

OUR TOWNS

Major infrastructure projects discussed by Amenia Town Board

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Significant infrastructure projects, all needing focused attention, were discussed without immediate resolution at the regular meeting of the Amenia Town Board on Thursday, June 15.

Projects include resolving issues being dealt with by the water district, including a federally mandated inspection of existing water lines and water district maintenance, both issues that would demand funding.

“We are out of time,” Marco D’Antonio, representing the Amenia Water Committee, told the town board. He described immediate needs as accomplishing records research, home inspections for all water district customers, and service line inspections. He urged the board to release funding for the purpose and begin the process of applying for grants.

D’Antonio noted that the town is doing the records research and would plan to use town crews to do the excavating for inspections.

The needs of the Wastewater Committee were described by Councilman Leo Blackman, who reported that \$45,500 is needed to move forward on an essential map, plan and report phase to define a wastewater district within the town. The expenditure would hire the

Ham radio emergency drill June 24-25

AMENIA — The Southern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club will hold its 2023 Field Day emergency communication event this coming weekend, June 24-25, as part of the annual North America Amateur Radio Emergency Drill. They will be operating with emergency power and temporary gear while contacting other ham operators across the U.S. and Canada. Visitors are welcome and can see ham radios in action and actually operate on the air under club supervision.

The drill will be held at the home of a club member at 80 Depot Rd. in Amenia. Operations begin Saturday at 2 p.m. and continue through the night, shutting down Sunday noon. For further information call Lee at 860-435-0051.

services of an engineer and attorney, necessary to move ahead with applications for infrastructure grant funding.

Related to the wastewater planning is discussion of the status of a property at 74 Lake Amenia Road that the town is considering acquiring in conference with the present owners. The existing home on the property is seen as a possible unit of affordable housing that would be the town’s first unit so designated. The property could also offer a location for a modern wastewater treatment unit that could be located on subdivided acreage.

The Dutchess County Planning group had identified 21 “deficiencies” in the home as needing remediation before the house would be suitable for occupancy, a listing that was persuasive to Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti.

Lengthy discussion ensued about the costs involved in remediation, thought by some town board members to be potentially insignificant, but of more concern to Perotti. The initial required steps would be to assess the presence and removal of any lead-based paint or asbestos.

Blackman repeated his impression that the costs to remediate the listed items would be low, and Perotti felt that such costs might be “prohibitive.”

Wastewater Committee Chairman Charlie Miller said, “it’s not scary,” adding that the remediation costs would not need to be paid out of town funds. Rather, they would be found in the existing Wastewater Committee budget.

Perotti felt that the next

step should be to obtain cost estimates for remediation work, noting that a formal bidding process is required by Dutchess County officials, who need to review and approve all paperwork.

Town board attorney Ian Lindars spoke in support of the need to follow the county’s process, and he advised that a first step should be to accomplish the lead and asbestos survey.

“My job is to protect the taxpayers,” Perotti said.

Councilman Brad Rebillard, serving as the town board representative and consultant between the town board and the Wastewater

Committee, indicated that he and Miller had met with the current property owners, but there was no reportable progress made.

Rebillard’s report led Councilman Damian Gutierrez to suggest that the town board postpone any decision on the map, plan and report aspect of the Wastewater Committee’s work to create a sewer district until there is some action on the Lake Amenia Road property.

If there should be no movement on the property, then Gutierrez indicated that the funding could be redirected to the water district for those projects.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Poluzzi celebrates retirement

Feted for 25 years of service to the Millbrook Police Department, retiring Officer Richard Poluzzi, left, was presented with a plaque and thanks from Sgt. Jared Witt of the Millbrook Police Department and Village of Millbrook Mayor Tim Collopy, right, at the Wednesday, June 14, village meeting held at the Millbrook Firehouse. Poluzzi’s family members were present as both Witt and Collopy thanked him for his service and praised his commitment to Millbrook and its citizens over the many years he served as a village police officer.

SHERIFF’S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for June 1-14.

June 4 — Deputies responded to Route 199 and Finkle Road in the Town of Pine Plains for a car into a guardrail with possible injuries. Vehicle was gone upon arrival. The involved vehicle had been reported as an erratic vehicle moments before the reported crash. Efforts to locate the vehicle were unsuccessful.

June 6 — Deputies responded to 97 Route 44 (Cumberland Farms) in the Village of Millerton for the report of two subjects that parked a black car at their business and walked across the street to the CVS parking lot where a second complaint had just been made

regarding subjects committing a larceny. Prior to patrol arrival, the subjects fled the area in a black Hyundai Elantra bearing a State of Georgia temporary registration. Surrounding law enforcement agencies were notified, however, the subjects were not located. Investigation ongoing.

June 14 — Deputies investi-

gated a minor personal injury automobile accident in the area of 5158 Route 22 in Amenia. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Pedro Pop Coc (08/06/1986) for aggravated DWI. Pop Coc is to appear in Amenia Court at a later date.

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.

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OBITUARIES

Ronald Bruce Fallon

CANAAN — Sergeant Major (R) Ronald Bruce Fallon, 80, went to his heavenly home on the morning of Dec. 21, 2019, surrounded by family in Madison, Alabama. His devotion to family, country and his firm belief in God carried him through and ultimately gave him peace.



Ronald Fallon was born Nov. 21, 1939, in Canaan, to the late Gilbert and Elvera Fallon. He was a Christian, beloved husband, father, grandfather, patriot, loyal Soldier and Vietnam Veteran, proudly serving a prestigious 30-year career in the United States Army, retiring at the rank of Sergeant Major.

He truly loved his family and he was as tough as God makes them but had a real soft spot for

his Grandchildren. God, Duty to Country, riding his motorcycle, traveling the world throughout his military career and supporting his fellow Veterans were the most important things he enjoyed.

He is survived by his wife Song Fallon; children, Renee Brock, Buddy Brock, Kiya Fallon, Christina Fallon, Richard Liles II, John Liles, LTC Jennifer Liles, Jennifer Fallon Dittenber; and 15 Grandchildren.

“It is foolish to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.” General George S. Patton. Graveside Services with full military honors to be held in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Cemetery Road, North Canaan, CT on Saturday June 24, 2023, at 1 p.m.

Patricia A. Boyle

SALISBURY - Patricia A. Boyle, 92, of Salisbury Ct, died June 15, 2023. For 52 years “Patti” was the loving wife of Dick Boyle.

Patricia was born March 17, 1931, in Covington, Kentucky, the daughter of Roderick Murray and Catherine Gilday. After attending local Roman Catholic schools, she moved to Cincinnati where she married her first husband, the late Patrick McHugh. While taking night classes at the University of Cincinnati, she worked as a secretary to the dean of the Art Academy of Cincinnati part of the Cincinnati Art Museum where Dick was curator. They met, fell in love and were married on June 19, 1971. They moved to Philadelphia where she founded and ran The Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia. In 1994 the

couple settled in Salisbury, CT, where Patti opened The Earl Grey Bed and Breakfast and where they soon became very much a part of the community. She loved playing bridge, gardening and she particularly loved to travel, especially to France and the countryside in the UK.

She is survived by two sons, Rick and Eric (Mary), daughters Barbara and Cherie; grandchildren Edward, Colleen, Katie, Maureen, Alexandra, James and Owen, and four great-grandchildren.

Private services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, contribution may be made to The Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Squad and the Salisbury Visiting Nurses Association. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

HVRHS graduate dies after car crash

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

patrick@lakevillejournal.com

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — Brandon Chiacchia, 18, a member of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Class of 2023 from Kent, died Saturday, June 17 at 9 p.m. after being in a car accident on Route 7 early Saturday morning.

The accident report from Troop B in North Canaan states that Chiacchia’s car was traveling southbound on Route 7 in Salisbury near the intersection of Routes 7 and 112 when it “traveled across the northbound lane, and entered the roadside where it came to an uncontrolled final rest after striking a tree. [Chiacchia] was transported to Sharon hospital for suspected serious physical injuries.” The time on the report was 6:56 a.m.

HVRHS Principal Ian Strever sent an email to the community Sunday afternoon, June 18, making the announcement after consulting with the student’s family.

Strever wrote: “We mourn the loss of a vibrant young soul who touched the lives of many in our school community. Brandon was a kind-hearted friend and a cherished member of our school family whose academic interests spanned across every department.

“During these difficult times, it is crucial that we come together as a community to support one another. The loss of a young life brings

immense pain, and we understand that everyone processes grief differently. As we communicated yesterday, our counseling team and support staff are available to provide comfort, guidance, and a listening ear to any student, teacher, or parent who may need assistance.”

Strever wrote that the high school postponed the Underclass Awards Ceremony scheduled for Monday, June 19 “out of respect for the family.”

“We extend our deepest condolences and sympathy to Brandon’s family. We cannot fully comprehend the magnitude of their loss, but we want them to know that they are not alone.”

As of Tuesday, June 20, there are two Go Fund Me efforts underway to help the Chiacchia family with funeral and other expenses.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

Motorcyclists gathered at All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church at Twin Lakes in Salisbury, Conn., for the annual blessing.

Annual blessing of the bikes

By MATTHEW KRETA

Special to The Millerton News

SALISBURY, Conn. — All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church held its annual blessing of motorcycles on Sunday, June 11. The blessing took place after services, with a turnout of 44 bikes and 66 guests. Bikers mixed with parishioners for an outdoor barbecue after the blessing.

The annual tradition was continued for the second consecutive year after being on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While this year saw fewer bikes than last year did at 52, the majority of participants were new to the celebration. Father John Kreta led the blessing, praying for safety for both the machines and their riders. Riders and parishioners gathered on the road by the church in a line that covered the

entire church property as Kreta slowly made his way bike by bike, blessing the bikes with holy water.

Ralph Baker, one of the original creators of the get-together, could not attend this year. Instead, Jimmy Dunn helped to organize and gather riders. Dunn thanked Kreta after the prayer on behalf of those gathered. Then, bikers and parishioners gathered on the church lawn to enjoy food and community together.

“Many enjoy the prayer that talks about the chariots ‘as fast as the wind’ and Elijah’s chariot, but more importantly we pray for God to protect those on the motorcycles and to send a guardian angel to watch over them and protect them as they enjoy the summer on their motorcycles,” Kreta said.

Matthew Kreta is the son of John Kreta.

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Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 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	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 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
St. John’s Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 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
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The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School “Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors” Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 lakevillemethodist@snet.net	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT The next meeting will be Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 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
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The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org
Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service “Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors” Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!	SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-5003 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday & Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Tuesday 9 AM - St. Bernard
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Lenten Services online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	Promised Land Baptist Church 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
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Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138	

Millbrook High School

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OUR TOWNS

Solar laws discussed, moratorium proposal expected

By ELIAS SORICH
elias@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — At its Thursday, June 15, meeting during executive session, the Pine Plains Town Board discussed instituting a moratorium on solar projects in the town. Town attorney Warren Replansky stated that no decision had been made, but that the town “recognizes that there are issues with regard to the current solar law that could be made better” and that “there is the potential for the proliferation of solar facilities

within the town.” Replansky indicated that he will prepare a moratorium law for the board to consider at a special meeting on Tuesday, June 27, at 7 p.m. Replansky noted that the law would have an exemption for pending applications, and include a “hardship provision” that would allow applications to seek a waiver from the town. Though the moratorium has yet to be drafted, this makes it likely that the Carson Power solar project would be unaffected by the moratorium, and the moratorium would temporarily halt only the proposal of new solar projects.

Noting that the town’s current solar zoning law had undergone a thorough two-year consideration process, Replansky said that the moratorium would nevertheless give the town the chance to “take a closer look and make

changes,” stating “we want to make the law the best that we can.”

After the town board receives the moratorium law on June 27, it will be required to hold a public hearing on the matter, which would occur in “late July or August,” according to Replansky.

The board also heard a presentation from Lisa and Nelson Zayas, co-founders of the nonprofit organization Willow Roots, on a proposal to begin a weekend flea market in the town. The group proposed to make use of the empty lots at 8 and 12 North Main St. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Speaking after the event, Nelson indicated that the board was likely to give them a determination within a week or two, after which Willow Roots would move quickly to host a soft grand opening.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

An afternoon of music

Mostly sunny was good enough for the many visitors and shoppers who strolled along Millbrook’s Franklin Avenue on Saturday, June 17. Many of them stopped by the lawn in front of George T. Whalen Insurance Agency to hear some foot-tapping tunes by Grandpa Joe’s Washboard Band. Favorites and country oldies were sung, picked and plucked by, from left, Vince Sauter on bass, ‘Grandpa’ Joe Cardella on washboard, and Wayne Chadwell on banjo. The band performed courtesy of the Millbrook Arts Group’s Music in the Streets program.

Rec Comm presents Amenia Green design

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — In the planning stages since November 2022, phase one of a five-year master plan was presented to residents during a regular meeting of the Amenia Recreation Commission held on Tuesday, June 13.

Landscape architect Jane Didona of Didona Associates of Danbury, Connecticut, summarized the contours and challenges of the acreage surrounding the Town Hall and presented drawings of a project named Amenia Green that envision enhancement of the recreational potential. About 25 residents attended the presentation.

“We have a feasible master plan, phase one,” said Paul Winters, recreation commission chairman. “We are not trying to do all of this in one shot,” he added, indicating that the intention is to build the project with grant funding, although such grant funding often comes with a requirement for the town to match a percentage of the grant.

A next step in the phase-one process would be to submit a state Consolidated Funding Application before the July 28 deadline to support the hiring of an engineer and architect who would create design blueprints, an essential step in securing project funding.

Challenging to the design, Didona said, is the existence of a floodplain east of the existing parking lot, and the lot itself is “illogical.”

Underground drainage could be a possibility, or raising the slope, or a new technology of laying a fabric barrier. Whatever solution is arrived at, the firm goal will be to have no impact on the neighboring property owners.

Responsive to the public sentiments voiced at the public hearings, Didona said that the basketball court would remain where it is.

The existing children’s playground could see a splash pool added and rest rooms, a pollinator garden and a parking lot of 26 spaces for convenient access.

The first step, Winters explained, is for the community to accept the phase-one plan, and the Town Board needs to accept the plan, anticipated to be presented to it in July. Following that acceptance, the engineers would create design drawings and contractors would estimate costs.

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Millbrook High School

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Congratulations to the class of 2023

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Steven Palomba	Kristiana Pavlak	Caitlin Pfisterer	Harleigh Pickles	Thomas Polhemus	Rocco Popovic
Alivia Rennia	Nicholas Ricoszi	Dylan Ross	Nathan Rubbo	Mumin Salameh	Cam'ron Sparks
Sydney Speare	Ace Spencer	Justin Steiner	Nell Steven	Julia Stoliker	Jose Vazquez Nava
				Congratulations 2023 Graduates! From The Millerton News	
Sebastian Vega	Mario Vera	Benjamin Vitale	Ella Wilson		

GRADUATION *Continued from Page A1*

severance of her classmates, noting that over half of their high school experience had been conducted online. Thorne also celebrated how the class had “held space for one another” and “supported each other through tragedy.”

Valedictorian Morgan Sprague’s speech was similarly thoughtful, and she recognized that many of the graduating students had “known each other before we could even comprehend what friendship was.” Noting the heartbreak of Thompson’s absence at the graduation, Sprague praised how the class had “come together in loss” and shared her aspiration for “not just me, but all of us to live in the present.”

During the awarding of diplomas, family members let out hearty hollers as the graduates posed for photos with Superintendent Ray-



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

From left: Webutuck High School Principal Robert Knuschke and Superintendent Raymond Castellani present Noah Thompson’s diploma to his family, including siblings Emily Thompson and Caleb Cook (Logan Thompson and Sadie Thompson are out of frame).

mond Castellani and Principal Robert Knuschke. The longest applause was reserved for Thompson, whose family accepted his diploma to an outpouring of support from all in attendance.

As the students spilled out of the tent and onto the track field, they posed for a group photo and tossed their caps before dispersing to parents, siblings and relatives eager to document the moment.

Some will head to college and some to the workforce, but by whatever road they travel, the graduates will be, in the words of Knuschke, “a reflection of your friend’s [Thompson’s] best qualities.”

READING *Continued from Page A1*

some of the progress they made during the school year.

Lynn Buckley, NEML youth services coordinator, spent a week earlier in the month visiting every classroom at Webutuck Elementary School (WES), encouraging all to attend the event.

That day, as well as at their local libraries, students of all ages may sign up for a summer program that will allow them to earn incentives, or what Buckley calls “tokens of success,” such as bookmarks, rulers, temporary tattoos, and squishy stars as they return to their libraries to report on their reading record every two weeks.

In addition to those checks, readers are also encouraged to return even more often if their enthusiasm brings them back sooner for new printed adventures.

While readers of all levels

are invited to be part of the summer program, Buckley is particularly excited to introduce a special collection of “decodable books,” which use Whole Phonics to teach the reading process. The books are created by “Teach My Kid to Read,” with three copies of the first two sets of the series donated to each library by two area residents in partnership with Whole Phonics.

The first 100 attendees will also receive a book bag and a copy of one of the books, which Buckley, a retired teacher from WES, said will “supplement” what is being taught locally.

She and Amenia Library director Victoria Herow are each also implementing a Story Walk with Millerton and Amenia businesses and other locations, posting large copies of pages from one of the books, which will allow

for an unveiling of the story as children work their way around their community following maps that disclose the locations of each page.

They can also go to the library to pick up the books if they are anxious to learn the ending before they complete their local quest.

While inspired to work jointly by the state topic to be “All Together Now,” each library will have unique programs that will be announced on their websites as the summer progresses. Millerton will focus on kindness and unity. Amenia has adapted the title to become “Everybody Bee-Long at the Library” in recognition of the number of bees—including hives—present at the library.

Participants of the kickoff need not be residents or library patrons to attend the event, though they are en-

couraged to sign up for free library cards either there, at their local libraries or online through the library sites. They will need cards in order to check out books from the libraries.

Although the rewards are aimed at younger children, NEML director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson pointed out that summer reading is “for everyone,” with NEML full to overflowing with books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, movies, music, seeds, spices, a thermal-seeking camera, and even fishing rods, the last of which will be available in early July.

For more information on the Amenia Free Library at 3309 Route 343, call 845-373-8273 or go to amenialibrary.org.

Details regarding NEML, located at 75 Main St., are available at nemillertonlibrary.org or 518-789-3340.

DCSO *Continued from Page A1*

need in their situations.

Available resources may include crisis intervention, safety planning, emotional support, advocacy, individual and support group counseling, information and referrals, children’s services and a 24-hour crisis hotline.

DCSO has consistently advocated for survivors of domestic violence for years before creating its unit. It has envisioned opening a domestic violence unit within law enforcement as a testament to the community. When the personnel resources finally became available, it made sense for DCSO to get started.

Imperati said, “The process

basically involved determining which personnel would be the best fit for the unit and then making the necessary assignments from there.”

Not only does DCSO provide different resources, but a domestic violence victim advocate has been housed in the sheriff’s department as a first responder to a victim in need. Having an advocate on-site will allow the victims to have a representative with them at all times as well as someone to talk to about their next steps. The advocate also partners with the deputies to ensure that the victims are adequately treated and feel safe during the process.

The unit will provide Dutchess County with another avenue for victims to seek help and safety.

“The ultimate goal of the unit is to ensure that every domestic violence victim is provided the safety and resources that they need and that offenders are held accountable,” said Imperati.

The unit is expected to provide an easier route and assistance for prosecuting offenders. The sheriff’s of-

fice is hopeful that it will be able to reduce and eventually prevent some of the domestic violence that occurs in Dutchess County.

“In the coming years, we would like to have the ability to expand the unit beyond the initial staffing level,” said Imperati.

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic violence, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

EARLY DEADLINE

OFFICES CLOSED JULY 4TH

Deadline for the July 6th issue is

Noon on Thursday, June 29th

for ALL Display Advertising

Classified Line Deadline is

Noon on Friday, June 30th

Letters to the Editor will be accepted

until Noon Friday, June 30th

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TREE REMOVAL *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO BY JUDITH O’HARA BALFE

The tree in front of 3262 and 3264 Franklin Ave. in Millbrook, in front of Alicia Adams Alpaca and Kieselstein-Cord. The curb and the sidewalk are both damaged.

the diner, and the tree is too close to the diner steps. Lifted pavement from the roots can cause tripping hazards. Urban Forester has determined that the fifth tree has been damaged by severe weather and will soon die.

Village trustee Mike Herzog has long been an advocate for keeping Millbrook’s Tree City USA designation. He recently attended the Tree City USA award ceremony and accepted an award on behalf of the village for the 31st year in a row. He has served for a great many years on the Shade Tree Committee and is currently serving as chair.

Herzog has also long been a proponent of acquiring the means to have the village sidewalks repaired or replaced. He has worked to apply for grants to obtain the money necessary to make it possible.

The health of four of these trees is not in question, but the fact that the sidewalks need to be replaced is the problem. All of the trees are located in areas that receive heavy foot traffic. The trees will die if the roots are cut,

necessitating the removal of the trees.

The board’s plan is to replace the trees, although a date for the actual plantings has yet to be determined. Careful thought will go into what type of tree will be used. Some of the current trees, while beautiful and providing shade, also make a mess. Trees that have less invasive roots will be considered. Herzog indicated that the board and the commission are open to informed suggestions from the public.

At its April 18 meeting, the commission discussed the selection of preferred trees for the 2023 sidewalk project and the communication between the county and the village. Members also discussed working on an application for an Urban Forestry grant. The commission is a working body, and is open to having new members join.

If you have comments or suggestions about the sidewalk replacement or the tree removal, contact villageofmillbrookmayor@gmail.com or call 845-677-3939, option No. 5.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Something Rotten This Way Comes

“**A**las, poor yolk, I know thee well, there’s something rotten, there’s something rotten,” sings Nick Bottom. You might recognize the name as the poor sap whose head is magically transfigured into that of a donkey in William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” but in “Something Rotten!,” the musical by John O’Farrell and Karey and Wayne Kirkpatrick, he’s a theatrical rival of Shakespeare’s — and not a successful one. The show opens at Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., on Friday, June 23. I spoke with director Amy Griffin about bringing this Tony-award-nominated comedy to Connecticut.

Alexander Wilburn: Hi Amy, so you’re right in the middle of rehearsals, how are you feeling?

Amy Griffin: I don’t want to jinx it, because I’ve been doing this long enough that I know there will come a day when we hit a giant obstacle, but so far we’ve been doing great. The vibe in the room is fantastic. It’s a real team vibe from our incredible young college students in the ensemble all the way to these outrageous Broadway veterans playing the leads.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SHARON PLAYHOUSE
“Something Rotten!” Choreographer Justin Boccitto, right, rehearsing with, bottom to top, Nico Charney, Tyler Miranda, Griffin Tomaino.

AW: The Sharon Playhouse is known for its classic, nostalgic musicals, but “Something Rotten!” is a relatively new work. How would you describe it to those unfamiliar?

AG: What’s interesting is that it really is structured just like an old book musical. I love a new musical like “Six,” but my heart belongs to a classic book musical. What’s really wonderful about this show is that it has a classic structure but the music has a contemporary flair — it’s

not pop, but it doesn’t feel old-fashioned. It’s also the funniest show you will see. I saw it on Broadway and I was howling. It’s just really strong. It’s brilliantly written.

AW: You’ve directed a number of historical-set musicals, from “Les Mis” to “Little Women” to “Spring Awakening,” do you research the time period as you direct?

AG: I do usually very much research and immerse myself in the time period, but what’s funny with this is that it’s so anachronistic. It’s a farce, so it’s really winking at the period. There are a ton of historical references, but it’s not a documentary depiction of the 1600s. It’s a delightful loving satire of our perceptions of that era. The opening number is called “Welcome to The Renaissance” and the ensemble sings about how everything is incredibly modern and cutting edge — because now they can freeze meat! We have pewter mugs!

AW: Summer stock is a quick rehearsal time, it’s a quick run on the

stage, does that come with its own challenges?

AG: It does. I’ve almost never done a show in my life where I didn’t think, “If we only had another week…” But everyone in this cast knows the deal. There isn’t anyone in the cast or company where we wondering “Are you going to make it to the finish line?” Everyone’s on their game. Summer stock is a joyous experience, in a lot of ways it’s summer camp for adults. You go to rehearsal and then you go have a glass of wine, and sit in the sun and laugh. I think it’s a really interesting experience for our college students because in college you get cast in a play in September and you do in say, January. That’s valuable because you can immerse yourself in the process but of course… you don’t have to pay people for rehearsals. So there can be

Continued on next page



A PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED PHOTO OF COPELAND COURTESY OF NYC DANCE PROJECT BY KEN BROWAR & DEBORAH ORY

DANCE: ALEXANDER WILBURN

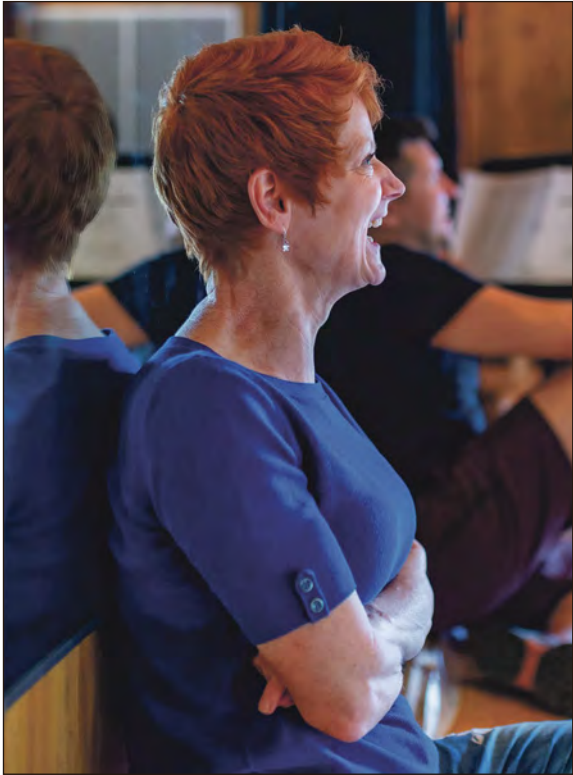
Misty Copeland To Be Honored at Jacob’s Pillow

Misty Copeland, who launched to national fame in 2015 when she became the first Black woman to be promoted to the rank of principal at New York City’s American Ballet Theatre, will be honored at Jacob’s Pillow dance center and school in Becket, Mass., on Saturday, June 24 at its season-opening gala.

Perhaps the most well-recognized ballerina of her day, Copeland’s journey as a young Black soloist for ABT was chronicled in the Tribeca Film Festival documentary “A Ballerina’s Tale,” and she has appeared on the cover of Time magazine. Last year she founded an instructional children’s ballet course called Be Bold in partnership with Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club and the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club in New York City. Copeland herself enrolled in her local chapter of The Boys & Girls Club when she was seven years old and in many interviews has credited the after-school children’s program as being a central part of her early life. “It’s so important for me to give back to the community, as well as to show people that ballet should be and can be inclusive,” she told The New York Times.

Pamela Tatge, artistic director at Jacob’s Pillow said in a statement, “We are honoring Misty for her immense artistry and achievement as one of this country’s premier ballerinas. We are also recognizing her work as an activist and change-maker.”

Jacob Pillow’s presentation of its 2023 Dance Award will be live-streamed starting at 6 p.m. at www.jacobspillow.com.



Griffin directing rehearsal at The Playhouse.

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Purchase Tickets at SCEmusic.org

MUSIC: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Music Mountain Welcomes Classical Lovers Home

“This season is staying true to the origins of Music Mountain,” Oskar Espina Ruiz, the summer concert series’s artistic director, told me while we sat in the back of Gordon Hall. Named after Jacques Gordan, the Russian child prodigy violinist and Music Mountain founder, classical enthusiasts have traveled to sit in the wooden pews of this intimate concert space housed in a quintessential Connecticut white clapboard since 1930 — when Gordan started inviting prominent musicians to sleepy Falls Village.

“Once again we’re offering a combination of masterworks and a well-known repertoire paired with some new, discovery pieces. That was the framework established by Gordon in 1930, and it’s a recipe that continues to work very well.”

The 2023 Music Mountain Summer Festival, which is already in



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Oskar Espina Ruiz

full swing, offers live jazz selections on Saturdays and chamber music on Sundays and is tied together with the theme “Home and Belonging.”

“Composers would bring ‘home’ into their music,” Espina Ruiz said. “Immediately one can think of Dvorák or the Eastern European composers. We can think of The Russian Five in the

1850s [that’s Mily Bala-kirev, Cesar Cui, Modest Mussorgsky, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and Alexander Borodin], and in the early 20th century with my fellow countrymen, Manuel de Falla and Enrique Granados, you can hear their home in their music.”

A musician himself, Espina Ruiz will play the clarinet with

members of the New York City-based Ulysses Quartet on Sunday, Aug. 6, in a special concert event that will include a pre-performance talk with traditional Native American storytelling by Darlene Kascak, a member of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation and the education director of The Institute for American Indian Studies Museum and Research Center in Washington, Conn.

This weekend on Sunday, June 25, at 2 p.m., Music Mountain’s Gordan Hall is opening its doors for a free family concert that Espina Ruiz sees as a gateway for younger audience members to be introduced to classical pieces. A concession stand is planned to open with ice cream and lemonade, and bringing a family picnic before the concert is encouraged. The Horszowski Trio, a New York City-based group, consisting of pianist Rieko Aizawa, cellist Ole Akahoshi, and violinist Jesse Mills, will

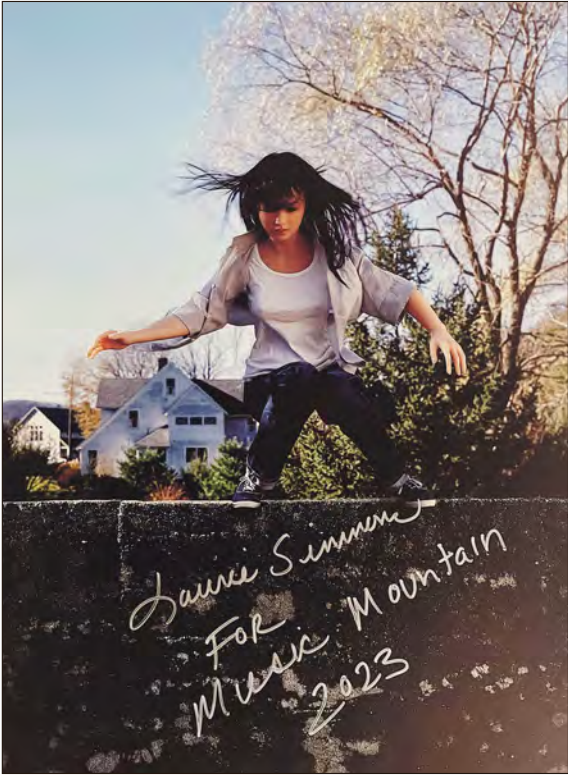


PHOTO COURTESY THE ARTIST

This summer Music Mountain is offering 50 editions of exclusive signed posters by Laurie Simmons to benefit the concert series. A resident of Cornwall, Conn, Simmons has challenged gender roles and redefined expectations of feminism in the New York art world for decades through her signature photography of miniatures, mannequins and dolls.

be joined for this special concert by Jessica Thompson playing the viola, and Gregg August playing double bass as they perform Franz Shubert’s Piano Quintet in A Major — better known as “The Trout Quintet.” The five movements, fittingly written by Shubert at the height of his youth, have bright, animated flourishes to capture the attention of children, and a levity suitable for the start of summer. Breaking from the theme of “home,” it is said Shubert was

traveling when he wrote the quintet, on holiday in the picturesque statuary city of Steyr in Upper Austria, where two rivers meet. As the audience listens they will have to imagine the tension of the fisherman reeling in his line, and the trout rigging and wiggling in the water, dancing and full of life.

For a full list of performances and to purchase tickets go to www.music-mountain.org

FLORABOREALIS

Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, Mass., will present a summer exhibition of work by painter Cynthia Wick in a series titled “Floraborealis” opening on Friday, June 30, at 5 p.m. at The Leonhardt Art Galleries.

CHAMBER MUSIC AT STISSING CENTER

The Stissing Center in Pine Plains, N.Y., will present Musical Synergy, a live chamber music event on Sunday, June 25, at 4 p.m. American cellist Sterling Elliot and violinist Nathan Meltzer will be joined by pianist Sophia Zhou in a program that includes the work of composers Maurice Ravel, Jessie Montgomery, and Sergei Rachmaninoff. For tickets go to www.thestissingcenter.ticketspice.com



COURTESY OF PETER BALAMONTE PHOTOGRAPHY

Jog’s View by Cynthia Wick

...something rotten

Continued from previous page

a learning curve for the speed of a professional show. It’s hard work. You go home from rehearsal at night, you relax, and then you look at your harmonies and go over your dance steps.

AW: You’re an actor yourself, does that inform your directing process?

AG: It very much does. I’m an actor and I love actors. I direct how I would want to be directed. I feel like it gives me an insight into how to approach the acting beat with the principals, but also I’ve been an ensemble member many times. It’s fantastic. Being an ensemble member is no “less than,” and can even be more fun because you don’t have to carry the show. But it can also be a very exhausting role, so it does not escape me how hard the ensemble cast is working, how hard their job is.

AW: You’ve got a big cast for this show. What character performance is the secret

MVP?

AG: Oh god! How do you pick between your children? I know this is a wimpy answer but it’s too hard to pick just one. Sometimes in summer stock you have local community members

join the cast, and they might not be as ready for primetime and really need to be helped along, but that hasn’t been my experience in Sharon at all. The cast is mostly working professionals and students, but our

community members are killing it. Their performances are just as strong as the New York professionals.

“Something Rotten!” opens Friday, June 23. For tickets go to www.sharon-playhouse.org

Music Mountain Summer Festival



SUNDAY, JUNE 25

FREE FAMILY CONCERT AT 2 PM:

For music lovers of all ages. A fun, interactive introduction to classical music, led by the Horszowski Trio. And...Free Ice Cream!

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT 3 PM:

Horszowski Trio with Jessica Thompson, Viola and Gregg August, Double Bass perform Schubert’s exuberant “Trout” Quintet.

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More information at musicmountain.org



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WBSL FM 91.7
Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

OUR TOWNS

Recent land sales in Dutchess County

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate and land sales in eastern Dutchess County and adjacent towns. Five months of land sales in the five towns of the northeast corner of Dutchess County from Jan. 1 to May 31, 2023, are listed below.

Usually, it takes a while to sell raw land and many properties have been on the market a long time. Unlike homes,

where inventory of properties for sale is the lowest on recent record, many parcels of land are available for purchase. In addition to detail on sold properties, also provided is a summary of the properties listed for sale in each town as of Thursday, June 15.

Amenia
No land sales
Active: 11 vacant land parcels for sale ranging from \$59,000 for a half-acre build-

ing lot to \$8.8 million for 342.45 acres on Sharon Station Road.

North East
Sold:
107 Mountain Farm Road, 21.63 acres sold on Feb. 24 for \$410,000
Kimball Way, 75 acres sold on May 8 for \$845,000
Active: Eight vacant land parcels ranging from 1.12 acres for \$62,000 to \$13.5 million for 658 acres on Silver Moun-

tain Road, including hay barns and a four-bedroom home.

Pine Plains
Sold:
639 Bean River Road, 2.88 acres sold on May 30 for \$101,000
Active: Three land parcels listed, from 2.88 acres on Bean Rive Road for \$65,000 to 31.6 acres on Skunks Misery Road for \$632,200.

Stanford
No land sales
Active: Eight active land parcels for sale, from 2.6 acres on Ernest Road for \$59,999 to \$1,550,000 on Bangall Amenia Road, with two building sites and a three-bedroom house.

Washington
Sold:
Verbank Road, 55.9 acres sold on April 13 for \$455,000



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Carpenter Hill Road in Pine Plains. Land prices vary significantly depending on size, location, views, topography, zoning, restrictions and soil conditions.

Active: Five land parcels on the market, from a residential 1.64-acre lot on Route 343 for \$79,000 to 50 acres on North Tower Hill for \$900,000.

All sales and active land listings have been sourced from Mid-Hudson MLS as of Thursday, June 15.

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

Amenia Planning Board approves Tower Hill subdivision

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Following discussion and review of an environmental impact report, the Amenia Planning Board voted unanimously at its meeting on Wednesday, June 14, to approve a subdivision application on Tower Hill Road.

The approval cleared the way for the 165-acre parcel in an RA (Rural Agricultural) zone to be divided into three separate conventional lots

for estate planning purposes, not for immediate subdivision. An RA zone requires a minimum lot size of 10 acres. One parcel holds 44.7 acres, a second measures 86.6 acres and the third is 33.9 acres.

Summarizing the May 24 public hearing on the application, planning board engineer John Andrews said that the majority of public comments had concerned plans to pave Tower Hill Road, a proposal that was not relevant to the current application under

consideration by the planning board.

“This is a simple land subdivision,” Andrews said, “without plans for development.”

Reviewing the environmental assessment, Andrews reported that the application would have no impact on the surrounding area, on traffic or on water supply. The only anticipated change would be a plan to restore 250 feet of a drainage channel.

Because some planning board members were absent, consideration of the reuse application submitted by Troutbeck and a preliminary presentation concerning development of the Keane Stud Farm property on Depot Hill Road and old Route 22 (705 acres) were postponed until the next planning board meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 28, beginning at 7 p.m.

Cars, motorcycles on display at Millerton show June 25

MILLERTON — North East Ford will host a car and motorcycle show on Sunday, June 25, from noon to 4 p.m. at 182 Route 44. The whole family is welcome at the event, which will include food

trucks and giveaways. Prizes will be awarded all day, and there are no registration fees required. For more information or to reserve a spot for your vehicle, call 518-789-4477.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of RD Fab, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 4/23/23. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to RD Fab, LLC. 215 Perrys Corners Rd., Amenia, NY 12501. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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A Bid Security in the amount of 5% of the Bid must accompany the Bid in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond and a payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price. Bidders will also be required to furnish a Non-Collusive Affidavit.

The issuing office for the Bidding Documents is:
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Town Clerk
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Amenia, NY 12501
Phone: 845-373-8118 ext.125
E-mail: townclerk@ameniany.gov
Engineer E-mail: jfusillo@labellapc.com
Bidders may call to schedule a time to obtain a copy of the Bidding Documents at the number above.

The Bidding and Contract documents for this Project will be available electronically. Please contact the Town Clerk to obtain the Bidding and Contract Documents.

Note that only bidders who are registered with The Town Clerk will receive notification of Addenda.

The Contractor must use the higher of the prevailing federal, state, or applicable local wage rates further described in the Contract Documents. These rates apply to Subcontractors as well.

Attention of Bidders is particularly called to the requirements for ensuring that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against due to race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Town of Amenia, as Owner, reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the Bid received, or to reject any Bid without explanation.

By Order of:
Town of Amenia
06-22-23

LEGAL NOTICE
The bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on the 12th day of June, 2023, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Webutuck Central School District is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

A complete copy of the bond resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the School District Clerk of the School District for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Therese Trotter
District Clerk
North East Central School District
BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 12, 2023 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED \$293,164 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND/OR INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACTS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL BUSES AT AN AGGREGATE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$293,164, LEVY OF TAX IN ANNUAL

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
Notice is hereby given that the Final Assessment roll for the TOWN OF AMENIA, COUNTY OF DUTCHESS for the year 2023 has been completed by the undersigned Assessor, and a certified copy is filed in the office of the Town Clerk at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY on the first day of July, 2023, where it will be open for public inspection. Dated this 1st day of July 2023.
Donna Dipippo
Assessor for
Town of Amenia
06-22-23

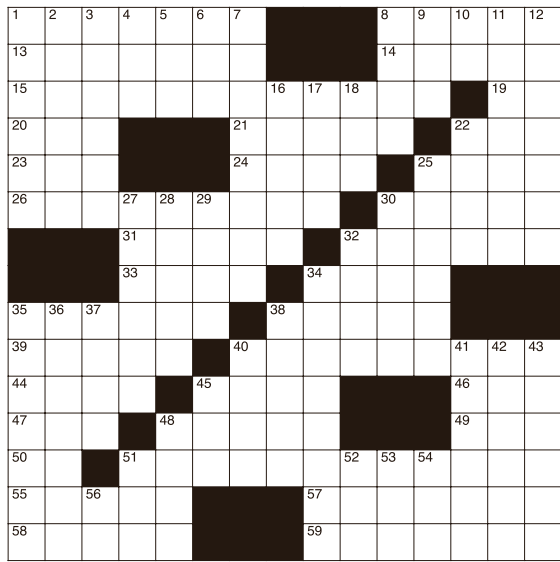
INVITATION TO BID
A Sealed bid for the: EXTENSION OF THE ROUTE 44 SIDEWALK CONTRACT will be received at the following address:
TOWN OF AMENIA
4988 NY-22
AMENIA, NY 12501
until 2:00 PM local time on July 11, 2023 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud on July 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

This project includes installation approximately 490 feet of 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk and curbing located along portions of Route 44 in the Town of Amenia. The project may include, but not be limited to, saw cutting; concrete and asphalt removal and disposal; the installation of concrete curbing, sidewalk, and ADA accessible ramps; and limited paving.

This work will be awarded as one (1) single prime contract and the Bid will be received on a lump sum basis with alternates, if included on the Bid Form. The Bid should not include sales and compensating use taxes on materials incorporated into the work.

Brain Teasers

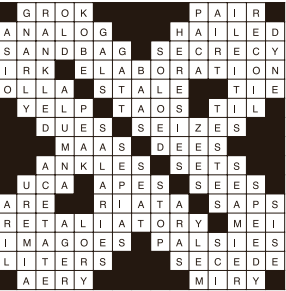
- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Excited movements
 - 8. Soap opera actress Patsy
 - 13. Unknowning
 - 14. Dangerous mosquitos
 - 15. Exaggerated and sensationalized
 - 19. Military policeman
 - 20. Touch softly
 - 21. Wrap
 - 22. A story of one's life
 - 23. Midway between east and southeast
 - 24. Toward the mouth or oral region
 - 25. A list of dishes available at a restaurant
 - 26. Changes the meaning of
 - 30. Semitic Sun god
 - 31. Sneaker parts
 - 32. Capital of Zimbabwe
 - 33. Breezed through
 - 34. Partner to pedi
 - 35. Becomes less intense
 - 38. Bottoms
 - 39. Tested
 - 40. Vistas
 - 44. Take care of
 - 45. Traditional rhythmic pattern
 - 46. S. African political party
 - 47. Cologne
 - 48. Men
 - 49. The Science Guy
 - 50. Gospel author (abbr.)
 - 51. Act of signing up
 - 55. Human feet
 - 57. A very short time
 - 58. Streetcars
 - 59. Cuplike cavities



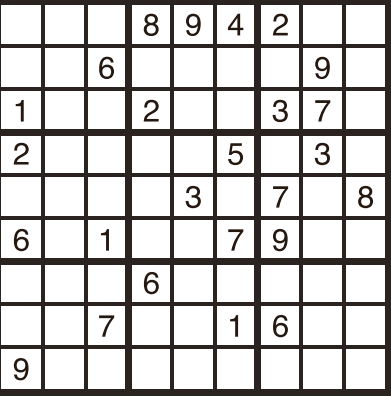
- 10. Commercial
- 11. Course of lectures
- 12. Promote
- 16. Female horses
- 17. Greek mythological figure
- 18. Small amount
- 22. Orthodox church altar
- 25. Actress Tomei
- 27. Excited
- 28. Looked directly at
- 29. Popular cold desserts
- 30. More reasonable
- 32. Disk above the head of a saint
- 34. Devoted to the extreme
- 35. Make an effort
- 36. It's in the surf
- 37. Member of aboriginal people of Japan
- 38. Discounts
- 40. Cliff in Hawaii
- 41. Extremely wild person

- 42. All persons
- 43. Aromas
- 45. Popular kids' game
- 48. A difficult situation
- 51. Popular Georgia rockers
- 52. It's in all living cells
- 53. Unspoken language
- 54. 'Talk to you' abbreviation
- 56. Influential lawyer

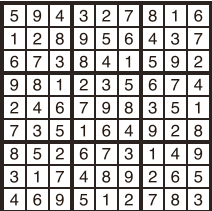
June 15 Solution



Sudoku



June 15 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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EDITORIAL

Graduation days

June is graduation month, the time to celebrate achievement. Students across Dutchess County will be receiving diplomas and celebrating with their families and friends as they mark this rite of passage. Who can count how many photos are being snapped by iPhones clutched in the hands of proud parents and grandparents?

The next step for these graduates is more learning—college, high school, trade school or on-the-job training.

In last week’s edition we celebrated the graduates from Webutuck High School by running class photos of everyone, whose graduation last weekend is the subject of a Page One story in this edition. And this week, we showcase photographs of the graduating seniors at Millbrook High School, to be followed next week by Stissing Mountain High School.

The community always has embraced this June graduation tradition. Our many organizations and foundations, whether big or small, have generously contributed to furthering the education of our youth with scholarship grants.

As a grateful member of the community, The Millerton News has reached out to offer paid summer internships to college students who want to experience journalism as a possible career. One student is a rising senior at Marist College. Another, a returning intern, is a resident of Amenia who attends college in Ohio. We will assign these budding journalists to work alongside our reporters and editors as they cover events in our towns across eastern Dutchess County as well as pursue topics of regional interest in education, health care, housing and the environment.

As it has been since the founding of the nation, education is viewed as requisite for an informed and competent citizenry, and our region has a distinctly rich heritage as a place where education is paramount. Some of our nation’s oldest colleges and universities were founded in the Northeast.

Our news pages recently presented readers with stories about what early education was like in 19th-century New England and New York state. Third- and fourth-graders from across the border at Salisbury Central School visited the one-room Irondale Schoolhouse in Millerton. There they got to experience what it would have been like to have an old-fashioned schoolmarm lead them through daily school lessons and activities. In the century before, education ended at age 15 for most. The boys got jobs or went to work on the farm. Girls got married.

We also told the story of the history of the Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center in Pine Plains. Seymour Smith, the son of farmers, was born in 1779 and spent his youth in Pine Plains. Upon his death, having never married and with no children, he bequeathed funds to build an academy “for the promotion of knowledge.” The Seymour Smith Academy opened in 1879 with about 50 students.

In yet another chronicling of education in our backyard, the alumni of the former Greer School in Millbrook recently gathered at The Fountains at Millbrook to hold what they believe will be their last school reunion. The school started life as Hope Farm in 1906, but has been closed for decades. Its last yearbook was published in 1963. At some point, the school closed, and eventually the property became The Fountains, a senior community.

For today’s graduates, these weeks in June become a milestone. They are storing up memories from their school years to be recalled in years ahead, just like those alumni of Greer School.

Congratulations to the graduates.



Applauding Troutbeck coverage

Thank you for your detailed coverage of the Troutbeck Symposium. I was fortunate to attend and found it to be thoroughly insightful and inspiring while also deeply educational. Although it was a very full day, the middle and high school students remained intensely focused throughout — that in itself was wonderful to see. Many

community partners spoke passionately of how moved and informed they were and how important it is that this effort continues. True admiration and appreciation to the small group of educators who had the insight that students could effectively learn and contribute to unravelling and understanding our past. Genuine gratitude to Trout-

beck for all the hard work to host this important symposium with sincere applause for their commitment to the Amenia Conference legacy and for having the passion to re-ignite it. I am so proud and appreciative that once again Amenia hosted a reflective gathering of minds.

Maureen Rule
Amenia

LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

No one
above the
law

By now, we’ve all heard the news that Donald Trump has been indicted on federal felony criminal charges. Among other crimes, Trump is charged with violating the Espionage Act after he knowingly took approximately 300 highly classified documents from the CIA, Pentagon, and National Security Agency, endangering our national security.

The indictment reveals that Trump then showed the classified national security material to individuals without a security clearance and stored them in locations where he regularly entertained foreign nationals.

A group of everyday Americans, fulfilling their civic duty by serving on a grand jury, reviewed mountains of evidence—including testimony from dozens of witnesses, documents, and more. They came together and decided that enough evidence existed that serious crimes had been committed to bring felony charges against Trump. 37 of them in fact.

No one is above the law—even if he is rich, famous, and a former president.

Gary Davis
Hudson

Luddites go Hollywood

Maybe I’m overly sensitive but it bugs me when someone assumes you do not know how to use a piece of technology because you choose not to use it. Why don’t you answer my texts? Don’t you carry a cellphone? You’re not on Instagram? How do you know what’s going on? Today, someone who refuses to engage with technology is branded a Luddite, an inept technophobe. Apparently, rampant “tech-shaming” is one of the last bastions of permissible bullying and anyone who is not an “early adopter” is considered fair game. This is ignorant and unfair, particularly to the Luddites.

In early 1800s England, a group of artisans and textile workers, the Luddites, staged a workers’ revolt against the factory owners. As machinery

NEWS OF VERY
NARROW
INTEREST
M.A. Duca

was being introduced into the workplace in the name of efficiency and cost-savings, they saw their employment and wages suffer, product quality decline, and working conditions worsen. They were not opposed to machines. In fact, many of them were highly-skilled machine operators.

While the owners and the British government characterized them as standing in the way of progress, their demands were actually quite progressive, arguing for a share of the savings in the form of better wages, training and apprenticeship programs, and pension and retirement benefits. Even their name had more than a whiff of modernity. “Luddites” were followers of Ned Ludd, a mythical person who never actually existed. Having a virtual leader, an avatar: You can’t get much more modern than that. Think what the Luddites would have done with TikTok!

Eventually, the government tired of the Luddites smashing machinery as a negotiating tactic and British troops made short order of the protesters, including hanging a few of the leaders—a 19th-century version of collective bargaining. Industrialization was saved and for decades dehumanizing and dangerous factory work and exploitative child labor was tacitly accepted by many as the price of progress.

Which brings us to the Hollywood writers’ strike. Like the Luddites, they feel threatened by machinery, the virtual machinery of streaming and artificial intelligence (AI). This time the opposition

is not private factory owners or the government. It’s media and entertainment companies and tech giants with vast resources and global influence like Amazon, Netflix and Apple. The writers see AI as limiting their employment opportunities, capping their wages and producing a homogenized product. The use of AI eliminates many of the entry-level jobs that helped writers learn their craft and move up the ranks. Streaming makes it more difficult to receive residual payments from hit TV shows. Lower pay, less jobs, an inferior product, no training and limited career advancement with an un-

certain retirement horizon. Sound familiar?

Everything old is new again. Normally, Hollywood would be cranking out screenplays about the sinister threat posed by these insidious technologies. An ominous voice-over might intone: “Ask not for whom the bell tolls...”

But alas, they are on strike and no such scripts are forthcoming.

For the time being, we’ll have to settle for a much less dramatic catchphrase:

“The job you save may be your own.”

M.A. Duca is a resident of Twin Lakes, narrowly focused on everyday life.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

On a stopover

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No more than 500 words.
Send to editor@millertonnews.com.

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Thursday, June 22, 2023

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OUR TOWNS

Abstract art exhibit to benefit local organizations

By EMILY EDELMAN
emilye@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — “First of all, you’ve got to like abstract work,” said artist Harper Blanchet at the Saturday, June 17, opening of the exhibition of his paintings at The Blue Star Gallery at 3 Main St. “It’s not for everyone.”

Having had studios in Vermont and Connecticut as well as the Catskill Mountains, Blanchet recently returned to Millerton—in fact, to the very same building in which he lived and worked from

2002 to 2008.

Blanchet went from painting houses to painting canvases in 1980. “Back when I started painting, I would paint over them, or if I thought they were OK, I would give them as a gift ... then I eventually would sell them for \$100, and that was the beginning of it.”

He gives his paintings numbers, in chronological order, in lieu of titles. The artworks displayed in the exhibit range from numbers in the low 100s, from the early days of his painting career, into the 600s, which were

finished earlier this year. He also has at least two works in progress on view.

Originally a photographer and with a background in carpentry, Blanchet describes his work as “building” rather than painting. “I use brushes, I use blades, I use rags and I use my fingers” to create pieces, Blanchet said.

Chris Jeans of Millerton Wine and Spirits said of the exhibit, “These are pieces that, when you look at them, you find your eye is pleased to just roam.” Described by Blanchet as his “art dealer,”

Jeans said: “I just know a lot of great people and I’m really in the relationship business. With wine being an art form, it fits hand-in-hand.”

A portion of proceeds from the sale of each painting will benefit the North East Community Center, the North-East-Millerton Library, and the art department of the Webutuck Central School District. “We hope to sell so much that that can be a meaningful opportunity,” said Jeans.

The exhibit will be on display at least through the end of the month by appointment.



PHOTO BY EMILY EDELMAN

Artist Harper Blanchet with his painting No. 623, a work in progress that he recently started, at the opening of an exhibit of his abstract paintings on Saturday, June 17, at The Blue Star Gallery in Millerton.

Ecological cyanotypes, constructed paintings at Wassaic Project

by ELIAS SORICH
elias@millertonnews.com

WASSAIC — The Wassaic Project will host an open studio event featuring its June artists-in-residence on Saturday, June 24, at 3 p.m., when the work of 11 artists and artist groups will be on display in Luther Barn.

The work of Diana Heise, professor and chair of photography and filmmaking at Kansas City Art Institute in Kansas City, Missouri, hones in on an ecological through-line present in her practice. Making use of cyanotype, Heise has taken elements of the environment around her and arranged them in radiant

clusters. By mixing her own chemicals, Heise is able to deploy a wide range of colors beyond the typical cyanotype blue, and for the work on display at Luther Barn, some of the chemicals used were mixed from components of her gathered materials.

The inspiration for Heise to explore cyanotype arose from a combination of COVID-19 pandemic containment and a desire to question “what we need and what art can actually serve” in an era of rapid ecological change. Heise engages deeply with the supply chain of her materials, from paper to the chemicals used for cyanotyping, which “are completely inert if they



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

Wassaic Project artist-in-residence Diana Heise shows her work-in-progress cyanotypes.

go into a water system.” The result is a series steeped in the time and space of Wassaic, depicting explosive and ghostly images of flora.

With cyanotype, Heise said, “You can see when there’s been a thundershower. So this work is really about attuning to the environment. For ex-

ample, when the clouds came in from the recent wildfires, that got in there.”

For Johnathan Payne, a Brooklyn-based artist, the Wassaic residency has afforded the luxury of physical space. Payne makes what he calls “constructed paintings,” intricate works made of paper and often vibrantly colorful.

Payne’s process arrives in large part from his love of patterning, particularly quilting, and weaving, and he takes inspiration from ancient tapestries and more modern works like the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Payne is also engaging with the concept of patterns on a larger scale. Having worked in youth outreach as an Ameri-

Corps service member, Payne ran workshops that focused on economic and racial justice. “That work grounded me in an awareness of the larger systems we exist within and are bound by,” he said, and guided him to the potential to “reorient oneself through learning, empathy, and leaning into new perspectives.”

Part of that engagement is embodied in his willingness to embrace his work as a craft-based practice, something Payne has experienced as being “very ‘no, no’ in the fine art world.” Doing so, Payne said he hopes to “move the needle and create tension with those kinds of hierarchies.”

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SHARON, CT

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REAL ESTATE

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