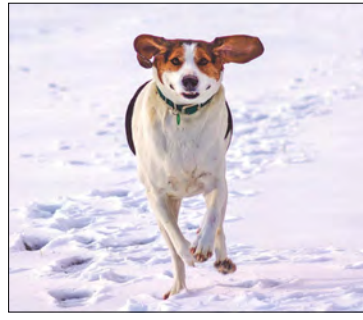




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## Stissing Center appoints new executive director

By **EMILY EDELMAN**  
Special to The Millerton News

**PINE PLAINS** — Brett Bernardini officially begins his tenure as executive director of the Stissing Center on Thursday, Dec. 15, replacing Brian Keeler, who retires after leading the organization from its launch nearly eight years ago.

Stissing Center Board President Patrick Trettenero said, "This position requires knowledge of cultural programming, marketing, fundraising, construction management and community engagement — a tall order by any measure — and Brett has an impressive track record in all of these categories."

Bernardini joins the Stissing Center after his most recent stint leading Nebraska Shakespeare in

Omaha, and has also held leadership roles at Cape Playhouse in Dennis, Massachusetts, and the Spirit of Broadway Theatre in Norwich, Connecticut, among others.

He is excited to be at the helm of a young and committed organization, but recognizes that the position is not without its difficulties. "I think the challenges are substantial, but I also think those challenges are the opportunities."

"One of the first challenges is: How does the Stissing Center position itself to lift up and celebrate the entirety of the community? How do we position ourselves to be a valued player in the life of the community?"

See **STISSING CENTER, A8**



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Brett Bernardini will become the new executive director of the Stissing Center in Pine Plains on Dec. 15.**



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

### Festival of Lights

Floats entertained parade watchers along Main Street during Millerton's Festival of Lights on Friday, Nov. 25. For full story and more photos, turn to Page A2.

## The Dover Project: will there be a substation in Dover?

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

**DOVER** — Many people who check in on social networks may have seen recently that Concerned Citizens of Dover (CCD) invited neighbors, including specifically Millbrook and Millerton/North East, to attend the Town of Dover Planning Board meeting on Mon-

day, Nov. 21.

Among other items on the agenda was a third public hearing for Transco's Dover Project, the building of an energy substation in the town.

The Planning Board met discussing old business, then new business; they moved on to the public hearing portion of the meeting with the first order of business

the Stonybrook Estates item, which was held over until Dec. 5, and then on to the business that attracted most of the residents who attended, the NY Transco LLC and the Dover Sub Station.

If one remembers the furor over the Cricket Valley Energy Center (CVEC) a few years ago, this is no

See **DOVER PROJECT, A8**

## Child care centers battle staffing, funding shortages

By **ELIAS SORICH**  
Special to The Millerton News

Early child care centers across the Northwest Corner and in eastern Dutchess County tell a common story: an emerging staffing shortage underscores challenges both old and new in the industry.

From a dearth of applicants, to unreliable and sporadic state and federal funding — the current pic-

ture is of a chronically undervalued industry that fights hard to provide crucial services to underserved populations.

Providing both before- and after-school care to children ages 0-6, early child care centers occupy a challenging midway point between parents and the education system. They aim to afford parents the flexibility to work the jobs they need to support the family, while

also educating children with social and developmental skills critical to their success in school.

"The reality [is that] we're not just babysitters. We're educators who help children get ready to go to school," said Tonya Roussis, director of Housatonic Child Care Center in Salisbury.

In fact, according to Fran Cha-

See **CHILDCARE, A8**

## North East Fire District rocked by resignations

By **CHRISTINE BATES**  
Special to the Millerton News

**MILLERTON** — Stephen Valyou, chairman of the North East Fire District, and Jim Schultz, both resigned as fire commissioners on Nov. 15, effective immediately, one week before the deadline for anyone wishing to run as a candidate for election on Dec. 13.

At that same meeting, Josh Schultz announced that he was not standing for re-election, leaving David McGhee, who presented his written intention to run for election as a commissioner of the North East Fire District, facing no opposition unless a write-in candidate surfaces.

The remaining commissioners are reportedly looking for candidates to fill Valyou's and Schultz's positions.

One well-connected candidate, who had been approached, described it as "a thankless job."

The vacancies could be filled by appointment of the remaining commissioners, or they could make the decision to operate with only three commissioners. Presumably this would include the two remaining commissioners, Larry Selfridge and Jay Scasso, and a newly elected, David McGhee.

Neither Valyou nor Jim Schultz would explain the reasons for their independent decision to leave.

"Personally, I am honored to have served the district and the greater community as a Fire Commissioner for the last six years," commented Josh Schultz. "I am thankful to both Stephen and James for their years of service to the Fire District. Their long-term vision for the district while balancing the needs and efficiency of the operations and personnel now have left it on a good trajectory going forward."

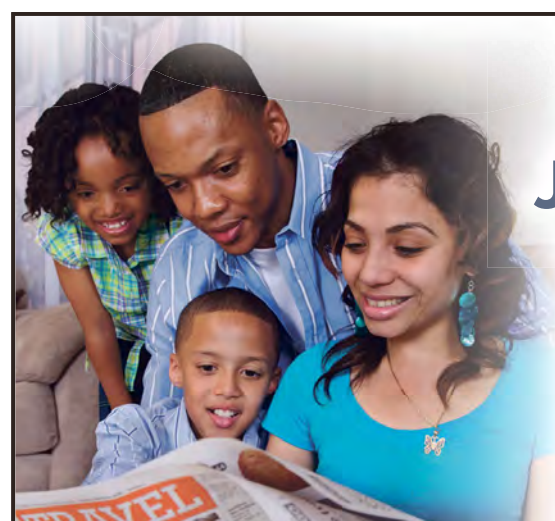
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# Festival of Lights electrifies Millerton

By JOHN COSTON  
johnc@lakevillejournal.com

MILLERTON — The annual Festival of Lights filled the Village with holiday spirit on Friday, Nov. 25, with a day-long schedule of events that reached a high point at sundown with a tree lighting and a jubilant parade of fire trucks and floats.

Hundreds of spectators began to line the streets as the five o'clock hour approached, gazing down Main Street to the intersection of Routes 44 and 22 for the first sign of the procession.

Shortly after 5:30, the first of a long line of holiday festooned fire trucks and floats made the turn onto Main Street — and the big tree was lighted up.

Children scrambled to collect the candy treats that were tossed from the floats as parents kept a close eye on all the goings-on.

The day was a paradise created for children. At 10 a.m., Jeff Scarpa began an ice sculpture in Veterans Park. An hour later, more than 250 children and parents filled the lower two theaters at The Moviehouse for a free screening of "Polar Express." The crowd overflowed to upstairs seating.

In the afternoon, a children's raffle was held in Veterans Park where bicycles, scooters, gift baskets and gift

certificates were offered by local businesses.

"It's nice to be so normal," said Dana Scarpa of Designer Finds, who also served on the Millerton Festival of Lights Committee. "There is a nice feeling of home today. It's so wonderful," she said, recalling the past pandemic impact.

Others who served on the committee are: Jeremy Boviard, general manager at The Moviehouse; Dana Rohn of Montage Antiques; Erica Recto of BES Ceramics and Nichole Reyes of Milieu Consulting.

Hot cocoa and cookies were offered at Veterans Park in the afternoon by the Salisbury Bank, which handed out coloring books to children.

There were free hayrides. Holiday music was provided by the Salisbury Band, which played its "Christmas Brass" repertoire as mothers, fathers, grandparents and children strolled along the sidewalk, popping into a busy Irving Farms for a hot drink or wandering into the shops to check out Black Friday sales.

The North East Community Center became a mecca for children who decorated their own cookies—often to be immediately eaten—as a two-man band outfitted in Santa garb played and sang for them.

Townscape, a nonprofit, volunteer-based organiza-

tion, installed the holiday lights along Main Street and on the large fir tree at the intersection of Routes 22 and 44. Its board is responsible for the lights and a task force of Jeanne Vanecko, president, and board members Mitra Walter and Claire Goodman supervised lights and decoration, which is paid for by local business and individual donations. The annual event draws parade-goers from nearby towns and Northwest Connecticut.

Kate Mellon of Lakeville came to see the festivities with her family and wandered into the pop-up woodcrafts sale in the Irontdale Schoolhouse. John Roccanova, a retired technology teacher at Webutuck School, was there selling items he crafts to benefit the nonprofit Grow Against Poverty that supports education projects in Kenya.

The day came to an end with the parade, and featured fire companies from Millerton, North East, Millbrook, Copake, Canaan, Falls Village, Lakeville and Sharon.

And as the parade was in full swing, the wail of sirens and flashing of lights, combined with the smiles and waving arms from people young and old riding past on the floats — as onlookers beamed back their approval — the mood was set. Everyone loved the parade.



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA VALENTINE AND JOHN COSTON  
Above, fire trucks came from nearby towns and Connecticut. Left, Jeff Scarpa demonstrated skill at ice carving in Veterans Park. Below, Effie Sailor Clark decorated a cookie at the North East Community Center.



Floats entertained parade watchers along Main Street.



Above, Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance. Left, John Roccanova had a pop-up woodcrafts benefit sale at the Irontdale Schoolhouse. Below, Salisbury Brass Band played at Veterans Park.



## Millerton Farmers Market moves to indoor venue

The Millerton Farmers Market sponsored by the North East Community Center has moved a few steps from the park at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Main Street to the indoor warmth of the United Methodist Church at that location.

The market will continue every Saturday — including Christmas and New Year's Eve — from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until the end of January. At that time, it will operate every other Saturday. For details including vendors, check [www.neccmillertpn.org/farmers-market](http://www.neccmillertpn.org/farmers-market).

## Correction

In an article in the Nov. 24 edition about the opening of the Amenia Library's new addition, a mention of a donation should have said that it was in honor of former Librarian Miriam Devine. In the article, the name of the architect should have been Darlene Riemer, and the name of State Sen. Sue Serino was misspelled.

## Visit Our New Location in Amenia



The Bank of Millbrook has moved into one of the town's most beautiful historic buildings with deep roots in community banking. Conveniently located in the center of town at Amenia's Four Corners, our new branch allows us to better serve our Amenia customers and those from surrounding towns. We hope you'll stop in and learn more about our full range of personal and business banking services.



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OUR TOWNS

# Millbrook Library has new Assistant Director

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Library welcomed Jen McCreery as its new assistant library director and head of circulation on Oct. 24. Previous experience as director at Chatham Public Library and as director at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison for more than seven years makes her an invaluable find.

"I'm thrilled that Jen has joined our team at the Millbrook Library," said Courtney Tsahalis, Millbrook Library director. "Even though she's been here just a short time, she is already doing a phenomenal job supporting our staff and community. Jen brings a lot of valuable experience to our library, and I feel very lucky to be able to work with her."

Originally from the western U.S., McCreery found her way to the Hudson Valley while working in another field. Becoming interested in library science, she went to Queen's College, earning a master's degree in library science in 2011. She worked two temporary library positions until the opening at Desmond-Fish presented itself in April 2014, and she returned to this region.

She was at Desmond-Fish until April, 2021, when she took the director position at the Chatham Public Library. But since she lives in Wassaic, Millbrook is a perfect choice for her: "I feel so lucky to be here in Millbrook, supporting the excellent work of our director Courtney Tsahalis and in the good company of my fellow library staff members. It's



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Jen McCreery, new Assistant Director and Circulation Head at Millbrook Library.

great to work so close to my home in Wassaic and I hope it will give me lots of opportunities to get more involved with the local community."

McCreery began her stint at the library with the Volunteer Fair, and has been present at most of the events since, including the recent Grumbling

## Millbrook's Parade of Lights set for Dec. 2

MILLBROOK — The Village of Millbrook's Parade of Lights is back, Friday, Dec. 2, with some new additions.

The Angels of Light is hosting a Meet and Greet with Mrs. Claus and Santa at its new building at 28 Front Street from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The event will include pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, snacks and crafts.

At 5:30, head over to the Tribute Garden Christmas tree and join in a holiday sing-along with children from Elm Drive School. There also will be activities and music on Franklin Avenue.

The Millbrook Fire Com-

pany will bring Mrs. Claus and Santa to the Christmas tree just in time to light the tree and start the parade up Franklin at 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join the parade. Decorate your vehicle or float with holiday lights and other fun decorations. Line-up starts at 4:30 next to MOST Physical Therapy. The floats will proceed in a first come, first serve order.

Contact Ceil Collopy at [ceciliacollopy@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliacollopy@gmail.com) with questions, or call (845) 797-2294. Note: giving the name of your float would help organize announcements.

A previous publication erroneously gave the date as Dec. 4.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

There are many animals in the show, a zebra, a giraffe, a lion, a crocodile, and of course Nyname the evil Sky God and Ananzi, the hero spider. Artistic Director Leslie Elias has many costume changes, helped by other performers and a keyboard/drum player.

# Grumbling Gryphons thrill with library show

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judith@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Grumbling Gryphons, a Traveling Children's Theater, is the creation of founder and Artistic Director Leslie Elias, a playwright, actress, storyteller and theater director. The Grumbling Gryphons have been performing for more than 40 years. The troupe found its way to the Millbrook Library on Satur-

day, Nov. 19, where a large group of children and adults delighted in the telling of the story of Anansi, the Trickster Spider.

This West African and West Indian tale tells the tale of how the clever spider brings stories back to the people from Nyname, the Greedy Sky God, who has stolen them all. Aside from the spider, there is a lion, a giraffe, a zebra, a crocodile, Nyname, the evil Sky God, and an amazing number of

costume changes for Elias. She has help from other performers, a keyboard player, and the children in the audience, who become part of the show.

Grumbling Gryphons provides performances, summer camps, workshops and residences for children and adults using subjects such as poetry and myth, building self-esteem, or dramatizing historical themes. Go to [www.grumblinggryphons.org](http://www.grumblinggryphons.org) for more on the theater.



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# Veterinarian gives guidance for pet care in cold weather

By CAROL KNEELAND  
Special to the Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — Whether welcoming a new puppy on Christmas morning or helping an old “best friend” adjust to the colder weather, common sense can go along way in making good decisions, according to Dr. Barbara Clayton of Clayton Veterinary Practice in Pine Plains.

She notes that because animals come with their own good instincts, paying attention to the way they behave can provide cues on what a pet might need as can age, size, health and even the coat the animal sports. Usually the animal — given the option — will probably make good decisions for itself.

In cold weather, for example, she noted that a dog with a fine coat, even a massive breed such as a Great Dane, might prefer a quick trip outside with a rapid return inside, “curled up on a pillow in a ball” or perhaps acting as a chihuahua-sized loving lap dog.

Speaking fondly, she emphasized, “It depends on the dog. Some dogs do not want to come in from the cold. I had a dog who loved (it). She’d make a bed in the snow. She’d curl up, and I’d try to call her in and she’d look up and wag her tail and say ‘I’m good.’”

She said, “Some of these big huskies, these big fluffy German shepherd-y dogs — they love being out” and they might appreciate being in a clean and comfortable dog house. Those structures should not be set on the ground, however, but instead be raised so the air can provide insulation with the opening set away from the



PHOTO FROM METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

wind and possibly equipped with a flap-like doggie door.

Non-chewable bedding such as clean straw or shavings rather than a comforter or “something they might eat” or that would attract insects or mice should be used.

If, despite an owner’s best efforts, a dog becomes overly chilled, its own system will begin to attempt to warm itself by shivering. Warm towels, blankets or a warm drink can bring relief. She adds, however that because a dog can then become overheated, if the pet tries to move away from those, let it go.

She cautions against using devices such as electric blankets which could cause burns.

In addition to the cold, she said owners need to protect paws and recommends using only non-toxic de-icing products that are made specifically for pets. “If the dog is being walked off the property where you don’t know what’s been used,” she recommends doggie boots.

There are also cream-like products for paws such those used on sled dogs that are especially good for “these younger, sprier dogs that want to run around and play in the snow or on the ice.”

As for the age-old question of the wisdom of a puppy popping out from beneath the tree on Christmas morning, Clayton feels it can be a good experience but if — and only if — everyone has thought carefully about what the commitment means.

Saying, “Pets are not toy trains. Dogs are not dolls,” she recommends against a surprise gift.

“Everyone needs to be on board” as they consider what the needs of the animal will be as well as their own circumstances such as age, the sizes

## Wassaic Project plans winter show opening

By ELIAS SORICH  
Special to the Millerton News

WASSAIC — Drop by the Maxon Mills on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 3 to 5 p.m. for the opening reception of the Wassaic Project’s winter show, “No Misery Can Tell, No Word of Farewell.”

The show, as described by the Wassaic Project, is at turns darkly whimsical, folkloric, and imbued with magical realism. The eleven featured

of people in the house, health, allergies, and the ability to provide the time, space, and effort to give the dog the proper amount of play and exercise.

She says, “look at your lifestyle, and research some different breeds that meet the criteria, and then talk to breeders that breed them.”

Clayton emphasizes, “Every dog should be crate trained. It’s their room — their safe place. Feed your dog in the crate... give them treats” but be sure any chew toys don’t become small enough to swallow. That is why she is “not a fan” of rawhide bones, which can be chewed down in size, preferring instead antlers or the like.

Finances can become an issue so to be sure the pet can get treatment when needed, Clayton recommends pet insurance be purchased.

As a final precaution, Clayton suggests pets be implanted with chips so any which are lost — especially in winter’s cold — can be returned to the warmth of their homes and families.

artists take inspiration from a vast landscape of cultural and artistic traditions, but all in some fashion approach the climate crisis in their work. Ranging from acrylic murals alive with color, to muted, foreboding cloche sculpture, the show is sure to feature engaging and strange visual art.

It will remain open to the public from Dec. 3 to March 18 on Saturdays only, from 12 to 5 p.m. Visit [www.wassaicproject.org/](http://www.wassaicproject.org/) for details.

## Amenia’s 11th Celebration of Lights on Dec. 4

Amenia’s 11th Annual Celebration of Lights will be on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. at Fountain Square. Events leading into the lighting are:

2 p.m. Welcoming all to help decorate trees

3 p.m. Visit with Santa at Great Cape Baking Company

Kids Holiday Arts and Crafts  
Complimentary refreshments from Local Businesses

4:45 p.m. Citizen of the Year and Tree Lighting

Then, at 5 p.m., the Parade of Lights, and at 6 p.m., will be the movie Polar Express compliments

of Four Brothers, Drive In (park early if staying for movie).

There will be prizes for best float and best window display.

Community partners and sponsors: Amenia-Wassaic Community Organization/Silo Ridge Community Foundation/Amenia Fire Company/Silo Ridge Field Club/Four Brothers Pizza/Amenia Recreation/Town of Amenia/Great Cape Baking Company/Fresh Town/Webutuck High School/VFW Toy Drive/Tienda Mi Esquina/Amenia Free Library/VFW.

## Millbrook Library December activities

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Library has a full schedule of activities during the next month. All are free, but most require registration. For information or to register call 845-677-3611 or go to [millbrooklibrary.org](http://millbrooklibrary.org).

Dec. 2 — Decorate with snowflakes, library provides all materials for beautiful snowflakes. Ages 11-19.

## Christmas Concert at Lyall Church

The Community Choir is back at Lyall Memorial Church, ready to bring about the Christmas spirit with a concert on Sunday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. After an absence of several years,

Dec. 3 — Enjoy a matinee of the movie ELF! 1 p.m. Rated “G”, get in the holiday spirit!

Dec. 5 — 3 p.m. Dip and Drip candles, make your own, library provides all materials. Ages 11-19.

Dec. 7 — Library Jam with Eric Marshall. By the fireplace, sing, play an instrument, or just sit back and listen. All welcome, no skills required, 6:30 p.m.

the choir is back. Coffee and cookies following the performance. Free concert, but all donations are greatly appreciated. Lyall Memorial Church, 30 Maple Ave., Millbrook.

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## The Lakeville Journal FOUNDATION

**Bistro responds to tomato pie accusations**  
*The Lakeville Journal, February 9, 2012*

**There are lots of great reasons to support The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News this holiday season.**

**Here’s one you probably didn’t think of: Tomato pie.**

The controversial treat ([www.tricornernews.com/tomatopie](http://www.tricornernews.com/tomatopie)) makes for a splendid variation on the familiar Thanksgiving menu of turkey, stuffing and the rest. It’s also been the topic of delightful and informative articles chronicling the fierce battles the dish has stirred up among area chefs, a reminder of the pleasures to be found only in hometown newspapers.

So please don’t forget to give thanks for the richness of life in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and eastern Dutchess County, and of our vigorous local journalism.

We are making changes at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, to preserve local reporting and to expand it. A fine way to express your support for this crucial project is by making a tax-deductible contribution to what is now a nonprofit enterprise in this holiday season.

And from all of us at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News to all of your families and friends, Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your turkey — and tomato pie!

*Noreen Doyle*  
Noreen Doyle, Chair

*Janet Manko*  
Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

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OUR TOWNS

# What about pulling garlic mustard?

The lingering warm weather earlier last month had brought the garlic mustards back to life and I was happy for the opportunity to get ahead of what is usually one of my first spring chores: pulling them out with that long white taproot intact. I have been pulling garlic mustard for almost 10 years and have observed, over a 15-acre swath of land, not only a decline in the quantity that grows (and is therefore removed), but also a regeneration of native plants in that space.



PHOTO BY SIMONEVOMFELD, PIXABAY

**The Ungardener**  
Dee Salomon

I took a break recently to watch the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium. It rather turned my world upside down.

The keynote speaker, Bernd Blossey of Cornell University, delivered a bombshell recommendation in his talk "Invasive Plant Management": that, aside from a stray here and there, it would be better to not to pull garlic mustard at all. His research shows that garlic mustard left alone will, over time, decline in numbers and in plant vigor. This, he posits, is due to negative soil feedback, which is what happens when plants are grown in the same soil year over year. It is the reason why crops are rotated.

I really wanted to pretend that I had never heard this, but my conscience wouldn't let me. I have made a concerted effort in writing this column to seek out the science behind what I observe in the woods with respect to native and non-native species. And it is difficult to get definitive answers, perhaps because of the variability in environmental conditions and the fact that

outcomes are difficult (though not impossible) to measure, especially over long periods of time. There are differences of opinions among experts on best approaches to invasive management.

Doing nothing is always tempting advice. Sadly for my back, I am not sufficiently patient to wait the 10-20 years that Blassey says it takes for the negative soil feedback effect to work on garlic mustard. And there will always be garlic mustard around, as seeds will be spread by animals. In fact, Blassey's No. 1 recommendation to stop the spread of invasive plants, and to encourage native plant spread, is to install deer fences — simply not practical in my case.

I went back to rewatch the presentation, and listened to the audience questions at the end. And here is where things came into focus: Blassey conceded that his laissez-faire approach to garlic mustard may

not be relevant for what he calls the "woodland gardener" but is geared to nature preserves and land trusts.

And so I would adapt his prescription as follows:

— Garlic mustard populations can be reduced but never be fully eradicated unless the area is fenced to keep out deer.

— If you have a large area of garlic mustard and want to try Blassey's approach, make an effort to fence the area. If it cannot be fenced, you may want to mark the area with flags so you can monitor the size of the area year over year. You should see the garlic mustard lose vigor in the center as it spreads out beyond the initial area.

— Don't assume that this prescription will work for other species.

— The best method of control is to not allow garlic mustard to proliferate in the first place. This is where pulling it out is most useful. Be sure to pull it before it goes to seed. A hori hori knife or other weeding implement might be helpful to loosen the taproot from the soil so it comes out in one piece and does not disturb the soil too much.

— If you do weed garlic mustard, be thorough in that area and visiting several times, starting from when the ground unfreezes in spring to when it freezes again in winter. The key to success is doing one's best to halt new seeds from spreading.

— Plant native plants in the woods and tend to them, fencing them if necessary to protect them from deer browse.

Dee Salomon "ungardens" in Litchfield County.

# Steiner reads from new WWII novel

SHARON — Anyone who has gotten to know the character of Willi Geismeier through the historical novels ("The Good Cop" and "The Constant Man") by Sharon's Peter Steiner will know that he is a force to be reckoned with, a one-time Munich police detective who stops at nothing to bring evil deeds to light and evil doers to justice. Geismeier leaves the Munich force after having dealt with some of the worst initial schemes of the Nazis and their sympathizers as they came to power in the 1930s in "The Good Cop," but after leaving Germany for the U.S., returns to his home country and again finds ways to serve the cause of good when he plunges into the thick of underground resistance against the Nazis during World War

II in Steiner's newest Geismeier novel, "The Inconvenient German."

Willi is the leader of The Flower Gang, an ingenious structure of secret operatives across Germany and the occupied countries. Those involved use names of flowers to shield their real names from the Gestapo and others who would put them in danger as they try to move Jews and other targets, like an American pilot who crashed into the countryside outside of Munich, across the border to safety from the Nazi's grasp. The characters who are introduced throughout the novel give

a vivid picture of what life was like during WWII under the Nazis. Steiner illuminates how those from all social strata had their lives completely dismantled and then rebuilt to either support or sabotage the Nazi war machine.

Anyone with an interest in World War II should give all the Geismeier books a read.

Steiner will have a book reading at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, go to [www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org](http://www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org).

— Janet Manko

# Amenia discusses CDBG grant fund requests at hearing in November

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The town board meeting opened on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. with Supervisor Victoria Perotti presiding; also present, Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner, Board Members Vicky Doyle, and Brad Rebillard; absent were members Leo Blackman and P. Damian Gutierrez.

Webutuck High School asked the board for help in publicizing the school's efforts in promoting Community Day, where the students fundraise with a food truck to donate to fixing or putting in sidewalks for younger students and in doing plantings and other projects.

Supervisor Perotti made a recommendation that the town help the High School, and the board agreed.

The public hearing for the discussion for the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) was resumed.

Councilwoman Doyle talked about a piece of equipment, 20 years old or more, that needs to be replaced at Beekman Park that is badly cracked, dangerous and would cost about \$100,000 to replace.

The old piece would have to be removed and the area would need to be resurfaced.

There is a CDBG for \$150,000, and the question was asked if there is a need for something that would be in the range of the \$150,000 grant. Further discussion brought out the fact that grants can be requested for both amounts, if the second grant was for a project that had to do with rehabilitation of an existing home/new rental. Habitat for Humanity has such a project.

Charlie Miller, who is on the Wastewater Committee, reported on the Wastewater Committee work, and also mentioned the affordable housing situation, as he is also on the Housing Board.

Miller thinks that the language possibly needs to be revised in documents pertaining to Workforce fees. Silo Ridge opted to pay

Workforce fees in lieu of building affordable housing, but he doesn't agree with its interpretation of the schedule of fees. Certificates of Occupancy are given based on the fees. He'd like to see how that is working in the case of Silo Ridge, as this may be a part of future building in the town as time goes on and affordable housing becomes even more of an issue.

Several resolutions were made, voted on and adopted:

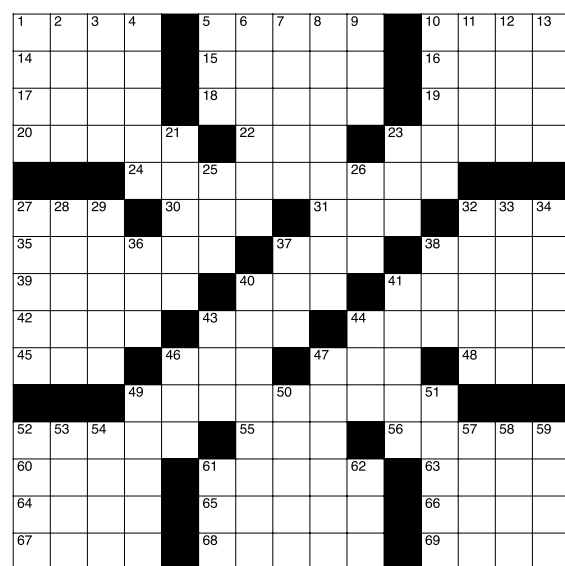
Resolution #77 of 2022 for Adopted 2023 Budget: \$1.92952 per \$1000 assessed value; tax levy imposed at \$2,069,630. Passed with all ayes, two members absent.

Resolution #78 of 2022, for snow removal bids: Bid for sidewalks, etc., awarded to Kindred Property Care LLC, bid of \$39,000. Resolution # 79, bid for snow removal at Wassaic Trail, awarded to Northwest Landscaping Maintenance LLC, \$13,582.

# Brain Teasers

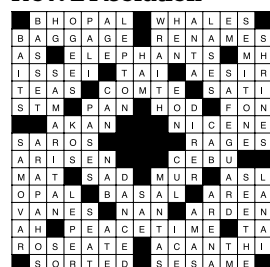
CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop up
5. Ones who utilize
10. Sings with closed lips
14. South American hummingbird
15. Serves as a coxswain
16. Liquor distilled from coconut or rice
17. Spur
18. Senile
19. Tanzanian people
20. Cruel
22. Boxing's "GOAT"
23. Yokels
24. London soccer team
27. Chinese chess piece
30. Supervises flying
31. 007's creator
32. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
35. A spider makes one
37. Liquefied natural gas
38. Opaque gem
39. Brazilian palm
40. Periodical (slang)
41. You might step on one
42. Marvin and Horsley are two
43. Partner to cheese
44. Unpleasant smell
45. Field force unit (abbr.)
46. Fashion accessory
47. Cool!
48. Time zone
49. Songs to one's lover
52. German river
55. Go bad
56. Sword
60. Very eager
61. Leaf bug
63. Italian seaport
64. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
65. Member of Jamaican religion
66. Large wading bird
67. Carries out
68. Eternal rest
69. It holds up your headwords

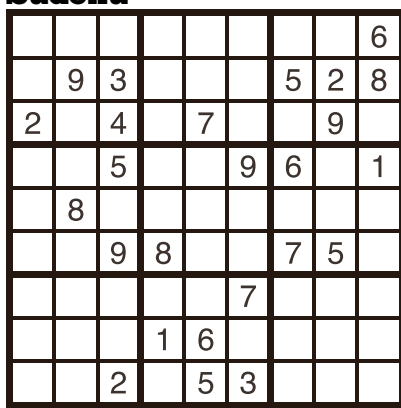


9. Midway between south and southeast
10. Arabic masculine name
11. Type of acid
12. Popular 1980s Cher film
13. Outdoor enthusiasts' tools
21. Chinese city
23. "Star Wars" character Solo
25. The bill in a restaurant
26. Old, ugly witch
27. Burn with a hot liquid
28. To claim or demand
29. "A Doll's House" playwright
32. Involuntary muscular contraction
33. Pea stems (British)
34. Double or multiple fold
36. No longer is
37. Lakers' crosstown rivals (abbr.)
38. S. American plant cultivated in Peru
40. Cloth or fabric
41. Flanks
43. Disfigure
44. Angry
46. Baltic coast peninsula
47. Large, flightless birds
49. Plants of the lily family
50. Medieval Norwegian language
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. Not soft
53. Exchange rate
54. Voice (Italian)
57. Baseball's Ruth
58. Famed guitarist Clapton
59. Take a chance
61. Wife
62. Elaborate handshake

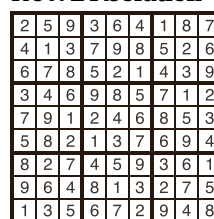
Nov. 24 Solution



Sudoku



Nov. 24 Solution



Level: Intermediate

## Webutuck capital project vote set Dec. 6

AMENIA — A \$12.5 million capital project will be the subject of a vote on Dec. 6 from noon to 9 p.m. at the Webutuck High School gym.

The project is focused on infrastructure needs, and includes a roof replacement on all schools, ventilation systems, and milling and paving of parking lots and sidewalks, including other projects.



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# THE TIME IS NOW!!



Members of the community, government officials and doctors at Sharon Hospital spoke at the October 16 rally. Above, top to bottom, L-R: US Senator Richard Blumenthal, patients and families showed up and spoke, US Representative Jahana Hayes, Dr. David Kurish and Dr. Howard Mortman.

## Testify at the Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 6

The deadline to testify against Nuvance's application to close maternity is almost here!

- Submit your written testimony by emailing [OHS@ct.gov](mailto:OHS@ct.gov) any time before December 6
- The public hearing starts at 9:30am on December 6 via Zoom (visit our website for link). **Public testimony begins at 3pm**, and you can sign up to speak starting at 2pm via Zoom.

## Testify with us in person!

Join Save Sharon Hospital at the Sharon Town Hall, where we will be streaming the public hearing live on Zoom, and testifying alongside fellow community members!

# SAVE SHARON HOSPITAL

Save Sharon Hospital, Inc. is a nonprofit community organization composed of volunteers and healthcare professionals from the Northwest Corner and the neighboring New York area who are concerned about the continued quality and availability of healthcare in our region. We are committed to supporting and maintaining the full range of services at Sharon Hospital.

[www.savesharonhospital.org](http://www.savesharonhospital.org)

**STISSING CENTER** *Continued from Page A1*

"The second challenge that any organization like the Stissing Center faces is that it's really easy, believe it or not, to find money to create a building, but it's harder to find it when it comes to programming."

When asked what types of presentations he would personally like to see, Bernardini said, "I can show up with a million ideas, and the board can have a million ideas, but what's going to really shape the organization is going to be: What does the community want? What does the county want? What does the region want? What do tourists want? What do we need to grow the community?"

Having also spent 20 years as a high-school teacher, Bernardini is passionate about the Stissing Center's role in engaging area youth: "As a teacher, I learned way more from the students than I ever learned in college. I would love to see a mix of after-school programming that is created by the students."

"I do not want to create programming that conflicts in any way with what's already being offered at the schools; I want to find ways of enhancing that. The board would like to start some after-school opportunities for all the young people in town. There's a lot that's started; we now have to figure out how to grow it."

As to the growth of the organization, Bernardini is thankful to have the backing of a board of directors that is responsive to and involved

in its community. "I've been in arts leadership positions for 30 years and it's rare to find a board that's not only reflective of the community but that is genuinely engaged in the outcome, the impact, of the organization."

The Stissing Center aims to support local economic revitalization and job creation in Pine Plains and the surrounding region. Said Bernardini: "Part of our mission is to be a resource for the community. Also, on the educator side of me, I'm thinking of education across the board, so if there's an interest, if people want it to happen, then we're just going to make it happen because, when it comes to education, I'm all in."

"The programming needs to work on all different levels. The challenge is finding the programming that's going to work across the board, that isn't going to make people feel excluded: How do we continue to create programming that draws people into the community?"

Bernardini welcomes feedback about what community members would like from the Stissing Center.

"I hope people will reach out to me," he said. "I am looking forward to having conversations with everyone and anyone who would like to share their thoughts, ideas, suggestions or even criticisms about the Stissing Center."

Bernardini can be reached at [brett@thestissingcenter.org](mailto:brett@thestissingcenter.org).

**DOVER PROJECT** *Continued from Page A1*

less critical to the residents, perhaps more so, because CVEC already exists, not far from where this new station would be located, at Routes 22 and 26. CVEC uses natural gas to produce electricity.

While not as large, many people feel it will be an eyesore, that it will not benefit the town, and if anything, will have a detrimental effect on the area in many ways, including aesthetically and financially, as it will probably impact real estate values.

The Dover Station Project, as proposed by NY Transco, is described as a network upgrade electric substation, needed as New York State evolves to clean, efficient and resilient energy.

Transco says that it is the perfect — and only — site that can be used because it is the correct distance between the Connecticut border and Pleasant Valley, where another energy plant is located. It connects to Con Ed's 398 line, has proximity to Connecticut while still being in New York State, and is on a state highway.

Transco first submitted an application to the Dover Planning Board in October 2021 for a Special Permit/Site Plan with Erosion and Sediment control. It hoped for construction during 2022-2023, and be ready to start service toward the end of 2023.

Sam Johnson, of Transco, gave a presentation which he said was in answer to the public comments heard at the prior two meetings concern-

ing Transco and the Dover Project. He said that the station will be remotely controlled, will cause no traffic congestion, will have no night lighting and will not produce any emissions. It will be fully landscaped with 250 new plantings and a fence. The station will not block power, but will control the flow, and will be an improvement over the existing site, which was a junk yard and building materials storage site.

Transco promises that this substation will increase local tax revenue, but Concerned Citizens of Dover wants residents to take a closer look at what Transco is proposing and at its promises. On CCD's website the group states that some power companies don't pay their fair share of taxes, and they cite in particular CVEC.

They state: "According to an audit of the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) by Dutchess County Comptroller, Robin Lois — in 2017, CVEC should've paid the town \$11.7 million dollars in property taxes but they paid us \$109,521 dollars instead. It's called a PILOT payment (payment in lieu of taxes)."

"They should've paid \$59 million in school taxes but they only paid \$552,559 instead. Through 2050, the gas plant will have avoided paying \$1 billion dollars in taxes."

Transco says that the project will not have adverse impact on historic or cultural sources; will have an avoidance of environmen-

tal impact, or any impact on federally regulated waters. In fact, Johnson stated that there will be no use of water at all at the substation. They say it has been declared No Hazard, and they can voluntarily remove debris from a wetland buffer zone.

Many residents oppose the project because they feel it will impact the natural habitat of animals and plant life in the area, in particular the Great Swamp and Dover Stone Church. Others say that it won't benefit Dover, but will be beneficial to Westchester, Long Island and New York City.

The CCD group also calls attention to the fact that the state, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New York's Department of Environmental Conservation already consider some of Dover disadvantaged, financially and environmentally, suffering pollution from dirty indus-

tries, nor are they happy about the existing Cricket Valley Energy Center.

Out of the many comments from those attending, only one citizen said she was in favor of the substation, commenting that when she needs light, or is cold, she likes turning on a switch and getting light or heat.

Another landowner said, "I bought this property 30 years ago to look at trees, not towers."

Several residents mentioned the fact that the project is close to the Dover High School, which already has a problem with polluted water. Most were concerned about property values, and the demise of wildlife and the general loss of the rustic beauty.

There were some people from neighboring towns there, and Transco will again be at the Planning Board meeting on Dec. 19.

**FIRE DISTRICT** *Continued from Page A1*

Valyou, who has been a commissioner for 12 years and chairman for four years, would only say it was a "very difficult decision to make." Valyou explained that commissioners are responsible for the safety of citizens and the members of the fire department.

"It's a huge responsibility and commitment," he said.

The Fire District is entrusted with the safety of the public and its volunteers. The district is legally a municipality with taxing authority like the county, town, village and school districts.

The funds raised by the Fire District from taxpayers are used to provide the infrastructure that enables the fire company to operate. This includes expenditures on equipment, heat and electricity for the fire houses, vehicles, gas, training, insurance, etc. The recently passed budget of the Fire District next year is \$742,375.

The Chiefs of the District, Chief Jason Watson, 1st. Assistant Chief David Schultz, and 2nd Assistant Chief, Wil-

liam Watson are appointed to their positions by the Board of Fire Commissioners. They are elected first by the Fire Company and then those recommendations are forwarded to the District for consideration. The District Chiefs are responsible for day-to-day operations, including incident command at emergency calls, and management and training of District firefighters and personnel.

In contrast to the North East Fire District, The Millerton Fire Company is a separate nonprofit entity with its own officers, board, and bylaws. Lenny Morrison is the president, Kelly Roger is the Vice President with other board members Keith Roger, Patty Lynch, Mike Segelken, and Joe Cawley.

In 2020, the most recent year the Millerton Fire Company filed a tax return, total revenues were \$80,000 of which \$65,000 was generated by contributions. Expenses totaled \$51,000 and included a new air system, gear, uniforms, food and other items.

**CHILDCARE** *Continued from Page A1*

pell, executive director of Canaan Child Care Center: "It's more like social work than child care. We also do food, quality lunches, make sure the children have clothing, boots, hats, mittens."

Recently, however, these organizations have been hit with a staffing shortage that has left them unable to serve the number of families their capacities should allow.

**Staffing Shortages**

"[It] started after we came back after COVID. Before COVID, when I was looking for people I would get applications left and right," said Roussis. "Then COVID happened, we shut down [for a while], then I lost some teachers because they didn't want to come back and work in that environment. And from there, the past two years, it's just been really hard to find people."

This translates to child care centers like Housatonic and Canaan Child Care operating at under-capacity, serving fewer families than their facilities can accommodate. Housatonic Child Care Center, Roussis said, has capacity for 56 children — right now it's only able to take on 40. This, coupled with the fact that regionally there is a higher demand for child care than there are centers with openings, means that waiting lists are longer, and families are turned away.

"I do have spaces in my toddler room, but I fear filling them with not being able to hire somebody. Because of the [state mandated] one-to-four teacher-child ratio. I've kept those rooms low in case we can't find a teacher... and I do have a waitlist."

Figuring out what exactly has caused this staffing shortage, however, has proven elusive to Roussis.

"I really can't figure it out. I'm not sure if it's the pay, the environment, the job itself. The applicants that do come in, they're satisfied with what we start them out with. I'm a part of this group of direc-

**"It's for the families, and you just want to do what you can, play your part in the communities, to keep all of it going."**

*Fran Chapell, Executive Director of Canaan Child Care Center*

tors that gets together every month, and we all have the same issue. We're all bogged by it, by the fact that we can't find teachers. It's not just us, it's across the board everywhere."

According to Jeanne Wagner, executive director of the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc., this systemic lack of applicants is occurring across Dutchess County as well. Wagner's organization is the New York State designated Child Care Resource and Referral agency for both Dutchess and Putnam counties, and over an 18-month period her organization observed difficulty in finding available openings, particularly for infant and toddler care.

But to Wagner, an element of this puzzle comes down to something simple.

"Money. Early childhood people should be paid on the level of public school teachers, and they aren't at all. Affordable housing is a problem. Public transportation enters into it too."

**Longstanding Funding Woes**

The issue of funding is a familiar one to Chapell, who having worked in the early child care industry for more than 20 years, has witnessed the ways that funding rises and falls.

"[At Canaan Child Care Center] we were getting \$8,000 a year for 15 years [from the town], and then it was gone. And we were like 'woah, what are we gonna do?' But you know, Canaan is a low-income town and they just don't have it in their budget."

According to both Roussis and Chapell, this sort of funding unreliability plagues the industry, which makes it difficult to compensate their

teachers and workers at the levels they'd want to, and that will retain them in the long-term.

A brief bright spot, however, came during the pandemic in the form of stopgap funding made available for child care centers through national and state programs like COLA (Cost-of-Living-Adjustment) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). For Chapell, it allowed her to retain her staff, and even make some much-needed improvements.

"Our playground before was basically just mud with a fence around it. During the pandemic, believe it or not, I was able to ask for a climber, and I got the funds for it."

Such pandemic-era funding, however, has either dried up, or is set to dry up soon. Once those funds are gone, directors like Chapell are left wondering how to move forward.

"The uncertainty is what makes you nervous. Right now I've got great staff and I'm able to pay them, but as soon as this money goes away — I'm looking at my board and saying: 'Okay, what's our strategic plan? What are we gonna do to keep our staff?' It's a worry — but I've been there before. I've been in child care a long time, it's always a struggle."

**Glimmers of Hope in an Embattled Industry**

A glimmer of hope, however, has taken the shape of an informal network of early child care center directors that formed during the pandemic in Connecticut's Region One school district. The network was, according to Chapell, crucial to their ability to stay afloat.

"We've been fighting hard, all the directors. We call ourselves the Northwest Child Care Collaborative, all the

child care centers in the region. We work together to help each other.

"Because it's for the families, and you just want to do what you can, play your part in the communities, to keep all of it going."

The Northwest Child Care Collaborative's monthly meetings are organized by the Middlesex Coalition for Children, a nonprofit that seeks to improve the lives of children in Connecticut's Middlesex County, and they count seven regional child care centers as members.

"It's been super helpful. We got together to support each other, to get on the same page in terms of our pandemic policies, and to try to come up with solutions," Roussis said.

For Chapell, such efforts raise the hope that, someday, the landscape of early child care might structurally improve for the better.

"You look at other countries that do [early child care] so well, and it's like, why aren't we doing this? There are different child care alliances that are looking at those models and saying, how can we make this work for us?"

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Eversource offers a number of programs to help those in need pay their electric bill and have the assurance that their electricity will not be turned off for the winter months. For example, Eversource offers a free monthly virtual meeting to go over their various assistance programs covering payment plans, financial assistance, energy efficiency programs and shut off protection. To review these opportunities, please go to: [www.eversource.com/content/ct-c/residential/account-billing/payment-assistance](http://www.eversource.com/content/ct-c/residential/account-billing/payment-assistance).



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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



PHOTOS BY FLORIAN KALOTAY (DIDONATO); TIMOTHY WHITE / DECCA (FLEMING)

Left to right, Joyce DiDonato as Virginia Woolf, René Fleming as Clarissa Vaughan and Kelli O'Hara as Laura Brown.

**THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

## The Met Opera Wades Into the Water With Virginia Woolf

**T**he Hours' comes to the stage of The Met Opera in an original, world-premiere adaptation of the 1998 novel, composed by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer Kevin Puts and directed by Phelim McDermott

"There is no comfort, it seems in the world of objects, and Clarissa fears that art, even the greatest of it," Michael Cunningham wrote in his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "belongs

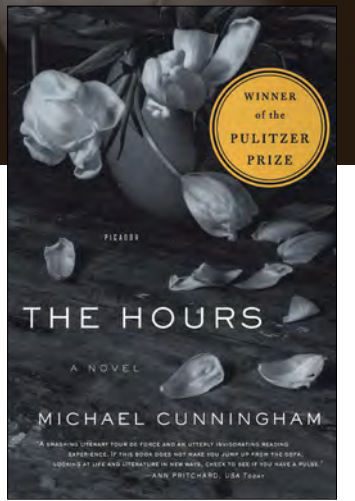
stubbornly to the world of objects." Cunningham writes of a single day in the life of three women — each to varying degrees of ordinariness, separated by time, connected in ways they will never know, by an object, a piece of art, traveling through their lives, and not necessarily a comfort.

The "object" is "Mrs. Dalloway," Virginia Woolf's exemplary novel of the modernist age, the story of single day which begins, of course, with a

mission to "buy the flowers herself." The women in Cunningham's day are Clarissa Vaughan, a 51-year-old at the end of the 1990s, stepping out in June on W 10th St., who embodies the traits of the fictional Clarissa Dalloway, Laura Brown, a housewife at the end of the 1940s who is reading the novel, and finally, there is Virginia herself. This is Virginia the obsessive artist, empty stomach filled with coffee, in the years when she was still writing, before she filled her pocket with stones and walked into the River Ouse in Sussex, swept away by the current.

The suicide letter she left behind for her husband, Leonard Woolf read, "Dearest, I feel certain that I am going mad again."

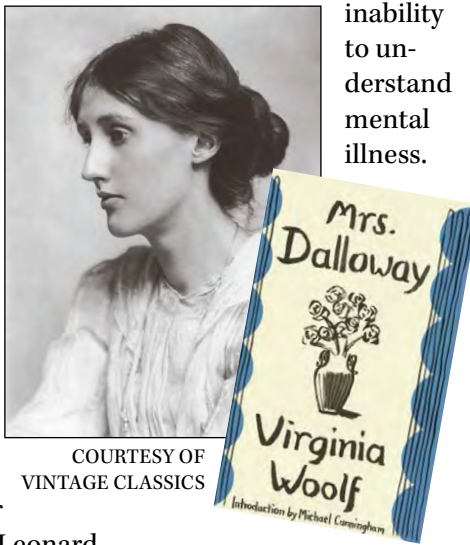
The New York of Cunningham's 1990s is oddly



COURTESY OF MACMILLAN

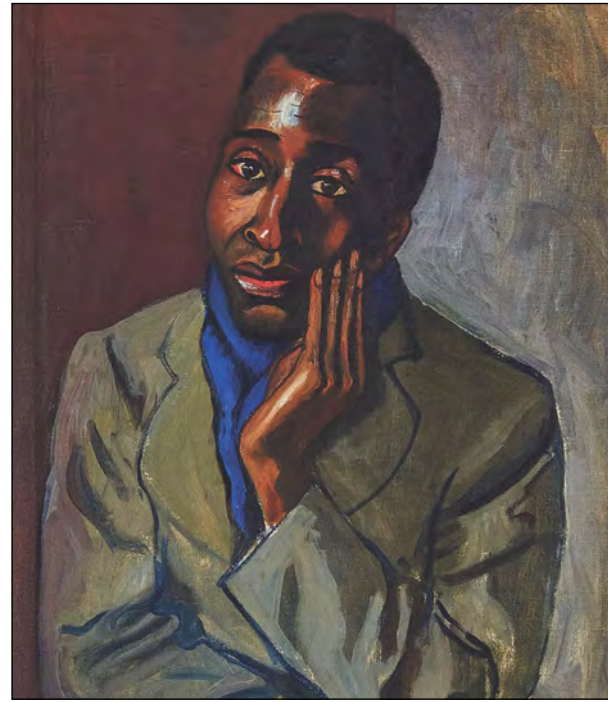
still very much the Manhattan of today, a boiling pot of fervent street life, of eccentricity and ambition. The shadow of the 1980s AIDS crisis looms large but doesn't dampen debates on gender-queer radicalism versus gay assimilation, the role of moneyed patrons to support low-selling, but intellectually vital art, the ever-present need to prostrate oneself with acts of good liberalism,

and our inability to understand mental illness.



COURTESY OF VINTAGE CLASSICS

"The Hours" will broadcast as part of The Met Opera Live in HD on Dec. 10 at both Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., and The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.



COURTESY OF DAVID ZWERNER BOOKS

## The cover of Alice Neel: Uptown by Hilton Als Instagram's Oracle

**H**ilton Als, a longstanding staff writer for The New Yorker who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2017, a gay Black man of age 62, is perhaps the most elegiac voice in an increasingly small world — that world belonging to those who don't know just passively consume art and literature but study it for signs of who we might be. A large man in stature with a soft, languid voice, even as his essays traverse the contemporary Als subverts the expectation to be contemporary. Instead, he often writes of what we've lost, reflecting on what feels like, as you read his work, watching the sun set on a past century of glittering, vital artistic output slowly growing dimmer. Why do the 2020s feel like a eulogy to originality and integrity? Of the late New York Times fashion photographer Bill Cunningham, Als wrote, "You wanted to aid Bill in his quest for exceptional surfaces, to be beautifully dressed and interesting for him, because of the deep pleasure it gave him to notice something he had never seen before." And the month Joan Didion died, Als wrote of her early essay collections like "The White Album," as "touchstones for me on how to avoid snark and skepticism—the easy tools of journalism—and try something harder: analysis informed by context, even if what you were analyzing was yourself."

A prolific poster on

Instagram, Als turns even low-res shots of his television screen into digital polaroids, snapshots of his viewing habits paired with his snapshot captions, their length varied and unexpected. Here he remembers lunches with actress Billie Allen, discusses the "badly cast" new season of "The Crown" on Netflix, or gives kudos to Sydney Sweeney on HBO's "Euphoria" for "facing what's rank in the character being played, their confusion over dashed hopes, misguided intentions, their own sour guile and bored cunning." On Oscar night he lamented Kirsten Dunst's loss for Best Supporting Actress, beat out by the showier ingénue-of-the-moment in the "West Side Story" remake, writing that it was a loss for the art of acting. "Not performing, acting, which is synonymous with breathing."

Currently, on display at the University of California, Los Angeles' Hammer Museum is his curated exhibition "Joan Didion: What She Means" which collects a staggering number of contributions from artists to tell the life story of the West Coast's preeminent voice of New Journalism.

This month, Stair Galleries in Hudson, N.Y., hosted an online auction of the late writer's estate titled "An American Icon: Property From the Collection of Joan Didion." Most

Continued on next page

**HOLIDAY VENDOR FAIR**  
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Hye-Jin Kim  
Yehuda Hanani

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mahaiwe.org or cewm.org

# TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

## Beethoven's Ghost

What spooky silhouette in the shadows of Shakespeare's stage is conjured by Ludwig van Beethoven's mournful crescendos and tremolos? The theatrical inspiration for Beethoven's Piano Trio No. 5 in D Major — nicknamed "The Ghost Trio" by the composer's Austrian pupil Carl Czerny — varies according to the source. In 1842 Czerny wrote that the second movement brought to mind the opening of Hamlet — that winter's night at Elsinore Castle as Horatio and the watchman witnessed the phantasm of the prince's father, the fallen King Hamlet, resurrected and roving the corridors. But Beethoven had also been briefly composing music for an opera based on "The Tragedie of Macbeth," and we can only imagine what he might have written for the tale of spilled blood and witchcraft in the Scottish Highlands. The piano trios and his unseen opera have since been conflated, but as James Keller wrote in



**Hamlet's Vision by Pedro Américo**

"Chamber Music: A Listeners," we may "discard as erroneous the oft-encountered claim that this movement of the Ghost Trio is a reworking of music Beethoven originally sketched as the Witches Chorus for his 'Macbeth.'" *Close Encounters With*

*Music presents "Grand Piano Trios: Beethoven's Ghost and Archduke" performed by pianist Ieva Jokubaviciute, violinist Hye-Jin Kim and cellist Yehuda Hanani on Dec. 11 at Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass.*

## Listen: Revisiting O'Keefe Country

Circling back to an event at The Cornwall Library in November celebrating the birthday of American modernist Georgia O'Keefe as well as Roxana Robinson's 1990 biography "Georgia O'Keefe: A Life," The Metropolitan Museum of Art also acknowledged the painter's birthday. In an episode of the museum's podcast "Perspectives" titled "Revisiting 'O'Keefe Country'" Patricia Marroquin Norby, associate curator of Native American Art at The Met is joined by former Deputy Director at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture Matthew Martinez. The pair discuss examining O'Keefe's work through their Indigenous perspective and the branding of New Mexico's artistic output being attributed to this singular white vantage point. "What interests me is that O'Keefe aestheticized what in many ways was a traumatic history for local communities," Norby said.

*Listen at [www.metmuseum.com/perspectives](http://www.metmuseum.com/perspectives)*

## The Awkward Age

In 1899 Henry James wrote to Henrietta Reubell on the subject of his mid-career novel "The Awkward Age," originally published as serialized fiction in Harper's Weekly. "I had in view in the novel a certain special social (highly 'modern' and actual) London group and type and tone." Reubell herself held a special spot in society, painted by John Singer Sargent, portraitist to stars (or at least to the Edwardian elite), she is described by The Met as the hostess "of a lively salon of cosmopolitan expatriate artists and writers." James' wordy portrait of the end-of-century elite's twilight conveyed, as literary critic William F. Hall wrote of the novel in 1968, "the marks of the resultant society [as] leisure, an aimless pursuit of pleasure, and an inordinate preoccupation with wealth." The awkward age is, from James' observant American eye, both the clash of the aristocracy with the industrial boom and the innocence of his 18-year-old heroine at the center of it. Framed almost entirely in-scene, pages of dialogue without narrative intervention, the novel is not just a post-Mar-

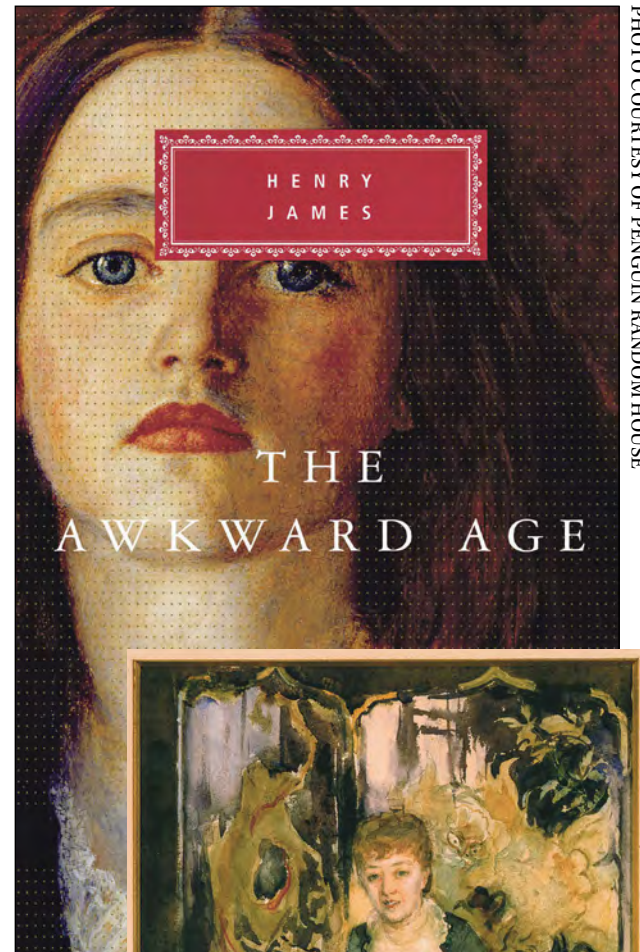


PHOTO COURTESY OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE



**Henrietta Reubell by John Singer Sargent**

riage Plot, but a sort of anti-Marriage Plot. The young heroine stands at the precipice of the next century, unmarried yet unblemished, simply

unsure of what the future will hold. *The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon's Tuesday Evening Book Group will meet on Zoom on Dec. 13.*

## ...instagram's oracle Continued from previous page

widely reported? A pair of Céline faux-tortoise-shell sunglasses. When pioneering designer Phoebe Philo still helmed the French brand, an ever-present eyewear campaign starred a photograph of Didion at 81 by German fine art photographer Juergen Teller — wispy silver bobbed hair, a stark black crewneck, pursed raspberry-colored lips, and an expression entirely obscured by thick, oversized frames, the lenses impenetrably dark. Didion's pair sold at Stair's auction just weeks ago for a whopping \$27,000. Perhaps Hilton Als knows where they might be.

*Hilton Als will discuss Manhattan in the work of American photographer Diane Arbus on Dec. 8 at The Clark Museum in Williamstown, Mass.*



PHOTO BY ALI SMITH



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12/11 - 4 pm Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT  
**\*Outdoor Light Show by Joe Wheaton on Dec. 10!\***

The performances are underwritten by Stephen Ketterer and Ignacio Ramirez. The Light Show is underwritten by an anonymous donor. For these concerts support has been provided to Crescendo from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

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OUR TOWNS

Retirees are back, and employers are reaping the benefits

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS  
Special to The Millerton News

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — Not many people go into retirement expecting to re-enter the workplace. But Joel Jones did just that — more than once.

And he's not alone. Jones, 60, is part of a growing demographic of "un-retirees," people who, for various reasons, have cut short their retirement to return to work. Some find they need to supplement their income or boost their nest egg, while others, like Jones, have chosen exit careers in which they can give back to their communities.

"It's not for the money, it's for a different cause," the Falls Village, Connecticut, resident explained.

"Most folks cannot even believe that I'm a CNA now," said Jones, a chemical engineer, who enjoyed 38 successful years as a global business leader and in has been working since late February as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Geer Village Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan, Connecticut.

For many companies reeling from a critical worker shortage, this trend has led to a renewed focus on recruitment and retention of workers older than age 55.

"Any additional retirees returning to the workforce is critically needed, as Connecticut's labor force has declined by 47,100 people since February 2020, or 38% of the region's losses," said Chris DiPentima, president of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA).

The pandemic pushed older workers out of the labor market. According to a national AARP survey, 38% of people aged 50 and over who retired, left or considered leaving their job during the COVID-19 pandemic said they would not have done so were it not for the pandemic. Twenty-one percent said they opted for early retirement because of the pandemic.

"Retirees returning to the workforce would be received with open arms," said DiPentima.

**From business suit to nursing scrubs**

Prior to his first retirement in 2013, Jones spent 29 years at Dow Chemical, ending as a global corporate account executive, responsible for several of the Fortune 500 company's largest accounts.

A month after retiring from that "crazy fun career," which took him to 22 countries around the globe, career two began with Jones serving as a



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

**Joel Jones came out of retirement to work full-time as a CNA at Geer Village in North Canaan.**

leader in a chemical industry startup company. Career three followed as a consultant in the chemical and frozen food industries, until the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Joel and his wife, Felicia, relocated from New York City to Falls Village. Jones serves as a volunteer on the Sharon Hospital Board of Directors, and was its chairman from 2017 to 2019.

"After career two," he said, "we really started to blend our lives into Falls Village," where the couple are involved in numerous volunteer and civic roles. He was convinced it was time to finally leave the corporate world behind.

"Within six months I had the whole attic cleaned out, and the yard looked like Disneyland," said Jones, who realized he wasn't ready to be done with work yet.

On Feb. 22, 2022, he began a new career as a CNA at Geer. But this time was different. Jones had found a new purpose in life.

"It's been exhausting and physically draining but in a good way. It's really been an amazing experience and a valuable experience for me," he explained.

"I'm 60 and in good shape, I've had great careers and can afford to work for very modest wages now," he said. "That notwithstanding, it has been probably my favorite career ... so far. I am truly making a positive difference in the lives of the residents in my care."

**Some have little choice**

With inflation at a 40-year high, many retirees have little choice but to collect a paycheck.

As a result, the number of people who un-retire is expected to increase as the cold months arrive and people are faced with lofty inflation and prices soaring for everything from food to gas to heating their homes.

In addition to Jones, Geer

CEO Kevin O'Connell said he recently hired several retirees on fixed incomes who were worried that they would not be able to afford fuel oil to heat their homes this winter.

During a recent presentation to members of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, Connecticut Labor Department Economist Patrick Flaherty noted that many employers are more focused on recruiting "unicorns" than they are older workers.

"They are hiring 20-year-olds and expecting them to have 30 years of experience."

John Harney, a veteran real estate agent in Salisbury, said he has known people who retired from one job and then launched a second career in real estate.

"It doesn't matter how old you are, you become more valuable as you age into the industry. Real estate is based on effectiveness, knowledge, network building and experience."

**'Cultural shift' by employers needed**

Allison Blackwood, president and CEO of the Torrington-based AEI Staffing, which serves Litchfield County, believes it can, but only with a "cultural shift" by companies in their approach to hiring workers over the age of 55. Employers and their human resources teams, rocked by the unprecedented circumstances the pan-

**Woodcrafts sale benefit continues**

MILLERTON — Local artisan John Rocanova will again be selling his handcrafted wood items at the Irondale Schoolhouse, 16 Main St. in Millerton on Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Funds raised go to support a community and its school in Kenya.

demically created, said Blackwood, need to understand reasons for older workers' departures from the workforce — whether due to layoffs, fear of working during the pandemic, choosing early retirement or burnout — and find ways to entice them back.

Employers should look beyond a person's resume and list of qualifications and explore what the right position is at this point in their life and what type of role they are seeking, and not dismiss them for being overqualified, said the employment agency owner.

"Some people still want to be productive," but are not looking to return to high-stress, senior management jobs. "They want to have someone else tell them what to do."

Jones' employer described him as a "very civic-minded" individual with a wealth of knowledge that is being tapped to not only fill a much-needed role in patient care, but also to improve working conditions at the nursing home.

"He's an experienced executive. While working as a CNA he can see the job from all sides. He has given us a deeper assessment of the CNA job, which is not an easy one," said O'Connell.

As for Jones, who, when not working 40 to 45 hours a week, serves as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown, is a Justice of the Peace and is a member of the Falls Village Board of Assessment Appeals.

He also serves as chairman of the Board of Finance.

Reflecting on his interaction with patients at Geer nursing, Jones noted, "I've had so many great conversations with residents about their

lives. It's a privilege and a big responsibility knowing that how you show up to the job directly affects the life experience of another person."

He has no plans to retire anytime soon.

**Stanford Free Library December offerings**

STANFORDVILLE — The Stanford Free Library at 6035 Route 82 in Stanfordville has special plans starting in December, in addition to its regular events.

Homeschool Stories and STEAM Workshops will begin on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for students in Grades K-2. They will feature storytime, crafts and STEAM related activities.

Starting on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 11:00 a.m. to noon, Music in the Library will present classical guitarist Andrew Baffi who will perform on the first Saturday of every month with no registration required.

The December Hybrid Book Club, available on Zoom or in person, will feature Violeta by Isabel Allende on Monday, Dec. 12 at noon.

"Like Water for Chocolate," a part of the Foreign Film Series, will run on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3:00 p.m.

A detailed listing of regular monthly activities is available on the library website. They include:

Brain Games, Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to noon; Knitting, first, third and fifth Thursday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.; Mahjong for intermediate players, Fridays 10:00 a.m. to noon; Yoga with Mia, first Friday of the month is free, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Link sent upon registration; Bridge, Mondays 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Literacy Connections Classes for English Language Learners.

Mondays 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Water Color Workshop, first, third and fifth Tuesday of each month 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.; Fiber Arts, first and third Tuesdays 6:00 p.m.; Story Time, Tuesdays, Preschoolers (Ages 3-4) 10:00 to 10:45 am and Toddlers (Age 18 months – 2 years) 11:00 to 11:45 a.m.; Meditation Class, third Wednesday 10:00 a.m. In-Person (Masks Required) or via Zoom. Link sent upon registration.

Registration is required for events unless noted otherwise. Please email stanfordlibrary@optonline.net or call 845-868-1341.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of North East will conduct a public hearing on the adoption of Local Law No. 3 of the Year 2022 entitled: "A Local Law Amending Chapter 155 of the Code of the Town of North East, 'Taxation,' Article I Thereof, entitled: 'Senior Citizens' Tax Exemption' for December 8, 2022 at 7:15 p.m. at the Town of North East Town Hall, located at 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York. The purpose of the Local Law is to increase the income levels for senior citizens to qualify for the senior citizens' exemption pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §467. Any person desiring to be heard on said Local Law shall be provided with an opportunity to do so at the public hearing. By Order of the Town Board dated November 10, 2022.

ELIZABETH STRAUSS  
Town Clerk for the Town of North East  
12-01-22

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF AMENIA**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Amenia on December 15, 2022 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York, at which time all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding the Draft Amendments to the Town Comprehensive Plan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Town Board has determined that the Proposed Action is a Type I action pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and Part 617 of the New York

State Code of Rules and Regulations (commonly known as "SEQRA") which requires that a full Environmental Assessment be completed prior to Adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that a copy of the Draft Amendments to the Town Comprehensive Plan will be available for review and inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk during regular office hours at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York and on the Town website at www.ameniany.gov.

Dated: Amenia, New York  
November 17, 2022

BY ORDER OF THE  
TOWN BOARD  
DAWN MARIE  
KLINGNER  
TOWN CLERK  
12-01-22

**OPEN VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

TOWN OF AMENIA is seeking applications for the following:

- Board of Assessment Review;
- Zoning Board of Appeals Member;
- Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals members;
- Town Historian;
- Ethics Board members;
- Comprehensive Plan Review Committee members;

Town residency required for the volunteer positions. Letter of Interest and Resume may be submitted via email to townclerk@ameniany.gov or via mail to Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, 4988 Route 22 Amenia NY 12501. Application Deadline: Noon, December 8, 2022.  
12-01-22

**TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine

Plains Planning Board on the 14th day of December 2022, at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against a site plan review and special use permit for a proposed equipment storage facility submitted by Ceen Properties, LLC on the premises located at 2775 Church Street, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, State of New York, Tax Map No. 134200-6872-13-152371-0000.

Any resident of the Town of Pine Plains shall be entitled to be heard regarding said application. The application is available for review during regular business hours at the Pine Plains Town Hall.


By order of  
Town of Pine Plains  
Planning Board  
12-01-22

**TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Planning Board on the 14th day of December 2022, at 7:35 PM at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against a site plan amendment for The Stissing Center on the premises located at 2950 Church Street, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, State of New York, Tax Map No. 134200-6872-18-378191-0000.

Any resident of the Town of Pine Plains shall be entitled to be heard regarding said application. The application is available for review during regular business hours at the Pine Plains Town Hall.


By order of  
Town of Pine Plains  
Planning Board  
12-01-22



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EDITORIAL

# Gratitude... and giving

This is the time of year that makes us think about the things and the people in our lives for which we are grateful. We all have our problems, but we all have our blessings as well, and this has been the time to consider the balance between the two. As we spent Thanksgiving with family or friends, as we go into this winter of the triple threat of infections after two years of COVID restrictions, we should be more thankful than ever for the chance to gather for one more year.

This is also the time of year to look outside ourselves and see the challenges faced by our families, friends, neighbors and fellow humans. There are ways in which we can lighten their loads if we give it serious thought. Who knows? In so doing, we may just benefit ourselves as well.

One way to do that is to contribute to some of the many nonprofit organizations in the region, whose annual appeals are now being sent out all over the Tri-state region. Each day brings a new plea from another worthy nonprofit. As the different groups try to gather enough funding to make their way through the next fiscal year, it's a good time to think about what life here would be like without any one of them.

Which organization will suddenly become the most important in one's life? Perhaps you've never needed a visiting nurse before, but suddenly there is a family health emergency that makes such a personal service critical. How often do any of us think about the willingness of trained volunteer firefighters and EMTs to drop everything at a moment's notice and rush to help in an emergency? Not often, until the rare time in our lives when their service means everything. When we are at our most vulnerable, most in need of some fast and effective help, it is these volunteers who step in and give of themselves, day in and day out, to offer support to their neighbors.

Then there are the parents who depend on area child care centers to provide them with reliable and loving care for the most important people in their lives, their children. Or those who are struggling with difficult home lives that erupt in violence, or who suffer from any kind of illness.

We can't forget about those cultural groups that bring joy and entertainment to brighten our lives, or the scholarship funds for students who need help finishing their studies. The list goes on and on.

Now is a good time to thank volunteers at nonprofit organizations for the work they do to make life better for all of us. The simple acknowledgment of the sacrifices they have made in order to provide their services to the region can be enough to keep them going.

But it also helps to provide financial support, however much it is possible to give. Choose among those who have made a difference in your life or the life of someone you know, and send them whatever you can.

And now that The Lakeville Journal Foundation has joined the multiple nonprofits in the region and become a 501(c)3, we will note that our appeal has gone out in this newspaper as of Thanksgiving week. We will emphasize that we are profoundly grateful for all the support we have received over the past three years from you, our readers. Our plan is to be here to serve our communities for years to come, with your continuing support and engagement with our mission. We are here because of you.

## Vote on Webutuck capital project Tuesday

A reminder for our community that on Tuesday, Dec. 6, from noon to 9 p.m., the North East (Webutuck) Central School District is holding an important vote on a Capital Improvement Project in the High School gym. It is important to know the debt-neutral project will address several health and safety needs for students and staff. The project includes new roofs at all three buildings, an HVAC system that will have a fresh air exchange in our classrooms, an emergency stand-by generator,

an age-appropriate playground at the middle school, as well as other site work.

Again, this is a debt-neutral project that will have zero increase in taxes due to expiring debts from previous projects. Please visit [www.webutuck-schools.org](http://www.webutuck-schools.org) to learn more about the project. Thank you,

**Ray Castellani**  
Superintendent of Schools  
North East (Webutuck) Central School District  
Millerton

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

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



## Sharon Hospital is not closing

I am a member of the Sharon community, and a clinical navigator at Sharon Hospital. I am writing in support of Sharon Hospital's transformation plan, and to remind community members that Sharon Hospital is OPEN and welcoming all patients.

In 1993, I started working at Sharon Hospital on a temporary basis and never left. Sharon Hospital is an incredible place, and one that should be a part of our community for years to come.

The healthcare system in the United States is changing, and while all hospitals are affected, those in rural areas are particularly impacted. Adapting to these changes to best serve the needs of patients requires a tremendous amount of skill and fortitude by those in leadership.

I have watched this evolution of healthcare at Sharon Hospital over the past 29 years. So many changes over this time have been positive and are seen through clinical advancements — for example, 25 years ago, a hip re-

placement would keep a patient in the hospital for two weeks. Today, it's a few days at most. These advancements are seen in so many services, and because of this, we are seeing the role of the hospital change.

We are also seeing rising costs and changing populations, which pose challenges for all hospitals. Despite our proudly held five-star status, Sharon Hospital is not immune to these challenges, and so I urge my community to understand that Sharon Hospital must adapt to survive this difficult time in healthcare.

I understand my community's feelings around closing our Labor and Delivery unit. However, I have witnessed firsthand the underutilization of this service. At times, many days go by and our Labor and Delivery Unit sees no patients. I have also seen the vulnerability of our aging community and the changing healthcare environment and our system's commitment to help our hospital meet those needs.

## Invasives need control

We on the Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission read with interest your recent article, "Why invasive species matter," and commend The Lakeville Journal for publishing this significant piece.

Our committee is par-

ticularly concerned about the threat invasive plants pose to sensitive wetland and watercourse areas, and how invasive species are negatively impacting water quality, habitat and bank stabilization.

We recently published a brochure detailing best practices

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Our caring hospital

I am sitting by my wife in a Sharon Hospital room as she gently but inexorably comes to the end of our 72-year love affair, the last sixty enriched among our Litchfield Hills. The afternoon November sunlight streams over our hills through the room's southwest-facing windows.

She sleeps comfortably, tended lovingly and carefully by Nurse Bobbie Jo and her colleagues, surrounded by family, for we have been given

one of the hospital's generously proportioned rooms on the second floor designed for such occasions. It is only yards from the room where she recovered from giving birth to our fourth daughter 58 years ago.

As I hold her hand, giving thanks for her love, our life together and the family we have made, I add thanks for the warm, personal care we receive from Bob Chase and Kaki Schaefer-Reid, the volunteer ambulance responders to my 4 a.m. call for help, the sympathetic, caring Emergency and ICU nurses, doctors and staff who quickly eased her pain, treated her considerately and explained our options before moving her to the second floor staff and Hospice nurses who do all in their power to succor her and her family through our ordeal.

We are blessed to have a community hospital staffed with such humane, competent people. How very different is our reception here than in the impersonal mega-hospitals of big cities. It is no accident that Sharon Hospital puts personal care of neighbors first. It was created by local leadership, generosity and dedicated medical professionals over generations. It represents who we have been — and I hope — still are.

Recently, our hospital fell into the grasp of NuVance, a medical industry invasive species which promised to "save" it financially but, once in control, threatens to jettison its tradition of care as wasteful, to scrap its maternity and ICU wards, and convert it into a moneymaking outpatient diagnostic center, with the top floor rumored to be converted from caring service to NuVance's executive suite, its officers replacing patients where my wife is now receiving such loving care.

As Dr. Kurish, who has selflessly ministered to my wife, warns us, only we who live here, depend on and love our hospital can be trusted to save its caring, nonprofit mission.

**Carr Ferguson**  
Lakeville

I have great respect for my neighbors who are passionate about making a change in our community. However, our community needs to come together to address misinformation, which can have the unintended effect of hurting the hospital. We need to make it clear that Sharon Hospital is here, providing five-star care to the region 24/7/365.

Words matter. When the staff at Sharon Hospital formed a group in support of the hospital in the 1990s, we called our group "Friends of Sharon Hospital," words that exude support without raising alarm. I urge my community to be forward-looking and positive as we come together to support the future of Sharon Hospital. This future may include tough choices, but I believe Sharon Hospital leadership is acting in the interests of our community.

Sharon Hospital is not closing. We are here for you.

With respect to all involved,  
**Jim Hutchison**  
Norfolk

for disposal of invasive plants. It is available at the Sharon Town Hall Land Use office as well as all of the local libraries.

**James Krissel**,  
Chairman  
Sharon Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission  
Sharon

## Making tough choices at Sharon Hospital

As a member of the Salisbury community, I support NuVance Health, Sharon Hospital, and their plan to preserve our region's healthcare access by closing an underutilized and unsustainable service.

I'm in no way affiliated with the hospital. I heard about the proposed changes as a member of the community, and I want to use my decades of experience as a healthcare leader—including leading rural hospitals—to help my neighbors understand the stark financial landscape that all hospitals have faced over the past 20 years.

I am impressed that the plan is comprehensive, forward-looking, and growth based. It didn't need to be this way — over 100 rural hospitals have closed in the last decade. When faced with the difficult choice between adapting to meet the challenges facing our industry or maintaining the status quo, most of them chose to maintain the status quo, forcing them to close their doors and jeopardize patients' access to care. With maternity volume nowhere near sustaining the unit, keeping the department open jeopardizes the entire hospital, including services in high-demand. I have yet to see a viable plan to keep Sharon Hospital open in the long-term without service reductions.

NuVance, like most hospitals in the U.S., is a nonprofit — meaning it has a mission of serving its patients and com-

munities. Unfortunately, nonprofits face most of the same challenges and responsibilities as other businesses.

For example, a grocery store needs to pay its staff, electricity bills, and supply costs. If it does not make enough revenue to cover these costs, it will be forced to close. The same is true for hospitals. To remain open, they need to be able to pay the salary, benefits, and pensions of their workforce; fund necessary repairs and maintenance projects; and buy supplies and equipment. And like all businesses, hospitals grapple with inflation and a tumultuous job market.

So what is the difference between nonprofit hospitals and other businesses?

First, they are funded differently. Most hospital funding comes from government and private insurers by way of patient revenue. In rural markets, much of this revenue comes from Medicaid and Medicare, which pay hospitals less than commercial insurers — well below what it costs hospitals to provide their services. This funding is supported by investments and philanthropy, but given market volatility and the instability of these sources in providing year-over-year revenue, hospitals rely less on these contributions to support operational costs.

The difference that inspired me to spend my career in non-

profit healthcare, though, is the benefit to patients when nonprofits thrive. For-profit entities keep "leftover" revenue, while nonprofits like Sharon Hospital invest it in programs that serve their mission. That is why Sharon Hospital leadership continues saying that by cutting a service that loses millions of dollars each year,

they can grow in other areas. This is a reality.

This tough decision will help Sharon Hospital serve our community for years to come. I urge our community to reflect on this and join me in supporting the hospital's transformation plan.

**George Zara**  
Salisbury

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#### Mission Statement

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

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# Space telescopes keep improving

The images are pretty amazing (oh, yes, and beautiful). The Hubble images astound us still, even after 32 years! Now we have The James Webb Space Telescope sending back astounding images, broadening our concept of the vastness, yet exciting contents, of space. And in case you have not heard, now NASA has another priority project: the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope set to launch in five years. Why another?

Space exploration is all about frequencies of radiation and light. Hubble is great at infra-red detection, Roman will be 200 times greater. It has a silver coated mirror reflector (Hubble's is gold) allowing greater spectroscopy. What for you ask? If you want

## A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

to find another Earth out there, you need to be able to "read" the spectral analysis of distant solar systems to accurately know the composition of planets' make up. Is there enough water? Is there an atmosphere to breathe in? What, exactly are the temperatures on the surface?

Roman can't do this on its own. It needs both Hubble and Webb. It's kind of like going to the doctor for an X-ray, a sonogram, and an MRI... together they give your doctor a better clue what's going on. Each on

their own can indicate what is maybe there, but only together can they provide an accurate picture.

The problem for NASA is that Hubble is on a very high orbit that is deteriorating. It will, in the next 10 years or so, start to impact with the atmosphere and eventually fall to Earth. It needs a boost (and servicing, as astronauts on the Shuttle did several times before). Its gyroscopes and instruments are starting to fail. 32 years of hard work are taking their toll.

In comes private astronaut Isaacman who bankrolled and flew in a SpaceX Dragon flight last year. He wants, and NASA seems likely to award the contract for, a flight to Hubble's high orbit of 332 miles to boost, well, dock and push,

Hubble higher. There's discussion on whether a space walk will be allowed by the private flight to service Hubble, that decision will come down next year after careful study and perhaps the Dragon next test flight where Isaacman promises to do a first-ever private spacewalk. Isaacman's flights are being renamed Polaris missions. Keep an eye out for them.

The thing that's really going to make a difference for your kids and grandkids' futures? When three instruments are in orbit and focus in on and identify habitable planets, the next "go West young man" fever will commence.

*Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, now lives in New Mexico.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Library annex article needs clarification

As president of the Board of Trustees of the Amenia Free Library, I want to thank each and every one of the nearly 150 community members who attended the Open House Celebration of our Expanded and renovated library on Saturday, Nov. 19. To correct the article in the 11/24 issue of this newspaper, I wanted to point out that a donation was in Honor of former Librarian, Miriam Devine — definitely not "in memory."

Our architect was Darlene

(not Arlen) Riemer and we were visited by Senator Sue Serino (not Serena). Along with Library Director, Victoria Herow, I'd like to invite everyone who missed out on the opportunity to tour our wonderful new facility, to stop in and check out our new home with its comfortable seating and workspaces, expanded program opportunities, and cheerful, knowledgeable staff.

Alan Gamble

Amenia



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## REAL ESTATE

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