

# Hudson Valley One

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## One hatch, two rescues

### Shawangunks' peregrine falcon population increases by three

by Frances Marion Platt

**A**LONG THE SHAWANGUNK Ridge, last week was a rapturous one for raptors. On Thursday, August 3, the Mohonk Preserve announced that its seasonal closure of part of the rock climbing and bouldering area of the Trapps had been lifted, because a peregrine falcon chick had fully fledged – for the first time since 2018! The announcement came as happy news for rock jocks and birders alike.

Climbing activity had been curtailed in the sections between and including the pitches known as Laughing Man and Clunie's Jollies, as well as the bouldering areas from Atlas to Little Death, effective February 1, 2023. Restrictions are tightest at the very beginning  
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LAUREN THOMAS

Last Friday afternoon at the River-to-Ridge Trail on Springtown Road in New Paltz, two rehabilitated peregrine falcons were released back into the wild by wildlife biologist Chris Nadasreski.

## Take a big hike

### Central Hudson wants a dollar a day more from its customers in the Hudson Valley

by Rokosz Most

**“**I’VE SAID IT BEFORE, AND I’ll say it again,” said state senator Michelle Hinchey. “Central Hudson should not receive a rate increase, and most certainly not at a time when the company is being investigated by the PSC for improper billing practices.”

Despite the name change on the door of the executive’s office in the red brick fortress at 284 South Avenue in Poughkeepsie, the utility company is back at it again, looking to squeeze extra change out of its customers’ pockets with its announcement of a proposed 16 percent rate hike for electricity and 19 percent for gas.

According to Central Hudson, the  
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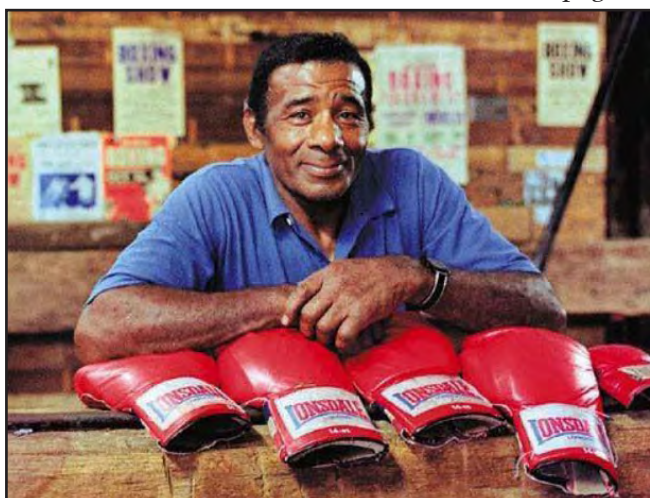
## The main event

### PATTERSON HOME UP FOR LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION

by Terence P Ward

**F**LOYD PATTERSON, ONE OF THE BEST HEAVY-weight boxers ever to enter a ring, spent decades of retirement as a trainer and mentor on Springtown Road in New Paltz. That home, with the original boxing ring Patterson built there intact, may be designated a town landmark. A public hearing on that very question will be held on August 15, 7 p.m., at the community center.

John Orfitelli, chair of the town’s Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), sees this application as an opportunity to talk about the process of securing landmark status. Orfitelli lauded the quality of the research property co-owner Judith Halbreich put into documenting not only Patterson’s career and later impact on New Paltz after re-  
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THE GAINESVILLE SUN, MAY 17, 2006  
1998 photograph of Floyd Patterson in New Paltz.



LAUREN THOMAS

Floyd Patterson’s adopted son Tracy Harris Patterson (in center) with Judith and Uriel Halbreich at Floyd Patterson’s former estate on Springtown Road in New Paltz.

## Don’t piss in the stream

### Watershed warriors struggle to keep the water clean

by Geddy Sveikauskas

**I**T WAS ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR THAT New York City was preparing to spend \$49 million to build a sewage treatment plant and the connections to it in the Shokan hamlet of the Town of Olive. Under the preferred plan, the proposed treatment plant would handle the sewage produced by over 500 properties in a sewer district in Shokan and another 130 or so in a district in Boiceville, whose waste would be pumped almost five miles along Route 28 from Boiceville to Shokan.

Lamont Engineers had determined that alternative would be more cost-effective than the operation and maintenance of separate plants for the two  
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GREGORY PINTO, DECEMBER 2022

Main House, front (west) elevation showing prominent stone base and entryway.



JUDITH HALBREICH

Main House, view of bar room used by Floyd Patterson and fellow boxing champions such as Muhammad Ali. This room is the setting for a seminal video interview with Patterson in 1985 as he reflected on his career and time as a trainer.



GREGORY PINTO, DECEMBER 2022

Main house, Rear (east) and side (north) elevations showing detail of rear deck and entrances. Note the stone well pictured on the left of the house.



GREGORY PINTO, DECEMBER 2022

Training Center, Side (west) and rear (north) elevations showing one of the building's additional entrances.



HAVILAND-HEIDGERD HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Ca. 1939 aerial photograph of the Kauder Chicken Farm, over 30 years before the property was purchased by Patterson. Note the presence of the three main buildings by this point in time, as well as the additional outbuildings which are no longer extant.



GREGORY PINTO, DECEMBER 2022

Cottage, side (south) and rear (west) elevations facing blacktop driveway.



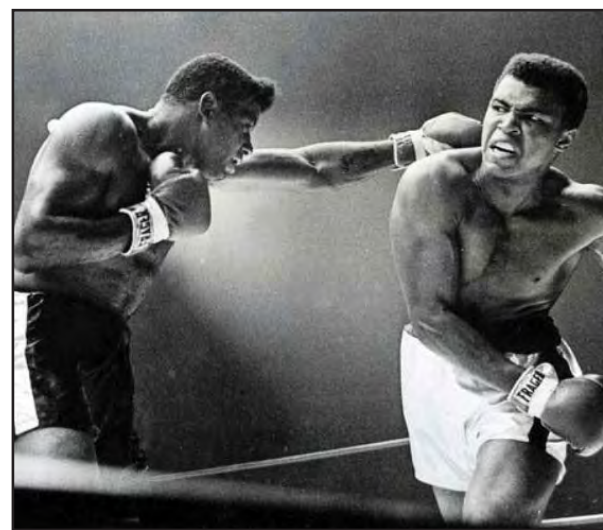
COURTESY OF JUDITH HALBREICH

Ca. 1970 photograph of Floyd Patterson and former heavyweight champion Jose Torres raising Mike Tyson's arms with their trainer Cus D'Amato. This photograph was taken in the Training Center.



BRYANZ VILLANUEVA

Training Center, detail of original boxing ring installed and used by Floyd Patterson and other prominent boxing figures. Its location on the first floor level gives the open room a light and open atmosphere.



COURTESY OF JUDITH HALBREICH

Ca. 1965 photograph of Patterson in a match against Muhammad Ali.

## The main event

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tiring from the ring in 1972, but also the history of the home at 85-87 Springtown Road that became the center of the boxer's training and mentoring activities. In some ways this documentation may have been easy, given the amount of coverage Patterson received during a career that included becoming the youngest heavyweight champion, and first person to reclaim that title after losing it.

Halbreich described in an interview the challenges of finding a suitable property for setting up a leadership program for children in foster care. The search started with trying to purchase a vacant convent, but the prices were in the millions of dollars. Halbreich recalls that there were others interested in the Springtown Road home in 2015, but Patterson's child Jennifer was interested in what Uriel and Judith Halbreich wanted to create. "This is what my father would have wanted," Judith Halbreich recalls Jennifer saying.

Patterson may have wanted it, be-

cause Patterson had also taken a special interest in younger people, and specifically in teaching them how to have success in the world of boxing. The very ring where foster children now sit and hear about the challenges Patterson personally overcame -- including being sent to a reform school in West Park at the tender age of 10 -- is the same ring where Patterson sparred with contemporaries including Muhammad Ali, George Foreman and Mike Tyson, and trained fighters including Razor Ruddock and Patterson's adopted son, Tracy. Patterson also contributed to the sport during that time by serving on the state's athletic commission, and advocating for the needs of the boxers themselves.

"The kids we bring here, they are in awe" when they sit in that ring, Halbreich said. "They feel it."

Despite the wealth of information publicly available about Patterson, Halbreich did enlist the aid of an historian to dig up dirt on the property itself. With buildings dating back as far as 1871, the property had been a source of award-winning chickens in the 1940s and '50s. The livestock barn was still

standing when Patterson purchased the land in 1965, and over time that was converted into a boxing ring and gymnasium. The house was also modified, and elements of that history from the 1970s all the way back to the 1870s can be found throughout. The result is an 86-page application that includes site and area maps, and details about the uses that these buildings have been put to over the years.

Orfitelli explained that Halbreich made an initial inquiry to the HPC to start the process of designating a landmark. In New Paltz there are several excellent resources for discovering the history of any particular building, including the Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection at Elting Memorial Library, and the records kept at Historic Huguenot Street. The historic preservation commissioners have also developed an online interactive historic map, but this is being redesigned and won't be available again before December. The commissioners themselves -- and this is true for both the town and the village commissions -- are volunteers with a deep knowledge of local history, knowledge that can be used to

preserve the character of just about any building.

For the new owners, taking the time was a no-brainer. "This has to be a landmark," Halbreich said. Starting with zero knowledge of the sport, Halbreich has become immersed in the history of boxing and the role Patterson played in shaping it, and also in shaping New Paltz. "Becoming a landmark helps create a sense of pride and encourages our youth to be the best of themselves, like Patterson and Ali. It also creates a sense of pride and unity in the community, and encourages economic growth and prosperity."

This is just the start for Halbreich: given enough time and funding, plans are to complete a fuller restoration of the building to its Patterson heyday, when people who called themselves the greatest stopped into this quiet little town to talk shop, and even take shots at each other. It's hoped that on the shoulders of those giants will stand the young people who train there today, learning the importance of setting one's sights and then setting goals to reach those heights. Tomorrow's darling world-shaking entrepreneur may, like Patterson, have started from nothing and gotten some help on Springtown Road along the way.