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The World Of
A Dollmaker;
Calendar; And
More **B1-2**

National
FFA
WEEK

Special Banner, Page **A5**



Special, Inside

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PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Left to right: architect Karen Jacobson; Christa Hines, head of Hudson River Housing; and Sam Busselle, co-chair of the North East/Millerton Working Group of the Tri-Town Affordable Housing Coalition at the Saturday, Feb. 18, opening of the Coalition's Housing Expo '23 exhibit at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex.

Possibilities abound for solving the housing crisis

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

MILLERTON — The opening of Expo '23 at the Millerton Library Annex on Saturday, Feb. 18, highlighted ambitious plans to address a problem felt locally and, in fact, almost everywhere: the lack of appropriate homes for people of moderate incomes — housing insufficiency, or the 'missing middle' range of housing stock.

The Expo presented a wealth of ideas, knowledgeable people and imaginative solutions. The 50 attendees peered intently at Millerton/North East Housing Working

Group member Tom Parrett's informative graphics, watched videos, and discussed current needs and possible initiatives by government in pairs and groups.

A notable invitation to explore the Expo came in the form of a tiny house on a trailer parked near the Annex's Century Boulevard entrance. Builder/entrepreneur Stone Scasso gave a tour of the structure, a type of home that can be located in a temporary or a more permanent way, and that may sell in the \$40,000 range.

Sam Busselle, one of the main

See **EXPO '23, A6**

Hospital and critics collide in state hearing

By **RILEY KLEIN**
rileyk@lakevillejournal.com

HARTFORD, Conn. — Nuance Health's proposal to replace the intensive care unit at Sharon Hospital with a progressive care unit was heard by the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) on Feb. 15. The all-day Zoom hearing featured testimony from medical professionals in support of Nuance Health's proposal and rebuttal testimony from members of the Save Sharon Hospital

(SSH) organization.

If approved, the staff and equipment in Sharon Hospital's ICU would be relocated to the second floor and combined with the Medical-Surgery unit. Merging these wings would create a new progressive care unit and become the central hub for critical care services at Sharon Hospital.

OHS' Daniel Csuka served as hearing officer. Csuka stated he and his team would be considering the following factors before ruling on

the application: need, cost effectiveness, quality of care, and access to care.

Three witnesses testified for Nuance in favor of this change: Nuance CEO Dr. John Murphy, president of Sharon Hospital Christina McCulloch, and Sharon Hospital's VP of Medical Affairs Dr. Mark Marshall. Each testimony highlighted the fiscal challenge of running a rural hospital while try-

See **HOSPITAL, A6**

Art promotes Ukraine awareness

By **EMILY EDELMAN**
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AMENIA — To mark the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine, Cellmark Inc. executive Andre Wlodar and his wife, art dealer Kim Schmidt-Wlodar, launched an online art auction featuring works by both Ukrainian and local artists that will culminate in a fundraising event Sunday, Feb. 26, from noon to 3 p.m. at Troutbeck.

Similar in scope to the auction and fundraiser that the Wlodars presented last year at the start of the war, this year's auction includes more than 80 lots, a number of which were installed for display to the public on the walls of the Re Institute in Millerton on Feb. 10.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

'Botanical Garden Subway Station' by Oksana Boiko, 2022, acrylic on canvas.

"The commentary has been that this is such an interesting glimpse into such a faraway Eastern European culture both in terms of the palette and, obviously, the subject matter," said Schmidt-Wlodar. "We

couldn't get away completely without some notes [about the war]. If you see the Putin references, they're almost tongue-in-cheek

See **ART FOR UKRAINE, A6**



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Bounty of chili

George Hoffman Jr., 9, of Wassaic, reached for his eighth taste-testing during the Sunday, Feb. 19, chili cook-off fundraiser at the American Legion Auxiliary Post 178 in Millerton. The Daytona 500 was screened for the event, which drew at least 12 chili recipe entries and this year also included soups and chowders. All proceeds support auxiliary projects including scholarships, veterans' assistance and community activities.

Sue Serino announces run for Dutchess County executive

By **EMILY EDELMAN**
emilye@millertonnews.com

HYDE PARK — Former state Sen. Sue Serino (R-C, Hyde Park) is running for Dutchess County executive. "I'm excited to be back in the community where I've lived and worked," said Serino in an interview with The Millerton News. "I'd absolutely love to be able to do a lot of the work that I've done throughout the years, whether it was the government experience

with Town Board, the Legislature, and the state Senate."

Serino, who lost her state Senate seat in November to Democrat Michelle Hinchey, currently works part-time as an hourly communications specialist for the Dutchess County Office for the Aging.

"Being able to work with the seniors, we have to work on affordable housing, keeping them here, because these are the communities that they've built," she said. "A senior won't think to pick up the

phone and call you but, boy, when they see you in person and you ask how they're doing, you will hear what's going on in their lives."

In regards to business and infrastructure, she said: "I live in Hyde Park; we don't have a sewer. Years ago, I was able to set money aside for the sewer district in the state. And I'm hoping that, at some point, that comes to fruition — it takes many, many years. But the admin-

See **SERINO, A6**

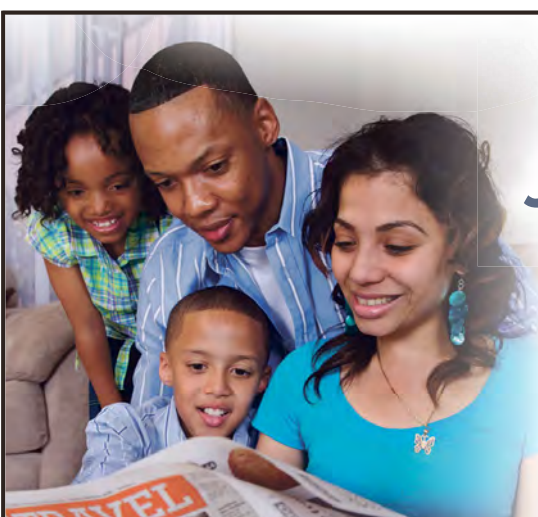


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OPINION

A Wastewater Solution;
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OUR TOWNS

Art, beauty and history come together at Grace

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

MILLBROOK — Grace Church boasts many historical artifacts, but first and foremost is the Resurrection Window that can be seen from Franklin Avenue. What is seen, however, is the back of the window; the front, visible in the church, is partly obscured by a large organ. For esthetic (and mechanical) reasons, the organ cannot be moved, so the church has decided to restore the window and then to face it outward so the front be seen from the street.

This is not an easy task, nor is it inexpensive, but the people of Grace, including Rev. Matthew Calkins, think that the history and the beauty of the window demand nothing less. Some of the history was highlighted at the Feb. 16 meeting of the Millbrook Historical Society at the Millbrook Library, in a presentation by Brianne Van Vorst, owner of Liberty Stained Glass Conservation LLC in Freehold, New Jersey.

Van Vorst acquired an art

degree in the U.S., but got a master's degree in stained glass conservation in England because that degree is not available here. Aside from the beauty of stained glass, she respects the historical significance of it and the need to be able to properly preserve, conserve and, in some cases, rescue it. She arrived at Grace through a connection with Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Using slides, Van Vorst showed the methods of creating stained glass, both ancient and new. She was able to show different materials used, such as copper, lead, paints and enamels, as well as some of the more common themes.

The window was designed by Maitland Armstrong aided by his daughter, Helen Maitland Armstrong. Maitland worked with both Louis Comfort Tiffany and Louis LaFarge, friends of his and well-known stained-glass artists of their time. The full works of the Armstrongs' company are only now being fully catalogued.

The window was created at the request of the children of John Daniel Wing and his wife, Adelaide Warner Hin-

man, who died respectively in 1910 and 1911. Van Vorst noted that Maitland liked to have a connection between the subject matter and those it was dedicated to. The window depicts the resurrection of Jesus, and shows a garden setting with an inscription stating, "Peace I leave you, my peace I give unto you." The window was dedicated on Easter Sunday 1912.

A deeply spiritual man, Wing donated three windows to the first Grace Church, built in 1867 in the hamlet of Harts Village. He became Episcopalian possibly sometime after his marriage to Adelaide.

Calkins described the window depiction. There are banners proclaiming who the central figure might be: Jesus. The young woman is most likely Mary Magdalene, as it is she who went to the tomb of Jesus on the third day. He holds a rose, and she a lily. In this depiction, they are holding hands.

For many years, the organ has hidden the window in part, and a large spruce tree obliterated most of the view from the outside. Now, with

the restoration, the window will be turned to face the street, and the spruce tree is long gone. The four-part window will be open to all, with the colors and portraiture able to be viewed. The windows are completely original, rare for opalescent windows; all the original materials are intact. There are some glass breaks and missing putty. Van Vorst is dedicated to keeping the history of each piece as intact as possible. A gentle cleaning will be done, as will be venting and replacing waterproof putty. "Preventive conservation is the best tool we currently have at our disposal to conserve historic stained glass," said Van Vorst.

Calkins said he is planning a celebration of the restored and rearranged window this summer on July 22, the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene, an all-day celebration of reintroducing the window to the community. Since this is an expensive project, all donations will be gratefully received.

The Millbrook Historic Society introduced the new equipment it recently purchased with a grant: the new screen and projector, and a new card reader for those



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Left, Rev. Matt Calkins, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Millbrook, and stained glass conservationist Brianne Van Vorst at the Feb. 16, meeting of the Millbrook Historical Society at Millbrook Library. The subject was the artistic and historic context of the Grace Church Resurrection Window dedicated to John and Adelaide Wing in 1912.

who want to renew or start their memberships at a meeting. Next month's meeting, on Thursday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at the Millbrook Library, will be a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the group, and will feature

Village and Town historian David Greenwood. The society asks that anyone willing to share mementos from the past 50 years get in touch at www.millbrookhistoricalsociety.org or facebook.com/millbrookhistoricalsociety

Webutuck STEAM fair to highlight students' science explorations

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

AMENIA — Community members who want to see how students from kindergarten to 12th grade see the world around them can drop by the STEAM fair next Saturday morning, Feb. 25. The event, to be held at the Eugene Brooks Intermediate School at 194 Haight Road, will showcase about 35 projects by over 50 students.

For those unfamiliar with the term, "STEAM" is a more recent adjustment to the acronym STEM, as in STEM education: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The addition of "art" — the arts or design thinking — forms the new acronym STEAM. The late-'90s push to expand STEM education, in what former President Barack Obama called "our Sputnik moment," was eventually seen as incomplete and lacking sufficient student engagement; more creativity was needed. In Webutuck's seventh year of

airs, art teacher Craig Wickwire is one of the several volunteer judges.

There's a wide range of topics to be presented this year, such as fossil formation, engineering with robots, investigations into environmental issues, and even projects about students' pets. "I always learn something new from our students' investigations," said science teacher Danielle Fridstrom, one of the main organizers of the event.

Fridstrom continued, saying: "Participation is strongly encouraged but completely voluntary. Most science teachers do offer extra credit for students who participate. We are always looking to encourage students to put those science skills they are learning in class into practice to investigate topics they are most interested in.

"Most students who are eligible [fifth grade or up] elect to have their projects judged. Any winning projects from individuals are eligible

to compete at the Dutchess County Science Fair on March 25," Fridstrom noted, adding that unfortunately, group projects are not eligible to compete at the county level.

An interesting addition to the fair is the inclusion of some high-schoolers in a group of teacher/volunteer "listeners," who talk with participants about their projects, thus giving them important practice for future STEAM or science fairs. As further encouragement, some of the youngest science students vie for special awards like "Best Visual Communication."

Community members can view the fair, and also see who wins the coveted "MacGyver Award," on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the EBIS cafeteria.

For more information as well as photos and videos of previous years' winners, see the district's STEAM page:

<https://sites.google.com/webutuck.org/2021-webutuck-steam-fair/home?authuser=0>



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OBITUARIES

Anna Moore Gilfillan Curtis

AMENIA — Anna Moore Gilfillan Curtis, 87, passed away Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at Sharon Hospital, surrounded by her family at her side. She was the loving wife of Arnold Curtis.



Anna was born Jan. 5, 1936, in Brownington, Vermont, to parents Nye and Marion (Moore) Gilfillan, who preceded her in death. Anna graduated from Orleans High School, married, and moved to New York in 1958. She was a den mother for the cub scouts and a homemaker for many years before attending Dutchess Community College and acquiring her Registered Nursing License in 1977.

Anna was employed as an RN at Wassaic Developmental

Center in Wassaic, for many years before retiring in 1991.

Anna loved to travel and spent many summers in their Vermont camp on Brown's pond in Westmore these past 30 years. She was an avid card player and stamp collector and loved gardening in her younger years.

Anna is survived by her husband of 64 years, Arnold Curtis, Amenia; her son Whaden Curtis and wife, Barbara, of Brookfield, Connecticut; her daughter Laurie Wilcox and husband, Brian, of Sharon; her granddaughter Morgan Underwood and her husband, Kerry, of Valley Falls, New York; and grandson Alex Curtis of Grand Rapids, Michigan; brothers, Eric Gil-

fillan of Derby, Vermont, and Willis and wife Betty Gilfillan of Island Pond, Vermont; sister-in-law Marlene Gilfillan of Holland, Vermont; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Anna was preceded in death by her brothers Gilbert Gilfillan, Raymond Gilfillan, and nephew John Gilfillan.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023, or online at diabetes.org

Services will be at a later date at the convenience of the family at Lakeview Cemetery, Westmore, VT. Online condolences can be made at Legacy.com by searching Anna's name and scrolling past this obituary.

The Kenny Funeral Home has made care of the arrangements.

William C. Walsh

NORTH CANAAN — William C. Walsh, 52, of Tallahassee, Florida, and a former resident of Salisbury, died on Feb. 13, 2023. Bill was born on Dec. 14, 1970, and was predeceased by his parents, Jeanne and Bill Walsh, formerly of Salisbury.



Bill was a talented guitarist who took great joy in jamming with any number of friends. Bill had unlimited knowledge of music and equipment. He had a great affinity for history and current events as well as a wealth of classic metal and trivia facts and if challenged

would give that quirky grin and then prove you wrong.

Bill is survived by his sister, Kerry Walsh-King and her husband, Cary of Hamilton, New Jersey, his son, Patrick Bouchard of Canaan, and his girlfriend of nine years, Christine Williams of Tallahassee, Florida.

A brief memorial will be held on March 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in Canaan, CT.

Debra Anne Freund

EAST CANAAN — Debra Anne Freund of East Canaan died Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023. She was born Dec. 27, 1955 in Brooklyn, New York, daughter of Stanley and Estelle Wolk.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Benjamin Freund, her brother Arthur Wolk, her father Stanley Wolk, her children Aaron and Sarah Freund and her grandchildren Avina, Blaze, and Roan, as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She passionately adored her grandchildren and was greatly loved in

return.

Debbie enjoyed a career in information technology in industries ranging from insurance to investment management to fundraising. She loved the arts, especially the ballet and musical theater. She volunteered extensively, recording audio textbooks and providing tutoring for students in need. She dedicated herself to the study of chanting traditional Jewish texts and tropes

to support her fellow congregants in worship.

Many thanks to the compassionate teams at Smilow (ccflh.org/) and Salisbury Visiting Nurse (www.vnhc.org) for their wonderful help and support. Debbie ardently supported the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council (www.artsnwct.org/) in their mission to enrich local arts. Please support any of them in Debbie's memory.

More obituaries appear on Page A4

Realtor® at Large

With all the changes that are happening to the NW corner, it may be good to have on hand resources that remind us of when we had more time to appreciate all the beauty of nature that is surrounding us. To that end, here are three books that should serve you well: "The Changing Landscape: Salisbury Connecticut" by Christopher Rand, "A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide to Southern New England" by Neil Jorgensen and of course Hal Borland's "This Hill, This Valley", a Memoir of his time living up on Weatoge Rd by the Housatonic River. All beautiful and informative reads!

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With thanks to those who serve.

OUR TOWNS



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Left to right: Bryan Arita, Giana Dormi, Alexander Jordan, John D'Alessandro, Cora DiBlasi, eighth grade math teacher Gabby Baker, and Samantha Douglas preparing meals at Stissing Mountain School. Not pictured: Alexa North

Pine Plains students' lesson in kindness

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — They say that charity begins at home; maybe kindness begins in places like schools, and learning to do good works from teachers and fellow students. Some students from Stissing Mountain School have been involved in cooking meals for homeless people and preparing them for delivery. The students have been doing this for about three months, cooking a large number of meals once per month.

Eighth-grade math teacher Gabrielle Baker works with St. John's Food Pantry in Kingston, but she also is affiliated with

Willow Roots in Pine Plains and the Catskill Community Fridge. Her good works became well known among her students, and some of them asked if they could help.

This proved to be a wonderful teaching opportunity for Baker as well as her colleagues Jen Blackburn, who is the family and consumer science teacher, and Spanish teacher Caecilia Wyman. Although any student can get involved, most of them seem to be eighth graders, possibly because all eighth graders take one semester of home economics. Baker takes care of delivering the meals for distribution and handles the financial costs as well.

Blackburn teaches home and career skills, so she offers

the kitchen while Baker supervises the cooking. Wyman is supportive, but her main connection is that her favorite organization, Hope on a Mission, benefits from the endeavors. The group always contributes between 20 and 25 meals to her for distribution through Hope on a Mission to some of the homeless people in Poughkeepsie.

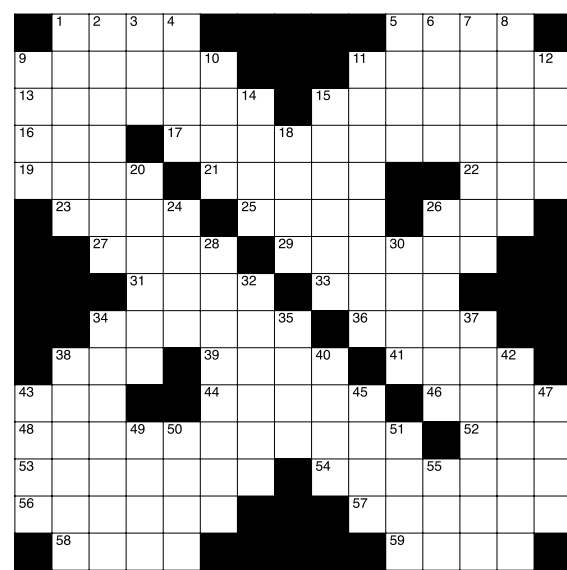
The students make dishes such as spaghetti and meatballs, and chicken and rice. They learn to package them for delivery, and they learn about helping others.

Cooking skills aside, the students are also learning about giving to the community and a lot about doing unto others.

Brain Teasers

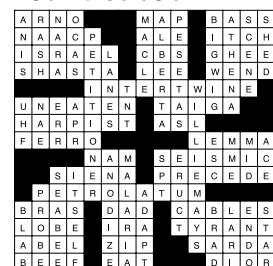
CLUES ACROSS

1. Sea grape
5. European public health group (abbr.)
9. A way to delight
11. Appetizers
13. Ancient heralds' wands
15. Make a booking
16. '___ death do us part
17. Pearl Jam frontman
19. Spider genus
21. Fill with high spirits
22. A major division of geological time
23. Catch
25. An independent ruler or chieftain
26. Electronic music style (abbr.)
27. Influential Spanish cubist painter
29. Illegally persuades
31. A way to derive
33. British School
34. Appear alongside
36. Surely (archaic)
38. Harsh cry of a crow
39. A day in the middle
41. Kansas hoops coach Bill
43. The longest division of geological time
44. The first sign of the zodiac
46. Appetizer
48. Link together in a chain
52. A bacterium
53. In a way, forces apart
54. Cheese dish
56. Combines
57. In an inferior way
58. Colors clothes
59. Dried-up

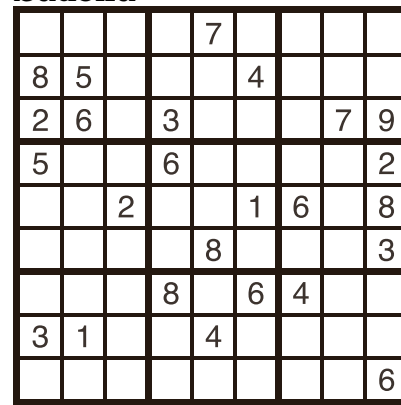


5. A prosperous state of well-being
6. Asked for forgiveness
7. Makes less soft
8. Part of speech
9. Outside
10. Advice or counsel
11. Badness
12. Protein-rich liquids
14. Not moving
15. Call it a career
18. Poetry term
20. Not wide
24. Pastries
26. Turns away
28. Satisfies
30. Gift adornments
32. San Diego ballplayers
34. Manufacturing plant
35. Check or guide
37. Dogs do it
38. Chilled
40. Scorch
42. Unproductive of success
43. Electronic counter-countermeasures
45. Attack with a knife
47. Feel bad for
49. Enclosure
50. Assent
51. Geological times
55. Midway between east and southeast

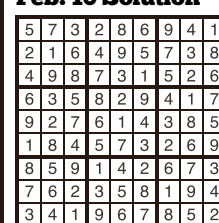
Feb. 16 Solution



Sudoku



Feb. 16 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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OBITUARIES

Eva (Cruz) Aitcheson

DOVER — Eva (Cruz) Aitcheson passed away surrounded by her four children on Feb. 14, 2023, at the age of 49. She was born in New York City on Jan. 19, 1974. She was a fun, loving, and proud mother and grandmother, who loved nothing more than spending time with those closest to her. Eva also enjoyed cooking for her family, watching movies, and just hanging out. She had a loud, easy to love laugh that made you smile. She helped and supported others in a way that was non-judgmental and clearly came from a heart of love. Her children, siblings, mother, and other loved ones will always hold Eva in their hearts. The



family also wants to thank the fantastic medical team at the ICU at Vassar Brothers Medical Center for making this journey less difficult and making Eva's final few days comfortable and as peaceful as possible. She is survived by her children Justin (Rose) Prause, Jason Prause, Joshua Prause, and Ashley (Jeremy) Prause; three grandchildren; mother Judy Lamy; brothers Richie Cruz and Alex Cruz; sister Nyasia Nesmith; and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Charlie. Kenny funeral home in Sharon, is handling arrangements for calling hours on Friday Feb. 24, 2023, 4 to 6 p.m.

Peter R. Douglas

LAKEVILLE — Peter R. Douglas, 72, a retired attorney who practiced corporate law in New York City, died unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack at his home in Lakeville on Feb. 9, 2023.

A graduate of Deerfield Academy, Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Peter became one of the youngest partners at Davis Polk & Wardwell, a Wall Street law firm. He was widely admired for his intellect, humor and charm. His law practice focused mainly on mergers and acquisitions for both domestic and international clients, and among many other accomplishments he was the inventor of the "Pac-Man" defense against hostile corporate takeovers and numerous novel transaction structures and held a patent for a pricing formula in exchange offers. He retired from the law firm in 2012.

Peter was born on June 3, 1950, in Northampton, Massachusetts and grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland. He was the son of John W. Douglas, who headed the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Divi-

sion under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and Mary St. John Douglas, a medical researcher and first woman trustee of Princeton University. His grandfather, Paul H. Douglas, served as three term U.S. senator from Illinois from 1949 to 1967.

Peter had a special fondness for fast cars and for a brief time held a track record at the now defunct Bridgehampton race course. During his retirement, he focused his energies on woodworking, nature photography and automobiles.

Peter and his wife established a part time home in Lakeville in 2004 and relocated to Lakeville full time in 2012 following Peter's retirement. Peter is survived by his wife, Ulrika Ekman, and his three children, Matthew of Miami Beach, Florida, Alexander of San Francisco, California and Anna, a junior at Georgetown University; by his sister, Kate Douglas Torrey of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and by many Douglas and St. John cousins. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Sally Swanson

SALISBURY — It is with great sadness that we have to inform you, our little Mom, Sally Swanson, passed away on February 14, 2023. She was 85yrs old (nearly 86 (May 19th)).

Mom was the most giving, loving and toughest lady who, with her strong relationship with God, always conquered the significant medical challenges that she endured for many, many years.

Mom welcomed everyone into her beautiful home. The home that she and Dad worked tirelessly to make it what it is today. The home so many of our childhood friends love coming back to, cherishing fond memories.

Mom was so positive, happy and was always smiling. Most of all, Mom loved her family, her home and appreciated the many friendships she developed through her years.

Mom is survived by her children: Ram, Kim, Patricia and John, as well as her Granddaughter, Madisyn for whom she was so very proud of. Mom is survived by two siblings: Judy Loucks and Leah Procopio.

Mom was predeceased by her loving husband, Charlie

Swanson, as well as three siblings: Gene Stahovec, Faye Blakey and Carl Stahovec.

We will be having a private burial and a gathering at some point so that we can all celebrate Mom.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance or Sharon Methodist Church.

Please take a moment to remember Mom as you knew her.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

MILLERTON — Long-time Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Kent T. Kay, known for a love of animals and the gentle way he had with them, died Feb. 12, 2023, at age 89 from complications of dementia. He was a resident of Amira Choice Minnetonka in Minnesota at the time of his death but spent most of his life in New York, first growing up in the city and later residing in Millerton, New York, where he purchased a veterinary practice serving the surrounding dairy farms in 1965.

Growing up in New York City, Dr. Kay dreamed of living in the country, working summers at horse farms in New York and New Jersey and eventually studying at A&M in New Mexico where he learned firsthand about working with large animals. This led him to study at Cornell University, where he earned his DVM degree in 1957. He worked in a few small clinics before purchasing his practice in Millerton, which included a ranch house and a small clinic on four acres of land. His wife, Marilyn (Masterson) Kay, who also grew up in New York City, joined him in his dream of small-town

life, serving as office manager for the practice. She balanced that with raising their four sons, who grew up in a lively household surrounded by animals, both large and small.

Marilyn recalls the long hours her husband kept tending animals at all hours of the day or night. "Before Kent went to sleep each night, he took a shower and laid out his clean clothes — including a short-sleeved shirt, signature bow tie and coveralls. It wasn't unusual for him to attend a birth of a calf or foal in the middle of the night," she said. "And it also wasn't unusual for him to complete his day late in the evening with surgeries — but he absolutely loved his work."

Because it was a small practice, the boys started working in the clinic when they began grade school. Some of the animals that came to the clinic stayed, including Irma, a pig that grew to 300 pounds, and Sweetheart, a large St. Bernard that became fast friends with a tiny stray chihuahua named Charlie. "And then there was Tornado,

our amazing Siamese cat that literally bounced from object to object inside the house and came when we whistled to him like a dog," son Gene remembers, adding that another memorable moment included his father trimming the nails of baby tigers in town for the circus. One of Dr.

Kay's sons, Clinton, followed in his footsteps and owns a veterinary practice in Boulder, Colorado.

Over the years, Dr. Kay became known for his gentle way with horses, tending many equestrian teams, some of them Olympic caliber. After selling his clinic in 1980s, he continued to work with horses on a part-time basis before he retired.

In addition to his professional work, Dr. Kay was involved in the local community, serving on the Village Board. He was a member of the steering committee devel-

oping a region Rails to Trails path. He and his wife Marilyn were long-term members of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness in Copake Falls, New York, where both served on the Church Vestry and sang in the choir, Dr. Kay contributing his beautiful "Irish tenor" voice. He also was involved in getting the church listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Kay is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marilyn, and his sons Christopher Kay of New York, New York; Eugene (Jane) Kay of Plymouth, Minnesota, and Clinton Kay of Boulder, Colorado; daughter-in-law Melanie Kay of Millerton, wife of his son Timothy, who predeceased him in 2019. Grandchildren include Emily, Jessie, Alexander, Alycia, Gabrielle and Genevieve Kay. A memorial service is planned for early summer in Copake Falls, N.Y. Memorials may be given to Church of St. John in the Wilderness, P.O. Box 180, Copake Falls, NY 12517, or to the Animal Humane Society.

Kent T. Kay



John Manuel Moore

MILLERTON — John Manuel Moore, 66, a lifelong area resident, died Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon. Mr. Moore was a self-employed professional sound engineer for the movie and film industry for over twenty years.

Born June 10, 1956, in Manhattan, New York, he was the son of the late John H. and Aurora M. (Troconis) Moore. He attended and graduated from the Barlow School in Amenia, and was a Bard College alumnus.

There was no one like Johnny. He had the remarkable ability to relate to anyone, regardless of age, background, or sensibility. He made everyone he met laugh and was a supportive and empathetic friend.

Johnny traveled the world, often solo, and loved to encounter new cultures. He was a World War I and II history buff and recently spent time visiting sites and museums in Berlin. He also enjoyed fine art, old movies, rock and roll, photography, and social media. He was a longtime member of Alcoholics Anonymous and he offered encouragement and support rides to meetings for new members. The pinnacle of his life was spending

time with his loving and devoted family. Words cannot express how much his friends and family miss him.

John is survived by his stepfather, William M. Hitchcock and his wife Rosalie of Houston, Texas; his brother, William Hitchcock and his wife Didi

of New York, New York, and Millbrook; his sisters, Leslie Murray of Salisbury, and Melinda Hitchcock and her husband David Fanning of Millerton; two nieces, Nina Murray of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Isabel Murray of New York, New York; two nephews, Thomas Hitchcock of New York, New York, and Oliver Correa of Craryville, New York, and many friends.

Calling hours will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. A memorial service will take place at 12 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate.

Burial will take place at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Millbrook, NY. The date for visitation and service will be announced in late April. To send an online condolence to the family, plant a tree in John's memory or to send a floral tribute, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.



More obituaries appear on Page A3

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Worship Services Week of February 26, 2023	
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<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 455-2627</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday & Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Tuesday 9 AM - St. Bernard</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mrgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	

Tax exemption passed for volunteer firefighters, emergency personnel

By EMILY EDELMAN
emilye@millertonnews.com

POUGHKEEPSIE — At its Tuesday, Feb. 14, board meeting, the Dutchess County Legislature unanimously voted to adopt a local law that will give a property tax exemption of 10% to volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel. The legislation will now make its way to County Executive Bill O’Neil for his approval.

The exemption applies to

those who have served for at least three years and will be in effect for each year served after that. To take advantage of the exemption, members must live in the village, town or city in which the organization they serve is located. For those who have served for at least 20 years, the exemption will be in place for each person’s life as long as they live in Dutchess County.

“We are very proud that we were able to do that,” said Legislature Chair Gregg Pul-

ver in an interview with The Millerton News. “We are encouraging school districts and other towns to do the same.”

Members of the Legislature have also called on the state to allow volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel to receive a \$200 income tax credit, since New York state tax law currently makes accepting both it and the aforementioned property tax exemption an impossibility.

A letter recently sent to

state representatives from the Legislature urges the state to introduce legislation for both for inclusion in the 2023-24 state budget.

“We are working with Sen. [Michelle] Hinchey and Assemblymember [Didi] Barrett to make sure that the income tax credit and the land tax exemption are both eligible for volunteer firemen and EMS personnel,” said Pulver.

Local assessor’s offices will coordinate the application process.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Powering up in Millerton

A vehicle utilizes Millerton’s electric vehicle charging station on Century Boulevard on Saturday, Feb. 18. The charger has seen modest use since its official inauguration in December 2022.

Planning Board finalizes Transco decision, grants permit

By JUDITH O’HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

DOVER — In a long meeting on Monday, Feb. 6, the Planning Board of the Town of Dover voted on granting a special permit/site plan with erosion and sediment control to New York Transco LLC’s Dover electric substation at 2238 Route 22, Wingdale.

The public hearing on

Transco was opened Sept. 19, 2022, and closed on Jan. 23, 2023, with written comments allowed until Feb. 1.

Going over the application and answers to concerns, the final vote was taken at the Feb. 6 meeting, with five in favor of granting the permit, one against, and one member absent. New York State Fish and Wildlife sent an email citing concerns over possible contamination of the site caused

by tires and metals. It was discussed and deemed that these matters had been addressed by applicant Transco and were well in hand.

Some concerns about the site being near the Great Swamp, and possible impact on wildlife and especially endangered species, had also been addressed, even as far as no blasting from Oct. 1 through March 31 so as not to disturb hibernating bog

turtles. It was stated that that area is not a designated Environmental Justice Area.

It was also noted that after initial construction, weekly maintenance visits would probably be topped at three to four hours per week; lighting during day and night hours would not exceed approved Town limits except in emergencies, and the same would be true for noise.

It was also deemed that

poles and equipment would not be out of character of what is already in place in that area, that tires and metal waste will be removed properly and without adding contaminants to soil or water, and if any contaminants were discovered, the Town would immediately be notified. More than 250 plantings, including trees, will be added to existing landscaping to minimize visual impact.

Library trustees to hold meeting

MILLERTON — The NorthEast-Millerton Library Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting Wednesday, March 8, at 6 p.m. at the library, 75 Main St. in Millerton. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, contact the NorthEast-Millerton Library at 518-789-3340 or info@nemillertonlibrary.org

Celebrating our future agricultural leaders



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

A gaggle of dairy showmen cuddling with their Ronnybrook Farm calves on Saturday, Oct. 8, at the annual Pine Plains FFA Agricultural Fair.

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EXPO '23 *Continued from Page A1*

members of the working group, spoke to the needs for affordable housing. "Forty percent of our population in Millerton/North East are cost-burdened," he said, considering the accepted definition of paying more than 30% of gross income on housing.

To dispel stereotypes of "affordable housing" as large dwellings with many units, among the many options delineated on panels around the room were prefab, workforce and cluster housing; one- and two-family, tri- and fourplex housing; and one form that seems a likely part of a solution for our area because it is (almost) already here: Busselle pointed out the promise of ADUs, or accessory dwelling units — which may accommodate one or two people or a family — on already existing homes or properties.

New York state plans

As incentives to owners to create such solutions, Busselle noted that part of the promised \$250 million budgeted in Gov. Kathy Hochul's New York Housing Compact would go to encourage creation of ADUs. Targets in general would include the addition of affordable units equivalent to 1% of all dwellings every three years. At this point, total dwellings in North East/Millerton number 1,100.

Karen Jacobson, architect and a member of the working group, spoke about ADUs from her firsthand experience with tenants living on her property. "Our dogs play, they help out if I'm not around. It's good company."

The question of why such arrangements, which could be mutually beneficial, aren't more common led to discussion of some bigger-picture practicalities. "I think it's the cost [of creating something like this in their home] that's a deterrent," offered Christa Hines, head of Hudson River Housing.

SERINO *Continued from Page A1*

istration has been working on it. It's not a sexy thing, but it's so vital to our communities."

Of her life experiences, Serino said: "I think there's a lot to be said for that. I'd been a single mom for a portion of my life and I know what it's like to live paycheck to paycheck, and I recognize that a lot of people are in that situation now and really, really struggling, and we have to be very conscious of that."

Serino opened a real estate office in Poughkeepsie after she began working in the industry in the 1990s. "I got involved in politics in the

Government incentives for owners could go a long way. Jacobson agreed, pointing out that good low-interest loans would enable construction of units, and rental income would eventually pay them back.

A multi-pronged challenge

There are also needs for zoning changes and permissions, although "the building department is much easier to deal with when faced with additions to existing properties" than in the case of completely new builds, according to architect Jacobson. NIMBYism, and concern over changes in the character of villages and rural areas, were leitmotifs of several conversations; the crowd seemed realistic but hopeful that needed changes can be made.

Prefab homes

Moving to another standing panel, Jacobson pointed out the Boxabl, a kind of modular home that comes in boxes ready to be assembled and that can be transported on regular trucks and combined to create larger spaces. Affordability, she said, implies acceptance of the need for smaller dwellings, for which some of the elder population seem to be primed. These home "kits" sell for \$50,000 but, she noted, there is currently a waiting list of 150,000 people.

Rental or ownership models

Some nonprofits own and keep the land on which affordable homes are built and rent them out. There are also lotteries, which enable residents to buy and eventually sell their affordable homes. The rental model, on the other hand, should enable people to save money to buy their own homes eventually.

One viewer of a panel on prefab and cluster homes spoke of the desire to keep his family reasonably close. "I'm concerned," he said. "I have children and stepchildren who are finding it hard to find affordable places to live. This is inspirational."

Paul Bengtson, community programs director of North East Community Center and member of the working group, noted that current state and federal government funding favors large-scale developments but needs to be based also on village- and rural-scale efforts. He pointed out that workforce housing, for example, could mean a range of possibilities from individual family homes, possibly in clusters with plots for growing food, to more communal solutions with individual bedrooms surrounding shared living and kitchen spaces.

Market vs. livable rates

Bengtson acknowledged that property owners need incentives to charge less than market-rate rents for their properties. But there are a lot of opportunities for people to age in place in their homes if parts of their properties are given over to ADUs. There are sources of money for this but they're not yet, as he said, "robust."

The goal of the Expo, according to newly appointed North East Councilwoman and working group member Meg Winkler, was to expose the community to a variety of housing types that could be part of a solution.

Winkler pointed to a sobering document from Hudson River Housing: a flyer on which five sample Dutchess County families are presented, ranging from one to five members, with the adults working jobs from waitstaff to teachers to construction workers, with typical salaries or wages. In every case the disparity between what they could afford and what they actually have to pay to rent or to buy housing is stark. The Regional Plan Association — the North East/Millerton Working Group, along with about 40 other groups — aims to alter those scenarios.

HOSPITAL *Continued from Page A1*

ing to maintain the highest possible level of care.

"Current losses at Sharon Hospital are enormous," said Dr. Murphy as he opened his testimony. He added that Nuvance budgeted a \$6 million loss at Sharon Hospital in the first quarter of 2023 and projected a \$25 million loss for the year.

McCulloch expressed her belief that the proposed change better utilizes space and staffing. She explained that both ICU and Medical Surgery's average daily censuses are consistently under half of their capacity.

"In my opinion, the efficiency and synergy of collocating all patients in one unit with all nursing and ancillary staff will improve patient safety and satisfaction," said Marshall.

Their testimonies implied that all services, equipment, and staff currently available at Sharon Hospital's ICU will remain in place under the proposed PCU.

SSH was granted intervenor status for this hearing and put forth two witnesses to testify against the change: Dr. David Kurish and Victor Germack. Both spoke out in opposition to the termination of ICU services. Dr. Kurish highlighted the risk of a reduced level of care and Germack focused on financial implications.

"In addition to losing access to care and a reduced quality of care, Sharon Hospital will incur a very substantial loss of income," said Germack, a financial expert and vice president of SSH.

Germack projected the change could lead to multi-million-dollar losses of potential revenue for Sharon Hospital. These losses, he posited, would be caused by an increased need to transfer patients to other hospitals due to a reduction in services.

Germack noted that since 2019, 51% of patient transfers from Sharon Hospital's emergency room have gone to other hospitals within Nuvance Health's network. He contrasted this statistic with only 2.8% of transfers being sent to Charlotte Hungerford, the closest hospital in proximity to Sharon.

Upon conclusion of testimony and cross examination of witnesses, the floor was opened to public comment. Nuvance had 17 health care

professionals to speak in support of the change.

"I want to reassure our patients and our community that Sharon Hospital's emergency department will continue to be here for you," said Dr. Ron Santos, medical director of Sharon Hospital's emergency department.

Public officials from the area and several residents also signed up to share their opposition to the proposed change.

"We are rooting for the long-term viability of this rural hospital," said Chris Kennan, town supervisor of North East in New York. "Sharon Hospital plays an absolutely central role in the economic and social fabric of our community."

The hearing was adjourned upon completion of public comment and is scheduled to reconvene on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m. on Zoom. The follow-up hearing will include OHS questions for witnesses as well as closing arguments from both sides.

An outstanding and controversial application before the quasi-public OHS regulators to close labor and delivery services at the hospital was the subject of a marathon public hearing in December 2022. No decision has been made on that request. State regulators were flooded with approximately 400 letters and public testimony.

Sharon Hospital will host an online community update from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 27. McCulloch will discuss the latest hospital developments and provide updates on the affiliation in 2019 that created its parent, Nuvance Health. The independent monitor, engaged by Nuvance Health, will report on its review of compliance with the affiliation agreement issued by OHS.

A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation. Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance by emailing sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org or calling (203) 739-7919 with their name and phone number.

Questions can also be mailed to: Sharon Hospital, Attn: Community Forum, 50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, CT, 06069.

Instructions on how to join the virtual meeting are posted on the website: www.nuvancehealth.org/CTForums.

ART FOR UKRAINE *Continued from Page A1*

and comical, but also very, very powerful."

The art was moved to Troutbeck on Wednesday, Feb. 22, in order to be visible at Sunday's event.

Alice Min Soo Chun, founder and CEO of Solight Design, will speak about delivering her collapsible solar lights to hospitals in Ukraine. A live auction conducted by Christie's auctioneer Rachel Orkin-Ramey will feature

experiences and other items such as a dinner for six prepared by local resident and chef Matthew Lodes, a home consulting experience with Hammertown owner and founder Joan Osofsky; a gift certificate to Stissing House; classes at Studio Lakeville, a two-hour session at the Horse Institute in Ancramdale; a case of wine from City Winery in New York City; and more.

Included in the live auction will be a small number of limited-edition prints of the artwork featured on the Dec. 7, 2022, cover of TIME magazine, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the spirit of Ukraine as Person of the Year, signed by artist Neil Jamieson.

Food will be provided by a number of local businesses: meat and mushroom crepes from Le Gamin in Sharon, Connecticut; Ukrainian stuffed cabbage from Champetre in Pine Plains; two types of borscht made by Sheffield, Massachusetts-based friends of the Wlodars; pizza from Four Brothers; and several different dessert options from Lodes.

Bard College grad student

Terenia Kuzma will perform live music on Ukrainian bandura.

Tickets for the Feb. 26 fundraiser are \$125 each. The Wlodars are also inviting community members to volunteer at the event in lieu of the ticket price. To inquire about volunteering at the event, call 786-282-2495.

The art auction will stay live online until sometime in the evening after the Troutbeck event is over.

"We don't want it to be this incredibly somber thing," said Schmidt-Wlodar. "We want people to realize that it's about awareness."

Wlodar commented, "We have to do whatever is possible."

To see the preparations that are being made for the upcoming Troutbeck event as well as photos of previous events and Wlodar's trips to Ukraine and Poland, go to kimschmidtfineart.com/fundraiser-for-ukraine. Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.com/e/art-auction-and-fundraiser-for-ukraine-tickets-526820001807.



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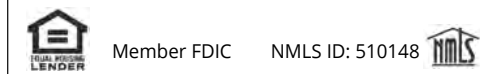
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ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The Odd World of a Teenage Dollmaker

Anyone who has attended high school has felt like an outsider at one point or another — but there may be only one student at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn., who is making outsider art. HVRHS senior Theda Galvin, who was home-schooled before enrolling in the small public high school, spends her free time in a well-populated fantasy land of figurines she sculpts, designs, dresses, and photographs. Her work has paid off, and she's been selected as the first student artist to have a solo show at the school's new Kearcher-Monsell Library gallery wall. Titled "Interior Motives," the showcase will open to the public on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 2:30 p.m.

"I start with a wire frame, although some of the bases are made from grocery store twist-ties," Galvin told me as we walked through the show ahead of the opening, along with Ellie Wolgemuth, a sophomore who is heading the library's art installation as lead

intern. The dolls wear the origins of their crude, mismatched materials proudly, Frankenstein-stitched from hot glue, notebook paper, floral wire, and craft yarn. "For the clothing, I've gone to the thrift store and found small pieces of fabric fuse under flower vases for a quarter."

The disproportionately magnified eyes on the dolls might bring to mind Mark Ryden's whimsical pop surrealism, while the diorama photographs of the figures at play might echo the miniatures in the work of Laurie Simmons, but Galvin's influences are more in line with internet fandom. She draws from the English Gothicism of steampunk and the robot-limbed female iconography of Japanese cyberpunk, characters from "Ace Attorney," a Capcom video game series, Finnish illustrator Tove Jansson's Moomin characters, and the



queer coupling of Sherlock Holmes and Watson, made popular by the 2010s BBC adaptation of the British detective sto-



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

ries. Of course, plenty of well-established artists have worked by mixing "low" popular culture and fine art — when American painter Elizabeth Peyton had her 2019 solo show at the National Portrait Gallery in London she included

a painting of Bella and Edward from "Twilight." At the core of Galvin's work is a tender loneliness — the characters are drawn from the nerdier corners of the internet where "shipping" enthusiasts commune, even as scrolling through web pages remains a

silent, solo activity. The photographs, too, are reminiscent of a child's solitary playtime, when dolls could be paired and posed and taken outdoors for endless imaginative adventures. The work is empathetic, earnest, and the mark of an emerging talent.

GARDENING: LEILA HAWKEN

A Garden Writer's Guide to Indoor Growing

If your green thumb pales at the very thought of houseplants, then the advice offered during a recent upbeat presentation by noted gardening author, horticulturist, photographer, and avid fan of houseplants, Tovah Martin, could be just what you need.

A program co-spon-

sored by The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn., and the Essex Memorial Library of Essex, Conn., titled "Easiest Houseplants Ever, With Style," was presented on Thursday, Feb. 16, drawing a sizable audience to hear Martin's rapid-fire positive advice and encouragement. Viewers were

treated to 120 images of houseplants that are easy to manage. Important to the presentation, also, was advice on how to pot and display for maximum visual effect. "Making plants look like art," was a companion theme, illustrating how to display and grow with style. To begin, turn

away from any type of plastic container. Better to use imagination in finding pots of other materials. Thrift shops can be a low-cost source for potting vessels that can effectively be displayed on pedestals of varying heights, achieving a personalized, flexible style. Holes can be drilled for drainage, Martin pointed

out. If the container is too fragile to accept drilling, then Martin suggests placing one or two inches of pebbles in the bottom, mixing with one tablespoon of horticultural charcoal, then adding the potting soil. That pebble-charcoal layer will prevent the soil from smelling bad due to a lack of drainage. Soil should fill the pot from the bottom up, Martin advised. Avoid adding filler materials


to the bottom of the pot, things like Styrofoam peanuts, or other packing materials that some people may try, hoping to use less potting soil. "I use long, tall containers for plants that will grow downward," Martin said, adding that there is nothing easier than ivy, even if situated a short distance from a north-facing window.

Combining plants into groupings is similar to a jigsaw puzzle, Martin said, adding that west-facing windows are a bit better than east-facing for growing houseplants. Her plants happily spend the summers outdoors, adding instant plant variety to the outdoor garden.

"I love foliage," Martin said, "particularly ferns of all varieties that can thrive away from a window."

"Let's talk about water," she said, indicating that she does not water based on a particular day of the week. Rather, she uses the sensitivity

Continued next page



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Tues 2/28
7-9 PM

48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

...garden writer's guide

Continued from previous page

method. "I check each plant because I love to visit them."

"I know my soil," Martin said. If it is pale and dry and not dark, it needs water. You can stick your finger in, or you could use the eraser end of a pencil. If the eraser comes out clean, the soil is dry. If it comes out with a bit of soil adhering to it, then water is not needed. What could be simpler?

"There is nothing easier than an African Violet," she said, noting that they are happiest in a shady spot.

Herbs are great to grow indoors, Martin said, although they need sun and a deep container.

Responding to

questions from viewers wrestling with issues, Martin said that plants exist to make you feel happy. If a plant grows to a stage where it is not giving you pleasure, it is quite acceptable to send it away.

About soil, Martin favors the organic potting soil sold at McEnroe's Farm, Millerton, New York, above all others. "McEnroe's has great potting soil," Martin said, adding that vermiculite, found in some packaged soils should be avoided.

Tovah Martin will present a program titled "In Unison" at Kent Memorial Library on Saturday, Feb. 25, beginning at 2 p.m. The talk will explore how to create



PHOTO BY TOVAH MARTIN

harmonious combinations to attract and please pollinators. To register

for the in-person talk, go to www.kentmemoriallibrary.org.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR



COURTESY THE ARTIST

Fever Poems by Kylie Gellatly

The Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn. will hold an opening reception for a showcase of poem collages by Kylie Gellatly titled, "Time & Fever & Nothing More" on Saturday, March 11 at 5 p.m. The show will run through April 22. For more go to www.cornwalllibrary.org

Documentary on Animal Rescue in Ukraine

"Checkpoint: Zoo," a documentary short on the rescue efforts by zookeepers and volunteers to rescue enclosed animals in the Ukrainian zoo during the Russian invasion, will screen at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., on Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m.. Filmmaker Joshua Zeman will discuss the making of the film and his career in documentary film, which includes the 2021 film "The Lonliest Whale," which was nominated for three Critics Choice awards.

Royal biographer at Ventfort Hall

Hugo Vickers, biographer and expert on the royal family, will lead a talk on the life of Gladys Deacon who followed Consuelo Vanderbilt as wife of the 9th Duke of Marlborough. The presentation on Sunday, March 5 at 3:30 p.m. at Ventfort Hall Mansion and Gilded Age Museum in Lenox, Mass., followed by a champagne tea. Vickers' 1979 biography "Gladys, Duchess of Marlborough" was republished in 2020 with additional research and titled "The Sphinx." Tickets are \$40. Reservations are required as seats are limited. For more go to www.gildedage.org/events.

Steve Katz Concert

Spencertown Academy Roots & Shoots Concerts Series will present Kent, Conn. based musician Steve Katz, founding member of the Blues Project and Blood, Sweat & Tears, in "A Night of Story and Song" on Saturday, March 25 at 8 p.m. in Spencertown, N.Y. For general admission tickets (\$25 public, \$20 Academy members) go to www.spencertownacademy.org.

RECREATION: MIKE COBB

Art, Theater and Live Music for One Winter Weekend in Norfolk

In its seventh year, A Weekend in Norfolk (WIN) is a celebration of the creative community in Norfolk, Conn. In keeping with the historical legacy of Ellen Battell Stoeckel, who helped bring the arts to Norfolk by donating portions of her 78-acre estate to Yale University's School of Music, A Weekend in Norfolk was first conceived by women.

WIN co-founder, Sue Frisch, explained, "I had worked with a group to put out the Norfolk Map and Guide on paper. It had pictures of places and things to do in Norfolk, and it occurred to me one day as I was going to the post office that we should do something to get people here to sample everything in the guide. I walked into the post office, met Holly Gill, and started talking to her about it. She liked the idea and the two of us walked up to the library, still talking about it. There we met Ruth Melville, who loved the idea, so the three of us went to work, proposing the concept to people and groups, and here we are! Our first WIN was in the summer of 2016. We started the winter version in February 2018."

This year's winter Weekend in Norfolk, held on Saturday, Feb. 25, and Sunday, Feb. 26, features guided wildlife

tracking in Great Mountain Forest, the Farmers Market in Battell Chapel, art shows by Caryn King, Lilly Woodworth, and Ani Jenkins, tours of the five Tiffany stained glass windows at Battell Chapel which were installed in 1929 as a gift from Ellen Battell Stoeckel, the premiere of two one-act plays by Sara Heller and Marinelle Crippen at the Norfolk Library, a 100-year retrospective of Main Street at the Historical Society, and all-day ice skating capped off with a bonfire and hot chocolate at the town ice rink.

When asked about challenges and successes in producing WIN, Frisch replied, "Everyone supports WIN, both with donations that cover the expenses and by putting on events. Donors have been very generous and so have the event organizers. The town itself has been very helpful; for example, it acts as our fiscal agent, and the Economic Development Committee has helped with money."

"Perhaps the biggest challenge was Covid, but we came up with the idea of doing a virtual festival to keep WIN and Norfolk in people's minds. Today we have a YouTube channel with more than 65 videos on it and are adding more. Videos are accessible

from the virtual events page on our website or directly on our YouTube channel," Frisch continues.

What do Frisch and her co-producers on the WIN committee want the public to know? "Norfolk is a friendly place and it likes visitors, so almost all the events are free. Our website address has all the events and descriptions posted, as well as a printable program and other information."

A Weekend in Norfolk, a two-day winter festival, will host free events on Saturday, Feb. 25 and Sunday, Feb. 26, with a ticketed evening live music featuring Mike Cobb and Trina Hamlin on Friday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Manor House Inn. For a listing of scheduled events go to www.weekendinnorfolk.org.

'A Reckoning With The History of Slavery'

Author Peter Kaufman will lead a discussion of Clint Smith's book "How The Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America" at Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Conn., on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. Register at www.scovillelibrary.org for this in-person and online talk.

Winter Watercolor Classes

Collette Hurst will lead a series of classes in ink drawing and watercolor painting over the winter. The final class at The Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. For registration go to www.cornwalllibrary.org. Hurst will lead classes at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., on Saturdays, March 10, 17 and 24 at 1 p.m. Classes are \$75 for the package and registration can be made by calling 860-824-7424.

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OUR TOWNS

Millbrook Board of Ed names new hires

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Several people were named to positions at the Millbrook Central School District at the Tuesday, Feb. 7, Board of Education meeting, among them Kimberly Romine and Jennifer Bartolomeo as teacher's aides, for 26-week probationary periods.

Michelle Quattrone was appointed preschool-through-12th-grade school psychologist for a probationary period of three years, and Samantha Popp was named summer school coordinator. Resignations were received and accepted from custodial worker Ryan Ware and teacher's aide Tiffany Bernadelli.

Cocurricular appointments were named for pit musicians Kelsey Beyer, Roger

D'Aquino, David Pratt, Stephen Siktberg and Eric Wagner with payments of \$84.07 per event. Gabriella Fryer, piano accompanist for the high school musical, will receive \$1,261.09.

Donations were accepted from the Millbrook Educational Foundation for an amount of \$10,000; this is to fund grants of \$5,000 each for an eighth-grade field trip and a seventh-grade field trip.

Interim Superintendent Caroline Hernandez-Pidala reported that scientists from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies met with Alden Place science fair participants to help them refine their proposed project ideas for the science fair.

Alden Place and middle school students were present for anti-bullying assemblies. Grace Smith House will be back to present about healthy

relationships in a teen dating violence series.

The Capital Planning Team kickoff began with the team meeting with representatives from Bernie Donnegan's office, BBS Architects and the Palumbo Group to begin discussions about capital planning prioritization. The Palumbo Group was named as construction management services by resolution at a previous meeting.

The building level safety teams will be working with retired New York State Police and regional safety consultants on tabletop drills designed to assist emergency response teams to think on their feet and respond to simulated emergency scenarios.

A letter was shared with the community that was issued by Capt. John Watterson of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office about the alarm-

ing rates of extortion on social media.

Elliot Garcia, assistant superintendent for business and personnel, reported that he had welcomed Amy Cross to the business office as account clerk. The 2022-23 budget preparation process is being updated.

He said that initial estimated state aid runs were received per Gov. Kathy Hochul's proposed state budget. The facilities report includes that repair reserve work is underway.

Garcia had a transportation meeting with Joe Petrozak and Brian Fitzgerald of First Students. There were recent updates and appreciation of capital projects; Capital outlay project (MHS Secure Vestibule - Phase II) bid results were received. The Nov. 7 capital project referendum is being planned. There

will be a kickoff meeting, then a preliminary project budget and next steps.

Amy Watkins, executive director of instruction and community relations, said that the administrative team reviewed a new student information system that would replace SchoolTool and would allow both parents/guardians and students access to track their grades and customizable reports.

"What I Need" letters were sent out for students at Elm Drive, Alden and the middle school.

The secondary teachers met on Feb. 6 to discuss designing an electives fair to increase student awareness of the courses offered in Millbrook.

Alicia O'Connell, Elm Drive principal, noted that Tracy Tyler, a representative

from the Center for Professional Learning, provided professional development in writing for Elm and Alden staff. The pre-K teachers have enrolled in ongoing professional development in the Early Learning Educators' Network to further their understanding of the New York state Next Generation Early Learning Standards.

Future agenda items were called for and comments from the public were sought.

The meeting went into executive session to discuss an employment matter. Upon returning, a motion was made to create a full-time monitor position. Two monitors were then appointed, Sabrina Curneen and Shalene Sisco, for a probationary period of 26 weeks at a wage of \$15.52 per hour. The meeting was then adjourned.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

With blueberries, please...

The kitchen crew worked at a feverish pace as the Amenia Fire Company resumed its monthly pancake breakfast schedule after a three-year hiatus on Sunday, Feb. 19, at the firehouse on Mechanic Street. The kitchen was all hands on deck and served 263 breakfasts. The next pancake breakfast will be held March 26.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Village of Millerton Planning Board

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Village of Millerton, Dutchess County, New York, on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall, 5933 North Elm Avenue, regarding the applications of 5902 South Elm Avenue-tax parcel 7271-14-336229-for site plan review and a special permit. The applications are open for inspection at the Village Hall.

TAKE FURTHER

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

By the order of: Village of Millerton Planning Board
Anna Clune
Planning, Zoning & Building Secretary
02-23-23

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Village of Millerton Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Millerton, Dutchess County, New

York, on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall, 5933 North Elm Avenue, regarding the application of 5902 South Elm Avenue tax parcel 7271-14-336229-for variances on a building permit.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard on said application and variances, at the hearing at the aforesaid time and place. By the order of: Village of Millerton Zoning Board of Appeals

Anna Clune
Planning, Zoning & Building Secretary
02-23-23



Sharon Hospital Community Update



Come learn about the latest developments at Sharon Hospital. President Christina McCulloch will present a virtual community report that includes information on our services and an update on the affiliation that created Nuvance Health. The independent monitor we engaged will report on its review of compliance with the affiliation agreement issued by Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy.

We will discuss and answer questions from the community following the presentation.

Please join us via Zoom webinar:

nuvancehealth.org/CTForums
Join via phone: (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 989 5227 4180 Passcode: 172768

February 27 5-7 pm

This will also stream live at facebook.com/sharonhospital

To submit questions in advance:

Call: (203) 739-7919
Email: sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org
Mail: Sharon Hospital, Attn: Community Forum
50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, CT 06069

No registration required

EDITORIAL

A wastewater solution

The formation of a wastewater sewer district for the Village and the Town is beginning to coalesce after decades of discussion and study about how to move beyond septic system solutions.

At the last Town of North East Board meeting on Feb. 9, Supervisor Chris Kennan noted that a project of this magnitude was not for the faint of heart, but it is necessary for the economic future.

The thinking behind the need for a sewer system for the Village and the Town was a top planning initiative in the creation of the Comprehensive Plan, adopted for the Village and the Town, adopted in 2019.

That plan cited the lack of sewers as a principal weakness that needed to be addressed. Quoting directly from the Plan: "To encourage development of a thriving, vibrant, stable and diverse economic base that offers ample employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for all, the Town and Village will plan for public sewers."

Another goal stated in the plan: "Recognize and support the Village of Millerton's charming character, its role as the primary center for commerce, culture and social interaction in the Town, and a place where businesses are prosperous and meet the needs of both residents and visitors."

And a wastewater system was listed among top capital improvement projects needed to meet the goal of economic vibrancy.

In the summer of 2022, through the Dutchess County Municipal Investment Grant Program, the Village and the Town were awarded \$200,000 to support a preliminary engineering design study to replace an aging and failing wastewater system with an advanced water resource recovery system, and provide opportunity for future expansion.

Last month, the proposed Village wastewater system was the subject of a public hearing in the Village. The project envisions establishing a municipal wastewater system, including a new septic tank effluent collection system, treatment system, new outfall, and adoption of sewer use regulations. Phase 1 of the Project is to serve the Village of Millerton and, subject to creation of a Town Sewer District, to serve a portion of the Town of North East pursuant to an intermunicipal agreement.

A proposed system would be owned and operated by the Village, which would create a sewer district and operate a sewer plant located in the Village. The Town's wastewater district, which would extend along the Boulevard (Route 44), would be made up of 27 commercial properties. The businesses in the Boulevard District east of the Village would benefit, and it would be a critical requirement to attract a food market.

The Town has been working with engineering consulting firm Tighe & Bond, which has also been working with the Village and has created a plan for how the Town will form its district. There will be discussion about how to form a district under Town law, and public information sessions followed by public hearings. And eventually there will be a vote.

In the case of the Town, Board members plan to decide on a next step by their upcoming meeting, which is March 9.

For perspective's sake, more than a year has passed since Kennan remarked at a Town Board meeting that the Town has needed a sewer for decades. He described the project as elusive and daunting, despite efforts over the years to make it happen.

It likely will be years in the making, but well worth it.



An interview with our extraordinary 39th president

It was a thrill for me to chat for a while with ex-president Jimmy Carter in Atlanta in 1989, in the service of writing a children's book eventually entitled "The President Builds a House," about the work of Habitat For Humanity, and for which he had agreed to write the introduction.

Carter was leading the volunteer crew that would build 20 houses in a week in an Atlanta neighborhood. An editor for Simon & Schuster had asked me and photographer Margaret Miller to do the book and to donate part of our royalties to the charity.

This work site was no photo-op for the Carters. Then 64, the former president was scrambling around on roofs and inside half-made structures, his hammer frequently in use; his wife Rosalynn was almost as active, helpful and collegial in many ways. His son Chip was also there, pitching in.

These were gentler times. The Carters were being guarded by a lone Secret Service agent, who had been with them in the White House and had chosen to be on their permanent detail. I spoke with the agent briefly; it was clear that he adored both Carters and felt well-treated by them. Chip, too, was most admiring of his parents' charitable activities.

I had previously chatted with President Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office, along with presidential spokesman Larry Speakes, with whom I was to write a book; and had spoken in an EOB office with then-vice-president George H. W. Bush on a prior documentary project involving Nigeria. In my presence, Reagan, who was just coming back from an illness, and Speakes engaged in a sort of Gallagher and Shean comedy routine, feeding each other cues about the need for a line-item presidential veto for the federal budget. Bush had been quite knowledgeable and thoughtful about Nigeria, which he had visited in official capacities. Both Reagan and Bush had been impressive in their own ways, but neither was as impressive as Carter, who in our chat was articulate, authoritative, thoughtful and responsive to my questioning.

I had begun being aware of Carter when he was governor of Georgia. I was then commuting to Atlanta monthly to film a documentary there on an unusual school and the involvement of an NGO called Project Propinquity; people with Propinquity were interacting regularly with the governor, and a few of them would later join his administration. All had quite favor-

THE LONG VIEW

Tom Shachtman

able views of him and of his devotion to the public good and Christian ideals, which they shared.

I thought that Carter had been a reasonably good president who had had to fight severe headwinds and tailwinds, which had eventually resulted in his loss of the presidency after one term.

In 1989, my first query to Carter was why he had become so involved with Habitat.

"Jesus was a carpenter," he began, and continued on in that vein, stressing Habitat's "Biblical" mandates to house the poor and to lend money without interest. We had a fine chat. His theme was that while we often feel as individuals that we can't do much to solve such big problems as poverty and lack of good housing, we can, through volunteering to work with organizations such as Habitat.

By 1989, Carter was already also involved in supervising elections around the world, as well as in putting together the Carter Center; and so near the end of our chat, I asked him if he knew what Woodrow Wilson had told reporters about his future plans upon leaving the White House after the 1921 inauguration of his successor. Carter indicated that he did not. Having written a book about Wilson ("Edith and Woodrow"), I did, and had the pleasure of telling Carter. Wilson had said that he was "going to teach ex-presidents how to behave."

I opined to Carter that he was doing just that, and in a far more effective way than Wilson had, and that his doing so was a great help to the world as well as constituting a tutorial for future presidents.

As for the introduction to our book, Carter asked me to write up my notes from our interview in the form of such an introduction and send it to him for approval. I did.

He didn't change a word.

Salisbury resident Tom Shachtman has written more than two dozen books and many television documentaries.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PCU is more like partial care than progressive care

I've been following the debate regarding the closing of the Intensive Care Unit in favor of a Progressive Care Unit at the Sharon Hospital. Google says "Progressive Care" is a step down from an ICU. However, without an ICU in the Sharon Hospital, where will serious accident and critical care victims step down to? Progressive care is not Intensive care. Progressive Care is wrongly named — it should be called Partial Care. Partial Care facilities cannot handle patients in need of Intensive Care. Patients will have to be shipped elsewhere, further endangering their health.

As a past user of Sharon Hospital ER/ICU (it probably saved my life), here are my questions.

Where will patients go who immediately need intensive care in an ICU? How will they get there? Who pays for the transportation? For ex-

ample, I've heard speculation that patients might be shipped by helicopter to a distant ICU at a cost of \$85,000. Who will pay for that?

Who's supporting Partial Care, aka, Progressive Care? In my brief look at the supporters, many seem to have monetary or other ties to Nuvance. I assume the Board of Directors receive some compensation? Several staff employees of Nuvance have sent letters in support of a Partial Care Unit. They are obviously being paid by Nuvance. It's rumored that employees of Nuvance have to sign employment agreements that they cannot criticize Nuvance or risk termination. Is that true? Is that transparency?

The PCU argument provides stark evidence that in medicine today the Hippocratic Oath is being replaced by a spread sheet.

Bob Maxwell

Sharon

Thanks for support of Fire Company

On Sunday, Feb. 19, the Amenia Fire Company returned with our annual Pancake Breakfast after a three-year hiatus. We were pleased to have a huge crowd of 263 people in attendance for our first meal back.

We rely on the breakfasts to raise needed money for general operations and we always appreciate the sup-

port of the community.

We thank everyone who attended our event and we hope to see you again for the next one on March 26.

Andy Murphy

On behalf of the Breakfast Committee of the Amenia Fire Co. and Auxiliary

Amenia

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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

A sign of Spring

On wastewater and affordable housing: 'It's time to see what we can do to move the needle'

By ELIAS SORICH
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AMENIA — Some welcome news kicked off the Thursday, Feb. 16, Town Board meeting: The Board received two applications for membership on the Water Committee. Councilpersons again urged the community members to apply to join the committee.

Supervisor Victoria Perotti and Town water operator Marco D'Antonio also secured the town a \$481,000 grant for the upcoming lead service line project inventory, a success that solves the financial woes of an expensive, federally mandated project.

The meat of the meeting came during a nearly 45-minute discussion of Resolution 38, which moved to allocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the purchase of a parcel of land to be used in the town's afford-

able housing efforts. The town received \$480,000 in ARPA funding — which can be used for infrastructure fixes, affordable housing, and a few other related areas — and is planning to allocated \$200,273 of it, alongside an as-yet unawarded \$150,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), to purchase a 4-acre parcel that includes a well-maintained house. Pivotal, the site could also be used in the future for the town's much needed wastewater infrastructure improvements. The discussion revolved primarily around concerns raised by Councilperson Damian Gutierrez that the ARPA funds should perhaps be used to fix other inclement infrastructure issues plaguing the town.

"My concern [is] that we have a tall mountain to climb on the water district when it comes to finding funding. ...

If we're going to take these funds that we have today and use them for something else, I just want to be sure that we, as the Town Board, have some plan or some commitment to address that upcoming need in the water district."

Town attorney Ian Lindars also raised concerns about the fact that the current plan involves owning a unit which would then be rented out as affordable housing, an arrangement that would make the town a landlord. Rather than directly maintaining the unit, the town currently has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) established with nonprofit partner Hudson

River Housing which states that HRH would handle all aspect of rental, including maintenance and selection of renters, though the town would be the owner.

Both Councilman Leo Blackman, and Wastewater and Housing Board member Charlie Miller assured the Town Board that HRH is a capable partner in the effort and that providing actual affordable housing now is crucial element in solving the township's housing crisis.

On the subject of the use of ARPA funds, Blackman mentioned some additional sources of funding available to the town for water district

infrastructure fixes and also spoke of the need for the town to take concrete action on issues that have plagued it for decades. Efforts to improve wastewater infrastructure have previously been stymied by the fact that the town hasn't owned any viable land, and that purchasing actual property that could be used for such projects in the future represents a necessary and material step forward.

"The reason that we have not been able to move ahead on wastewater for 62 years, as far I know, is that no one is willing to take that leap. Until there's a little bit of faith in the future, a little bit of willing-

ness to take a little bit of risk, nothing will ever happen. . . It's time to see what we can do to move the needle," said Blackman.

With only Perotti abstaining, as she serves on the Dutchess County panel that awards the CDBG grant, the resolution to allocate the funds, the actual use of which are contingent upon the town receiving the grant, passed otherwise unanimously.

The next Town Board meeting will take place on Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m. Attend in person at Town Hall or watch the livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/AmeniaTV>.

Millbrook Arts Group offers New Orleans music Feb. 25 at Library

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Arts Group will welcome the Hammerhead Horns featuring Chance Bushman, New Orleans street tapper, as part of its 2023 "Ballads, Blues and Powerhouse Vocals" concert series Tuesday, Feb.

28, at 5 p.m. at the Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane. The event is free and open to the public. A complimentary reception will precede the concert at 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact info@millbrookartsgroup.org.

Webutuck Board of Education seeks members

AMENIA — The Northeast (Webutuck) Board of Education has four open seats to fill.

Two of the seats are for three-year terms beginning July 1; one is for a seat from May 17, 2023 to June 30, 2026; and the final seat begins May 17, 2023, and ends June 30, 2024.

To qualify for membership, a candidate must: be able to read and write; be a qualified voter of the Webutuck Central

School District; be and have been a resident of the district for at least one year immediately prior to the election; not have been removed from any school district office within the previous year; not live with a family member who is also a member of the school board; not be a current employee of the school district; and not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office.

An election for the new

board members will be held Tuesday, May 16.

Those interested in running for the board may pick up information packets including nominating petitions in the district office at Webutuck High School, 194 Haight Road, beginning Wednesday,

March 1. Petitions are due back to the office by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 17, including the signatures of at least 25 qualified district voters.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will take place Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. in the high school library.

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