

The HIGHLANDS Current



Tiny Food Pantry
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DECEMBER 23, 2022

NYPA Newspaper of the Year

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HAVING THEIR SAY — After receiving four “participatory budgeting” proposals from Beacon High School students, the Beacon City Council agreed on Monday (Dec. 19) to spend \$10,000 on a replacement basketball rim and backboard at Memorial Park and to install a water bottle filling station, likely at either Memorial Park or Green Street Park. The students, who spoke to the council on Dec. 12, were from Erin Haddeland’s Participation in Government class. Here, senior Jaeden Drysdale and junior Karimah Muhammad present a proposal for beautification of the historic Union Burial Ground, a cemetery that sits between North Walnut and North Brett streets. The other students who presented were Dylan Howard, Journey Fleming and Senan Scott-Hamblen, all seniors. While the council chose to fund two of the four proposals, the city will address the other two, as well. A proposal for repairs at the municipal swimming pool will be covered through the Recreation Department’s 2023 operating budget, and the Highway Department will help a group of volunteers clean up the Union Burial Ground in the spring. The council also included \$10,000 for a second round of participatory budgeting, which Haddeland called “an amazing way for students to see firsthand how they can impact their community,” in the city’s 2023 budget.

Photo by Valerie Shively

Special Report

Getting Climate Smarter

New York State wants to give millions of dollars in grants to municipalities that show they are taking steps to address climate change. How are we doing?

By Brian PJ Cronin

The meeting on a Tuesday night at Beacon City Hall had been going on for hours.

The committee members around the table, mostly volunteers, discussed how to increase participation in a composting pilot program that the city has just extended. They talked about rebates and incentives that will soon be available for heat pumps and electric vehicles. Was it

too early for publicity?

The group around the table goes by two names. Most Beacon residents know it as the Conservation Advisory Committee, which meets once a month and is tasked with advising the City Council on conservation, preservation and the environment.

But the committee is also the city’s Climate Smart Task Force, part of a state-wide initiative started in 2009 to help local governments take action against the



effects of global warming. More than 350 communities in New York have taken the pledge to become “climate smart,” and 91 have advanced far enough through a list of achievements to be certified with “bronze” status. Only nine have completed the more rigorous goals for silver, including Beacon.

Besides a plaque and community pride, certified Climate Smart communities are first in line for state grants for electric-vehicle chargers, streetscape improvements, wastewater upgrades, new firehouses and food waste collection programs. And the pot is about to get bigger: At least \$100 million from the \$4.2 billion environmental bond act approved by voters in November will be distributed through the Climate Smart program.

This year may be remembered as a turn-
(Continued on Page 18)

Therapy Prescribed for Mental Health System

New programs aim to reverse worker shortage

By Leonard Sparks

Curious about people and desiring to help them eliminate barriers to living successfully, Susan Berck left a corporate career in 2001 and enrolled in a five-year program to become a psychologist.

Two decades later, she believes her profession is in need of therapy. Berck, who is based in Newburgh and has many patients from Beacon, is among the Highlands therapists who have waiting lists or are not accepting new clients.

“I get probably 10 calls a day from people who want to come in and work with me,” she said.

This year marks the third in a row that licensed therapists report heightened demand from people experiencing anxiety, depression, substance abuse and other

(Continued on Page 7)

Beacon Schools Unsure About Craig House Tax Break

Agreement would take property off rolls for 15 years

By Jeff Simms

Mirbeau Inn & Spa Beacon will have to wait until at least next month to learn whether the Beacon

school district will support its request for a 15-year property tax abatement.

The company, which purchased the historic Tioronda Estate on Route 9D in February for \$10 million, has asked the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to approve a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILOT, agreement that would guarantee a tax break

for the duration of the deal.

The IDA has asked the City of Beacon and the city’s school district to endorse the request because it is longer than the 10-year agreements typically granted by the agency — although neither is required for approval. Beacon officials wrote a letter

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: THOM JOYCE

By Marc Ferris

After 25 years, Thom Joyce will host his final open mic at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 8 p.m. on Friday (Dec. 30).

How did this get started?

A friend, Chris Ruhe, hosted a blues jam at the Howland and asked me to help out. When I first played acoustic guitar in that room, I said to myself, “This is something special.” I joined the board to host the open mic and got involved with fundraisers like putting on a new slate roof.

What’s the key to your longevity?

At first I did it so I had a place to perform and to share. Beacon’s a great music town, but when we started, it was like crack alley and all the stores were boarded up. It was not a happy place, but the Howland Center always had this gleam of hope inside. I loved doing it and if you love doing something, it’s not work. It has been so rewarding — the collaborations, the friends I’ve made, the music we created.

Why leave now?

Well, 25 years is a long time. I’m going to be 69 soon, so it’s getting more difficult. I bring in a lot of stuff. The Howland has



Photo by Brett Valentine



equipment, but I lug my own mics, amps and cables because sound quality is important.

What makes for a good open-mic host?

You have to know how to look at the [sign-up] list, see who’s on it and figure if people are going to get two, three or four songs that night. I dislike offering just two songs for performers. I played a lot of open mics before hosting them and most people are nervous as hell for their first song. On the second song, they’re still breaking through those nerves and by the third tune, they can connect with the audience and get more relaxed. One neat thing about the Howland is that even if we have six people on the list, we can be there until 4 a.m., so we could

do four songs for every performer — which is a special thing — then have a lightning round where everyone gets to play a song in a round robin until we call it a night.

Why are open mics important?

All up-and-coming musicians need a place to figure out how to hone their act. Open mics provide a way to test the waters. You don’t have to be polished to perform; people will support you. It’s also a space to see if you have the chops. More-established musicians try out new material or formats so they don’t have to do it under pressure, like at a paid gig. They’re more relaxed and the format allows for experimentation. And it helps musicians get together: The Howland gathering begat a lot of bands and scenes that just kind of grew.

I’ve seen young kids come by, turn into adults and become recording artists. Over the years, a lot of people have improved. At first, one guy took a long time to make his chord changes on guitar, even talking to his hand as he slowly moved his fingers. Now, he’s so much better and he’s enjoying himself and he’s creative. It’s great to see where he is five years on; it’s night and day. This is in my blood so I’ll still keep stopping by and now I’ll have to put my name on the list.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What’s your favorite music for this time of year?

“ I’m a musician, so listening is too much like work. But I like classical, baroque. ”



Timothy Brown, Beacon

“ I like cool jazz and love “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer.” ”



Janeen Foy, Beacon

“ I like to walk the village late at night, listening to New Age. ”



Tom O’Connor, Cold Spring



Advent at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
The Church of the Open Door

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve - 7 p.m.
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Feds search for home for Indian Point fuel

By Brian PJ Cronin

By 2024, a Florida company is scheduled to have finished moving radioactive fuel rods from the shuttered Indian Point nuclear plant south of the Highlands to 125 concrete-and-steel casks stored outside.

The long-term plan is to move the casks to a permanent storage facility somewhere other than the Hudson Valley. But a representative of the U.S. Department of Energy said at a Dec. 7 meeting of the Indian Point Decommissioning Task Force that the agency expects the casks to remain where they are into the 2030s.

Indian Point is not unique in this. More than 70 nuclear plants across the country store their spent fuel on-site because the U.S. government has not made good on a 1998 promise to build a storage facility. Its first attempt, at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, ran into legal, operational and cultural challenges, at the cost of \$9 billion in settlements to the owners of nuclear plants with stranded fuel.

To avoid further judgments, the government is searching for communities willing to take the fuel temporarily, meaning the sites would not have to be as robust as permanent ones that need to keep the fuel

rods isolated for at least 300,000 years. Erica Bickford, the Energy Department representative, referred to the process as “consent-based siting.”

Even if interim sites are identified, the operation to move the waste from dozens of nuclear plants would be unprecedented. It’s expected they would be modeled after U.S. Navy procedures to transport spent fuel from nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers.

The Florida firm, Holtec International, is awaiting approval to build its own interim storage site in New Mexico, although Bickford said that a privately owned facility would be “a highly unusual circumstance.”

Sandy Galef, a member of the state Assembly who sits on the decommissioning task force, and whose district includes Philipstown, said at the Dec. 7 meeting that she had an idea why Holtec wants to take on the burden of storage.

“Do you have a financial interest in that place?” she asked Rich Burrioni, a Holtec representative, referring to the proposed facility in New Mexico.

“Absolutely,” said Burrioni.

“So you would prefer to have it go there, instead of a Department of Energy-type place that would be a public place,” she said. “You’d lose money on that deal.”

“Absolutely,” said Burrioni.

“So we have to watch you, I guess, for 10



These casks are used to store spent fuel rods at Indian Point. Photo by John Meore/The Journal News

years,” said Galef.

This past summer, state and federal officials visited Indian Point to explore routes that the casks might take out of the Hudson Valley. The transport would be done by railcar, but the fuel still would need to get from the plant to the tracks.

One possible route would move the casks by truck to Newtown, Connecticut, where they would be loaded on cars on the Housatonic Railroad, which is being used to ship low-level radioactive waste to Texas.

However, that route would be the longest, at 57 miles. Shorter routes present their own challenges. Three options (Hopewell Junc-

tion, Peekskill and Croton) would require transporting the fuel along Metro-North lines. Another option would be to move the fuel through Beacon and over the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge to reach the CSX Railroad on the Newburgh waterfront. Alternatively, the waste also could be transported on the Hudson River by barge to waiting railcars.

The next meeting of the Indian Point Task Force is scheduled for Feb. 2 and will focus on the options for the disposal of the radioactive wastewater in the spent fuel pools. Galef will no longer be on the committee; she will retire next week after 30 years in the Legislature.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Central Hudson

In a letter in the Dec. 2 issue, Anthony Campagiorni, a senior vice president at Central Hudson Gas & Electric, wrote that "all of Central Hudson's customers, including solar developers and CCA [Community Choice Aggregation] customers, are being currently and accurately billed."

Since I am a community-solar customer and I am not being correctly billed, that statement is incorrect. I tried to contact Central Hudson at the phone number included in the letter and gave up after an hour on hold. I also tried the website's chat feature, but that is clearly driven by an ineffectual artificial intelligence with inadequate human intervention. I sent an email (the website interface does not allow you to attach documents) and received a cut-and-paste response that did not address what I wrote, instead describing what delivery costs are and how they vary.

In my case, I have not paid Central Hudson anything for nine months for delivery and would like to pay them for that service. My community-solar provider, Nexamp, is being provided incorrect information by Central Hudson, which is telling Nexamp that the entire bill is the supply cost that Nexamp should bill me for. I am credited that amount with Central Hudson, so Central Hudson never gets paid for

its delivery costs and my invoices are zero.

In my experience, Central Hudson customer service for billing is abjectly bad. I hope that Mr. Campagiorni sees this and addresses the deficiencies of the chat and email interfaces because the phone number provided was a waste of time.

Brian Cairns, *Nelsonville*

I hope that if the Public Service Commission does issue a fine ("State Considers Fine for Central Hudson," Dec. 16), it will be shared with customers and not dumped into New York State coffers for politicians to waste on yet another noble cause of their choosing.

Charlie Symon, *Beacon*

Thank you for this reporting. I am one of many who filed a complaint with the Public Service Commission. I'm going to start doing my own meter readings and tracking my bills because they are clearly not accurate. I wonder if *The Current* would consider doing a brief how-to. I'm sure it would benefit many readers to know the ins and outs of how and when to read their meters and how to submit readings to Central Hudson.

Tracy Bunye, *via Instagram*

The editor responds: It's not difficult but you can only submit within two days before Central Hudson's scheduled reading

(to find that date, check your statement or, after logging in to cenhud.com, see Account Details > Meter Information). If you have dial displays, read from left to right. If the hand falls between two numbers, use the lower number. Note that Central Hudson says it is not obligated to use any submitted reading to generate or re-issue a bill.

What additional evidence do regulators need that Central Hudson is running a huge scam?

Hayley Richardson, *via Instagram*

I've never had a regular bill or reading from Central Hudson since we moved to the area three years ago. Every month is wildly different. The estimate months are always vastly off and Central Hudson refuses to do anything when I ask for it to be balanced. The months of no bills followed by sudden, massive bill have been difficult.

James Petty, *via Instagram*

I've moved away and closed my Central Hudson account but am still getting notices that I owe money.

Jennifer Rosa, *via Instagram*

Galef says thanks

After 30 years as a member of the New York State Assembly, I will be retiring at the end of 2022. I want to say thank you to my constituents and other residents throughout Westchester and Putnam counties for giving me the opportunity to be in elected office and to represent you in Albany. Your support on election days, as well as your constant input on state issues that mattered to you, made a real difference in what I could accomplish on your behalf.

I believe so strongly in our democratic process and the important role of government in our lives. We always need to express our views, even if we differ with others, but in a respectful way.

May the New Year be a good one for our local, state and federal representatives and for each of you.

Sandy Galef, *Albany*

Galef represents District 95, which includes Philipstown.

Beacon PILOT

The editor responded to my letter in the Dec. 16 issue about the future costs of granting a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement to the developers of the Craig House estate by saying the numbers are hard to calculate.

I was responding to another person's question, "How's the math look with and without?" which I have been asking myself. Obviously, the estimates in the PILOT analysis do not

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

represent the total economic reality of the project, but these numbers were generated by the city and did factor into its decision to submit a letter of support to the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency.

The city data conspicuously lacks a total in the "full tax bill" column. Our community would likely benefit from being provided more expressive, visual representations of complex data.

Derek Enos, *Beacon*

Philipstown subdivision

The reason why only one person spoke at the Philipstown Town Board's public hearing on Dec. 1 about rezoning 11 acres at the proposed Hudson Highlands Reserve development is that it was rescheduled from Nov. 3 on short notice and no Zoom participation was offered ("Philipstown Approves Subdivision Rezoning," Dec. 9). A lot of us who planned on going on the original date couldn't make it. I heard about it the day it was taking place.

Bettina Utz, *via Facebook*

Wrongful-death reform

Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery is a champion, as is Gov. Kathy Hochul ("Montgomery Blasts Attack on Wrongful-Death Reform," Dec. 16).

U.S. law already fully privileges business "rights" (thank you, *Citizens United*) above individuals' rights. My neighbors and our legislators should know: It's very difficult for an individual to be granted damages in court versus a corporation of any kind. (I was injured in a malfunctioning Metro-North train incident. The case failed, thanks to lawyer malfeasance.) In fact, we only hear about the successful cases, which are very few and far between.

P.S. The Montgomery family deserves an apology from Legislator Neal Sullivan.

Anita Peltonen, *Cold Spring*

Common sense and decency are in short supply in the Putnam County Legislature. The 1847 state law for wrongful death lawsuits is probably in keeping with the time period where many of the legislators would be better off. Perhaps they would like the sort of medical care that one received in the good old days. They certainly act like a group of flat-earthers.

The level of willful ignorance and laziness demonstrated by Legislator Montgomery's colleagues is emblematic of their overall ideology. It was heartening to see that three members refused to join the misguided effort and showed the decency that any citizen of this county should expect from an elected official.

It is a fine thing that Legislator Neal Sullivan lost his seat. The level of callousness he has displayed throughout his tenure will be hard to match, but I am sure that some of his team members will try their best.

In asking Montgomery to sign a letter that would take away rights from families that have wrongfully lost a loved one on the anniversary of her husband Jimmy's tragic death on a Metro-North train set the bar for an all-time low. The shameless crew

that followed his lead has no place in public office.

For those of you who have never attended a legislative session it would be hard to imagine the juvenile behavior that Legislator Montgomery faces each week. The frustration of trying to explain complex issues to the other members would test the patience of Saint Monica. I am deeply sorry that Nancy had to be subjected to this abhorrent insult.

Richard Shea, *Cold Spring*
Shea is the former Philipstown supervisor.

Fjord parking

At the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail meeting on parking and shuttle buses, it slipped out that their organization will have a full-time staff of 25 employees, plus additional personnel in high season ("Fjord Trail Shares Early Parking Report," Dec. 16). Is it a trail, or a theme park? The project that was intended to "improve safety and reduce congestion" but has been "reimagined" to make it a blockbuster, requiring dozens of new employees. This will be a tri-state draw, changing the Highlands forever. If this is what you want, do nothing and look forward to the bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Rich Franco, *Cold Spring*

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Animal Hospital of Cold Spring will be moving to a new location.

We will close on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH** and plan to reopen beginning of the new year.

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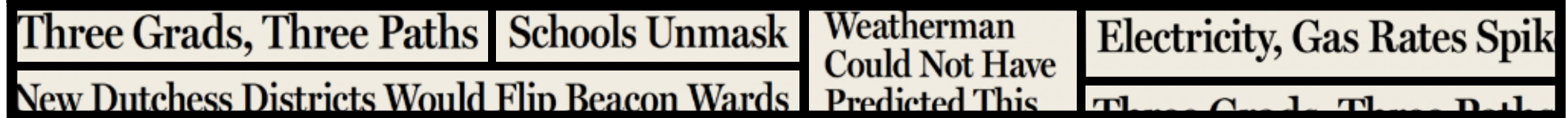
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2022

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

Launched Community Tree Initiative by planting 24 trees along Chestnut Street with the Cold Spring Tree Advisory Board.	
Helped gather local businesses together to launch the pilot program for business decarbonization.	
Installed first municipal EV charging stations in county and a pollinator garden at Town Hall.	
Actively discussing Complete Streets initiatives and prioritizing pedestrian safety.	
Established a large meadow, creating a natural habitat for pollinators and wildlife.	
Launched the Philipstown Climate Fund Award Program to help neighbors take climate action.	
Installed pollinator gardens and began a community book club.	
Improved our recycling, turning materials that would otherwise end up in a landfill into art.	
Installed electric hot water heating system and integrated environmental ed in grades K-8.	
Calculated the carbon footprint of our farm.	
Shifted to an automated thermostat system to save on heating costs and reduce our environmental impact.	
Reduced the use of fossil fuels by promoting remote meetings and increasing work-from-home availability.	
Piloted the transformation of golf fairways into native meadows and hosted a panel on climate action.	
Installed two pollinator gardens and began the Sustainable Library Certification program.	
Coordinated volunteers assisting in trash cleanup, pollinator garden installation and invasive removal.	
Installed heat pumps in Village hall, weatherized the basement and signed the "monarch pledge."	
Installed rooftop solar panels to power the rec center.	
Adopted the NYS Stretch Code to improve building energy efficiency and launched a food scraps recycling program.	
Held workshops to discuss a path connecting Cold Spring to Garrison and important neighborhood amenities in between.	
Designed the Little Stony Point Volunteer Center using passive house principles.	
Replaced all incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs and joined a community solar program.	

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HELP US REACH 1,000 MEMBERS BY THE END OF DECEMBER!

Mental Health *(from Page 1)*

behavioral health problems, according to the American Psychological Association.

Forty percent of psychologists responding to an annual APA survey said they were seeing more patients than before the pandemic and had a waitlist. Sixty percent said they had no openings for new patients. On average, they reported being contacted by nearly 16 people per month looking for treatment.

There was already a shortage of therapists before the pandemic but it became more pronounced because of a wave of people suffering from anxiety and/or depression triggered by COVID-19, isolation and layoffs. Some therapists have staff vacancy rates as high as 40 percent, according to the Mental Health Association in New York State.

What's left is a mental health system that is "bursting at the seams," said Jean-Marie Niebuhr, deputy commissioner for Dutchess County's Department of Behavioral and Community Health. Clinics such as Family Services in Beacon are having to "almost triage" whom they accept, focusing on the highest-risk clients, she said.



Jean-Marie Niebuhr of the Dutchess County's health department *Photo provided*

Family Services, whose therapists and counselors provide individual and group counseling at clinics in Beacon and seven other municipalities in Dutchess and Ulster counties, has openings for 15 licensed therapists and medical personnel, said Leah Feldman, its CEO.

While the wait time between referral and an intake appointment is shrinking, people seeking treatment still have to wait an average of 13 days, said Feldman. The volume of services is less than in 2020, but Feldman partly attributes that to a need for more therapists. "Demand for services, coupled with staffing shortages, has been the greatest challenge," she said.

In response to the shortage, New York State is allocating nearly \$2 billion for bonuses and cost-of-living increases that are partly aimed at retaining mental health workers, whose salaries are depressed by low reimbursement rates from private insurers and Medicaid, the health program for low-income adults.

The state also established a \$9 million loan repayment fund for psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses who commit to working at community clinics.

"You have to bring people into the field who are interested in becoming helpers,

and you have to pay them enough to want to do that work and stay doing that work because it's hard work," said Niebuhr.

Family Services, whose staff also includes psychiatrists and nurses, is one of the community providers where employees have received bonuses of up to \$3,000 though a state-funded initiative created to help retain health care and mental hygiene workers. New York State allocated \$1.2 billion in its 2023 budget for the bonuses, which are available to people earning less than \$125,000 annually.

The budget also includes cost-of-living raises of 5.4 percent for human service workers and the loan repayment program for mental health professionals. Newly hired and existing psychiatrists can qualify for up to \$120,000 in repayments and psychiatric nurse practitioners up to \$30,000 if they remain employed at a community mental health program for three years.

"Giving some level of reimbursement makes a big difference," said Berck. "It gives a leg up to people who need a leg up so they can do the kind of work that they want to do and make a difference in the communities in which they live."

There are also new services in the works. Dutchess is contributing \$3 million to help create the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence in Poughkeepsie at MidHudson Regional Hospital. Part of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network, the hospital houses Dutchess' only inpatient psychiatric program for adults. (Putnam Hospital has the only inpatient psychiatric beds in Putnam County.)

The project at MidHudson Regional will add 20 inpatient beds, for 60 total, and DBCH will hire someone who will be embedded at the center to improve services, said Niebuhr. "If an individual is an inpatient in the unit or is in the emergency room, when they come out our staff will be there to help facilitate a proper discharge and connection to community-based services," she said.

Dutchess County continues to operate its Stabilization Center, a 24-hour facility in Poughkeepsie where people in crisis can get help, and Putnam County is spending \$2.5 million to open a similar facility.

There are some other positives. Five people who were "imminently ready to kill themselves" in November relented after calling Dutchess County's general help line and 988, which is specifically for people considering suicide, according to Niebuhr. One of the calls came from an emergency phone on one of the county's bridges, she said.

In addition, 60 percent of psychologists told the APA that they were using therapy and support from peers to manage burn-out and 63 percent said they were able to balance work and life.

Berck is nearing retirement age, but plans to keep working. "I love what I do," she said. "It's nice to see that the work that you do makes a difference in the world and in people's lives."

If you are suffering mental distress, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day by calling or texting 988.



Commuter Students Cope with SAD

Short winter days dampen mood, energy, focus

By Lily Zuckerman

It is dark when Owen Edelson and Anna Sofia Marrison prepare for their daily commutes from Philipstown to the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, and dark when they return home.

Some days, Edelson feels like he is "pushing through" to get things done this time of year, when the clocks are rolled back an hour because of daylight saving time and outdoor time is limited to walking between warm buildings. Winter brings fun activities like ice-skating, skiing and snowball fights, and tasty treats like hot chocolate. But for others, especially students who spend long days commuting back and forth to schools out of the area, the season is a time to battle depression.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD), also known as "seasonal depression," describes the sadness and malaise an estimated 5 percent of U.S. adults feel as the seasons change and there is less daylight — 9½ hours now compared to about 15 hours in June, when the longest day of the year takes place on June 21, the summer solstice.

Symptoms from SAD "start in the fall and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody," according to the Mayo Clinic. Other symptoms include oversleeping, appetite changes (especially craving carbohydrates) and low energy. It occurs more frequently in younger adults than older adults, and in men more often than women.

During the spring and summer, when it's warm and light, Edelson goes on long walks with his dog or throws a ball around to clear his mind after a long day of school. Unfortunately, this is "unfeasible in the winter," he said. The Cold Spring resident leaves his house to catch the train at 6:15 a.m., when it is still dark. He returns home at 7 p.m., repeating that schedule each weekday.

He said his level of motivation "takes a dip" when winter starts. He struggles to complete his homework in the evening, and not just because he is a 12th-grader

with senioritis. "It's certainly tough, especially coming home when it feels like the day is already over," he said.

Lynne Ward, a licensed clinical social worker with a practice in Cold Spring, said that sunlight boosts serotonin, a hormone that elevates people's mood and energy. When people spend more time indoors during the winter because it's cold, their serotonin levels go down, she said. The decline also affects melatonin, a hormone that regulates sleep.

"With the lack of sunlight and serotonin, we have less energy in the winter, which affects our melatonin hormones and makes us more tired," said Ward.

Despite having fewer choices during the winter, getting outside in sunlight is important for children and teens, said Ward. She noted that young people who deal with seasonal affective disorder should "make sure they have something to look forward to on the weekends," and "force themselves to follow through with plans, because, if not, there is the danger of feeling isolated."

She also recommends exercise, which boosts serotonin levels, and the use of a light box, which mimics outdoor light.

Marrison, who lives in Garrison, sometimes does not return home until 8:30 p.m., when she is too tired to get work done. Instead, she tackles much of her homework during free periods at school and on weekends. "If I get behind, I do it on the morning train or cram it in at breakfast," she said. "I am not an evening person, so this is what works for me."

This fall, Marrison tried to spend more time outside by taking walks when she got home or walking with friends at school. That routine proved to be "a great outlet" because she gained social time. She also found it easier to work when she went back indoors.

Now that it's colder, "my breaks are mostly inside," said Marrison. "It's a lot easier to go online and scroll on Instagram," she said. "I have seen my time get sucked up."

Lily Zuckerman, who lives in Garrison, is a junior at the Masters School and a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program.

PILOTS *(from Page 1)*

of support last month after the City Council discussed the matter in a closed session.

After two lengthy discussions during public meetings, school board members have not made a decision. The discussion will continue at the board's Jan. 9 meeting.

PILOT agreements are often granted to companies that are judged to bring with

them significant economic or job growth, or another public benefit, such as affordable housing stock. The agreements demonstrate stability to lenders and can help a developer qualify for financing.

Under a PILOT, a company typically makes an annual payment to a municipality or school district instead of paying property taxes based on assessed value. There are seven such agreements in place in Beacon (see next page).

Mirbeau's request, if approved, would base its yearly payment on assessments, but at a reduced rate. The property, currently worth \$3 million, would be assessed by the city once construction is complete and every year thereafter. Mirbeau would pay the tax it was paying before construction, plus 50 percent of the difference between that base and its new assessed value in Year 1.

The percentage would increase in subsequent years until reaching 95 percent in Year 15. After that, the property owner would pay full taxes.

The Beacon Planning Board on Dec. 13 approved the first phase of Mirbeau's plans to redevelop the 64-acre site with a luxury spa and hotel, among other amenities.

A day earlier, Ed Kellogg, one of the owners of the development company, told the school board that obtaining the PILOT would be "what makes it work for us." Citing construction and materials costs that have ballooned to \$54 million for the first phase, in addition to up-front investments, such as land acquisition, he said that achieving the tax savings is "even more critical than it was before."

Kellogg said that Mirbeau plans to begin work in February at the site, which has been vacant since the Craig House psychiatric hospital closed in 1999. The spa is expected to open in the fall of 2024, although a full buildout could take a decade.

The property owner pays the city and school district about \$100,000 in total annual property taxes. Under the agreement, by the third year, they would pay an estimated \$175,000

annually to the district, Kellogg said.

If the PILOT isn't approved, Mirbeau might put the project "on the back burner for a while, until conditions change," he said. Or, because of the city's stringent architectural standards for historic properties, the firm could redesign the project. "It would put a big question mark on whether we go ahead," Kellogg said.

If the request is granted by the IDA, the property would be removed from the tax rolls for 15 years. That could hurt the school district, which in recent years has benefited from what is known as "a tax base growth factor" — a mechanism through which the state allows districts to increase their levies based on a jump in taxable assessments.

The district has also used federal funding from the American Rescue Plan to address the mental-health crisis among teens and pandemic-related learning loss, but that money will disappear in the next two years, said Board Member Kristan Flynn.

"The Beacon boom that has occurred — that is about development and Main Street — there is a chunk of that that doesn't touch our students," she said. "The district is 10 years behind that, largely because of lack of funding and instability."

Noting that "cash is cash," Kellogg argued that PILOT revenue would offset any adjustments to the district tax levy, while the spa would create 125 fulltime, well-paying jobs.

The PILOT is "something we need," he said. Not getting it "casts a dark shadow on the whole project."

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS		
	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS
Primary vaccination:	76.1% Philipstown/CS: 87.7% Garrison: 82.4%	71.6% Beacon: 68.0%
Boosted:	17.6% Philipstown/CS: 26.0% Garrison: 20.9%	19.5% Beacon: 15.8%
Positive tests, 7-day average:	↓ 7.8%	↑ 9.9%
Number hospitalized:	↓ 9	↑ 24
Number of deaths:	138 ⁽⁰⁾	721 ⁽⁺²⁾

Source: County and state health departments as of Dec. 21. Boosted is the percentage of people eligible for additional shots who are up to date.

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PHOTO: BRETT VALENTINE

Jan 13 - BEYOND CURIOUS - Evening of Musical Theatre Songs
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Beacon Housing Authority

What it is: One of 3,200 housing authorities nationwide that's funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Manages the Forrestal Heights and Hamilton Fish Plaza low-income apartment complexes.

Approved in: 1964

Length of PILOT: In perpetuity

Approved by: City of Beacon

Payments: The annual payment is 10 percent of the combined rent collected at Forrestal Heights and Hamilton Fish in the prior year. While they are exempt from property taxes, Forrestal Heights is assessed at \$26.2 million and Hamilton Fish at \$7.2 million.



Tompkins Terrace

What it is: 193-unit low-income apartment complex

Approved in: 1976

Length of PILOT: In perpetuity

Approved by: New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal

Payments: The annual payment is 10 percent of the rent collected in the prior year. The development is assessed at \$9.7 million.



Highland Meadows

What it is: 68-unit low-income senior housing complex

Approved in: 2016

Length of PILOT: 30 years

Approved by: City of Beacon

Payments: The development made an initial PILOT payment in 2017 of \$53,095. Subsequent payments will change by the percentage increase (or decrease) in tax rates established by the city. It is assessed at \$2 million.

PILOT PROJECTS



West End Lofts

What it is: 98 apartments, 72 of them considered "affordable" based on the area median income, including 50 live/work spaces for artists. It is assessed at \$3 million.

Approved in: 2018

Length of PILOT: 32 years

Approved by: City of Beacon

Payments: The development made an initial PILOT payment of \$170,000. Subsequent payments will increase at the same percent of increase, if any, in annual rents. The payment cannot be less than \$170,000.



23-28 Creek Drive

What it is: 8 apartments plus 20,000 square feet of commercial space. The site will become the U.S. headquarters of DocuWare, a German document management firm. Its taxable value is \$3 million.

Length of PILOT: 10 years

Approved in: 2020

Approved by: Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency

Payments: In Years 1, 2 and 3, the company makes payments equal to 50 percent of what its property tax would have been. The exemption percentage decreases from there. In Year 10, the exemption is 5 percent. The company also received state and county sales tax exemptions.

Meadow Ridge II

What it is: 52-unit low-income senior housing complex

Approved in: 2006

Length of PILOT: 30 years

Approved by: City of Beacon

Payments: The Matteawan Road development (at left), assessed at \$2.3 million, makes annual payments of \$30,000. The amount may increase annually by no more than the average percent increase in taxes for the preceding year by the city, county and school district. Meadow Ridge I, an adjacent senior housing development, doesn't have a PILOT and pays full taxes. It is assessed at \$2.4 million.



Davies South Terrace

What it is: 124-unit low-income apartment complex

Length of PILOT: 30 years

Approved in: 2007

Approved by: Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency

Payments: The annual payment for the complex (at left) is 10 percent of the rent collected in the prior year. It is assessed at \$13 million.



Classic Wheels

1930 Ford Model A Town Sedan

By Michael Turton

Pete Geanopulos owns this beauty, which sits in front of his business, Fishkill Auto Body, on Route 52 just east of Beacon.

In February 2020, Geanopulos was looking for a sign for the front of his shop, which uses a Ford Model T as its logo. When a friend told him about a Model A at an estate sale in Mahopac for \$10,000, Geanopulos realized it would attract more attention than a sign.

“Everything on the car is original, except the tires, which are from a 1932 Ford,” he said. “They’re larger, but I like the more gangster look.”

The car has been repainted in the same green as the original. (It was available in two colors in 1930, green or black.) The interior is rather plush, with wood trim, glass flower vases and mohair seats. Like 80 percent of



The Specs

Model:
1930 Ford Model A (nine models)

Manufactured: Dearborn, Michigan

Number sold (1927-30): 3 million

Engine:
Inline four cylinder, 201 cubic inches

Horse Power: 40

Transmission:
3-speed manual on the floor

Gas mileage: 25-30 mpg

Top speed: 65 mph

Original price: \$645 (varied by model)

Source: Henry Ford Museum (thehenryford.org)

cars on the road then, it lacks a radio.

“It’s fun to drive; it has a feel similar to many modern SUVs because you sit up high,” Geanopulos said.

The sedan is roadworthy but needs a new head gasket. “I’m like the shoemaker who can’t fix his own shoes!” the mechanic said.

Want your vehicle or motorcycle featured? It must be at least 50 years old. Email classicwheels@highlandscurrent.org.



Charlie Brooks restocks the Tiny Food Pantry in Cold Spring.

Photo by M. Turton

Tiny Food Pantry Installed

‘Take what you need, give what you can’

By Michael Turton

The staff at Robert A. McCaffrey Realty in Cold Spring hopes the Tiny Food Pantry installed this week in front of their Main Street office will help reduce hunger locally — and that residents will generously support it.

Fareground, a food pantry in Beacon, provided the cabinet as part of a network of a dozen Tiny Food Pantries in Beacon, Wappingers Falls and Newburgh. A sign on the door reads: “Take what you need, give what you can.”

Charlotte “Charlie” Brooks, an associate broker at McCaffrey, said *The Current’s* series, *Hunger in the Highlands*, published a year ago, made her more aware that even bucolic Philipstown could have food security issues. She came across the Tiny Food Pantry program at a Fareground event.

Brooks said many items can be donated, especially nonperishable foods such as canned vegetables, tuna or chicken, and dry goods, including pasta, coffee, tea, sugar and flour.

She said the latest Tiny Food Pantry is designed to augment the Philipstown Food Pantry, which is open from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays at the First Presbyterian Church at 10 Academy St.

“If people can’t get there, or just need

something late at night during the week, they can stop by our little pantry,” Brooks said. “The idea is to donate food you can spare or take items you need. A lot of people can’t make a big gesture, but many can buy a couple of extra cans of vegetables or soup” to contribute.

The pantry also accepts personal hygiene products such as soap and toothpaste, as well as packaged pet food.

“It’s a small thing, but we’re a small town,” said Bill Hussung, who owns the real estate agency. “People think there’s no poverty locally.” He said he was shocked by statistics cited in *The Current* series. “There is food insecurity here, people living paycheck to paycheck, trying to balance things, including a food budget.”

The United Way estimates that 120 Philipstown households live in poverty, with as many as 450 households suffering food insecurity. In Beacon, nearly 800 residents live in poverty, while close to 2,000 live paycheck to paycheck.

The nonprofit calculated that, in 2020, a family of four with two children in school needs to earn \$89,784 annually in Putnam County and \$71,760 in Dutchess to survive on a bare minimum budget — and that was before the recent surge in inflation.

If the pantry is full, donations can be dropped at the real estate office. “Once we have a better understanding of demand, we’ll tweak it as needed,” Hussung said.

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AROUND TOWN



▲ **SAX APPEAL** — Premik Russell Tubbs & the Inner Power Quartet performed at Quinn's in Beacon on Monday (Dec. 19). Tubbs has played with Sting, Lady Gaga, Carlos Santana, Whitney Houston, Herbie Hancock and Jeff Beck, among others. *Photo by Ross Corsair*



◀ **BAKE SALE** — Distressed by the ongoing news from Ukraine, native sisters Liliya and Tetyana Shylivska held another bake sale at Foodtown on Dec. 17 with homemade Ukrainian cakes and cookies. They raised \$3,600 for medical supplies that will be sent to the besieged country. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

▲ **STOCKING WINNERS** — For the 42nd year, area fire companies presented four elementary students from the Beacon City School District with Christmas stockings filled with gifts, including a smoke detector. This year's winners were Lilah Larkin (Glenham), Madyson Mericle (South Avenue), Eric Conklin (Forrestal) and Tabitha Biracree (Sargent). Shown with the students are Dave Simmonds and Bob Simmonds of the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. *Photo provided*



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"The Stance"



Susan Lisbin at the Garrison Art Center with "The Unfolding"



"Cracked"

Photos provided

The Calendar

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Artist 'learned not to be wishy-washy'

By Alison Rooney

Twenty years ago, Susan Lisbin was completing a residency at the Vermont Studio Center. During her time there, other artists came by the studio to see her work.

She found the conversations frustrating because the visitors "weren't getting the message I expected them to get. I realized I had to be more direct," she says. "It's not that everything I made had to have strong contrasts and colors, but I did have to make sure there's enough there for people to think about, and that it's not just about my personal process."

Lisbin, who has a studio in Catskill, says she still keeps that in mind while painting and sculpting. Her solo show, *Inner Vision*, will be on view at the Garrison Art Center through Jan. 15, with an artist's talk scheduled for Jan. 7.

During her time in Vermont, Lisbin says she realized that strength was key, so she worked on that aspect of her painting. "I was doing abstract expressionist paintings, and people thought they were sexual images, which wasn't what I was intending!" she says. "I learned not to be wishy-washy, because what I had to say was a statement. I began pushing myself as far as I could. I still do."

As a child, her mother encouraged her drawing by taking her to museums. Still, she had doubts about being a professional artist.

"When I was a young adult, it was difficult for me to take myself seriously as an artist," she recalls. "But I wasn't happy doing other things. My sister told me, 'You should be an artist,' and finally I listened to her and transferred to art school and loved it — she was right."

After earning her bachelor's from Ramapo College, Lisbin painted for a few years before attending Montclair State for a graduate

degree in painting.

In the ensuing decades, Lisbin continued to make art while earning a living in disparate day jobs, including as a bank teller and a welder — "not the exciting kind, more on the industrial side," she says. In the early 1990s, she was hired as director and curator at the Cottage Place Gallery, in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Then came teaching, which she did for 14 years, through 2014, mostly in the Millburn, New Jersey, school district.

"The job that affected me the most was when I decided to teach," she says. "I began with grades K through 6, and found them super-open to the abstract forms. I showed

them all kinds of fun. Later, I taught older students. It was a lovely job."

During the pandemic, Lisbin began working with new materials, including Canva-Paper and gesso. She experimented with content, as well. "I tend to go with something for a while, then return, but in a different way," she says.

In a recent painting, "No Strings Attached" (below right), which is included in *Inner Vision*, she included images people could recognize, "in this case, feet. The feet become the sense of the unknown in the painting: 'Where are we going to go? Where will my feet take me?'"

"At the opening, a gentleman stood in front of a painting for a while. I asked him 'What do you see?' I'm so into the colors and

the composition and how works are reacting to each other. Hearing what someone else thinks is one of the joys of showing."

She's happy at how the show came together. "Even though they managed to get more in than I thought, nothing felt pushed," she says. "They unified the show and set up a nice communication between the paintings and the sculpture."

Inner Vision is on view with *small-WORKS*, a biennial, juried exhibition featuring art focused on a theme. This year, it's "This World We Share."

Several hundred entries were submitted from around the world and 69 were chosen by juror Carl Van Brunt. The works include oil and acrylic paintings, photos, 3D works from found objects, collages, woodblock prints, wood sculptures, kinetic sculpture and handmade books.

The Garrison Art Center, at 23 Garrison's Landing, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Monday. See garrisonartcenter.org.



"Exploration"



"No Strings Attached"

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

CHRISTMAS

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Mass
 COLD SPRING
 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. Loretto
 24 Fair St. | ourladyofloretto.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Mass
 BEACON
 4 p.m. & Midnight. St. Joachim's
 51 Leonard St. | stjochim-stjohn.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Service
 GARRISON
 4 p.m. Pageant | 10 p.m. Service
 St. Philip's | 1101 Route 9D
 stphilipshighlands.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Mass
 BEACON
 4:30 p.m. English | 6 p.m. Spanish
 St. John's | 35 Willow St.
 stjochim-stjohn.org



SAT 24
Christmas Eve Service
 COLD SPRING
 5 p.m. United Methodist | 216 Main St.
 facebook.com/csshumc

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Service
 COLD SPRING
 6 p.m. St. Mary's | 1 Chestnut St.
 stmaryscoldspring.org

SAT 24
Christmas Eve Service
 COLD SPRING
 7 p.m. First Presbyterian
 10 Academy St.
 presbychurchcoldspring.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass
 COLD SPRING
 8:30 a.m. & Noon. Loretto | 24 Fair St.
 845-265-3718 | ourladyofloretto.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass
 BEACON
 8:30 a.m. St. John's
 35 Willow St. | stjochim-stjohn.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass
 COLD SPRING
 10 a.m. St. Mary's | 1 Chestnut St.
 stmaryscoldspring.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass
 GARRISON
 10 a.m. p.m. St. Philip's
 1101 Route 9D | stphilipshighlands.org

SUN 25
Christmas Service
 COLD SPRING
 11 a.m. Highlands Chapel
 216 Main St. | highlandschapel.org

SUN 25
Christmas Mass
 BEACON
 Noon. St. Joachim | 51 Leonard St.
 stjochim-stjohn.org

COMMUNITY
THURS 29
Beacon of the Heart Sangha
 BEACON
 6:30 p.m. Carriage House
 15 South Ave.
 This weekly gathering includes

secular meditation inspired by early Buddhist practices. Donations welcome.

FRI 30
Farmers' Market Pop-Up
 BEACON
 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
 Parking lot on Churchill Street
 beaconfarmersmarket.org
 The market will be closed on Sunday (Jan. 1), so shop today in preparation.

SUN 1
First-Day Hike
 COLD SPRING
 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Little Stony Point
 3011 Route 9D
 facebook.com/littlestonypoint
 Take a 1- or 3-mile naturalist-led hike and enjoy live music and refreshments. Hikes begin at 11:30 a.m.

SUN 1
First-Day Hike
 WAPPINGERS FALLS
 1 - 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
 79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org
 Meet at the Woodland trailhead for a 2-mile moderate hike that will include views of Mount Beacon.

SUN 1
First-Day Hike
 POUGHKEEPSIE
 1 - 3 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
 61 Parker Ave. | walkway.org
 Enjoy the views from 1,200 feet over the river on the 1.3-mile pedestrian bridge.



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With the cost of living rising, it is increasingly difficult to meet daily needs. The community organizations listed on the right are here to serve you, without judgement.

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CARES COALITION



FOOD SUPPORT

Philipstown Food Pantry provides clients with a three-day supply of nutritious staples including fresh produce and meat. Home delivery can be arranged for seniors.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub provides a single point of entry to behavioral health and addiction services and education.



SENIOR SERVICES SUPPORT

Philipstown Aging at Home provides support services for local seniors including social groups.

STAGE & SCREEN

THURS 29
Remembering Pina

BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
333 Fishkill Ave. | 845-765-0472
beaconmusicfactory.com

In this documentary, Susan Osberg's experimental dancers evoke movement and stories based on watching Pina Bausch's choreography. Composer J. Brooks Marcus scored the film. Donations welcome. RSVP to susanosberg@mac.com.



KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 27
Winter Break Programs

WAPPINGERS FALLS
10 a.m. - Noon. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org
Students ages 6 to 12 can participate in day programs: nature

game time (TUES 27); holiday farmhands (THURS 29) and feathered friends (FRI 30). Registration required. Outdoor cooking and fire-building on WED 28 is full. *Cost: \$25 per day (\$10 per sibling)*

THURS 29
New Year's Craft

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

Children ages 4 to 11 years old are invited to make a disco ball. Registration required.

FRI 30
Teen New Years Eve (Eve) Party

BEACON
7 - 10 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane
dutchesspridecenter.org
Teens and young adults ages 13 to 20 can play games, sing karaoke, dance and enjoy snacks with a countdown to the New Year at 9 p.m. RSVP to dcpridecenter@gmail.com.

MUSIC

FRI 30
The Englishtown Project

BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
This Grateful Dead tribute band's set list is derived from a 1977 concert that debuted new material from *Terrapin Station*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



Winter Break Programs, Dec. 27

FRI 30
Open Mic

BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

After 25 years, Thom Joyce will host his final open mic. See Page 2. Sign-ups at 7:30 p.m. Donations welcome.

SAT 31
Almost Queen

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

The four-piece band will deliver a tribute to Queen. The opening act is Steve Leonard. *Cost: \$37.50 to \$89.50*

SAT 31
TimePiece / Low Fiction/ Cold Heaven

BEACON
9 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St. | 845-202-7447
facebook.com/QuinnsBeacon

Between sets, DJ Felonious Monk will spin at this New Year's Eve party.

SAT 31
Chris O'Leary Band

BEACON
9:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The band will perform music from its latest release, *7 Minutes Late*. The Dan Brother Band opens. *Cost: \$50 (\$135 with dinner)*

TALKS & TOURS

TUES 27
Aging With Grace

BEACON
12:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Carole Penner will lead a group discussion of issues related to aging.

CIVIC

WED 28
Village Board

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

Riverview
RESTAURANT

New Year's Eve
1pm - 10pm

New Year's Day
12 pm - 8pm

845-265-4778 Riverdining.com
45 FAIR STREET COLD SPRING

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIP'S

Saturday, December 17:
12:00 PM - Wreaths Across America
Please join members of the congregation as well as local veterans for a short ceremony followed by the laying of wreaths on the gravesites of those who served in our nation's Armed Forces.

Sunday, December 18:
4:00 PM - Ecumenical Evensong
A community event featuring the Children's and Adult Choirs, followed by a reception in the parish house.

Wednesday, December 21:
6:00 PM - Longest Night service
A service to mark the longest night of the year, the pain of loss and struggle, and the return of the light and the coming of Christ in our lives.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve:
4:00 PM - Annual Christmas Pageant
Held in the St. Philip's Churchyard, we'll have singing, candles, a star and a stable, and even some live animals!
10:00 PM - Holy Eucharist Rite II with choir and carols

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day:
10:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II with carols

Come worship with us

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH
IN THE HIGHLANDS
1101 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
845-424-3571 stpphilipshighlands.org
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

Last-Minute Giving Guide

ANIMALS

Animal Rescue Foundation

54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508
arfbeacon.org

Dutchess County SPCA

636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538
dcsPCA.org

Friends of Beacon Dog Park

beacondogpark.org

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

611 Granite Springs Road,
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
guidingeyes.org

Mid Hudson Animal Aid

54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508
midhudsonanimalaid.org



Putnam County SPCA

P.O. Box 850, Brewster, NY 10509
spcaputnam.org

Putnam Humane Society

P.O. Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512
puthumane.org

Putnam Service Dogs

P.O. Box 573, Brewster, NY 10509
putnamservicedogs.org

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Beacon Arts

P.O. Box 727, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconarts.org

Chapel Restoration

P.O. Box 43, Cold Spring, NY 10516
chapelrestoration.org

Cold Spring Film Society

192 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringfilm.org

While charitable donations help keep critically important community resources in operation year-round, this is the final week to contribute to your favorite nonprofits and receive a deduction on your 2022 taxes.

By one estimate, 30 percent of donations in the U.S. are made in December, and 10 percent in the last 48 hours of the year. The deadline for 2022 is noon on Saturday (Dec. 31) if you are mailing a check or midnight if you use a credit card.

Collaborative Concepts

collaborativeconcepts.org

Dia:Beacon

3 Beekman St., Beacon, NY 12508 | diaart.org

Garrison Art Center

23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonartcenter.org

Howland Chamber Music Circle

P.O. Box 224, Chelsea, NY 12512
howlandmusic.org

Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
howlandculturalcenter.org

Hudson Valley MOCA

P.O. Box 209, Peekskill, NY 10566
hudsonvalleymoca.org

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

P.O. Box 125, Garrison, NY 10524
hvshakespeare.org

Magazzino Italian Art Foundation

2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516
magazzino.art

Manitoga / Russel Wright Design Center

P.O. Box 249, Garrison, NY 10524
visitmanitoga.org

Philipstown Depot Theatre

P.O. Box 221, Garrison, NY 10524
philipstowndepotttheatre.org

Sunset Reading Series

P.O. Box 43, Cold Spring, NY 10516
sunsetreadings.org

EDUCATION

Beacon High School PTSO

101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY 12508
bhsptso.square.site

Foundation for Beacon Schools

P.O. Box 456, Beacon, NY 12508
foundationforbeaconschools.org

Garrison Children's Education Fund

P.O. Box 262, Garrison, NY 10524 | gcef.net

Garrison Institute

P.O. Box 532, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisoninstitute.org

Garrison School PTA

1100 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
gufsppta.org

Glenham Elementary PTO

20 Chase Drive, Fishkill, NY 12524

Haldane Arts Alliance

15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldanearts.org

Haldane Blue Devil Booster Club

15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516
bit.ly/blue-devil-booster

Haldane PTA

15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldanepta.org

Haldane School Foundation

P.O. Box 364, Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

JV Forrester Elementary PTSO

125 Liberty St., Beacon, NY 12508
jvfptso.com

Rombout Middle School PTO

84 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY 12508
romboutpto.org

Sargent Elementary PTO

29 Education Drive, Beacon, NY 12508
sargentpto.org

South Avenue Elementary PTA

60 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
southavenuepta.com

CHILDREN & TEENS

Beacon Performing Arts Center

327B Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Beacon Soccer Club

P.O. Box 802, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconsoccerclub.org

Boy Scouts of America

Greater Hudson Valley Council
P.O. Box 974, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547
ghvbsa.org

Denniston International

256 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
dennistoninternational.org

Friends of Philipstown Recreation

P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516
friendsofphilipstownrecreation.org

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson

2 Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville, NY 10570
girlscoutshh.org

Hope for Youth Foundation

P.O. Box 8 | Buchanan, NY 10511
hfyf.org

Land to Learn

P.O. Box 223, Beacon, NY 12508 | landtolearn.org



Philipstown Little League

P.O. Box 347, Cold Spring, NY 10516
philipstownlittleleague.com

Philipstown Soccer Club

P.O. Box 231, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Putnam County Children's Committee

P.O. Box 187, Carmel, NY 10512
pccchildren.org

SHRED Foundation

shredfoundation.org

Surprise Lake Camp

382 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516
surpriselake.org

COMMUNITY

Beacon Community Lions Club

P.O. Box 83, Beacon, NY 12508

Be A Friend Project

P.O. Box 30, Beacon, NY 12508
beafriendproject.org

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

P.O. Box 325, Cold Spring, NY 10516
csfarmmarket.org

Cold Spring Lions Club

P.O. Box 308, Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringlions.org

Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County

77 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
dutchesscap.org

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

25 Van Wagner Road, Suite 2,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
communityfoundationshv.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County

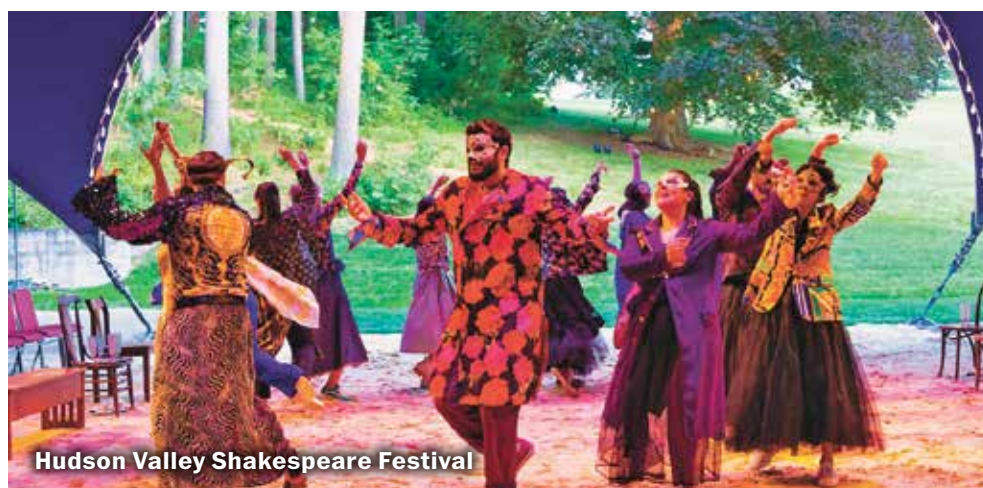
2715 Route 44, Suite 1, Millbrook, NY 12545
ccedutchess.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh

125 Washington St., Newburgh, NY 12550
habitatnewburgh.org



Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

Highlands Current Inc.
142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
highlandscurrent.org

I Am Beacon
P.O. Box 265, Beacon, NY 12508 | iambeacon.org

River Pool at Beacon
P.O. Box 173, Beacon, NY 12508 | riverpool.org

Spirit of Beacon Day
P.O. Box 821, Beacon, NY 12508
spiritofbeacon.org

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region
75 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
uwdor.org

United Way of Westchester and Putnam
336 Central Park Ave., White Plains, NY 10606
uwwp.org

FIRST RESPONDERS

Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps
1 Arquilla Dr., Beacon, NY 12508 | beaconvac.org

Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1
154 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

Continental Village Fire Department
12 Spy Pond Road, Garrison, NY 10524

Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps
P.O. Box 121, Garrison, NY 10524
supportgarrisonambulance.org

Garrison Volunteer Fire Co.
P.O. Box 252, Garrison, NY 10524

North Highlands Engine Co. No. 1
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps
14 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

HISTORICAL

Bannerman Castle Trust
P.O. Box 843, Glenham, NY 12527
bannermancastle.org

Beacon Historical Society
P.O. Box 89, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconhistorical.org

Boscobel Restoration
1601 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524 | boscobel.org

Constitution Island Association
P.O. Box 126, Cold Spring, NY 10516
constitutionisland.org



Little Stony Point

Dutchess County Historical Society
P.O. Box 88, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 | dchsn.org

Garrison's Landing Association
P.O. Box 205, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonslanding.org

Madam Brett Homestead
50 Van Nydeck Ave., Beacon, NY 12508

Mount Gulian Society
145 Sterling St., Beacon, NY 12508
mountgulian.org

Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
putnamhistorymuseum.org

HUNGER

Beacon Community Kitchen
c/o Multi-Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 1285, Beacon, NY 12508
Check: Multi-Services. Memo: BCK

Common Ground Farm
P.O. Box 148, Beacon, NY 12508
commongroundfarm.org

Fareground Community Kitchen
P.O. Box 615, Beacon, NY 12508 | fareground.org

Glynwood Center for Regional Food & Farming
P.O. Box 157, Cold Spring, NY 10516
glynwood.org

Philipstown Food Pantry
10 Academy St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
presbychurchcoldspring.org/food-pantry.html

Second Chance Foods
P.O. Box 93, Carmel, NY 10512
secondchancefoods.org

St. Andrew & St. Luke Food Pantry
15 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
beacon-episcopal.org/food-pantry

LIBRARIES

Butterfield Public Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring, NY 10516
butterfieldlibrary.org

Desmond-Fish Public Library
472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524
desmondfishlibrary.org

Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconlibrary.org

NATURAL RESOURCES

Beacon Sloop Club
P.O. Box 527, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconsloop.org

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center
P.O. Box 174, Cold Spring, NY 10516
constitution.audubon.org

Ecological Citizen's Project
69 South Mountain Pass, Garrison, NY 10524
ecologicalcitizens.org

Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks
friendsoffhh.org

Hudson Highland Fjord Trail
c/o Scenic Hudson: 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 300, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 | hhft.org

Hudson Highlands Land Trust
P.O. Box 226, Garrison, NY 10524 | hhlt.org

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
clearwater.org

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
P.O. Box 319, Cold Spring, NY 10516
littlestonypoint.org

Natural Heritage Trust
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207
naturalheritagetrust.org

Putnam Highlands Audubon Society
P.O. Box 292, Cold Spring, NY 10516
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Riverkeeper
20 Secor Road, Ossining, NY 10562
riverkeeper.org

Scenic Hudson
85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 300, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
scenichudson.org

Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516
stonecrop.org

REHABILITATION SERVICES

CoveCare Center
1808 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512
covecarecenter.org

Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub
P.O. Box 317, Cold Spring, NY 10516
philipstownhub.org

Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center
935 South Lake Blvd., Suite 2, Mahopac, NY 10541
pnwwrc.org

Support Connection
40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
supportconnection.org

Topfield Equestrian Center
115 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516
topfieldcenter.org

VETERANS

American Legion Post 203
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508

American Legion Post 275
10 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

Marine Corps League
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666
413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2362
10 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516



Constitution Marsh



Fareground Community Kitchen

Road to Certification

ACTION	BEACON (SILVER)	PHILIPSTOWN (BRONZE)	DUTCHESS (BRONZE)
Pass resolution adopting pledge	4	4	4
Create task force	20	20	20
Appoint coordinator	10	10	10
Designated Clean Energy Community	3		3
Partnerships with other entities			3
Greenhouse gas inventory (city)	16	16	
Greenhouse gas inventory (community)	16	16	
Government building energy audits	16	16	
Upgrade interior lighting	2		
Municipal building benchmarking	2	2	
Fleet inventory		4	
Fleet efficiency policy		3	
Energy code enforcement training		5	
Unified solar permit		5	
LED street lights	10		
LED traffic signals	4		
Renewable energy feasibility studies	3		3
Solar-energy installation	9		
Power-purchase agreement for renewables	9		9
Government solid-waste audit			2
Residential organic-waste program	6		
Compost bins for residents			2
Recycling program for public places/events			2
Comprehensive plan with sustainability	18		
Smart growth policies			6
Smart growth policies in zoning	8		
Green Building ordinance	6		
Complete Streets policy	4	4	4
Biking/walking infrastructure	3		10
Alternative-fuel infrastructure	8		12
Access to public transit	5		
Local forestry program	4		
Natural-resources inventory		8	8
Zoning to protect natural areas	6	6	
Climate-resilient hazard mitigation plan			3
Climate vulnerability assessment	16		
Evaluate policies for climate resilience	6		
Conserve natural areas	8		
Farmers markets	3		3
Brownfield redevelopment	10		
Property assessed clean energy programs	7		7
Community Choice Aggregation	18	18	
Rooftop solarize campaign	5		
Climate-related public events	3		
Energy-reduction campaign			5
Local climate-action website	3	3	3
Social media campaign	3		3
Greenhouse-gas tracking system	5		
Climate justice assessment	3		
Reduce greenhouse gas in city facilities	40		
TOTAL POINTS (Bronze=120+, Silver=300+)	322	140	122



“We’re in the 19th century and failing,” says Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature. *File photo by Ross Corsair*

Climate Smart *(from Page 1)*

ing point for climate legislation. Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act, each of which are designed to, among other things, fund green research and infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make renewable energy cheaper. At the state level, Gov. Kathy Hochul enacted a law in September stating that by 2035, all passenger-sized cars and trucks sold in New York will be emissions-free. And this week, the state approved its final Scoping Plan: a 433-page document that lays out how the state will achieve its goals of getting 70 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2030, and reaching zero-emissions electricity by 2040 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The vision laid out in these laws is enticing: a greenhouse-gas-free society that supplies cheaper, cleaner, dependable renewable energy to healthier communities across the country, as well as jobs and equitable access to the opportunities and benefits being created. The laws also supply funding and incentives, while the scoping plan outlines how New York can make the visions a reality.

The Climate Smart program wasn’t created with this far-reaching legislation in mind. But the communities that have been taking part find themselves in position to

build on their newfound expertise. Those that haven’t — notably, Putnam County — may soon find themselves falling behind.

“We’re in the 19th century and failing,” Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature, said of the county’s efforts. “Might as well just start burning coal in the county buildings.”

From pledges to action

There wasn’t much to the Climate Smart program when it was created in 2009. The newly formed state Office of Climate Change was looking for a way to get municipalities involved.

“We understood that local governments would be important partners, in terms of mitigating greenhouse gasses,” said Mark Lowery, assistant director of the agency. “We also knew that local governments are often the first responders in terms of responding to climate hazards, and that they had an intense interest in adaptation and resilience.”

The state rolled out a 10-point pledge that was similar to a proclamation a town might adopt to honor a beloved football coach: big on feelings, light on particulars. “There’s not a lot of specifics,” concedes Lowery.

But a funny thing happened when communities took the pledge: Many used it as inspiration to inventory their greenhouse gas emissions, develop climate action plans and apply for funding for mitigation projects.

Other communities turned to the state for help. In response, New York developed a list of about 100 goals in 12 categories. Completing each goal earned points, from conducting an energy audit of government buildings (8 to 16 points) to creating riparian buffers (2 to 6 points) to installing wind turbines (9 to 20 points.)

“It’s sort of a menu that they can look at and say, ‘What fits our circumstances, our capacity, the things that we think threaten us and the things that are in the interest of our community?’ ” explained Lowery. “We’ve tried to make the program suitable for use by any community, ranging from villages with fewer than 300 people up to a certain city that has more than 8 million.”

Racking up 120 points earns bronze

(Continued on Page 19)

SILVER CERTIFIED

- Beacon
- Croton
- Erie County
- Hastings
- Kingston
- New Castle
- Suffolk County
- Tompkins County
- Ulster County

BRONZE CERTIFIED

- Cortlandt
- Dutchess County
- Hyde Park
- Orange County
- Philipstown
- Poughkeepsie
- Red Hook
- Rhinebeck
- Sullivan County
- Westchester
- County
- Yonkers
- Yorktown
- ... and 79 others



Faye Leone became Beacon's Climate Smart Coordinator last year. *File photo*

(Continued from Page 18)

certification, the level that Philipstown (2021) and Dutchess County (2019) and 79 other communities are at. Three hundred points is needed for silver, which Beacon earned in 2020.

Putnam County (2019), Nelsonville (2018), Peekskill (2009), Newburgh (2018) and Putnam Valley (2020) are among the 269 communities that have joined the program but not yet achieved bronze.

Dazzle Ekblad, the statewide coordinator of the Climate Smart program, said that New York is developing a gold certification that will be aligned with goals in the newly released scoping plan.

Along with access to state money, certification is a statement of values, which Ekblad said can be a selling point to attracting green industries. There are bragging rights as well, which Ekblad suggested is a bigger deal than you might think.

"It's about leadership recognition and being part of that elite group where communities across the state who are asking questions are now going to you and saying, 'You're an example. How are you doing this? Can we learn from you?'"

Faye Leone, who became Beacon's Climate Smart Coordinator last year, confirmed that as one of the few silver-level coordinators, she fields many calls from other municipalities. Recently, a coordinator who was having trouble convincing the police department to switch to electric vehicles (earning 2 to 10 points) called



Members of Climate Smart Philipstown installed a pollinator garden at Town Hall in June 2021. Earlier, the group planted a similar garden at the Philipstown Recreation Center. Both were designed by the Hudson Garden Studio. *File photo*

for advice. Leone put their police department in touch with Beacon's, which is in the process of changing its fleet to electric cars, so that the Beacon police officers could assuage their concerns.

But bronze and silver also get you something else more important: money.

"We wouldn't have even been considered for the EV charger grant if we hadn't put in all that work," said Martha Upton, who recently took over for Krystal Ford as the Climate Smart coordinator in Philipstown. Last year, Philipstown received \$8,000 to help install a dual-port charger in front of Town Hall. Other grants have been used to create a pilot food-scrap recycling program, which was just extended, and a Climate Fund that has helped residents pay for green HVAC upgrades and provided money for pollinator gardens at Town Hall and the Recreation Center.

In Beacon, grants helped pay for EV chargers in three locations, with more on the



Krystal Ford, then the Climate Smart coordinator for Philipstown, cut the ribbon in June with members of the Town Board to open two electric vehicle charging ports at Town Hall. The cost is \$1 per hour, with a limit of four hours. *Photo by Alex Wilcox Cheek*

way. The city's new central firehouse near City Hall will have at least one EV charger and is being designed to be powered by geothermal heating and — if future grants come through — solar panels. Leone said

the task force hopes to "electrify as much as we can and make the source of that electricity 100 percent renewable power."

Eleanor Peck, who was Beacon's first *(Continued on Page 20)*



HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

All of us at Houlihan Lawrence we wish you a happy holiday season from our home to your home.



SYLVIA A. WALLIN
Associate RE Broker



KATHYRINE TOMANN
Branch Manager / Associate RE Broker

After 28 years with Houlihan Lawrence, Sylvia Wallin has announced her retirement. She will continue to conduct real estate sales when she is not gardening or hiking with her dogs and will continue her core values of integrity, excellence, passion and community.

We are happy to announce that Kathyrine Tomann, an agent with Houlihan Lawrence for the last 19 years has taken on the role of sales leader. Kathyrine is a well-known member of the local community and we are thrilled to have a Houlihan Lawrence insider take on the role of Branch Manager.

Please join us in wishing Sylvia the very best and in congratulating Kathyrine on joining our leadership team.

Climate Smart *(from Page 19)*

Climate Smart coordinator when it joined the program in 2019, and still serves on the committee, said the city is “leading the charge across the state.” She said Beacon had a head start because of the city’s long history of environmental activism and the extensive brownfield cleanups that had taken place at Long Dock (10 points).

Peck said that when then-Mayor Randy Casale hired her, he pointed to the list of Climate Smart goals and noted that the city was already doing a lot of them: LED traffic lights (4 points), LED street lights (10 points), the solar energy array at Denning’s Point (9 points), a farmers market (3 points) and accessible public transit via the free Loop bus (5 points), to name a few.

One of her first tasks was to compile an updated greenhouse-gas inventory (16 points), which found that the city’s emissions had fallen 25 percent in less than 10 years.

“I used to feel such dread when thinking about climate change,” said Peck. But that’s changed after “getting so involved on a local level, and seeing that we’re making a difference here.”

In Philipstown, Upton added: “It’s important for all of us to be on our toes right now and pay attention to the opportunities.” She said she’s in constant contact with Leone and Peck, brainstorming projects and researching grants.

Upton said she would like to have a similar relationship with the Climate Smart coordinator for Putnam County “and see how we can work together to get more done. These issues are county-wide issues, and we need to be working together.”

‘We’re missing out’

In 2019, the Putnam County Legislature adopted the state pledge and unanimously resolved to become a Climate Smart Community. They hired a coordinator (10 points) and set up a webpage (3 points).

It’s difficult to discern if anything happened after that.

Montgomery, who had urged the Legislature and County Executive MaryEllen Odell to get more involved, often asked in meetings and memos for updates, such as progress reports or any other evidence that the committee existed.



The Beacon Police Department recently put into service the city’s first all-electric vehicle (EV), a Ford Mach-E used by detectives. The agency also has two hybrid patrol vehicles and a plug-in hybrid for detectives. The latest purchase was funded by a state clean-energy grant. From left is Lt. Jason Walden, Chief Sands Frost, Detective Sergeant Jason Johnson and Climate Smart Coordinator Faye Leone. *Photo provided*

She was told in 2021 that the committee met but did not take minutes. “I do hope you consider taking minutes at these important meetings,” Montgomery responded in a memo to Odell, who will leave office on Dec. 31 because of term limits. “Climate Smart Task Force minutes are required as part of the program and will enable the county to obtain points toward certification; without them the county cannot achieve certification.”

A month earlier, she told Odell that the state had recently announced a round of \$10 million in Climate Smart funding. “I hope that we do not let another year go by without competing for some of this funding,” she wrote.

In the summer of 2021, the Climate Smart coordinator, Lauri Taylor, resigned. At the Aug. 25 meeting of the Physical Services Committee that year, legislators were told that Vinny Tamagna, a former legislator who is now the county transportation manager,

would take over. He also would be in charge of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

This was news to Montgomery. “The legislature never approved any appointment or confirmed any appointment to the Climate Smart coordinator position,” she said. “So, as far as I know, as far as anything that’s come before my desk, there’s no Climate Smart coordinator for Putnam County. They have not taken on any initiatives.”

Tamagna did not respond to several requests for comment. It’s not clear who serves on the Climate Smart task force.

“We’re missing out on funding,” said Montgomery. “We’re missing out on making a difference on climate change and working on what we’re eventually going to be mandated to do.”

A few miles to the north, Montgomery’s frustrations are shared by Yvette Valdés Smith, the minority leader in the Dutchess County Legislature, whose district includes part of Beacon. Valdés Smith put in a

request during recent negotiations over the county’s 2023 budget to hire a coordinator to jump-start the Climate Smart program and oversee other climate initiatives.

She was told that there was no money for it, only to see the Legislature at the last minute add \$25 million in spending on Dutchess County Stadium.

“You can’t provide funding for a Climate Smart coordinator, and yet, you’re going to put taxpayer dollars into the stadium for a luxury clubhouse?” she said. “It’s just a tough pill to swallow.”

Valdés Smith said that Dutchess is being left behind while surrounding counties and municipalities are being awarded grants. “There’s so many programs that we’re just not even beginning to tackle because there is nobody in that position,” she said.

Dutchess, at least, achieved bronze status before the pandemic stalled progress. In Putnam, Montgomery’s efforts to take that first step have been unsuccessful.

“Every time we make an approval for a new vehicle, I ask, ‘Did we look into electric vehicles?’” she said. “We have the perfect campus [in Carmel] for installing electric-charging stations, and we don’t have any,” a deficiency that will prove problematic as the state phases out gas-powered cars over the next 12 years. “We’re just shooting ourselves in the foot,” she said.

Despite the challenges, Montgomery is optimistic for the new year, when Kevin Byrne will become the county executive after running unopposed for the position. She said that she suspects Byrne, a state legislator whose district includes much of Putnam, will be keenly aware of the state funding the county has been missing out on, and the importance of aligning the county’s goals with the state’s.

“We’ve been at a standstill for four years,” she said. “Nothing has happened. So hopefully, with this new regime, we can start getting some things done to bring us into the 21st century.”

Byrne did not respond to several requests for comment. In the meantime, a page on the Putnam County website devoted to climate change has disappeared, apparently as part of a redesign. But an archived copy from October — more than a year after Tamagna took over — still listed Lauri Taylor as coordinator.

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Mouths to Feed

The 12 Verbs of Christmas

By Celia Barbour

When we imagine Christmas as children, we envision a glorious profusion of things: presents, candy canes, decorations, jingle bells, stockings, elves, mangers, angels and so forth. But the holiday that many of us actually experience when we grow up has less to do with things — nouns — than it does with verbs. We make lists, shop, tidy, decorate, wrap, beribbon, address, stamp, mail, cook, carol and bake, just for starters, with each tidy little verb representing a huge whirlwind of effort. We walk down Main Street or board Metro-North with bags bulging around us like antebellum petticoats. We stand by the oven as our gingerbread browns and our feet swell. We untangle string lights and drape them from eaves and shrubbery, address and stamp a hundred envelopes, then rush to the post office to drop them in the mail before the place closes.

And we do all this on top of the ongoing tasks of our everyday lives, which don't go on holiday for the holidays.

Yet part of the joy of this time of year is

that our collective toils come to fruition all at once, in a shared moment of bright appreciation and wonder. We celebrate the holidays together. And that's no small miracle in lives that, for all their busyness, can often feel out of sync; in which a victory for one of us sometimes coincides with gut-punch news for another.

I finally got COVID two weeks ago and the flu three weeks before that, so my holiday activities have been curtailed. One thing I won't forgo, however, is baking. It's not so much that I love it — no matter how deep my pleasure may be, it starts to wane 60 cookies into my first triple-batch of four recipes. But, along with decorating the tree, baking is the "doing" that generates Christmas for me.

My mother used to deliver gorgeous arrays of Christmas cookies to friends. On colorful paper plates, she'd arrange six or seven types of homemade cookies, then wrap them in plastic wrap and deposit them on doorsteps. I've taken up the ritual, adapting it to my tastes and lesser culinary ambitions (at 89, she still makes puff pastry from scratch for her tarts).

Several years ago, I wanted to add a cookie to my repertoire that felt different from the rest, which were mostly variations on the classic butter-and-jam, butter-and-frosting themes. Chocolate seemed like a good choice, but I worried it wasn't quite seasonal enough. Perhaps peppermint and chocolate could fit the bill?

I didn't have to look far for inspiration. My husband and kids will gobble up packages of Mint Newman-O's no matter how many batches of homemade cookies are cooling on the counter. So I developed a chocolate sandwich cookie with peppermint buttercream. It's yummy enough to have earned its place in the Christmas rotation.

Here's a confession: The batches I made to photograph for this column didn't come out right. Judging by their lacy edges, I miscalculated and added too little flour. I didn't have time to shop for more ingredients and make them again, though, so what's done is done. If you follow the recipe, yours should come out more like pretty little discs. I did sample a few, and enlisted my husband to do so, too, just to confirm that the flavor was good. Eating cookies, after all, is one holiday activity that's a celebration in itself.



Chocolate Sandwich Cookies with Peppermint Buttercream

FOR THE COOKIES:

2 cups all-purpose flour	14 tablespoons (1 stick plus 5 tablespoons) unsalted butter, cut into pieces and softened slightly on the counter
¾ cup unsweetened cocoa powder	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon baking soda	1 to 2 tablespoons whole milk
½ teaspoon salt	
1 cup sugar	

In the bowl of a food processor, combine the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, salt and sugar, and pulse to combine. Add the butter pieces and mix until well-blended. With the motor running, add the vanilla, then enough milk so that the dough begins to come together.

Turn out the dough onto a surface and knead a couple of times to form a uniform lump. Divide in two, and roll each into a log about 1 inch in diameter and 16 inches long. Wrap in waxed paper and refrigerate at least an hour, or overnight. (Meanwhile, make the buttercream, below.)

Heat the oven to 325 degrees. Slice a log of dough into ¼-inch slices and arrange on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or a silicone liner. Bake about 10 minutes. Cool 10 minutes before transferring to a rack to cool completely.

When cool, spread one cookie with about a tablespoon of the buttercream, top with a second cookie and press together gently.

FOR THE BUTTERCREAM:

1 stick (8 tablespoons/4 ounces) butter	4 tablespoons (2 ounces) vegetable shortening
3½ cups confectioners' sugar	½ teaspoon vanilla
¼ teaspoon peppermint flavoring	1 tablespoon water, rum or brandy

In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the butter and shortening and mix until thoroughly blended. Add the confectioners' sugar and mix, starting on low and increasing the speed gradually — the mixture will seem very dry at first but will soon come together. Add the peppermint and vanilla, and the water or rum, and mix until light and fluffy.

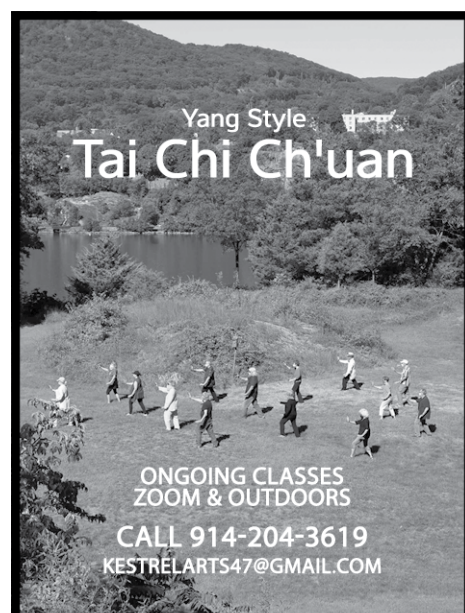


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Beverly Dworkin
(1932-2022)

Beverly J. Dworkin, a lifelong Beacon resident, passed away on December 12, 2022 at the Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie at the age of 90.

Beverly was born on June 19, 1932 in Beacon, daughter of the late William & Edith (Tomlins) Fleming. On December 9, 1950 in Beacon, she married Daniel Dworkin, who predeceased her on August 31, 1998 after 48 years of marriage.

Beverly was a homemaker most of her life, she did work at the Kartiganers Hat Shop in Beacon which she enjoyed. She loved gardening, crocheting, crafting and helping those in need.

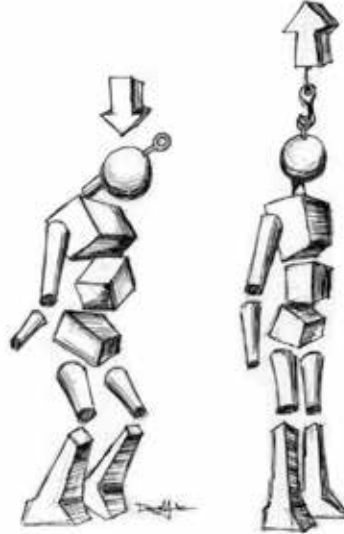
Beverly is survived by her son, Keith Dworkin and her three daughters, Toni Taylor, Lisa Beahan and Debra Brush; she was predeceased by one son, Jeffrey Dworkin. She is survived by 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Along with her husband and son, Beverly was predeceased by her five brothers: Harold Fleming, Ralph Fleming, Robert Fleming, Howard Fleming, and a baby, Ralph Fleming. Also her six sisters: May Way, Marie Moran Niver, Clara Hundley Mazzuca, Helen Powells, Lillian DeCaro Dahlia and a baby, Dolores Fleming.

A Private Family Viewing was held on Sunday, December 18th, at the Libby Funeral Home, 55 Teller Avenue, in Beacon. The Family gathered on for a crypt-side Service at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 19 at the Fishkill Rural Cemetery Mausoleum, Fishkill, NY. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit www.LibbyFuneralHome.com.

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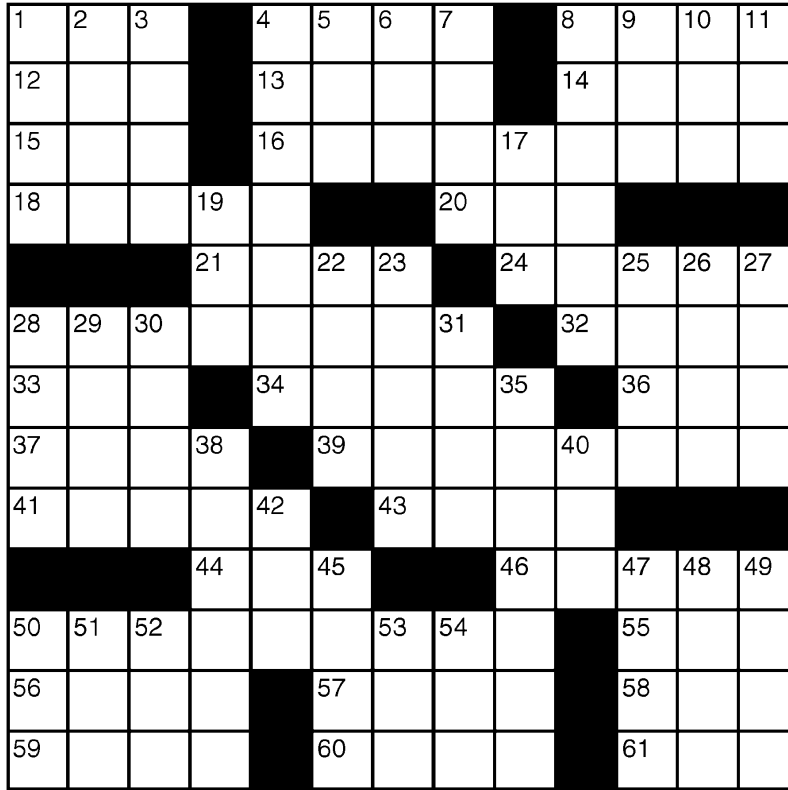
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

- 1. Feedbag bit
- 4. Chilled
- 8. Theatergoer's souvenir
- 12. Show to a seat, slangily
- 13. Cleopatra's river
- 14. Poi base
- 15. Dance syllable
- 16. Fabric fastener
- 18. Klum of *Project Runway*
- 20. Hide-hair insert
- 21. Early birds?
- 24. Apple intruders
- 28. Wind-driven toy
- 32. Tidy
- 33. Altar affirmative
- 34. Fusses
- 36. Log chopper
- 37. Region (Abbr.)
- 39. Flag-shaped blazer accessory
- 41. Pago Pago's place
- 43. Sleuth Wolfe
- 44. Sphere
- 46. Lively dance
- 50. Yankee uniform pattern
- 55. Squeak stopper
- 56. Clue
- 57. One-named supermodel



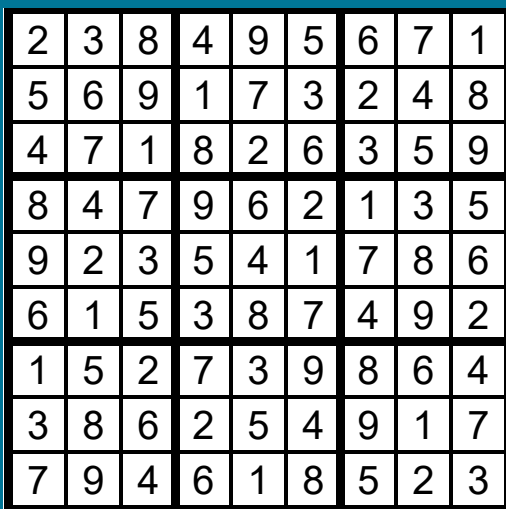
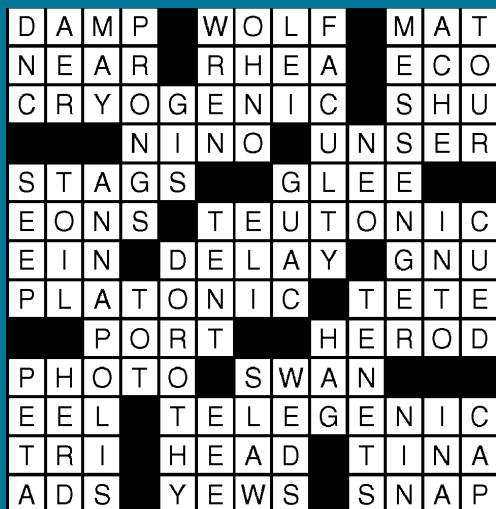
- 58. Buddy
- 59. Conks out
- 60. Like lemons
- 61. Supplement, with "out"
- 8. *Sophie's Choice* author
- 9. Spigot
- 10. Swiss canton
- 11. "— voyage!"
- 17. AAA job
- 19. Morning moisture
- 22. Earth sci.
- 23. Auto style
- 25. Harvest
- 26. Extra-long
- 27. British gun
- 28. Plum centers
- 29. Notion
- 30. Standard
- 31. Easy gait
- 35. Eden tempter
- 38. Perches
- 40. Privy
- 42. Illustrations
- 45. Telly watcher
- 47. Earring site
- 48. *Star Trek* captain
- 49. Medicinal plant
- 50. Prof's degree
- 51. Three, on a sundial
- 52. Away from SSW
- 53. "— Little Teapot"
- 54. Standard

DOWN

- 1. "That hurts!"
- 2. Tennis great Arthur
- 3. Bangkok language
- 4. Perception
- 5. Espionage org.
- 6. Sprite
- 7. TV chef Paula

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Answers for Dec. 16 Puzzles



1. CORTEGE, 2. QUIPPED, 3. SLEEPLESS, 4. ADOLESCENCE, 5. EDITH, 6. ADVISOR, 7. EVERYPLACE

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

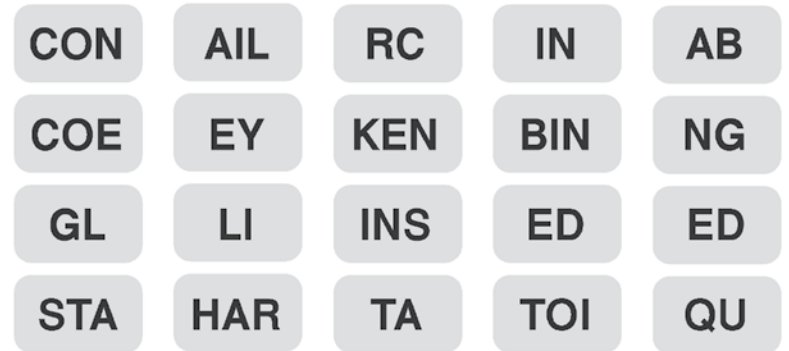
7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

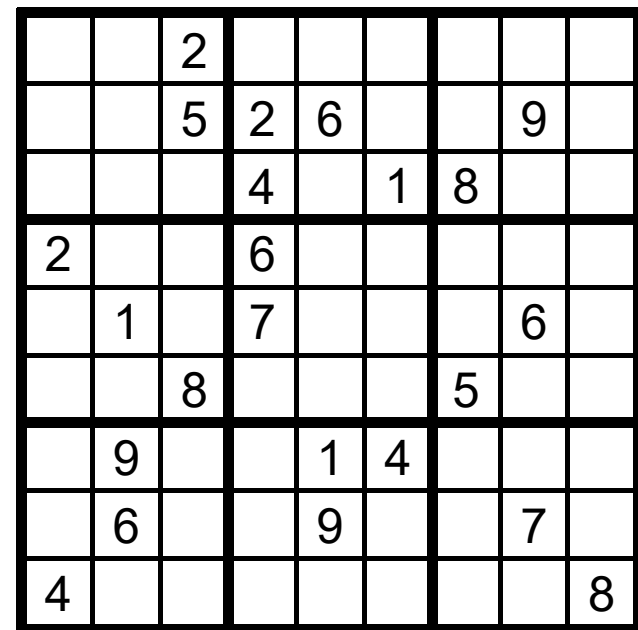
- 1 showing restraint (9)
- 2 strong-armed (7)
- 3 voluntarily holds back (8)
- 4 cower in fear (5)
- 5 Mister Darcy's pal (7)
- 6 working very hard (7)
- 7 take notice (6)

SOLUTIONS



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VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Beacon got to enjoy a couple of feel-good home wins, rolling, 80-44, on Dec. 16 over Liberty, and defeating Port Jervis, 68-47, on Tuesday (Dec. 20).

Against Port Jervis, the Bulldogs took command early, leading 23-11 after one quarter, and 43-23 at the half.

Dylan Howard led Beacon with 17 points and nine rebounds; Joe Battle added 16 points and eight rebounds; Darien Gillins scored 14 points; and Adrian Beato had nine rebounds and seven points.

"We had about as good a first half as we can," said Coach Patrick Schetter. "We executed well. In the third quarter we came out a little slow, but we dialed it back up going into the fourth.

"Dylan had an all-around solid game," Schetter added. "'Macho' Battle was phenomenal on both ends, and Darien Gillins had a game where he we gave him the ball and he scored early. Those guys carried us in this one."

Against Liberty, the hosts were in charge from the opening tip. Howard led the offense with 17 points, Battle had 12 and Beato added eight.

"Our guys showed me something with their physicality and toughness," said Schetter. "Our defense led to offense in that game. Beato facilitated, he distributed the ball well, and put guys in good position to score.

"I love the way we're playing right now," the coach said.

Beacon (3-0) was scheduled to visit Goshen on Thursday (Dec. 22) and to play Franklin Roosevelt on Tuesday (Dec. 27) in the opener of an eight-team tournament at Lourdes.

Haldane, meanwhile, picked up a 65-53 win over Pleasantville on Monday (Dec. 19) on the road. Ben Bozsik led the Blue Devils with 16 points, followed by Matteo Cervone (15), Will Bradley (13) and Ryan Eng-Wong (10).

Haldane (3-3) will travel to Chester on Thursday (Dec. 29).

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon defeated Newburgh Free Academy, 46-28, on Monday (Dec. 19) behind Reilly Landisi's 15 points. Lila Burke added 11 and Daveya Rodriguez had six.

"Getting a win against NFA, especially on the road, is never easy," said Coach Chris-



Dylan Howard drives against Liberty in a Beacon win on Dec. 16. He finished with 17 points.

Photos by S. Pearlman



Javan Verdile scores against Liberty.

tina Dahl. "Despite early foul trouble, Reilly sparked our offense and Lila knocked down some big shots. Daveya played a very unselfish game, dishing out six assists, and Rory LaDue and Devyn Kelly helped to lead the charge on defense."

Beacon (3-3) is scheduled to visit Port Jervis on Jan. 4.

Haldane dropped a 62-36 decision on Wednesday (Dec. 21) at home to Westlake. The Blue Devils (1-3) are scheduled to face

Brewster on Wednesday (Dec. 28) in a tournament at Carmel High School and will play again the next day.

WRESTLING

Beacon picked up a 60-16 dual meet victory on Wednesday (Dec. 21) at home over Franklin Roosevelt, with most of the Bulldogs earning wins by pin, including Jude Betancourt at 138 (14-1 on the season), Jaden Calloway at 215 (15-0), Brody Timm at 160 (4-1), Aiden Buggs at 126, Brandon Martinez at 132 (10-5) and Michael Varian at 285 (13-3).

Coach Ron Tompkins said his squad is still learning but has performed well.

"We're young, but they've been working hard," he said. "Callaway has been steady the whole season. He comes at you the second you're on the mat. Betancourt and Timm have both been consistent. And Jaiera Newton (a ninth-grader wrestling at 145 pounds) has been improving every match."

The Bulldogs (9-6) are scheduled to travel to Monticello on Jan. 4.

WINTER TRACK

Beacon was at the Armory in Manhattan on Wednesday (Dec. 21) for the Section IX Holiday Classic, with Damani DeLoatch winning the triple jump (41-3) and taking fourth in the long jump (19-7).

Henry Reinke ran a 4:43 mile anchor leg and Andre Alzate ran a 54-second 400 in the boys' distance medley relay. Jonah Mensch ran a personal best 8.60 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles to finish eighth.

The next meet will be the Pearl River Invite on Tuesday (Dec. 27) at Rockland Community College. Haldane will also be there.

BOWLING

The Beacon boys' and girls' teams both fell to Kingston, 5-0, on Monday (Dec. 19) but defeated Highland the next day. The boys won, 3-2, and the girls, 5-0.

The boys (3-2) and girls (3-2) return to the lanes on Jan. 6 against Saugerties.

BOYS' SWIMMING

Beacon fell to Rhinebeck, 89-78, on Dec. 12 and to Red Hook, 92-71, on Monday (Dec. 19).

Against Red Hook, Bryce Manning won the 100-meter breaststroke in 1:14.34 and the 400-meter freestyle relay team of Manning, Carlos Lazo, Fionn Fehilly and Ronnie Anzonvino won in 4:07.91.

Against Rhinebeck, Anzonvino won the 50-meter freestyle in 25.92 and the 100-meter freestyle in 1:00.05; Lazo won the 100-meter breaststroke in 1:16.56; and the 200-meter freestyle relay team of Anzonvino, Manning, Imroz Ali and Lazo won in 1:47.32.

The Bulldogs (1-3) traveled to Newburgh Free Academy on Wednesday (Dec. 21) and will host Goshen on Jan. 3.

HALDANE FALL ATHLETIC HONORS

Boys' Soccer

All-State Small Schools

Ryan Eng-Wong

Section 1, All-Section

Ryan Eng-Wong

Clement Grossman

William Sniffen

All-League

Ryan Eng-Wong (MVP) Matthew Silhavy

Matthew Nachamkin Max Westphal

Brandt Robbins

Ahmed Dwidar (Coach of the Year)

Girls' Soccer

All-State, Class C, Second Team

Chloe Rowe

All-League

Sara Ferreira

Ruby Poses

Finola Kiter

Chloe Rowe

Cross-Country

All-League

Helen Nichols

Andreia Vasconcelos

Conrad White

Girls' Tennis

All-League

Amanda Johanson Mairead O'Hara

Caroline Nelson Fiona Shanahan

Ellen O'Hara

Volleyball

All-League

Kate Jordan

Jillian Weinpahl

Football

Section 1, All-Section

Evan Giachinta (Player of the Year)

Jake Mason

All-League

Luca DiLello

Erik Stubblefield

Evan Giachinta

Thomas Tucker

Jake Mason

Ryan Van Tassel

Dylan Rucker

Scholar-Athletes

To receive Scholar-Athlete recognition from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, a team's average GPA for 75 percent of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90/100. Here are the Haldane teams that qualified and the number of athletes who achieved the minimum GPA.

Boys' Soccer (17)

Girls' Tennis (15)

Girls' Soccer (16)

Girls' Volleyball (9)

Girls' Cross-Country (4)