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PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

The Millerton Police Department offices.

Millerton Police Department put on paid leave

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — At a workshop meeting on Tuesday, March 28, the board of trustees of the Village of Millerton unanimously passed a resolution to immediately suspend all activities of the Millerton Police Department (MPD) until an experienced, qualified police chief could be hired and take over supervision of police officers.

Millerton's two part-time MPD officers Erik Breen and Michael Veeder will be placed on paid leave until a police chief is in place.

The action occurred after the presentation of the findings of municipal consultant Michael Richardson, which included the legal opinions of outside labor counsel James Girvin and village attorney Andrew Lessig.

Background to police assessment

The workshop meeting held in the Millerton Library Annex was well attended by the public and also by off-duty, uniformed Millerton police officers standing at the back of the room.

Mayor Jenn Najdek explained the background to commissioning the police study, which began with the discovery of the potential liability exposure to the village represented by the MPD.

She reiterated that the intention of the board of trustees was to understand the policing needs of the village and whether, organizationally, the police department followed state, village, civil service

"It's very disturbing that the study was presented and voted on the same night without any public comment."

Ray Nelson, village resident

and municipal law.

In a public meeting last year, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office explained the law enforcement services it could provide to the village. At the same time, the board considered two laws regarding the police, but no action was taken as it became clear that many in the community wanted to retain the MPD.

In order to get an objective, informed view of the village police department and an assessment of the village's needs for police services, RFPs were published seeking professional assistance.

After receiving a range of proposals priced from \$6,000 to \$62,000, Richardson was selected. His 21-page report was submitted to village trustees the week of March 20 and published on the village website on March 28 with print copies available at the workshop meeting.

Legally the village must find a police chief

The first finding of the report was based on legal opinions, which found that the village police department has been operating in violation

See MPD, A8

Salisbury Bank merger with NBT to end an era

By John Coston and Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The merger of Salisbury Bank and Trust Co. with NBT Bancorp Inc. is scheduled to be completed at a shareholders' meeting on Wednesday, April 12, at the Interlaken Inn, marking what would be the end of a nameplate familiar to Northwest Corner banking customers since 1925.

New signage will appear across the Northwest Corner, and Salisbury banking customers will become part of a bigger bank. NBT Bank operates at 140 banking locations in New York, northeastern Pennsylvania and in New England

NBT Bank has approximately \$11.5 billion in assets and approximately \$10 billion in deposits. By comparison, Salisbury has \$1.5 billion in assets and approximately \$1.3 billion in deposits.

states from Connecticut to Maine. Salisbury Bank has 14 banking locations and 13 ATMs in Litchfield County and in Dutchess County, Orange and Ulster counties and in Berkshire County.

The news that Salisbury Bank was in merger talks with NBT broke in early December, 2022. But the origins of the merger date to 2017 when Richard Cantele Jr., Salisbury's president and chief executive officer, first met John Watt, his counterpart at NBT. Since that

meeting, Cantele had numerous conversations with various institutions to assess the value of a combination that would serve Salisbury Bank's strategic and operational goals.

Throughout the pandemic, Salisbury continued to evaluate potential acquisition targets as part of its growth strategy, according to a proxy statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commis-

See BANK, A8

Town of North East informs public on proposed wastewater district

By EMILY EDELMAN
emilye@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — On Wednesday, March 29, the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex was the site of a presentation on the Town of North East's portion of the proposed wastewater district that includes the town as well as the Village of Millerton.

The audience of around 30 people included the town board members and a number of village

trustees in addition to interested residents.

In the town's most recent comprehensive plan, a wastewater district "was singled out as the highest priority for the community," said Town Supervisor Chris Kennan, who identified environmental, economic and housing reasons as being the most compelling ones for why the district will be beneficial to the community.

The engineering firm of Tighe and Bond has been engaged by the

village and town to "start mapping out what it would take to build" a sewer system, and senior project manager Erin Moore presented the subsequent "Town of North East Sewer District Map, Plan and Report" that her firm had prepared in December 2022. The report can be found on the front page of the town's website at townofnortheastny.gov

The document, said Moore,

See WASTEWATER, A8

Webutuck mascot to change

By DEBORAH MAIER
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA — "Now is the time," said Webutuck Central School District Superintendent Ray Castellani, to make the changes required by New York state's ruling on the use of Native American imagery and names. And the district is moving ahead, with a mid-April deadline for suggestions on the choice of a new mascot, and a later one for new graphics to go with it.

The district has set up a community questionnaire and a plan for executing the changes. "We're

soliciting active participation by students and community members, and together we will come up with a new mascot that represents our values and can make us all proud," Castellani asserted. As of January 2023, Webutuck was one of 60 New York state schools still using Native American imagery and names for their mascots.

Earlier efforts in the district

In years past, some district and community members had worked on, but not succeeded in, making changes to the logo, which depicts the profile of a Native

See MASCOT, A8



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Sign on routes 44 and 22 near the Haight Road entrance to Webutuck's three schools, with the image in question, on March 30.



CONTACT

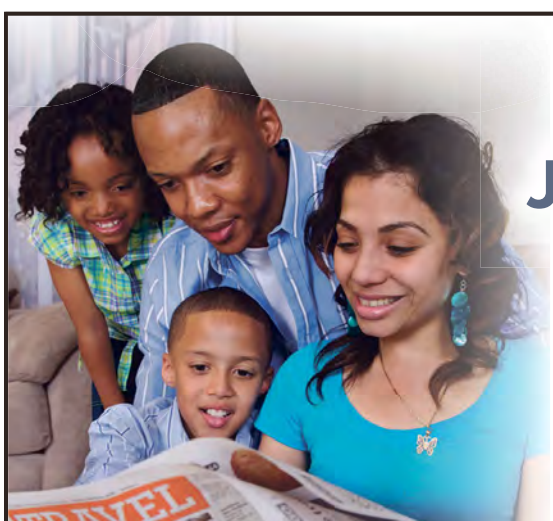
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OPINION

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Elianna Decker, 8, of Millerton, N.Y., posed with the Easter Bunny, aka Sharon Health Care Center administrator Elise Cecil.

The Easter Bunny joins in the fun

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to The Millerton News

SHARON, Conn. — The Easter Bunny's job is not all it's cracked up to be.

The costume is hot, vision is poor and rambunctious youngsters hug the stuffing out of you.

Nonetheless, Elise Cecil, administrator at Sharon Health Care Center (SHCC), hopped into a furry bunnysuit to entertain dozens of children during a community Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 1.

The family-friendly event featured photo ops with the popular white rabbit, aka Cecil, as well as crafts, games and refreshments.

The nursing home's residents, too, got in on the fun by hiding some of the colorful, plastic eggs that were hunted down by the excited tykes.

"One resident just told me that this was the best program she's participated in, and she's been at other facilities," noted Cecil.

Melissa Kimma of Sharon brought her daughter, Lilyan, 10, to the event.

"I'm glad they did it. During the past few years and COVID, there weren't many events like this. And it's nice to have the residents be part of the festivities," noted Kimma.

Nearby, Lilyan clutched a basket that overflowed with glittering eggs. As she posed for a picture, she was photobombed by an energetic toddler who was taking in all the action.

A few feet away, Elianna Decker, 8, of Millerton, N.Y., who got all dressed up for the occasion, smiled for her photo with the Easter Bunny as her family proudly captured the moment.

The center's recreation director Terry Emerson, and advertising and marketing director Stephani Distabile, were also on hand to meet and greet visitors and keep the fun flowing. Emerson's grandson, Bradley Robinson, had traveled from Torrington to partake in the egg hunt.

When asked for an estimate of attendance, Cecil laughed. "I'd be happy to tell you, but I couldn't really see," to which Distabile responded, "about 30 children."

As the festivities came to a close, the SHCC administrator traded her bunny suit for civilian clothes.

Still a bit sweaty from the costume and winded from an enormous bear hug by 4-year-old Nicky Moore of Sharon—who attended with his big sister, Charlotte, 6, and mom, Lydia—Cecil reflected on the importance of community events such as this, which help to connect residents with the public.

"It was fun, and everyone had a good time, and I got to interact with the residents as well," said Cecil, who was appointed administrator of SHCC, which is owned by Athena Health Care Systems, in October 2022.

"Plus," she said, flashing a smile, "there was no paperwork!"

Car thefts result in two deaths

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

POUGHKEEPSIE — The Dutchess County Sheriff's office is continuing investigation into multiple vehicles stolen during the late-night hours of Monday, March 27, and early morning Tuesday, March 28, in northern Dutchess County and Connecticut. Law enforcement believe these thefts are the work of an organized group operated out of Connecticut.

Connecticut officials reported the drowning death of a 17-year-old Waterbury high-school student who attempted to flee officers who were investigating stolen cars from Millerton, New York, and Ridgefield, Connecticut.

When discovered by police around noon on Tuesday, March 28, the teen was sitting in one of the stolen vehicles with three other teenagers ages 14, 16 and 17. Two of the teens ran into nearby woods and one was tackled by police, but the other entered Lake-wood Lake and drowned.

The three surviving teens have been charged with theft of a stolen motor vehicle and interfering with police. Reportedly the police knew the teens from previous arrests.

The Millerton Jeep Cherokee recovered in Waterbury near the scene was stolen on March 27/28 on Dutchess Avenue in the heart of the Village of Millerton and returned to the owners a few days later.

Another teen stole a Toyota 4 Runner stolen in Connecticut during the same evening hours and crashed head-on into a 2017 Chevrolet van on Route 9 in the Town of Rhinebeck, killing driver Jonathan Kiech.

The 14-year-old driver of the stolen vehicle suffered minor injuries and was remanded to a secure detention facility.

Capt. John Watterson of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office told The Millerton News that there has been a recent uptick in car thefts along the Connecticut/New York border. Watterson cautioned residents to never leave

keys or automatic fobs inside a car; to lock their cars; remove valuables; and to never confront perpetrators, as they are considered armed and

dangerous.

Typically, the stolen cars are sold or rented, used to commit other crimes, or just left by the side of the road.



PHOTO BY PETER GREENOUGH

Abandoned on Beilke Road

Dutchess Deputy Sheriff Andrew Schultz, formerly of the Millerton Police Department, was at the scene Saturday, April 1, afternoon to investigate an abandoned car. The vehicle apparently veered off of Beilke Road and almost landed in Webutuck Creek near the Rail Trail and Route 22. The driver had left the scene and it appeared that no one was injured.

Millbrook gets beaver-struck

By ELIAS SORICH
elias@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The return of the Cary Institute's in-person Friday night talks on March 31 was met with a forceful turnout from the community; around 150 people packed into its auditorium, and about 400 tuned in online.

Talk of beavers—their oddities, their history and their impact on ecosystems—was what drew in the crowds, and the hour-long conversation with Leila Philip, author of "Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America," featured many tidbits of information for fans of nature's second-best engineer.

From a tail that can sense water pressure to a tendency to shape environments to promote higher levels of biodiversity, the understanding of beavers as a keystone species has advanced considerably over the 20th century. With environmental resilience benefits that include flood mitigation, increased water storage and wildfire mitigation, the 300-year period from 1600 to 1900 in which beaver populations were significantly reduced is called "the great drying" in some ecology circles.

Once numbering somewhere between 60 and 400 million in North America

alone, beavers were hunted to near extinction after the arrival of European colonists. In recent decades, thanks to the efforts of conservationists, they've made a successful comeback and now number between 10 and 15 million.

Though much of Philip's discussion centered around ecology, she also focused on the sociological side of humanity's connection with beavers. The animal plays a prominent role in many Native American mythologies and cultural practices, and accordingly Philip's book begins with the story of Great Beaver, which describes the forming of the Connecticut River Valley as preserved in the oral traditions of the Algonquian people.

Philip also discussed the pioneering advocacy of Dorothy Richards, a self-trained naturalist known as "the Bea-

ver Lady," who founded Beaversprite Sanctuary and, from the 1940s to the 1970s, was a leading voice in the study and conservation of beavers. Suffice it to say, the bizarre and charming rodent has been a locus of human fascination for centuries—and to judge by the evening's turnout and the crowd's engagement during the brief Q&A, that fascination isn't going anywhere anytime soon.



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

Leila Philip

Realtor® at Large

Spent a wonderful Sunday afternoon visiting vernal pools with Maria Grace, Chairman of Salisbury's Conservation Commission. Our group consisted of 10 volunteers who were being instructed by Dr. Michael Klemens on the criteria for rating the value of a vernal pool. Briefly this would be observing who is using the pool to breed, i.e. wood frogs, peepers, salamanders, etc., and if there are egg masses indicating the pools productivity. These volunteers are part of the Town's effort to locate and verify the vernal pools in Salisbury. Once documented, the pools can be protected from encroaching development. For more info, please contact Maria Grace at www.salisburyct.us/conservation-commission.

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OBITUARIES

Judith Emma Belter

LAS VEGAS — Judith Emma Belter passed away on Oct. 6, 2022, while residing in Las Vegas, Nevada. She was born in Sharon, in November of 1950. She was the daughter of the late Garwood H. Belter, Jr and the late Emma Belter.



Judith grew up in Lime Rock on the family farm and attended Salisbury Central School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School. She was known for her school spirit and always helping and encouraging others. Her yearbook honors her as "most school spirit". She was a jovial, people loving gal.

Leaving Connecticut to California in the mid-1970's, Judith held a variety of work positions before deciding to further her education. During the years while completing a Certification in Web Design and Development at Santa Rosa Junior College she was employed with Apple Computer and MCI Electronics Data Services in Napa, California. After graduating in 2002 she moved to Las Vegas. While finishing a BS degree in information Technology at the University of Phoenix,

she continued her business career with Miles Kimball and Mower Communications. After receiving her IT degree in 2005 her focus was on systems analysis and support for customer service then as a specialist and the management of high-profile clients for Williams-Sonoma. In 2010 a desired position opened for her at Zappos where she remained until they were purchased by Amazon. Her retirement in 2021 concluded over a decade of in-depth experience with the combined Zappos/Amazon in their Customer Loyalty Teams where she was known to be an accomplished expert at troubleshooting and problem solving. She enjoyed helping people and finding solutions.

She is survived by her sisters; Sylvia Cooley (husband Skip Cooley), Jeanne Bond (husband Vincent) and Garma Waldron and her niece Lindsay Waldron and grandniece Lily Dolan. She was predeceased by her brother-in-law David Waldron and her nephew Gared Waldron.

She will be missed by many friends and family.

Phyllis Cushman Foster

KENT — Phyllis Cushman Foster, 97, passed away peacefully at Geer Village Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canaan, on March 31, 2023.



A vibrant and beloved presence in Kent, Phyllis lived at Templeton Farms from the age of 65, having first served as program director for the affordable housing facility.

Phyllis was educated at Bridgewater State Teachers College, Massachusetts School of Art, and UConn where she received a BA later in life. Among her many jobs, Phyllis was a recreation director at a women's prison, an art teacher, a certified graphologist, a nursery school director, a social worker at CT Division of Youth and Family Services and a caregiver to elders.

Active in the women's movement in the 1970s, Phyllis started a women's consciousness raising group, which she hosted in her home. She was a champion for human rights and equality for all, and used her voice to advocate for those marginalized or disenfranchised. She tutored women at a female detention center, was passionate about LGBTQ issues, and helped out during the AIDS crisis.

Phyllis enjoyed the outdoors and walked three miles a day well into her seventies. She loved the ocean, which reminded her of her treasured childhood home in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Always singing or humming, Phyllis was a member of the choir at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Kent. She served on the Kent Memorial Library Book Selection and Acquisition Committee, the Kent Social Services Task Force, and the Night of the 1,000 Pies benefits that raised funds for Kent Affordable Housing.

After losing two husbands to the polio epidemic of the 1950s, Phyllis raised her three children on her own. Though she had experienced tremendous loss and personal tragedy, she always had a listening ear for those who might need it, offering her wisdom, empathy and wonderful sense of humor. She loved to laugh, particularly at her own expense.

Foster is pre-deceased by her first husband Richard Andrews and second husband Walter Foster. She is survived by children Joel Foster of Wassica, Jennifer Andrews of Cornwall, and John Foster of Olympia, Washington, and daughters-in-law Tonia Shoumatoff Foster and Dana Squires. She leaves five grandchildren, Matthew Wolf of Barkhamsted, Stefan Wolf of Sharon, Zoë Foster of Thomaston, Maine and Kajaat and Rama Squires of Olympia. Her three great-grandchildren, Ida and Thea Foster and Celeste Wolf, brought her tremendous joy. Countless friends and neighbors enriched Phyllis's life and brightened her days. Foster was loved by many and will be dearly missed. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Kent Affordable Housing, P.O.Box 265, Kent, CT 06757.

FALLS VILLAGE — On March 22, 2023, Mary Ella Fitch Blass passed away peacefully at her home in Falls Village in the presence of loved ones.

Born on July 1, 1952, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, Mary was the eldest daughter of the late George and Ella (Jackson) Fitch. She is

predeceased by husband William S. Blass and survived by a loving and expansive crew of folks: her daughter Heather Vansvik and husband Viktor of Dingle, Sweden; her son William Blass of Falls Village and dear friend Katie Ross of North Canaan; her daughter Sonja Zinke and husband Eric of North Canaan; her brother

Gilbert Fitch and wife Janice of Lakeville; her brother William Fitch and wife Karen of Dunsmore, West Virginia; her sister Susan Kelsey of Falls Village and her sister Sally Greco and husband Richard of Hickory, North Carolina; numerous nieces and nephews and many friends from all walks of life; and her faithful guard cat, The Dread Pirate Roberts Blass.

A long-time resident of Falls Village, Mary graduated from the Housatonic Valley Regional High School where she was voted the class clown of the class of 1970. One of her many adventures took her to Georgia, where she studied at Athens Tech to become a medical assistant.

Those who knew Mary are full of stories of her adventurous spirit, creativity, and generosity. She was a free spirit who lived in the moment and was up for any adventure. Mary cherished the natural world and moments spent within it — whether sinking her toes into soft green moss

or foraging for mushrooms in Sweden with her daughter. She saw beauty in objects that most people would overlook and she incorporated nature's magical offerings into her art. Some of her most cherished times were those she spent with children at her feet. She could truly tap into children's imagination, which kept her young at heart. Mary was known for her overflowing generosity, and she helped anyone in need in any way she could.

Mary made magic wherever she went, sprinkling little bits on everyone and everything around her.

May all those who knew and loved Mary carry on her legacy by going forth and having "a sparkling day".

Donations in memory of Mary may be made to the Falls Village Congregational Church (PO Box 72, Falls Village, CT 06031) or the Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Litchfield County (30A Salmon Kill Road, Salisbury, CT 06068).

Mary Ella Fitch Blass

OUR TOWNS

Plant catalogs: A sure sign of spring

After teasing us since January, we can reliably feel Spring's energy rising from the roots to the tips of branches. If you are the less optimistic type who doesn't catch Spring fever until May, you still have the plant catalogs arriving now. Snow may still threaten but these catalogs are a sure sign that spring is near.

I'm at the point where most of the catalogs immediately go into the recycling bin. The plants they feature are likely to be non-native and, while I am not against exotics in a garden bed, I do follow the "native first, native cultivar ('nativar') second, non-native third" rule. Also, I often find the colors on offer to be garish. Nevertheless, the arrival of plant catalogs in the mailbox induces in me a Pavlovian response — to purchase plants.

Ideas for this year's planting have been a low hum in my mind all winter and now I begin to make lists and sketch out ideas. This work is motivated by the plants themselves, much the way a fashion designer goes first to the fabric as inspiration for design. I am neither a fashion nor a garden designer but over the years I have several resources where I find the plants that really excite me.

Last year was not a planting year for me — I was too busy battling spongy moth to think about adding any new plants, with one exception: I always want to support the Northwest Conservation District's plant sale as it is their only fundraising event of the year. Last year I ordered three pots of Yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*) a plant I did not know anything about; the foliage in the photo was attractive as was its description. When I got to the pickup location in Goshen, Karen Nelson told me that a neighbor had great success with this plant. So I bought five more and planted them in between four inkberry shrubs, augmenting the native plant border by the river. And they were indeed successful, so I am ordering a few more, along with a few bayberry plants which I will use to fortify the river bank. The sale ends April 12 so hurry and visit the shop at www.nwcd.org/shop/

I wrote about native roses



The Ungardener
Dee Salomon

in the February column and purchased some of the roses recommended by horticulturalist Robin Zitter via different online resources. Three pots of climbing Prairie Rose, sourced through Prairie Nursery (www.prairienursery.com/) will go on the border between our neighbor's property so that we can both share the pink blossom.

A flat of Swamp Rose plugs, and several gallon containers of Carolina Rose were sourced from Izel Plants (www.izelplants.com/), a consolidator of native and nativar plants from nurseries across the country. The swamp rose is appropriately destined for the swamp as are plugs of Cattail and Sweetflag, also purchased through Izel Plants. In several weeks I should have about two hundred plugs and I am concerned about timing the planting so as not to disturb the tender growth of skunk cabbage and thalictrum. I can access the stream banks from the the stream itself but may have to wait with the rest until I can step without crushing precious young plants.

Finally, a shopping list will accompany me to Earth Tones Nursery in Woodbury so that I don't get carried away at what I consider to be the Disneyland of native nurseries. I hope to come back with eight pots of stag-horn sumac and a couple of nine-barks, which are hard to source as straight natives.

In addition to this buying spree I will experiment with the curious and fantastical *Aralia spinosa* or Devil's Walking Stick. Despite being one of three native *Aralias* in our region, it looks more like a small palm tree or giant fern than an East Coast plant. This tree loses all of its branches in the fall and spends the winter as a single stem with a barbed coat, which explains its common name

Dee Salomon "ungardens" in Litchfield County



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Week of April 9, 2023

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lakevillemethodist@snet.net

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Holy Thursday April 6, 7pm
Good Friday April 7, 3pm
Confessions afterwards
Easter Vigil April 8, 8pm
EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9
St. Joseph's Church 9am
Immaculate Conception Church 11am
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St. Bernard, Sharon
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MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
7 PM - St. Bernard
GOOD FRIDAY
CONFESSIONS
10-11 AM - Sacred Heart
THE PASSION OF THE LORD
3 PM - St. Bridget
HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER VIGIL MASS
7:30 PM - Sacred Heart
EASTER SUNDAY
8 AM - St. Bernard
10 AM - St. Bridget
10 AM - Sacred Heart

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OUR TOWNS

Recent property sales report for listings in Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County towns. Below is a listing of sales in the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook during January and February 2023. Most of these transactions had a signed contract between buyer and seller in late 2022; however, the sale was not completed until 2023.

Some Town of Washington homes may have Dover or Clinton Corner ZIP codes and may be in a Dover or Millbrook school district. Note that of the 14 total sales closed, seven were under \$500,000 and five were over \$1,000,000.

Town of Washington January 2023

4265 Route 44 for \$375,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sold on Jan. 6

441 Oak Summit Road for \$1,060,000 on 7.7 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on Jan. 12

28 Rodrigo Knolls for \$402,000, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, sold on Jan. 13

15 Ciferri Drive for \$425,000, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on Jan. 25

221 Shunpike for \$2,550,000 on 20 acres, 6 bedrooms, 6 baths, sold on Jan. 27

302 Shunpike for \$1,350,000 on 20.3 acres, 3 bedrooms, 5 baths, sold on Jan. 30

Town of Washington February 2023

132 Killearn Road for \$575,000 on 5.2 acres, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, sold on Feb. 15

5 Ter Bar Court for \$189,500, 4 bedrooms, 1 bath, sold on Feb. 15

6 Rodrigo Court for \$247,500, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on Feb. 21

89 Jameson Hill Road for \$337,500, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on Feb. 28

282 Shunpike for \$1,350,000 on 5 acres, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, sold on Feb. 28

458 Route 343 for \$1,300,000, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, sold on Feb. 28

Village of Millbrook January and February 2023

83 Bennett Common for \$305,000, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on Jan. 27

78 Maple Street for \$815,000, 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, sold on Feb. 21

Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook residential sales closed between Jan. 1, 2023, and Feb. 28, 2023, sourced from Mid-Hudson MLS and Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency with detail on ownership from Dutchess Parcel Access.

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



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

78 Maple St. was the only single-family residence sold in the Village of Millbrook in the first two months of this year.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Palm Sunday in Millbrook

Three Millbrook churches, St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, Grace Episcopal Church and Lyall Memorial Church came together on Sunday, April 2, to celebrate Palm Sunday at the Thorne Community Center site. There they met with parishioners and Bella, the miniature donkey from Two By Two Zoo, to hand out palms, read Scripture, and then all returned to their respective churches for Palm Sunday services. The Rev. Thomas Fiet led his parishioners down a short path to Lyall Church. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins led his group from Grace Church across Franklin Avenue, and the Catholic worshippers, led by the Rev. Hartley Bancroft and Bella, processed down Franklin Avenue to their church on North Avenue. Bella, the donkey, who turned 28 this year, is a long-time veteran of the Millbrook Palm Sunday processions and while, as a miniature, no one rides her, she has become an integral part of the ceremony each year.

Library offers free community events listings

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — A one-stop look at everything nonprofit in North East is available to residents and organizations throughout the entire area thanks to the NorthEast Millerton Library's new Community Events Calendar, which went live on Wednesday, March 29, at nemillertonlibrary.org under the "Community" tab.

There is no charge for the service, and users do not need a library card to access the information, although cards are

free to any resident requesting one.

According to library director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson, detailed requirements for postings are listed on the Online Community Calendar Policy page under "Policies" in the "About Us" section of the website, and she encouraged organizations that meet the criteria to take advantage of the program.

Leo-Jameson emphasized that while a few postings have already been made, the calendar is in its early days and she is hopeful that, as time passes, more listings will be included.

The policy notes state that the library "does not endorse or promote any event that is not organized" by the library and that each group "is responsible for their own events and the contents of their listings."

The idea for the calendar was one of the most popular suggestions that arose during the Community Conversations that were initially held at the library in 2021. As a result, Leo-Jameson is hopeful that "everyone will get on board" and that it will provide something of a hub for the area.

For more information, call the library at 518-789-3340.

Bystander intervention trainings to be offered

POUGHKEEPSIE — The Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights will offer three virtual sessions of bystander intervention training beginning Monday, April 17. The sessions will teach tools that residents can use to intervene should they witness harassment in their community. The first session will focus

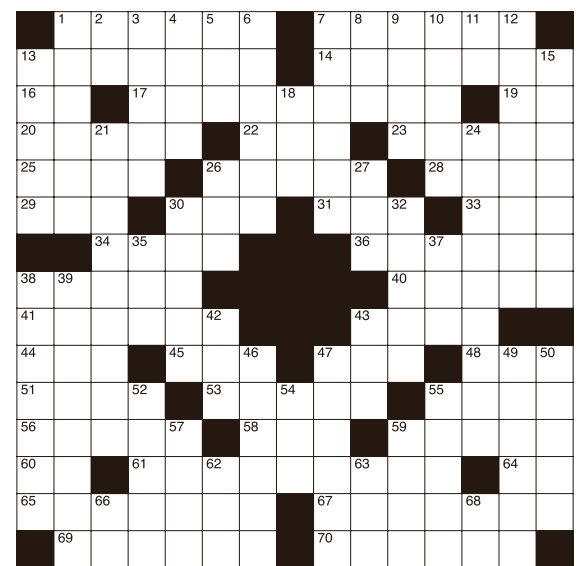
on anti-Asian American and xenophobic harassment. The second session is scheduled for Monday, May 22, and will support the LGBTQ+ community; and the third session is titled "How to Be an Ally When You Witness Online Abuse" and will be held Monday, Sept. 18. The sessions are free and

open to the public with registration, which can be done online at dutchessny.gov/BI-Training4-17; dutchessny.gov/BI-Training5-22; and dutchessny.gov/BI-Training9-18. For more information, contact Jody Miller, executive director of the Commission, at (845) 486-2836 or DCHumanRights@DutchessNY.gov

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

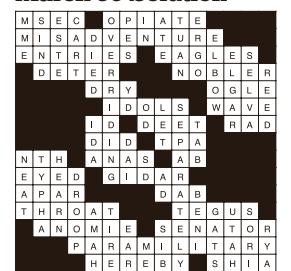
- 1. Colas
- 7. Single-celled animals
- 13. The rear car of a train
- 14. Endangered
- 16. It cools your home
- 17. Helper
- 19. "The First State"
- 20. More aged
- 22. Partner to cheese
- 23. Type of wrap
- 25. From a distance
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
- 29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 30. Cooking utensil
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 33. Able to perform
- 34. Big man on campus
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- 38. Porticos
- 40. Alban and Peter are two
- 41. Gets up
- 43. Humble request for help
- 44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Hint or indication
- 48. A way to plead
- 51. Digits
- 53. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Jewish calendar month
- 56. Author Gore
- 58. Peacock network
- 59. White poplar
- 60. Promotional material
- 61. A period of calm
- 64. Take too much
- 65. Emit energy
- 67. Something you can take
- 69. Mended with yarn
- 70. Inconsistent



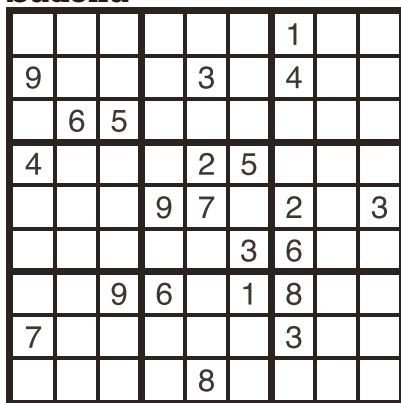
- 11. Atomic #13
- 12. Tranquillizing
- 13. Metric weight unit
- 15. Indicates
- 18. Unwanted rodent
- 21. Partly cooked with hot water
- 24. One who can be recommended
- 26. Resembles a bag or pouch
- 27. Midway between south and southeast
- 30. Sets up for a photo
- 32. California white oak
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. After B
- 38. Decorated tea urn
- 39. Island
- 42. Car mechanics group
- 43. Wordplay joke
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Prickly plant
- 49. Speech in praise of a deceased person

- 50. European buzzard
- 52. Influential linguist
- 54. West African languages
- 55. Siskel's partner
- 57. Skinny
- 59. Oblong pulp
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Small, mischievous sprite
- 66. Powerful lawyer
- 68. Indicates position

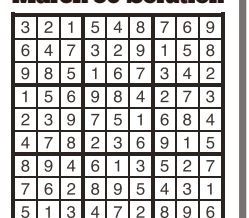
March 30 Solution



Sudoku



March 30 Solution



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OUR TOWNS

Millbrook looks at changes in traffic rules

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
juthb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — As part of the Village of Millbrook's regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 12, at 6 p.m. at the firehouse, 20 Front St., the board will discuss changes that were recently made to traffic and parking rules in the village.

The March board review and public hearing of the updates to one portion of the Village Code concluded with a need to remove the proposed opposite-side-of-the-street parking on Alden Place because of negative input from both the Millbrook Central School District board and

Alden residents. The board thought that the proposed changes would not be beneficial and might be conducive to more dangerous situations for children. A representative from the school board has been asked to be present at the April 12 meeting in which the amended document will be reintroduced. This will be followed by a public hearing at the Wednesday, May 10, board meeting.

Speed limits other than 30 miles per hour are established as indicated upon the following streets or parts of streets: Sharon Turnpike, 45 mph; Franklin Avenue, 45 mph, between the southerly Village line and a point 1,050 feet south of Front Street and

between a point 700 feet east of Maple Avenue and U.S. Route 44; on Route 82, 45 mph between its intersection with U.S. Route 343 and the westerly Village line; U.S. Route 343, 45 mph between its intersection with U.S. Route 44 and U.S. Route 82 and the easterly Village line.

School speed limits during school days between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. are: 15 mph on Alden Place at a distance of 300 feet from the property boundary line of the Millbrook Central School District; 25 mph on Church Street at distance of 300 feet on each side of the Millbrook Central School District driveway; and 15 mph on Elm Drive for a distance of 300 feet from

the property boundary line of the Millbrook Central School District.

Weight limits are being added on Harts Village Road in an effort to keep heavy trucks off the road. A weight restriction is being codified on Nine Partner Road.

Accessible parking is two spaces at 35 Merritt Avenue and at two spaces at 15 Merritt Avenue.

A crosswalk will be added on Alden Place and Bartell, and a crosswalk will be codified at Merritt Avenue and Friendly Lane.

A yield sign is being changed to a stop sign on Washington Avenue and Church Street. A yield sign will be added to Russell

Knolls at Front Street, and stop signs will be codified on Ciferri, Friendly, Hillside and Fountain.

The 10-minute parking limit on Church Street and Washington Avenue will be codified.

Parking restrictions will be lifted from North Avenue, as St. Joseph's School is no longer open and there are no school buses on the road.

One bus stop, on the south side, will be eliminated. Accessible parking will be codified on Merritt Avenue.

For further information on traffic changes, codification and restrictions, see the Mayor's February newsletter on the village website, villageofmillbrookny.com

Easter egg hunt planned for children

COPAKE FALLS — The Church of St. John in the Wilderness, 261 NY-344, will hold an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 8, at 11 a.m. Participants should meet in Burke Hall in the basement of the rectory behind the church and will be divided into two groups: under 6 years old, and 6 years old and older. Prizes and snacks will follow. For more information, call 518-329-3674.



Falls Village Congregational Church

Maunder Thursday Service: 7:00pm
Easter Sunrise Service: 5:45am
At the Church on Beebe Hill Rd.
Followed by Breakfast
Easter Service: 10:00am
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EASTER TRIDUUM
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Holy Thursday April 6th, 7 pm
Good Friday April 7th, 3 pm
Confessions afterwards
Easter Vigil April 8th, 8 pm

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9TH
St. Joseph's Church 9 am
Immaculate Conception 11 am

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5 PM APRIL 6th
Good Friday service
5 PM APRIL 7th
Holy Saturday Silent/Meditation/Retreat Day
9 AM - 2 PM APRIL 8th
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Easter service
10:30 AM APRIL 9th

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Wrestling with the Bible, 9 AM
Worship, 10 AM
Fellowship Lunch, 11:15 AM

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Noon Liturgy

EASTER CELEBRATION | APRIL 9
10:00 a.m. Rite II, Eucharist with music
Rev. Paul Christopherson presiding

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Trinity Episcopal Church

Good Friday
April 7
12 Noon: Way of the Cross
7:00 PM: Words of the Life of Jesus
Reflections & meditative music for harp and organ

Easter Vigil
April 8
7:00 PM: Traditional Vigil Mass
With the New Fire, chants, hymns & Andean music

Easter Day!
April 9
8:00 AM: Eucharist with hymns
10:30 AM: Festive Eucharist
Featuring Trinity Choir & Crescendo; music by Philips and Mouton. Easter egg hunt at 11:40

4:00 PM: Misa de Pascua
Con música de "Sin Fronteras" y después, una búsqueda de huevos de Pascua

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Holy Week

Maunder Thursday, April 6
Communion & Tenebrae
7 pm Worship

Good Friday, April 7
Music & Meditation
12 noon

Sunday, April 9
Easter Day
6:30 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service
Town Grove, Lakeville
9:45 am Hand Bell Prelude
10 am Easter Worship

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April 6th
4:30 PM Maunder Thursday
Stripping of Altar
April 7th
12:00 PM Good Friday
April 9th
Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service
152 East Street, Sharon
Celebration of the Resurrection
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Celebrant, Rev. Roger White
Easter Egg hunt following the service

Christ Church Episcopal
9 South Main Street, Sharon

Organist, Jon Lafleur

Webutuck student health clinic going full steam

By **DEBORAH MAIER**
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA — In a region like northeast Dutchess County, where health care options are limited and changing all the time, a more centralized, “wraparound” approach, at least for the children in a family, can be a major time-, money- and academic life-saver. Such is the case with the School-Based Health Center (SBHC), the first in Dutchess County, in the Webutuck Central School District (WCSD).

Located in a hallway between Eugene Brooks Intermediate School (EBIS) and Webutuck High School, the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) was initially set up in May 2022, and has been running full steam since September. It is a fully functioning facility open to all students residing in WCSD.

Officially known as part of the Nita M. Lowey Center for Health in Schools, reflecting the Westchester congresswoman’s efforts on behalf of children’s health, the Center is accepting enrollment on an ongoing basis. Currently at about 35% of the district’s total of 625 students, the staff hopes to reach 70% in the near future.

What are FQHCs?

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are facilities that offer health care to individuals in local communities without regard to whether or not those patients can pay for services or are insured. For some students, the school-based FQHCs replace primary care providers, while for others, their primary care providers still provide much of their care.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health, at left; nurse practitioner Angela Sinon; and Sara Hodgdon, director of operations for the School-Based Health Center located in Webutuck High School, in one of the Center’s exam rooms.

On March 30, Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, commissioner of Dutchess County’s Department of Behavioral & Community Health, paid a visit to Webutuck’s SBHC. An emergency physician for about 20 years in Queens, Manhattan, Long Island and recently at Vassar Brothers, Santiago has seen the health care system from many angles.

In the early days of her tenure as commissioner, Santiago was dismayed to note the incidence of school absenteeism in some communities, and set about seeking reasons and remedies. The burdens on parents to find providers who have appointments available, take time off work to take their children to the appointments,

and other delays result in loss of academic and work time. Her research led her to Open Door Medical Center and its community and school-based models.

In New York state, it’s children-only in SBHCs

To the commissioner’s query as to whether parents and teachers partake of services, operations director Sara Hodgdon of Open Door — with centers in Westchester, Putnam, Ulster and now Dutchess counties — noted that New York state mandates that school-based centers treat only students, with some exceptions.

Several years ago during an outbreak of bird flu, SBHCs were permitted to vaccinate parents and other family members as well as teachers

against that. At present, students may get all their vaccinations at school.

The commissioner, expressing that it would be even better if all family members could take advantage of such convenience, noted that the same issues of access to health care, productivity and efficiency apply also to other family members, especially in rural areas. If the parent is ill, the child may not be able to go to school, and a child’s illness may prevent a parent from going to work.

WCSD Superintendent Ray Castellani admitted that easily available health care for everyone is a good goal to aim for, but that schools are generally shut down after the extended school day, so access would be problematic.

Both agreed that for purposes of whole-family access to medical care, stand-alone facilities are doubtless better.

One such facility is currently being built in North Canaan, Connecticut, conveniently sited near a supermarket and other stores. There are a few in Dutchess County.

Hodgdon elaborated on that theme, noting that many of Open Door’s current providers are pediatric nurse practitioners (NP), whereas in a whole-family facility, “a whole different model of employment” would be required.

Currently, other staff include Lindsay Neptune, a nurse practitioner and director of SBHC clinical services; Angela Sinon, NP, who is relatively new on the job; and in the school nurse’s office adjacent, Brandice Roberts and Colleen Hazelton. Other providers may be brought in as needed.

Services students receive encompass what they would receive from a primary care provider and include once-yearly wellness visits, in which individual needs are determined; rapid testing for strep, influenza, and samples for PCR COVID-19 tests; pregnancy testing, with assured confidentiality for older students; management and forestalling of asthma attacks; arranging prescriptions, if needed, to be immediately available to parents; and other services.

Occasionally it is as simple as supplying a place for a student to rest a while, then sending them back to class.

Parents need to sign a one-time consent form and enroll their children via a link on the website or at

community events.

Mental health services

Another exception to the students-only rule is in mental health services available at the Webutuck location. Families may be brought in to figure out whole-family solutions to issues that present in children and teens.

On its first day of operation, Karen Fink, of Family Services of Westchester, which works in tandem with Open Door, introduced social worker Brooklyn Talarico, recently arrived from Poughkeepsie where she worked with children as well as adults and is glad to be surrounded by young people in this “satellite” mental health clinic at the Center. When adults are included in sessions, the focus is on the family as a whole.

All present agreed that “it’s a brilliant use of space” when students can have their physical and mental/social-emotional health needs met in the place where they spend most of their waking hours.

Santiago pointed to future efforts as Medicaid rules are expected to change later this year. A true Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) network would be able to identify all the aspects that affect a person’s mental and physical health, refer that person to the appropriate providers, and then assure that the services they need are provided — that last point being the new angle, so that all along the line, providers and agencies are “on the hook,” and nobody falls through the cracks.

Webutuck’s School-Based Health Center is the first SBHC in Dutchess County, in an effort to provide a more seamless approach to health care equity for all.

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Sharon Hospital

MPD *Continued from Page A1*

olation of state and municipal law for years because there has been no qualified, designated police chief to supervise officers.

The consultant also determined that officers were incorrectly identifying themselves as “Chief – Officer in Charge Police Department” and “Sergeant – Millerton Police Department.”

Police activities analyzed

Part 3 of the study, which focused on policing activities, reported that of the five part-time officers on the village police roster, only two officers have reported on a regular basis in the first two months of this year – 20 hours a week for Breen and 11 hours for Veeder.

Law enforcement agency response to 911 calls in 2021 were summarized. Based on 911 call records, only 6% of calls from the village and 22% of calls from the Town of North East were answered only by the MPD.

There were only 340 total calls in the entire year — approximately one call per day. The county sheriff and/or the state police answered 10% of these calls with the MPD and 79% without the MPD’s presence.

The consultant recommended the village consider a pilot study to assign schedules for village police coverage including Friday nights and weekends, which have not been staffed recently, and eliminating weekday night coverage when the sheriff or state police would be the sole responding agencies.

The study also found deficiencies in required training documentation and annual evaluation of police officers.

Part of the consultant’s assignment was to compare Millerton to other Dutchess County municipalities and consider alternatives to local policing. Six of the eight Dutchess County villages, including Millerton, have a designated police department.

With only five part-time officers, Millerton has the

smallest police force with lowest per-hour pay of \$20.16. Only Fishkill has a police chief, with other village police departments supervised by sergeants.

Police take over during executive session

In order to consider the recommendations of the study, the board left the audience in the Annex and went into executive session. In their absence, the police took over the front of the room, where Officer David Rudin, with Officer Veeder at his side, presented their response to the study.

Rudin stated that the village did not need a police chief and that Veeder was hired from the civil service list. A former Dutchess County sheriff, Rudin stated he had passed the sergeant’s test and has been supervising police for a long time.

Rudin claimed the mayor refused to hire additional officers and denied approval to send candidates to the police academy. He also maintained that the mayor restricted police hours, which resulted in staff attrition, and that January and February coverage statistics were not representative because of low staffing levels.

Rudin maintained that “the village could not exist without us.” Rudin fielded questions from the audience and reminded people that there is a village election in June.

When asked by The Millerton News reporter what he thought of the recommendations, he said, “You don’t want to know — not a fan.” Rudin invited anyone to sit down with him and look at his laptop records; however, attempts by this reporter to contact police for their response were unsuccessful.

Final resolutions of the board

Following a 20-minute executive session, the board, accompanied by the consultant and attorneys, returned to the podium to vote on the study’s recommendations. All resolutions were passed unanimously:

—Resolution 1. “The Village trustees should consider maintaining the Village of Millerton Police Department and implementing a series of three-month long pilot studies to assess different staffing levels and the days and hours of coverage once a Police Chief is employed.”

— Resolution 2. “The Village Trustees should immediately take steps to hire a Village Police Chief.”

— Resolution 3. As part of the first pilot study, the Village Trustees should consider employing a part-time Village Police Chief with a flexible schedule of twenty hours per week to perform usual and customary administrative and supervisory duties and to coordinate services when needed with County, State and Federal public safety and emergency response agencies.

— Resolution 4. The Village Trustees should immediately instruct all police officers not to identify as any rank other than that of a police officer.

—Resolution 5. The Village Trustees should review and update the Civil Service roster for those police officers who have not worked for several months.

— Resolution 6. The Village Trustees should consider removing the Senior Police Assistant from the Civil Service roster as this position has not been utilized for several months.

—Resolution 7. Before the current police contract with the town expires, the Village Trustees should consider no longer contracting with the Town of North East to provide a police officer to the Town Court.

—Resolution 8. After much discussion between trustees about the potential liability of continuing to operate a police department without a supervising officer, Trustee Matt Hartzog proposed placing active police officers on administrative leave with pay until a chief could be recruited, effective immediately. It was agreed that the sheriff of Dutchess County would

be notified and a job posting placed.

Resident impressions varied

Ray Nelson, who has a “Support MPD” sign in front of his village home, attended the meeting and had “very strong feelings” about the evening. “We were told a year ago that a study would be done and that they would get back to us. It’s very disturbing that the study was presented and voted on the same night without any public comment. I found the report very narrow in its scope. After the meeting I approached the consultant with some questions about inconsistencies in the report and was told by him, ‘I was paid to prepare a report, not to answer questions.’ I don’t understand why we have operated for 50 years without a police chief and can’t move forward with our existing police for another few months.”

Another village resident, who asked to remain anonymous, had a completely different take: “I was astonished and alarmed by some of the facts outlined in the police assessment report. I view the actions taken by the village as appropriate measures to defuse a contentious issue. The resolutions remove the liability of unsupervised police officers and gives the trustees time to evaluate their next steps.”

By phone to The Millerton News, Najdek said the village just could not continue kicking the can down the road. She also refuted many of Rudin’s statements, especially concerning staffing: “The board made it clear that we would no longer send candidates to the police academy and that we wanted to hire experienced officers. Officer Veeder never met with the personnel committee to discuss this and never posted position openings.”

Neither did the board restrict hours, according to Najdek. After the meeting village resident Delora Brooks commented: “Money has made my decision for me. This should not have been going on this long.”

BANK *Continued from Page A1*

In 2020 and 2021, Cantele met with institutions larger than Salisbury, including NBT, as well as with those of comparable size and smaller ones. Cantele and NBT’s Watt didn’t discuss the possibility of a strategic transaction during those meetings, the proxy states.

The Salisbury board of directors during these years also was evaluating Salisbury’s growth prospects, and discussed the implications of selling the franchise, remaining independent, looking for a merger partner, or seeking growth by acquiring smaller institutions, the proxy states. By the fall of 2022 and after numerous meetings and discussions involving Cantele, the Salisbury Bank board and other banks, NBT produced a letter of intent, offering to combine with Salisbury. NBT Bank has approximately \$11.5 billion in assets and approximately \$10 billion in deposits. By comparison, Salisbury has \$1.5 billion in assets and approximately \$1.3 billion in deposits.

If the merger is completed, Salisbury shareholders will receive 0.7450 shares of NBT common stock for each share of Salisbury common. At the close of trading on Monday, April 3, NBT shares were \$33.51; Salisbury shares were \$24.74.

Cantele is expected to join NBT as executive vice president of strategic integration. Other officers of Salisbury also are expected to join the new bigger bank.

A history of the bank

The Salisbury Savings Society was founded in 1848.

In the 1948 booklet commemorating the centennial of the bank’s founding, the process was described:

“The General Assembly of Connecticut at the May session of 1848, granted a charter to the following named persons, giving them authority to organize the Salisbury Savings Society.”

WASTEWATER *Continued from Page A1*

covers “what’s proposed, who will be served, how much it will cost, and how it is going to be paid for.”

The town’s wastewater district will comprise the area of Main Street/Route 44 from CVS Pharmacy to the Connecticut state line.

Moore said the total cost of the system, including both the village and the town, would be approximately \$13.8 million, with an estimated \$144,000 per year operation and maintenance cost. Operation and maintenance fees will be based on increments of 225 gallons per day for both the village and town. Fees for the system will be based on a benefit-use assessment.

In order to apply for some of the available funding, a district must be formed, preferably by August since one of the grant applications is due in September. Moore

“Lakeville in 1848 was a small straggling settlement of perhaps forty buildings, and Salisbury village had about the same number of inhabitants. The Treasurer’s report of October 1, 1849, showed 126 depositors having \$11,111.36 to their credit. Five percent interest had been paid depositors for the year and the bank’s operating expense was listed as \$44.78.”

In 1925, the Salisbury Savings Society merged with the Robbins Burrall Trust Company (established 1874) to form Salisbury Bank and Trust.

The two entities occupied the same building at 12 Millerton Road, where the Assured Partners insurance office is today.

In 1909 there was an unsuccessful attempt to rob the bank by assaulting the door to the vault. There was some damage but no money was taken.

The Salisbury branch was opened in 1963, and 20 years later, a branch was opened in Sharon.

In the 2000s, the bank began to expand rapidly, acquiring a People’s Bank branch in 2001, Canaan National Bancorp in 2004, and a New York Community Bank branch in 2007.

In 2007, SBT opened branches in Dover Plains, N.Y. and Sheffield, Mass.

In 2009 SBT acquired a Webster Bank branch and opened a branch in Millerton, N.Y.

In 2014 SBT opened a branch in Great Barrington, Mass.

SBT continued to expand, to locations in New York.

In 2018 the bank hit \$1 billion in assets.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, SBT processed 932 federal Paycheck Protection Program applications for \$100 million in loans (including one from the Lakeville Journal Company), and another 472 PPP applications for \$48 million in 2021.

MASCOT *Continued from Page A1*

American male in war paint and a headdress. The figure is said by some historians to be Sassacus, the Pequot chief, or sachem. But for Valerie LaRobardier, archivist for the Schaghticoke First Nation, who has delved further into the Sassacus story, “It doesn’t matter who in fact is represented in the image, or who killed him.” In the push and pull between pride, nostalgia and new ideas, it is more a plea for seeing things through a neighborly lens.

“I can understand,” she continued, “how the alumni could be resistant to giving up a logo and team name that they have had and loved for so many years. It could help them to imagine how they would feel if a new school in a town in a neighboring state said, ‘Hey, what a cool logo, let’s use that for our team!’ How much harder it must be for Indigenous peoples to see their cultural images, that they have held dear for many generations, used by others.”

What is different now is that New York state is firmly on the side of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and directs the district into “immediate compliance.” In 2018, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) issued the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining (CR-S) Education Framework, and the DEI policy was established in 2021.

Both follow years of laws starting in the ‘60s and ‘70s that aim for equity for all. Because of the timing, DEI poli-

cies are sometimes confused with Critical Race Theory (CRT). DEI proponents say they are crucially different initiatives.

The district, in its March 29 letter to the school community, echoes the gist of the original mascot ruling:

“As part of our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the district strives to ensure the words and imagery we use are consistent with our values and aligned with our vision of being an equitable community of lifelong learners.”

Possible consequences for non-compliance

The letter from the NYSED also states that “should a district fail to affirmatively commit to replacing its Native American team name, logo and/or imagery by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, it may be in willful violation of the Dignity Act. The penalties for such

a violation include the removal of school officers and the withholding of State Aid.”

The NYSED ruling leaves no room for interpretation. When it was pointed out that the word “warrior” has a variety of usages, many of them positive, the response was categorical. In the district’s aforementioned letter, it is stated that “the District was informed that, ‘A district may not change to Warrior or keep the name Warrior if it was previously utilized in said district with a Native American mascot.’”

The district’s policy

For its part, Webutuck’s stance on the changes is made clear on its website:

“The Board of Education and Administration would like to encourage students, parents, staff, and community members to provide suggestions about the school district’s new nickname and mascot, by completing a

short survey. School district nicknames and mascots are a source of great pride within the community and they help define the school district’s identity and culture.

Mascots and nicknames could represent geographic or historic information as well as indigenous animals. Suggestions should be strong, assertive names that reflect power and competitive spirit. Mascot and nicknames suggestions must adhere to district policies and procedures on non discriminations, harassment and intimidation and bullying, and will not be racially and ethnically insensitive or offensive.”

The survey is available at the following link: forms.gle/XGW5B9QMSoBBsyBh6

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Kyra & Kevin at The Moviehouse

It's a premise that could easily be mistaken for sci-fi — on a family-run Rhode Island flower farm, a young man (Kyle Allen, "West Side Story") announces one morning to his salt-of-the-earth parents (Kevin Bacon and Carrie Preston) that he's been selected by a technologically-advanced, privately-funded expedition to Mars. It's a one-way trip — the red planet is where these space explorers plan to die — and he wants to spend as much time with his family as he can before his departure. In "Space Oddity," the directorial film debut by actress Kyra Sedgwick, what unfolds is a contemporary tale about a family here on Earth, and a flirtation sparked with a girl (Alexandra Shipp) who accepts this would-be Martian, despite his delusions. Distributed by Samuel Goldwyn Films, the charming romantic dramedy had its premiere at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival and is now playing in select theaters and on demand.

Sedgwick and Bacon, longtime residents of Sharon, Conn., were special guests at a screening of "Space Oddity" at The Moviehouse, in Millerton, N.Y., on Friday, March 31, the night of its release. They were joined for a Q&A by actor Griffin Dunne, who



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS

Kevin Bacon stars as the patriarch of a Rhode Island flower farming family in "Space Oddity," directed by his wife, Kyra Sedgwick, right, who discussed her film after a screening at The Moviehouse.



previously worked with Kevin Bacon on the Amazon series "I Love Dick," set in Marfa, Texas, and based on the novel by Chris Kraus.

"I found the script utterly compelling and lovely, and loved that it involved people you could relate to," Sedgwick told Dunne during the post-screening conversation. "Dysfunctional families, or families that are struggling to be functional, that's my jam. I get so, so excited by that, because who doesn't have a family like that? For me, this script had elements that were funny, sad, hopeful — and was also really about something."

Bacon joked that his



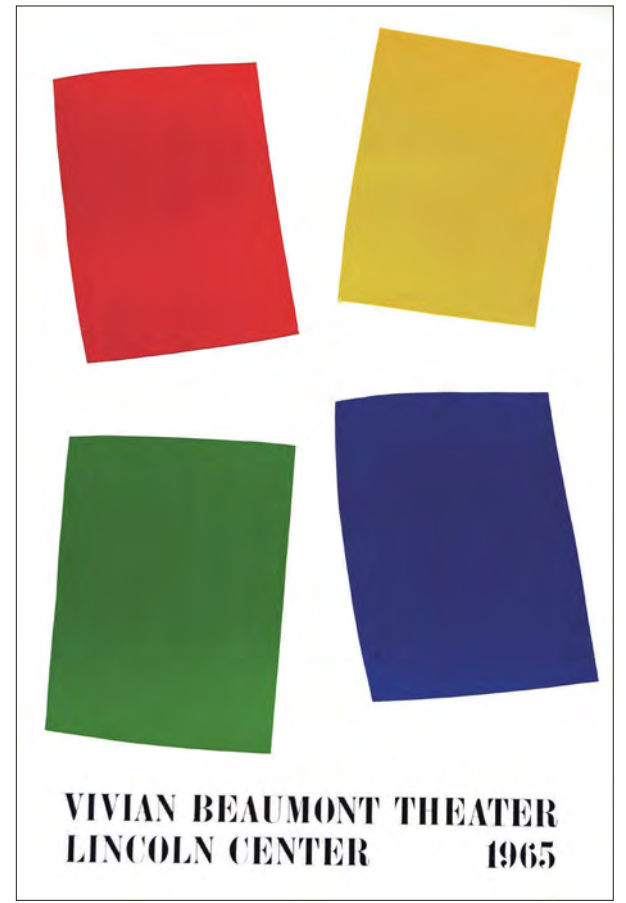
PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Bacon and Sedgwick were joined for the Q&A by moderator Griffin Dunne.

wife had wanted to shoot the film, which takes place in a small, countryside town, at their home in Sharon, but Sedgwick was dissuaded when she realized the time it would take to recreate the flower farm that acts as the main set piece in her own backyard. Ultimately Rhode Island's filming tax incentives

led her to discover Robin Hollow Farm in Saundertown, R.I.

"Luckily this is a working, mom-and-pop flower farm that we used," Bacon said, "and the owner Mike was very sweet to walk me through the paces of the job. Kyra was really adamant that I learned to really ride his tractor and cut flowers. When I look at the scenes now I think, oh that could have been better! And I'm not looking at my performance, I'm looking at my flower-tying technique."



COURTESY OF SPENCERTOWN ACADEMY ARTS CENTER

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Remembering Ellsworth Kelly

In 2013 when painter and sculptor Ellsworth Kelly received the National Medal of Arts from Barack Obama, the former U.S. president described him as "A careful observer of form, color and the natural world, Mr. Kelly has shaped more than half a century of abstraction and remains a vital influence in American art." Kelly was a New York State-native who lived and painted in Spencertown, in Columbia County, N.Y., from 1970 until his death at 92 in 2015.

Starting April 29, The Gallery at Spencertown Academy Arts Center will unveil "Ellsworth Kelly Centennial: An Exhibition of Historic Posters" featuring exhibit posters from his seven-decade career as one of the most innovative and influential American working artists. This showcase will tie into a larger, national retrospective of his career, marking what would have been Kelly's 100th birthday. Glenstone Museum in Potomac, Md., will mount "Ellsworth at 100" a comprehensive installation of his career on display starting in May before the exhibit travels to France where it will be displayed in the spring of 2024 at The Louis Vuitton Foundation, a nonprofit art museum sponsored by LVMH

and located in 16th arrondissement of Paris. Currently on view in New York City is "Ellsworth Kelly: A Centennial Celebration" at The Museum of Modern Art through June 11. MoMA's Kelly collection features the tremendous 1957 piece "Sculpture for a Large Wall," constructed from 104 anodized aluminum panels reaching 65 feet in length originally commissioned for the lobby of Philadelphia's Transportation Building. The massive sculpture, which Kelly made when he was 34 years old, and, per a New Yorker write-up at the time, was installed at the Transportation Building for four decades, was last on display in New York at Matthew Marks Gallery in 1998.

Utterly captivating in their bold simplicity, the intensity of his minimalist paintings continues to provoke something primal and pure in the viewer, an overwhelming sensory encounter of how we experience color. In her book, "Ellsworth Kelly: Outside In," the British art historian Briony Fer wrote that Kelly's paintings, "with their clearly defined shapes and pristine flat surfaces, are sensual and direct — so much so that it is tempting to assume that we know where they stop, and where the world outside the picture begins."

Contribute to your local arts section

Seeking writers with knowledge of classical music or theater. Send a short cover letter and a sample of your writing to alexw@lakevillejournal.com

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Easter Sunday Dessert from the Troutbeck Kitchen

My name is Emma and I'm the pastry chef at Troutbeck in Amenia, N.Y. In 2013, I went to culinary school in Cambridge, Mass., and turned my passion into a career. Since then, I have worked at The Farrington House Inn, a Relais & Châteaux property in Pittsboro, N.C., BakeHouse and Carmella's Kitchen in Charleston, S.C., and The Colony Hotel in Palm Beach, Fla. Now I get to share my recipes with you.

It's the perfect time of year for that crowd-pleasing carrot cake! Whether you want to impress your in-laws for Easter or just want a tasty dessert (or indulgent breakfast!) to enjoy with a cup of coffee, this carrot cake will not disappoint. Personally, I don't love overly sweet frosting, but this cream cheese recipe is the exception. The carrot cake is great but, for me, it's a vehicle for the frosting. A little sweet with a little tang, and a pop of orange, this cream cheese frosting will have you licking your spatula and bowl. Have fun, get messy, and enjoy!

CARROT CAKE

Makes one, two-layer carrot cake (8 or 9-inch).
 2 cups (250 grams) all purpose flour
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1 teaspoon salt
 2 teaspoons cinnamon
 4 large eggs
 1 ¼ cups (240 grams) sugar

EATS BY EMMA

EMMA ISAKOFF

1 ¾ cups (385 grams) oil
 1 cup (120 grams) walnuts (chopped)
 3 cups (330 grams) carrots (peeled and shredded)
 Zest of one orange (optional, see notes)
 1 teaspoon cardamom (optional, see notes)

Method

1. Preheat your oven to 350F.
2. Lightly grease two 8 or 9 inch cake pans and line the bottom with parchment and set aside.
3. Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon (cardamom if using) together in a bowl and set aside.
4. Peel and shred your carrots and set aside (should be about 3 large carrots).
5. Chop your nuts into small/medium pieces and add to your shredded carrots.
6. In a large bowl, whisk together your eggs and sugar. Slowly add oil and whisk until combined.
7. Using a spatula, fold carrots and nuts into egg mixture (add orange zest if using).
8. Fold dry ingredients into mixture in three batches. Mix until all dry ingredients are incorporated. Do not over mix.
9. Divide your batter evenly into your greased and parchment lined cake pans.
10. Bake at 350F for about 20 to 35 minutes. Oven times may vary.



PHOTO BY JIM HENKENS

Cook until a toothpick comes out clean from the center of the cake.

11. Remove from oven and let cool slightly. When cake pans are cool enough to touch, remove cakes from pans and let cool at room temperature completely.

Notes: If you want to jazz up the flavors, add zest of an orange! You can also cut the cinnamon in half and add a teaspoon of cardamom to spice things up.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

2 cups (450 grams) cream cheese
 8 tablespoons (4 ounces) butter
 1 ¾ cups (350 grams) powdered sugar
 Zest of half and orange
 2 tablespoons sour cream
 1 teaspoon vanilla

Method

1. In the bowl of a standing mixer, mix your cream cheese with a paddle attachment until smooth (Pull your cream cheese and butter out a few hours before and let come to room temperature).
2. While cream cheese is mixing, sift your powdered sugar and set it aside in a bowl.
3. When cream cheese is smooth, add room temperature butter and mix until smooth.
4. Add sour cream, vanilla, and orange zest. Mix until incorporated.
5. At speed one, add sifted powdered sugar small amounts at a time.

Mix until smooth (For a lighter and fluffier texture, switch to a whisk attachment and whip frosting on medium/high until fluffy.).

6. Use right away or store in the fridge until you are ready to use. Can be frozen for later use.

Notes: Pull your butter and cream cheese out the night before (or a few hours before). It will be smoother and easier to work with.

Assemble

1. When cakes are cool, trim off the domed top of each cake to make them level.
2. Using your spatula,

spread about a cup and a half (or as much as you want), on top of the first layer of carrot cake. Make sure to spread the frosting to the outer edges of the cake.

3. Flip the second layer of cake over and place on top of the frosted first layer.

4. Gently build more cream cheese frosting around the outside and top of the layers to cover the cake completely. In order to get a nice wavy texture, rotate your wrist in quick swooshing movements. Continue around the entire cake.

Enjoy!

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

New Fiction Book Group

The Current Fiction Book Group led by Claudia Cayne will discuss "What Storm, What Thunder" by Haitian-Canadian author Myriam J.A. Chancy about an earthquake disaster experienced through a diverse ensemble in Port-au-Prince. The book group will meet on Saturday, April 8, at 4 p.m. in the Oak Room at Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Conn. To register go to www.scovillelibrary.org

Straight Line Crazy

National Theatre Live will present Academy Award-nominated actor Ralph Fiennes in David Hare's "Straight Line Crazy" directed by Nicholas Hytner and broadcast live from The Bridge Theatre in London. This one-time screening will be held at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., on Sunday, April 9, at 1 p.m. For tickets go to www.themoviehouse.net

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, N.Y., presents William Shakespeare's romantic gender-swapping comedy "Twelfth Night, or What You Will" directed by Peter Risafi with original music by Peter Kiewra on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8 at 8 p.m. For tickets go to www.centerforperformingarts.org

Painting Course

Collette Hurst will hold a three-week watercolor course on painting water reflections in landscapes at The Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn. Classes will be held on Saturdays, April 8, 15 and 22, at 10 a.m. and cost \$75 for the bundle. To register go to www.cornwalllibrary.org

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Millbrook's National Poetry Month celebration is townwide

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) is helping the Village of Millbrook celebrate the 27th anniversary of National Poetry Month during the month of April with its "poetryline" event that features several well-known poets, including Cynthia Cruz, the 2023 recipient of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry.

Also participating is Ryan Murphy, director of nonprofit publisher Four Way Books in New York City as well as a local resident and one of the featured poets.

MAG has once again partnered with Millbrook Library and local schools to present the Tribute Garden Poetry Walk, which will feature more than 30 poems written by local children and will include illustrations.

MAG's poetryline features a public art project with contemporary poems that will be seen on more than 50 window panels throughout the village, in restaurants and store fronts and even on the edge of town for people to see, read and enjoy. The poets will be shown

via the sponsorship of Four Way Books. Other participating writers include Carlie Hoffman, Eugenia Leigh, Jen Levitt, Nathan McClain, Yesenia Montilla, James Fujinami Moore, Victoria Redel, Glenis Redmond, Rob Schlegel and Soren Stockman.

The Millbrook Library will host "Alden Place Poems" during the month of April, featuring more than 60 poems by Alden Place's third graders.

On Saturday, April 8, there will be a one-hour haiku workshop for kids, ages 3-13, at Merritt Bookstore at 10:30 a.m. A similar workshop for adults will be held on Saturday, April 15, at 2:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 12, open mic night at the Millbrook Library invites participants to bring any writing or even a guitar and song to read at 6 p.m. Sign-up is on the library website at millbrooklibrary.org or by calling 845-677-3611.

On Saturday, April 22, the library will host the Hudson Valley Writers Workshop at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome and membership is free.

Independent Bookstore Day is on Saturday, April 29, and Merritt Books will celebrate with an open mic poetry kick-off at 11 a.m., and kids and



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Poem panel in the window at Babbette's Kitchen features just one of many poems around the village. They can be read during April, which is National Poetry Month. These placards and many poetry-inspired events are sponsored by the Millbrook Arts Group.

adults can read their haikus and other poems throughout the day.

The Millbrook Arts Group is a nonprofit organization that has been presenting, en-

couraging, supporting and coordinating cultural, educational, and social activities in the Village of Millbrook and the Town of Washington for more than 30 years.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Baskets to fill, despite the chill...

The Town of Washington's annual Easter egg hunt took place on Sunday, April 2, at noon at Washington Town Park, sponsored by the Town of Washington Recreation Department. The Easter Bunny was on hand, as well as over 300 candy eggs, many pounds of candy, and at least 50 youngsters toting winter jackets, mittens and pastel Easter baskets. The temperature was chilly, the wind was a bit fierce, but the children hardly noticed that as they hunted for candy and other goodies at the park. Pictured here are, from left, Andrew Lambert, 7; Savannah Lambert, 5; the Easter Bunny; and Savannah's twin brother Silas, 5.

Local high school scholar/athlete teams and individuals recognized

LATHAM — The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) has recognized teams and athletes at Stissing Mountain High School in Pine Plains and Taconic Hills Junior/Senior High School in Craryville for winter 2023.

At Stissing Mountain, eight scholar-athletes were

recognized in boys basketball, 11 in boys indoor track and field, and eight in girls basketball.

At Taconic Hills, five were noted in boys basketball, two in boys bowling, three in boys volleyball, four in boys wrestling, seven in girls basketball, and eight in girls swimming/diving.

Millbrook churches, businesses raise money for Ukraine relief

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — For most of February and part of March, residents noted paint cans decorated with the yellow and blue colors of the Ukrainian flag, which were distributed around the village to collect donations on behalf of the people of Ukraine after the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins of Grace Episcopal Church — in a statement on behalf of Grace Church, St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and Lyall Memorial Church — described the drive and residents associated with it:

"Linda Kolts, a resident of

Millbrook, was passionate about seeking help for the beleaguered citizens and refugees of Ukraine...By the time the drive closed in the last week of March over \$3800 was collected. The money will be split between two charitable organizations selected

by the churches with effective operations in Ukraine: CNEWA (Ukraine Catholic Relief) and IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities)."

In an interview with The Millerton News about her actions, Kolts said, "I was

moved to do more than just pray for Ukraine as we realized that Ukraine's struggle to remain independent neared its one-year mark. We are a small village, but with three active churches, and people who care, I felt we could do something more.

"After Fr. Matt gave his approval, I visited Fr. Bancroft and the Rev. Fiet who both added their enthusiastic agreement. Then seven shops and the Millbrook Library gave their assent to placing flag decorated paint cans where they could be noticed and a fundraising campaign began."

Kolts concluded, in her praise of the charitable nature of the donors, "We are grateful for all the shops, churches and customers who were generous with their donations."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

One of the brightly decorated paint cans in Millbrook, which collected \$3,800 in a community effort by three churches, the Millbrook Library and several local businesses to fund relief for Ukraine.

Copake man charged with reckless endangerment

COPAKE — On Tuesday, March 28, at 5:26 p.m., the Columbia County Sheriff's Department responded to a trespassing complaint on Connolly Road.

The person reporting the incident reported that he had fired two shotgun rounds at the vehicle of the person believed to be trespassing, one of which struck the vehicle and damaged a tire. No injuries were reported and the person in the vehicle left the area.

Erik Erickson, 58, of Copake, was charged with third degree criminal possession of a weapon (a Class D felony), first degree reckless endangerment (a Class D felony) and fourth degree criminal mischief (a Class A misdemeanor).

Erickson was arraigned by Judge Glenn Schermerhorn and released on his own recognizance. He was due back in court on Monday, April 3.

LEGAL NOTICES

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TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the North East Town Board shall hold a public hearing on April 13, 2023 at 7:10 p.m. at the Town of North East Town Hall, located at 19 N. Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York 12546 for purposes of conducting what is commonly known as a Monroe Balancing Test, pursuant to the New York State Court of Appeals decision in Mtr. of County of Monroe, 72 NY2d 338 (1988) to determine whether, and to what extent, the Town of North East Town Board shall

be exempt from the zoning and land use regulations of the Town of North East Code for a new Town Hall to be located on a 3.01 acre parcel of land located at 5603 Route 22, Town of North East, tax parcel number: 133889-7170-00-633229 currently owned by the Rhinebeck Congregation of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Any person desiring to be heard at said public hearing shall be given an opportunity to do so. Dated: March 9, 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE NORTH EAST TOWN BOARD.

ELIZABETH STRAUSS
Town Clerk
04-06-23



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EDITORIAL

Local news

The local newspaper can be greater than the sum of its parts. Today, people can find out what will happen with the weather by reaching for the phone in their pocket. With that phone still in hand, they can quickly look up any number of things, plus order dinner, shop for groceries and see what's at the movies if they are inclined to see a big-screen flick once in a while. They can do all these things and much more with ease. But taking the pulse of a community is another matter – unless they happen to be reading a local newspaper on the phone. Maybe it's a digital-first newspaper that "prints" its stories online first and then delivers a print version. But it's a newspaper.

Day-to-day or week-to-week, the newspaper can deliver the greater sum of a community's personality and character. With its range of stories about a place and its people, the newspaper can aspire to embody a community – and serve as a mirror that reflects the public back to itself, perhaps helping it to make sense of itself.

Even in an age when artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, appears ready to play a significant role, local news as a commodity remains vitally important. To quote an AI-generated, ChatGPT response: "A local newspaper serves as an important source for local news, events and information that directly impacts the community it serves. It helps to create a sense of community and can provide a forum for community members to express their opinions and raise concerns. A local newspaper can also provide coverage of local businesses, schools and government, which can help improve transparency and accountability. Additionally, a local newspaper may serve as an important historical record of the community."

The local newspaper seeks to report all the news and information (which ChatGPT knows about), and to provide a forum for opinions and concerns and keep government accountable. That's good news.

This spring, we witness new and revived local news operations sprouting in our communities. In Pine Plains, the New Pine Plains Herald has launched at www.newpineplainsherald.org. In Kent, work is underway to bring back the Good Times Dispatch weekly newspaper. As we reported in January, the Winsted Citizen launched as a start-up, print-focused newspaper, backed by Ralph Nader.

These new community news sources and the ones like them that have been serving their communities for decades are vital to community health and spirit. Many of them are staffed by volunteers, a virtuous cycle. In sum, they tie our communities together as a region, a larger-than-life village square.

Get what you're entitled to...

Low-income older New Yorkers are leaving billions of dollars of federal assistance on the table every year. It's adding extra difficulty to lives that are already difficult, according to the abstract of a new study by the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis at The New School in New York City.

The study partly blames confusing and burdensome program application processes; stigma around receiving public assistance; and equitable technology necessary to access these benefits, with lack of access being the most significant barrier.

If you've gotten this far and are nodding at the part about confusing applications because you've been down that road already and gave up, call the Office for the Aging. You don't have to do the paperwork alone. It's our job to help cut through any confusion. Our contact information is at the end of every column.

Paperwork headaches and other obstacles do tend to arise in the three main programs for which many older Dutchess residents aren't yet applying.

First among these three programs is the Medicare Savings Program (MSP), one of the state programs that assists eligible people with Medicare costs. MSPs are state programs that assist you with paying your Medicare Part A and B costs, especially Part B premiums.

Again, if you don't know Part A from Part B, OFA is

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Todd N. Tancredi

here for you. Our trained, non-sales-oriented counselors can help keep you on the path that's best for you.

Next is SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which aims to reduce food insecurity. There are an estimated 200,000 older New Yorkers who are eligible for SNAP benefits averaging just under \$2,000 a year, who haven't applied. Although an emergency ex-



AA, AAA — What's next?

If you're old enough, you will remember flashlight D or C batteries that would leak after a while. The acid would eat through the casing. Later on, when small penlight, size AA, batteries came along, if you liked your Walkman, you checked them often in case they were leaking, eating through connections and even the plastic case. All these batteries were acid batteries until alkaline batteries came along that lasted twice as long and carried more of a charge.

However they can pose a health risk as they leak potassium hydroxide, a substance that can cause serious eye damage and respiratory and skin irritation.

Many alkaline batteries can be recharged. You bought them for your power drill and camera batteries. And then along came lithium batteries which carry six times the wattage capacity and can last up to six times longer than

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

alkaline batteries. Your new power drill, electric garden equipment are lighter and last longer with lithium-ion batteries.

The problem is, lithium is a rare earth material and even with lithium batteries being six times longer-lasting than alkaline batteries, they are still way too heavy and not so enviro-friendly to allow your electric car to go much further than a few hundred miles on a charge. Your car could go much farther and that electric chainsaw work much longer, but both would be much heavier needing to carry more and more batteries. A Tesla's battery pack, made up of hundreds of AA batteries, weighs almost a ton and can only be recharged about 500 times.

eligible New Yorkers, among them thousands of older adult households, have not applied for HEAP benefits. HEAP enrollees are also automatically enrolled in their gas and electric utilities' discount programs.

We'll conclude with what we've said in many columns: a big part of aging gracefully lies in accepting help gracefully. That's doubly true when the help has been paid for with older adults' own tax dollars.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, Todd N. Tancredi, director. Email him at ofa@dutchessny.gov.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We have a climate emergency... Let's pretend we don't!

Assemblymember Didi Barrett's recent commentary (We have climate goals... Now what? March 29, 2023) on New York State's response to the climate emergency was an embarrassingly transparent attempt to appease every possible constituency. It clearly demonstrated how unprepared she is to lead the NYS Assembly's Energy Committee.

As we all know, the root cause of climate change is the increasing levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, particularly carbon dioxide and methane. Assemblymember

Barrett however seems not to be aware of first law of holes, which is: If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

While she remains firmly focused on absurd and irrelevant solutions like "capturing gas emitted by cow manure and burning it for electricity," Assemblymember Barrett has also sponsored Assembly Bill A.6039, which, if passed, would weaken New York's nation-leading climate law by accounting for greenhouse gas' global warming potential so that its effect is measured over the course of 100 years rather than the 20 years that the CLCPA currently requires. While this may sound like a technicality, methane (AKA natural gas, or "cow power gas") causes most of its climate damage during the first 20 years after it hits the atmosphere. And, that damage is at least 84 times more potent as compared to CO2. We clearly do not have 100 years to solve the climate emergency.

Every major climate group in New York is opposed to A.6039 including the Sierra Club, NY Renews and over 30 others. Assemblymember Barrett's commentary shows how desperate she is to position herself as a climate leader while her actions clearly show that her allegiances lie with the oil and gas industry.

Bill Kish
Town of North East

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

We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.

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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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PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Country corridor

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WOMEN OWNED LANDSCAPING CO: seeks strong individuals interested in horticulture and ecological gardening. Must have valid drivers license. 845-332-9907.

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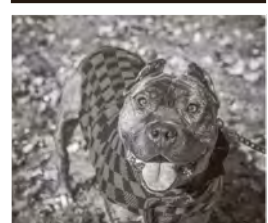
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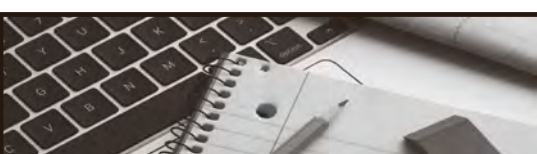
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Writing skills and basic knowledge of how New York government functions are a must.

Email Resume and Writing Samples to Editor John Coston, editor@millertonnews.com.

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Assistant Land Steward Position

The Sharon Land Trust is seeking part-time Assistant Land Stewards for the 2023 summer field work season to assist with operations and trail work projects, learn about conservation and land management, and help protect our local landscape and wildlife. Hours are roughly 5 days a week, 3 to 6 hours per day; some weekend work required. Pay is between \$16 and \$20/hour.

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, with reliable personal transportation. We're looking for dependable, organized people who are comfortable working outdoors in all weather, capable of manual labor and hiking, and who have a passion for the environment. Work may include: trail building and maintenance, land management, working with volunteer groups, equipment maintenance, computer work (including social media) and coordination with the SLT staff, board, and the public.

Please email a cover letter, resume, and two references to timhunter@sharonlandtrust.org by April 12, 2023. Call or text (860) 499-0763 for more information.

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In addition to teaching, the French, Math, and Photography instructor positions include coaching or supervising an afternoon program for two out of three seasons, supporting our social-emotional program on Saturday mornings, and serving as an advisor for up to six students. Housing may be provided and would bring with it residential life duties.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and references to Jasper Turner, dean of faculty at jturner@millbrook.org in addition to the department chair of the corresponding subjects:

Spanish & French Instructor: Donna Canada-Smith, Language Dept. Chair at dcanada-smith@millbrook.org

Math Instructor: Martha Clizbe, Math Department Chair at maclizbe@millbrook.org

Photography Instructor: Joe Raciti, Art Department Chair at jraciti@millbrook.org. Photography instructor candidates should also provide a link to a portfolio site, if possible.

For additional information or to learn more about Millbrook School, please visit our website at www.millbrook.org.

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