles)  
-Kathy Groves (87.5 miles)  
-Alexi Harrington (57.08 miles)

**Most Miles Biked:**  
-Joseph Clegg (185.36 miles)  
-Tara Carroll (167.3 miles)  
-Julie Mayville (130.15 miles)

**Most Elevation Gained:**  
-Tamar Stubbs (14,199 ft)  
-Lisa Rasic (11,832 ft)  
-Julie Mayville (9,540 ft)

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**By Pamela Doan**

Now that we've had a robust stretch of rainy days, I've noticed the wetter areas of the landscape again. These could be places where the stormwater pools for a few days before drying out, or bare spots in the yard where it's so wet that the lawn doesn't hold.

I love the opportunity to deploy the rain garden plants. These are species that don't want to live in a wetland but are happy enough to sit in water for a spell. They can handle wet-to-dry conditions without faltering. Their root systems sustain them through a flow of water and keep them in place. Additionally, they look nice and can be combined to create a resilient and hard-working garden.

## Woody plants

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) — Part of the holly family, this partially evergreen shrub has dark gray bark graced with red berries covering its branches in winter, hence the common name. Birds flock to the berries and the diminutive flowers are beloved by pollinators and invite close observation. It's lovely in every season and can grow in some shade or full sun and wet to moist soil. Give it space to reach its full height and width of 10 to 12 feet.

Sweetspire (*Itea virginiana*) – This shrub can also handle part-shade to full sun and will enjoy wetter soil conditions but also be fine with drier soil. It blooms from late spring into the summer with showy, white flowers that last for many weeks. Smaller than the winterberry at around 5 feet tall and wide, it can be used in many locations.

Pussy willow (*Salix discolor*) — Of all the native willows, this may be my favorite. I remember the soft catkins from my childhood, growing along stream banks with cattail rushes. This shrub will grow to 15 feet but can be kept shorter through pruning. It does best in full sun. It can do OK in part-shade, but let it thrive in a sunnier spot if you can. Its tolerance for soil moisture ranges from wet conditions to average, drier sites. Combine male and female shrubs to produce the showiest buds and fruit. Pollinators love it in the spring.

## Perennials

Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*) — In a rain garden planting, the plants that tolerate the wettest soil, possibly standing water, are usually placed in the middle or lowest part of the basin. This iris is the right plant for those spaces. It spreads via rhizomes and has the tenacity to hold its place in moving water. The purple flowers show off in spring. It will do well in full sun or part-



**Blazing star is a great draw for all types of pollinators and hummingbirds, too.**

*Photo by P. Doan*

shade. I've noticed an outlier growing in nearly full shade around the pond in our woods, so maybe that's OK, too.

Blazing star (*Liatriis spicata*) — After the iris has finished, the blazing star will begin its display with purple flowers on a long stalk. The foliage of these plants is complementary, with similar leaf styles but different patterns.

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*) — To fill out the blooming section, this striking plant will be white in late summer and fall, completing the cycle for pollinators and viewers. It's best in part-shade but can handle more sun if the soil stays moist or it is well-mulched with leaf litter. The flowers are like a snapdragon, or a turtle's head (naturally).

## Grasses

Wood's sedge (*Carex woodii*) — This sedge (sedges have edges, rushes are round) received top ranking in a long-term *Carex* species trial by the Mt. Cuba Center, a Delaware botanical garden that specializes in native plants. It's versatile and can handle sun and shade, dry and wet. Sedges can be filler plants interspersed among other perennials as groundcover or, with one this attractive, the main event.

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) – This stately, clump-forming, warm-season grass is as aesthetically pleasing in winter as in other seasons and keeps the garden from feeling bare. At 3 to 5 feet, it can excel in dry conditions as well as in wetter. There are a few cultivars, such as Northwind, commonly available in nurseries.

Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparius*) — I plant this grass frequently because it is so versatile and brings loveliness wherever it goes. Try it in dry, wet, clay, well-drained or poor soils — basically anywhere but sand. It will stay upright in sun and flop a bit in shade but never disappear. I was warned that it would spread aggressively, but I haven't seen that behavior after many years of planting. I wish it would, though.

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Classic Wheels

# 1964 Chevy El Camino

By Michael Turton

In 1964 a “hybrid” vehicle wasn’t about switching to battery power. It was a car-pickup combo: the Chevy El Camino. Just as electric vehicles are not a new idea, dating to the 19th century, the “roadster utility” or “coupe utility” concept originated in the 1920s.

Roger MacIsaac found his 1964 El Camino in a mechanic’s shop in his hometown of Poughkeepsie about seven years ago.

“I paid 10 grand for it,” he said, adding that while he loves the look, he isn’t interested in the pickup capabilities. “I drive it strictly for pleasure.”

MacIsaac has only had to perform basic maintenance. The original 327 V8 engine, which he replaced with a 350-cubic-inch Chevy V8, sits in his garage. He added Cragar wheels, a tachometer and temperature gauge. He painted over the origi-



nal white with the El Camino GM tripoli turquoise metallic, a popular color in the 1960s. The vehicle has three emblems: Chevrolet, Chevelle and El Camino.

MacIsaac hopes to refresh the interior with an original vinyl bench seat, metal dashboard, built-in clock, AM-FM radio and cigarette lighter. The windows, brakes and steering are manual; the transmission is automatic, a two-speed Powerglide.

A stiffer suspension is the only change he’d consider. “It’s a light-enough car, a fun cruiser and easy to drive,” he said. He cruises to car shows “practically every day of the week,” including the Tuesday evening gathering at the I-84 Diner in Fishkill.

The El Camino has 75,000 miles on the odometer, an average of 1,230 miles a year. Great Barrington, Massachusetts, is the furthest MacIsaac has driven it. He has never calculated the gas mileage.

Chevrolet introduced the El Camino in 1959 in response to the Ford Ranchero,

## The Specs

- Assembly:** Baltimore and five other plants
- Production Years:** 1959-60 and 1964-87
- 1964 Production:** 32,548
- Body:** Coupe-utility
- Engine:** 327-cubic-inch V8; 6-cylinder and 283-cubic-inch V8 options
- Carburetor:** Single four-barrel
- Horsepower:** 250
- Transmission:** 2 speed Powerglide automatic, 3- and 4-speed manual options
- Exhaust:** Dual
- 0-60 mph:** 7.7 seconds
- Quarter-mile:** 15.9 seconds at 87 mph
- Cost:** \$2,367\* (\$24,500 today)

*\*A \$81 [\$835] “custom” option included bucket seats*

which hit the market in 1957. Although the Ford was popular, the General Motors version, developed using a Chevrolet station wagon platform, quickly outsold it. Sales peaked in 1972 at 57,000 units.

## Current Classifieds

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### HELP WANTED

**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS** — The Philipstown Food Pantry needs Friday morning drivers with truck or van for food bank pickup; 2- to 2½-hour commitment. Gas stipend possible. Call 845-612-2040.

### EVENTS

**MAKERS MART** — Three amazing events produced by Hops on the Hudson of Cold Spring are happening in Cold Spring in June! June 7/8: 60 plus designers and makers will be at our Modern Makers Market; June 21: Get your tickets now for our NY Craft Beer Tasting and Market (30 NY Breweries under one gigantic tent plus food trucks, live music and a market). June 22: Cold Spring Art, Wine and Spirits Show (over 50 artists, six wineries and six distilleries). Free admission. For more information go to [HopsontheHudson.com](http://HopsontheHudson.com).

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### NOTICES

**LOST ON METRO-NORTH** — Silk Hermes scarf, Sunday afternoon, April 27, on northbound train (4:50 from Grand Central). Got off at Garrison. Blue, red and beige. Was my mom’s. Heartbroken! Cash reward + good karma. Thank you. Call 914-643-2710.

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## Lolly Merante

There will be a graveside memorial service for Lolly Merante at the Cold Spring Cemetery, 36 Peekskill Road, in Nelsonville, on Friday (June 27) at 11:00 a.m.

PAID NOTICE



# Questions for Candidates: Philipstown Town Board

There are four Democratic candidates for two open seats on the Philipstown Town Board — Ben Cheah, John Maasik, Nat Prentice and Ned Rauch. They will compete in a primary on June 24 for the two Democratic lines on the general-election ballot in November.

Cheah and Rauch, who were endorsed by the Philipstown Democratic Committee, also filed independent nominating petitions and will appear on the November ballot on the Philipstown Focus party line regardless of the primary outcome. There are no candidates from other parties.

We asked each candidate to answer four questions in a total of 500 words or less. The responses are below, presented in alphabetical order by last name.

## What in your background makes you the best candidate?

**CHEAH:** I believe that a great board member brings passion, dedication, teamwork and expertise — and I'll bring all of that to the Philipstown board.

Ten years ago, my wife Megan and I chose to raise our two sons in Philipstown. We love this community and feel lucky to call

it home. Both of us have always been active volunteers. I've served on the Philipstown Recreation Commission, Cold Spring Planning Board (current), as Cub Scouts Pack 137 treasurer and on the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency board. Running for Town Board feels like a natural next step — one I'm genuinely passionate about.

I'm especially focused on the challenges of rising costs and tightening budgets. I plan to be hands-on with budgeting and long-term planning to help keep costs and taxes under control. I bring to the table an MBA in finance from New York University's Stern School of Business; 25 years of project management and executive experience in the film and TV industry; and a strong creative background in sound design for film, with credits on *Men in Black*, *The Big Lebowski*, *The Birdcage* and *The Wire*.

**MAASIK:** I've lived in Philipstown for over 20 years: 10 in Cold Spring and 10 in Garrison, where my wife and I raised our two sons. I've spent thousands upon thousands of hours volunteering with community-based organizations, including the Philipstown Recreation Commission, Philipstown Soccer Club, Friends of Philipstown Recre-



Ben Cheah

John Maasik

Nat Prentice

Ned Rauch

ation and Scouting America, in addition to participating in the Haldane turf field effort and the Garrison School Safety Committee. I also helped launch events such as the Castle-to-River Run and Winter Carnival, raising thousands in non-taxpayer dollars and donations for town programs. These efforts have helped me build strong relationships across Cold Spring, Continental Village, Garrison and Nelsonville.

Professionally, I've led large teams and managed multimillion-dollar budgets in the private sector, experiences that have shaped my ability to listen carefully, act with integrity and lead without ego.

The values that guide me most deeply come from my family's story. My parents were Estonian refugees who fled Soviet occupation after my grandfather was killed by the Russians. My grandmother brought her three children to the U.S. in search of safety, freedom and a new beginning. I was raised with a deep respect for civic

responsibility, community and the promise of American democracy.

**PRENTICE:** Experience, experience, experience. I have had a career in finance and investments. I grew up in Garrison and moved back here 25 years ago. Since moving back, I have attended most of the Town Board's monthly meetings, so I know the commitment that is required to address Philipstown's challenges and opportunities.

I helped create the Town's 2007 Comprehensive Plan, and in 2018 I was appointed chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee that published an update adopted in 2021. Working on the plan meant partnering with a multitude of people from the North Highlands to Continental Village. I know the town's goals and priorities really well.

In addition, I work with emergency services (commissioner, Garrison Fire District; member, Putnam County Emer-

*(Continued on Page 23)*



PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

# JUNE HUB EVENTS

2

Women with ADHD Support Group  
7-8pm at 5 Stone Street, Cold Spring

12

Adult Grief Support Group  
5-6pm at 5 Stone Street, Cold Spring

16

Women with ADHD Support Group  
7-8pm at 5 Stone Street, Cold Spring

17

Kids Craft  
5-6pm at 5 Stone Street, Cold Spring

25

Hang out with Hub Dog, Annie  
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(Continued from Page 22)

agency services Safety Advisory Board); businesses (president, Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Putnam County Business Council); and nonprofit institutions (Stonecrop Gardens, Paramount Hudson Valley Arts, Hudson Valley Shakespeare).

I also serve on state Assembly Member Dana Levenberg's Healthy Communities Committee and served on the Philipstown Budget Advisory Committee.

**RAUCH:** For many years I worked as a newspaper reporter, covering, among other things, village, town, county and city governments. It gave me a clear understanding of what good governance looks like, how it can go wrong and what that means for residents.

More recently, I've served as marketing director for the Philipstown Depot Theatre, where I've seen how the arts give people of all ages, genders and backgrounds the opportunity to shine, express themselves and forge connections. My wife and her business partner run a bakery here in town, and I know the work that goes into launching and growing a small business: rewarding, exhilarating, challenging, but seldom easy. I pitch in, having served as president of the Garrison School PTA. And I'm lucky to have grown up in part here and have three generations of family members living in, contributing to and enjoying this town now: my parents; a daughter and son in fourth and second grades at the Garrison School; and

my brother and his wife and their three kids.

From all of them and our friends, I get a broad understanding of what it takes to make a home in this terrific place, what works and what needs improvement.

#### What is your position on the Fjord Trail?

**CHEAH:** As a member of the Cold Spring Planning Board, I've studied the DGEIS [Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement] and the Fjord Trail. A walking and biking trail connecting Cold Spring and Beacon will be a great asset, but it has to work for the people who live here.

What makes sense is a compromise: Let's move forward with the first 7 miles of trail from Beacon to Little Stony Point, or 93 percent of what New York state parks is proposing. Then we pause before building the Dockside Connector to see how it's affecting traffic, safety and our local way of life.

Most importantly, Philipstown needs to have a real voice and agency in these decisions. We deserve a seat at the table to ensure this project balances the benefits and burdens to our community.

**MAASIK:** We live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth and people want to visit, and I'm a believer in the benefits of outdoor recreation. The Fjord Trail is moving forward; the question is how we shape its impact. We need to balance its potential with the safety, charm and char-

acter of our small town.

The DGEIS process provided us all with an opportunity to share our ideas and concerns, and we need to stay constructively engaged. That means having a seat at the table and advocating for Cold Spring and Philipstown's needs. We must protect public safety, support our first responders and insist on meaningful traffic control. Whether or not the Fjord Trail exists, Cold Spring is already overburdened by visitors. Let's work together with New York State to make sure our community receives the resources it needs while evaluating all options.

My work in both volunteer leadership and the private sector has prepared me to build coalitions and help guide this process in a way that reflects our community's values.

**PRENTICE:** An interview with Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley, published recently in the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, provides a full discussion of the comments submitted in March by our local municipalities to the state parks department concerning the impact of the Fjord Trail project. When an issue becomes as deeply divisive as the trail has in Philipstown, good government seeks to strike a compromise between opposing interests. Our town and villages have suggested a compromise whereby the project is "paused" at Little Stony Point for long enough to determine if the proposed mitigation measures are sufficient to avoid the problems Kathleen mentions in her interview.

After reading through the DGEIS, I submitted a comment to the parks department in March, in which I supported the pause idea submitted by our local governments. As a volunteer in the Visitor Information Booth, I see the crowds that come to Cold Spring, and I too am worried about many of the factors cited by Kathleen. And I am not convinced that building anything in the Hudson River is a good idea.

**RAUCH:** I support the decision to halt construction of the trail at Little Stony Point and assess its impact before building a connection to Dockside Park. It's a fair compromise and it eases some of the "all or nothing/love it or hate it" tension that has made this such a divisive issue. In the meantime, let's extend sidewalks north from the village on Fair Street and Route 9D. Regarding the potential connection to Dockside, that piece worries me, in part because I fear it will bring serious congestion to the heart of Cold Spring.

#### Should Philipstown regulate short-term rentals?

**CHEAH:** I generally support short-term rentals, but they have raised valid concerns about safety, noise and the character of our neighborhoods. So, how do we regulate them effectively, given we have a small building department and no town police force? The good news is that a working group is

(Continued on Page 24)



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## Tony Speziale (1957-2025)

Anthony William "Tony" Speziale, born April 6, 1957, in Cleveland, Ohio, passed into his after-life on June 1, 2025, at the Pines of Poughkeepsie Nursing Home, after a long illness.



Tony graduated from Brecksville (Ohio) High School, where he was a member of the school band and developed exceptional skill at playing the trombone. Tony received both his Bachelor of Music degree in trombone performance and his Master of Music Education from Manhattan School of Music (MSM) in New York City.

Known as "Tony Trombone" in his Latin band, La Inspiración, Tony played professionally in numerous New York City clubs, including Roseland and Palladium, and opened for Tito Puente and his Latin Jazz Orchestra.

Tony began his teaching career in New York State public schools as a math teacher at M.S.142 in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn. A few years later, Tony accepted a position as band director for Midwood High School in Brooklyn, and had a teaching career highlight when the school band he had created, developed and directed was invited to participate in the 2000 Mets-Yankees Subway Series ticker-tape parade in New York City. From there, Tony accepted a position as band director at Dobbs Ferry High School, which was closer to his home in Cold Spring, New York. He retired from teaching in 2015 due to health issues.

Tony is survived by his loving family: wife Linda Milne Speziale, son William Speziale, sister Victoria Speziale (Phil Muttillio), niece Jennifer Grosh Dyczikowski (Tim), nephew Brian Grosh (Marie), grandnephews Dylan Grosh and Bobby Grosh, and grandniece Anna Grosh. Tony was predeceased by his parents, Eugene Speziale and Dorothy Speziale (nee Danko).

Tony is also survived by many wonderful friends, including his dear friends of 45 years, Joe Bunich and Susan Hugelmeyer, whom he met while they were students together at MSM, and friends of 35 years, Eric Kollin, John Morris and Bill Thomas, whom he met while they were teaching at M.S. 142.

Tony was interested in many styles of music, poetry, theater, and fine art. He was an avid reader of fiction, biographies, and history. He enjoyed fishing and camping and appreciated being surrounded by beauty. He cherished each of his many pets over his lifetime. He loved his son beyond measure.

Tony often joked that he'd like to set up a Trombonist's Benevolence Fund through which he could receive donations for himself. In fulfillment of that dream, donations made directly to the family in support of Linda and William would be gratefully accepted. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date, still to be determined. To send a personal condolence, please visit [riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://riverviewbyhalvey.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

PAID NOTICE

## Philipstown Dems (from Page 23)

already tackling this. I believe we should consider licensing, inspections and a public registry to keep track of STRs. That would help us manage safety and preserve what makes our neighborhoods special, while being realistic about what we can enforce.

**MAASIK:** Yes. Residents should have the right to rent their homes, but we also have a responsibility to protect the character of our neighborhoods and ensure that there are enough affordable, long-term rentals for families who live here year-round. Thoughtful regulations will maintain our quality of life and support our local schools.

**PRENTICE:** Yes, with care and fairness. Short-term rentals do bring benefits: These visitors spend money in Cold Spring and sometimes move here permanently. However, Philipstown has a serious shortage of homes that young families can afford, and this hurts the future of our town. When too many houses are taken off the market to provide only short-term stays, the result is negative for the town's overall well-being.

**RAUCH:** The town formed a committee earlier in the spring to look at this issue, which was a smart move. Yes, we need to regulate the short-term rental market. Visitors deserve to know the homes and rooms they book are safe, equipped with smoke detectors and in generally good order. Resi-

dents deserve the same assurances and to know what to do should problems arise with a rental on a neighboring property.

### What is the most significant issue facing the town, and how should the board resolve it?

**CHEAH:** The Fjord Trail is going to have a huge impact on Philipstown — there's no question about that. The most urgent issues will be managing the increased number of visitors and protecting our services and quality of life. I'm especially focused on public safety — making sure we have the right support for our first responders, improving road safety and ensuring we have basic services like clean restrooms, drinking water and sanitation in place. All of this could affect our town budget. I'll bring my financial and operational experience to the board to help manage these costs responsibly, so we protect both our community and our taxpayers.

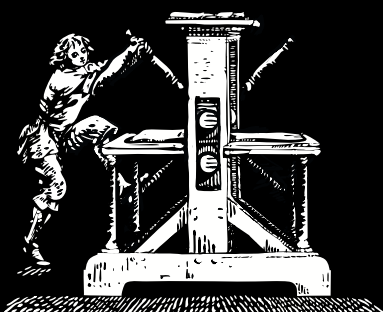
**MAASIK:** We need a proactive, comprehensive approach to infrastructure. Responses to the Garrison Landing water supply, Route 9 and Route 9D traffic safety and ongoing development have at times been reactive. We must be prudent with public funds and accountable to taxpayers. Coordinated infrastructure planning and careful budgeting should be a priority of the Town Board to protect, preserve and prepare Philipstown for the future.

**PRENTICE:** The most significant issue facing the town is well-stated in our comprehensive plan: finding and maintaining the best balance between the need to preserve Philipstown's unique resources of natural beauty and the need for economic sustainability and appropriate growth. This critical balance is not something that the Town Board can accomplish in one or two actions; rather, there is a constant need to adjust, consider, be vigilant, plan ahead for different scenarios and challenges, listen to all citizens and make the best decisions possible.

**RAUCH:** The Fjord Trail has climbed to the top of a heap of priorities. It's the biggest project to find its way here in decades and will continue to require mountains of thought and input from residents and elected officials — as well as further collaboration among the town and village boards and Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc., the state and other players. But this community is up to that. The conversations I've had over the last few months indicate people are eager for compromise and weary of division. That implies solutions are within reach.

It's hardly the only significant issue. Philipstown is dreadfully short of affordable housing, making it difficult for young people to move here and seniors to remain here. Route 9, especially where it passes through the north end of town, is under intense development pressure. And ensuring public safety is a perennial challenge and permanent priority.

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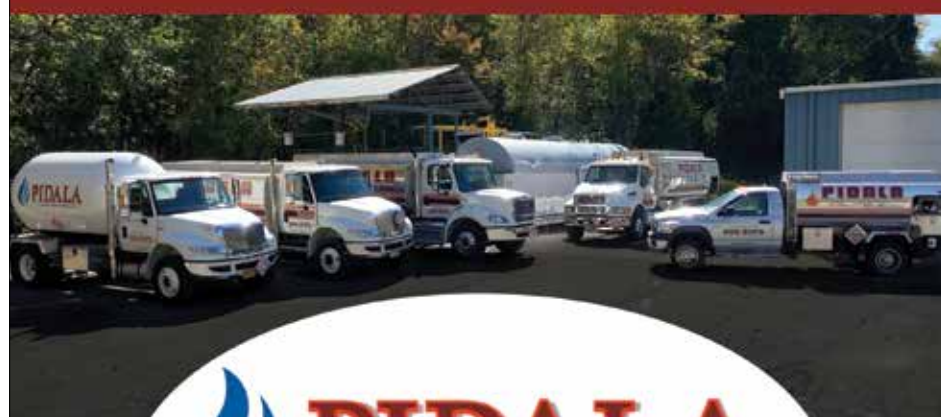
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# Putnam County Joins Roadway Pact

## Municipalities to share resources

By Leonard Sparks

The Putnam Legislature on Tuesday (June 3) approved the county’s participation in a blanket agreement calling for its six towns and three villages to share road equipment and personnel.

The agreement covers road maintenance, repair and construction, and weather emergencies such as snowstorms and flooding. Participants agree to share vehicles and other equipment and allow access to their highway facilities. According to a draft of the proposal, the goals are efficiency and cost savings.

Thomas Feighery, the county public works commissioner, told the Legislature’s Physical Services Committee last month that the pact is the first intermunicipal agreement of its kind in the state. “We’re pretty excited about it,” he said.

Richard Othmer Jr., the highway superintendent for Kent, pitched the proposal to the Cold Spring Village Board in April. He said it will eliminate the “ridiculous amount of paperwork” needed for separate agreements with each municipality.

“I consider it like NATO,” said Othmer, who cited the cooperation between Kent and East Fishkill during major flooding in July 2023. “Let’s create one document that we all sign, and we’re all for one and one for all.”

Philipstown has yet to sign the agreement. Kathleen Foley, Cold Spring’s mayor, said on Wednesday (June 4) that the village attorney is reviewing the proposed contract but the board supports “signing in principle and, in fact, is happy about this move to share services. It just makes sense.”

While Nelsonville does not have a highway department and contracts for road maintenance and services like snow and ice removal, its board approved the agree-

ment last month. “The spirit is amazing, and the effort put in to do this is great,” said Mayor Chris Winward.

### Secret purchase

Legislators on Tuesday approved a request from the Sheriff’s Office to use \$531,563 in seized assets to fund an unspecified equipment purchase for its emergency response team. When the Protective Services Committee took up the request last month, Sheriff Kevin McConville asked its members to discuss the purchase in a closed-door session “due to the sensitive nature of the procurement.”

Before calling for the executive session, committee Chair Paul Jonke said he had an “offline conversation” with McConville and decided that “discussion of the nature of this procurement would imperil the safety of our officers.” On Tuesday, Jonke said the equipment “would make our law enforcement personnel safer when they come upon a scene where there’s a crisis” but did not offer specifics.

Under state Open Meetings Law, legisla-

tors can hold closed sessions for matters they determine “will imperil the public safety if disclosed.”

### Election security

Legislators approved \$56,000 to replace a chain-link gate at the entrance to the Board of Elections’ property in Carmel with one that opens and closes automatically.

A security assessment of the property, which also hosts a Sheriff’s Office facility, flagged the gate as a risk. In addition to being in disrepair, it must be left open during snowstorms for plowing, according to the county.

The Board of Elections building was renovated last year with a new roof, landscaping, siding, drainage and Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility and signs.

### D.A. bonuses

A portion of a \$266,192 grant from the state Department of Criminal Justice Services awarded in 2024 to implement reforms to evidence sharing with defense attorneys will fund bonuses at the district attorney’s office because the D.A. says the reforms increased workloads by nearly 30 percent. The Legislature approved \$60,000

in bonuses, with each prosecutor receiving \$4,000 to \$10,000 and the chief of staff getting \$5,000.

District Attorney Robert Tendy wrote in his 2024 annual report, released in February, that grant money is also used for personnel retention, on-call stipends, equipment, training and travel expenses. About a third of the DCJS grant was shared with local law enforcement, he wrote.



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June 13 - BLF event at the Center - WOMEN IN NOIR  
June 20 - KEY OF Q  
June 21 - HAPPENSTANCE THEATRE - Free Performance  
June 22 - SAINT RITA  
June 25 - STANZA CAMPERS - Free Monthly Series!  
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June 28 - RHYTHM RISING QUARTET  
July 18 - NERD NIGHT Hudson Valley  
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Sanctuary (from Page 1)

In Dutchess, County Executive Sue Serino said on May 30 that the county has contacted its federal representatives — Sens. Kirsten Gillebrand and Chuck Schumer and U.S. Rep. Pat Ryan — “for further clarity” and help getting the county removed from the list.

“It is unclear how this list was developed, as DHS has not contacted us with any concerns, and the Dutchess County Legislature has never adopted any resolution relating to sanctuary jurisdiction,” said Serino.

On Monday (June 2), Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou read a statement at the City Council meeting: “It is absolutely not the case that the city is deliberately obstructing the enforcement of federal immigration laws. While the city has yet to receive any formal communication from the federal government, we remain confident the city is abiding by all applicable state and federal laws and judicial orders. Our city and our Police Department remain committed to protecting public safety, and any statements to the contrary are misleading and inaccurate.”

Several communities said they have been outspoken supporters of the president and his stringent immigration policies and do not understand why they were included. Among them: Shawano County, Wisconsin; Alexandria, Virginia; and Huntington Beach, California.

Jim Davel, administrator for Shawano County, thinks the administration may have confused the county’s vote in 2021 to become

DHS ‘Sanctuary Jurisdictions’

Counties

- Albany
- Dutchess
- Monroe
- Orange
- Putnam
- Rockland
- Saratoga
- Suffolk
- Sullivan
- Tompkins
- Ulster
- Warren
- Wayne
- Westchester
- Yates

Cities

- Albany
- Beacon
- East Hampton
- Hudson
- Ithaca
- Kingston
- New Paltz
- New York City
- Newburgh
- Poughkeepsie
- Rochester
- Syracuse

Source: DHS

a “Second Amendment Sanctuary County” that prohibits gun control measures with it being a safe haven for immigrants. He said the county has approved no immigration sanctuary policies.

Jessica Vaughan is director of policy studies at the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors anti-sanctuary policies, and started publishing a list of sanctuary jurisdictions 10 years ago. The CIS list is different from the government’s but includes Dutchess and Putnam counties.

The center says its list, most recently

updated on May 30, includes cities, counties and states that have “laws, ordinances, regulations, resolutions, policies or other practices that obstruct immigration enforcement and shield criminals from ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] — either by refusing to or prohibiting agencies from complying with ICE detainers, imposing unreasonable conditions on detainee acceptance, denying ICE access to interview incarcerated aliens, or otherwise impeding communication or information exchanges between their personnel and federal immigration officers.”

“That’s one thing that I feel is missing from the [government’s] list is some documentation as to why they’re appearing on the list,” Vaughan said.

Neither Dutchess or Putnam has approved policies limiting cooperation with federal immigration authorities, and Dutchess sued New York City in 2023 when it began contracting with hotels in the Hudson Valley to house immigrants.

That same year, Byrne and the Putnam Legislature adopted a resolution declaring the county a “rule of law” jurisdiction and pledging cooperation with federal immigration officers to identify “arrested felons and gang-associated” individuals suspected of being in the country illegally.

Beacon restricted its role in immigration enforcement during the first Trump administration, when the City Council in April 2017 unanimously passed a resolution declaring the city to be “welcoming, safe and inclusive.”

Its resolution deliberately avoided the word *sanctuary* (Trump had threatened to withhold funding from “sanctuary cities”) but said that city employees and officials will not “stop, question, interrogate, investigate or arrest an individual based solely on actual or suspected immigration or citizenship status” or “inquire about the immigration status of an individual, including a crime victim, a witness, or a person who calls or approaches the police seeking assistance, unless necessary to investigate criminal activity by that individual.”

In Newburgh, where 51 percent of residents are Latino, a 2017 resolution largely precludes police and city employees from cooperating with ICE.

One city not on the list is Peekskill, where Mayor Vivian McKenzie said earlier this year that the police department “is not going to be working with ICE unless it is a criminal and there is a court warrant,” according to the *Peekskill Herald*. Nearly half of the city’s population is Latino.

There are no towns on the list, but Philipstown in 2017, by a 3-2 vote, forbade its employees from assisting ICE “unless such investigation or inquiry is required by state or federal law or by court order.” (Like Beacon, Philipstown avoided the word *sanctuary*.)

One way that the Trump administration seeks to enlist support is through 287(g) agreements with local law enforcement agencies. Those agreements allow agencies to assume some enforcement duties and greatly expand the capabilities of ICE.

The number of those agreements has skyrocketed in a matter of months.

Hundreds of agencies in 40 states have signed them but only four are in New York state: the sheriff’s offices in Broome, Nassau, Niagara and Rensselaer counties, and the Nassau County Police Department.

In Dutchess, Capt. John Watterson, a representative for the Sheriff’s Office, said in January that “immigration laws fall under the jurisdiction of federal authorities, and at this time we are not aware of any plans to have the Sheriff’s Office become involved in their enforcement.”

Putnam Sheriff Kevin McConville said that month that he had not been contacted by federal authorities “regarding the matter of illegally entered migrants,” although the department “has discussed the matter internally.” The sheriff said he had no further comment “until such time as we are officially contacted by a federal agency and have the opportunity to thoroughly review any such proposal.”

The Trump administration has repeatedly targeted communities, states and jurisdictions that it says aren’t doing enough to help ICE as the agency seeks to make good on the president’s campaign promise to remove millions of people from the country.

According to Homeland Security, the May 29 list was compiled using a number of factors, including whether the cities or localities identified themselves as sanctuary jurisdictions, how much they complied already with federal officials enforcing immigration laws, if they had restrictions on sharing information with immigration enforcement or had any legal protections for people in the country illegally.

Trump signed an executive order on April 28 requiring the secretary of Homeland Security and the attorney general to publish a list of states and local jurisdictions that they considered to be obstructing federal immigration laws. The list is to be regularly updated.

According to the executive order, federal departments and agencies, working with the Office of Management and Budget, would be tasked with suspending or terminating any federal grants or contracts with those states or local jurisdictions that the government identifies as “sanctuary jurisdictions.”

If jurisdictions are warned but “remain in defiance,” the attorney general and the secretary of Homeland Security are empowered to pursue whatever “legal remedies and enforcement measures” they consider necessary.

ICE has about 6,000 law enforcement officers — a number that has remained largely static for years — who are able to find, arrest and remove immigrants it is targeting. By relying on local law enforcement, it can quickly scale up the number of staff available to help carry out Trump’s mass deportations agenda.

Communities that don’t cooperate with ICE often say they do so because immigrants then feel safer coming forward if they’re a witness to or victim of a crime. And they argue that immigration enforcement is a federal task, and they need to focus their limited dollars on fighting crime.

The Associated Press contributed reporting.

NOTICE

Beacon City School District Bond Resolution

The bond resolution, summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on May 6, 2025, 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. The purpose authorized by such bond resolution was approved by the voters of the School District 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: Beacon, New York, June 2, 2025. Vickie Jackson, School District Clerk

SUPERSEDING BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 2, 2025.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES IN AND FOR THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BEACON, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$485,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$485,000 BONDS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

Objects or purposes:

Purchase of school buses

Maximum estimated cost:

\$485,000

Period of probable usefulness:

Five years

Amount of obligations to be issued:

\$485,000 bonds



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		
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34				35				36				
37			38				39					
			40				41			42	43	44
45	46	47				48	49					
50					51					52		
53					54					55		

- ACROSS
- 1. Science room
  - 4. Novelist Waugh
  - 8. Baby carriage
  - 12. Mode lead-in
  - 13. "Break My Heart" singer Dua
  - 14. Deserve
  - 15. Most spiteful
  - 17. Erte's style
  - 18. Naval rank
  - 19. Director DuVernay
  - 21. Hosp. workers
  - 22. Frasier's ex-wife
  - 26. Hay bundles
  - 29. Transcript no.
  - 30. Dr. of hip-hop
  - 31. Spanish cheers
  - 32. Espionage org.
  - 33. Close
  - 34. "Diamonds" singer
  - 35. Kilmer of *Top Gun*
  - 36. Paper packs
  - 37. Severe

- 39. *Great Expectations* lad
  - 40. Hosp. areas
  - 41. Dodges
  - 45. Fresh
  - 48. California island
  - 50. March Madness gp.
  - 51. Skater's leap
  - 52. Dijon denial
  - 53. Undecided
  - 54. Legendary loch
  - 55. Donkey
- DOWN
- 1. Lingerie trim
  - 2. Cumming or Bates
  - 3. Cave creatures
  - 4. Sets straight
  - 5. Property claims
  - 6. Mini-albums, for short
  - 7. Tree with pods
  - 8. Bicycle part
  - 9. "Norma —"
  - 10. Lob's path
  - 11. L-P link
  - 16. Corvette quartet
  - 20. By means of
  - 23. Notion
  - 24. Streetcar
  - 25. Towel word
  - 26. Employer
  - 27. Landed
  - 28. Jet type
  - 29. Baseball's Hodges
  - 32. MRI's kin
  - 33. Neighbor of Tibet
  - 35. TiVo precursor
  - 36. Foes
  - 38. Hawkeye
  - 39. "For — sake!"
  - 42. Actress Merrill
  - 43. Eve's grandson
  - 44. Without
  - 45. Busy insect
  - 46. Sgt., for one
  - 47. Corn spike
  - 49. Chopper

SUDOCURRENT

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

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WORDSEARCH

THEME: Ancient Rome

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

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.

S	H	O	R	T	Low on funds
					Put away
					Rips
					Not now
					Restaurant request
					Single stalk of grass

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

Answers for May 30

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

OTHER, EARTH, TAPER, SPARE, SNAPE, PLANS

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

# VARSITY ROUNDUP

### HALDANE

By Jacob Aframian

**BASEBALL** — The Blue Devils' season ended on May 29 with a 7-2 loss to Tuckahoe at Purchase College in the best-of-three Section I, Class C final. The Blue Devils lost the first game, 7-1, two days earlier.

Tuckahoe led, 3-0, in the third inning when Milo Pearsall of Haldane responded with an RBI double, stole third and scored on a bad throw.

After Tuckahoe made it 4-2 with a sacrifice fly, Haldane had a chance to come back in the fifth with runners at second and third and two outs. But Tuckahoe pitcher Jack Rideout ended the inning with the 12th of his 13 strikeouts.

It was the third straight title for Tuckahoe; Haldane finished 4-14. The team will lose three key players to graduation: Pearsall, Hunter Erickson and Jake Hotaling.

**TRACK AND FIELD** — At the 20-team Section I, Class C championships on May 30 at Pawling, Shayla Ochoa placed fourth in the 100-meter hurdles (18.63) and fifth in the long jump (14-10.75); Clara Schmidt was fourth in the 400-meter hurdles (1:13.39); Hazel Berkley finished sixth in the 2,000-meter steeplechase (9:35.19); and the 4x100 relay team claimed third place (54.81).

For the boys, Owen Powers won the 1,600 meters (4:31.10); Rhys Williams placed fourth in the 100 meters (11.17), Jack Illian was eighth in the 3,200 meters (10:33.84);

Merrick Williams came in fifth in the 110-meter hurdles (16.73); Silas Emig was fifth in the high jump (5-3) and fifth in the long jump (18-10.25); and the 4x400 relay team finished second (3:43.24).

On Tuesday (June 3), the Blue Devils traveled to Hendrick Hudson High School for the Section I javelin competition, where Plum Severs finished second for the girls (61-9) and Silas Emig was second for the boys (123-9). On Wednesday, during the first day of the Section I state qualifiers at Lagrangeville, Shayla Ochoa won the girls' pentathlon with 2,174 points to advance.

**LACROSSE** — The Empire 8 on May 5 announced its Men's Lacrosse All-Conference honors, and junior Colin August of Hartwick College in Oneonta was named to the second team. The Philipstown resident led the Hawks this season with 41 goals and 45 points.

### BEACON

By Nick Robbins

**BASEBALL** — For the second year in a row, the Beacon High School baseball team fell a run shy of the Section IX, Class A title.

Seeded No. 1 in the tournament, the Bulldogs (16-4) faced No. 2 Marlboro (12-6) in the title game on Sunday (June 1) after rain delayed a Saturday start. The game was a rematch of last year's title game, which Marlboro won, 7-6. It was heartbreak once more for the Bulldogs, who lost, 3-2, in



Haldane's Hunter Erickson safely stole second base against Tuckahoe on May 29 when the ball got by shortstop Connor Brice.

extra innings.

Both teams got quality starts from their pitchers: Beacon's Ryan Landisi threw 96 pitches over seven innings, striking out seven and giving up three hits and two earned runs. Coming out of the bullpen, Zach Schetter notched two strikeouts, but gave up two hits and a run, earning him the loss.

For Marlboro, Liam Correa went the distance, throwing 100 pitches and striking out 10 over eight innings. Correa gave up three hits early but was flawless the rest of the afternoon.

The Bulldogs jumped to an early lead when Schetter crushed a triple in the first inning and Ryan Smith hit a sacrifice fly. In

the third, Schetter laced a double between shortstop and third, scoring Naim Dika.

The 2-0 advantage didn't last long. The Dukes loaded the bases in the fourth and scored on a fielder's choice and sacrifice fly. Marlboro had runners on in the seventh, but a key strikeout by Schetter and a groundout kept the game tied.

Beacon's batters struck out three times in the bottom of the seventh, forcing extra innings. In the top of the eighth, Tommy Benfer of Marlboro connected for a single that brought in what would be the winning run.

In the bottom of the eighth, Tye Elias walked and stole second before being thrown out trying to steal third. Two groundouts ended the game.

**TRACK AND FIELD** — Beacon competed at the 13-team Section IX, Class B championships on May 29 in Accord. For the boys, Brevin Timm was second in the pentathlon with 2,722 points; Jayden Mihalchik was second in the shot put (43-0.5) and won the discus (134-9); Jahcier Ballard finished second in the high jump (6-2); Noah Spiak was third in the 400-meter hurdles (56.61); and Caellum Tripaldi was third in the 800 meters (1:59.61). The 4x800 relay team also finished third (8:37.8).

For the girls, Mikaela Sanchez was fifth in the 800 meters (2:28.26); Khloe Franklin placed second in the pentathlon with 2,288 points; the 4x800-meter relay team finished fourth (11:03.46); and Bethany Rudolph was sixth in the discus (82-5) and shot put (27-6.5). Next up for the Bulldogs are the state qualifiers.

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Jake Hotaling takes a cut during Haldane's 7-2 loss to Tuckahoe on May 29.

Photos by Frank Becerra Jr./Journal News



Haldane catcher Hunter Erickson follows a pop-up into his glove during a Section I, Class C title game on May 29.