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**COMPASS**  
The Politics of Adult Families; And More  
B1-2

## Sharon Hospital denied bid to shut maternity unit

By MAUD DOYLE  
maudd@lakevillejournal.com

SHARON, Conn. — Sharon Hospital's application to close its Labor and Delivery Unit was denied by Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy (OHS) on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

The "proposed final decision" granted Sharon Hospital and its parent company, Nuvance Health, 21 days to appeal the decision. An appeal would continue a five-year battle between Sharon Hospital and members of the local community, led by Save Sharon Hospital, over maintaining the hospital's labor and delivery services.

Sharon Hospital filed a Certificate of Need to close the maternity unit with OHS in January 2022, citing financial concerns, declining birth rates in Litchfield County, and underutilization of its obstetrics unit.

The hospital, which has cited losses of more than \$20 million in a single year, estimated that

closing the maternity unit would save \$3 million in large part by enabling the hospital to employ some 18 fewer staff members, and cut down on physician fees incurred by after-hours surgery and anesthesia services.

The hospital also described a decline in births at Sharon Hospital, citing fewer than one delivery per day in 2021, and difficulty attracting and retaining trained staff in a rural community.

At an OHS hearing in December 2022, doctors, advocates and local families rebutted the hospital's claims that closing the maternity unit would not impact access to adequate care in the region, and raised questions about the hospital's claim that underutilization of the unit was causing irresolvable financial and safety concerns.

In its Aug. 29 decision, OHS found that Sharon Hospital had not adequately met five of eight applicable criteria to qualify for a

See HOSPITAL, PAGE A8



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Christine Ford, left, bus driver instructor/training coordinator, discusses scheduling with Kathryn Greene, head bus driver/dispatcher at the Webutuck Central School District transportation office.

## As the school year begins, bus driver shortage vexes

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — For several years, school districts around the country have been combatting a shortage of school bus drivers, and this area of Dutchess County is no exception.

It has become especially problematic since the COVID-19 pandemic. Webutuck and Pine Plains central school districts provide their own transportation, while the Millbrook Central School District has used the commercial bus service provided by First Student for the past 35 years.

Employing a service involves contracts and coordinating schedules between the district and the company. When a district has its own service, there are many factors to consider besides schedul-

ing: There's the vetting and hiring of the drivers, monitors, cleaners and mechanics; obtaining the vehicles and attending to their maintenance; fuel costs; budgeting; and finally, the all-important scheduling. There are also decisions to be made, such as the one made by Pine Plains regarding not publishing bus routes for security reasons.

Finding help, especially drivers, is not an easy task. The work hours entail early mornings and mid to

See BUSES, PAGE A8

## Eddie Collins Park to celebrate community involvement Sept. 15

By EMILY EDELMAN  
emilye@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — On Friday, Sept. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Eddie Collins Park will play host to the "Bluegrass in the Park" event while highlighting community involvement and inclusion for all.

The four-piece acoustic bluegrass band Too Blue, whose members hail from New York and Connecticut, will play a family-friendly mix of classic and original bluegrass tunes with other styles of music mixed in. Food including hamburgers, tacos and apple cider donuts will be available for purchase from Weezie's Quick Stop, Mario and Esperanza's Kitchen, and Great Cape Baking.

Children's activities will be

See PARK, PAGE A8



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

The newly installed accessible bleachers and walkway at Eddie Collins Park in Millerton.

## Coston recognized as '20 Over 50' honoree

By CAROL KNEELAND  
Special to The Millerton News

John Coston, editor in chief of The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal, is one of 20 journalists over the age of 50 to be recognized in the Sept. 1 edition of trade publication Editor & Publisher.

E&P Editor Robin Blinder wrote that those chosen as 2023 "20 over 50" honorees were "nominated for their strong work ethic, transformational mindsets, commitment to journalistic and publishing excellence and ability to lead during challenging times."

Coston noted in the E&P article

that his greatest sense of accomplishment is "acquiring a lifetime of experience working as a team with reporters and editors to put out a paper day after day, week after week. That especially includes learning to recognize and respect writers' voices and nurturing those voices as an editor."

Susan Hassler, publisher of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, herself a veteran journalist, gave a nod to Coston's approach in an E&P tribute to him, writing: "Working with John has been an inspiring experience. His enthusiasm for 'doing the news,' his ap-

See COSTON, PAGE A8



### CONTACT

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### OPINION

Sharon Hospital Decision; Letters B4



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OUR TOWNS

# Historian Klay to speak about legacy of Grand Army of the Republic post

By MEG DOWNEY  
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Sean M. Klay, historian for American Legion Post 178, will give a talk titled “Standing on the Shoulders of Those Who Came Before: The Lasting Legacy of Henry Gridley Post 617, Grand Army of the Republic” on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd.

In his talk, which is sponsored by the North East His-

torical Society, Klay will discuss the post, the Civil War officer it was named after, and contributions of other veterans of that war from Millerton and the Town of North East.

Before Millerton’s American Legion Post 178 was established in 1927, following the creation of the American Legion in 1919 after World War I, another organization helped local veterans, looked after their graves, and promoted civic and patriotic events. It was an outlying

post of the Grand Army of the Republic that was created in 1887 and therefore served this community for half a century.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was founded in 1866 in Decatur, Illinois, in the aftermath of the Civil War as a fraternal organization of veterans who served in the Union Army, Union Navy and Marines. It eventually included hundreds of posts across the country, mostly in the North and West.

GAR became one of the

first significant organized groups to lobby Congress, fighting for regular pensions for veterans, promoting patriotic education, supporting voting rights for Black veterans, and helping to establish Memorial Day, earlier known as Decoration Day, as a national holiday.

Though the Gridley Post is beyond modern memory, Klay said, “Still, our community is indebted to it, and what it started benefits our community even today.”

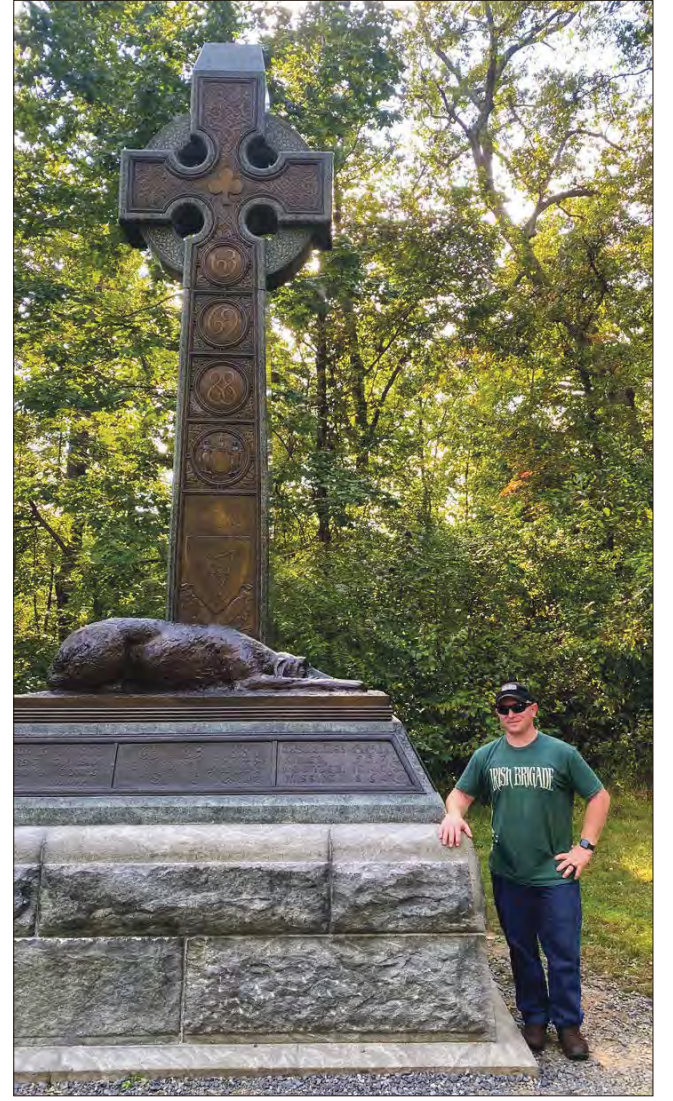


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sean Klay, historian for American Legion Post 178 in Millerton, stands beside the Irish Brigade Monument at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

## Millerton village board hears presentations, authorizes services

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Presentations on home repair, tax exemptions and climate change were the focal points of the regular Millerton Village Board meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

The first presentation was by Joseph Rivera-Ramos of Rebuilding Together Dutchess County (RTDC), who explained how the non-profit organization helps low-income families, older adults, families with children, people with disabilities, and active and retired service members improve the safety and health of their homes.

RTDC offers repairs, energy-efficient improvements, aid in improving accessibility and other services that are free to the homeowner. The Rebuilding Day program focuses on large-scale repairs, and the Handyman Repair program covers smaller repairs that take usually under four hours to complete.

Rivera-Ramos left brochures and described the application process, urging that residents be made aware of what the program has to offer.

RTDC has extended its application deadline for its 2024 Rebuilding Day to Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023. For more information, call 845-454-7310 or go online to rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org

Katherine Johnson, assessor for the Town of North East, discussed the volunteer firefighters’ property tax ex-

emption. Several surrounding towns and villages have adopted it; to go into effect in March 2024. The New York State Department of Finance and Taxation allows municipalities, school districts and fire districts throughout the state to provide a property tax exemption of up to 10% to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, valid on residential property for those who meet a minimum service requirement of between two and five years as determined by the respective taxing municipality.

Kathy Chow of the North

East Conservation Advisory Committee advised the board on the benefits of joining Climate Smart Communities (CSC), a program initiated by New York state to help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers benefits to registered communities that have passed the CSC pledge.

By following the suggested ideas for reducing emissions and adapting to climate changes, many grant opportunities become available. The board will study the materials pro-

vided by Chow and discuss at a later meeting if it wants to pursue this opportunity.

A resolution was passed authorizing an engineering services contract for wastewater services for \$231,800 with a grant having been obtained for \$200,000. A second resolution was passed to acquire Northeast Computing Services for the cloud-based server at a one-time cost of \$1,125.

Finally, the board discussed the need for a tractor to maintain the soccer field and decided on a Kubota from Reardon Briggs.

## Amenia names counsel in Troutbeck neighbors’ legal action

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — By unanimous vote at a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 29, the Amenia Town Board retained the services of a special counsel to represent the town in a legal action brought against the local planning board.

The action, initiated by neighbors, to be argued before the Dutchess County Supreme Court, seeks to set aside the planning board’s June 2023 decision to approve a multi-phase expansion application submitted by Troutbeck as an adaptive reuse plan.

Representing the town will be David Everett, a partner in the firm of Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna LLP, based in Albany. Everett has broad experience with environmental issues as well as matters concerning zoning and planning. His expertise also

includes endangered species protection, specifically bog turtle habitats.

Reversal of the planning board decision is being sought by neighboring property owners Barbara Meili, Craig Meili and Arrowhead Hills Partners, who have

raised concerns about environmental impact to aquifer, watercourses and wells. They argue that the planning board incorrectly accepted an environmental report that there would be no impact posed by

Troutbeck’s adaptive reuse application.

Neighbors’ concerns also touch upon the public hearing process, habitat disruption, construction activity and noise and increased traffic.

### Publish your engagement, wedding, birth or anniversary announcement in The Millerton News

The fee for an announcement is \$50 for text with a picture, \$25 for text without a picture. Maximum length is 125 words. Text and a reproducible photograph are due two weeks before the desired publication date. If sending a photograph (.jpg or .tiff file), please include the names of everyone in the picture in the body of your email. For more information, or to submit your paid announcement, please email publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

### Save the Elm Drive Gazebo!

The Friends of the Gazebo under the Millbrook Historical Society invite you to a:

### PORCH PARTY! Fundraiser

Saturday, September 9, 2023

\$25 Per Person RSVP-ed/ \$30 Walk In  
4:00 - 6:00 pm



Help Restore the Elm Drive Gazebo, take a stroll around the neighborhood and enjoy a Signature Cocktail, Appetizers, and Dessert. Email: friendsofthegazebo@gmail.com

www.millbrookgazebo.com

## Realtor® at Large

To prepare for the light diminishing as we enter fall, we decided to have the windows cleaned at the house and already it has made a difference! While I never thought of this before, it has made an immediate positive change to the house. Joshua Btasseur can be reached at 860-597-0214 or his website is www.thewindowguycyct.com/#Services. Well worth considering.



**JOHN HARNEY**  
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## Outdoor Concert Series on the Horizon

To end the summer season, we will be enjoying live outdoor music from **5 Day Knights** September 16th | 3:00-5:00pm



**5 Day Knights** is a jam style band performing a mix of covers and originals with genres including bluegrass, folk, rock, mo-town, funk, blues, and jazz. The music creates a feel-good environment that you can't miss!

This is a free family fun event! Bring your own chair/blanket and relish in the beauty of our campus. There will be light snacks, soft beverages and hot dogs available for purchase.

No reservation required. Fair-weather event only



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# New York Philharmonic's Kent Tritle returns to Smithfield Church for organ concert on Sept. 9

By LEILA HAWKEN  
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Kent Tritle, New York Philharmonic organist and acclaimed choir master, will once again bring his lively and intimate performance style to Smithfield

Church on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 3:30 p.m., after a three-year hiatus brought about by COVID-19.

A favorite of Smithfield Church concertgoers, this will be the eleventh organ recital given by Tritle on the historic tracker organ me-

ticulously restored from its original location at the First Congregational Church in Kent, Connecticut, to the Smithfield Presbyterian Church in Amenia. Far from the massive custom pipe organs with multiple keyboards and stops that Tritle is famil-

iar with playing, the organ virtuoso says the sweet sound of the Smithfield instrument reminds him of one of the first organs he ever played as a youngster in Iowa.

He will be performing works by Buxtehude, Hancock, Coleman and Bach on the 1893 Johnson & Son tracker organ. For a complete program listing, go to [www.kenttritle.com](http://www.kenttritle.com)

Kevin T. McEaney, music director for the Smithfield Church, said that, as a high school student in Rochester, New York, Tritle worked on tuning and repairing Johnson tracker organs. The upcoming concert "will be a special opportunity for people in our area to hear a master organist play this historic instrument within the superior acoustics of the historic Greek Revival church designed by noted ar-

chitect Nathaniel Lockwood.

Tritle also leads an impressive array of choral performances each season in his various capacities as director of cathedral music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; director of New York's elite professional choir, Musica Sacra; and as director of the Grammy Award-nominated 150-member amateur chorus, The Oratorio Society of New York, which includes several local members, performs each season at Carnegie Hall, and will be the beneficiary of funds raised from Tritle's performance in Smithfield.

The Rev. Douglas Grandgeorge, pastor of the Smithfield Church, commented that it is simply amazing that a small country church in a remote location in northeastern Dutchess County could be hosting annual concerts by a



Kent Tritle

renowned virtuoso, the full proceeds of which will benefit a New York City performing organization.

Suggested donation is \$20 at the door. A reception will follow. For more information, call 718-473-4623 or email [swebb00@icloud.com](mailto:swebb00@icloud.com). The Smithfield Church is wheelchair-accessible.

## Recent property sales in Pine Plains

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County and adjacent towns.

Recorded real estate activity in Pine Plains for the months of April, May, June and July includes sales of vacant residential land, modestly priced single- and multiple-family residences, and one former church, the most expensive property to transfer ownership during the period.

This information is taken from Dutchess County records and may include private transaction without the involvement of a real estate brokerage firm. Four months of sales included only 13 transactions ranging in price from \$50,000 to \$650,000.

### April 2023

10 Woodside St., 3 bedroom/2 bath house, sold for \$345,000

17 Farview Ave., 4 bedroom/1.5 bath house, sold for \$345,000

3538 Route 199, 3 bedroom/2 bath house on 7.8 acres, sold for \$112,000

### May 2023

17 Smith St., 5 bedroom/3 bath three-family house, sold for \$425,000

138 Ryan Road, 2 bedroom/1.5 bath multiple residences on 2.6 acres, sold for



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

**Built in 1838 as a Baptist church, this 3,200-square-foot, light-filled structure later was a grange hall and more recently used as an antiques and artisans' retail store. Although the "For Sale" sign remains on the property, the building, purchased on June 16 for \$650,000, is not for sale.**

\$195,000

6.9 acres of vacant residential land between Stissing Mountain Road and Stissing Drive sold for \$68,900

### June 2023

18 BFS Lane, 3 bedroom/1 bath house, sold for \$269,000  
7602-7604 Route 82, multiple residences with 5 bedrooms/3 baths on 5 acres, sold for \$485,000

639 Bean River Road, 2.9-acre vacant lot sold for \$101,000

3007 Church St., 1 bedroom/.5 bath commercial building, sold for \$650,000

### July 2023

17 Hammertown Road, 3

bedroom/3 bath house, sold for \$450,000

245 Hick Hills Road, 9 bedroom/4.5 bath two-family home, sold for \$442,193

3362 Route 199, rural vacant lot with 8 acres, sold for \$50,000

Town of Pine Plains real estate sales recorded from April through July of 2023 provided by Dutchess County Office of Real Property.

*Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.*

## Paving project funded in Washington

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
[judithb@millertonnews.com](mailto:judithb@millertonnews.com)

WASHINGTON — The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) met virtually on Wednesday, Aug. 30, to announce funding opportunities, among which was a paving project on Route 44 in the Town of Washington.

According to Mark DeBald, DCTC transportation program administrator, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) paving project would take place in the Town of Pleasant Valley from Bower Road to Quaker Hill Road, and from Pleasant Valley View Road to

Sharon Turnpike in Washington.

The total cost is estimated to be \$5.4 million dollars, fully funded by NYSDOT and the project is expected to start in 2024. All of the projects discussed in the meeting are scheduled to take place within the next five years. The stretch in Pleasant Valley had been scheduled previously but was delayed due to water and sewer considerations.

Other business included in the meeting was discussion of Amendment No. 2023-03 to DCTC's federal fiscal year 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the five-year capital program that assigns federal funds to transportation projects in

Dutchess County. Significant changes are considered amendments, which require a 15-day public comment period prior to action, which was done for the TIP leading up to the Aug. 30 meeting.

DCTC met to discuss and make four changes to the TIP, including adjusting funding and schedules for a NYSDOT bridge project on NY-Route 82 over the MetroNorth Rail in Hopewell Junction; adding a Dutchess County bridge project on County Route 103 over the Saw Kill in the Town of Red Hook, with funding from the BRIDGE NY program; and updating the NYSDOT project description for planned bridge rehabilitations along Route 22.

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OBITUARIES

James Edward Storm

ANCRAM — James Edward Storm was born Feb. 12, 1944, in Welland, Ontario, Canada, and died at his home in Houston, Texas, after a brief illness.

As an entrepreneur, mentor, leader, consultant and engineer, Jim was renowned for restructuring utilities world-wide.

He attended the University of Waterloo, Kitchener, Ontario, where he received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Engineering, followed with post-graduate work at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California.

Jim began his career with IBM in 1968 and invented the first crypto card. He then worked with private equity firms until he started his own company, Nuada Systems Inc., in 1996.

Jim was a role model and inspiration to thousands of colleagues in Malaysia, India, Vienna, the United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, China and North America. His pursuit of excellence and knowledge was always punctuated with kindness and compassion.

As an expert in SAP Solutions, Jim transformed and streamlined utility companies for almost 30 years.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 27 years, Alice Axenfield, his sister Melanie (Brian) MacNamara, nephews: JP Brichta (Jessica), Ed Mamede (Colleen), Adam

Kowalczyk (Shelly), Gabriel Mamede, and cousins: Marilyn (Rick) Prange, Ken (Jill) Thomas and Sharon (Bob) Ireland. Stepdaughter Stephanie (Rich) Keller and granddaughters: Sydney Rose Keller and Julia Alice Maria Keller.

A man of many talents, Jim lovingly designed the Gypsy Wagon created for Alice on their Ancram, New York, property. He built a custom potting shed and constructed the third floor office of their home.

Jim's forthcoming young adult novel, "Planet Celeste," will be published November, 2023.

Jim loved the jazz piano, literary fiction and the Metropolitan Opera where he and Alice were patrons for many years. He was an avid golfer and baseball enthusiast. Jim and Alice visited every continent and had many loving friends and acquaintances from their travels.

Jim will be remembered for his beautiful smile, humor and charming stories of his beloved Bengal cat, Lily.

He is sorely missed by Skye, Suki and Henry.

Jim was interred at Smithfield Cemetery, Amenia, New York, on Aug. 20, 2023.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in loving memory to: The Livestock Conservancy Home — The Livestock Conservancy.

William James Morehouse

SHARON — William James Morehouse, "Billy," 59, passed away Aug. 20, 2023. Billy was born Sept. 21, 1963, in Sharon, the son of James and Avis Morehouse.



Billy was a man of many talents which led him to audio engineering school and to owning his own landscaping company. His keen eye for detail and aesthetic acumen eventually landed him a successful construction business.

Billy is survived by his four children; sons Dylan, William Jr., and Lyndon, and his daughter Elizabeth, all with whom he had with Debra Vall, along with his two sisters, Kathleen and Diane, and his father Jim, and his grandson Odin.

He is predeceased by his two brothers, Peder and Gary, and his mother, Avis.

Billy was always able to put a smile on your face, whether you liked it or not.

Weekend cannabis sales in Millerton

By CHRISTINE BATES  
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Cannabis was sold for the first time legally in the history of the Village of Millerton on Friday, Sept. 1, and Saturday, Sept. 2, on Main Street.

The pop-up tents covering the narrow space between the Oakhurst Diner and Hunter Bee introduced three local cannabis growers to the surprised passersby. A small sandwich board on the sidewalk was the only promotion. IDs were checked at the entrance and people chatted with the experts from Alchemy Pure and Harney Brothers Cannabis, which grow their products in the Town of North East, and Aetema Cannabis from Hudson.

Specifics on each product were available at the three grower tables, including flavor profile, aroma, effects, THC percentage and genetics. At the rear of the tent, Gotham, a licensed dispensary in New York City, handled the actual sales, since cultivators cannot sell their own product under New York State law.

The showcase in Millerton will be popping up every Friday and Saturday through the end of October from noon to 6:30 p.m.

Paul Harney reported that the event was a great beginning and that his mother, Elyse Harney, visited the pop-up: "It was a very diverse crowd. Everybody enjoyed it." Harney observed that prices ranged from \$5 for a THC drink and \$10 for pre-rolled products up to \$60—much lower than equivalent prices in Massachusetts. All the vendors are returning next week and each one sold product. "It was a good start," said Harney.

The New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) limits promotion of the showcases to word of mouth—no billboards, roadside signs or press advertisements. OCM must also approve of each request for a showcase in the program, which will end on Dec. 31, 2023.

Harney Brothers Cannabis organized all aspects of the event including seeking permission from the Village of Millerton. At a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 22, Michael Harney and Paul Harney explained their plans and requested a village letter of support which is required by OCM. Mayor Jenn Najdek said the trustees, with one abstention, felt it made sense since the board had previously approved the presence of dispensaries and lounges within the village in 2021.

Last July, the North East Town Board reversed itself and opted in to permit dispensaries. To date, no permanent dispensary licenses have been granted by New York state to either the town or the village. In fact, there are currently no legal retail dispensaries in all of Dutchess County. Municipalities will receive a portion of the sales taxes charged by dispensaries in their jurisdiction.

New York became the 15th state to legalize adult-use marijuana in March 2021, but implementation of retail licenses has been slower than expected, with only 21 granted in the entire state. Marijuana growers, who were assured there would be a large market for their product, have large inventories of unsold raw materials and finished products that the showcases are expected to alleviate.



PHOTO BY PETER GREENOUGH

Browsers at the Harney Brothers Cannabis table at the Millerton showcase on Saturday, Sept. 2.

Worship Services  
Week of September 10, 2023

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes The Revs. Heidi Truax &amp; Felix Rivera trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> The next meeting will be Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m. It Feels Like the Only Certainty in Life is Change For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am North Cornwall Meeting House 115 Town Street, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>	<p><b>Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green</b> 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 Childrens Camp   Shabbat Services Hebrew School   Green   YIP Judaism With A Smile! chabadNW.org 860.567.3377   office@chabadNW.org</p>
<p><b>Congregation Beth David</b> A Reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340   allsaintsofamerica.us</p>

Preserving Salmon Kill Valley

By MAUD DOYLE  
maudd@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY, Conn. — The Salisbury Association has announced that a contract has been signed to purchase 14 acres of land in the Salmon Kill Valley and bring it under the protection of the Salisbury Association Land Trust (SALT).

This acquisition, which is made up of acreage sold by Ann and Stephen Torrey and by Jim and Melinda Belter, will connect two existing conservation easements to form 394 acres of contiguous conserved land in the Salmon Kill Valley. The new parcel will add to more than 3,900 acres of land already protected by SALT, a standing committee of the Salisbury Association, through conservation easements and owned preserves.

SALT has been working to bring the Salmon Kill Valley under its protection for decades to "preserve the rural character" of the Town, said John Landon, co-chair of SALT and its head of acquisitions.

The discussion between the sellers and SALT over this particular parcel had spanned eight years, said Allen Cockerline, owner of Whippoorwill Farm in the Salmon Kill Valley's basin.

Cockerline and his neighbor, Alexandra Lange, were instrumental in raising

\$300,000 in pledges from neighbors in the valley, enabling the Salisbury Association to commit \$250,000 of its own to the purchase.

SALT is turning to the local community to fund the rest of the purchase. Lead donors are offering to match up to \$80,000 for further donations, and SALT is calling for "everyone to help shape the future of the Valley, preserve its rural character, and protect the ecology of the area."

Landon compared the Salmon Kill basin acquisition to SALT's 2010 purchase of Tory Hill on the Sharon/Salisbury town line, which preserved views from Route 41 and Long Pond Road, and

was also funded by community donations.

"There's a lot of conserved land in town that people never even see, in the woods, on a mountaintop," said Cockerline, who was a board member at SALT until 2019.

The other principle objective of preserving the Salmon Kill Valley, said Landon, is the preservation of small-scale farming in Salisbury.

The property is being farmed as part of Whippoorwill Farm by Cockerline and his wife, Robin. Cockerline estimated that he has been cultivating those fields for 38 years, and expects operations to continue as before under the new ownership.

"I spent a lot of time going over every inch of that field," said Cockerline. "It's one of the loveliest pieces. It gives [the valley] its character, just the way it rolls—it's beautiful."

The Salmon Kill basin provides habitat to several species "of concern" according to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, including the wood turtle and American kestrel.

SALT plans to restore and maintain the creek frontage in the new purchase by removing invasive plants and replacing them with native shrubs, trees and perennials, but doesn't expect that much conservation work will be needed.

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# Energy-efficient, net-zero homes can benefit environment, lower costs

By COLLEEN FLYNN  
Special to The Millerton News

STONE RIDGE — Climate change has become a recurring issue in the world, and people like Peter Reynolds, design director at North River Design Build, are trying to make an effort to help future generations.

Reynolds has been passionate about environmental change and sustainability since he was in school.

“Ever since I was in high school or college, everyone was talking about the environment and the trouble we might be in if we don’t figure all this out. I thought, ‘OK, I have to do something about this.’”

Net zero homes have been increasingly getting more

popular “over the last five years,” according to Reynolds, and are now becoming more in demand in the housing market.

Net zero homes are designed to be airtight, “creating almost a blanket” around the house. They are also well insulated and produce renewable energy. These zero-energy homes, combined with their unique design, are able to create a more comfortable home for people to live in affordably.

After the homes are fully working and installed, they are virtually no work for the owner. New people hearing about net zero homes are often deterred because of the fear of how much it will cost to keep up.

“Zero maintenance, zero

energy costs, and zero ticks,” said Reynolds. “We use a lot of metal siding and siding that doesn’t rot, so zero ticks, those are our three goals we like to tell our customers.

“You don’t even know what the temperature is outside when you are inside the house. It’s like a boat, it doesn’t leak, and you don’t need very much energy or very much electricity to heat them or cool them,” said Reynolds.

The houses have the same regulation as any other home a person may want to build or buy. Each house that is being built needs to meet specific requirements and codes depending on the area, and net zero homes have no extra requirements.

“Every house that is built

has to meet the New York State energy code, and that is getting harder and harder to do, which I think is a good thing given that I am an environmental advocate,” said Reynolds. “We have to respect the energy code, but these homes exceeded in efficiency; they use about 10% of the energy a regular home.

“We’re trying to electrify houses because electricity is generated by solar panels and wind, which are renewable energy sources; they are free in nature... so you can have your meter come out to zero at the end of the year,” said Reynolds.

“I have been waiting 40 years, you could say, for the market to catch up...It’s the future for you guys,” said Reynolds.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Basten Farm South, a certified Passive House in Stone Ridge completed by North River Design Build in fall 2022.

## County addresses homelessness issue

By ROBIN RORABACK  
Special to The Millerton News

DUTCHESS COUNTY — On Aug. 9, the Office of the County Executive announced that Dutchess County is beginning a four-step plan to set up a permanent emergency housing facility.

The emergency housing for homeless individuals will include “comprehensive wrap-around services to help people move from homelessness to independence as quickly as possible,” according to a press release from the Office of the County Executive.

The services include comprehensive case management as well as mental health and substance abuse counseling, health and wellness services, employment services, and help finding permanent housing.

The effort is part of an evidence-based model using data from the emergency housing plan of Bergen County, New Jersey, according to county communications director Collen Pillus, who added that the wrap-around services for those needing shelter will “address issues causing them to be homeless and get them to stability and permanent housing.”

The steps toward achieving emergency housing include recruitment for a shelter di-

rector. The recruitment will be managed by the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS). The director will oversee case management as well as the wrap-around services and administration, supervision, and the coordination of operations for the emergency shelter.

Another duty will be to liaison between the community and shelter, addressing concerns brought up by both. The director will also raise awareness of the shelter and let it be known that it is a safe place to seek help, according to Pillus.

DCFS will also be seeking an organization to oversee the day-to-day running of the shelter. This organization will develop plans for the operation of the shelter and its 24-hour security and handle intake and discharges. They will supply activities, health screenings and three daily meals.

The third step is to plan a temporary shelter. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary housing units at the Dutchess County Jail in Poughkeepsie that were originally used to house inmates have been used as emergency homeless housing. The units, which were put in place in 2015, are overdue to be scrapped and must be removed when the Dutchess

County Justice and Transition Center renovations are completed and the part of the jail built in 1995 is decommissioned.

The jail space will then be renovated for a temporary emergency shelter. The first floor of the former jail will be for office and program space for the wraparound services. The second floor will be sleeping and living quarters. According to Pillus, this will give privacy to the clients. The units used now are open dormitory-style.

The last step involves getting a permanent location for the shelter. Property at 26 Oakley St. in Poughkeepsie was purchased in 2022. It was discovered that, with the escalation of construction costs, renovation would be much more than the county

could afford.

An application for a grant through the state’s Homeless Housing and Assistance Program for up to \$15 million will be submitted. By year’s end, a decision on the grant should be made. The county would then move ahead with planning for the site to make it a permanent emergency shelter.

In the meantime, according to the county executive’s office, the county will continue to look for other sites as a backup plan in case the grant is not approved.

Another piece of the plan is to set up permanent/transitional housing. The possibility of turning portions of the former Hudson Valley psychiatric center into an affordable housing campus is being investigated.

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OUR TOWNS

# Houston seeks reelection to county legislature

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Deirdre Houston, owner of Millbrook Floral Designs, is seeking reelection to District 25 of the Dutchess County Legislature, a two-year term. Houston has previously served on the Millbrook Board of Education and the board of Millbrook Educational Foundation. She is currently serving her third

term in the legislature. Becoming assistant majority leader in her third term, Republican Deirdre Houston said the work and responsibility is more intense, but she's willing to take them on in order to make her district a better place to live and work. "As the assistant majority leader, I am proud of the work the Dutchess County Legislature has accomplished this term," said Houston. "Of note is the grant dollars awarded to our local fire companies that

I supported. These grant dollars put money directly into our local fire companies and emergency responders, allowing them to purchase essential equipment necessary to respond to emergencies within our community. "Additionally, I am proud to have authored a resolution in support of a tax credit for our county veterans. They have given so much to us as citizens, it is important to support them now as inflation has taken such a toll

on all of our household incomes. As a member of the County Veterans Committee, I look forward to finding ways that Dutchess County can continue to support our veterans, and this includes the upcoming opening of our new County Veterans Cemetery slated to open this November." Houston also serves on Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County's board of trustees, supporting programs offered within the

agency such as 4H, Master Gardener, and agriculture education. She embraced the role of the Dutchess County ag navigator, saying, "I see that as a vital role in this area of Dutchess County with so many acres of farmland still being actively farmed along with the largest dairy farm in the county of Dutchess." Serving as liaison to the Dutchess Community College board of trustees is another legislative duty of which she is proud, knowing that the school is an asset to so many families in the area, providing new programs such as the aviation program that offers experience in aviation management, technician and pilot training.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Deirdre Houston is seeking reelection to District 25 of the Dutchess County Legislature, a two-year term.

Dutchess County residents' pockets especially when it is needed most," she stated. "As I seek reelection, I will continue to look to find ways to save our taxpayers additional dollars through tax breaks or finding inefficiencies and a way to spend your hard-earned tax dollars more effectively.

"As a small business owner, I know that smart growth and economic vibrance go hand in hand. I will continue to make Dutchess affordable for families and seniors on a fixed income. One of the keys to a strong, healthy county is the ability to work with elected officials regardless of political party, and I will continue to work hard on behalf of the members of our community and put partisan politics aside and do what is best for the people of this legislative district."

# Briggs to seek post of town clerk; Alex retires after 30 years in job

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Chrissy Briggs is succeeding Mary Alex, who announced her retirement after 30 years as clerk for the Town of Washington, on July 24.

As this is an elected position, Briggs will serve as the appointed clerk through Dec. 31, 2023, but will be running for election to the post on the Republican ballot.

Briggs has been serving as deputy clerk, so is familiar with the scope and depth of the work. Briggs is married with two children aged 9 and 12, and is a transplant from Long Island who has lived in this area for the past 18 years. Before working with Alex, Briggs was the court clerk to the justices in Town Court.

Alex described the position as "amazing," and Briggs agreed. It's a position that enables one to meet with the citizens of the town on a

regular basis, through issuing licenses for hunting and fishing, sometimes issuing birth certificates for babies born at home, wedding licenses, and so many other duties. There is also sending out notices for taxes, the collection of taxes, and, in general, helping the town to run smoothly. Meetings have to be arranged, minutes taken, and the clerk works with all of the other departments on a variety of duties such as preparing budgets and bids, staying in touch with the county on municipal matters, and helping to keep communications running smoothly.

"I have big shoes to fill," said Briggs. "Mary was here for 30 years. I'm taking it a day at a time. And the board has been very supportive."

Noting that there is a lot going on in the town includ-

ing short-term rentals, possible hospitality zone overlay changes, and much anticipated work at the town park, it could be overwhelming, but Briggs is taking that in stride: "Seventy-five percent of the legislation is underway on these issues. When anything new comes in, I'll be there from the beginning, and I'll learn as I go.

"I feel very lucky to work here," she admitted. "There's always something new to learn. The best part is that I get to work with the community, to provide them with the best customer service that I can. I work with great people, in the office and on the town board."

This is her first time running for public office, but she feels confident that, with so much support and the good wishes and training she's had

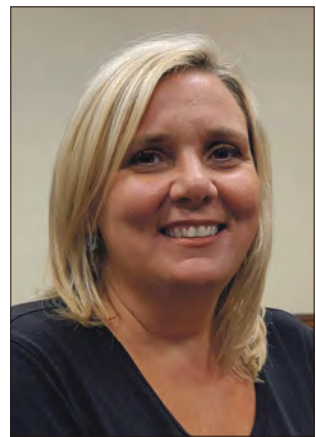


PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Chrissy Briggs is running for the position of town clerk in Town of Washington, a first-time candidate.

from Alex, she'll fill the position with efficiency and a keen sense of giving back to a community that embraced her 18 years ago.

Email news tips to editor@millertonnews.com

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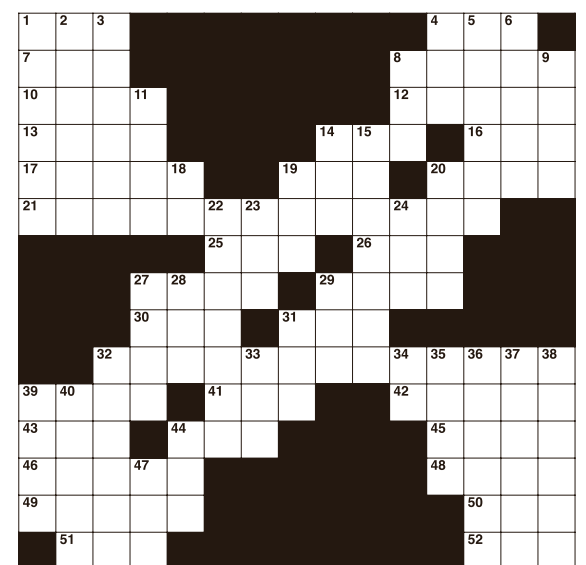
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Second sight
- Standard electrode potential
- Type of gibbon
- John Joseph \_\_\_: American industrialist
- Manning and Whitney are two
- Abrupt
- Baroque musical instrument
- Post-burning residue
- When you hope to arrive
- Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
- Sun up in New York
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Where people live
- Method to record an electrogram
- Angry
- No longer living
- Simple
- Swiss river
- Portion of a play
- It's under the tree
- Wood sorrels
- No (Scottish)
- Dialect of English
- Former Steelers' QB
- Popular beer
- It can make you sick
- Tropical tree and fruit
- Company officer
- Contact lens term
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- Piece of turf

### CLUES DOWN

- Number of players on each side in a football game
- Containing salt
- Reasoning or knowledge: a \_\_\_
- Car mechanics group
- Leave a place
- Southern Colombian capital



- Old English letter
- Tide
- Walk heavily
- Chemical compound (abbr.)
- Artificial openings
- Luteinizing hormone
- Unit of energy
- Circular movement of water
- A way of holding
- Popular book of words (abbr.)
- States' group
- Dashes
- Body part
- Electronic countermeasures
- Consumed
- Small bird
- Unhappy
- Football's big game (abbr.)
- Valued object offered in good faith
- Wild goats
- Precede in place
- Small edible fish
- Notice of death
- Body cavity of a metazoan
- Partner to cheese
- Not around

### Aug. 31 Solution

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

### Sudoku

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

### Aug. 31 Solution

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

Level: Intermediate

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Aug. 24-30.

Aug. 24 — Deputies arrested of Derian E. Ochoarabanales, 27, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle subsequent to a traffic stop on Route 22 in the Town of Amenia. Subject issued tickets to appear in the Town of Amenia Court at a later date.

Aug. 28 — Deputies responded to 62 Britton St. in Pine Plains for a brother/sister

domestic dispute. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned cases or any other suspected criminal activity, please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

All persons arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.

Pine Plains Community Day to mark bicentennial

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Pine Plains will hold its Community Day on Saturday, Sept. 9, with a variety of activities including games, food options, and presentations for all to enjoy.

Stop in at the firehouse for a pancake breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. From there, you're

invited to help clean off the graves of the soldiers at Evergreen Cemetery starting at 10 a.m.

If you're near the Graham-Brush House at 11 a.m., there will be tours, fiddle music and refreshments, plus a sign unveiling at noon. At 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Thayer Durrell will perform an historic monologue, and at 3:30 p.m., a time capsule will be buried at the house.

Merrill retrospective at Mad Rose Gallery

By DEBORAH MAIER  
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — On a late-summer day that was warm but not oppressive, the light was ideal for the glowing, life-positive canvases arrayed around the new Mad Rose Gallery on Friday, Sept. 1, for a retrospective of selected works by the late Susan Merrill.

Visitors joined friends and family members to appreciate the work of a keen-eyed animal lover and shared their stories celebrating a life well lived.

Merrill grew up in a farm



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Set designer Carl Sprague, husband of the late Susan Merrill; her son, dancer Ruslan Sprague; and artist/gallerist Michael Gellatly flank a painting of a Savoy pig in a retrospective of Merrill's work at Mad Rose Gallery in Millerton on Friday, Sept. 1.

town in Maryland and documented that life in both writing and illustration. She was especially taken by Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where she spent much time observing animals and their ways, which

became the subjects of a good portion of the current acrylic-on-canvas works on view. Working from photographs, she was clearly a fan of jewel-toned colors capturing light, essential strokes often in an Impressionist style, and a cinematic style of cropping.

Her own curiosity about art, living creatures and life seem to have infused everything she did. "She painted all the time," explained her husband, Carl Sprague, himself a noted cinema set designer and concept artist. She was also the author of several books, a much-loved elementary art teacher for a dozen years, and the mother of three.

Her subjects were not only the animals, insects and other subjects shown in various exhibits in the Berkshires over

the years, but also a haunting series of floating figures, a departure from the loose, light-seeking style. Those were hung in her home's stairwell, a metaphoric map by a woman who had fought difficult health battles and found a certain peace about what came next.

Merrill's adult son Ruslan Sprague, adopted from Russia at age 3 and a dancer with the Albany-Berkshire Ballet since early childhood, spoke of her "joie de vivre" and the extraordinary culture in the home, and of how touching it was to curate her many hundreds of works after her passing.

The Susan Merrill retrospective can be seen at Mad Rose Gallery at the corner of routes 22 and 44, until Sunday, Sept. 17.

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**HOSPITAL** *Continued from Page A1*

Certificate of Need, repeatedly citing testimony from the December hearing, as well as supplementary materials provided by Save Sharon Hospital and others.

Primarily, the decision to reject Sharon Hospital's application rested on concerns about the closure's impact on the accessibility of adequate care for pregnant women in the region. OHS emphasized the disproportionate effect this closure would have on people of color, the fastest-growing demographic in the region, and indigent people (more than 48% of Sharon Hospital's labor and delivery patients paid through Medicaid in 2021).

The decision stated repeatedly that the burden of proof rested with the hospital and that the hospital had not succeeded in providing adequate evidence of either financial or safety concerns, nor adequate plans for alternatives for women in labor seeking care, especially for high-risk and emergent deliveries.

Though the hospital is nonprofit, OHS took care to point out that its parent, Nuvance Health, provides financial support to Sharon Hospital and, having ended 2021 with a net increase in assets of \$242 million and \$1.7 billion in net assets, Nuvance is "by all accounts financially stable," despite its operating

losses at Sharon Hospital.

While there are five other hospitals within an hour from Sharon all able to accept women in labor, these options would require patients to make longer drives (the nearest hospital is Charlotte Hungerford in Torrington); OHS also cited concerns about these hospitals' higher costs and lower safety ratings.

Gregg Pulver, chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature, said that OHS's decision was responsive to arguments from "representatives on both sides of the state line." Patients at Sharon Hospital are more often from Dutchess County than from the Northwest Corner.

"Access to rural health care here is in crisis or at risk across the board," said Connecticut state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64). Though "it will always be a battle," she said, "[We need] to keep this thriving hospital alive and vibrant and helping all of us."

Andrea Rynn, spokesperson for Nuvance Health, called the decision "concerning and disappointing."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Connecticut state Sen. Stephen Harding (R-30), U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5), Horn, and State Comptroller Sean Scanlon all spoke in support of OHS' preliminary decision at a press conference in Sharon Town Hall on

Wednesday, Aug. 30.

Blumenthal called on Nuvance not to appeal OHS' "well-reasoned, fully researched decision."

"Nuvance has an obligation to listen to its customers, its patients, its community," said the senator. "I am hopeful that meetings like this one will convince [Nuvance] that it can and should do the right thing."

Horn drew a contrast between the diverse, fact-based testimonies provided by local health care professionals, and Nuvance's "one single argument, that 'this is just unsustainable,' and 'we can't afford it.'"

Harding said, "I want to applaud the Office of Health for taking the time, not only with reading the testimony, but the whole process in general. I think they did a great job of listening to all sides of the story."

Hayes noted that the threatened closure is indicative of national trends in rural and women's health care access. "We have seen women's reproductive health attacked all over the country," she said. "So I am excited about today, but also looking forward and committed to [...] bringing this 20 year battle [over the future of Sharon Hospital] to an end."

**PARK** *Continued from Page A1*

provided, and on-site tents will house booths and information about phase two of the park's revitalization project as well as other various local organizations.

In an interview, Mayor Jenn Najdek commented on the convenience of the park with its open space and abundant parking, saying, "It's my hope that, next year, we could do more [events], where it won't be just one at the beginning of the season and one at the end, but hopefully something more consistent."

The event is free and open to all thanks to the Village of Millerton, NBT Bank and the Northeast Dutchess Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Attendees are advised to bring blankets or chairs to sit on.

The park is also celebrating the recent completion of an accessible walkway and bleachers that bring it into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). With the help of Assemblymember Didi Barrett

(D-Dutchess/Columbia), the village secured \$125,000 in funding for the project.

"The Village of Millerton, with the support of many residents and volunteers, has worked tirelessly to reimagine the Millerton Community Park, with a focus on expanding outreach and accessibility," said Barrett in a statement.

"It was little stages of it," Najdek said of the project. "The walkway was completed first, then we went and purchased the bleachers, and then finally the bleachers got put together, in place where they're at now. So now it's all completely done."

Discussing the scope of the project, Najdek said: "One of the drawbacks for us right now is, without actually having a recreation director—someone who can pull it all together—it's all kind of done by volunteer. It seems to be that the same group of volunteers are volunteering for lots of different organizations, so people are spread pretty thin."

preciation of local journalism — what it means and why it is so important — and his thoughtful mentoring of our most junior reporters as well as our long-timers has galvanized us all to do our best work!"

The papers were also recognized in June when Riley Klein, digital media producer and recently named managing editor of The Lakeville Journal, was honored by the magazine as a "Shooting Star." Coston's E&P recognition is especially appropriate because, as a young reporter, he used to browse that publication's want ads and dream of working a beat in far off Alaska.

The 49th state did not happen for him, but following his graduation from Columbia University in the late 1960s, a city hall beat at the Watertown Daily Times in rural upstate New York gave him a start down the road. Coston said he has always found it best to listen to reporters on the ground, whether it was at The Hartford Courant, The Miami (Florida) Herald, the Casper (Wyoming) Star-

**BUSES** *Continued from Page A1*

Nearly all of the speakers thanked the local 501(c)(3) Save Sharon Hospital (SSH) for its instrumental work in preventing the closure of Sharon Hospital's labor and delivery unit by marshaling skilled testimony from health care workers.

SSH President Lydia Moore, who gave birth to her youngest daughter in Sharon Hospital about two months ago, acknowledged the community for contributing "almost 12,000 pages of public comment," overwhelmingly in favor of keeping labor and delivery open, as critical to the movement's success.

Acknowledging that Nuvance can still appeal the OHS decision, Scanlon said, "We're here today to say that this is good news, but the fight to maintain access to affordable, quality health care, especially when it comes to labor and delivery, is going to continue beyond this morning."

As of Sept. 4, Nuvance has not yet announced if it will appeal the decision.

"As part of a nonprofit health system, Sharon Hospital faces financial and operational challenges moving forward," said Rynn in a statement. "We will be considering all options available as we reassess our path forward."

late afternoons plus some special events, which make it hard to work a second job in or to use the driving as a second job. Yet payment can vary among employers, so as an only source of income, it can be a problem. What can work in favor of the position is the fact that, for most, summer driving can be an option, and holidays and weekends can mean time off.

Jen Biddinger, communications manager of First Student, stated, "We do have all Millbrook bus routes covered to begin the school year. Because it is important for us to ensure that we remain staffed to provide the best possible service to families, we continue to recruit, hire and train drivers."

First Student provides paid training. Wages start at \$25 an hour with a \$5,000 sign-on bonus.

Being responsible for the safety of children is a big undertaking, and the driver typically must have or acquire a commercial driver's license (CDL), submit to vigorous background checks and may need further certifications.

Kathryn Greene is the head bus driver/dispatcher at Webutuck, and has worked in the district's transportation department for 23 years. It

has a full regular roster but is hiring more drivers to fill in for emergencies. It pays between \$21 and \$25 per hour, is unionized, and provide union benefits as well as New York state retirement insurance and health insurance. Drivers usually work five to six hours per day.

Pine Plains CSD transportation is headed by Lauren Ross and is advertising on its website for bus drivers, full-time positions with the Pine Plains Central School District, requiring the applicant to possess a CDL Class B license with Passenger, School Bus and Air Brake endorsement, but the district is willing to train. The position guarantees five hours per day with full benefits, a salary commensurate with experience, with per-hour pay ranging from \$19.79 - \$25.85.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, school bus drivers last year made a mean annual wage of \$42,400 but that's assuming they worked full-time. Many don't, and make less than \$20 an hour.

Shortages have now reached crisis level in many areas of the country, with at least one major shortage in every state in 2023. About half of the nation's children rely on school buses to get them back and forth between home and school, and it doesn't matter whether the school is in a city or a rural district.

The driver shortage can have an impact on students' learning; if they can't get to school, they can't learn and that can also have an impact on absenteeism. Lower-income children and high school students are the ones who mostly rely on the services and suffer the most when service is disrupted. In rural areas there may not be public transportation, but most have families have cars. In cities, families may not have cars, but public transportation can hurt if income is low and isn't feasible for younger children.

Some school districts have managed to use the drivers in the schools when they aren't driving as monitors, aides, or in other functions so that they can work a full week's hours and get paid for a full-time position. Others have opted to go out of the business and use services that are already long established in the field.

*Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com*

**COSTON** *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO BY BRIDGET STARR TAYLOR

**John Coston**

Tribune or The Wall Street Journal.

In 1990, the parole from Attica of a serial killer, whose conviction had been partially based on articles Coston had written in his rookie days in Watertown, inspired him to dip his toes into true crime. He authored two nonfiction books before deserting the genre, which he said was "too dark."

First retiring in 2010 and locating to East Canaan, he then came back out of retirement and resumed his WSJ job part-time as an editor on the national desk until 2015.

Coston is the father of three grown children and is married to Bridget Starr Taylor, an illustrator and daughter of the late Hatsy Taylor, who for many years authored a gardening column for The Lakeville Journal.

Retirement had great appeal, but literally being put out to pasture couldn't measure up when, in 2022, an ad seeking an editor for the new nonprofit Lakeville Journal Foundation caught his eye.

He applied to then publisher Janet Manko, whose tenure he admires along with her team and for excelling at keeping both papers going through tough economic times, including the pandemic. "Their devotion to the paper is unmatched," he said. "I wanted to help, be part of a team and to have fun again."

With the support of Patrick L. Sullivan, a Journal veteran, and Riley Klein in Lakeville and Millerton's Managing Editor Emily Edelman, he happily works both sides of the state line.

*The baton has been passed!*

**Meet our new President & CEO—  
Maura A. Malo**



With 30 years of experience and 20 years as a member of our bank family, Maura became President and CEO on September 2. She succeeds retired President Steve Reilly.

We are grateful for all that Maura has contributed to the bank in her previous positions, and look forward to her leadership in her new role.

Congratulations, Maura!

Maura has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Chief Risk Officer and Internal Auditor. She was an FDIC Bank Examiner from 1993-2003 before she joined Litchfield Bancorp – A Division of Northwest Community Bank. She holds an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a BS from Western New England University. She is a graduate of the National School of Banking, and has received the New Leaders in Banking Award from the Connecticut Bankers Association. She also is an active community volunteer in several organizations.



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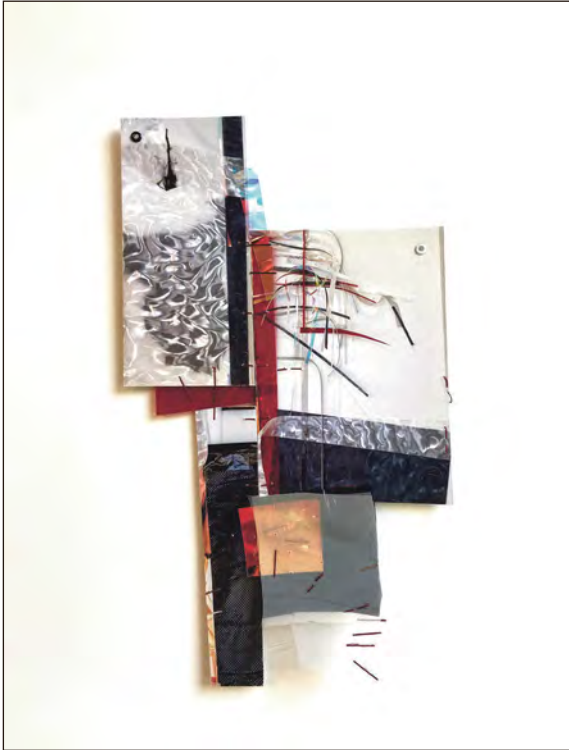
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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



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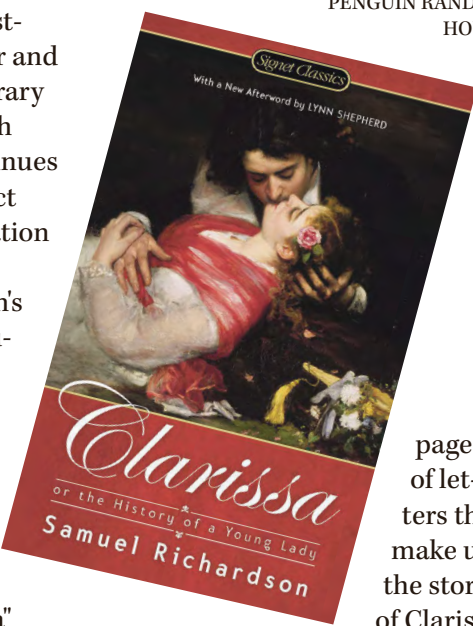
**BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## Looking Clarissa Right in The Eye

American post-war and contemporary artist Gelah Penn continues her abstract contemplation on Samuel Richardson's 18th-century epistolary novel with the second installment of "Notes on Clarissa" opening at Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., on Saturday, Sept. 16. Each piece corresponds to a letter in the novel.

"Clarissa, or, The History of a Young Lady" was Richardson's follow-up to his smash-hit "Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded," a publication whose significance can't be understated. Considered to be the first modern English novel (and the first novel printed in America), the unfolding saga was read by clergymen and rural countrymen alike, transfixed by its suspense, its psychological love story, and its instruction on maintaining defined gender roles within marriage and English society at large.

While "Pamela" ends in what is considered to be a triumph in the marriage plot novel — the maid weds the master of the house — the 1,500



PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

pages of letters that make up the story of Clarissa

Harlowe are ripe with tragedy. Beautiful Clarissa, aged eighteen, becomes the object of pursuit by the charming yet emotionally corrupt Lovelace, a wealthy libertine whose seductive words entice her to elope. Although she swiftly recognizes her error, her family disowns her, and in Lovelace's grasp, exhausted by attempts to manipulate her into truly loving him, he rapes her. The profound emotional distress that ensues leads to her untimely demise.

Dark sexuality and a battles of wills in a treacherous game of morality ensnared audiences then, and the weighty tome is still considered to be Richardson's opus. It's bleakness is its appeal, as Clarissa realizes what a dangerous time it is to be a girl in the world.



SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, BEQUEST OF HENRY WARD RANGER THROUGH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN

'Ryder's House' by Edward Hopper

**BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## The Politics of Adult Families

From John Steinbeck's "East of Eden" to Grace Metalious's "Peyton Place" to Aaron Spelling's "Dynasty," no matter what part of the country you're in, the untimely reveal of buried family disputes has remained at the heart of American fiction. Adrienne Brodeur's summer novel from Simon & Schuster, "Little Monsters," pinpoints itself along the New England coast, on the chilly whaling beaches of Cape Cod, where a wealthy family of think-

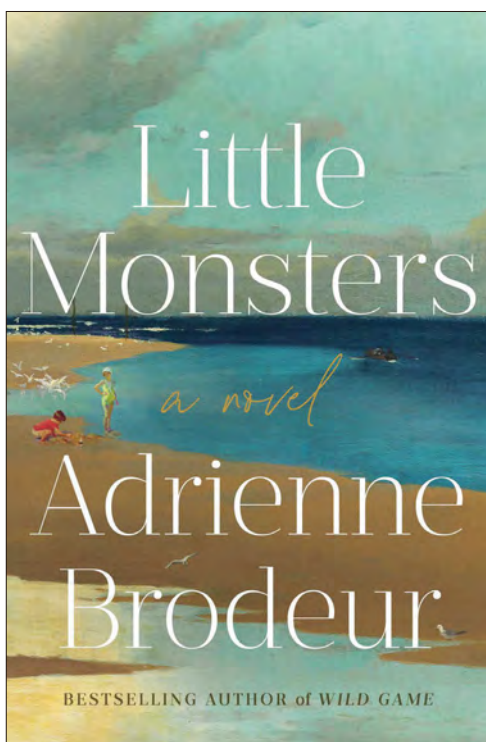
ers dwells in its own resentments. Brodeur will appear on Thursday, Sept. 7, in Kent, Conn., as part of House of Books new series, "Salon at Swyft." The dinners held in a private room in Ore Hill & Swyft, an upscale wooden tavern known for its wood-fired pizzas, invite guests to chat casually with the writer of the month, breaking from the rigidity of the formal reading and Q&A. The selections have been varied in style and subject, with previous Swyft Salons held for South

African short story writer Magogodi oaMphela Makhene's tales of Soweto, "Innards," and Viking editor Jenny Jackson's debut comedy about Brooklyn's 1%, "Pineapple Street."

The daughter of the late New Yorker writer Paul Brodeur, who died this past August in Hyannis, Mass., Adrienne Brodeur was the editor-in-chief of Zoetrope: All Story, a literary magazine she founded with Francis Ford Coppola.

In "Little Monsters," set during the lead-up to the divisive 2016 presidential election, Brodeur's intimately narrated novel, with its unfussy, languid prose, focuses on three candidates who make up the rarely-likable white, educated voter block. Adam Gardner is a cantankerous academic, an oceanology research

scientist, and a product of the baby boom who finds fault with every breathing Millennial (with little mind that there are already two generations coming up behind these young professionals). As he struggles with his mental health, and the health care system, his two Gen X-cuspy children, who grew up motherless from a young age, struggle with each other. Ken is a hot-shot financier who has married into even more money and is eager to prove himself to his in-laws by being as "Art of the Deal" as possible. At the same time, his sister Abby is the classic, vaguely political Hillary voter. This sensitive artist has inherited her late mother's Cape Cod studio with a view towards Provincetown, but she can't foresee the political storm on the horizon.



SIMON & SCHUSTER



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FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

# Designing Dream Homes For The Screen

The interior decor of the rich and famous can fascinate us as much as the interiority of their lives — think of Brook Astor's Sister Parish chintz-covered home, Jackie Kennedy's Georgian-style 1010 Fifth Avenue apartment designed by Rosario Candela, Gwyneth Paltrow's potentially fake Ruth Asawa sculpture, or the monastery blankness of Kim Kardashian's mansion with its Isabel Rower sculpture room.

Perhaps only one film director has truly ignited the collective imagination and awakened dream home yearning through her characters' meticulously crafted interior design preferences, and that's Nancy Meyers. On Saturday, Sept. 9, The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., is paying tribute to her impeccable taste in set decoration with a screening of her 2009 film, "It's Complicated," with cocktails and discussions with designer Vicky Charles of Charles & Co. and Hammertown Barn's design director, Dana Simpson.

Architectural Digest has published multiple rundowns alone on Meyer's 2003 film she wrote and directed starring Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson, "Something's Gotta Give" — although the focus is rarely on Keaton's Academy Award nomination. The eye is on her house. Aging but successful playwright Erica Barry's (Keaton) beach-side shingle-style getaway on Meadow Lane in Southampton, N.Y., is cream-colored bliss floating on a striped dhurrie rug. Mimi London fabric on the chairs;

soapstone counter tops in the kitchen; beach apropos art by R. Kenton Nelson. Production designer Beth Rubino, who won Academy Awards for "The Cider House Rules" and "American Gangster," has revealed several times over the years that what makes the Nancy Meyers homes so enviable... is that they are entirely fake. Those perfect off-whites, warm grays, inoffensive yellows, and barely there blues are paint colors designed for the camera, for rooms built on sound stages, flooded with artificial coastal light. These are swatches forever out of reach. Some interiors can exist only in the movies: "INT. Kitchen."



PRODUCTION STILL MOVIESTILLSDB

"It's Complicated" starring Meryl Streep, above, will screen at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.



Choice interiors: Diane Keaton in "Something's Gotta Give," below, a young Lindsay Lohan and the late Natasha Richardson in "The Parent Trap."



CAROL COREY FINE ART

"Two Birds" by Roz Chast

Roz Chast Show and Pop-Up at Carol Corey Fine Art

An artist reception for Roz Chast's new exhibition, "Buildings, Bananas and Beyond" at Carol Corey Fine Art in Kent, Conn., will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 4 p.m. The Brooklyn-born artist who now lives and works in Connecticut will appear in conversation with artist Karla Knight. The exhibition

runs through Sunday, Oct. 1.

Known for her sardonic cartoons regularly featured in The New Yorker, Chast has expanded the scope of her humorous craft into a broader breadth of material — literally. With work that moves into textiles, stitching, beading and painted objects, Chast's

signature style remains as clear as ever: welcoming and little wobbly. House of Books in Kent, Conn., will also host a pop up at the gallery on Sept. 9, celebrating the releases of Roz Chast's book "I Must Be Dreaming" and the children's book "Tired Town," a collaboration with Patricia Marx.

A Man Named Fortune

This September marks the 10th anniversary of the burial of Fortune, an enslaved Black man who lived in Waterbury, Conn., in the 18th century. The Mattatuck Museum will honor the occasion by retelling his story during a ceremony held at his grave at noon at Riverside Cemetery on Wednesday, Sept. 13. A decade ago, the Mattatuck Museum began working through forensic science, research, and local historical documents to bring Fortune's story to light and give him a proper grave. Partnering with the NAACP Greater Waterbury, the event will feature local institutions and independent scholars who will help guests learn about Fortune's life and honor his death. This event is free and open to the public. To register, go to [www.mattmuseum.org](http://www.mattmuseum.org)

Kent Art Association

The Kent Art Association in Kent, Conn., will hold a showing of fiber arts, showcasing quilts, wall hangings and clothing on Friday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 9, at 10 a.m., Kent Historical Society President of The Board of Directors Deborah Chambrian

will lead a coffee talk discussing the life of the late Kent Art Association founder and sculptor Willard Paddock. Chambrian currently lives in what was once Paddock's artist studio.

## At The Movies

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OUR TOWNS

# When you throw it away, where is 'away'?

Part 2 of a series on recycling in Millerton

By DEBORAH MAIER

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Millerton's recycling goes directly to the Harlem Valley Transfer Station, south of the Cricket Valley fracked-gas facility on Route 22.

The main part of the facility consists of a single tipping floor, a cavernous room high enough to accommodate tractor-trailers, where one side is reserved for trash and the other for recycling. On the recycling side, Welsh Sanitation supervisor Scott Cale gestured to a jumbled pile of items perhaps 30 feet wide and 10 feet high.

As one would expect, there were sheets of cardboard, water bottles, milk jugs, detergent jugs, some egg cartons, cans and empty jars. But in this load on Friday, Aug. 25—not from Millerton but typical, Cale said, for a day's residential recycling haul in the region—there were also at least two wire refrigerator shelves; a large, new-looking metal frame from a four-wheeler; plastic film galore; plastic bags holding recycling; and even bags of what was clearly trash. Maybe 30% of the heap was actual recyclable material, and much of that was contaminated.

"We see this all the time," said Cale. "About 65% of people care, and recycle the way we're supposed to. But some people don't distinguish between the orange-lidded and the blue-lidded cans, or they just don't think, and you get this."

Items that are usable or bulky enough to cause problems, like the four-wheeler



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

A load of "recycling" on the tipping floor of the Dover Plains transfer station, on Friday, Aug. 25.

frame, are set aside in a corner for possible reuse or donation. But otherwise, those piles of what seem to be random trash will be loaded into tractor-trailers without further sorting and sent to Republic Services in Beacon, where they will be processed for sale to recycling brokers or sent to landfill or incineration facilities.

This way of dealing with recyclables, known as "single-stream," was a viable operation when per-ton prices were higher, Cale said, but is less so now.

Welsh Sanitation, a division of parent company Royal Carting, has a good reputation in Millerton, with some drivers of the four weekly trucks on friendly terms with residents. They are merely haulers, though, and their responsibility ends with Republic Services' high-tech sorting facility, where Welsh pays by the ton to dump loads.

Members of Millerton/North East's Climate Smart Communities task force have requested a hard-hat tour of the Beacon facility.

### Complexities of recycling business

In telephone and email conversations, Dutchess County Deputy Commissioner of Solid Waste Kerry Russell explained some of the complexities of the recycling business.

Russell is also executive director of the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency, "a public benefit agency that was established by the New York State Legislature in 1982 to oversee the construction, financing and operation of the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), which opened in 1989," according to its website. RRF is the huge waste-to-energy incinerator complex located on the banks of the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie.

Recycling Education materials highlighted by Russell are found on a Dutchess government webpage of that name with seven teacher resource links and six "general educational resources." Some of those originate with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) or the U.S. Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency. School- and college-focused materials are from an organization called New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3). NYSAR3 offers grants of up to \$1,000 to schools for recycling education, favoring "disadvantaged schools."

### Recyclopeda, a potentially useful tool

"Recyclopeda" is a New York State web initiative intended to help consumers sort the items in their waste streams and to figure out what can be recycled and what must be put in the garbage or taken to infrequent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) or Electronic Waste (E-waste) events. The website is colorful and visually appealing, and promises to help with more than 300 items. Incomplete but still informative, it is at recyclerightny.org/statewide-recyclopeda

### Dutchess' proposed new 10-year plan and its opponents

Dutchess County's proposed solid waste management plan adds some composting elements to the current mix of strategies, and posits the building of another incinerator. But not everyone agrees that this is the best way forward. Even with advanced filters, the toxic emissions and carbon footprint of such facilities are reasons to opt for landfills instead, they say, as well as robust composting, reduction and reuse programs.

At a recent Zoom meeting of a coalition of citizen organizations arranged by former Dutchess County legislator Joel Tyner, now an Oregon

resident, radically different solutions were proposed. Neil Seldman of Zero Waste USA, veteran environmental warrior Manna Jo Greene, representatives of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Energy Justice, and Dover's efforts

against the proposed Transco substation and others including the campaign manager for county executive Tommy Zurhellen brainstormed on how to present their case against the current incinerator and further buildout.

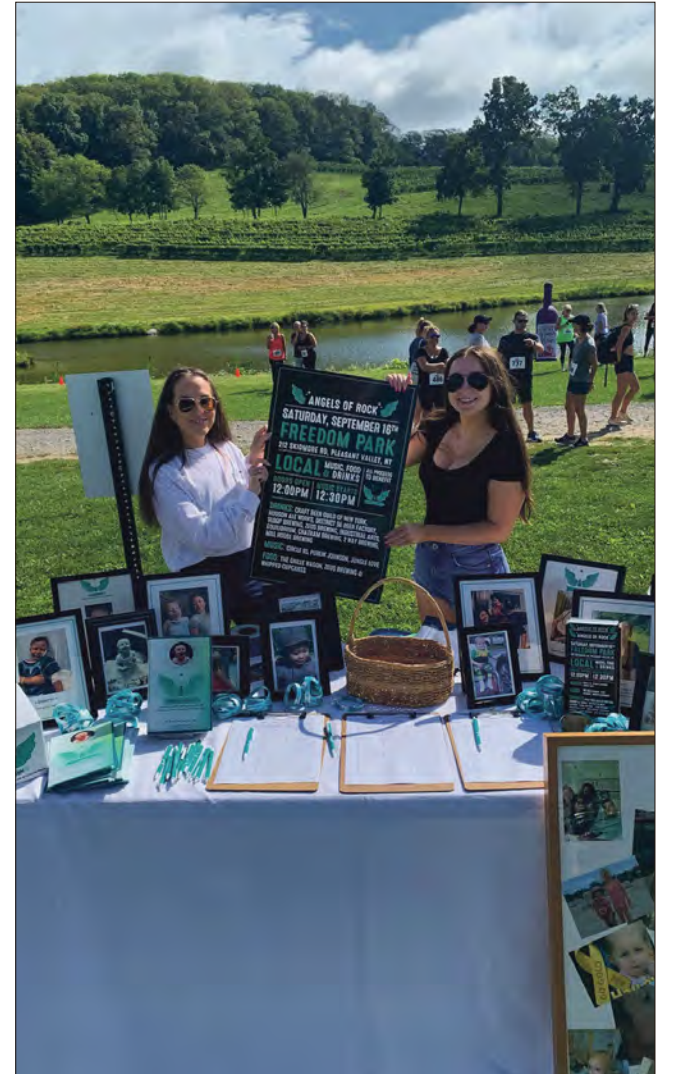


PHOTO SUBMITTED

### Racing to help

Holding a sign highlighting the organization's next big event, Angels of Light volunteer Brooke Youngswirth, left, and Vice President Ariana Peterman were at the Millbrook Winery, on Sunday, Aug. 27, where 500 participants gathered to run a 5K race benefitting Angels of Light.

## \$100,000 Matching Challenge

For The Lakeville Journal & The Millerton News

Dear Supporters,

**Good news from your local newspapers, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News!**

A small group of key supporters, have pledged a total of **\$100,000 as a MATCHING CHALLENGE**. We have until October 31st to meet the challenge.

These funds are crucial to the continued growth of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News. At The Lakeville Journal, new investments in local reporting have been made by bringing on new reporters to expand coverage of local towns and the results are evident. The Millerton News has a new office in town and a new editor who is rebuilding the reporting staff there too.

Behind the scenes, the papers are in the process of a complete digital migration of operations to newly revamped websites for both papers and a stream of integrated digital news products.

Any amount - large or small - goes towards the \$100,000 Matching Challenge to enable us to continue to expand AND upgrade local reporting in print and for digital.

Your investment in local journalism will drive the momentum we have achieved so far.

Thank you!

*Susan Hassler*  
Susan Hassler, Publisher

*Noreen Doyle*  
Noreen Doyle, Board Chair



Please make a donation at [www.tricornernews.com/2023matching](http://www.tricornernews.com/2023matching) or by mailing a check to **The Lakeville Journal Foundation, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039.**

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### Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of MTM Fine Art + Interiors LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/13/2023.

Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marie T. Montera PO Box 3192 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

- 08-31-23
- 09-07-23
- 09-14-23
- 09-21-23
- 09-28-23
- 10-05-23

### Legal Notice NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Village of Millerton Planning Board

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Village of Millerton, Dutchess County, New York, on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall, 5933 North Elm Avenue, regarding the application of 54 Main Street for site plan approval. The application is open for inspection at Village Hall.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard on said application at the hearing at the aforesaid time and place.

By the order of:  
Village of Millerton Planning Board  
Anna Clune  
Planning, Zoning & Building Secretary  
09-07-23

### LEGAL NOTICE

Please take notice that pursuant to a resolution of the Town Board of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, sealed bids for the purchase of the following items will be received at the Office of Town Clerk, Town of North East, 19 North Maple Avenue, PO Box 516, Millerton, New York 12546 until 10:00 AM. on the 21st day of September 2023, at which time they will be read aloud.

- Propane Delivered
- On Road Diesel Fuel Delivered
- 89 Octane Gasoline Delivered
- #2 Fuel Heating Oil Delivered
- Run Of The Bank Gravel
- Processed Gravel
- Screened Topsoil
- Screened Ice Control Sand
- Washed Ice Control Sand
- Tailings
- Crushed Stone
- Washed Crushed Stone
- Bituminous Mix (Cold Patch)
- Bituminous Mix (Hot Mix All Types)
- Latex Emulsions
- Latex Primer & Sealers
- Latex MP Materials
- Base Conditioners
- Liquid Calcium Chloride (Spread On Road By Gallon)
- Full Depth Reclamation By Square Yard

Relevant items may be bid F.O.B. or delivered. Bid period will be from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Bid winners will be notified in writing. All bids must be accompanied by a notarized non collusive statement and corporate bidders must file a corporate resolution with corporate

seal. All envelopes must be clearly marked "Bid (01/01/24- 12/31/24)". The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Information may be obtained by calling the Superintendent of Highways at 518-789-4850. September 7, 2023.

Robert D. Stevens  
Superintendent of Highways  
Town of North East  
09-07-23

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

that the Town Board of the Town of North East will conduct a public hearing on September 14, 2023 at 7:20pm at the Town of North East Town Hall in Millerton, New York on the adoption of proposed Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2023, which is entitled: "Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2024 Pursuant to General Municipal Law § 86-3-c". If this Local law is enacted, the Town Board of the Town of North East, County of Dutchess, will be authorized to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2024 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law § 86-3-c.

Any person desiring to be heard on said Local Law will be provided with an opportunity to do so at said public hearing. By order of the Town Board dated August 10, 2023.

ELIZABETH STRAUSS  
Town Clerk for the Town of North East  
09-07-23

EDITORIAL

Decision on Sharon Hospital

Connecticut's proposed final decision issued last week denied Sharon Hospital's request to close labor and delivery services at the hospital. (See story on Page One.) The Office of Health Strategy, an agency created in 2018 responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive health care vision for the state, requires certain types of health care providers to obtain state approval prior to making major changes in the health care landscape. In its proposed final decision, OHS included "Findings of Fact" containing more than 100 statements. In themselves, the statements provide a portrait of our hospital that puts the issues in perspective from both sides of the argument. The findings and the state's proposed final decision also stand as a snapshot of our time, illustrating in some ways how Sharon Hospital shares issues facing rural hospitals across the country.

Those issues include low labor and delivery volume, difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff, a problem further exacerbated by a nationwide health care worker shortage. From January to December 2021, Sharon Hospital had deliveries on approximately 45% of the days during the year; there were approximately 202 days (55%) where no obstetrical delivery occurred. Yet full staffing for a birthing unit and 24/7 surgical and anesthesia support is required. A 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment indicated health needs of the community, which includes an aging demographic, include access to primary and preventive care, behavioral health care and maternal and child health care.

Rural hospitals also struggle with travel times, and the request to close Sharon's labor and delivery unit has raised concern about alternatives for women in the Northwest Corner and in eastern Dutchess County. The lack of adequate access to labor and delivery facilities and services for women in rural areas has led to documented increases in out-of-hospital births, births in hospitals without obstetrics services, and poorer birth outcomes. Travel time of 20 minutes or more is associated with an increased risk of mortality and adverse outcomes. Travel times from Sharon Hospital to area hospitals capable of serving patients in need of labor and delivery services range from 37 minutes to 60 minutes.

Seven percent of residents in the hospital's primary service area have incomes below the federal poverty level, but an additional 31% have incomes that fall below a threshold necessary to meet all basic needs. The Findings of Fact state that the hospital's proposal would have a negative impact on access to Medicaid recipients and indigent persons and would exacerbate racial and ethnic health care inequities at the state, county and town levels.

As part of Nuvance Health, a not-for-profit organization, Sharon Hospital anticipates \$3 million dollars in annual savings by shutting labor and delivery. The Findings of Fact state that despite Sharon Hospital's losses in fiscal year 2021, Nuvance made approximately \$75 million, had an excess of revenue over expenses of \$105 million. OHS concluded that Nuvance appears to be financially stable.

The proposed final decision can be appealed. Sharon Hospital has until Sept. 18 to do so.

To read OHS's proposed final decision, go to: [portal.ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Certificate-of-Need/CON-Portal](http://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Certificate-of-Need/CON-Portal) and search for CON status of Vassar Health Connecticut, Inc. d/b/a Sharon Hospital

Earth, Wind & Fire Pit



The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Millerton News and the News does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services or opinions.

Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to [editor@millertonnews.com](mailto:editor@millertonnews.com). Please include a phone number for confirmation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chris Mayville's approach to town board seat

As, many of you may already know I am running for a seat on the North East Town Board. I have had the privilege of speaking with many of you the past few months while collecting signatures to secure a spot on this November's ballot and I look forward to speaking to many more of you.

While this year's election appears to be uncontested, it is easy for people to become complacent with getting out there and getting to truly know the issues and concerns. I want you to know that that will not be me. I will continue to be an active listener who will be

an advocate for transparency, community engagement, and to be vigilant and balanced with respect to how and when our tax dollars are spent.

Some of the other areas I have focused on based on my discussions with you are addressing the need for workforce housing by working together with all stakeholders. I would work to develop a tiered, measurable plan focusing on the current housing needs and establishing parameters to prevent over development.

Another area of importance is in the Long-Term

Facilities and Infrastructure planning- It is important to maintain a running assessment of future needs and develop a capital improvement plan budget for the new highway garage and Town hall. We need to ensure that planning for the upkeep of those taxpayer owned entities is well planned for so that there is not a huge capital improvement burden in the future.

I would also like to see us work towards instituting quarterly round table discussions with all of the local taxing entities — I believe if we can discuss our various needs and plans together, we will be able to find more opportunities for shared services and staggered planning for those projects that may require an increase in taxes.

One of the other areas of concern I see is seeking ways to increase community engagement and participation at municipal meetings. It is important for citizens of the town to be informed and aware of issues. We need to educate the residents about all the different platforms they can access for local information. With the ability for citizens to participate remotely

via Zoom we need to ensure that the information is easy for people to find and access including but not limited to agendas, meeting hyperlinks, rules regarding public comment at meetings and ways to meet the needs of those folks who may require alternative methods for participation based on auditory or visual needs.

Lastly, we need to bolster our existing recreational resources with more organized activities and opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors in the areas of music and the arts, as well as more organized health and wellness activities.

We live in an area with so many beautiful facilities both natural and man-made it seems that with more collaboration with the village and perhaps picking the brains of our neighbors north and south we could expand opportunities for residents of all ages.

Again, I look forward to the opportunity to continue speaking with and listening to your thoughts and concerns and would appreciate your vote on election day.

**Chris Mayville**  
Candidate for North East Town Board

Meet the county candidates on Sept. 9

The 2023 election will be an important one for Dutchess County. Anyone interested in meeting the four Democratic candidates have an opportunity to do so THIS weekend. The Dover and Amenia Democratic Committees are holding a garden party/brunch on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Dover.

Come, listen to and ask questions of Tommy Zurhel-

len (county executive), Anthony Parisi (district attorney), Kenya Gadsen (county clerk), and Jim Rogers (family court judge). RSVP to [DOVERNYDEMS@gmail.com](mailto:DOVERNYDEMS@gmail.com); for the location (someone's home). Hope you can attend — they are all impressive and inspiring.

**Leo Blackman**  
for the Amenia Democratic Committee  
Wassaic

Appeal to speak on county's waste plan

Come out and speak up Thursday, Sept. 7. at 5:45 p.m. on the sixth floor of the County Office Building at 22 Market Street in Poughkeepsie before the County Legislature Environmental Committee votes on the proposed Solid Waste Management Plan for the county— unfortunately it continues/expands incineration and doesn't go nearly far enough with composting (you also have another opportunity for public comment Monday, Sept. 11. at 7 p.m. before the full board vote).

The county incinerator in Poughkeepsie emits seven pounds of mercury annually— enough to poison literally 3,100 lakes of 20-acre size in our region, making fish too contaminated to eat; DEC and EPA data both show that it is by far the largest industrial polluter in the county.

It also puts 100,000 tons of global warming pollution into the air each year too in carbon dioxide equivalents—the last thing we need in the ongoing worsening climate

crisis— and its emissions are the cause of ten million dollars' worth of health problems yearly according to New York University.

Ninety-five percent of what use can be recycled or reused according to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance; San Francisco's recycling rate is over 80 percent; Los Angeles' is almost as high— Dutchess' rate is 35%.

Montgomery County (MD) and Minneapolis have both enacted comprehensive zero-waste plans— before their contracts with incinerator companies like Wheelabrator have run out— Dutchess should do the same.

The fact is that incineration is far more polluting than landfilling, burning coal, or any other form of energy, according to the Energy Justice Network; 300 new green jobs could be created in recycling, composting, and reuse according to Neil Seldman of Zero Waste USA.

Former Clearwater Environmental Director and

current Ulster County Legislator Manna Jo Greene has long called for the closure of the Dutchess incinerator; the Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions has convinced many local elected officials and candidates to endorse their Zero Waste Pledge to shut down their own toxic

county incinerator in Peekskill.

Join our weekly Zero Waste Dutchess Zoom online teach-in's on Facebook and help us do the same.

**Joel Tyner**  
Former Dutchess County Legislator (2004-2019)  
Portland, Oregon

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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An Independent New York Newspaper  
Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East, Town of Washington, Town of Amenia, Town of Pine Plains, North East (Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District  
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Volume 92, Number 33 Thursday, September 7, 2023

Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News  
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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Susan Hassler  
Publisher and CEO  
James H. Clark  
Chief Operating Officer

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DRIVERS: Brian Murphy; Geoffrey Olans; Adam Williams.

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Hummingbird hovers

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## TAG SALES

### SALISBURY, CT

**NOBLE HORIZONS BOOK & TAG SALE:** Fri., September 8 & Sat., September 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Community Room, 17 Cobble Rd., Salisbury, CT. Admission is free both days. On Friday only EARLY BIRDS pay \$10 from 8-9 a.m.

## HELP WANTED

**DAYCARE TEACHER-UNDERMOUNTAIN CHILD CARE CENTER:** Full-time position with benefits for a daycare teacher/early childhood educator, at Undermountain Child Care Center on the campus of Berkshire School, Monday through Friday. Teacher certification a plus but not required. CORI and other background checks required. Submit resume and letter of interest to Tammy Wysocki, Director of UMCC, Berkshire School, 245 North Undermountain Road, Sheffield, MA 01257. [twysocki@berkshireschool.org](mailto:twysocki@berkshireschool.org) Phone: 413-229-1850.

**GROUNDS/MAINTENANCE POSITION:** Berkshire School has an opening for an individual to perform routine seasonal outside maintenance and grounds work, and event set-ups and breakdowns. This position requires heavy lifting and the ability to work as an effective member of a team. Some weekend and holiday hours are mandatory. This is a full-time, year round position with excellent benefits. Interested parties should contact Gabe Starczewski, [gstarczewski@berkshireschool.org](mailto:gstarczewski@berkshireschool.org) 413-229-1211.

**PROJECT SAGE:** seeks a Community Educator to advance our vision of a world in which everyone can be themselves, have healthy relationships, and live free of interpersonal, relationship violence. The primary role of the Community Educator is to develop, manage, facilitate and deliver community programming, with a special emphasis on engagement of boys and men, and to support K-12 education efforts. This is a full-time position based in Lakeville, CT. A background in education, social work, or gender studies through work participation or education is required. Experience as a trainer, group facilitator, and community networker are highly valued, as is public speaking experience. An ability to work with diverse populations and volunteers is essential, as is working collaboratively with staff. Computer literacy in Microsoft Office Suite is required. \$53,000—\$57,000 depending on experience with generous benefits. More information at [www.project-sage.org/employment](http://www.project-sage.org/employment). To express interest, please send your resume and letter of introduction to [sage@project-sage.org](mailto:sage@project-sage.org).

**THE DAVID M. HUNT LIBRARY:** in Falls Village is looking to hire an Assistant Director and Youth Services Coordinator. This position will both support the strategic direction of the library and play an integral role in day to day operations. Learn more about the position and how to apply at <https://www.huntlibrary.org/employment-opportunities/>. Applications will be accepted until September 15.

**THE NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER:** has several current openings in our Youth Programs. We are hiring a FT Early Learning Program Senior Assistant, a PT Early Learning Program Assistant, and a PT Out-of-School-Time Program Senior Assistant. Full position descriptions available at [www.necmillerton.org/employment](http://www.necmillerton.org/employment) Request application or send resume to [info@necmillerton.org](mailto:info@necmillerton.org) EEO/EPO.

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## REAL ESTATE

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*in Sharon, CT*

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