



**MILLERTON**  
Fundraiser For Ukraine Held Despite Snow; Second Event Now Planned **A2**



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The New Stissing House Is Open, And Waiting For You To Try It **A6**

**COMPASS**  
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## Dover hate crime suspects in court, one threatens to kill

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**  
editor@millertonnews.com

**POUGHKEEPSIE** — The four Dover men charged with the class B felony of Robbery in the 1st degree as a hate crime for attacking a group of men in December of last year just made the job of their attorneys even more difficult. That's because one of the defendants reportedly threatened the life of someone watching from the gallery when all four men appeared in Dutchess County Court in Poughkeepsie on Monday, March 7.

Back on Dec. 6, 2021, the New York State Police (NYSP) from the Dover Plains Troop K barracks responded to a 911 call of a possi-

ble robbery in the town of Dover. The caller said that "a group of men attacked them, and one attacker [was] armed with a handgun [and] fired a single shot," according to the NYSP report.

When the Troopers arrived at the home on Market Street at roughly 11:53 p.m., none of the victims appeared to be seriously injured, and the attackers had fled on foot. The victims reported jewelry had been stolen.

An intensive investigation was initiated by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), which determined the accused perpetrators were from Dover: 40-year-old Joshua A. Benson;

See **HATE CRIME, A8**

## North East looks for better, safer, cheaper solutions

# Salt and de-icing roads: Just how toxic is road salt?

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**  
editor@millertonnews.com

**NORTH EAST** — When North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan learns of a major snowstorm in the forecast, like the one that just struck on Saturday, March 12, dumping upwards of a half a foot of snow — thoughts start racing through his mind in a flurry — much like the snow that can blanket roads and bridges. Such weather makes driving conditions hazardous and can put lives at risk.

That's why Kennan, along with long-time Highway Superintendent Bob Stevens, have spent countless hours trying to figure out how to best treat town roads when they are covered with ice and snow. It may sound like a simple problem, after all, road crews have been salting roads for roughly a century.



PHOTO BY CHRIS KENNAN

The town of North East keeps its bucket loaders in its new salt shed on Route 22, where sand and salt are loaded in preparation of winter storms that could dump snow and ice onto town roads. The old salt shed was next to the Webatuck Creek, where salt leaching into the sensitive waterway was a constant concern.

Studies have been done into the toxic nature of road salt and the environmental dangers it poses after the snow and ice melt and the residual salt leaches into the soil and ground waters. It's caused many communities to rethink how to best de-ice their roads.

"I think one of the obvious solutions is to use more sand and less salt, but you still are left trying to

get rid of ice and packed snow," said Kennan days after Millerton resident Mary Lynn Kalogeras made a presentation on the very subject at the Feb. 10 North East Town Board meeting.

Kalogeras also spoke before the Millerton Village Board, according to Mayor Jenn Najdek, who said the

See **SALT, A8**



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stissing Mountain High School math students voted to build a stand alone mini food pantry for the Willow Roots food pantry to place at the Pine Plains Free Library as one of their class projects.

## Pine Plains counts on math students to bring new food pantry to library

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**  
editor@millertonnews.com

**PINE PLAINS** — Stissing Mountain High School math teacher Gerard Lisella obviously loves what he does. Anyone who has the pleasure of speaking with Mr. Lisella can hear the enthusiasm — not only for his

subject matter, but for his students — ring out as clear as a bell in his voice.

For the past five or six weeks, however, Lisella's passion for his work and his impression of his students have grown tenfold, as his Topics in Math class surprised him with the project-based-learning (PBL) project it recently chose.

The 16 students, a mix of boys and girls in grades 10 through 12, opted to build a small, free-standing food pantry planted in a flower pot for the local nonprofit Willow Roots. It will be installed outside of the Pine Plains Free Library (PPFL), so those

See **PANTRY, A8**

## Millerton's Eddie Collins

# The Hall-of-Famer with academic distinction

**B**aseball is back. The delay from the contract talks between owners and players is another one for the books. Starting the season a few weeks late is like a "rain delay" in a game between the Yankees and Boston. No one is leaving the stadium; America's pastime is intact. Before the crack of the bat is heard when the season begins in mid-April, some local baseball lore is offered here for the enjoyment of fans and readers.

The baseball great Eddie Collins was born in Millerton and lived in the house on Main Street that is now the Millerton Inn restaurant and hotel at 53 Main St.

Some baseball writers consider Eddie Collins the greatest second baseman of all time. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall-of-Fame

## FROM FURTHER AFIELD

Jim Mackin



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jim Mackin

See **EDDIE COLLINS, A8**



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# MILLERTON

## Second fundraiser Sunday at Troutbeck

# Sunflowers and snow still raise more than \$45,000 for Ukraine

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
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 and  
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MILLERTON — A forecast of 7 inches of snow or more and high winds couldn't stop organizers from holding a fundraiser for Ukraine on Saturday, March 12, at the RE Institute art studio in Millerton. The event was cut short because of the wintry weather, ending at about 1:45 p.m. rather than 3:30 p.m., but still roughly 55 people paid \$150 a ticket and showed up to support the cause.

André Wlodar, who planned the fundraiser with his wife, Kim Schmidt-Wlodar along with the assistance of numerous businesses and community members, acknowledged it can be hard for him to pull back.

"I can sometimes get too emotional and push too much, but that's the job. It's not easy to get people to rally," he said.

Wlodar is from Poland; he and his wife have split their time between Millerton and NYC for the past 10 years. Having grown up so close to the Ukrainian border, with much of his family still in Poland, he said he feels personally invested in helping those who are now under attack by Russia.

Wlodar added he realized he was unrelenting in wanting to make sure last Saturday's event went on as planned, but now recognizes it may have been too stressful for others, like Millerton sculptor Henry Klimowicz. Klimowicz had opened up his art studio, the RE Institute, for the fundraiser with barely a week's notice. He sent out a mass email that the event was canceled just hours before it was set to happen, contrary to what Wlodar was emailing.

"I apologized to him, sincerely, because I was pushing maybe too much," said Wlodar. "I wanted this to happen: The food, everything, was all set. I under-estimated how bad the storm would be."

There was plenty of food, all donated by local chefs who cooked and baked specialties with a Ukrainian flare. Michel and Patricia of Champetre in Pine Plains provided stuffed cabbage; traditional borscht was served by Ukrainian volunteers Alicia and Jorge Szendiuch from Sheffield, Mass. A shiitake/ricotta varenyky (pierogi), with creme fraiche and toasted walnuts



PHOTOS SUBMITTED  
**Roughly 55 people attended the fundraiser for Ukraine on Saturday, March 12, at the RE Institute in Millerton despite a mid-March snowstorm. Elyse Harney was there celebrating her 91st birthday, for which she bought herself a piece of art. Here she is with fundraiser organizer, André Wlodar. Left, a Ukrainian flag was hung outside the RE Institute's art barn.**

was created by local chef Matthew Lodes. Mary O'Brien of Chaiwala made five sublime cakes in a variety of flavors and Dani Nicholson made 80 mouth-watering empanadas. Four Brothers donated 10 pizzas; Robert, the owner of Le Gamin in Sharon, brought decadent blintzes while others brought kielbasa and baked goods. Antoine, of Le Caviste in Stanfordsville, provided both wine and water to quench everyone's thirst and the Harneys donated six cases of iced teas.

"And web designer Shea Bartel worked tirelessly to build the web pages for the auction, and the list goes on and on," said Wlodar.

There was also music to dance to and a variety of artwork to bid on. The art was donated by a range of local artists along with galleries and artists in NYC for the silent auction; it hung beautifully on the walls of the large, but un-insulated, barn turned art studio donated for the event.

The artwork, mostly relating to Ukraine and its struggles, remains for sale; for more information go to [www.kimsschmidtfineart.com/fundraiser-for-ukraine](http://www.kimsschmidtfineart.com/fundraiser-for-ukraine). All proceeds will go to the 501(c)3 nonprofit, Sunflower of Peace, to aid Ukraine. (For more on the humanitarian organization, go to [www.sunflowerofpeace.com](http://www.sunflowerofpeace.com).) Bidding will conclude this Sunday, March

20, at midnight.

Some of the planned events were naturally canceled due to the snowstorm, including the virtual talk of Amnesty International lawyer Lawrence Moss.

But there were many bright spots, most notably the sunflowers spotted everywhere. The national flower of Ukraine, sunflowers symbolized the strength and resistance of the country now fighting for its freedom. The vibrant yellow flowers even adorned supporters' heads and necks on Saturday as many wore sunflower wreaths throughout the fundraiser.

As of Tuesday, March 15, Wlodar said about \$20,000 had been raised through the fundraiser; another \$25,000 had been raised through the art auction thus far.

"We are fundraising now only for only Sunflower of Peace, because I don't want to get into any trouble, and we partnered with them," he said. "I talked to [Sunflower of Peace founder] Katja Malakhova, who in turn will donate money to the orphans. As a U.S. charity, they can do with that money everything according to the statutes."

Wlodar said Sunflower of Peace can also then direct the money to causes like the World Central Kitchen, the Wayair Foundation and Razom (both of which help evacuate or-

phans and other refugees from Ukraine to Poland) and others.

Because the snowstorm disrupted the fundraiser and impacted attendance (despite Wlodar hiring shuttles to help people avoid having to drive on icy roads), there will be a second fundraiser this Sunday. The hope is more art will also be bid on, along with more items from the silent auction.

Wlodar thanked those who attended the event at the RE Institute for supporting what he described as a "nonpolitical [cause]; a clear choice of good over evil."

The event drew people from around the region, including from Hudson; Rhinebeck; Great Barrington, Mass.; Cornwall, Conn.; and beyond.

The next fundraiser will be this Sunday, March 20, from 12:30 to 3 p.m., at Troutbeck in Amenia, at 515 Leedsville Road ([www.troutbeck.com](http://www.troutbeck.com)). It will be an indoor/outdoor event, with limited parking. Tickets cost \$150. For details, email [andrewlodar@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlodar@gmail.com), call or text 786-282-2495; RSVP by Wednesday.

### Correction

The March 10 issue of The Millerton News reported on Millerton resident André Wlodar's efforts to assist the people of Ukraine during Russia's military invasion. The article stated that "Poland just signed a pledge to accept 850,000 more Ukrainian orphans..." The correct number is 8,500 orphans. We regret the error.

## Where to find last two relocated plaza businesses

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
 editor@millertonnews.com

both relocated at the start of 2022.

MILLERTON — Most of Millerton is by now well aware of the fact that Millerton Square Plaza on Route 22 is under contract to be sold.

Plaza owner Joseph "Skip" Trotta confirmed just weeks ago he is in talks with an unnamed buyer to purchase the plaza, in hopes of finally drawing a grocery market into the community.

Trotta mentioned at the time, in an interview in the Feb. 24 issue of The Millerton News, the last two remaining businesses moved out his plaza to help make the sale go through more easily.

Trotta had said both the law office of his brother, Attorney Robert Trotta, and his brother's long-time wine shop, Trotta's Fine Wine & Liquors, had

However, Skip's niece, Betsy Trotta, recently clarified the two businesses actually left the plaza last fall.

"There are notices up all over the old windows," she said on Thursday, March 3, of her father's businesses. "The liquor store is now next to Talk of the Towne deli at 138 Route 44 and the law office of Robert Trotta, attorney at law, is working out of an office on Route 199 in Millerton."

Betsy said the two businesses kept their former phone numbers to lessen any confusion.

For the law office, the phone number remains 518-789-3636. For the liquor store, the phone number is 518-789-3535.

Be sure to look for a profile on the new, remodeled wine and liquor store in a future issue of The Millerton News.

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### The Lakeville Journal Celebrating Our 125th Anniversary

#### AS IT RAN 52 YEARS AGO



MARCH 26, 1970

**Original Caption:** A drawing contributed by artist John Wedda of Salisbury.

**Context:** This reader contribution published at the height of the Viet Nam War is sadly relevant today.

Watch this space for a look back through our reporting history.

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### MILLERTON IN BRIEF

#### Post 178 serves pancakes plus

The last Monthly Pancake Breakfast for a while at the Millerton American Legion Post 178 will be on Sunday, April 3.

The fundraiser will include pancakes, home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon.

The cost is \$8 per meal, which will be available for eat-in or take-out. Breakfast sandwiches will also be available for \$5.

Breakfast will be served from 7 to 10 a.m. Call 518-789-4755 to place an order.

Post 178 is at 155 Route 44, Millerton.

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# Ways to Keep Sharon Hospital Whole

## National Rural Healthcare Initiatives

These times require boldness.

Connecticut needs to adopt some of the rural hospital initiatives being utilized around the nation ... in Utah, New Mexico, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Missouri, Alaska, Kentucky, Maryland, Indiana, Montana, Texas, West Virginia, Vermont, North Dakota, to name a few.

- ❖ Local elected officials should lobby Maria Horn, Craig Miner, and the CT state legislature, to do what was done in Georgia. Their state legislature created Georgia Heart Hospital Program which provides state income tax credits in amounts equal to donations to rural hospitals.
- ❖ With the help of Governor Lamont and CT Assembly, UCONN Medical School can follow the lead of the University of Wisconsin at Madison Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, which created the nation's first rural obstetrics and gynecology residency. Last year, there were 200 applications for the one rural residency position — evidence of high interest in the program.
- ❖ The federal Office of Rural Health Policy created the RMOMS (Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies) grant program in 2019. States have used this money to create ways to keep their women safe, their future safe.
- ❖ Working with a \$20million war chest, The Foundation for Community Health (FCH), the conversion foundation formed when Sharon Hospital became for profit, has a responsibility and fiduciary duty to support these and other programs whose aim is to preserve hospital services in the Sharon Hospital service area.

And what are corporate leaders at Nuvance Health doing to save our hospital?

From their board room surrounded by their lawyers and PR staff, they have analyzed the heart and lungs of our hospital and found where and when to strike to optimize their liquidation plans. They carefully crafted power point presentations displaying their technical and legal prowess at manipulating CT regulations to suit their whims. Most disappointingly, Nuvance Health leadership has offered Sharon Hospital nothing more than cowardice, proving themselves untrustworthy and incapable of the jobs for which they are so smartly paid.

No more destruction.

Computer screens and an ER do not a hospital make.

Labor and Delivery (the heart) and ICU (the lungs) must remain at Sharon Hospital.

Contact ALL your elected officials.. Town, State, and Federal ... anyone who wants your vote.

Rip out this page, suggest these ideas to them.

Tell them we want them to boldly fight for our hospital to remain whole.



OBITUARIES

Juanita Mae Benson

DOVER PLAINS—Juanita Mae Benson, 93, a longtime resident of Dover Plains, passed away March 10, 2022, at Danbury Hospital.



Born on Oct. 30, 1928, in Troy, Kan., she was the daughter of the late Veda (Farrington) and Beauford W. Grant.

Mrs. Benson attended Poughkeepsie High School. On Oct. 14, 1950, in Wappingers Falls, N.Y., she married Douglas A. Benson, who predeceased her on Jan. 6, 1997.

Mrs. Benson was an avid gardener, loved to crochet and was a very accomplished seamstress. She was a member and Past Matron of the Eastern Star, Dover Chapter. She was also a member and Sunday School teacher at Dover Plains United Methodist Church and more recently a member of the Crossroads Church of the Christian & Missionary Alliance in La-Grangeville.

Mrs. Benson is survived by four daughters, Wanda Calabro and her husband, John, of Dover Plains, Linda Acken and her husband, Robert, of Dover Plains, Veda Gardner

and her husband, Russell, of Kansas City, Mo., and Lori Couture and her husband, Joseph, of Dover Plains; and a son, Alan D. Benson and his wife, Lorraine, of Pine Plains.

She is also survived by eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Benson was predeceased by two brothers, John F. Grant and Beauford E. "Sonny" Grant; and a grandson, Rob Ryan Acken.

Calling hours will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, at the Hufcut Funeral Home in Dover Plains. Funeral services will take place at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains.

Memorial contributions may be made to Crossroads CMA, 1807 Clove Road, La-Grangeville, NY 12540.

For directions or to send the family an online condolence, please visit [www.hufcutfuneralhome.com](http://www.hufcutfuneralhome.com).

Alice (Winchester) Muzynski

RHINEBECK — Alice (Winchester) Muzynski, 93, formerly a longtime resident of Millerton, died peacefully on March 2, 2022, at the Meadows in Rhinebeck, N.Y.



Alice was born on March 31, 1928, in Sharon to the late Louise (Barrett) and Milo Winchester.

She attended schools in Highland, Millerton and Pine Plains before graduating in 1946.

She then went on to attend the Krissler Business Institute in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., from 1946 to 1947.

Although Alice had an extensive professional career that spanned nearly 50 years, she often mentioned how one of her favorite jobs was working as a bank teller, especially meeting Richard Chamberlain the famous actor who played Dr. Kildare.

On June 10, 2000, she married Edward J. Muzynski Jr., who survives at home. Alice will forever be remembered for her love of family, her friendship with Buddy the ruffed grouse, camping in Copake Falls and Rhode Island, summers on Mount Riga, and sewing — which she learned as a little girl from her cousin, and all the many counted cross-stitch pictures and personalized family Christmas stockings she made.

In addition to her husband, Alice is survived by her sister,

Jean Kleinhomer; three children, Susan Perotti (Robert), George Beckwith (Lenice), Linda Rowland (Jess); and five step children, Carolyn Hart (John), Joan Muzynski-Dupree (Arthur), Amy

Muzynski, Elizabeth Means (Bruce) and Douglas McKenzie (Linda); 19 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents she was predeceased by two husbands, Roger Beckwith and William McKenzie; her brother, Milo Winchester Jr.; and brother-in-law William Kleinhomer.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. A funeral service will take place at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. A private burial will take place in the spring at the South Amenia Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rhinebeck Fire Department, Ambulance Fund, 76 East Market St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572; or to The Amyloidosis Foundation, 7151 N. Main St., Suite 2, Clarkston, MI 48346.

To send an online condolence to the family, please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com).

For more obituaries, see Page A4

SPORTS

Millbrook Blazers leap over the Carle Place Frogs on their way to the state semi-finals

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Millbrook Blazers Varsity Girls Basketball Team sprang back into action with a winning season. The girls competed in an important match on Saturday, March 12, as they chased the state championship title.

The Millbrook High School Blazers easily leaped over the Long Island's Carle Place Frogs (Section VIII) with a score of 51-43 in the Class C Regional Finals. The game was held at Hofstra University on Long Island.

The snowstorm outside did not deter the players on the court, and thankfully the team had booked their hotel for Friday night near the university before the flakes began to fly. After two years of missing out on a chance to play for the championship, the Millbrook athletes weren't taking any chances.

Blazers Head Coach Adam Peek said he was personally thrilled, and happy for his players. He said he is fortunate to have such a great group of girls play for the team.

By half time the score was tied at 20-20 — the game could have gone either way.

Carle Place, formerly a Class B team, is known for its excellence and was a fierce competitor for the Millbrook players.

Going into the fourth quarter, the Blazers were



PHOTO BY ALFRED HAMMELL

Millbrook Athletic Director Alfred Hammell said he is extremely proud of the Millbrook Blazers Girls Basketball Team for beating the Carle Place Frogs and making it all the way to the semi-finals in the state championships, which will be played against East Rochester on Saturday, March 19, at 9 a.m. at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy.

leading by two, 35-33. Madison Harkenrider had 12 points and five assists, while Natalie Fox had 11 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks to ensure Carle Place's defeat.

The Blazers now have an impressive record of four consecutive Section IX titles.

The Millbrook Varsity Girls Basketball Team is com-

prised of Hudson Heitman, Maddy Harkenrider, Sabrina Mongon and Kaleigh Tompkins, Beth Bosan, Serafina Fauci, Natalie Fox, Ella Wilson and Emily Grassler. Assistant coaches for the team are Dawn Harkenrider and Jason Zmudsky.

The Blazers have a season record of 21-3, and will next

compete in the state semi-finals against East Rochester (Section V) on Saturday, March 19, at 9 a.m. at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy.

Rest assured that all of Millbrook, and the Harlem Valley, will be rooting for the Blazers to bring that state championship title home.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

2022 DEC Summer Camp Registration

NEW YORK STATE — The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced the start of registration for the 2022 DEC Summer Camp season will begin Sunday, April 10, at 1 p.m.

Due to staffing challenges, this year's summer camp program offerings have changed. Camp Rushford and Pack Forest will open for a seven-week season, and DEC may open registration for Camp DeBruce if additional staff becomes available this spring. Camp Colby will remain closed until 2023 to complete major renovations to

the camp. Updates and changes may be found at [www.dec.ny.gov/education/29](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29); at [www.facebook.com/NYSDEC](http://www.facebook.com/NYSDEC); and at [www.facebook.com/NYSDEC-summercamps/](http://www.facebook.com/NYSDEC-summercamps/).

Campers and camp families may contact [EducationCamps@dec.ny.gov](mailto:EducationCamps@dec.ny.gov) with any questions.

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## PINE PLAINS/AREA

Zoning public hearing

# More parcels for business district?

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — With town planning consultants, Frank Fish and Taylor Young, from BFJ Planning attending the meeting virtually, the Pine Plains Town Board held a public hearing related to proposed zoning changes in its main hamlet on Thursday, Feb. 16.

The main hamlet is where the business district is located in the center of town at the main intersection of routes 199 and 82.

The mandated public hearing was for the adoption of a proposed local law amending boundaries of certain zoning districts in Pine Plains and its zoning map.

The board specified in the public notice that the law's purpose, mainly, is "to effect a remapping of a portion of the Hamlet Residential District [H-R] to the Hamlet Center Residential District [H-CR]... to slightly expand the Hamlet Business District... to create a new Light Industrial District... and to effect a small expansion of the H-MS District to include a portion of two parcels to better reflect their existing uses."

The 6 p.m. hearing was held in the Community Room above the library before the board's regular 7 p.m. meeting (usually held at Town Hall) to accommodate more people.

Fish gave a short history of the zoning change process, highlighting different meetings the planners have had with the Town Board, the Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) and Planning Board. He began with when the ZRC formed last March and worked up to the Feb. 16 hearing.

Fish said the zoning map changes focused on rezoning parcels from H-R to H-CR; creating a new Light Industrial District and slightly expanding the H-BUS District, both at the ZRC's recommendation. They also included other small zoning map "fixes."

Assessing the town's existing zoning map, Young said the planners were examining the hamlet area, describing it as "really a small targeted area that's being updated based on recommendations from the committee."

Projecting a map with the existing and proposed zoning, he noted five parcels that are proposed to be added to the business district.

Young said the key is permitting manufacturing in the area, "but otherwise it's carrying a lot of things over that

were previously in the hamlet Main Street."

That's the general area where many of the town's businesses are located, including a number of eateries, light retail businesses, the barber shop, the pharmacy, the bookstore, antique stores and the grocery store, among others. The library and the firehouse are also close by.

"The committee wanted to make life easier, if you will, for residents and owners in the hamlet area," Fish added about the reason for the proposed changes.

Fish said the Planning Board must review the changes, as zoning map changes are usually required by law to be sent to the Planning Board.

He then noted its members had already sent a letter noting they felt "that the changes are in concordance with the comprehensive plan goal of a rural community with a vibrant town center" and recognizes that "these changes... will bring the zoning map into agreement with what actually exists."

Fish added the Planning Board also reviewed the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) and was happy with the environmental analysis.

He added they expect a negative declaration for the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Should the Town Board decide to move forward, Fish said it could make a determination of significance and then a negative declaration.

In addition to the Planning Board's review of the changes, he said the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development commented, saying the SEQRA is "a matter of local concern," which is a common statement.

After town Supervisor Brian Walsh opened up public comments, the board heard from a resident who asked what was the purpose of extending the hamlet is and what it means for residents.

Town Councilwoman Sarah Jones said the ZRC's idea was "to make the zoning conform to what was already there."

"We're trying to make things more consistent and more helpful to the owners of those properties," Jones said.

Following other comments ranging from issues about the hamlet's extension and to the different zoning districts, the board closed the hearing and returned to its regularly scheduled meeting.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Under the tender care of seasoned chef Clare de Boer, the Stissing House was reborn last week in Pine Plains and opened its tavern doors for its first night of business on Thursday, March 10.

## Stissing House reborn with tavern fare

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Under the loving care of a well-versed chef, the Stissing House, at 7801 South Main St. (Route 199), has been reinvented in Pine Plains, opening its doors to customers on Thursday, March 10.

Delighted by the success of their first night, new owner Clare de Boer said they're operating the tavern (the main dining room) to start and limiting their capacity to keep business running smoothly in its initial operations.

Their first night drew a full house of customers who have been waiting patiently for the restaurant to reopen.

"It kept us on our toes," de Boer said. "It was just enough and not too much."

Reflecting on her origins as a chef and what's inspired her love of cooking, de Boer calls herself "a serious eater" and said she loves to cook, though not in a particularly "chefy" way.

"I just like to cook and feed people," she said. "I like the whole process from start to finish, including sitting down at the table and having a good time, people whose company I enjoy — the simple things."

She ascribed the ingredients in her dishes and the experience of seeing people enjoy themselves and having the food be part of that picture as the two key factors that influence her cooking.

"Everything is sort of ingredients-led and inspired," she said, "and so up here with all the bounty of the neighboring farms and the vegetable garden when the season gets going, the real inspiration comes from the land and the area and the produce, and when you've got good stuff, the hardest work is done."

For more than five years, de Boer has been operating the restaurant, King, in Soho, NYC, serving mouth-watering French and Italian cuisine with her partners Jess Shadbolt and Annie Shi. As far as how this distinguished restaurateur found herself in Pine Plains, de Boer said

she and her husband have a home in Dover Plains. In the first five years since they first moved up here, they've fallen in love with Dutchess County.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, de Boer heard the Stissing House building was coming up for lease and decided to see it for herself. She found the building irresistible, calling it "a fantasy for a cook in the countryside."

The former Stissing House closed in early 2021 after 15 years of business. Its former owners — chef, restaurateur and husband-and-wife-duo Patricia and Michel Jean — now operate the bistro Champetre just doors away, at 7801 South Main St.

De Boer said the historic building was bought by Ian Ross, her new landlord. She signed the lease for her restaurant this past December. She has tinkered with the kitchen and freshened up the walls, and has plans for the outdoor garden. Yet some elements from its past will be kept the same — especially the name.

"This place is a local institution and we very much feel we're the next caretakers of the spot," de Boer said. "It's been here 250 years... There's so much magic and so much charm here, and we want to lean into that and freshen the place up a bit and celebrate the local farms with the food that we're cooking."

From the front to the back of the house, there are currently 11 employees on staff and de Boer is looking to hire more and double her team.

The menu features American tavern fare cooked in a wood-fired stove, from a fireplace seafood chowder to steak with creamed kale and a wood-oven roasted chicken. Along with fresh appetizers, there are salads and vegetable dishes, courtesy of de Boer being a self-proclaimed "salad and vegetable fiend." There's also a robust bar menu with plenty of salty and briny snacks for customers to nibble while they nurse a few pints.

Stissing House's hours of operation run from 5 to 10 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays,

Fridays and Saturdays; from noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays; and closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

At the moment, the restaurant is taking reservations through the online reservation platform, Resy.

de Boer said there will be lots of room for walk-ins in the future, but she recommends reservations for the time being. Once all the staff is hired, the restaurant will open at full capacity; for now, they'll be taking it step by step.

Asked how her Soho restaurant will fare while she's operating her new restaurant in Pine Plains, de Boer said she's got an extraordinary team holding down the fort, so King won't need as much of her attention.

"We're thrilled to be here," de Boer said. "I think it's such a wonderful area with incredible farms. It feels so lucky to be in this historic landmark building and getting to know the community of farmers and locals. It's going to be a tough road ahead but we're super excited and thrilled to be here."

### AREA IN BRIEF

#### Corned Beef Takeout Dinner March 19

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Presbyterian Church will host a Corned Beef Takeout Dinner with curbside pickup on Saturday, March 19, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by phoning the church 518-398-7117. Dinners may be avail-

able at the door if not sold out. Dinners are \$17 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 through 12 and free for those under 5 years old. Dinners are payable by cash or check at the door or Venmo in advance @FUPCPP. The church is located at 3039 Church Street (Route 199) in Pine Plains.

#### Morning Origami

COPAKE — The Rodeliff Jansen Community Library at 9091 Route 22, invites patrons to stop by on March 26 at 10:30 a.m. for a Morning of Origami at the Library. For more information, call 518-325-4101 or go to [www.roejanlibrary.org](http://www.roejanlibrary.org).

## Support Local Journalism In Your Community

### 2022 Marks the 125th Anniversary of The Lakeville Journal

The first issue was August 14, 1897; William McKinley was President. Spanning three centuries, The Lakeville Journal has been an enduring witness to events in northwest Connecticut and adjoining New York towns. That's historic, especially since over 2200 newspapers in the US have shut down since 2005.

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- Dig deeper into local issues, good news or bad. Take a closer look at the local controversies and the colorful characters involved in them in town government.
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PHOTOS BY WALKER ESNER

From left, The Wassaic Project Co-Founders Bowie Zunino, Eve Biddle and Jeff Barnett-Winsby toasted the start of another great year at its 2022 Winter Benefit on Saturday, March 5.

## Wassaic Project celebrates winter

WASSAIC — Kicking off the month of March with a community celebration, The Wassaic Project welcomed friends, neighbors and donors to the art collaborative's annual Winter Benefit on Saturday, March 5, to celebrate the promises of the coming year.

In the days leading up to the benefit, The Wassaic Project hosted an online auction where community members could bid on a plethora of one-of-a-kind items and experiences.

The 2022 Winter Benefit was held at Wassaic's own Tenmile Distillery on Sinsatch Road from 6 to 8 p.m.

Members from the local

community and beyond with an appreciation for art toasted The Wassaic Project over delicious hors d'oeuvres and locally distilled spirits.

The Wassaic Project's co-founders extended their heartfelt thanks to all those present for supporting its programming, exhibitions and operations since the unique and community focused educational and event-oriented project was first born roughly 15 years ago.

As the project describes itself online, at [www.wassaicproject.org](http://www.wassaicproject.org), "It's a residency of and for [the hamlet of] Wassaic, not just in it."

— Kaitlin Lyle



From 6 to 8 p.m., friends and neighbors toasted The Wassaic Project and the start of another fantastic year over hors d'oeuvres and locally distilled spirits from the warmth of Wassaic's very own Tenmile Distillery at the art collaborative's annual Winter Benefit.

## Horton House Scone Company, the perfect complement to St. Patty's Day

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Residents yearning for something a trifle sweet, relatively healthy and incredibly satisfying — whether on this St. Patrick's Day, Thursday, March 17, or any other day of the year — will realize they've struck gold when they taste what Horton House Scone Company has been baking in Amenia since it opened last May.

Although scones may be traditionally Scottish, rather than Irish, they are nonetheless delicious come St. Patty's Day or any other time. Especially the ones made by bakers Cynthia and John Vergilii of the Horton House Scone Company.

Before relocating to their new digs in Amenia (from where they ship their scones; they do not have a physical bakery), the Vergiliiis previously owned the historic Joseph Horton House in Wappingers Falls. When in the southern end of the county, the duo dressed in costume and held high tea lunches and Colonial dinners.

Over the years, the house became a destination on the local bus tour circuit, welcoming 10,000 people a year.

Well-known for their scones and inventory of Harney & Sons tea, both of which were featured at high tea. They also sold their scones commercially.

Years after selling their house in Wappingers, when considering their next move, their daughter suggested they stay with her in Fishkill. She urged them to return to their tea and scone business.

At John's suggestion, the couple started selling their baked scones at the Dutchess Flea Market in Fishkill. Be-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Married for 20 years, Cynthia and John Vergilii of Amenia's Horton House Scone Company are indeed a perfect pairing in both life and business.

tween that time, the Vergiliiis gave up eating meat and animal products, meaning they were no longer baking with cream, eggs or dairy products.

Asked about the pros and cons of switching to a plant-based diet, Cynthia explained it's all about making substitutions and finding items that taste just as good. While it can be tricky, the health benefits are highly rewarding.

"If you have the right recipe, you can do just about everything," Cynthia said, adding that she and John love fooling people with their healthier ingredients that taste just as indulgent.

While at the flea market, the Vergiliiis were asked by customers if they had dairy-free, nut-free or gluten-free scones. That inspired them to bake with even healthier ingredients.

After some fine-tuning, Horton House Scone Company had the Vergiliiis' scones

circulating through local farmers markets, retail stores and other venues. Just recently, their scones started selling at LaBonne's Market in Salisbury, Conn.

Cynthia said, "Moving up here was amazing and we didn't even realize, truly, when we moved here how the people in this area value locally-made and locally-sourced products, so we are thrilled to be able to offer as many local products as we can."

Asked how their recipes have changed, John said they've fine-tuned their baking to use Hudson Valley cold-pressed sunflower oil or grapeseed oil in place of butter, as well as syrup sourced right in Amenia. All of their goodies are sweetened with either maple syrup or ground coconut.

As for her recipe for running a successful business with her husband, Cynthia said, "I would say we love working together; 20 years we've been

married and we're best friends."

Between John's computer and marketing skills and Cynthia's creativity and ability to keep their inventory organized, the pair is perfectly paired as both life partners and business partners.

Baking from the comfort of their apartment, they recently added low-sugar cookies to their offerings in addition to their scones.

Cynthia also achieved her dream of pairing their scones with Harney & Sons tea and Irving Farm coffee; both popular manufacturers and retailers from Millerton.

Horton House has gift boxes of "perfect pairings" that put the Vergiliiis on the map for presents; John said their merchandise places an emphasis on the beautiful Hudson Valley and its products.

The husband-and-wife duo recommend trying all the teas to find which ones pairs best with their flavorful scones; they've created some delicious combinations during the last few months to get scone enthusiasts started.

One suggestion is their blueberry muffin scone with Harney's "Blueberry Green" tea; or their cinnamon scone with "Hot Cinnamon Spice" tea; their low-sugar chocolate chip cookie with "Chocolate Mint" tea is another winner.

These pairings and others may be found online at [www.hortonhousescone.com](http://www.hortonhousescone.com). To place an order, go to the website or call 207-317-6950; orders are shipped Mondays through Thursdays.

Along with accommodating special requests, the Vergiliiis offer custom-made labels for special occasions and are happy to work with people interested in selling their scones at their stores or at special events.

### WEBUTUCK IN BRIEF

#### Webutuck STEAM Fair rescheduled

Due to inclement weather, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District's 8th Annual STEAM Fair has been postponed from March 12 to Saturday, March 19.

Presented by the Webutuck Teachers' Association, this in-person

fair will be held in the Eugene Brooks Intermediate School gymnasium from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., with students setting up their experiments and projects at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, go to [www.webutuck-schools.org](http://www.webutuck-schools.org).



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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

**FOOD: LEILA HAWKEN**

## Having a Frank Talk About The Art of Beautiful Food

Restaurant owner Frank Way joined his friend, food stylist Frances Boswell, for a chat on Zoom about food that is both beautiful and delicious — as meals are likely to be at Way's new West Cornwall, Conn., restaurant.

Way was the owner of frank.food in Kent, Conn., until the pandemic. He is now working on a new restaurant in West Cornwall that is likely to open in May.

Sponsored by The Cornwall Library and hosted by Jane Bevans, the conversation happened on Sunday, March 6. For those who missed it, a video is available on the library's website at [www.cornwalllibrary.org](http://www.cornwalllibrary.org).

The infectious conversation between Way and Boswell drew 65 Zoom participants, who had the chance to look at the new frank. food site (still being renovated) overlooking the Housatonic from the West Cornwall side. The restaurant will be in the carriage house of the building known for years as The Pink House (although at the moment it is a creamy light yellow).

Way and Boswell worked together at Martha Stewart Living for years, and now are pleased to be back together as Cornwall neighbors.

Boswell's life has always maintained a thread of a connection



PHOTO BY FRANCES BOSWELL

**Food stylist Frances Boswell, who created this still life with asparagus, chatted with her friend and fellow food professional, Frank Way, on Zoom.**

with food. She always loved cooking, from a young age.

But she had no experience in television production when Stewart asked her to take on a television cooking show. Although none of the food experts working on the show had any idea how to make a TV production, somehow it all worked out.

"That's how life is," Way interjected. "You just figure it out."

That was something of a theme in the conversation between the two friends: Life throws you opportunities, and sometimes you just have to reach out and catch them.

"I have always said

'yes' to opportunity," Way said.

Way first came to Kent as a weekender, but soon found that he was spending more and more time here. He was working for several large companies as an expert on "branding," and found he could do much of his work from The Country.

Although he had no experience as a professional cook, a friend invited him to open a small business in a retail space she owned on Main Street in Kent. He called it frank.food, not just because his name is Frank but also because he liked the idea of food that was sincere, open and honest.

The restaurant did

well for three years, even when the pandemic made indoor dining impossible. He laid off most of his staff and started doing take-out dinners — and was so successful at it that he was spending about 75 hours a week cooking.

He eventually gave it up, and was then invited to open in the Pink House carriage house by the property's new owner/developers.

Way used his laptop computer to give a walking tour around the future restaurant space, noting the river view from the outdoor deck that will seat 40 guests.

The inside is clean and modern, with a bar counter fashioned of dark walnut from a tree on the property that needed to be removed.

The menu will be simple, with artisan pizzas produced by Joel Viehland of Swyft in Kent. There will also be burgers made with local beef, fish and chips, salads

*Continued on next page*

### VAN CLIBURN PIANIST SUNWOO PLAYS BRAHMS, CHOPIN

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center presents A Night of Chopin and Brahms on Sunday, March 20, at 4 p.m. in partnership with Close Encounters With Music.

The program showcases Van Cliburn Medalist Yekwon Sunwoo's piano prowess both as a soloist and a chamber musician and partner.

Violinist Daniel Phillips, violist Daniel Panner and cellist and artistic director Yehuda Hanani join Sunwoo for Brahms's epic Piano Quartet Opus 25 in G minor

with its intoxicating Gypsy finale.

One of Brahms's most viscerally seductive works, the Quartet in G minor is much beloved for its famous rousing finale, the Rondo alla Zingarese (Gypsy Rondo), reflecting Brahms's lifelong fascination with Hungarian folk music.

In-person tickets are \$52 (\$28 balcony); virtual tickets are \$28 (a private link is sent, to view the concert one week after the performance).

To learn more and order tickets, go to <https://cewm.org/>.

### HOMAGE TO ELLA FITZGERALD IN FREE CONCERT

Melinda Rodriguez, the winner of the 2019 Ella Fitzgerald Jazz Vocal Competition, will perform a free livestream jazz concert that is an homage to Fitzgerald and Nancy Wilson, on Friday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Her band includes Matt Wilson on drums, Matt Dwonszyk on bass, Albert Rivera on saxophones and pianist Will Evans.

The concert comes from Litchfield Jazz Presents and can be viewed at [www.LitchfieldJazzFest.com](http://www.LitchfieldJazzFest.com) and the Jazz Fest Facebook and YouTube pages.

Learn more about Rodriguez at [www.melindarosemusic.com](http://www.melindarosemusic.com).

**Melinda Rodriguez, a finalist in Season 17 of The Voice, performs a free concert of jazz standards on March 25.**



### A Late-Winter Lich Gate Concert!

Come enjoy a late-winter concert featuring music written for Piano Trio (violin, cello and piano) on **Sunday, March 20 at 2pm** in the beautiful sanctuary of the **First Congregational Church of Sheffield.**

Artistic Director and violinist Jorge Ávila has invited cellist, Sarah Hewitt-Roth, and pianist, Adrienne Kim, to play works of Ludwig van Beethoven, Camille Saint-Saëns, Joaquín Turina, and one of Felix Mendelssohn's greatest chamber music pieces, the Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49.

For everyone's safety, **attendees must be masked** and seating is limited to 100 people to accommodate social distancing.

**Questions:** [Concerts@ChristTrinityChurch.org](mailto:Concerts@ChristTrinityChurch.org)



Lich Gate Concerts are a production of Christ Trinity Church, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

**When:** Sunday, March 20 at 2pm  
**Where:** First Congregational Church of Sheffield, 125 Main St.  
**Purchase Tickets:** \$40 at [www.ChristTrinityChurch.org](http://www.ChristTrinityChurch.org) and click on Lich Gate Concerts

There can be no refunds for any reason.



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YOUNG ADULT FICTION: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# Goshen Players To Offer a New Wrinkle on Work by Goshen Author

Back when Madeleine L'Engle wrote her groundbreaking novel "A Wrinkle in Time," books for young adult readers weren't yet categorized as YA.

Time has passed and genres have changed, but this science fiction novel for young adults (written in the late 1950s and published in 1962) remains relevant to young people — enough so that Disney made a television version of the story in 2003 and followed that up with a feature film in 2018 that starred Oprah Winfrey and Reese Witherspoon.

Here in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut, "A Wrinkle in Time" is beloved not just because it's an award-winning and thoughtful story, but also because its author was a resident of Gosh-



PHOTO COURTESY L'ENGLE WEBSITE

**When she wasn't writing her famous novel, "A Wrinkle in Time," award-winning author Madeleine L'Engle ran the general store in Goshen, Conn., which she owned with her husband, Hugh Franklin.**

en, Conn.

Although she was born in New York City, L'Engle moved to Litchfield County in 1946 with her husband, Hugh Franklin, whom she'd met when they were

both acting in a production in the city of Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard."

They took an active part in Goshen life and even bought and ran the town's general store for

many years.

This year, the all-volunteer Goshen Players community theater has decided to put on a production of L'Engle's Newbery Award-winning novel. Auditions are being held this weekend at the Old Town Hall at 2 North St./Route 4 (on the rotary).

*Audition times are Saturday, March 19, and Sunday, March 20, from 3 to 5 p.m.*

*"A Wrinkle in Time" will be performed June 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. and June 5 and 12 at 3 p.m. There will be additional performances at 10:30 a.m. on June 3 and 10.*

*Rehearsals will begin on Monday, June 27. To find out more, email goshenplayers\_joe@icloud.com.*

## ...beautiful food *Continued from previous page*

and more. Way said he is working with a chef to help make the cooking more streamlined and professional, but he will still come up with the menu ideas.

As for what a food stylist does, Boswell described her career with several major magazines, including Martha Stewart Living and its spin-off, Real Simple.

As a stylist, her aim is to create visual balance. She said that one of the first things she has to tell clients is to calm down the presentation; there doesn't always have to be a "cheese pull," the food can stand on its own.

Her Zoom tour of her city apartment showed



PHOTO BY FRANCES BOSWELL

**Food stylist Frances Boswell explained to Frank Way in a Zoom last week how to take ordinary dishes and enhance their beauty.**

a sea of sheet cakes awaiting frosting and due for plating and a photo shoot the following day.

"For all the downsides of COVID-19," Boswell said, "it has made people drive their creativity to new levels."

Boswell finds food essential to post-pandemic life and noted "how important food

is as a connector." She is looking forward to seeing people experience food-human connections at frank. food. The long community table is expected to be a popular gathering spot.

Preparing at full tilt to open his new restaurant, Way said, "I don't really know what I'm doing, but I'm giving it 150%."

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# TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send calendar items to [calendar@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:calendar@lakevillejournal.com).  
All entries can be found at  
[www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar](http://www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar).

## ART

**The Clark Art Museum**, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. [www.clarkart.edu](http://www.clarkart.edu)  
**IMPRINTING RACE:**  
ARTIST TALK BY CURLEE RAVEN  
HOLTON, March 17, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (online).

**Kent Art Association**, 21 S. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentart.org](http://www.kentart.org)  
Kent Art Association presents A Celebration of Women's History Month, March 4 to 26.

## BOOKS

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon**, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org)  
Oscar Wilde: A Life by Matthew Sturgis, March 31, 7 to 8 p.m. (online).

**Noble Horizons**, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, Conn. [www.noblehorizons.org](http://www.noblehorizons.org)  
READ WITH HOTCHKISS SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR CARITA GARDINER AND HER STUDENTS, March 23, 5 to 6 p.m. (online).

## DANCE

**Warner Theatre**, 68 Main St., Torrington, Conn. [www.warnertheatre.org](http://www.warnertheatre.org)  
Nutmeg Spring Studio Series, March 23 to 26.

## KIDS

**Scoville Memorial Library**, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org)  
Online Teen Writing Club, Fridays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. (online).

**Kent Memorial Library**, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org)  
Storytime and Craft, March 19, 11 a.m.

## MISC.

**Berkshire Botanical Garden**, 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org)  
Spring Pruning of Woody Ornamental Plants, March 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center**, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org)  
BERKSHARES PRESENTS: LOCAL CURRENCY GOES DIGITAL, March 21, 5:30 p.m. (online).

## MOVIES

**Gilson Cafe & Cinema**, 354 Main St., Winsted, Conn. [www.gilsoncafeandcinema.com](http://www.gilsoncafeandcinema.com)  
The Batman, through March 17.

**The Moviehouse**, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net)  
Opens March 18: The Outfit, The Automat. Opens March 25: The Lost City, Infinite Storm.

## MUSIC

**Berkshire Theatre Group**, [www.berkshiretheatre.org](http://www.berkshiretheatre.org)  
The Irish Comedy Tour, March 18, 7:30 p.m.

**Close Encounters With Music**, Great Barrington, Mass. [www.cewm.org](http://www.cewm.org)  
A Night of Chopin and Brahms—Presenting Van Cliburn Gold Medalist Yekwon Sunwoo, March 20, 4 to 5:45 p.m.

## THEATER

**TheatreWorks**, 5 Brookside Ave., New Milford, Conn. [www.theatreworks.us](http://www.theatreworks.us)  
"The Extremists" by C.J. Hopkins directed by Francis A Daley, March 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, April 1, 2.

## THEATER: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# Auditions: A Signal That There Will Be a 2022 Theater Season

In normal times, auditions for small-town theater companies are really only of interest to small-town actors.

But after two years of COVID-19, which essentially put an end to live drama productions, it's very exciting to see the Great Barrington

Public Theater in Massachusetts and Sharon Playhouse in Connecticut putting out a call to actors for their summer seasons.

The Sharon theater put out its audition request earlier this winter; the deadline for submissions is this week, on

Friday, March 18.

Go to the website at [www.sharonplayhouse.org/auditions](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org/auditions) to find out how to take part in diverse productions that include "Guys and Dolls," "Shear Madness" and "A Raisin in the Sun."

Great Barrington Public Theater announced auditions last week, for two shows: "Public Speaking 101" by Berkshire County playwright Mark St. Germain (rehearsals begin June 21; the performances are July 14 to 24); and for "Things I Know To Be True" by Andrew Bovell (rehearsals begin July 8, performances are Aug. 4 to 14).

The auditions will be held on Zoom on Friday, March 18, from 2:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. To arrange an audition time, email headshot, resume and phone number, to [Tristan.greatbarrington-public@gmail.com](mailto:Tristan.greatbarrington-public@gmail.com).

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC

A Night Of **Chopin and Brahms**

Presenting Van Cliburn Gold Medalist **Yekwon Sunwoo**

Daniel Phillips, violin  
Yehuda Katsari, cello

Sunday, March 20 • 4pm

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington

Tickets: \$52 / \$28 Virtual: \$28  
[cewm.org](http://cewm.org)

EDITORIAL

# Let's appreciate America's open government laws

There is no better time to think about open government and transparency than now, as we are all watching the brutal invasion of Ukraine by Russia happening in real time. There is more reporting from the ground on this war than perhaps any previous one, yet in Russia itself, the truth about their country's actions has been kept from its citizens.

Reporting within Russia is now limited to state media, with all independent groups shut down by the government. And reporting from outside the country is being stymied from being delivered to the Russian people. Some Russian citizens have been hearing about their nation's actions of war from family members and friends in Ukraine in personal communications, yet have a hard time believing what they're hearing, given the misinformation they are being fed by their government.

The Russian government has imposed a penalty of prison time for anyone who reports on the Ukraine attack in any language except that accepted by the state. Even so, there have been demonstrations against the war in Russia, with thousands of citizens arrested.

There is no point in painting a rosy picture of the way information is made available in the United States, in that there are still situations in this democracy where it takes more than a simple request to obtain information about many public incidents. Some examples are misconduct by police, for instance, or governmental corruption. Yet U.S. citizens have a different kind of recourse: We can use the power of state and national freedom of information laws to force those who would rather hide information to release it.

Sunshine Week is March 13 to 19, the week when the News Leaders Association and state news associations and media across the country join in the annual nationwide celebration of access to public information and what it means for you and your community. We need to appreciate what government can do for our communities, yet still hold fast to the idea that government must also be accountable and open to those it serves. Keep that in mind as the nation, and our region, deal with different kinds of threats and find the best ways to mitigate them at the local, regional, state and federal levels of government.

Below are guidelines for understanding and taking action on your right to know.

This Sunshine Week, know your rights to government information with tips from the transparency experts at MuckRock:

1) Know the law: Federal agencies are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), but each state has its own laws (For example, it's the Freedom of Information Law in New York, and in New Jersey you file an Open Public Records Act request, or OPRA. In Connecticut, it's the Freedom of Information Act). Look up which rules apply — in some states, for example, legislative records are exempt from disclosure. Cite the correct law in your requests.

2) Keep it specific: FOIA can be used to dig up all sorts of information, but you have to ask for something that exists. Avoid asking questions; instead, request documents or data an agency would likely have that would answer your questions.

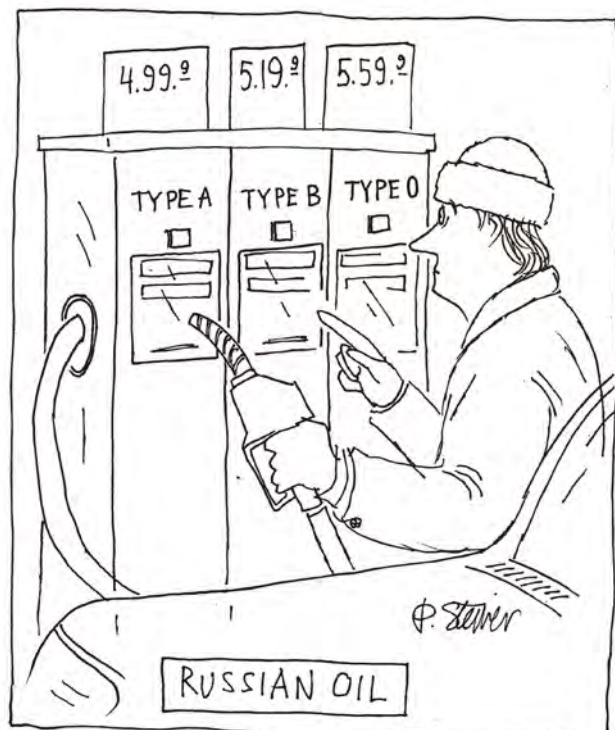
3) Work together: Most records officers are happy to discuss requests. There's also a community of requesters eager to help: Look up your local National Freedom of Information Coalition chapter, browse requests others have filed publicly on MuckRock and other online resources:

- The Reporters Committee Open Government Guide: [www.rcfp.org/open-government-guide/](http://www.rcfp.org/open-government-guide/)
- MuckRock's state-by-state guides: [www.muckrock.com/place/](http://www.muckrock.com/place/)
- NFOIC's map of state Freedom of Information organizations: [www.nfoic.org/organizations/map](http://www.nfoic.org/organizations/map)
- State of Connecticut resources are [www.ctfog.org](http://www.ctfog.org) and [www.ctfoicouncil.nfoic.net/ccfoi-news/](http://www.ctfoicouncil.nfoic.net/ccfoi-news/)
- State of New York resource is [www.opengovernment.ny.gov/freedom-information-law](http://www.opengovernment.ny.gov/freedom-information-law)

Muckrock info courtesy of [www.sunshineweek.org](http://www.sunshineweek.org).

Letters to the editor are due by 10 a.m. Monday mornings to be published in that week's issue. There is a 500-word limit for letters, which must be signed by the letter writer with their full name and hometown. Please also include a phone number as all letters must be verbally confirmed before publication.

We also remind readers that the views expressed on this opinion page are not necessarily those of The Millerton News and The News does not support or oppose candidates for public office.



## Millerton's fundraiser for Ukraine challenged by snow, reboot planned

Dear friends and members of our Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York community and beyond,

First off all, big thanks to the RE Institute and Henry Klimowicz for hosting Saturday's fundraiser — chapeau bas Henry! I pushed you to the limit and I sincerely apologize for that.

I should have listened to your better judgment of postponing the event, however, my heart was and still is bleeding as every day we see the horrific war crimes being committed right in front of our own eyes.

Sunday's attack on the logistical base was just a few kilometers from the border of Poland, a proud NATO member. The first American journalist was killed today in the suburbs of Kyiv! Cluster bombs are being used on civilians, cultural institutions and religious places of worship are being destroyed.

More orphans every day need help and more refugees

need help immediately.

I am quite aware this will be a marathon, and we have to think calmly of how to pace our efforts. However, from the bottom of my heart, I plead with you to donate more and donate today.

We have partnered with Sunflower of Peace and from now on ALL our proceeds from our fundraising efforts will go to them, a 501(c)3 vetted charity: Sunflower of Peace.

My dear wife, Kim Schmidt-Wlodar, just launched a silent auction to fundraise for Sunflower of Peace — please go to her website, [www.kimschmidtfineart.com/fundraiser-for-ukraine](http://www.kimschmidtfineart.com/fundraiser-for-ukraine), and check the art hanging at the RE Institute art studio in Millerton. Kim was able to secure some most beautiful works thanks to her contacts and the generosity of numerous local artists.

As of Saturday we have already raised close to \$20,000, which is extraordinary given

the circumstances.

Thank you again for your amazing support!

P.S. We have postponed a live Zoom chat with Lawrence Moss, an Amnesty International top lawyer for Ukraine at the United Nation as well as a live Zoom link with Wayair Foundation, another nonprofit that is helping Ukrainian orphans and other refugees relocate to Poland.

Finally, we have postponed a direct chat with Katya Malakhova, the founder of Sunflower of Peace, and are trying to bring her or her ambassador to our next fundraiser.

Please stay tuned for the date of next our fundraiser — hopefully it will be this week-end depending on the weather.

**André and Kim Wlodar** Millerton

*Editor's note: Make sure to read this week's article on the Wlodars' fundraiser for Ukraine on Page A2, with more information on their next fundraising effort.*

in their backyard.

Consider the protests over the gas generating plant recently opened in Wingdale. Solar farms and wind generators haven't been that well received either, making any future expansion iffy at best.

It comes as no surprise progressives won out when the decision was made to discontinue oil shipments from Russia. It was always the intention of this administration to lower oil consumption via higher prices. Russia merely supplied the avenue to do so.

The socialist agenda has contributed to higher prices for housing. Two years of no need to pay rent comes with consequences.

On a local level, the city of Beacon recently enacted legislation that landlords cannot raise rents more than 5% without board approval, can we be far behind? No need to explain what that means.

Government interference is never a good thing. I'm not sure how it's legal for any entity to tell a property owner how much they can charge to lease their property.

Open borders, artificially low interest rates, increased spending along with a huge increase in government entitlements have pushed inflation beyond our wildest dreams. They have also led to more government control. That should be of concern to everyone, yet we continually vote the same idiots back in office.

So, dear readers, will you use common sense in the next election?

Respectfully,  
**John Walters**  
Millerton

## Beware of poking the Russian bear

The media misses some simple things in a headlong desire to ostracize the Russian economy... simple but critical parts of the puzzle spread across the globe.

For example, did you know that 25% of the world's titanium supply comes from Russia?

Embargo that and you grind Boeing, Airbus, medical implants, the manufacture of instruments, etc., to a halt.

The list of inter-dependent products and components across the globe all have a Russian component that is irreplaceable.

The goal to bring Putin to his senses is misplaced... damaging for our economy and a failure as a weapon against Putin himself. He has no "economic sense" of anything except his power and what he sees as Russia's rightful occupation of what was once part of the USSR.

Trying to force Putin out of office by crippling his economy and awakening the will of "the people" denies the reality that the very people who could "push" him from office are those who benefit the most from him being in office.

And Russia is not the West. Ordinary Russians for most of the last century, knew what it was like to live from day to day hoping there will be even a loaf of bread in the market. We don't know what they experienced for far too long. They haven't forgotten they survived decades of poverty.

In our typical Capitalist mental exercise of bringing Russia to its economic knees, we only push Putin and his supporters to a point of des-

### A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

peration, reinforcing the romantic Russian bear to feel threatened and, therefore (in his eyes), bravely even more dangerous. Half a million Russians, men, women and children, died stopping Hitler at Stalingrad.

The Russian people accept sacrifice for "Mother Russia," with a ten-fold passion greater than anything Western cultures do.

The fears we have of nuclear weapons are not equally shared by Russians, especially not the elite there. It is a mistake to assume they won't use them if backed into a corner.

What Ukraine and its people are doing is the only road forward. Helping them, supporting them up to, but not over, the limit of starting a nuclear conflict is what we need to stick to.

And stick to means being constant, brave, steadfast but not militarily engaged.

Supplies to Ukraine? You bet, but not anything seen as a game-changer causing the war there to change by our hand.

The war there must be won by Ukrainians, not us. Russia can absorb an insurgency defeat (as they did when they lost in Afghanistan), but it cannot absorb a defeat by the West without wanting to save face with the only escalation weapon at their disposal.

It is worth remembering that Russia still has the world's

largest nuclear stockpile of bombs, missiles and the delivery systems that go with it.

And they have an autocrat willing and able to deploy them, no matter the cost to his own people.

That's the reality, one we must not lose sight of, no matter that we failed decades ago to find a way to get rid of all these weapons permanently. In that, we, and the West, failed.

That's on us.

Putin, in a sense, has the upper hand on the end game; mutually assured destruction.

Let's hope the Russian bear goes back into his den or maybe internal forces cause him to cease and desist.

Until that happens, our job must be to measure and evaluate the reality of Russia carefully, hold out the promise of peace if the invasion of Ukraine simply stops and, always, remain steadfast and not become nor allow warmongers on our side to escalate his madness to our demise.

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

### THE MILLERTON NEWS

(USPS 384600)  
An Independent New York Newspaper  
Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East, Town of Washington, Town of Amenia, Town of Pine Plains, North East (Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District  
Published Weekly by The Lakeville Journal Company  
Owned by The Lakeville Journal Foundation; Noreen Doyle, Chair  
P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546  
(860) 435-9873 ext. 608 • [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com) • [editor@millertonnews.com](mailto:editor@millertonnews.com)

Volume 91, Number 08 Thursday, March 17, 2022

#### Mission Statement

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

<p>Whitney Joseph Editor</p> <p>Janet Manko Publisher</p> <p>James H. Clark Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Libby Hall-Abeel Advertising Manager</p> <p><i>In Memoriam</i> A. Whitney Ellsworth 1936-2011 Managing Partner</p> <p>Robert H. Estabrook 1918-2011 Editor and Publisher Emeritus</p>	<p><b>EDITORIAL STAFF:</b> Kaitlin Lyle, staff reporter; Judith O'Hara Balfe, staff reporter; Alexander Wilburn, senior associate editor.</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING SALES:</b> Mary Wilbur, display sales; Lyndee Stalter, classified advertising.</p> <p><b>FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATION:</b> Sandra L. Lang, controller; Michelle Eisenman, financial assistant.</p> <p><b>COMPOSING DEPARTMENT:</b> Caitlin Hanlon, graphic designer; Olivia Montoya, graphic designer.</p> <p><b>DRIVERS:</b> Chris Palmer; William Thomas; Geoffrey Olans.</p>
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#### Subscription Rates - One Year:

\$82.00 in Dutchess and Columbia Counties, \$98.00 Outside Counties  
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Millerton, NY 12546. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

The Lakeville Journal Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

# MILLBROOK

## Cornell Cooperative Extension benefits from county grants

By **KAITLIN LYLE**  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Thanks to the county's biennial Agency Partner Grant (APG) program, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) in Millbrook, the cooperative is moving through 2022 with some additional funding to help support its provision of educational services and programs to the larger community.

Totaling \$1.5 million in funding awards, Dutchess County awarded 34 programs throughout the county as part of its 2022 APG program. As outlined by Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro's office at the end of 2021, the aim of the APG program is to provide funding opportunities to local 501(c)3 organizations "through a competitive grant process based on an organization's ability to demonstrate they fulfill an unmet community need."

Among the 34 programs that received APG funding this year, CCEDC in Millbrook received four grants.

Totaling \$71,027, the largest

of the four APG awards was directed toward supporting CCEDC's 4-H Youth Development: Literacy Assistance for All program.

This program is designed to prepare local youth of all abilities with financial literacy, public speaking, writing comprehension and leadership skills to succeed as they transition into adulthood, as described by Molinaro's office.

A \$50,000 grant award went toward CCEDC's Parenting and Support Education program to enhance parenting skills through a hands-on learning approach suitable to all literacy levels.

Meanwhile, a \$20,000 grant award was given to CCEDC's Family Budgeting Project, which works to partner with youth workforce investment and parent groups to empower youth, adults and families with critical skills and practices for long-term financial stability. It also aims to educate seniors about elder fraud.

CCEDC received a \$109,273 APG award for its Green Teen and No Child Left Inside: Developing Youth Po-



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

**Out of the four Agency Partner Grant (APG) fund awards it received through Dutchess County's 2022 APG program, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County in Millbrook received a \$109,273 APG award for its "Green Teen and No Child Left Inside: Developing Youth Potential Through Work-Based Learning" program to continue expanding youth exposure to environmental science while promoting opportunities for better health and outdoor workforce development.**

tential Through Work-Based Learning program to support the mission of expanding youth exposure to environmental science while promoting opportunities for better health and outdoor workforce development.

"I was quite impressed by

the number of grants that were provided by the county to Cornell Cooperative Extension," said CCEDC Interim Executive Director Patricia Claiborne when first learning of how successful the cooperative was in terms of gaining county funding.

"To me, that indicates their belief in the organization and the type of programming we do, and the funding helps us to plan and deliver programs and education to residents."

She added the county support helps supplement the CCEDC's state and federal funding.



Photographed with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County's (CCEDC) 4H AG Literacy program, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro was pleased to announce a total of \$1.5 million in funding awards allocated to 34 programs throughout the county as part of the 2022 Agency Partner Grant (APG) program. Out of those 34 programs, CCEDC received four different APG awards to support its provision of educational services and programs to the larger community.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Troop K skis to support MS research

Current and retired members of the New York State Police Troop K, the Harlem Valley's first responder partners, friends and family gathered at Catamount Mountain Resort in Hillsdale for the 2022 Skis Boards and Badges fundraiser to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society on Friday, March 4. March is MS Awareness Month. The Troopers and everyone else who strapped on their skis that day thanked those who contributed, helping raised more than \$15,000 for vital MS research.

### MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

#### Join Grace Church for Holy Week events in Millbrook

Community members are invited to celebrate Millbrook Holy Week and Easter Services with Grace Church at the following times.

**Palm Saturday:** April 9, from 10 a.m. until noon, a Palm Saturday Prayer Walk for children on Palm Sunday services will be held April 10 at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, April 10:** A Special Ecumenical Blessing of the Palms will be held at the Bandshell next to the Thorne Building on Franklin Avenue across from Grace Church at 8 a.m. After the blessing, everyone will proceed to Grace Church for the Palm Sunday service.

**Maundy Thursday** Liturgy will be held on April 14 at 7 p.m. A solemn service including sacred music, Eucharist and the stripping of the altar will be held.

**Good Friday** service will be held on April 15 at noon at St. Peter's Church in Lithgow; Father Matthew Calkins will be preaching.

Grace Church and the Rev. Alison Quin will present The Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, April 16, at 7 p.m. a special Easter service that begins with new fire and ends with Alleluias.

Easter Sunday services will be held on April 17, at 8 a.m., with music and the sermon and again at 10 a.m., when the choir will lead the congregation in a joyous celebration

#### Holy Week at Lyall Memorial Church

Lyall Memorial Federated Church invites the community to join its services for Holy Week; all are welcome.

**Palm Sunday, April 10,** at 9:30 a.m., Ecumenical service in front of the Thorne Building, at 3323 Franklin Ave. Services will be held at 10:25 a.m., in the church sanctuary.

**Maundy Thursday, April 14,** at 7 p.m., in the sanctuary.

**Good Friday, April 15,** Tennebrae Meditation, at noon, in the sanctuary, and at 7 p.m., in the sanctuary.

of Easter with a sermon and the Holy Eucharist. An Easter Egg Hunt will be held following the 10 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. Bags will be provided.

**Easter, April 17,** Sunrise Service at 8 a.m., at the Nine Partners Burial Ground. A potluck breakfast at 9 a.m. in the assembly room, at the church.

**Easter Service at 10:25 a.m.,** in the church sanctuary and available by live stream at [www.lyallmemorial.org](http://www.lyallmemorial.org).

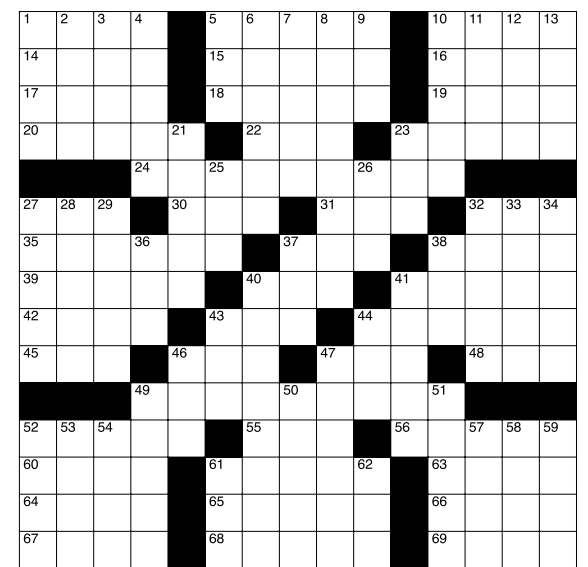
The church is located at 50 Maple Ave. in Millbrook.

To call the church, dial 845-677-3485.

### CLUES ACROSS

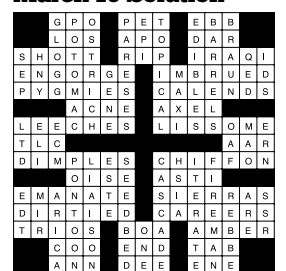
1. Type of footwear
5. Studies a lot all at once
10. Adventure story
14. Hundred thousand
15. Former U.S. Vice President
16. Ruler
17. Indian city
18. Similar
19. Ship as cargo
20. Volcanic craters
22. Boxing's "GOAT"
23. Bullfighting maneuvers
24. London soccer team
27. Score perfectly
30. No (Scottish)
31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)
32. Woman (French)
35. Unwanted attic "decor"
37. Peter Griffin's daughter
38. Broad, shallow crater
39. Large instruments
40. Low bank or reef
41. \_\_\_ and Venzetti
42. Oil group
43. Father
44. Aggressive men
45. Pairs well with green
46. Travelers need it
47. Digital audiotape
48. Midway between northeast and east
49. Chemistry descriptor
52. S. China seaport
55. Sound unit
56. Heavy cavalry sword
60. Thick piece of something
61. Spa town in Austria
63. Boyfriend
64. Norse personification of old age
65. Type of box
66. Tie together
67. Fiber from the coconut
68. Chicago mayor
69. Old English letters

## Brain Teasers

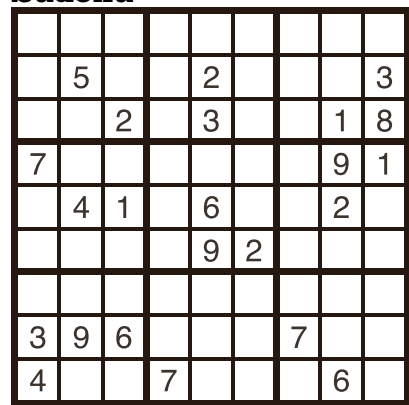


10. Arabic given name
11. Music awards
12. "The Immoralist" author
13. Area units
21. Units of loudness
23. Political action committee
25. Bar bill
26. Witch
27. A theatrical performer
28. 2-door car
29. \_\_\_ and flowed
32. Papier-\_\_\_, art medium
33. City in Georgia
34. Irregular
36. College sports conference
37. Angry
38. Partner to cheese
40. S. American mammal
41. Self-immolation by fire rituals
43. Split pulses
44. Disfigure
46. Cow noise
47. Erase
49. Chadic language
50. Reward for doing well
51. Paid TV
52. Millisecond
53. Other
54. Colombian city
57. Necklace part
58. Every one of two or more people
59. Regrets
61. They come after "A"
62. Horse noise

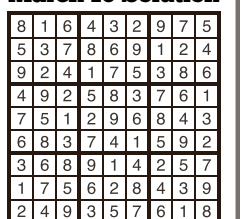
### March 10 Solution



### Sudoku



### March 10 Solution




Level: Intermediate



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## A class above the rest

The 20 officers from seven different agencies who graduated as part of the 25th session of the Dutchess County Law Enforcement Academy Basic Course for Police Officers on Friday, March 11, were a part of "the most diverse group of graduates in the history of the Dutchess County Law Enforcement Academy," according to Dutchess County Acting Sheriff Kirk A. Imperati. The curriculum included instruction in such topics as penal law and traffic law, police procedures and investigative techniques, domestic violence, mental health and crisis intervention, de-escalation techniques, CPR/AED/first aid, procedural justice and implicit bias training, physical fitness, defensive tactics, firearms and emergency vehicle operations.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice

Alchemy Pure, LLC Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company ("LLC"). Articles of Organization filed New York Sec. of State ("NYSS") 10/12/2021. Office loc. Dutchess County. NYSS designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. NYSS shall mail a copy of any process to Alchemy Pure LLC, 1121 Boston Corners Rd, Millerton, New York 12546. Purpose: to engage in any lawful activity or act.

02-24-22  
03-03-22  
03-10-22  
03-17-22  
03-24-22  
03-31-22

### Legal Notice

Nationwide Seminars LLC filed Articles of Organization with the New York Department of State on 1/26/22. Office location: Dutchess County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and is directed to forward service of process to the registered agent, Kerri L. Yamashita, 251 Ackert Hook Road, Rhinebeck NY 12572. The registered agent is to be the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Purpose: any lawful activity.

02-17-22  
02-24-22  
03-03-22  
03-10-22  
03-17-22  
03-24-22

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**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER HAS TWO NEW OPEN POSITIONS:** Early Learning Program (ELP) Manager and Senior Fiscal Assistant. The ELP Manager delivers programs to children aged 12-48 months and provides oversight to ELP staff. Works with the Youth Program Director to ensure desired program outcomes. The Senior Fiscal Assistant provides professional level support to the finance unit. Requires meticulous attention to detail and focus on collaborative success for the administrative unit as a whole. For full position descriptions visit [www.neccmillerton.org/employment](http://www.neccmillerton.org/employment) EEO/EPO.

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