

# The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

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PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Sixth-grader, first-place winner and aspiring filmmaker Nolan Howard demonstrates the principle of veining in icebergs at the Webutuck STEAM fair on Saturday, Feb. 25.

## Webutuck STEAM fair demonstrates breadth of students' curiosity

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

AMENIA — Despite the looming bad weather on Saturday morning, Feb. 25, the Webutuck STEAM fair was a resounding success. The Eugene Brooks Intermediate School (EBIS) gymnasium was the site of about 40 projects presented with titles ranging from the whimsical to the thoughtful.

Co-chairs and middle-school science teachers Danielle Fridstrom and Christine Gillette were gratified to see the results. "We were happy with the turnout this year and learned much from the enthusiastic participants," Gillette noted, adding, "I think the key piece for getting students to participate is to encourage them to pick something that interests them. Whether it be dairy farms to corgis or Jolly Rancher candies, it is important to choose something they are excited about. This then makes the project fun and not a tedious task."

As to differences in fairs from

**"While we certainly do lots of hands-on things in class, we're always amazed at the kind of things students come up [with] to investigate."**

*Danielle Fridstrom,  
co-chair and science teacher*

year to year and ongoing similarities, Fridstrom continued: "It was terrific to see the creativity this year — even jokes were added to 'This Project is Bananas!' We always struggle getting seventh- to 12th-grade participants so we are thrilled to see any of them show up and present."

That latter group was represented by 11 students with projects ranging from top winner "Gummy Bear Osmosis" to technical explorations like "Archery Science," "What Puts the Pop in Popcorn?" survey studies ("Jolly Rancher

See **STEAM, A6**

## Nuvance faces tough questions in second round of hearings on changes

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

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Office of Health Strategy (OHS) continued its public hearing online Wednesday, Feb. 22, for Nuvance Health's application to replace the intensive care unit at Sharon Hospital with a progressive care unit.

This session of the hearing included OHS questions for Nuvance Health and Save Sharon Hospital's (SSH) witnesses who testified in the initial hearing as well as closing

**"We ask that the hospital work with us to find a solution that leaves its core services intact."**

*Paul Knag, Save Sharon Hospital attorney*

arguments from both sides.

If Nuvance's application is approved by OHS, 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 ser-

vices at Sharon Hospital.

The bulk of OHS' questioning was directed at the three witnesses who testified on behalf of Nuvance Health during the initial Feb. 15 hearing: Nuvance President and CEO Dr. John Murphy, president of Sharon Hospital Christina McCull-

See **HOSPITAL, A6**

## Amenia forum considers ideas for recreational opportunities

By **LEILA HAWKEN**  
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA — Believing that recreational opportunities can be key to economic development by drawing visitors to the area, the Amenia Recreation Commission took another step toward that goal by holding a community forum at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 21. About 30 residents and officials

attended.

Landscape architect Jane Didona of Didona Associates in Danbury, Connecticut, reviewed conceptual drawings she had prepared reflecting ideas that had been proffered by residents at previous meetings as well as ideas for development of the 12 acres of Wassaic Park and the acreage surrounding the Town Hall, both seen to have potential for community recre-

ation.

The drawings also conform to goals outlined within a five-year plan developed by the all-volunteer Recreation Commission.

Recreation Commission Chairman Paul Winters said that the commission wants to build community momentum working together to imagine the best recre-

See **REC. COMMISSION, A6**

## Dutchess County Democrats endorse Tommy Zurhellen

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

POUGHKEEPSIE — At its nominating convention for county elections on Thursday, Feb. 23, the Dutchess County Democratic Committee endorsed Tommy Zurhellen for county executive.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Zurhellen is commander of VFW Post 170. In 2019, he walked from Portland, Oregon, back to Poughkeepsie to raise awareness about veteran suicide and homelessness as well as funds for local veterans' assistance organizations.

"That walk was born out of frustration," said Zurhellen in an interview with The Millerton News. "There's so much work to be done helping veterans."

"When I got back from the walk, I started VetZero and the VetZero ride program, and we've given over 2,000 free rides to veterans in the community to get to their medical appointments . . . I think that can be a county-wide program."

"I've been working in the community ever since the walk and there's so many things that we need

See **ZURHELLEN, A6**



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Democrat Tommy Zurhellen has announced his candidacy for Dutchess County executive.**



### CONTACT

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### OPINION

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OUR TOWNS

# Chickens or eggs? A homegrown source?

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Some people may want baby chicks because they're cute and cuddly, and are a reminder that spring (and Easter) are right around the corner. Others, however, may be tired of paying top dollar for eggs.

Prices are at an all-time high, and many feel that having their own flock of chickens may help put this important staple on the table without breaking the bank or spending the grandkids' college funds.

If one is curious as to why eggs have become so expensive, there is more than one answer. An outbreak of avian influenza, or bird flu, is most likely the main reason. It is highly contagious and often fatal to chickens. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about 57 million birds have been affected by it since February 2022.

Once a flock is infected or exposed to the flu, it has to be culled; accordingly, 44 million egg-laying hens in the U.S.

were put down, greatly reducing the number of eggs produced. It can take up to four or five months for new, healthy hens to begin laying after the facilities have been cleaned, sanitized and restocked. Then they may begin laying possibly 24 eggs per month per hen at peak production.

The virus affected the U.S., and many of the areas the U.S. trades with or buys from, including Canada, Europe and South America.

The bird flu is not the only culprit in all this; add to it the lingering effects of COVID-19 on the trucking industry, the increasing cost of fuel, and higher feed and packaging costs. Much of the world's grain comes from Ukraine, and last month marked the one-year anniversary of the continuing Russian attack on Ukraine.

One solution to rising egg costs? Many are flocking to Agway, Tractor Supply and other sources to start their own flocks. It seems easy; build (or buy) a coop, provide water, feed, and start collecting eggs. But it's not as easy as it sounds.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Katja Schultz raises chickens with her husband, James, in Millerton. Here, she communicates with a tiny chick, which will start laying eggs in 24-26 weeks.**

Millerton resident James Schultz said that while it can be a great experience, it is not easy, nor is it inexpensive. He and his wife, Katja, along with their three children, have been raising chickens since 2018.

There were some lessons learned the hard way as they became more proficient. They became regulars at Village meetings, because neighbors often didn't appreciate some of the aspects of chicken-raising, although the Schultzes were considerate in their endeavors, never having roosters, keeping their area clean, and trying to be mindful of their fellow residents.

They learned to put wire fencing beneath the coop so predators can't dig their way in to the hens, and enclosed the coop because of flying

predators like hawks and owls. That's not even taking into account raccoons, foxes, dogs and more. Said Schultz, "Roosters are noisy, but they're also fierce, and will lay down their lives for the hens. Without roosters, the human is responsible for keeping their flocks safe."

Schultz and his family, including cat Buddy, like hanging out with the chickens. "They are very social," he said. "Not just the group, but Chicken A may have a relationship with Chicken B, and also with chickens C and D." Anyone who has had chickens can attest to the fact that they do have different personalities.

By state law, one cannot purchase fewer than six chicks, but the maximum number allowed varies according to the municipality; Millerton caps the number of chickens one can own at six, so keeping the number at six can be a problem when you have to replace some of your hens.

You have to buy six, so what do you do with the extras? There is also the factor that when feed costs go up for commercial businesses, they also go up for the small-home flock owner.

As the shortage of hens and eggs improves, egg prices may go down, but another avian flu outbreak could start the whole process over again. Agway in Millerton and Tractor Supply in Amenia are expecting brisk sales of chicks. On Thursday,

Feb. 23, Tractor Supply welcomed a variety of biddies or chicks; Cornish hens, Rhode Island Reds, Americana, ducks and Broad Breasted White turkeys.

Prices vary from \$2.89 for the Cornish hens to \$6.99 for ducks and turkeys. They are nestled in aluminum tubs in the back of the store under heating lamps.

Agway produced a chicken list, and it's first come, first served according to Kristen Maillet, who works at Agway and is also a chicken owner. Last year the store had between 100 and 200 birds; this year, it is planning on probably selling double that.

Its list includes a March 22 shipment, April 5, April 12 and April 26 shipments, with several different varieties listed.

Among the attributes Maillet finds in chickens are their propensity for eating insects. When buying chicks, the sex can't be determined, although Maillet said about 99% of the chicks turn out to be females.

Some stores have limited the number of eggs one customer can buy; and the prices are still double what they were a year ago, but hopefully things are looking up.

In the meantime, raising your own chickens and gathering up multicolored, multi-sized fresh eggs might be the answer. If not, hoping for a spring with less avian flu and a decrease in other costs may help to bring the price of eggs down.

## Documentary short aims to preserve agricultural history through oral storytelling

By ELIAS SORICH  
elias@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — On Saturday, March 4, at 4 p.m. at the Stissing Center, the documentary film "Our Farms, Our Farmers" will screen a little slice of the region's rich agricultural history.

Through interviews with local farmers young and old, the 20-minute film aims to help keep alive the traditions and stories of agriculture that have persisted in Dutchess County for generations. The film was inception, funded and organized by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society, and Vice President Ann Simmons spoke to the inspiration behind putting it together:

"Oral history is so important! Farming is a big part of the community, and just being able to have some oral history that can be used down the road for research or just for information is so crucial. So we wanted the film to be about the preservation of information. That's really how it started."

As farming has become increasingly industrialized in the region, and the number of farming families have aged out and declined, so too has access to firsthand accounts of an industry that used to define the county. Simmons had a personal experience with this challenging reality, which reinforced to her the urgency behind the work of the Historical Society.

"Before we decided to make the film, I'd planned to sit down with my father-in-law, Ron Osofsky, of the Ronnybrook family, to record some of the stories of his life. He passed away before we had a chance to do that, and it really drove home to me the importance of preserving that kind of information."

After developing the idea for the film with other members of the Little Nine board, Simmons reached out to local filmmakers Murphy Birdsall and Keith Reamer to make it. With engagement and ticket sales already exceeding expectations, Simmons aims to support the creation of further such documentary shorts in

the future.

The screening is also the first event to kick off Pine Plains' bicentennial celebration. Additional events will crop up throughout the year to celebrate the town's founding, and Simmons hopes that both the film and the bicentennial will help to garner interest in local history, and community involvement with

### Pine Plains community solar project public workshop on March 11

PINE PLAINS — The Planning Board will hold a public workshop to discuss the Carson Power solar project on Saturday, March 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the community room located at the Pine Plains Library, 7775 S. Main St.

The board will discuss a special use permit, site plan, and lot line adjustment for the proposed solar project submitted by Carson-Power of New York City.

The company proposes to install a 43-acre solar farm

Little Nine.

Following the screening, a panel discussion will feature many of the farmers interviewed for the film. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and free for children and students. They are available online at [www.eventbrite.com/e/our-farms-our-farmers-film-tickets-527317880977](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-farms-our-farmers-film-tickets-527317880977) or at the door.

comprising 24,000 panels on 171 acres of agricultural and forested land located at 454 Bean River Road. Access is planned to be sited just west of the Central Hudson's Pulver's Corners substation near the intersection of Route 199 and Prospect Hill Road.

In January, more than 60 residents showed up at a Planning Board public hearing on the application to state concerns and their largely overwhelming opposition the 10-megawatt community solar project.

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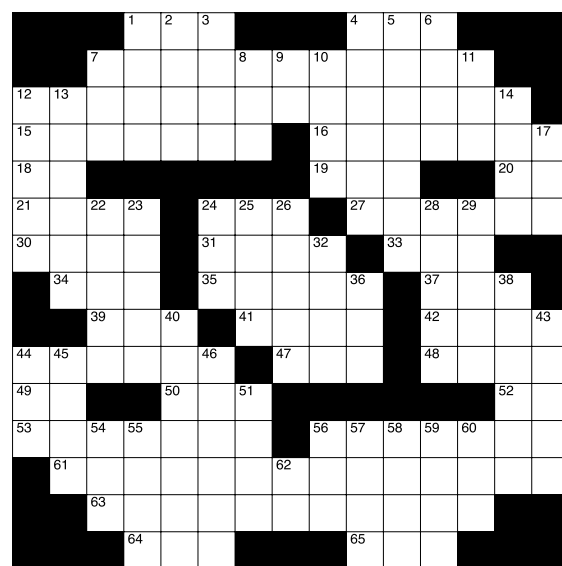
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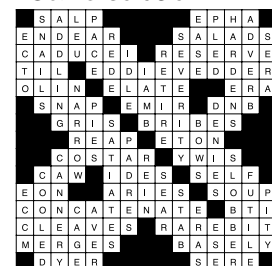
### CLUES ACROSS

1. Relaxing place
4. Plant by scattering
7. A type of explorer
12. Unique traits
15. Lady
16. Dismayed
18. Railway
19. Type of whale
20. Sodium
21. Manning and Lilly are two
24. Where golfers begin
27. Entrapped
30. Influential punk artist
31. Hebrew calendar month
33. Car mechanics group
34. Undesirable rodent
35. Minneapolis suburb
37. Witch
39. Get free of
41. A written proposal or reminder
42. British School
44. Country on west coast of Africa
47. Cool!
48. Information
49. \_\_\_ route
50. Jim Nantz's network
52. Something to register (abbr.)
53. Give cards incorrectly
56. One who's learning on the job
61. Stevenson adventure novel
63. Taking careful notice
64. CNN's founder
65. Speak badly of



12. Fencing swords
13. Basement
14. Samoan monetary unit
17. Male parent
22. Finnish lake
23. A smooth fabric
24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
26. Very willing
28. Expressed pleasure
29. Lasso
32. Hindu model of ideal man
36. Move your head in approval
38. Ill-\_\_\_: gained illegally
40. Die
43. Accused publicly
44. Precious stone
45. Individual thing or person
46. Behaved in a way that degraded
51. Derogatory term
54. No seats available
55. Liability
56. Popular beverage
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Troubles
60. Negative
62. Camper

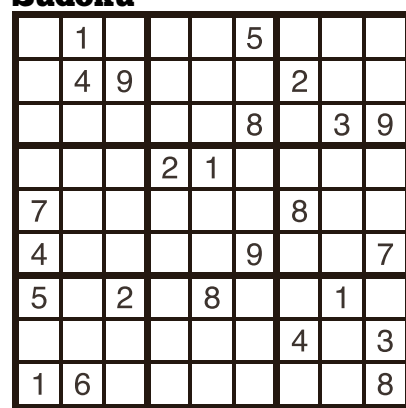
### Feb. 23 Solution



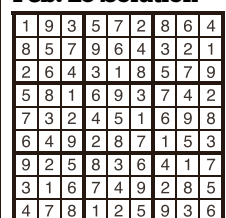
### CLUES DOWN

1. A person with unusual powers of foresight
2. Single sheet of glass
3. Portrays a character
4. Expresses happiness
5. Acquires
6. "The Martian" author
7. Degree
8. 60-minute intervals
9. A detective's pal
10. Group of nations (abbr.)
11. Popular Georgia rockers

### Sudoku



### Feb. 23 Solution



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# Friendly Calls program seeks to address isolation

By ELIAS SORICH  
elias@millertonnews.com

POUGHKEEPSIE — The Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) has put out a call for volunteers and participants alike to sign up for the newly implemented Friendly Calls program. The program, a New York State Office for the Aging template, is designed to combat senior isolation through a series of eight weekly, 20-to-30-minute-long phone conversations with volunteer callers.

Getting its start at the end of January, the program has developed quickly in Dutchess

County, with 32 volunteers currently making calls to 40 participants. Sue Serino, who has been working as a communications specialist at OFA and recently launched a campaign for Dutchess County executive, was instrumental in the implementation of Friendly Calls. She hopes, through the program, to reach those seniors in the region at risk of isolation.

“There are around 45,000 seniors who live in Dutchess County, and many are from a generation where it’s harder, culturally, for them to ask for help. So we’re also hoping to reach caregivers, or family

**Serino’s ultimate goal is for participants and callers in the program to develop long-term friendships outside of the bounds of the eight-week structure.**

members, who might be able to look at the program and help those seniors at risk get some additional social contact.”

Listing the pandemic as a driving force behind an uptick in senior isolation, as well as the region’s lack of public transportation, Serino’s ultimate goal is for participants and callers in the program to develop long-term friendships outside of the bounds of the

eight-week structure.

“One of our first callers, Rita, is in her 80s, and was connected with a woman in her 90s. The other day she let us know that she’s picking up Louise to get lunch together, which just really warmed my heart.”

Volunteers must be over age 18 to participate and can expect to receive trainings on active listening, communicating expectations and bound-

aries, and tactics for having engaging conversations and making friends over the phone. If, at the end of the eight weeks, both parties express interest, the program can be extended.

That social isolation and loneliness represent serious health risks for seniors is both well-established and still being studied. Of the physical and mental health risks associated, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists a 50% increased risk of dementia, an increased risk of premature death on par with smoking and obesity, and a 29% increased risk of developing heart disease as some of the more deadly. This burden is not felt equally across senior populations — the CDC notes that immigrant and LGBTQ+ seniors are at higher risk than their peers, stating:

“First-generation immigrants experience stressors that can increase their social isolation, such as language barriers, differences in community, family dynamics, and new relationships that lack depth or history, the report states. Similarly, gay, lesbian, and bisexual populations tend to have more loneliness than their heterosexual peers because of stigma, discrimination, and barriers to care.”

Loneliness is defined by the National Institute for Aging as “the distressed feeling of being alone or separated,” whereas social isolation is the “lack of social contacts and having few people to interact with regularly.” Though related, these experiences do not always lead to one another — some people are able to live fully and happily with fewer social connections, and feelings of loneliness can evolve regardless of how social a person may be.

If you or an older adult in your life needs support or feels isolated, contact the NY Connects hotline at 1-800-342-9871 for one-stop access to free, objective and comprehensive information and assistance at the local level. You can also reach your county office for the aging by using NYSOFA’s online directory, accessible at <https://aging.ny.gov/local-offices>.

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging will hold an information session for those interested in participating or volunteering in the Friendly Calls program on Monday, March 6, at the Poughkeepsie Friendship Center, 114 Delafield St. Those interested can also contact OFA during business hours 845-0486-2555 or reach out to Serino’s office at 845-486-2575.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## 40 Fire Chiefs reunite

Fire chiefs, both past and present, from Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts, gathered at a dinner on Friday, Feb. 24, at the Canaan Country Club to catch up. Every person in this photo has been a volunteer Fire Chief of their own respective departments. Donnie Reid of Lakeville Hose Co. organized the event. Departments represented included Amenia, Millerton, Sheffield, Lakeville, North Canaan, Falls Village, Cornwall and Sharon.

# Shrove Tuesday celebrated with pancakes and more at Grace Church

By JUDITH O’HARA BALFE  
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MILLBROOK — Whether you call it Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras or the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, Tuesday, Feb. 21, was a day at Grace Church for eating pancakes with fresh maple syrup, with or without blueberries. It was also a day for celebrating community, hoping for an early spring, and thinking of a glorious Easter.

In many cultures, Shrove Tuesday is the day to burn the palms left from the year before to be used to place a print of ashes on the foreheads of parishioners on Ash Wednesday.

It may also be a day of confession and atonement. The word “shrove” actually derives from the word “shrive,” which means “to absolve.” Because Lent is also known as the season for sacrifice, such as giving up one’s favorite food or activity in preparation for the holy season of Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, Shrove Tuesday is also the day to gorge, to feast



PHOTO BY JUDITH O’HARA BALFE

for one last time before the 47 days before Easter begin.

The day is a movable one, dependent on the date that Easter falls on. If one is more familiar with the term Fat Tuesday, this comes from Mardi Gras, the celebration that almost certainly came from a pagan celebration of fertility and spring that became associated with the Christian rite of Shrovetide.

At the parish hall of Grace Church, the feast consisted of pancakes with bacon or sausage, fresh fruit cup, fresh maple syrup, coffee and juice. Long tables were set up with white table clothes, dishes of

butter and pitchers of syrup. People ate, enjoyed each other’s company, and especially enjoyed the food that so many parishioners volunteered to cook. Rev. Matt Calkins showed that he was proficient as a waiter, carrying several plates of food at a time, all with a smile, and a good time was had by all. The food was free to all attendees, but donations were made and gratefully accepted.

The dates for the holy season this year are: Palm Sunday, April 2; and Easter Sunday, April 9. Check local church calendars for special events.

**There can never be too many cooks in the kitchen at Grace Church in Millbrook; here the men are flipping pancakes, cooking bacon and sausage, and brewing coffee for the parishioners to enjoy a pancake dinner in honor of Shrove Tuesday on Feb. 21.**

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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OBITUARIES

Judith Ann Madden Crump

NORTH CANAAN — Judith Ann Madden Crump, 80, of North Canaan, passed away unexpectedly at Danbury Hospital on Feb. 24, 2023. Judy, as she preferred to be called, was born July 2, 1942, in Winsted to Raymond and Gertrude (Heady) Madden.

She grew up in Winsted and met the love of her life there.

On Sept 19, 1964, she married Richard V. Crump. They moved to Canaan in 1968 and were married for 58 years. They loved to travel together, frequently going on cruises and bus trips. She was the loving mother to Stephen and Cheryl.

Judy loved animals, especially gorillas, monkeys and dolphins. Some of her greatest adventures involved swimming with the dolphins and sea lions. Her last adventure was a trip to the Atlanta Zoo and the Georgia Aquarium, where she got to see and interact with her favorite animals.

Judy worked at Canaan Pharmacy, Becton Dickinson and Edward R. Hamilton Bookseller, where she met many of her friends. She had an infectious laugh and was a joy to be around. Family and friends were very important to Judy. They meant everything to her. She loved chatting with her friends and family near and far on Facebook. She could frequently be seen giving her friends a hard time, but everyone knew that was a

sign that she loved them. She loved all her nieces, nephews and their families. She was proud of them all. She loved seeing everyone every year at the family reunions. Many of her friends' children saw her as a second mother, a position she did not take lightly. She loved every one of them as if they were her own family.

In addition to her parents Judy was predeceased by her brother Raymond Madden Jr., sisters Helen Leila Madden and Marjorie Robillard. She is survived by her husband Richard, children Stephen and Cheryl, and nieces Jeanie Hilton, Sue Robillard, Helen Stringham, Janice Madden Coon, Marge Valois and Amy Robillard; nephews Tim Robillard, Guy Robillard, Raymond Madden and Donald Madden, as well as all their children.

Judy has requested no calling hours instead the family will host a celebration of life in the spring. She will be buried beside her parents in Winchester cemetery in the spring.

The family would like to thank Canaan Ambulance, all the staff at Sharon Hospital (who treated her like family) and the staff at Danbury Hospital for the wonderful care they gave her.

Please consider a donation to one of Judy's favorite charities MilesandsmilesforHadley.com, St. Jude's or the Disabled American Veterans.

MILLERTON — Bernard Oliver "Bernie" Silvernail, 90, a lifelong Millerton resident, died peacefully at Vassar Brothers Medical Center on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2023. Born April 10, 1932, in the Town of North East, Bernie was the son of the late Albert N. and Florence (Parmalee) Silvernail.



Bernie was a graduate of Millerton High School, and on June 23, 1953, he married his wife of nearly 70 years, Joan (DeWitt), who along with their son Robert, survives at home. Bernie was predeceased by a sister, Isabel Corbett, and is survived by a sister, Joan Schuster, and a sister in law, Jean DeWitt. He has a niece, Terry Young, and nephews Michael DeWitt, Alan (Brenda) DeWitt, David (Patti) VandeBogart, David Corbett and Peter Corbett.

Bernie proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1951-1955, mostly stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi. Bernie specialized in meat cutting, and was employed by the First National in Millerton. He had a long career as a machine operator at the Keuffel & Esser Compa-

Bernard Oliver 'Bernie' Silvernail

ny, also in Millerton. He later worked as an athletic assistant at the Salisbury School. He worked in the same position at the Hotchkiss School as well as a housekeeper and a security officer.

Bernie was extremely active in his community. He was a seventy-three year active member with the Millerton Fire Company. He was a member of the American Legion Post 178, and a member of the North East Historical Society. He was a Town of North East tax collector, served on the Town Planning Board and Board of Appeals, and was an interim building inspector. He also served several years on the Town Republican committee. Bernie also coached minor league, Little League, and Babe Ruth baseball. Bernie wrote a very popular weekly History column for The Millerton News titled Yesterday Year. Bernie's true passion was being a volunteer firefighter. He also served as the Fire Company Historian for his entire career, and was also a charter member of the Company color guard. Bernie held many titles through

the years including Parade Marshal for the Company's 125 Year Anniversary Parade. He was also the Company joker, constantly making people smile and laugh, but took his firefighting seriously, and was always there to help.

Bernie was a huge part of the Millerton Community. He had a great sense of humor, and was a dedicated individual that loved his community, and the local history that accompanied it. He will be dearly missed by all.

Callings hours will take place on Saturday, March 4, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Ave., Miller-

ton, NY 12546. Members of the Millerton Fire Company and the Millerton Legion Post 178 will conduct services during visiting hours. A funeral service will be held at 11:30 am at the funeral home. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. Burial with Standard Military Air Force Honors will follow at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546 or Millerton Legion Post 178, 155 Route 44, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Celebration of Life

Kent T. Kay

A Celebration of Life for Kent T. Kay, DVM, will be held on Saturday, June 17, at 10 a.m., at the Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls, N.Y.

OVER THE BORDER

Physical therapist finds new space

By CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER  
Special to The Millerton News

NORTH CANAAN, Conn. — Devoted clients of physical therapist Mike Mangini will be relieved to know he has opened his new private practice, in North Canaan, as of Monday, Feb. 13.

Mangini, 55, was the founding director of outpatient therapy at Geer in North Canaan, where he saw patients for 25 years, building up a devoted clientele over the decades. The waiting list to see him or one of the two other therapists in the department was often five weeks.

Despite the need for the program, and its popularity, COVID-19 and other challenges forced Geer to close the outpatient therapy department last September. Mangini spent a few months searching for just the right commercial space, one that was clean and spacious and which offered easy wheelchair access.

He found it at last at 10 Railroad St. in the center of town. Mangini said he is grateful to building owner John Considine for "being very accommodating and doing such a nice job creating this space."

Considine owns several commercial properties in the North Canaan business district; Mangini said his landlord's mission is to bring to town "more nice things to do; and I hope to add to what he's started here in the center of town."

The storefront space that Mangini now occupies is unexpectedly cheerful for a medical space, with two friendly signs announcing "physical therapy," an inviting message that is enhanced by two giant brightly colored therapy balls next to the front door (the wheelchair access is

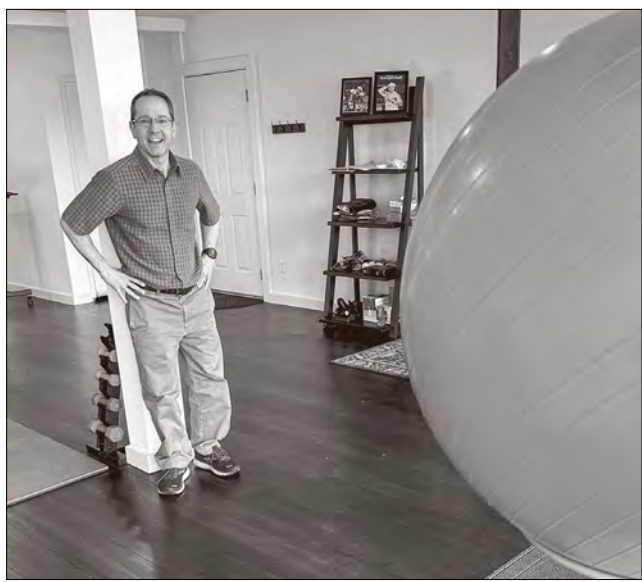


PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Physical therapist Mike Mangini opened his new private practice in North Canaan on Feb. 13.

through a side entry).

Generally, physical therapy is not a joyful activity, but somehow the upbeat and humorous Mangini manages to make appointments with him something to look forward to. He is an experienced and highly competent therapist with an advanced degree in orthopedic PT, thousands of hours of continuing education in (and experience in) manual therapy, including in the Mulligan manual therapy technique.

He does work that can be compared to chiropractic; he is expert in the technique of dry-needling, which is similar to acupuncture but which, he explained, "is based on anatomy and Western medicine, unlike acupuncture, which is based on the meridians and on Chinese medicine." Another difference: Dry needling is done in combination with a light electrical stimulation, "which has a way of changing how the brain internalizes pain information. The goal is to change the body tissue, but also to create systemic change in the brain and spinal cord."

Mangini estimates that 75%

of his patients are helped by dry needling, in combination with manual therapy and PT exercises.

"It's fun and it doesn't hurt," he promised.

One of the main challenges of being a successful PT, of course, is not just the techniques you use but also the way in which you diagnose a problem and then choose the appropriate treatments.

"I try to be empathetic and a good listener. I try to remember that people have psycho-social needs and that sometimes I need to really hear what someone is saying to me. I try to look at what motivates people, and to understand that not everyone is going to go home and do all the exercises I recommend to them.

"I feel like if I can understand what motivates someone, I can more easily contribute to their recovery process. People want to move better and live better. I want to give them strategies and management tools so they can make good decisions about their health."

While that all might sound

a little earnest, Mangini presents those life lessons wrapped in a healthy dose of humor and good cheer. Unusually, there is nearly always laughter involved in a session with him, even when the road to mobility and relief is painful. So when Mangini promises that, for example, dry needling is fun, he means it, and he isn't kidding (about that). Also fun: pool therapy at the YMCA at Geer Village in North Canaan.

"It's fun!" he promised. "And it's effective for people with balance issues, spinal pain, arthritis."

For patients who haven't already worked with him at Geer, Mangini suggests a phone call or a text with questions of the "Hey, I've got something going on" variety.

"Then I can either say, 'I think you should come in,' or I might say, 'That sounds complex, you should probably talk to a doctor.'"

Appointments are now booked directly through Mangini; although there is not yet a five-week waiting list, his calendar is beginning to fill up.

In addition to pool therapy at the Y, he is also doing some home visits to reduce stress for patients who can't always get a ride to his office, or for those who can't easily be moved.

The office is now open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"I'm an out-of-network provider for all major medical plans," he said. "Or patients can do fee-for-service."

Costs vary depending on how long the session lasts, with most costing between \$60 and \$120.

Contact Mike Mangini by text or phone at 860-309-4449; email him at mikemanginipt@gmail.com or go to his website at www.manginiphysicaltherapy.com.

Support local journalism in your community. Please donate to The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News at LakevilleJournalFoundation.org/donate or by mail PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Worship Services Week of March 5, 2023

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

<p><b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p><b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p><b>St. John's Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p><b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p><b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p><b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 484 Lime Rock Rd., 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) 435-2627</p>
<p><b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm &amp; Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p><b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p><b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 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><b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 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><b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 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><b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> 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><b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p><b>Sharon Congregational</b> 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><b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p><b>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH</b> 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 &amp; Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Tuesday 9 AM - St. Bernard</p>
<p><b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p><b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>
<p><b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p><b>Millerton United Methodist Church</b> 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>
<p><b>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church</b> 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340   allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	

# Town moves to grant tax exemptions, higher tax caps

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — The Town of Washington moved to grant volunteer firefighters and rescue squad workers a 10% exemption on the assessed value of real property taxes on a primary residence in the municipality.

The move was taken after a public hearing held on Thursday, Feb. 23. Under separate consideration, the Town considered raising the cap on taxes for disabled residents.

The exemption for firefighters and rescue personnel is created by local law in line with provisions of New York State Real Property Tax Law.

The exemption applies provided that the volunteer has a minimum of two years of service, and the real property tax exemption must be used for residential purposes only.

An enrolled member who accrues more than 20 years of active service will be granted the exemption for the remainder of their life as long as their primary residence is located within the Town of Washington. The exemption also will continue for the unremarried surviving spouse of the volunteer.

A second public hearing was held on a proposal to increasing the income level for persons with disabilities and low incomes, and to adopt

a resolution to increase the current maximum income of \$29,000 to \$37,400 yearly.

The proposal passed. Other Town business included a discussion of Zoom meetings and whether absent members of committees can be allowed to vote via online attendance. This is under consideration.

Recreation director Danielle Szalewicz discussed opening bidding for services for the park and will be conducting interviews for a maintenance person.

The next meeting is on Thursday, March 9, at 6 p.m., at Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Dr., and on Zoom. Check [www.washingtonny.org](http://www.washingtonny.org) for further information.



PHOTO BY GRIFFIN COOPER

## Farnham takes the shot

No. 14 Olivia Farnham takes a shot on Saturday, Feb. 25, when the Webutuck varsity girls basketball team downed the Eldred Yellowjackets 52-20 in the Section 9 Class D playoffs.

# New signs, new speeds in Washington

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — There are new speed limit signs in and about the Town of Washington. There are also some speed changes, as shared by Town Clerk Mary Alex.

A study was done via a request to lower maximum speeds on certain roads: Shunpike (County Road 57), Little Rest Road (County Route 99), North Mabbettsville Road (County Road 98), Chestnut

Ridge Road (County Route 23), Oak Summit Road (County Route 95), County House Road (County Route 97) and Altamont Road (County Route 96). It was noted that the study had previously been done on Altamont Road by Chazen and had been approved by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT).

The speed studies on the other roads have now been completed by NYSDOT, and the entire length of Shunpike (County Route 57) from Route 82 to Route 44 is now 45 miles

per hour. The speed limit is also 45 mph on Little Rest Road (County Route 99) from Route 343 to Route 44; and North Mabbettsville Road (County Route 98) from Route 57 to Route 44.

On Chestnut Ridge (County Route 23) from Route 343 to the Union Vale line, the top speed is 45 mph.

According to the communication, the entire length of Oak Summit Road, after careful review, does not support a lower maximum speed limit

and thus stands.

It was further stated that, as Dutchess County roads, it is the County's responsibility to install and maintain the proper speed limit signage and it is strongly recommended that these roadways be reviewed by the County to determine if certain conditions may require the posting of additional warning signs. The New York State Police Troop K, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Washington will be notified of the speed limit changes.

# Stanford Grange to hold takeout corned beef and cabbage dinner

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange No. 808 will host its annual corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 11, at 5 p.m. at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82. All dinners are take-out only. The menu will consist of corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, carrots, homemade Irish soda bread, and shamrock pudding

for dessert. There is a \$17 donation per dinner. Participants are asked to drive to the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for dinner, and get their food through their car window. Reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call Grange secretary Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869.

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# Seasonal Affective Disorder in northern climes

By ISABELLE CLARK  
Special to The Millerton News

SHARON — Seasonal Affective Disorder, otherwise known as SAD, is an important issue especially for those living in northern latitudes.

In a recent interview with Dr. Sabooh Mubbashar, chief of psychiatry at Sharon Hospital, who has worked with SAD patients for several decades, he shared both general information about the disorder as well as recommendations for treatment and relief.

SAD affects approximately 10 million people across the United States, an estimated prevalence of 0.5-3%. With SAD, as geographical latitude rises, so does prevalence. For example, New Hampshire has a rate of 9% while Florida has a 1.9% rate.

Symptoms of SAD include: sad mood, low energy or lethargy, difficulty concentrating, withdrawal from social life, excess carbohydrate and sugar consumption, and insomnia or hypersomnia.

SAD is currently identified under the umbrella of depressive disorders; however, experts are advocating that it have its own diagnostic category. A person with SAD meets criteria for this type of depression when symptoms correlate with seasons, where depression occurs at any

time of year and may be exacerbated during the winter, but does not correlate seasonally. In SAD, there will be a full remittance of symptoms when the season is over.

According to Mubbashar, there are a number of prevalent theories about the causes of SAD.

With the Phase Shift hypothesis, experts argue that the disorder is related to exposure of light, that an individual's biological clock is out of phase, mostly delayed, with the day/night cycle.

Another theory is that, in some individuals, the disorder may have to do with neurotransmitters and genetics — they may have a higher level of a protein called SERT, which interferes with the action of serotonin, leaving it less available in the brain. Serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain, regulates mood, and low levels are associated with depression. People with higher levels of SERT tend to be more predisposed to SAD.

Finally, there is the Photo-Count hypothesis. With less intense daylight, the body has a higher melatonin release and lower serotonin concentrations.

Mubbashar recommends a number of treatments to pa-

tients, including light therapy, vitamin D supplementation, medications, and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT).

Light therapy involves using a cool white florescent light behind an ultraviolet shield. Light strength must be 10,000 LUX (units of illuminance based on an international standard) every day for 30-45 minutes. Light therapy can be done while doing everyday activities such as reading a book or having a meal. Light boxes are available online for as little as \$40. If light therapy is the right fit, an individual will see a difference in about one to two weeks.

According to Mubbashar, the best medicine is prevention, so light therapy should be started in late September and continue through mid March.

Vitamin D therapy will be important if an individual has low levels. There is a 41.6 % vitamin D deficiency prevalence across the United States. Vitamin D is involved in serotonin neurotransmission, a process necessary for physical and emotional well-being. In an individual with SAD, it is important to get regular versus annual vitamin D measurements to ensure proper dosing, Mubbashar said.

Cognitive behavioral therapy in short duration can be a useful form of treatment, even in short six-to-eight-week durations. CBT can enhance one's repertoire by increasing motivation, developing routine and structure/schedule, identifying and planning for enjoyable activities during the winter months, and shifting negative thought process to more positive framework.

For more severe symptoms, which can include impairment in daily functioning, difficulty keeping up with work/life demands, or suicidal ideation, Mubbashar will utilize a medication for a patient, usually an antidepressant.

Support groups can also be helpful. In coping with SAD, proper diagnosis and treatment can be life changing.

Isabelle Clark is a licensed independent clinical social worker.

# LEGAL NOTICES

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Town of North East on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at the North East Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave., Millerton, NY at 7:40 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the application of Suburban Propane LP for a Lot Line Adjustment on Tax Parcel #7272-00-063335 located at Route 22, Millerton, NY in the A5A Zoning District of the Town of North East and Parcel #7272-00-057307 located at 6180 Route 22, Millerton, NY in the A5A Zoning District of the Town

of North East. The above application is open for inspection at the Town Hall or via email. Please request a copy by emailing the Planning Board office at [pb@townofnortheastny.gov](mailto:pb@townofnortheastny.gov) or calling 518-789-3300, Ext. 608. The application is also available on the Town website for inspection.

Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person or by attorney or other representative. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing.

Dale Culver  
Chairman  
Planning Board  
03-02-23

Email news and photos to [editor@millertonnews.com](mailto:editor@millertonnews.com)

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**STEAM** *Continued from Page A1*

Preferences”), keen observations from real life in “Digestive System of a Cow” and the sobering “We Destroyed: The Oceans.”

On the value of the yearly fair, Fridstrom said, “It’s a great opportunity to practice doing science... While we certainly do lots of hands-on things in class, we’re always amazed at the kind of things students come up [with] to investigate, and it’s always exciting to see the investigations into things we don’t know answers to.”

The spirit of youthful playfulness was in evidence in projects with titles like “Tiny Dancers — Homopolar Motor,” MacGyver Award winner “Elephant Toothpaste,” and the hilarious and informative “This Project is Bananas!” by the ebullient Schultz sisters, Charlotte and Alivia.

The role of older student “listeners” was touching to observe. One was Gillette’s daughter Zoe, who reflected, “We get them to open up and reveal more than they thought they knew,” adding that it seemed wise that participation in the fair is a voluntary effort based on students’ deep interests.

Exploring our region’s natural resources with a family angle, two Lawrence siblings with firsthand knowledge explored dairy cows, one with the use of a drawing previously made by their mother



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

**Second-grader Lois Musgrove indicates one of her favorite parts in her investigation of fossils.**

and overlaid with anatomical terms relating to the bovine digestive system.

In terms of environmentally focused work, two projects took a broad view toward solving a problem that may seem intractable: plastic waste, particularly in our oceans. In “We Destroyed: The Oceans,” Lyla Kern and Andy Mersand, both seventh-graders, looked at the decomposition rate of plastic and paperlike materials in three conditions: plain water, water over time, and water containing enzymes. Though some materials may be labeled “flushable,” their investigations showed that

those claims may be less than accurate.

Taking off from one of science history’s great serendipities, fourth-grader Zoe Gellweiler’s project, “Milk Plastic/Bioplastic! The Single Use Plastic Solution,” explained how, in 1897, German scientist Adolf Spitteler’s rather clumsy cat was responsible for the invention of casein. Pronounced “kay-seen,” the word refers both to the protein in milk that provides its white color as well as a type of plastic made from it. An overnight spill of formaldehyde into the feline’s milk bowl resulted in a hard, horn-like substance that was eventually

used to make combs, buttons, buckles, beads, handles for various implements, pens, game pieces and even bowls until the 1930s.

Zoe’s project suggests that food wrap films made from casein could help to solve the problem of single-use plastics, since casein plastic is stronger and biodegradable under home composting conditions, without the toxicity of petroleum-based plastics. Whether our habits can revert to pre-petroleum practices or the deep links between the plastics and petrochemical industries can be undone are issues for adults to ponder.

The program ended with all participants receiving gift bags, some students getting book vouchers from Oblong, and winners in various categories claiming their prizes and certificates of participation. As adults helped to pack away projects destined for the County Science Fair at Dutchess Community College in late March, or the district’s upcoming Math and Science Night, several young scientists dashed around the cavernous gym, seeming to enact some basic principles of kinetic energy.

More information, and pictures of winners in all categories, are available on the Webutuck Central School District website [www.webutuckschools.org](http://www.webutuckschools.org)

**HOSPITAL** *Continued from Page A1*

och, and Sharon Hospital’s VP of Medical Affairs Dr. Mark Marshall.

OHS sought clarification on how Nuvance could justify its claim that all services currently in place in Sharon Hospital’s ICU would remain in place under the proposed PCU, considering these are two distinct levels of care.

During his explanation, Marshall said, “We haven’t been keeping patients for many years that require high level intensive care services.”

OHS operations manager Steven Lazarus asked Nuvance when Sharon Hospital last provided an ICU level of care.

Murphy responded by saying, “It’s a moving target.”

Marshall stated there are varying levels of critical care medicine and the level of care that qualifies as intensive care has changed over time. “At one point we might have been considered a mid-level ICU, but now the care that we practice is really progressive care medicine,” said Marshall.

Hearing officer Daniel Csuka requested a side-by-side comparison of the types of acuity cases that can be handled in an ICU versus a PCU as it relates to Sharon Hospital. Additionally, OHS requested updated census data, policies, and transfer statistics from both the ICU and Medical-Surgery unit at Sharon Hospital. Csuka set a Mar. 17 deadline for Nuvance to submit late files.

OHS also inquired about how Nuvance would proceed if this or its other pending application to shut labor and delivery services were denied.

Murphy noted the current financial losses at Sharon Hospital and responded by saying, “This model cannot continue. The rate of loss is of enormous concern.” Murphy mentioned a potential alternative that he described as unfavorable: designating Sharon Hospital a Rural Emergency Hospital (REH).

REH is a Medicare provider designation that began in January of 2023. This federal program was designed to compensate rural hospitals that are unable to sustain a full range of services. REHs receive Medicare funding to provide emergency care, observation care, and additional outpatient services.

“I continue to believe and worry that all inpatient care might go away,” said Murphy. In reference to the application in question, he said, “This is a highly preferable alternative. This preserves care in the community. This preserves jobs.”

During closing arguments, SSH attorney Paul Knag summarized his side’s stance on the issue. He stated the creation of a PCU at Sharon Hospital would result in financial losses, a reduction in quality of care, and a loss of access to care for the community.

Knag noted that all elected officials who spoke during public comment were opposed to Nuvance’s proposal. “This assessment by the community leaders show that there’s a strong need to continue access to Sharon Hospital’s core services,” he said. “We ask that the hospital work with us to find a solution that leaves its core services intact.”

Nuvance’s attorney Ted Tucci closed by stating, “What has been proposed is a transformation plan that not only satisfies all the critical factors you’ve identified, but actually ensures that this hospital remains a critical part of this community.”

Tucci added that if OHS were to deny this application, “essentially what you will be doing is dooming Sharon Hospital to be stuck in the past.”

Tucci’s closing arguments concluded round two of hearings for this application. OHS will await late files from Nuvance to review current data before ruling on the application.

**REC. COMMISSION** *Continued from Page A1*

ational use of the properties.

“These are all things that we need to think of,” Winters said, “so that we don’t age out.” Attracting young families to take advantage of the recreational advantages of the town might lead them to frequent the businesses. Families might go on to settle in Amenia, increasing the school-age population, to volunteer for the fire department and become active in the community, Winters explained.

“Let’s try to create jobs,” Winters said, noting that the rail trail is a valuable resource to recreational life, an actively used corridor between Wassaic and Millerton, both villages realizing economic benefit.

“We don’t have a place in the center of town where people can congregate,” Winters said.

Reviewing her conceptual plans that were created to reflect residents’ suggestions, Didona said that both projects (Wassaic Park and Town Hall) have wetlands. Flood plains are found on both sites, she noted.

Included in the drawings for Wassaic Park could be a soccer field, basketball court, hiking and biking trails, fishing in Wassaic Creek with proper, convenient access, disc golf, picnic area, pond, restrooms and possibly a

pump track (a balloon-tired undulating bicycle course of humpy terrain). Two dog parks (one for large dogs, one for small) are envisioned.

Better entrance access and parking could come from reconfiguring the operational activities at the Town garage property, according to the plans. At present, parking is seen as one of the greatest needs at the park.

Plans for the Town Hall property could add renovated lawn areas, splash pad pools for children, and a roofed pavilion for concerts and other town gatherings.

Where plans suggested removal of the present basketball court along Route 343 in the Town center, making way for parking, some residents spoke in opposition, indicating that the court sees active use by young people now. Others sought more family-friendly hiking and attention to natural beauty in the planning.

A Wassaic resident felt that plans to create fishing access was “a great idea.” Others were skeptical that Wassaic Park would be a good place for a basketball court.

“I would prioritize projects to generate business in the downtown area,” another said.

“Plans need to evolve,” Didona agreed, emphasizing



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

**Residents gathered for an Amenia Recreation Commission forum on Tuesday, Feb. 21, for a presentation of preliminary concept drawings and to envision a future for two town properties that could be enhanced for recreational use.**

that the concept plan is a start to continued discussion and input from residents.

Town Board member Leo Blackman said that reconfiguring the storage aspects of the Town garage seems to be a good idea.

“How to make the new access to the park more visible,” Blackman added, is somewhat of a problem.

Town Board member Brad Rebillard pointed out that, in recent years he had been active in the revitalization of downtown Millerton.

“We need to create a destination,” Rebillard urged, adding that signage is an important aspect to a successful recreation program, for example.

“This is an important start,” Winters said, urging area organizations that know of regulations that might come into play in the planning be willing to assist his all-volunteer commission.

“We’ve been working hard to get this to move forward,” Winters said. The commission voted unanimously to continue the momentum by regular discussions to be held every two months going forward.

Attending the meeting was state Assemblyman Anil Beepan, who represents the 105th District that includes Amenia. Commenting after the meeting, he said that he

**ZURHELLEN** *Continued from Page A1*

to be doing... it doesn’t seem to be getting done.”

Zurhellen is running against former state Sen. Sue Serino, who announced her candidacy on Feb. 16 and has been endorsed by the Dutchess County Republican Committee.

Of the biggest issues facing Dutchess County, Zurhellen said, “Number One, for me, is the housing crisis... it’s not just a Poughkeepsie problem or a low-income problem, it’s an everybody problem.

“I teach at Marist [College]. We hire new professors and sometimes they don’t take the job because they can’t find housing.”

As an associate professor

of English at Marist, Zurhellen is concerned about opportunities for youth: “We have a lot of kids in this county whose only meal is the one school meal. We’re dealing with a real food insecurity problem here, and I’ve got a plan to take care of that. But also when these kids graduate, there’s nothing keeping them here.”

Zurhellen has lived in Dutchess County for 19 years. “A lot of parts of the county have been neglected,” he said. “Rural folks in particular have really kind of been left out of the loop when it comes to decisions in Dutchess County. I’m really excited about stopping that.”

**Hospital compliance**

On Monday, Feb. 27, Nuvance held a state-mandated online forum on current conditions at Sharon Hospital that included a report from PYA, a consulting firm that reports to the OHS on compliance with the hospital’s Certificate of Need agreement.

David McMillan of PYA reported that for the seventh six-month reporting period (ending Sept. 30), there were “no non-compliance findings requiring intervention.”

On Nuvance’s current applications to close the Labor and Delivery unit and to consolidate the ICU and Medical-Surgery units into a PCU, PYA found that the hospital has complied with the requirements by holding public presentations of the hospital’s plans and by entering into the CON process with OHS.

McMillan said that PYA

was aware of an “interruption” in ICU services but it did not amount to a violation.

There were two questions from the public, both from Barbara Prindle of Sharon, who asked if the hospital plans to schedule surgeries only during day-light hours.

McCulloch said the hospital has been discussing ways of creating a more efficient surgical schedule since Sept. 2021, but no changes have been made and no solution has been determined yet.

Prindle also wanted to know when the MRI machine would be fixed.

McCulloch said there was indeed a malfunction and that a service technician was at the hospital that day, but the machine was still out of service.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

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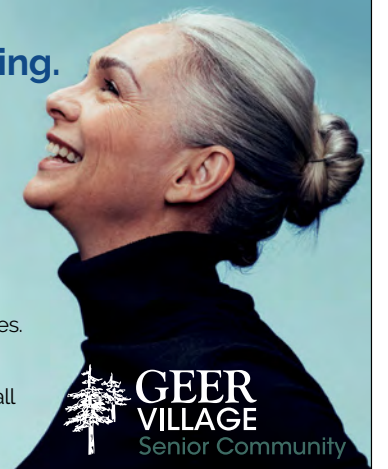


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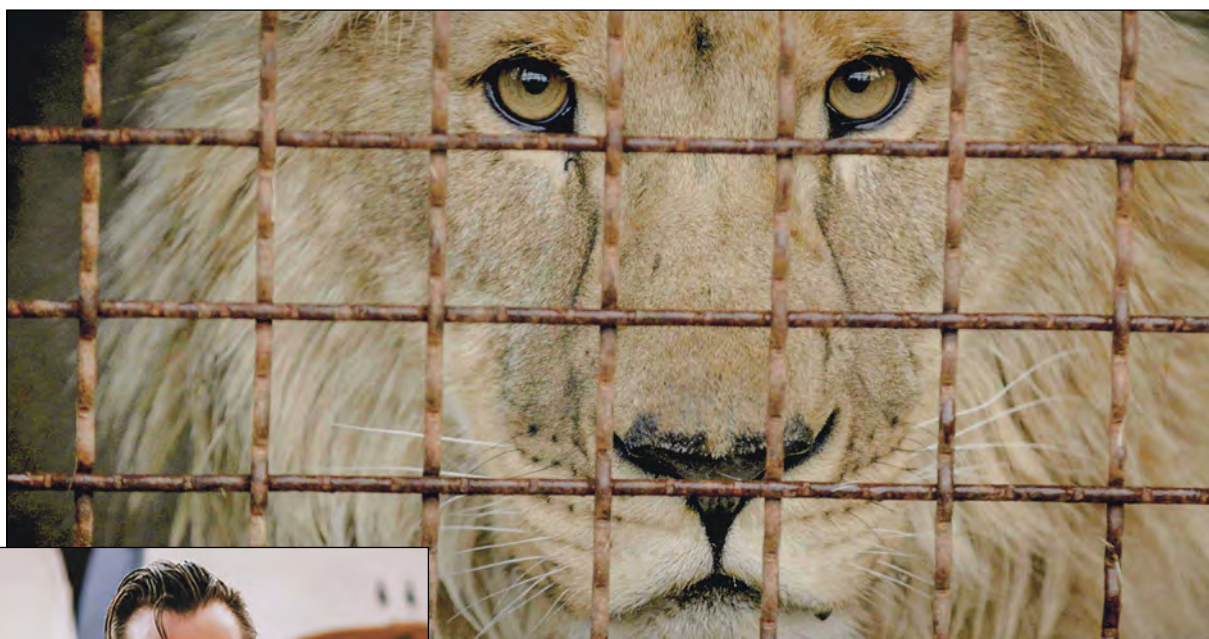
Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

## In the Midst of War, the Fight for Animal Survival

Under siege from the Russian invasion, Feldman Ecopark, a zoo in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, became the site for a daring rescue mission as both staff and volunteers worked to evacuate animals out of the warzone. Large predators like lions and bears had been trapped in their enclosures as Russian shelling destroyed Ecopark, and transporting them to safety took a team willing to risk their lives. Their story is captured in “Checkpoint: Zoo,” a forthcoming documentary by Joshua Zeman, a now full-time resident of Falls Village, Conn., whose filmmaking career has included “The Loneliest Whale: The Search For 52” distributed by Hulu and executive produced by Leonardo DiCaprio and Adrian Grenier. Zeman spoke with me ahead of a presentation on the film he’ll be giving at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village on Saturday, March 4.

was about this search for one unique whale. That had gotten some great reviews, they called it a modern-day “Moby Dick,” so I’m always looking for really interesting and engaging animal stories that sort of transcend your typical nature documentary. When I saw this story about the chimp I was intrigued, and I found out that she had come from Ecopark. I thought that was really interesting, the story of these displaced animals, much like the displaced Ukrainians who were at the time streaming out of the country during the conflict. There were a lot of stories about places being bombed, and farms being bombed, but what makes Ecopark unique is that it really was behind enemy lines, in between the last checkpoint of the Ukrainian army and the Russian front. The Russians were on the edge of the park, so the park almost became this no man’s land, like the buffers used in war.



FILM STILL FROM “CHECKPOINT: ZOO”



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Joshua Zeman

**Alexander Wilburn:** In this conflict, we’ve seen, in addition to the civilian loss of life, the effect of the bombing on animals. Pets were abandoned in the streets, and farm animals were killed during shelling, but the zoo faced a particular Crisis. Can you tell me how you first learned about Feldman Ecopark and the plight they were facing?

**Joshua Zeman:** It started with a New York Times story about this chimpanzee that was roaming the streets of Kharkiv. They were able to lure her back by using a bicycle and having her ride back to the zoo. I did an animal documentary with DiCaprio that

**AW:** The zoo is located in this really vulnerable spot, and prior to the war they were also conducting a lot of work with endangered species and preservation, right?

**JZ:** The film tries to talk about the unintended victims, the collateral of war. We don’t automatically think of animals during wartime. But the film also talks about the importance of zoos in societies. People can say, “We shouldn’t have zoos, look what happened here,” but actually zoos are becoming more places of conservation and breeding and wildlife reproduction than they ever have before, so I think that’s important to consider

in the conversation with animals and conflict.

**AW:** This has been a conflict where we’ve seen a lot of on-the-ground civilian footage, especially through TikTok, how much did that contribute to the filming process?

**JZ:** There’s an article in The New York Times today that says the war in Ukraine is the first “TikTok War.” Ecopark was evacuating these animals, but they had no way to get the larger predators out because it was so much more involved. It required cages and tranquilizers. So the zoo started posting videos, like one video of a young men evacuating the kanga-

roos. It’s wicked cute and the video was aired on [The Late Show with Stephen Colbert]. Once that ended up on Colbert, Ecopark realized they could ask for help on social media with the larger animals — and they got all this help. So they really learned to use social media to help save these animals. But in this war, we’ve replaced the Walter Cronkite, 7 p.m. news coverage of Vietnam with TikTok. That’s how most people see this war, they see it through their social media feeds.

**AW:** Through Tiktok, we get a ton of really immediate footage. How do you see that as affecting the role of the documentary?

**JZ:** In previous

decades we’d hear that there was no way you could incorporate cellphone footage into a documentary, the audience won’t accept that as creatively legitimate. But now I can use cellphone footage because in the context of war, and in the immediacy of war, this is how we document life now. That allows for a lot more stories to be told, and the democratization of that storytelling because it’s not being filtered through CNN.

**AW:** I have to imagine traveling to Ukraine was a unique filming experience.

**JZ:** I filmed a Netflix series called “Murder Mountain” so I spent a year up in Humboldt County [Calif.] with a whole bunch of outlaw weed dealers with a bunch of guns in my face, so it was a different kind of danger. For “The Loneliest Whale” I spent two weeks out in the ocean on a boat tagging whales — so this was a different kind of danger.

**AW:** Do you feel like this was the next level of extreme environments?

**JZ:** I’m not like an adrenaline junkie, I just like drama in my stories.

**AW:** You certainly had that, as well as this group of volunteers, zookeepers, even the zoo owner, millionaire Oeksandr Feldman, helping to

rescue these animals, a cast that cuts across all these different economic groups in Kharkiv — as well as human casualties.

**JZ:** It brings up a good question, which is why are some people willing to risk their lives to save animals. This is a no-brainer for some people, but other people would say that’s a ridiculous thing. Is it our empathy? What is it? There had been stories about Feldman Ecopark that were circulating in the press, but it wasn’t until reaching out to them that I realized the depth of the situation. Four zookeepers were killed, and there was a 15-year-old boy who was killed who was the son of two zookeepers... the idea of these young kids risking their lives to rescue these predatory animals while bombs are dropping was just so crazy.

**AW:** As you’ve seen this war progress, do you think the ecological ramifications are part of the conversation?

**JZ:** I think because of the intimacy that social media has provided, more and more we’re realizing the larger implications of war. I think this was one of the quickest times we’ve realized the unintended consequences of war — can you imagine all of these citizens had to evacuate and leave their pets behind? Their pets are like their children, their most intense source of comfort, and then they have to leave them. I think we have a far more nuanced understanding of the implications of war, but I’m not sure we have yet to fully understand the long-term ecological and environmental effects this will have, but we will be seeing it. It will be interesting to see how they rebuild and what Ukraine becomes.



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VZ by Beth Rundquist

**ART: EMILY EDELMAN**

## \$100k Raised at Art Auction To Aid in Ukraine Relief

Ukrainians' courage, ingenuity, and perseverance have changed and inspired the whole world," said Cellmark Inc. Executive Andre Wlodar in a speech to welcome the crowd of nearly 200 guests to Troutbeck on Sunday, Feb. 26, for a fundraising event to mark the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine. The event raised approximately \$100,000 toward relief for Ukraine.

"It's one year that this unthinkable thing happened," he said. "We thought, 'Russia is going to overpower Ukraine,' and guess what? A miracle happened, and that was the miracle of Ukraine."

Wlodar and his wife, art dealer Kim Schmidt-Wlodar, launched an online art auction in early February to raise money for Ukrainian relief that culminated in the gathering at Troutbeck.

Art by both Ukrainian and local artists had been on display at The Re Institute in Millerton, N.Y., for two weeks prior and was moved to Troutbeck for viewing during the fundraiser.

Guest speaker Alice Chun, founder and CEO

of Solight Design, discussed her journey to Ukraine to deliver her collapsible solar lanterns to children's hospitals there.

Chun has taken her lights to other wartorn and impacted areas, and gave a heartfelt account of her experiences.

"Every time I go to one of these red zones," said Chun, "I go to prove that there are always two sides to a story. When you breach the limits of prejudice and fear, it's always about going beyond that fear and self-pity into a place of enduring acceptance."

"It struck me that we wouldn't blame these kids if they were hateful, but they didn't have any hate. They were so gracious and kind and hopeful for a future of light... I couldn't believe the amount of love and hope that was coming from these kids and the grace of their hearts."

Ukraine native Julia O'Connell coordinates fundraising events for the nonprofit Razom — which, along with the Wayair Foundation, has been working with the Wlodars provide relief for Ukraine — and also spoke, discussing how her organization delivers medical supplies to

Ukraine.

A live auction conducted by Rachel Orkin-Ramey of Christie's featured unique packages including a home consulting experience with Hammertown owner and founder Joan Osofsky; dinner for six prepared by local resident and chef Matthew Lodes; and a photo shoot with Edward Acker Photography of Lenox, Mass.

A number of local eateries and purveyors including Champetre in Pine Plains, N.Y., Le Gamin in Sharon, Conn., Four Brothers, and Guido's Fresh Marketplace in Great Barrington, Mass., were represented, providing traditional Ukrainian foods and other offerings for guests.

Bard College graduate student Teryn Kuzma entertained the crowd by singing traditional songs and accompanying herself on Ukrainian bandura.

"They are so strong," said Wlodar of the people of Ukraine. "They're fighting also for our freedom, not only for their freedom. On this first anniversary of the war, I just wanted to say, let's stand with Ukraine and its people. We are in deep gratitude for what they're doing."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIVE POINTS GALLERY

Citizens II by Sandra Filippucci

**ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## A Different View of War Trauma

Now on display at Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn., "Ukraine Flower Series: The Power of Defiance" is a collection of violent black and white florals by painter Sandra Filippucci. At once blooming to life and a reflection of the jarring rush of death from wartime explosions, the mixed media paintings go against iconography that has

sprung out of this East European conflict. In an online artist's talk held on the one-year anniversary of war in Ukraine, Filippucci, a resident of Cornwall, Conn., shared that she purposefully avoided literal images of the country in peril.

"Most of the work is austere and monochromatic. I did not want to bring in Ukrainian colors. I did not want to paint sunflowers. I thought there has to

be a way to express the generational damage of war without using the universal go-to's," Filippucci said. "Otherwise it becomes an illustration. I was a New York illustrator, and I wanted to overcome the impulse to be narrative in this series."

"Ukraine Flower Series" is on display in the West Gallery of Five Points Gallery through March 11. For more go to [www.fivepointsarts.org](http://www.fivepointsarts.org)

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

**Chorus Angelicus**

The Congregational Church of Salisbury in Lakeville, Conn., will host Chorus Angelicus' three children's choirs performing folk arrangements and Felix Mendelssohn classics on Sunday, March 5 at 3 p.m.

**Gardening speaker series continues**

Garden designers Page Dickey and Deb Munson will share their secrets for using native plants to attract bird, bees and butterflies at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Conn., on Thursday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m. The talk is part of the ongoing Bad Grass Speaker Series with proceeds benefiting the Sharon Audubon Center in Sharon, Conn.

For details on the series and to purchase tickets go to [www.silvaetpratium.net](http://www.silvaetpratium.net)



PHOTO BY EMILY EDELMAN

Rachel Orkin-Ramey of Christie's presided over the auction at Troutbeck in Amenia, N.Y.

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EDITORIAL

# The library venue, a place where all belong

Last week the NorthEast-Millerton Library's Annex on Century Boulevard was the setting for Expo '23, an exhibit that focused on housing challenges for people of moderate incomes. The multi-day event attracted more than 50 attendees. Visitors came and lingered inside at the informational displays and talked with each other, sharing stories and ideas. A few weeks earlier, the Pine Plains Free Library was the setting for a public hearing held by the town's Planning Board. Approximately 60 residents attended the gathering — held in the library's spacious Community Room on the second floor — to learn about a solar project proposed by a New York company near Pulver's Corners. Before and after the hearing, small groups gathered on the side, talking among themselves, sharing viewpoints on the controversial plan.

The plan by Sharon Hospital to shutter its labor and delivery operation and transform its ICU into a progressive care unit has been the subject of roundtables at several forums — held mostly in libraries. In September, the Save Sharon Hospital (SSH) organization talked to the public at the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury. In November, SSH held its meeting at Cornwall Library. Then twice in October and February, SSH held similar meetings in the Annex at NorthEast-Millerton Library. And at the Annex, just as it happened at the housing Expo and at the Pine Plains hearing, residents stayed after the event to take in an extra social moment of talk and thought — and connect.

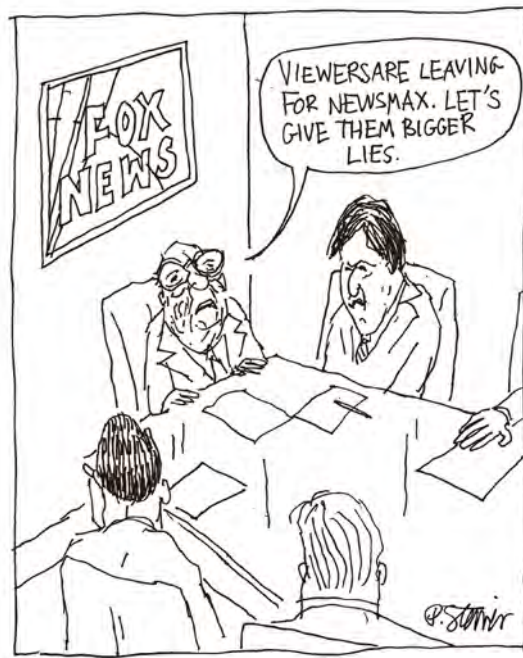
There isn't room in the columns of this newspaper to list all the ways that our libraries serve their communities by connecting people, promoting community spirit and advancing literacy. Town halls are where the business of governing gets done, but in many respects the town library serves the community in important ways.

Aside from catering to readers with books, magazines, newspapers, CDs, book clubs, movie streaming and a litany of online resources, they also serve as gathering places, social forums for all age groups.

There are 17 libraries in Litchfield County and 26 in Dutchess County. A partial list, besides the Scoville and Cornwall libraries, includes the Douglas Library in North Canaan, which marked its 200-year anniversary in 2021; the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon; the Kent Memorial Library; the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village; and the Norfolk Library. In eastern Dutchess County, besides the libraries in Millerton and Pine Plains, we have the Amenia Free Library, the Roeliff Jansen Community Library in Hillsdale/Copake, the Millbrook Library and the Stanford Free Library in Stanfordville.

The shared experience of sitting in a group with neighbors to learn something, to discuss it, to share thoughts and then to leave the event having interacted with people in the community—even if it's a nod or a handshake—is edifying in ways that trace back to our earliest days. Some come without saying a word. Nevertheless, they are part of it.

Discussing hospital cutbacks or affordable housing or the potential impact of a solar project on a rural landscape is one thing, but think of the value of a story hour program for children, who come together at library events as young social beings to experience a movie, arts and crafts, story time, dog visits, or music sing-alongs, to name a few. And have the common experience together. Belonging.



## The newest chapter in Troutbeck's story

As a lifetime neighbor of the Troutbeck property, and a personal friend of Lewis and Sophie Mumford, I find it ironic that at Troutbeck's own website one can read Lewis Mumford's essay 'The Story of Troutbeck' in which he predicts this time of reckoning for the historic property.

He states: "...admittedly, there are moments when, in walking around Troutbeck, one remembers Chekhov's 'The Cherry Orchard,' and wonders whether its fate is to be that of many country houses in Europe and America: to become the rural outpost of some metropolitan institution, or to be broken up like a suburban subdivision into building lots. That may be Troutbeck's destiny; yet there is something in the personality of the place that makes one hope for a different outcome when it changes hands..."

The following poem, written by my husband, reflects how we feel, that the Troutbeck property should, for centuries to come, be protected from development in such a significant manner.

**Marian M. Paton**  
Amenia

### A Reflection on the Newest Chapter in Troutbeck's Story

For many in life there will come one time; a moment, a crossroads, that itself defines

how we are remembered throughout the ages.

For most of us that history is small and soon forgotten to the past,

but on the newest chapter in Troutbeck's story history will shine its honest light, and forever allow our children's children and great-grandchildren to vividly see, with clarity, how in that moment we chose to write, forever, our family's legacy.

I'll echo Lewis Mumford's prescient words

who spoke of Troutbeck's timelessness being freed

from the city's urgency (and carelessness).

He eloquently wrote of the spirit of a place

that has, since Caleb Benton's time,

linked families to that soil and land

and for generations has inspired

the continuation of a collaboration

between the world of nature and the spirit of man.

With learned insight he hoped that reverence

would for centuries to come rise up

and protect those glens from greedy plans

for development and parking lots.

If you own a manor with history profound,

before you move to defile that hallowed ground,

(where Sinclair Lewis and Mark Twain both

spent days of quiet leisure) sit down, alone, with a quiet mind,

(as did John Burroughs and Myron Benton)

and there beside that lovely stream

(so admired by Emerson and Thoreau)

open your hearts and embrace the past

in a spirit of introspection, and before becoming historic villains

first contemplate those unspoiled fields

and that wooded mountain.

That majestic mountain, eons old,

stands a silent monument to those men of fame who nature so adored,

who fought to stay the selfish hand of man

and the earth's destruction did abhor

and did shield that ancient hunting ground

held sacred by true native clans

from the soulless excavators' wanton claw

and the bellowing bulldozers' gaping maw.

**James Robertson Paton**  
Amenia

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tri-Town coalition Housing Expo

Thanks for your coverage of the NE/Millerton Working Group's terrific exhibit (at the Library Annex) of the many options available to address our region's unaffordable-to-those-who-work housing crisis. Supported by a modest grant from the Foundation for Community Health, and organized by Sam Busselle, Meg Winkler, Tom Parrett and Karen Jacobsen (Congratulations all), portable boards displayed images of successful housing types from across the country. They present a range of small-scale solutions designed for rural communities. These are familiar-looking homes for your struggling neighbors. Half of us are currently unable to provide for our families due to high rents and low wages.

I've been part of the Tri-Town Coalition for four years now. A collaboration of the North East Community Center and Hudson River Housing (yay Christine Sergent and Christa Hines), volunteers in Millerton, Amenia and Pine Plains have been working hard to solve a lack of starter housing.

Only luxury product has gotten built for decades. Ev-

eryone I talk to understands it is incredibly difficult to find houses or rentals in the area.

Covid made it worse. Essential workers (firefighters, teachers, mail carriers) can no longer afford to live here. Nor can seniors, or their recently graduated grandkids in first jobs. To feel hopeful about retaining local families, head over and see this show.

In the past year Amenia has made remarkable progress toward our goals. The Amenia Housing Board, led by energetic chair Charlie Miller, has at least three projects in the hopper. HRH purchased land on the edge of town to construct 21 (I think) brand-new two-family units, and site planning is started. Habitat for Humanity proposed to build a multi-family home on town-owned land. And AHB pursued grants to purchase and renovate a historic one-family property.

Finally elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels recognize this real problem and promise some funds to build. Our towns need their support.

**Leo Blackman**  
Amenia Town Board member  
Wassaic

### Act against Iroquois pipeline project

The "Iroquois" Pipeline Company proposes to drastically increase the amount of gas they push through their existing 37-year-old, 414-mile long fracked gas pipeline, which runs from the New York/Canada border through Connecticut and into Long Island and New York City. In order to push more gas through the aging pipeline, they are applying to double the size of four already toxic and noisy compressor stations along the route of the pipeline — in Athens and Dover, New York, and Brookfield and Milford, Conn. The company is seeking a permit to expand "Enhancement by Compression" to a degree which is inconsistent with state climate law.

It seems clear to me that enhanced compressor sta-

tions would be a terrible addition to the already terrible "Iroquois" pipeline project, increasing stress on old and unsafe infrastructure and emitting more harmful particulates into our already over-burdened atmosphere.

We have to move away from the use of fossil fuels immediately. We are so far down a path to our own destruction — there should be no question that this project is furthering our ongoing climate and health disaster.

I do not live in New York state but Dover, New York, is half an hour's drive away, and Brookfield, Conn., about an hour, and the state borders don't restrain airflow.

Please act against this project.

**Patricia Mullins**  
Sharon, Conn.

### THE MILLERTON NEWS

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An Independent New York Newspaper

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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 JAMES H. CLARK

Winter pond

OUR TOWNS

# Hammerhead Horns at the Millbrook Library: Exciting times provided by MAG

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) has been supporting various programs in Millbrook for about 30 years, many in partnership with Millbrook Library. MAG's benefactors in Millbrook include the Dyson Foundation and the Tribute Garden.

Bob Button, one of the MAG board members, was thrilled to be talking about the Hammerhead Horns, a group that plays often at MAG venues.

Button moved to Millbrook three years ago, as his wife, Regina, is originally from Millbrook. He spends much time in the capital area for business, but makes sure Millbrook is well supported with programs sponsored by MAG.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the Millbrook Library resounded with the vibrant music of the Hammerhead Horns, playing

ballads, blues and featuring powerful vocals. This second concert in the Winter 2023 Concert Series sponsored by MAG ran from 5 to 7 p.m., with a complimentary reception at 4:30 p.m. for those wishing to sample some traditional New Orleans taste treats.

Chance Bushman joined in the festivities, illuminating the relationship between this music genre and "tapping," the eloquent joining of beat and tap dancing. The Hammerhead Horns made sure the library fairly rocked with a New Orleans/Mardi Gras beat!

The first winter concert at the library was a Pete Seeger night, from Seeger's "American Ballads" book. The response was overwhelming, bringing in well over the usual audience.

The third and final concert is another evening especially recommended by Button; "Janice Pendarvis: A Career Retrospective and Concert Demonstration," to be held

at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, March 25, at 5 p.m. Pendarvis has worked with artists such as Talking Heads, Sting, Roberta Flack, David Bowie and many others, so a look back at the career of this singer-songwriter might be like taking a stroll through the annals of modern music.

All MAG concerts are free, and have been a mainstay of entertainment for going on three generations of Millbrook citizens. MAG is a big part of the Village community, and it looks forward to being so for many years to come.

Big things are expected from the Bennett Park renovation, and hopefully a new and better bandshell will be one of them, something Button is also looking forward to. Enjoy the Pendarvis concert in March, then set your sights on the summer concerts starting in June, thanks to MAG's generosity.

For more information about MAG or to donate, go to [www.millbrookartsgroup.org](http://www.millbrookartsgroup.org).



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

The Hammerhead Horns were the attraction at the MAG sponsored concert at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, Feb. 25. The snow didn't seem to keep anyone away, as every seat was filled, some people were standing, and extra seats were brought in.

## OFA to offer resource forum for County veterans

RHINEBECK — The Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) will hold a veterans' resource forum on Tuesday, March 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Dr., for veterans of all ages and their families.

The event will include information and connection to agencies including the County's Division of Veterans' Services. Representatives from Mental Health America of Dutchess County, Rhinebeck at Home, and the County's Department of Behav-

ioral and Community Health Mental Health Subcommittee will be on hand to provide information on resources and benefits.

The event is free, but space is limited and reservations are required by calling OFA at 845-486-2555.

## Wassaic Project summer camp sign-ups begin

WASSAIC — The Wassaic Project has begun sign-ups for its seven 2023 summer camp sessions, which include Art Scouts, Rock Band Camp, Skateboard Camp, Teen Art

Survey Camp, and Piano Wreckers' Ball Camp.

The first session begins Monday, June 26. Registration and more information are available at [www.wassaicproject.org](http://www.wassaicproject.org). Those for whom the cost presents a significant financial burden may contact [jill@wassaicproject.org](mailto:jill@wassaicproject.org) for information on full or partial scholarships.

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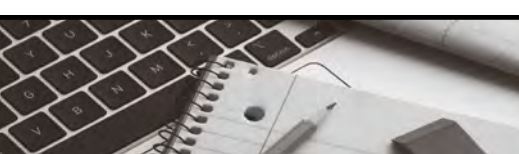
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