Community bonds: For Midtown Kingston residents, a way to connect

As executive director of Kingston Midtown Rising, a neighborhood organization founded in 2015 to develop and enhance the educational, economic and housing opportunities within the community, Frank Waters has now introduced a service that will enable residents of Midtown to better connect with the area’s multiple service providers. As of July 13, 33 providers were listed on the site. PAGE 19

Many local residents participated in the “Walk for Black Lives” march and rallies in Kingston, Saugerties, New Paltz and Woodstock last month.
Take it slow in Gardiner
The Town of Gardiner is encouraging drivers to take it slow while driving on roads in and around Gardiner. “We are a small, rural community,” said Marybeth Majestic, Gardiner town supervisor, “and our biggest investment is in our local roads. The challenge we face is helping people to understand that local roads are different from county and state roads.” Local roads are rarely striped, and are designed for residents to reach the county and state road transportation system.

Majestic is recommending that drivers using Gardiner’s local roads drive at a maximum of 30 miles per hour when they have a clear and unobstructed view. “When approaching and passing residents and visitors on local roads, slow to 15 miles per hour and even slower where children and the elderly are present,” urged Majestic. “Enjoy your travels on Gardiner roads and, perhaps, walk yourselves ... Allow the journey to your local destination to be part of the experience, and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife too.”

Man, 39, killed after being struck by pickup truck on Rt. 9W

On Saturday, July 11, at approximately 3:44 a.m. state police responded to a car/pedestrian accident on State Route 9W near North Riverside Road in the Town of Lloyd.

Investigation revealed that Leon P. Ponder, 39, of Newburgh, was walking southbound in the right lane on State Route 9W when he was struck by a 2014 Toyota Tundra that was traveling southbound. The operator of the Tundra observed an individual walking in the middle of the lane and attempted to avoid him. The operator subsequently struck Ponder with the passenger side of his vehicle.

State Police and Mobil Life arrived on scene and life saving measures were performed on Ponder. He was transported to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The operator of the Tundra was not cited. The case is still under investigation.

Online bill payment approved in Saugerties

Village of Saugerties residents will soon be able to pay village taxes and water/sewer bills online, according to village treasurer Paula Kerbert. The payment service will be provided by EnetPay, a company that works with M&T Bank – the village government’s bank. Payments by credit card made over the Internet go directly into the village bank account. The treasurer’s office doesn’t touch them. Kerbert said. A credit-card processor at the village bill payment counter will process credit cards for in-person payment through EnetPay.

The treasurer will continue to accept cash or checks. Credit-card payments will carry a small chargesto cover EnetPay’s fee, meaning the village does not pay for the service. The surcharge would be solely for the company’s service.

Kerbert hoped that the system will be more efficient and easier for taxpayers to deal with. The board voted unanimously to adopt it.

— David Gordon

Briefly noted

NEWS OF WOODSTOCK, NEW PALTZ, KINGSTON, SAUGERTIES AND BEYOND

Woodstock | environment

They’re baaaa-ck!

A small herd of goats have returned to Glenford Dike at Ashokan Reservoir.

Fire chief Chris Wade’s daughter took a picture of the line from a hilltop. “It really gave a grasp of how long the parade was,” Murphy said. Murphy also expressed a hope that next year the parade could be back to its traditional format.

— David Gordon

Woodstock | crime

Mailbox vandalism is no joke

Woodstock police are investigating a spate of mailbox vandalism that occurred overnight July 4, just off of Ashokan Mountain and adjacent roads.

Woodstock police are investigating the damage and destruction of around 60 mailboxes on Fourth of July weekend.

Police chief Clayton Keefe said the damage happened late July 4 into early July 5, mostly on Ohayo Mountain Road, but also on Ferry Hill Road and Glassco Turnpike. During that time, two parked vehicles were also damaged, he said.

“Out of all those mailboxes, it makes a heck of a noise, but we didn’t get any calls,” he said. It was only later, when people discovered the destroyed mailboxes, that they called.

Keefe thinks fireworks and other activity may have drowned out the noise.

Damage or destruction of mailboxes is a federal offense, but Keefe said officials usually leave it up to local police departments and courts to handle. The vandals, if found, will be charged with criminal mischief.

Police have made no arrests to date. Anyone who can provide information about the damage or security camera footage is encouraged to contact police dispatch at (845) 679-2422.

— Nick Henderson

Woodstock | crime

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— Nick Henderson
New Palz stop signs

New Palz has added stop signs at two intersections in the village.

Previously, only two stop signs existed at the intersection of Hasbrouck Avenue and Tioric Avenue controlling northbound and southbound traffic. Two additional signs have been added to control westbound and eastbound traffic.

The second intersection is where Southside Avenue meets Pencil Hill Road. Previously, there were no stop signs at this intersection. Now there are three controlling all directions of travel.

Shoppers urged to get tested

Ulster County Health Commissioner Dr. Carol Smith announced on July 10 that an employee at Mother Earth Storehouse in Kingston tested positive last week for Covid 19. Anyone who has shopped at this Mother Earth store from July 1 to July 5 is urged to prompt-ly contact their primary-care physician and seek testing, or contact the Ulster County Covid-19 hotline at 443-8888.

11ỏ urge anyone who has recently shopped at Mother Earth in Kingston to be alert and monitor their symp-toms, said Smith. “We will continue to monitor the situation and take meas-ures to minimize the spread of this disease, including completing contact tracing to inform those who may have been in contact with this individual. As we see cases continue to rise across the country, we must continue to fol-low critical safety precautions including wearing masks, social distancing and washing our hands to protect the health and safety of our community.”

The Ulster County Department of Health has recommended the store be thoroughly cleaned and disinfecting and is working with the New York State Department of Health to ensure proper protocols are being followed. Residents can find information about their near-est testing site by checking here and both walk-in testing sites and mobile testing sites by visiting ulstercountyngov/get-tested.

SUNY Ulster re-entry plan

Dr. Alan P. Roberts has announced that SUNY Ulster’s reentry plan has been approved by SUNY. SUNY Ulster is actively evaluating the next steps of safe re-entry to the college’s Stone Ridge campus and Kingston Center of SUNY Ulster.

“The health and safety of our stu-dents and community has been our number-one focus and will continue to be the top priority,” said Dr. Roberts. “All operations have been evaluated to ensure a safe return for students and staff. This includes adhering to social distancing practices, providing effec-tive personal protective equipment and ensuring that proper cleaning and disinfecting protocols are implemented for all facilities and operations.”

Faculty and the vice president for acade-mic affairs and dean of faculty have been reviewing all course sections to determine how each will be delivered. SUNY Ulster is offering four learning modalities for instruction in the fall 2020 semester, which will commence on Monday, August 24. These are: remote delivery of all course content; remote delivery of lecture content with on-campus lab, clinical, studio, blend-ed or hybrid courses; and fully online courses. An updated course schedule highlighting the fall 2020 learning mo-dalities will be available in the coming weeks.

On-campus learning experiences will be limited to those courses requiring critical hands-on lab, clinical and prac-tical components. These learning ex-periences will be conducted following social distancing and reduced density protocols with course objectives deter-mining on-site need.

Any fall 2020 in-person instruction will be prepared to pivot to remote learning modalities if needed. Addition-ally, the college is prepared to serve students who are required to undergo a 14-day quarantine.

“I am appreciative of the collective ef-forts of our faculty and staff during this challenging time in supporting our stu-dents for their continued success,” said Dr. Roberts.

Saugerties gala going virtual

This year marks the 23rd year of the Boys’ and Girls’ Club of Saugerties gala fundraiser auction. Like so many other events, the club has had to make the difficult decision regarding holding a live event during the global pandemic. The club has re-imagined its event for this year, and from October 2-4 the auction will go virtual. Producing an online event will enable the club to reach an expanded audience, both geographi-cally and with an extended time period.

The annual auction is the club’s ma-jor fundraiser of the year. Last year, over 150 properties and businesses donated goods and services. This year’s auction will feature the same items that have made this annual event successful. Donors have already committed to support the effort.

The Boys’ and Girls’ Club has been on the forefront of youth programming in the Saugerties community for over two decades. The main site is located at 45 Partition Street. For additional infor-mation, call 218-6668 or email dbwa-len@bgclubsonulstercounty.org.

Cystic fibrosis advocacy

Cystic fibrosis advocacy

As part of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s annual Teen Advocacy Day, Griffin Ryne from New Palz joined more than 200 teens from across the country, almost half of whom are living with Cystic Fibrosis (CF), to participate virtually to advocate. Cystic
fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that causes progressive lung damage and makes it difficult to breathe. An estimated 30,000 people in the United States, and 70,000 worldwide, have CF.

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the teen advocates gathered virtually on June 24-25, marking the first time where this many people with CF were able to attend an advocacy event along with their loved ones. Rynne shared his personal experiences of how the disease has impacted his brother Samson, who has CF. The event included two days of training where teens learned different ways to share their personal stories and unique experiences with cystic fibrosis.

The teens asked members of Congress to support the expansion of paid Family and Medical Leave for those with CF. Congress to support the expansion of paid Family and Medical Leave for those with CF. The overall professional winner is guaranteed a $3000 payday, and the top amateur will receive a $500 gift card. Included in the competition is a senior division for the top 50-and-older players. Beginning this year, every overall winner will be presented an Emerson Resort & Spa Woodstock Open champion’s robe.

Professional players and amateurs with a handicap of eight or less can sign up for either a morning or afternoon tee time. Players must follow the tournament’s Covid-19 guidelines.

The project is to stabilize the remnants of the historic Louw-Bogardus House and create a public open space along Frog Alley. The project will serve as a gateway to the Frog Alley.

The public can review the plan, fact sheets and the draft laws for the plan and fund at https://www.town-ofnewpaltz.org/community-preservation-plan-task-force.

The public hearing will be held on Zoom. An invitation to join the public hearing electronically can be found on the town website, on the community preservation webpage. Alternatively, comments can be submitted to the town clerk at clerk@townofnewpaltz.org and will be acknowledged at the hearing as part of the hearing record if submitted by 4 p.m. on July 16.

Broadway streetscape project

New Paltz preservation hearing

New Paltz’s town board will hold a public hearing on adoption of the New Paltz Community Preservation Plan and creation of the accompanying fund on July 16 at 7 p.m. The town is also considering a fund modeled on the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act, which enables communities to create a dedicated fund for protection of open space, farmland, clean water, habitat and historic properties and features. The fund would be supported by a local real-estate transfer tax paid by buyers of properties in New Paltz.

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Broadway streetscape project

Progress is being made on the Broadway streetscape project in King- ston. According to mayor Steve Noble, the first sidewalks were laid this past
The Hudson River Maritime Museum has announced the return of Solaris public tours starting this Friday, July 17. In compliance with New York State’s reopening strategy, Solaris will operate at a third of capacity (ten guests and two crew members), and require all staff and guests to wear protective face coverings. All surfaces will be disinfected between each trip and those aboard the vessel will maintain strict social distancing practices, including the sectioning off of a "crew only" area. A separate onshore restroom will be available for passengers before and after the tours.

Tour options include an ecology cruise, where guides will discuss some of the ecology of the Hudson River and the wildlife encountered along the way; an industrial waterfront tour, including the industrial history of the Roundout waterfront; a dual lighthouse tour, which visits (but does not enter) the Roundout and Esopus Meadows lighthouses; and the sunset cruise.

Tours are available on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoons and evenings. For information and to book a tour, call 338-0071 between noon and 5 p.m. Solaris is also available for private charters. For information, visit www.hrmm.org/book-a-charter.
Reinventing community policing

The New Paltz, Woodstock, Kingston and Saugerties police departments work on plans to comply with Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 203

by Terence P Ward

Long-simmering racial tensions erupted in an unprecedented way in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers on May 25. In New York State, the political response included stripping away some protections granted to shield police officers’ disciplinary history as part of a broader package of reforms, and a mandate from the governor’s office to take a deep dive into how policing is done within municipalities.

Executive Order 203, the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, directs leaders of local governments “to review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices, for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.”

There are still consequences for ignoring the order and a lot of details in the text. Differences among communities are emerging. In many localities, work on police reform which began earlier will now unfold in the context of this executive order.

That policing review must include “members of the community, with emphasis in areas with high numbers of police and community interactions; interested non-profit and faith-based community groups,” as well as members of the criminal-justice complex and elected officials. A plan to implement the community recommendations must be presented to the public for comment and then adopted by April 1, 2021, at which time and the state budget director “shall be authorized to condition receipt of future appropriated state or federal funds upon filing of such certification for which such local government would otherwise be eligible.” In short, state and federal funding might dry up.

Not covered in the executive order are state-level police agencies, including the state troopers, university police and officers of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

With approaches that vary between lean and comprehensive, top-down and bottom-up, local leaders so far have been taking this gubernatorial directive seriously and approaching it in ways fit the unique character of each community. It will be many months before members of the public get to say if they think the work produced will contribute to lasting improvement, but the effort will ensure that state aid isn’t cut off.

Kingston

The city’s obligations under Executive Order 203 are to be called “the re-envision public safety task force,” according to a statement released from mayor Steve Noble’s office. A task force “will review and collect new, innovative recommendations and modernizations and provide a concrete plan.” A call to the city’s communications director seeking details on how task-force members will be selected was not returned.

It’s possible the selection process will follow the lead of the standards Noble signed into law July 8 calling for the city’s police commission to be reflective of the city’s diversity, appointed through a transparent, inclusive and widely-publicized process. Commissioners have the power to recommend changes to policies and practices in the police department and to investigate police officers whether a complaint has been filed or not. They are expected to “seek and participate in a broad range of training annually,” including in the areas of law, bias, crisis intervention, police procedures, evidence collection, discipline and arbitration, among others.

The mayor acts as chair of this police commission, and until recently the chief of police was its secretary. Chief Egidio Tingi was released from those duties, and a commission member will be appointed to replace him. Noble recently appointed a member of a minority, acupuncturist Minya DeJohnette, to the commission.

Woodstock

Executive Order 203 directs the state’s budget director to “promulgate guidance to be sent to all local governments” laying out how to implement the directive. Woodstock town supervisor Bill McKenna’s waiting. He’s been in contact with other local supervisors, and reports that “none of us has seen further updates on that. I’d like to see that before finalizing plans.”

McKenna said he was “mentally formulating membership of that committee,” and expects to appoint them in the next couple of weeks. The supervisor expect the committee to include “a councilperson or two,” the police chief and possibly a training officer who works with more than one police department. Included will be “members of the public, including someone from a religious organization.”

McKenna said that he was “just looking for intelligent people who are about our community, and want to see it improve.” What he hasn’t done, absent that promised guidance, is come up with a name for the group.

McKenna, part of Woodstock town government for 17 years, has had a hand in hiring or promoting just about everyone serving on the town’s police force today. A question he asks of every potential hire, he said, is whether they are willing to act as social worker or psychiatrist while on duty, if necessary. “That’s the tone we expect,” he said.

Officers are also expected to follow a code of conduct which passed two or three years ago, in the supervisor’s recollection.

Talking to people in the community, “I came away feeling pretty lucky to live in Woodstock. We have a pretty decent police department.” Chief Clayton Keefe met with organizers of the recent rally for racial equity in policing, and McKenna reports that it was a “good conversation about the police,” and that “most agreed they are lucky to live in this town.” At the same time, “I’m a huge believer that anything can be improved.” Improvement starts with engaging people from all segments of the population.

Saugerties

Supervisor Fred Costello Jr. will be convening a police reform commission to create “a task force of community
members who will independently solicit community response and recommen-
dations in August. Anyone interested should send a letter of interest to his office by July 17. The task force will “reflect the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our Saugerties community,” according to a press release.

Costello thinks a seven-member task force would be ideal, and that it should be no larger than nine. “If we make the committee too large, it’s difficult to be productive,” the supervisor said. “But we have not committed to a specific size yet.” Costello finds that his town has been blessed with “a talented populace, willing to step up and with the community.”

The task is complex. “This is not a project that will be over in a month,” Costello said. “We want to make it a manageable size, and diverse reflection of the community, to take a critical look at our police department and policies and procedures to make sure they fall in line with expectations.”

The supervisor expects both positive and negative feedback about the police. A format not tied to a specific incident will help provide officials “understand the average perspective about the police department,” which he considers a good example. “We think we are addressing these things, but that’s not enough,” he said. “We want a broad view.”

Rosendale

Rosendale town supervisor Jeanne Walsh is of a mind with Costello. “I thought even an aestival number, a group of concerned citizens wanted more.” It was agreed to add two more members. Walsh said that she’s reached out to six and expects a seventh to be named by the district attorney. There is a call for applications to fill the two remaining slots. New appointments will be named until the August 12 town-board meeting, and as a result the names of the individuals already approached are not being released yet.

According to a statement released June 30, the appointments were intended to begin in the July 8 meeting. The supervisor said the individuals she’s spoken to include a minister, someone representing a local nonprofit, and an organizer of the June 27 rally in support of black lives.

Rosendale police chief Scott Schaftrick was invited to speak. He made some remarks. Later on organizer, Maria Rigden called him back to the mic, saying that the invitation for the chief to participate had been conditioned on him specifically saying “black lives matter.” She said she couldn’t walk away from this event “knowing you didn’t say that.”

Shafrick returned to the stage. The reaction of the crowd was swift. “What you asked me to do…” he began, and the jeers were swift to follow. He switched gears to say, “All black lives matter, absolutely they do.”

As the crowd intensified he said, “I just said it, now if you’ll let me finish ….. We are all together members of the human race … All black lives matter, absolutely. Every life matters, which is what I was asked not to say.”

Rigden returned to the stage. “You know what is the most encouraging thing is that the police have now embraced this movement and are willing to sit down with and work with anyone in the community. He wrapped up with “Thank you for your time” when it became clear his words were not being welcomed. In one picture from the event, Rigden can be seen crying in the background while Schaftrick delivered his additional remarks.

“Whatever I did not understand at the time that I spoke was that their use of the word systemic was not being directed at every member of law enforce-
ment, but rather at the system itself,” the chief wrote in a statement released June 30. “I admit that I was wrong in my understanding, and now in hindsight I understand why many were upset with what I said.”

“I know some people won’t be happy, and others are okay with it,” said Walsh. “I think it was a heartfelt apology. I have had many conversations with the chief, and he expressed he is open and ready to work with the public to help make police reform an easy process with the town. That’s what we’re looking for, and he is open to doing that.”

New Paltz

Police reform in New Paltz, as in Rosendale, is taking place in the context of a local flare-up of tensions. In New Paltz an on-duty officer, Robert Sisco, filmed and posted a rap that many feel included transphobic and even treasonous lyrics, including a declaration that only two genders exist, and the opinion that Hillary Clinton should be charged for treason, among less incendiary thoughts.

Pursuant to the current police contract, all the police chief could do is refer the Sisco matter to an arbitrator with a recom-

The police commission in New Paltz was actually dissolved as of 2014, and the town board has been fulfilling the fiscal and disciplinary duties of that body ever since. An attempt to create a civilian review board ran afoul of section 50(a) of the civil service law; when that review board took a look at the case against officer Robert Knuth last year when he was accused of using excessive force on Ellenville resident Paul Echols, they were inadvertently granted access to documents which they shouldn’t have seen under that law, and their report was not released at the time for that reason.

Now, the so-called “New Paltz Police Reform and Reinvention Committee” is going to be asked, in addition to conducting the review ordered by the governor, to provide recommendations to the chief of police on a reconstituted town police commission.

Unlike the other communities sur-
veyed, the New Paltz plan is to go large: 21 members, most of which will be self-se-
lected by a number of stakeholder groups, with the supervisor’s appointments simply validating those choices. At a meeting this week, the proposal received a lot of scrutiny, particularly around defining those stakeholder groups and articulating the charge of the committee.

The larger size is seen as necessary to reach into those groups that are most impacted by police interactions, with the idea that members would break into sub-committees to make it more workable.

Mesothelioma & Lung Cancer?

Mesothelioma & lung cancer can be caused by asbestos. If you were exposed to asbestos at work or at home and have been diagnosed with one of these diseases, you may be entitled to receive financial compensation from the companies that produced these products.

Belluck & Fox represents asbestos victims in courthouses throughout our office in Woodstock, which is available to serve your legal needs.

Call now for your free consultation.
The Falcon in Marlboro

The outdoors is the new indoors at The Falcon in Marlboro

by John Burdick

From its beginnings in the loft of Tony Falco’s barn in Marlboro, the Falcon has paid as much fastidious attention to its physical environment as to its roster of jazz, blues, world, rock, and experimental talent. That loft was more scarred than rustic. Panned in dark wood reclamation from a church and treated with beautiful and acoustically useful area rugs, the original Falcon, as a space, was every bit the equal of the outsize bookings — Brad Mehldau, Dave Liebman, John Scofield — that stunned and delighted the Hudson Valley music scene at the start of this millennium. And that pairing of serious music and heightened environment has typified everything that Tony has done since.

Which is quite a lot. As its regular patrons know full well, something is always afoot structurally at the second Falcon, a large music and art, dining and drinking multiplex overlooking the dramatic Marlboro Falls on Route 9W. Because the venue has never charged a cover and is driven by donations only, patrons enjoy all-access clearance at all times to two full-size music clubs booked nightly, each with its own kitchen and menu. There are two bars with differentiated offerings. The Avalon Archives museum is embedded in the Falcon Underground. There’s an actively curated art gallery in the main room. Finally, especially relevant right now is a multi-level network of decks, patios, stairs, pathways, and something like luxury boxes that line the lantern-lit path down the side of the falls.

Tony Falco’s constant, visionary fiddling with his structure has come up roses now, providing him with options unique anywhere else: Don Byron, the reed visionary that has always made big takeovers on his area, and we got back to it and had a great night. Some of both. The artists are so into it. They all want to play and get back to it. I have been inspired to reach out to a lot of my favorites to see if their interested in “Music by the Falcon Waterfall:” John Medeski, Saxmob, Cyro Baptista, Marco Benevento, Billy Martin, Jesse Harris, Larry Campbell, Richard Barone and Glenn Mercer, David Torn, and many many more. I was on a roll. We’ll see how we do with this batch. You have any ideas for me?

On July 10, the Falcon enters stage two of its re-launch with a performance by some of its very first headliners of this new era. It re-establishes contact with that founding spirit of the Falcon — your great and profound relationship with the true artists will play with you and feeling out the calendar? Some of both. The artists are so into it. They all want to play and get back to it. I have been inspired to reach out to a lot of my favorites to see if their interested in “Music by the Falcon Waterfall:” John Medeski, Saxmob, Cyro Baptista, Marco Benevento, Billy Martin, Jesse Harris, Larry Campbell, Richard Barone and Glenn Mercer, David Torn, and many many more. I was on a roll. We’ll see how we do with this batch. You have any ideas for me?

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Upcoming shows at the Falcon include: Dylan Doyle Band (July 17), Fred Zeppelin (July 18), Don Byron Project (July 19), Chris Bergon Band (July 24), Sun Dub (July 31), Hollis Brown (August 1), Deadgrass (August 8), KJ Denhert and the NY Unit (August 14) and The Big Takeover (September 11).

The Falcon outdoor beer gardens and decks are open Friday 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. Table reservations are recommended. Call (845) 236-7970 or visit www.liveatthefalcon.com. The Falcon is located at 1348 Route 9W in Marlboro, NY.
One family finds the process more complex than they had anticipated

by Genia Wickwire

It is now Get Tested Week in Ulster County, according to county executive Pat Ryan. From July 12 to July 19, all Ulster County residents are eligible to get tested. During testing a nasal swab, oral swab or saliva sample may be used. It turned out that it is one thing for Pat Ryan to say everyone should get tested, and quite another to go through the process on a personal level.

My husband's dad came to visit us late last week. He had been in total social isolation. He said he was not feeling well. He went to get a Covid test. He did not have results yet.

Our family has been careful, always wearing masks and remaining distant from others. But my husband and I felt that since testing was "fast and free," we should definitely go get tested, too.

We started the morning by reading the article in Hudson Valley One for a link and information on how to get tested. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at. We told them we had Nuvance and information on how to get tested. We were also given the number to the county hotline. We then called the county hotline. We were asked which health facility our doctor was at.

We finally did get a call back from Grand Street. They said my husband could come in after the weekend, and that his results would take three days. With my husband taking his test Monday and me taking my test tomorrow, we shall see who gets results back first. To be clear, we have no symptoms. We have worn a mask and cleaned our hands compulsively. However, here we are wanting to ensure we don't have Covid and quite another to go through the process. It turns out that it is one thing for Pat Ryan to say everyone should get tested, and quite another to go through the process on a personal level.

The County is acting as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and is coordinating with the Town of Saugerties Planning Board and other approving agencies regarding any impacts associated with the proposed tower. A copy of the SEQRA Environmental Form and the Project’s viewshed map is available by request to the Ulster County Planning Department / to Dennis Doyle, 244 Fair Street, PO Box 1800, Kingston, NY 12402-1800 or emailed to ddoyle@co.ulster.ny.us. The public may also submit written comments to this address. The County will, upon completion of its technical studies, schedule a public meeting (virtual if required) to discuss the project and hear comments from the public.
Winds of change

Woodstocker Mary Yelenick puts legal savvy to work for nuclear disarmament, social justice

by Frances Marion Platt

Since the 1960s, the Town of Woodstock has had a reputation for being a hotbed of antirwar activism, as a corollary to its role as an arts colony steeped in the counterculture. Some local promoters of nonviolence are hard to miss — such as Gloria Washyn and her vibrantly colored Parrots for Peace, a magnet for kids at practically every outdoor community gathering in the area. Others, however, keep a lower public profile. Among them is a retired attorney who helped craft the language for an international agreement set to take the United Nations’ Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to a more comprehensive level, once ratified: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Her name is Mary Yelenick; she has had a house in Woodstock since 2009, and has been living here full-time since the COVID-19 shutdown.

Designed to address deficiencies in the NPT, this new treaty is the first legally binding international agreement to prohibit nuclear weapons comprehensively, with their total elimination the ultimate goal. It will prohibit each ratifying state from the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance to those activities. It will create a mandatory timeline for countries that already possess nuclear capability (all of which, including the US, boycotted the negotiations that drafted the treaty) to eliminate their stockpiles altogether.

TPNW was formally adopted by the UN in July 2017, and world peace milestone passage required 50 signatories, and 122 countries voted Aye. But in order for the treaty to have the force of international law behind it, more than 50 countries’ legislatures need to ratify it (much like an amendment to the US Constitution). “So far we have 39,” Yelenick says. Fiji just ratified it last week. Yelenick reports. It will be considered binding international law upon ratifying nations, and become an ethical yardstick for the rest that’s difficult to flout with impunity, comparable to UN policies against land mines, chemical and biological weapons.

The 2017 vote earned a Nobel Peace Prize for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a coalition of non-governmental organizations from 103 countries, based in Geneva. Mary Yelenick is the main representative for ICAN for the international Catholic peace organization Pax Christi; one of the most active and influential groups in the coalition, with 120 member organizations on five continents. Pax Christi was founded in 1945 by French Catholics who had shielded Jews from deportation to concentration camps by the Vichy régime, with a mandate to facilitate between Catholics in France and Germany. It quickly spread around the globe. Pax Christi International has held special consultative status with the UN since 1979 in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as well as with UNESCO in Paris, and meets with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and institutions of the EU in Brussels.

Yelenick came to Catholic activism at an early age, profoundly influenced by the progressive nuns who taught her in school in Colorado. “Catholic sisters have always been heroes to me,” she says. In a way, she seemed destined for a lifetime of involvement in peace and social justice work. “I was born the same day as Brown v. the Board of Education. I grew up in the first integrated neighborhood in Denver. When my parents were looking for a house, they deliberately went with the only real estate agent who had a policy against redlining.” Representing Colorado and Wyoming in the National Spelling Bee in eighth grade meant an eye-opening trip to Washington, DC while the Poor People’s Encampment was in progress. “I was really changed by that. My family was staying in the Mayflower Hotel when Bobby Kennedy was assassinated.”

Yelenick was majoring in Political Science Marion Platt

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Science with a focus on Latin America at the University of Colorado when a mentor told her, “you make a good lawyer!” She ended up getting her JD at Georgetown and doing a clerkship in DC before moving to New York City to pursue a successful 36-year law career with a high-profile firm, Chadbourne & Parke, LLP, eventually becoming a partner. “It was a very interesting practice, mainly tort work. I did a lot of traveling,” she recalls. Product liability was her area of specialization, and she became an internationally recognized expert on detecting bribery and corruption.

She retired from her law practice in 2016, by which time she was already deeply engaged in the peace movement. The US invasion of Iraq provoked her to hold up signs at street demonstrations, at one of which she met veteran Catholic peace activists Daniel Berrigan and Liz McAlister, the widow of Philip Berrigan and a former nun. “Liz and I became close friends,” she relates. Yelenick got involved with Pax Christi USA, joining the National Anti-Racism Team, where she’s still active, frequently publishing essays on the organization’s website. Recent Black Lives Matter actions prompted an eloquent piece on the responsibility to acknowledge and dismantle white privilege, titled “It’s OUR Racism” (https://paxchristiusa.org/2020/06/36/it-is-our-racism). “My obligation as a white person is to lobby the State Legislature. “It’s the pentagon with a ribbon of panels depicting “things that we would miss if there was a nuclear war.”

Ready to grapple with your white privilege? She recommends, as a jumping-off point, reading Robin DiAngelo’s book White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About and Peggy McIntosh’s essay “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.” The Pax Christi website hosts a blog in which peace activists share personal experiences, furnishing plenty of ideas for ways to take a stand on the local level (https://paxchristipeacestories.com). Writing your elected representatives to sponsor ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a simple step that anyone can take. “A big issue coming up is that we’ve got to make sure they don’t suppress the vote,” Yelenick reminds us as well, looking forward to November.

“We have to be brave. You have to take a chance, get out of your comfort zone,” she urges. “Fear can transform you into doing something you would never have done at any other time.”

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The Rev. Therese McIntosh’s essay “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” is a good jumping-off point. The Pax Christi website hosts a blog in which peace activists share personal experiences, furnishing plenty of ideas for ways to take a stand on the local level (https://paxchristipeacestories.com). Writing your elected representatives to sponsor ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a simple step that anyone can take. “A big issue coming up is that we’ve got to make sure they don’t suppress the vote,” Yelenick reminds us as well, looking forward to November.

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Let the music speak

The Colony in Woodstock opens its back garden for socially distanced food and a bit of music

By Paul Smart

Woodstock's Colony on Rock City Road is softly re-opening as a re-thought entity, taking care to quietly walk forward where few musical venues have previously trod.

The venerable structure — built in 1929 as a hotel with ballroom for guests headed to the luxurious Overlook Hotel on the edge of the Catskills high above town — has opened up a new back garden for socially-distanced food and a bit of music.

The Colony has started a series of streaming concert events online, including the latest in a month-long series of events featuring Waxahatchee playing its string of albums, along with Andy Shauf doing a one-hour all-request show from his home in Toronto.

Most of the acts lined up before the pandemic have been rescheduled. The Colony hopes to expand into the autumn. “We shut it down on March 12,” said Neil Howard, co-owner of The Colony with his wife Lex. “We had had a big weekend, and the state hadn’t announced its quarantine actions yet, but it seemed like things were getting scary. We did the right thing.”

For a short while, the venue tried doing takeout, but then decided to close doing takeout, but then decided to close and will continue to welcome, appreciate, and will continue to welcome, appreciate, stronger than ever with Chapter Twp for the last three years. We will return and will continue to welcome, appreciate, and above all entertain our customers.”

Howard isn’t looking forward to trying to make things work with audiences limited to a quarter, even half capacity. He and talent coordinator Mike Campbell decided that it would be best to simply wipe the slate clean and offer refunds where needed, rbook acts for the coming year, and do what could be done online.

There had been thought about doing drive-in concerts, but the ethics and logistics of serving alcohol for such events were getting scary. We did the right thing.”

“Four of their back garden five nights a week, will rise several floors with balconies. The main room wouldn’t be our focus for parking lot next to the historic venue. The Colony’s back garden, as well as the moving of the weekly Woodstock farmers’ market to the parking lot next to the historic venue. The Colony’s main room wouldn’t be our focus for parking lot next to the historic venue. The Colony’s main room wouldn’t be our focus for parking lot next to the historic venue. The Colony’s main room wouldn’t be our focus for parking lot next to the historic venue.

“We produced a virtual concert with Tom Pacheco so his tradition of playing Memorial Day could continue. It did well, and just about broke even,” Howard added. “We decided that The Colony’s main room wouldn’t be our focus for now, except for private events.”

Howard spoke about intimate concerts for 30 to 50 people which would feel ample in The Colony space, which rises several floors with balconies. The music played for those attending such private events, or stopping by The Colony’s back garden five nights a week, will likely be acoustic, with an emphasis on singer-songwriters.

“It’s all kind of wait-and-see for now. I’m in no hurry to put us at the end of any spear thrusting into the unknown,” he added. He spoke about changes in the music industry. Large venues and the style of music designed to fill them will face problems moving forward. A more intimate form of musical expression seems ripe for the times.

“It’s a time of re-invention. It’s about thinking space. It feels right to be repositioning, re-branding and re-inventing.”

Howard dubs the new outdoor music events he’s been planning, “Safe Soundouts.”

Soft opening at The Colony.
The Colony’s soft opening featured a set by Paul McMahon.

“We’re playing with the idea of low-power FM transmitters. We don’t want a whole crowd of people, so our soft opening is going to be really slow and really soft.”

As Howard wrote when closing, three and a half months ago, “Live music is not going away. Please write and sing and play and perform in your homes, in the woods, in your hearts and in your souls. Live music can be, should be, and is everywhere. Please keep making music. ... See you on the other side.”

For information on The Colony’s reopening over the coming months, and now, visit its website at colonywoodstock.com or on Facebook.
Not a hit with all

HITS is complying with health requirements, Mayor says

by David Gordon

On concer over reopen- ing HITS [Horse Shows in the Sun] as restric- tions based on the coro- navirus are relaxed, has Village of Saugerties res- ident Tracy Puertas worried because the venue “has a lot of people coming in from states whose residents must quarantine themselves for 14 days, yet they seem to be shopping, buying food at restaurants and generally mingling with village residents. ‘They’ve been seen in town, they’ve been seen shop- ping,’” said village resident Tracy Puertas.

Puertas said she would agree with Murphy, but with mixed information. “They were open, they were shut down, so it would probably have been easier if a mailing had gone out or something, because the information was mixed,” she said.

Murphy reiterated that the difficulty is that the information keeps changing. At times, the information changes between the time the county issues an attempt to notify relatives that Town of Ulster police had discovered that Debra Adels, 62, had committed suicide by jumping off the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge earlier that day. After the analysis of DNA evidence, the nature of which was not released until recently, police concluded that Deborah Adels had killed her husband before taking her own life.

“It just seems like this was an es- tranged relationship, and this is unfor- tunately how it ended,” said Saugerties police chief Joseph Sinagra. In the initial March 30 press release announcing the discovery of the body, Sinagra assured residents that the incident was “isolated” and posed no danger to public safety.

Fearing for his safety, Randall Keith Adams, who lived separately in Saugerties on Fountainview Avenue, allegedly re- quested a police escort to the Old Kings Highway property in March 2019 to retrieve his belongings left in the home after the couple’s separation.

The pair is survived, said Sinagra, by their adult children.

DNA results confirm that a Saugerties woman took her own life after killing her husband on March 29

by Christina Coulter

Saugerties police re- leased the identity of a murder victim and his killer on July 9 after waiting months to verify the details of his killing through DNA analysis. The pur- pose of the body of Randall Keith Adels, 58, was spotted by a Saugerties police officer peering through the window of the man’s estranged wife’s home at 1976 Old Kings Highway at approximately 2 a.m. on the evening of March 29.

Officers arrived at the property in an attempt to notify relatives. The mayor cited Ulster County’s “isolated” and posed no danger to public safety.

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Beat the red light

Village Board considers speed indicator sign on Ulster Avenue

by David Gordon

Ulster Avenue is like a razerback,” kayak Na- dal said at the regular Saugerties Village Board meeting on July 6. “From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. people, especially the young- er generation, attempt to beat the red light. Sitting on the front porch and watching what is happening, and being a volunteer firefighter, I think someone is going to get seriously hurt or killed. And the amount of people walking on Ulster Avenue — what can be done be- fore some people really does get hurt?”

Mayor William Murphy said the best thing would be to get a sign similar to the one on Washington Avenue, which tells drivers how fast they are going as they approach it. “We had a temporary one up last year, and it did seem to slow things down.” Murphy has been in contact with Ulster County to try to get a similar sign to be permanently installed on Ulster Avenue as well.

Murphy said the other alternative is strict enforcement. While he does not have the authority to reduce the speed limit on a state road to 25, “I don’t think five miles an hour on a state road makes a difference as opposed to residential streets.”

Saugerties Police Chief Joseph Sinagra said the department does enforce traffic laws on Ulster Avenue. The sign that was installed temporarily records the speed of traffic in both directions, and “that data shows that the last time we had the sign up on Ulster Avenue people were compliant.” Sinagra said. “The times we found the anomalies at high speeds, we were able to correlate that with emergency vehicles, such as EMS and ambulance, fire vehicles, police vehicles responding to emergencies.”

Police did not find a lot of non-emer- gency traffic that was going faster than the speed limit, Sinagra said. “We’ll see what the results are on Elm Street and Market Street; that’s where the sign will be moved to next, and we’ll make a de- termination as to how we can handle it.”

Sinagra said an enforcement detail including state troopers, deputy sheriffs and Saugerties police officers would “satrate the village” for the remainder of the week [week of July 5].

Sinagra said he observed traffic one evening in the previous week and he wrote out six tickets, for people running a stop sign; all but one to Saugerties residents.

Murphy said he has spoken to the county, and they have two of the signs that tell drivers how fast they are going. “I hope I can grab one. They were supposed to give two to each town and we only got one at the time.”

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HITS at Saugerties.

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HITS in Saugerties.
Unity in diversity

New Paltz police reform plan underwhelming to activists

by Terence P Ward

At the second New Paltz virtual town hall on policing on Thursday, July 9, most of the attention was focused on the police reform and reinvention collaborative, the New Paltz response to a gubernatorial directive to conduct a comprehensive review of police practices.

Supervisor Neil Bettez was bracing for the same level of interest as the June 18 town hall garnered, when the video-conference platform drew the maximum of 100 attendees for most of the roughly two-hour session. That didn’t happen. Instead, fewer than 20, including elected officials and board members willing to engage in dialog rather than just listening, called in.

The model collaborative drafted by deputy supervisor Dan Torres calls for 21 members representing a number of community stakeholder groups. A handful of the seats are specified in the governor’s executive order, and the rest will be self-selected within those groups. Torres has suggested that members should include members of the town and village boards, a school board member, someone from the youth center or in community education, a member of a group such as the Racial Equity Coalition or the Concerned Parents of New Paltz, members of the student and faculty bodies on the SUNY campus, a religious leader, the police chief or lieutenant, member of a local activist group such as U-ACT or Resisterhood, residents of Meadowbrook and Woodland Pond, representatives of the Tavern Owners Association and the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Center, a designer of the district attorney and another of the public defender, and a member of the village’s landlord-tenant relations council. A common theme in the feedback was that the mix of groups proposed may not yield the diverse mix those few persons in attendance desired.

Beyond the usual suspects?

“Rather than approach the collaborative as a simple checklist,” said Daniel Schniedewind, this process “should instead be to insure that those New Paltz residents that are most impacted by policing and are therefore best positioned to address what is not working, make up the collaborative to a degree which is proportionate to their level of interaction with the police.” This would “center people of color,” by Schniedewind’s estimation.

Tom Jeliffe felt that the mission of

Paul C. Donahue, Jr.

Paul C. Donahue, Jr. (68) San Leandro, CA. Paul passed away at his home on June 29, 2020 following a year-long battle with cancer. Paul was born on January 22, 1952 in Newburgh, NY. He was the son of Paul C. and Rita (Murphy) Donahue. Paul was the eldest of eight children in a proud Irish Catholic family. He was a role model and caretaker of his younger siblings at their home in New Paltz, NY. At New Paltz High School, he was a scholar athlete and a student leader. He played football and served as class president for two years. He was highly respected by faculty and students. Growing up, Paul was a voracious reader of politics, history, westerns, mysteries and baseball. He also coached his brothers little league teams. Paul graduated from Villanova University and Fordham University School of Law. He practiced law in Poughkeepsie, NY. In 1983, Paul joined his cousin and best friend in California. He worked in title law throughout Alameda County where he settled down to raise a family. Paul was devoted to being a hard worker and provider. He was a Vice-President Underwriter of Title Insurance at First American Title Company for 35 years. Though Paul was a quiet man, he was known to be kind, noble, and intelligent. He was always willing to ‘lend a mind’ and offered great insight when he spoke. Paul will be remembered for his kind heart, love of family, strong work ethic, and his astute mind that was always ready for debate. He enjoyed bonding with his children over sports and sitting in the yard with his radio and a good book.

Paul is survived by his mother, Rita Donahue; his wife, Mitzi; his children, Tony, Jenny, Mariana, and Christopher; and his granddaughter, Isabella. He is also survived by his siblings, Marie Anderson, Joan (Ralph) Scandariato, Pat (Mike) DiMattia, Ann Donahue, Phil (Debra) Donahue, Liz (Steve) Rosner, and Tom (Megan) Donahue. Many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews also survive. In addition to his grandparents and aunts and uncles, he was predeceased by his father, Paul Donahue; cousins, Peter Donahue and Nancy Murphy Verville; and a niece, Murphy Rosner.

A memorial service will be held at Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward, CA on July 17, 2020 from 6-8pm. An interment service will take place in Gardiner, NY at a later date.

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this group should be centered on race, to keep it in the spirit of the executive order. “Maybe you don’t want to accuse the police or undermine the chief,” he said, “but that is not your call.” He pointed to the four areas of focus proposed as evidence; looking at systemic racism is one of the four, but Jeliffe thinks it underpins all else. He also echoed the call for more black members in particular, rather than “the usual suspects.”

Laid out in the mission is a mandate to develop a collaborative problem-solv- ing platform for policy and legislative changes . . . related to evidence-based policing strategies,” said resident Tanya Marquette. The proposal “completely whitewashes the intent of this mandate.” “To be successful, she said, this coalition should be at least 60 percent people of color, with an emphasis on those doing anti-racism work rather than nice people who don’t understand what racism is.

Torres noted that the focus of this co- alition, partially laid out in the governor’s order, could be expanded or modified by the members. “This is not perfect by any means,” the deputy supervisor agreed, and he invited anyone with a better model to suggest it. He was amenable to making the coalition’s charge more explicitly about racism.

A member of an activist group like U-ACT is being sought because, accord- ing to Bettez, that participation can tap into wider networks and thus speak for populations not always represented in public discourse.

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for its inclusion as a stakeholder group. The police respond to calls whenever the rescue squad is needed. Schniedewind noted that residents of the facility may not be representative of senior citizens, vis-à-vis the nature of their interactions with police.

Marquette was more blunt, saying that residents of Woodland Pond “is not part of that demographic at all. Those types of groups should not be sitting at this table.” All told, Marquette would like the police to “toss the list” and start with a public forum to determine which demographics should be given voice.

Where are the numbers? Schniedewind praised the fact that this group will be given the “widest possible scope” for its inquiry, particularly in respect to the police budget. A member of a group called New Palz United for a Responsible Budget, he advocates for redirecting law-enforcement funds to programs as varied as child care and environmental protection.

Another member of that group, Harper Keenn, laid out demands to cut the police budget by 25 percent for two successive years. He wanted to redirect that money to other services, including a new rapid-response team trained in de-escalation and not carrying firearms, or even called “police.” Keenn echoed a call for the detailed police budget to be released.

‘To be successful, this coalition should be at least 60 percent of people of color, with an emphasis on those doing anti-racism work rather than nice people who don’t understand what racism is.’

Bettez confirmed that something will be made public in response to a freedom of information request made on behalf of a local newspaper. He wasn’t clear how much information about the request itself he could release at that time. In response to the request, budget documents are being reviewed to redact personal information, he said, and the result would likely be posted online after review by the town attorney for compliance with state and federal privacy laws.

Torrres said the suggested process “goes above and beyond” asking for recommendations on appointments. The coalition will be specifically asked for recommendations on how to reform the police commission, which was dissolved as of 2014, as well as who to name to it.

A woman only identified by one name, Jana, cautioned against assuming that more training for police officers or commissioners will resolve issues of systemic racism. It hasn’t done so yet, she said. Marquette suggested that whatever emerges must be embraced by the entire community for anything to be accomplished.

The prior town hall on policing resulted in many questions and no answers other than a promise to respond in writing. Those answers have been slow to arrive, as board members can only talk in pairs about town business and they are looking for consensus in the answers posted. The first set has been published on the coalition’s website, with a promise of more to come.

A message from that town hall is that no one with stories to share wants to talk to elected officials or police officers directly. Different ways of reaching out are being tried, including a series of informal chats with the police chief on the third Thursday of the month, with location and time to vary. This coming Thursday, July 16 it will be at 9 a.m. in the Peace Park.

Once it’s up and running, the coalition is expected to conduct meetings in public, and also to organize additional ways to connect with different community members on these issues.

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Frank Waters builds communication around Kingston Midtown Rising Connect

by Lynn Woods

Frank Waters.

Since Frank Waters arrived in Kingston from New York City eight years ago with his wife and two children, he’s been helping transform the city’s cultural scene and cement its community bonds. He launched MyKingstonKids, which organized and created events, play activities, a radio station and even an apparel line for local youths. He was a co-founder of Harambee, which created the city’s first African American Festival and helped save and will manage the African Burial Ground, a cemetery dating back to the 1600s located in a backyard on Pine Street. He ramped up Black History Month into a rich series of events ranging, in 2019, from a historic walk retracing the path of Sojourner Truth to expanding home ownership.

That was just a beginning.

As an executive director of Kingston Midtown Rising, a neighborhood organization founded in 2015 to develop and enhance the educational, economic and housing opportunities within the community, Waters has now introduced a service that will enable residents of Midtown to better connect with the area’s multiple service providers. Midtown residents register for free on the Kingston Midtown Rising Connect website or call in by phone to learn of the various offerings, many of them free, posted by businesses, nonprofits, organizations, and municipalities.

The service launched on July 1. As of July 15, 33 providers were listed on the site. Waters expects that number to reach 100 by the end of the year.

“A lot of the organizations I have a relationship with are dying to connect with the Midtown community, but they haven’t been able to navigate how to reach those people,” Waters said. “We are going to be integral to the mission of Kingston Midtown Rising, which is improving people’s lives ‘by using the asset-based community development strategy, which is providing resources from within the area.’

Not all the providers are located in Kingston — the common denominator is that they provide service to Midtown. Among the more unusual participants are Horses for Change, which offers riding lessons at a farm in Esopus; Seed Song Farm, located along the Esopus Creek in the nearby Town of Ulster; and Circle Creative Collective, a nonprofit whose members teach a variety of traditional African crafts. Many of the services listed on Kingston Midtown Rising Connect will be discounted or free, and it is the responsibility of the provider to list and update the service, event, or product.

The goal is for Connect to eventually reach 60 to 70 percent of Midtown households, Waters said.

Since only 35 percent of those households are connected to the Internet, according to comments made by Waters in a webinar on the new service held on June 23, an important component of the sign-up process is specifying the participant’s preferred method of contact, be it by phone call, text, email, Facebook or Instagram post, mail or picking up information at a neighborhood location. (People without Internet service who call the Kingston Midtown Rising number, 219-5400, ext. 2, can leave a message and get a call back to sign up.) They can also choose how they would prefer to receive the information — through reading or through an audio or video recording.

“Communication is key,” Waters said. “So is the connection to city hall, which will include updates on municipal information, changes and events. In the webinar, Waters said people who sign up for the Connect network will get an award for referring others to the service.

Given that the easiest way to engage with Connect is through the Internet, isn’t that a compelling argument for city-wide free Internet service? The cost of Internet service is not the only impediment. Waters noted. “Some people are older and not tech-savvy or not interested,” he said.

On August 1, Kingston Midtown Rising will launch a marketing campaign that will publicize Connect through social-media posts, videos, podcasts, radio announcements, banners, flyers, posters, and direct mailings to the estimated 6600 Midtown households. The initiative is being funded from the NoVo Foundation as well as grants from the federal government connected to the 2020 census and from the North Star Fund, a non-profit social-justice organization. Kingston Midtown Rising is also accepting donations on its website.

Waters is a compelling testament to the power of connecting, given his success at transforming Black History Month into an invigorating series of forums on many facets of Black identity and history as well as practical seminars designed to empower individuals. How does he do it?

“The secret is to treat everybody the same and speak from your heart,” he said, noting he came to Kingston with 30 years’ experience as an organizer, activist and entrepreneur in New York City. “Don’t be afraid to talk to everybody and have no judgment. Everyone has something to contribute.”

Although that sounds simple, it’s an attitude that many find difficult to express. He credits his upbringing and specifically the example of his father, who, despite growing up in the South Bronx under very difficult circumstances, taught him how to organize. “I was able to make it because I was taught to look at what you want in life, not just your present circumstances, and take a chance,” Waters explained.

“To decide to leave the city, where he’d had a variety of businesses, was initially made by his wife Shaniqua. “We had a 15-year-old son and a newborn daughter” — the couple have since had a third child and “my wife wanted more trees and to be around nicer people,” he said. “It took us three years of being here.” They moved to the Lace Mill, the Rupco-owned complex providing subsidized housing for artists.

Besides his work at Kingston Midtown Rising and Harambee, Waters also serves on the board of the Midtown Arts District and on several committees civic and cultural committees.

Waters is also overseeing the year-long conversion of the former Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church to The Liberty Center, which will serve as Kingston Midtown Rising’s headquarters. There’ll be workforce training and community events and services, he said. A basketball court and other sports facilities and spaces will be created there.

As a working father himself, he can speak to the challenges faced by families in Kingston and in Midtown particular during the pandemic. “We have a population with limited access to affordable healthcare,” he noted. He and his wife are fortunate in that both have been able to work from home, unlike some families who have children at home and no jobs, he noted. Services such as Project Resilience, Family of Kingston, and People’s Place have played a huge role in ensuring everyone in the city has enough to eat and a roof over their head, Waters said.

Is Connect limited to residents of Midtown? Waters said no one would be denied registering, and he expected there to be a need among residents of the Rondout Gardens public housing complex as well as in Poughkeepsie — though the focus will continue to be on Midtown. “We’re keeping our eye on the street and leading a hand where we can,” he said. “We’re looking at ways to create a better life experience.”

To register on Kingston Midtown Rising Connect, visit kingstonmidtownrising.org or call 219-5400, ext. 2, and leave a message.
Semblance of a ceremony

The Kingston High School in-person graduation ceremony has been significantly reined in due to concerns of spreading the virus in a crowded Dietz Stadium by Crispin Kott

The Kingston High School Class of 2020 will hold an in-person graduation ceremony at Dietz Stadium this weekend, though it will actually consist of ten different ceremonies spread over two days. Superintendent Paul Padalino said the series of staggered ceremonies based on a graduate’s last name, was as close as the KCSD could get to a familiar commencement in the middle of a pandemic.

“Our first idea was to do ten [ceremo-
From Trumpster to dumpster
On June 17, President Donald Trump organized a public gathering to honor the Prevents task force for its efforts and to appreciate for its findings after one year of work. The PREVENTS task force (President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide), was formed on March 5, 2019 to find new creative ideas to help reduce the veteran suicide rate in our country. I sincerely hope the new ideas of the task force turn out to be very successful. Nothing would please me more, since the veteran suicide rate has been an ongoing tragedy for years now.

But my issue is not with the task force. It is with the unbelievable hypocrisy of Mr. Trump. The gathering by Trump was set up to appeal to the religious right by having a veteran talk about how Jesus Christ saved his life after an unsuccessful suicide attempt. Then, in closing, Robert Wilkie, the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, also brought up Jesus Christ in his final words. Once again it came off as another staged performance for Trump’s base. But I think Trump forgot one minor detail. Also there are many religious-right enthusiasts who are no longer turning away from the truth about Donald Trump and they are well-aware and disgusted with the diabolical Russian plan to pay big money to Taliban fighters who kill American soldiers. And the same Christian right is also well aware that the president had said that exact information in February, but did absolutely nothing about it.

In fact, he had six, count them, six private phone calls with Vladimir Putin during the spring months, I wonder what they could have talked about. Don’t you?

And when the newspapers broke the news about the diabolical Russian scheme last week, people across the country were outraged. But Trump still hasn’t said a word about it. The president of our United States not saying a word about it to let at least our active military believe he cares about them. Nothing! Hard to believe. And now, after further investigation, it appears that a number of Taliban fighters were actually paid money after a few of our soldiers were killed. That makes me furious.

So, Mr. Trump, go on believing that the good people of this country and the religious right will still support you no matter what you do or don’t do. Go on believing that they will vote for you in November even though you have betrayed them and have abandoned our troops. It appears to me that your number is up. On November 3 I look forward to saying, “Good riddance to bad rubbish.”

MARTY KLEIN
Woodstock

Building trust in New Paltz — be it with the town board or the police — must start with the inclusion of at least ten groups which are not on the town board’s hand-picked list. These are, but are not limited to: Black Lives Matter of New Paltz, Black Lives Matter — SUNY New Paltz, Sisters of Servant Truth, Black Student Union — SUNY New Paltz, Latino Student Union — SUNY New Paltz, Faculty of Color Network, New Paltz-Spanish-Speaking Immigrant Group, Racial Equity Initiative Advisory Committee of the New Paltz Board of Education (REIAC), Concerned Parents of New Paltz, Latino Student Union — SUNY New Paltz, Building trust in New Paltz — be it with the town board or the police — must start with the inclusion of at least ten groups which are not on the town board’s hand-picked list. These are, but are not limited to: Black Lives Matter of New Paltz, Black Lives Matter — SUNY New Paltz, Sisters of Servant Truth, Black Student Union — SUNY New Paltz, Latino Student Union — SUNY New Paltz, Faculty of Color Network, New Paltz-Spanish-Speaking Immigrant Group, Racial Equity Initiative Advisory Committee of the New Paltz Board of Education (REIAC), Concerned Parents of New Paltz, Latino Student Union — SUNY New Paltz, Faculty of Color Network, New Paltz-Spanish-Speaking Immigrant Group, Racial Equity Initiative Advisory Committee of the New Paltz Board of Education (REIAC), and a town board that is truly representative of the community.

Concerned Parents of New Paltz

The New York State Governor has asked New York communities to “address any racial disparity and disproportionate policing of communities of color” as a key element of his Executive Order 203 which tasks local governments, together with police and community representatives, to reimagine police departments to address “the particular needs of communities served.”

In New Paltz, that was kicked off by three meetings of the town board and selection — by the town board — of community groups to prepare the governor’s mandated plan. These include up to 22 stakeholders that are predominantly white and have no demonstrable experience with anti-racism work. To the contrary, there is only one stakeholder that is specifically black and has been on the scene for a couple of different groups?!

The New Paltz Town Board discussed the Civilian Review Committee and has assumed that role as well. They dissolved this committee when it found against a police officer accused of brutality of a young black man.

No meaningful community input can be demonstrated, controlled and defined solely by a town board with non-diverse groups selected to guarantee the board’s control over the committee and the outcome.

The New Paltz Town Board’s proposal of predominantly white and privileged stakeholder groups is tone deaf and demonstrates a failure to deal with tasks outlined by Executive Order 203 — not a competent beginning.

William J. Lesko

Voices of people of color must be heard!
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### Rebubting anti-Semitic views

**Like Trump, Fred Nagel and Jane Toby (in their separate letters to the editor) count on the power of repetition to bend reality to their anti-Semitic views of Israel and its “Palestinian problem.”**

Both their arguments on equating black lives in America with the plight of the Palestinians are based on a false, inaccurate platform. Unfortunately, they are blinded to the facts that:

1. Both Palestine and Israel were created in 1948 as a result of that war, Israel ended up with a much greater area, and ended up having to fight for its survival. The depth of the anti-Semitism by the Palestinians of all ages is the result of the Oslo accords. The entire two-state solution is and always was a result of that war, Israel ended up with a much greater area, and ended up having to fight for its survival. The depth of the anti-Semitism by the Palestinians of all ages is the result of that war.

2. Israel was prepared and did actually prevent Palestinian terrorist damage. In response to an act of terrorism, Israeli’s have to live with its consequences, but ends up being diverted to fund terrorism.

3. The Palestinians (of all ages) were given by negotiation (and abrogated by subsequent events) the impacts that the blasting will have on neighboring properties and their ability to live in peace.

4. This terrorism is sponsored and supported by the leadership in Gaza and the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority (as well as other Palestinian governments of all ages) to commit acts of terrorism, honoring those terrorists and rewarding the families of terrorists kills both the terrorists and committing their various acts by providing them with support and payments. That money, resentful over the situation and other resources, was meant to aid all Palestinians but ends up being diverted to fund terrorism. No wonder that Palestinians might bend reality to their anti-Semitic views.

Thus, it is because of this unrelenting support for terrorism by Palestinian leaders of all ages of Israel’s that have lived with the constant and daily threat of Palestinian violence that Palestinians, and “Palestinians” need to serve an important (but fatiguing) role in preventing Palestinian terrorism damage. Their actions and words need to tell the truth, starting with the very real need for self-preservation on the part of Israelis made necessary by insane hate directed at terrorism by Palestinian leaders against Jews.

What happened to Iyad Halak was a tragedy accepted by both sides, and both sides accepted the fact that it was exactly that.

**Nancy Schindelwind**

### The New Pal茨 Times legacy

In your July 1 issue of Hudson Valley One, Connie Wickwire’s moving forward” laid out factors in the future decision of the Hudson Valley One staff to retain our local fossil fuel pipelines in the US. First, the Atlantic Coast pipeline, traveling from North Carolina to New York and North Carolina, was cancelled! Duke Energy and Dominion Energy applauded to the White House, a saving of invested billions of dollars and years of effort. They stated that fighting the litigations was cost-prohibitive, that it made no sense to pursue the project no longer as cost-effective, and they’re reversing course. Duke Energy and Dominion Energy applauded to the White House, a saving of invested billions of dollars and years of effort. They stated that fighting the litigations was cost-prohibitive, that it made no sense to pursue the project no longer as cost-effective, and they’re reversing course. Duke Energy and Dominion Energy applauded to the White House, a saving of invested billions of dollars and years of effort. They stated that fighting the litigations was cost-prohibitive, that it made no sense to pursue the project no longer as cost-effective, and they’re reversing course.

But the bigger news was about the Dakota Access pipeline. Despite harsh-fought battles, involving native tribes, environmentalists and a few New Paltz residents who made the trek, the pipeline was completed and operational. However, last week, a federal court judge shut down the pipeline because the Army Corps of Engineers did not have the proper permits to begin construction. The court ordered the Army Corps to stop construction, which has occurred over the dire consequences of a spill. He also required the Corps to do a full environmental impact statement. This could take years. Finally, there has been grumbling by fossil-fuel companies, in part, because of the pandemic, that these operations among the country are no longer as cost-effective, and they’re reversing course. The New Pal茨 Times legacy.

### Masks key to safer schools

I have two elementary school-age kids in the Kingston school district. They are genuine families, for obvious reasons, do not go to school. They do attend public school. Their parents who countered with shouts and abuse. First, they are critical to stop the spread of Covid 19. They must be mandatory, even if they go against what some students are used to or, with some families, what resources they have available. There should be a return to in-person classes, the school district should provide masks, and both parents and students should use them properly. Anything less will be irresponsible.

**Malia Cordell**

### The pipes are a callin’

Last week’s great news was about fossil fuel pipelines in the US. First, the Atlantic Coast pipeline, traveling from North Carolina to New York and North Carolina, was cancelled! Duke Energy and Dominion Energy applauded to the White House, a saving of invested billions of dollars and years of effort. They stated that fighting the litigations was cost-prohibitive, that it made no sense to pursue the project no longer as cost-effective, and they’re reversing course. Duke Energy and Dominion Energy applauded to the White House, a saving of invested billions of dollars and years of effort. They stated that fighting the litigations was cost-prohibitive, that it made no sense to pursue the project no longer as cost-effective, and they’re reversing course.

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### We are our neighbors

Once again there was a letter to the editor in Hudson Valley One that attacked the library while, at the same time of the summer.
The goal of this study: Can solar and/or wind energy be combined with local or renewable energy and storage equipment to reduce the WWTP’s average monthly electricity bill by about half. The initial cost is still significant especially during these challenging times, but this study is sure to result in further work and eventual implementation of these technologies in our community for our benefit and a healthier planet.

"Renewable Energy Production and Storage Review and Feasibility Study at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Village of New Paltz" was completed in May 2020 and presented to the village board of trustees in June. The full report: tinyurl.com/yatsdoc

The SUNY New Paltz engineering team consisted of Zachary Johnson (Mechanical Engineering, ’20), Nikki Maher (Computer Engineering, ’21), and Nolan West (Electrical Engineering, ’21). The course was led by Dr. Kevin Shanley of SUNY New Paltz Engineering Department.

This is another great example of how SUNY New Paltz and the village work together in meaningful ways. Thank you and congratulations! Mayor Tim Rogers

Let’s defend our military

Police VIOLENCE is probably the most obvious state-sanctioned, in-your-face violence—particularly if your face is black or brown. Defending the police is a good beginning—but just scratches the surface. Martin Luther King reminded us that the largest purveyor of violence in the world is the military.

Military violence causes unspeakable suffering for all living creatures—human and otherwise. In Afghanistan, Yemen, the Congo, Kashmir and Palestine. It’s the violence of guns, bombs, napalm, land mines, cluster bombs, jet fighter attacks, submarine explosions, cruise missiles, submarines, battleships, Apache helicopters, and ultimately nuclear bombs which cause horrifying death, suffering, sickness and starvation for millions around the globe. It also causes devastating environmental contamination from substances like depleted uranium and agent orange in Vietnam.

So yes, let’s start with defending racist police violence. But we must move on to address the real threats to life on this planet. Let’s defend our military (ideally, all militaries). And while we’re at it, let’s

William M. Blitzer

William M. Blitzer, was born in Bronx, NY, on September 5, 1938 to parents Morton and Beatrice (Kosso) Blitzer. At the age of 5, Bill, started spending summers in Willow where his grandparents, Don and Sonja Kosso, bought an old farm house on Silver Hollow Road with 150 acres as their summer vacations with family and friends.

After graduating from Columbia High School in the Bronx in 1956, he attended Ogden University and Pace College and was a member of the Army Reserves. After working in the manufacturing side of cable in the family business, he became the plant manager of Carelle Cable in Rhode Island. His working career included industrial sales for Panasonic, Kurt Urban Optumers, Wolberg Electrics, and Bill.

Bell ill in love with Woodstock in the 60s. The Sea Horse on Rock City Road was the center of good times where he met many colorful Woodstock characters. Morning coffee with friends was a tradition at the Woodstocker and Dairy’s, fly fishing, fly tying, trap shooting, and swapping stories with the locals gave him a lot of pleasure.

In 1967, he married briefly to Fathe DeCuzzi. In 1972, he met his wife, Bobby, at DeCuzzi’s Restaurant on Mill Hill Road. On "subsidio" between jobs, he built a barn and a house in Willow, planted lawns, gardens, and carefully pruned orchard of 20 fruit trees, and laid up bluestone walls.

Two stepsons, Jason, and Nathan, were "educated" in lawn mowing and feeding the woodstove.

After Retirement, Bill constructed and flew Radio Controlled model planes and was a member of the Smithsonian club. Sawyer BC Flies and Arrangements are under the guidance of Lasher Funeral Home Inc. 100 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY. A Celebration of Bill’s life will be held at a later date.

Condules, tributes and photos may be left for Bill’s family by visiting www.lasherh.com.

Marie Rose Swingle

Roseendale - Marie Rose Swingle, 91, of Roseendale, New York, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. She was born in 1929 in the town of Willow where her grandparents, Don and Sonja Kosso, bought an old farm house on Silver Hollow Road with 150 acres for summer vacations with family and friends.

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She graduated from Samuel J. Tilden High School, Brooklyn, N.Y., to Joseph and Helen Downes.

After graduating from Columbus High School in the Bronx in 1936 after Mike retired, to be near their first grandchild, Jennifer Marie Nunes.

Tip-top shape despite working jobs and raising kids, and yet never appeared to have a

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Tip-top shape despite working jobs and raising kids, and yet never appeared to have a
I've gained some 30 pounds or more the isolation. My clothes don't fit. (Yeah yeah the isolation) I'm not the same. (Now was it the moon?)

The Palenville dump

I was heartened to read that state attorney general Letitia James has filed a lawsuit against the New Paltz and Ulster County to force the Palenville dump to stop accepting solid waste from the town of New Paltz. The dump is causing severe health anomalies and illnesses in at least two families whose properties abutted the dump property.

One family, a single mother with two children, has been desperately fighting virtually alone, screaming in the wilderness for some relief for her and her children's chronic and debilitating illness.

There has been zero response from officials except to mock this woman. Palenville big-wigs are apparently related to and defend the dump owner there. This brave woman was forced to abandon the home she owned and loved — it was no longer habitable — and to seek rental housing elsewhere.

Perhaps now that attorney general Letitia James has been made aware of the health crisis in this area, she will investigate the dump and sue the town for violation of New York solid-waste and pollution laws. The Palenville dump has taken more than a year for this to come about, but it has largely escaped the community's attention and persisted, along with some help from one or more big NGOs.

One thing is evident: that criminal charges and just such a lawsuit were never filed against another illegal C&D (construction and demolition) dump in Palenville, just a few miles downwind from Saugetters in the Town of Catskill. That dump's owner polluted a water source, causing severe health anomalies and illnesses in at least two families whose properties abutted the dump property.

The Palenville dump is part of the not-for-profits in the community. When the pandemic hit, I approached Tom to ask if he could provide meals.

A few months earlier, he had provided Family of Woodstock Inc. with a large portion of the property that the horse show is now located on. In April 2020, we arrived at an agreement with Tom Struzzi and Horse Shows in the Sun to rent the property from Family on a long-term basis. As part of the deal, HTS took responsibility to pay Family an annual rental fee, maintain the property, and fix up the large number of pre-made houses. In short, this letter is being offered to set the record straight.

The Family of Woodstock Inc. was given a large portion of the property that the horse show is now located on. In April 2020, we arrived at an agreement with Tom Struzzi and Horse Shows in the Sun to rent the property from Family on a long-term basis. As part of the deal, HTS took responsibility to pay Family an annual rental fee, maintain the property, and fix up the large number of pre-made houses. In short, this letter is being offered to set the record straight.

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but instead are tied to gross revenues lost due to COVID-19. And most importantly, we need a second wave of PPP loans or similar loans, but with flexible terms that conform to our uneven recovery.

We need these loans in amounts that will allow us to remain operable and to keep as many of our employees on the payroll and employment rolls. Funding now will keep many small businesses in the events industry viable. It will allow our businesses to invest now in the technology and necessary equipment to resume. It will keep over 24 million people in our sector employed. We ask Governor Cuomo to please help make this funding available.

Marcy Brownstein
Phoenicia

Defund police, defund apartheid

During this time of upheaval nationally and worldwide, there has been notable movement to address injustices systemically. One such hopeful movement was the local passage of an anti-racism resolution, passed by the Kingston school district on June 17th. In this resolution, the district recognizes the role of social inequities in the world, country and in our own school district and resolved to support initiatives “that will end systemic and institutional racism and opportunity and equal justice for all.” Bravo!

A far less hopeful sign has been the availability of local funding. Antonio Delgado, sign HR 2407 to let him know you recognize its role in “addressing social justice and equal opportunity for all.” Bravo!

Robert LaPolt
New Paltz

Defund the police

It’s time to defund the police. The resources that keep people safe and healthy are continuously defunded and it’s time to take the dollars set aside for law enforcement and put them into our communities. That means reinvesting funding into social services, like access to mental-health professionals and addiction specialists to handle crises police are not trained for. It means protecting our right to vote by funding election protections and building the infrastructure to expand voting by mail. Finally, it means investing in taking care of our loved ones, whether that’s expanding access to affordable childcare or eldercare.

I call on our community and our elected leaders to join the movement to ensure safety for our communities.

Daniel Smid
Milton

A tale of two towns

Cheek to the Town of Saugerties, Ulster County’s largest and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Catskill Mountainkeeper, other groups and the NYS Attorney General’s office for fighting a permit renewal that would authorize the destruction of an endangered wetland in Palenville.

Mr. Antonino Delgado, sign HR 2407 to let him know you recognize its role in “addressing social justice and equal opportunity for all.” Bravo!

Defund the police, defund apartheid.

Cheryl Qamar
Saugerties

The Department of Theatre Arts at SUNY New Paltz will present its traditional model of full-scale stage productions, with a series of smaller staged readings this fall, allowing students and faculty to gather and perform while adhering to COVID-related distancing practices. The new model—replacing four Mainstage Productions with approximately ten staged readings during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 seasons—lends itself to the use of masks or other personal protective equipment during performances and rehearsals, and so allows the in-person attendance of audiences, a possibility “as conditions demand.”

The department’s plan for 2020-21 is contingent on campus, local, state and federal guidelines allowing for face-to-face classes. Plans can and will change as said guidelines evolve as the semester proceeds.

Despite scaling back the scope of the department’s Mainstage season, this model will allow for more stories to be told than in a typical production season. This season will in turn provide meaningful experiential learning opportunities for students. Titles will be selected to feature underrepresented voices and works from traditionally marginalized populations.

More information on production titles and performance schedules will be announced soon and published on the Department of Theatre Arts web page.

Marcey Brownstein
Phoenixia

Fact versus opinion

Fact: Joe Biden has clinched the Democratic nomination for president of the United States. He will be running against the current president, Donald Trump. Of the two men, Biden is much more experienced for that high office than Donald Trump. Compared to the previous 44 presidents, has had no experience whatsoever on local, state or national levels, either on legislative, judicial or executive branches of state or national government.

In addition, Trump has had no military experience, whereas 15 presidents had military service and political experience; Washington, Jackson, William Henry Harrison, Pierce, Lincoln, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, B. Harrison, McKinley, T. Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Nixon and G.H.W. Bush. There were three presidents who had no previous political experience but military only: Zachary Taylor, Ulysses Grant and Dwight E. Eisenhower. The other 26 presidents had a wide range of political experience before assuming this office.

Opinion: Based on experience alone, Trump has no business in the Oval Office. He has never served or represented his country in the country in any positions listed above. He was placed in this office by an electorate that found it easier to accept a charismatic burger vendor, birther, r&l, authority as opposed to the raw prejudices and hatreds underlying the veneer of civilization.

And here is, our current political president, who has upset generations of established protocols for one purpose and one purpose alone: dismantling of the federal bureaucracy and insertion of his people into his scheme of what a government should be, i.e., a dictatorship.

And no better example of this is his appointment of Samuel M. Saul, as commissioner of Social Security. Saul, a women’s clothing magnate, made his reputation and fortune in this endeavor. Needless to say, he has had no experience in this program to this program is on two fronts: 1) he is answerable only to Donald Trump, 2) he belongs to an organization in Manhattan that does like this program (my opinion is this institute, organization is comprised of millionaires and billionaires, Republican, who would like nothing better than to butcher this program of Social Security.

Marilyn Finkenauer
Cairo
Men without a country, in-country

Don’t miss Delroy Lindo’s epic embodiment of PTSD in Spike Lee’s Da 5 Bloods

by Frances Marion Platt

What to watch on the small screen next, while we wait for the big one to open back up? Well, what could be time-lier in these days of Black Lives Matter protests than a new Spike Lee Joint? It’s called Da 5 Bloods, Netflix has got it and – like most any Lee creation – it’s amply deserving of your attention.

That’s not to say that the movie doesn’t have a lot of issues, some of them predictable on account of the director’s penchant to make statements instead of stories much of the time. There’s no question that Lee is an essential voice in contemporary cinema, but subtlety isn’t his strong suit. Doubtless some potential audience members still need repeated whacks upside the head about the realities of being a black person in America, and Spike Lee is the one self-appointed to give those to us, with glee and great skill. Know going in that you’re going to be served a big steering helping of polemics, and you’ll get on fine.

The genesis of Da 5 Bloods was a prior movie titled The Last Lion, with a screenplay by Danny Bilson and the late Paul De Meo, about a group of (mostly white) Vietnam vets going back up to retrieve a cache of gold bars that they buried during the war, while searching for a former comrade-in-arms who disappeared and went native. Oliver Stone was attached to direct, but backed out of the project in 2016. Lee took an interest and after completing BlackKklansman in 2018, he and co-writer Kevin Willmott reworked the script to make it about African American soldiers who had headed on the battlefield while their rights were being denied back home.

So that ups the ante to make the story, more sociopolitically relevant, than your garden-variety action flick. It presents a point of view about the Vietnam War’s legacy that hasn’t seen much representation in fiction features up until now. All well and good, but the downsides of a Spike Lee Joint – the toxicity of sporadic news clips from the era, “polemics, and you’ll get on fine.”

The faults lie in the script, not in the acting, thankfully. The core group consists of Otis (Clarke Peters), a former medic who discovers that he has a hitherto-unsuspected mixed-race daughter in Saigon; Eddie (Norm Lewis), who has PTSD in flashbacks), was a model soldier, their spiritual leader, social conscience and keeper of black history. For narrative purposes, he also embodies the lost innocence of 1960s civil-rights and antiwar activism, echoing the contextual themes that Lee sets up with his framing device – in a world of sporadic news clips from the era.

Also helping to set the tone are popular sources from the era, notably several from Marvin Gaye’s iconic album What’s Going On? The lushly cinematic score by Terence Blanchard deserves special mention; it’s reminiscent of so many adventure epic set pieces past, reinforcing the gorgeous luminosity of Newton Thomas Siegel’s cinematography, which makes postwar Nam look like a national park. (Scenes outside the big city were mainly shot in Thailand.)

Less to review, for this reviewer, were the frequent and sometimes-clunky shoutouts to earlier movies that influenced Lee with this one, such as an obligatory reprise of ‘The Ride of the Valkyries’ from Apollo aeneid (though it’s paired with a Mekong riverboat, rather than helicopters). Heaven help us, he even has a Vietnamese vigilante say, “We don’t need no stinkin’ badges.” We could’ve gleaned plot references to ‘The Treasure of the Sierra Madre’ – the toxic influence of gold – without that, surely.

So, there’s Spike Lee’s biggest weakest-ness as a storyteller in a nutshell. He thrashes us with a two-by-four to make his point when he could be tickling us with a stiletto. There’s way too much heavy-handed foreshadowing in this script as well, diluting the fun of some of the plot twists. Still, the experience of black American soldiers, both during and after wars, is a story that hasn’t yet been sufficiently told on screen, and Lee has moved the game pieces forward. Others will take up the thread – perhaps with less sloganeering next time.

Meanwhile, go watch Delroy Lindo take PTSD to a King Lear level. This is an actor whose time has come.
The Night Sky

Covid-safe entertainment

Whether or not you’re still lockdown-proofing your house, a safe outdoor activity is to enjoy the wonders of the heavens.

In the past, we’ve had minor meteor showers unfolding on nights when the moon was full and bright, letting few if any meteor enthusiasts catch a glimpse. But hang in there, the sky is about to improve.

Right now in July, both Jupiter and Saturn have arrived at their very closest points to earth and therefore shine at their brightest and biggest of the year. They both rise in the east at nightfall and are most prominent around midnight. Sodding up the first half of the night and especially around midnight, simply locate the very brightest “star” and you’ve found Jupiter. The nearest star to its left is Saturn. Both planets are fabulously visible through any telescope.

Moreover, this is just a preview of what’s to come. These gas giants are slowly moving closer and closer together. This year brings the most amazing planet conjunction of our lives. The day after Christmas service, December 21, they will come no closer together than they may merge into a single brilliant star, at least for those who skipped their last homework exams.

We are also about to see the best meteor shower of the year. Late July is when the famous Perseids begin. At first there will be just a few extra shooting stars per hour. When they reach their peak on the nights of August 11 and 12, we should see a meteor a minute. This year the moon will cooperate so that the sky is dark before 1 a.m., giving earlier viewers an advantage.

For those who want to go just a bit deeper and happen to be awake at midnight the next week or two, look straight overhead at that hour and you’ll see a bright blue-green star, which will be the North Star 12,000 years from now. Be sure to pronounce it Vega and not Venus.

Finally, those who are up as the first signs of dawn are approaching, should look lowish in the east to see the unbelievable brilliance of the morning stars, Venus. It will not be as high or bright for the rest of the year.

Bottom line: this summer offers lots of Covid-safe entertainment in the night sky. And the price is right.

— Bob Berman

Legal notices

LEGAL NOTICE
BAMS 203, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 6/16/2020. Chy: Ulster. SSNY design. as agent upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to Matthew R. Aube, 165 N. Pott Corners Rd., New Paltz, NY 12561.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of formation of Local Limited Liability Co. (LLC). BlackOak Consultants, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/08/2020. Office location: Ulster County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Robert Farrell 37 Colonial Drive Tillson, NY 12486. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

LEGAL NOTICE
ULSTER COUNTY MILITARY & SURVIVORS’ RELIEF ASSOCIATION, INC. Notice of dissolution of LLC. FIFTH: The LLC, APT 19 F KINGSTON NY 12401. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of Tributary Data LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/23/20. Office location: Greene County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Pratham Peeth Publications” LLC. 49-37 Bell Blvd, Bayside, NY 11360. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of Tributary Data LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/17/2020. Office location: Greene County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Kyma Capital LLC. 47 Union St, New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of Tributary Data LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/11/2020. Office location: Greene County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Pratham Peeth Publications” LLC. 49-37 Bell Blvd, Bayside, NY 11360. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE
New York State Insurance Fund. Arts. Of Org. Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/5/2020. Office location: Ulster County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Pratham Peeth Publications” LLC. 49-37 Bell Blvd, Bayside, NY 11360. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of TRS OTHER CO., LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/15/20. Office location: Ulster County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: RRD Lawn & Landscape LLC. 360 State Route 204, Gardiner, NY 12525. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of Tributary Data LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/17/20. Office location: Greene County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Pratham Peeth Publications” LLC. 49-37 Bell Blvd, Bayside, NY 11360. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE
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may be served SSNY mail process to 161 South Rd., Ruby, NY 12475. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities including but not limited to the general purpose of the business to be engaged in by any lawful acts or activities. Latest date upon which LLC is to be dissolved: No specific date.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of Moca Properties LLC (LLC), Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of NY 3/18/20. Off. Loc.: Ulster Co. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY mail process to: c/o Lynn Wenig, Esq., at the princ. office of the LLC upon which process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 231 South Main St., New Paltz, NY 12561. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of 3497 HOSPITALITY GROUP LLC (LLC), Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of NY 3/26/20. Off. Loc.: Ulster Co. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY mail process to: c/o Lynn Wenig, Esq., at the princ. office of the LLC upon which process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 231 South Main St., New Paltz, NY 12561. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of A WILLIAM WEINIG ASSOCIATES LLC (LLC), Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of NY 3/13/20. Off. Loc.: Ulster Co. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY mail process to: c/o Lynn Wenig, Esq., at the princ. office of the LLC upon which process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 292 Garden St., New Paltz, NY 12561. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of A William Weing, LLC (LLC), Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of NY 3/13/20. Off. Loc.: Ulster Co. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY mail process to: c/o Lynn Wenig, Esq., at the princ. office of the LLC upon which process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 292 Garden St., New Paltz, NY 12561. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of HRH Development, LLC, Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of NY 3/13/20. Off. Loc.: Ulster Co. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY mail process to: c/o Lynn Wenig, Esq., at the princ. office of the LLC upon which process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 292 Garden St., New Paltz, NY 12561. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of the Partnership of CARLA ROZMAN GRAPHIC DESIGN, LLC Art. of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 3/11/20. Off. Loc.: Ulster Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY mail process to: c/o Lynn Wenig, Esq., at the princ. office of the LLC upon which process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 292 Garden St., New Paltz, NY 12561. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Dissolution of HRH DEVELOPMENT, LLC, Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of NY 3/13/20. Off. Loc.: Ulster Co. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY mail process to: c/o Lynn Wenig, Esq., at the princ. office of the LLC upon which process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 292 Garden St., New Paltz, NY 12561. Purpose: Any lawful acts or activities.

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100 Help Wanted

NEW PALTZ STUDENT NEEDED to as- sist elderly woman with gardening, house- keeping, clearing out basement & other muscu- lar jobs. 5 hours/week. $12/hr. Request to ggal1460@gmail.com with spe- cific availability & cell phone number.

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260 Entertainment

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300 Real Estate


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440 New Paltz正面

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The Kaatsbaan Cultural Park in Ti- voli will present a summer festival August through September 27 (weekends only) with performances of dance and art to celebrate its local community and artistic businesses. Over 40 dance artists and outdoor art and film installations, the summer festival will take place outside following social distancing and safety protocols on Kaatsbaan’s 153 acres. This summer festival is a direct response to both the violence inflicted upon the global black community and to the needs of the many unemployed artists. The festival also provides a means for local economic recovery. In a period of social unrest, the Kaatsbaan summer festival will be dedicated to action, healing, beauty and harmony that dance and related arts can inspire.

The Kaatsbaan summer festival will also be presented on the organization’s social media platforms and You- Tube channel, as well as performances participating artist’s social media for worldwide access and inclusion. Digital content from the summer festival will be made available weekly on Kaatsbaan social-media platforms. Advanced registration is required to attend the summer festival in person, as there are a limited number of reserved spots for each performance. The festival will follow all New York State safety mandates and protocols, including temperature checks, mask wearing, and physical distancing. For additional information, visit, www.kaatsbaan.org.

Towne Crier show July 26

This Towne Crier is presenting a live-streamed show with award-winning actor and singer-songwriter Jeff Daniels on Sunday, July 26 at 7 p.m. The concert will feature Daniels’ original songs and personal stories from his stage and movie career that he can only tell.

Stick around for a 15-30 minute audience Q&A following the show. The questions submitted will be reviewed, with some then passed along to Daniels for reply.

Only ticket buyers will be able to access the live stream. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased at https://www.crowdcast.io/e/jeffdanielsstownecrier/july26/register.
A time to buy?

The data doesn't yet support the contention that the market for Hudson Valley real estate is about to shift gears

by Geddy Sveikauskas

W

hat a half-year it's been for the Hudson Valley economy! To say it's been an unusual six months is surely an understatement. With record low unemployment, a booming stock market and manageable inflation, the first couple of months seemed to indicate continued clear sailing for the prolonged period of overall prosperity.

But then what seemed at first but a sudden squall turned into an economic hurricane, causing catastrophic damage. The pandemic brought the entire economy to an abrupt halt. Demand in many industries collapsed. The unemployment rate rose precipitously to its highest point in 50 years. Since then, the Hudson Valley has been trying to dig itself out of the hole. It's become increasingly clear that the new normal, whatever that turns out to be, will be radically different than the old normal which many had expected to return. Entrepreneurs started combing through the economic ashes for embers that still had a spark to them. And most of those furloughed from the labor force discovered that their previous jobs didn’t exist any more.

Change beneath the surface

The market for residential real estate, adjusted as it always has to be for geographic considerations, mirrored the larger picture. Rolling along in January and February, the Hudson Valley marketplace was in place with the arrival of the pandemic in March, with much of the residual activity reflecting the completion of pending transactions. Beneath the surface, however, change was taking place. Certain demographic characteristics—more gig workers, more knowledge work done off-site, the expansion of virtual communications, a greater amount of office space needed per worker—that had assumed new importance seemed likely to continue whatever underpinnings the economic recovery developed. How would these shifts change buying habits when it came to Hudson Valley real estate?

In the second quarter of 2020, figures derived from Multiple Listing Service of Ulster County data show that the number of single-family homes changing hands in Ulster County decreased to 292 transactions from the 392 reported in the same period last year. The median price of sold residential properties increased to $274,750 this year from $235,000—a robust 16.7 percent year-to-year hike. Despite the precipitous drop in the number of transactions, moreover, total sales volume for the most recent quarter were
The shape of the upturn

What’s perhaps most interesting about the MLS data is how little it tells us about the future direction of the Ulster County real-estate market. In this sector at least, the upturn curve is likely to be steep and dramatic.

An ever-optimistic crowd, real-estate brokers are always in a bullish mood about the prospects for their industry. They sell more real estate at higher prices and bidding wars where money almost seems no object are common. For the moment, it’s a seller’s market.

In order to get a deeper look into what’s happening in Ulster County, let’s look at trends in various significant sub-markets. Spoiler alert, however: Those looking for drama are going to be disappointed. In this roller-coaster marketplace, what’s happening today is not what was happening as recently as a couple of months ago.

Since local markets don’t have a sufficient number of transactions to provide reliable results, we looked at the first six months of the year of single-family residential properties rather than at just the quarter ending at the end of June. The sub-markets scrutinized were Kingston, Saugerties (town and village), Woodstock, Marbletown, and New Paltz and Gardiner.

Activity in the sub-markets

Kingston was the only local market where, as in Ulster County as a whole, the number of completed transactions this year (73) were lower than in the same period last year (97). Moreover, the median sold price in Kingston dropped from $206,700 last year to $200,000 this year. It’s unlikely this means that there isn’t as strong an interest in Kingston as elsewhere, but that the first-time buyers that Ulster County’s small city attracts, disproportionate Brooklynites, take a little longer to get their financial act together.

Saugerties saw a modest increase in completed transactions from 82 to 90 single-family properties, and an increase in median closed price from $202,406 during the first half of last year to $229,000 this year. At the top end, 30 Saugerties properties sold for $300,000 or more this year as compared to 27 last year.

Woodstock, where the median house sells for more than $400,000, has been a favorite second-home destination for moneyminded Manhattanites for generations. During the first half of 2019, 20 Woodstock homes sold for $500,000 or more. This year, that number increased to 25. A total of 56 homes in all changed ownership, up from 46 last year.

Marbletown, an up-and-coming community which has some Woodstock-like characteristics but retains its own distinctive character. Like in Woodstock, the uptick from a median sales price of $337,000 in 2019 to $346,250 in 2020 was modest, and again like Woodstock the number of first-half transactions in Marbletown increased (from 27 to 32). The small sample size leaves the trend statistically unreliable.

Finally, there’s the New Paltz-Gardiner sub-market, which follows the same pattern as its brethren upscale communities, Marbletown and Woodstock. Once again, the median sold price bumped upward from $312,599 to $317,500. And again, the median sold price increased this year, that number increased by double digits in the county as a whole, they went up by only one or two percent in the wealthiest communities.

The rumor mill keeps churning

“What’s past is prologue,” says a Shakespearean character in The Tempest. The past sets the scene for the future, but does not determine it. Anecdotal reports suggest a more dynamic future for Hudson Valley residential real estate than the data about the recent past has indicated. The next two months should test that hypothesis. Meanwhile, the rumor mill will rule.