

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

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PHOTO BY ART BASSIN

Ancram town Supervisor Art Bassin snapped this photo of First Amendment Auditor "David" videorecording the goings-on at the Ancram Town Hall on Thursday, March 17.

Ancram, Amenia have First Amendment Audit

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — Thursday, March 17, might have begun as an ordinary enough workday at the Ancram Town Hall, but by 11:08 a.m. it quickly turned into the unusual. That's when a man dressed in dark jeans, with a black hoodie pulled over his head and a black mask hiding his face walked into the usually quiet Town Hall with his cell phone on record mode. He was conducting what is known as a First Amendment Audit.

It was the first time most in the small Columbia County municipality had ever heard of what is quickly becoming a trend in the U.S.

"The whole First Amendment Audit is apparently a nation-wide phenomenon," said Ancram town Supervisor Art Bassin on Saturday, March 26. "These individuals are making a point that it's their right to video us, come in and video public spaces. He was in Sharon, Conn., and Amenia, before Ancram. I heard the audits have been taking place in Dutchess County before happening in Ancram, and maybe other places, too."

Bassin noted the "auditor" has no affiliation with any official government agency.

The entire 45-minute long "audit" is on YouTube, where it was posted on March 21. As of Monday, March 28, it had logged 2,026 views.

Bassin admitted the encounter,

which began smoothly, turned rocky, as evident from its YouTube title, "1st amendment audit! Town supervisor tries to intimidate! And calls sheriff!"

Bassin actually didn't call the sheriff's office, he said.

"I figured that would make him leave, so I pretended I was talking to the sheriff, but I never really did."

The town supervisor was able to eventually ease tensions between him and the auditor, who only gave his first name: David.

"We have since verified that he was within his rights to refuse to provide identification," wrote Bassin in his Ancram email community newsletter sent on March 26.

As seen on the video, David politely interrogated every individual he encountered, gently demanding to know each person's name, title and job duties. Before doing so, he recorded his walk from the parking lot into Town Hall, explaining his goal: "to promote transparency."

While essentially asking each town employee name, title and duties, David also asked to see the town budget, employee salaries and a FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) form.

He then asked a series of mundane questions, ranging from if his subject was posting the mail to why all of the lights were turned off inside Town Hall. He also asked for everyone's business card.

See **AUDITOR**, A6

'She-shed' destroyed in North East fire

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — When the Millerton Fire Company responded to a call for what was originally believed to be a brush fire at 55 Red Cedar Lane on Wednesday night, March 23, there was little firefighters could do at what turned out to be a structure fire to save a 20-foot by 30-foot "she-shed" type building, according to Millerton Fire Chief Jason Watson.

"It was a total loss," said Watson, upon the volunteer squad's arrival at about 9:42 p.m. last Wednesday. "It was called in by a neighbor about 3 miles away."

Red Cedar Lane is a residential area located off Indian Lake Road in the town of North East.

The newly constructed wooden shed was fully engulfed when emergency crews arrived.

While firefighters extinguished the blaze within 30 minutes, there

was no saving the structure, said Watson.

It took four fire trucks from the Millerton Fire Company, plus trucks from the Amenia Fire Company and from neighboring Sharon and Lakeville, Conn., to help put out the fire.

No one who lived at the home on which the shed was located was injured as a result of the fire, nor were

See **FIRE**, A6

Pawling Hannaford now delivers to Amenia, Wassaic, Dover, Wingdale

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
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AMENIA — Those living in rural communities admittedly face their challenges, but it is 2022, which means they also have a number of modern-day conveniences to enjoy, such as food delivery.

Take Instacart, which as of three weeks ago opened up a whole new world to the residents of Amenia, Wassaic, Dover and Wingdale.

That's because Hannaford in Pawling has partnered with Instacart to now deliver groceries to those four communities — it's among the 184 Hannaford stores that do so — which means residents in those towns and hamlets no longer need to rely solely on their otherwise rather limited shopping options.

Up until now, that basically consisted

of a single physical grocery store in Amenia: Freshtown, at the Freshtown Plaza on Route 22.

In Wassaic, Dover and Wingdale, there are an assortment of local markets, stores, delis and other places to buy groceries and dry and assorted goods, but nothing that amounts to a true supermarket.

Of course, many residents in Amenia, Wassaic, Dover Plains and Wingdale — or anywhere within a 15-mile radius of Kent, Conn., order from the Davis IGA in that town. It has its own in-store delivery service and only charges a flat delivery fee of \$10.98.

"Offering delivery to these communities has been a tremendous milestone for our store."

Jennifer Veronesi, Pawling store manager

Deliveries are available to residents living within that boundary from Monday through Saturday between 1 and 5:30 p.m. Those who pick and deliver the groceries are actual employees of the IGA.

"Our delivery department is small but mighty... I'm proud of that, as you can imagine," said co-owner Gary Davis. "Our parents started Davis IGA in 1974. Before the technology was developed for online ordering our customers emailed and called in orders. So the reality is that we have been delivering for at least 10 years."

See **HANNAFORD**, A6

Country Postman waves flag for Ukraine

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

SALT POINT — Blue and yellow flags seem to be popping up all over Millbrook lawns like sunflowers in the summertime these days, the national flower of the Ukrainian people the flags represent. They are especially prevalent along Franklin Avenue, as well as in the nearby village of Millerton and throughout the Harlem Valley.

Many of the symbols showing solidarity with the war-torn nation were created at The Country Postman in Salt Point, a hamlet of Pleasant Valley that is as much a part



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Ralph Simmons, owner of The Country Postman, and front of the store manager Shyla Winters held copies of Ukrainian flags, one with a sunflower, one without. They have sold almost 550 of the flags; a portion of the proceeds have allowed Simmons to make two large donations to help war victims in Ukraine.

See **FLAGS**, A6



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OPINION: County OFA Is Worth Its Weight In Gold; Columns, Letter **B4**



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MILLERTON

Initial highway garage bid \$1M higher than expected; Town Board accepts new bid for final phase

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — The North East Town Board let out a collective sigh of relief at its special meeting on Wednesday, March 16, at 6 p.m., as the members realized the town was about to enter the final stage of the joint highway garage project with the village of Millerton. It was a major step for-

ward as the board awarded the bid for the last phase of construction at the meeting. It rejected the original bids last year when they came in roughly \$1 million higher than anticipated.

Shared highway garage

The town pursued the shared garage project in four phases. The first phase was completed in December 2019 and focused on the storage building, where both the

town of North East and village of Millerton highway departments store their garage equipment already.

The second phase focused on installing fuel storage tanks and a dispensing system; it was completed in July 2020.

The construction of a sand and salt storage building was an important third phase, as it relocated the town's former salt shed at the old garage on

South Center Street. The old salt shed was adjacent to the Webatuck Creek and raised concerns about salt running into the water year after year. The new site is off of Route 22 and was a relief to all concerned; it was finished in September 2020.

All three buildings are currently being used by both the town and the village.

When the town received bids for the highway garage

to be built early last year they were much higher than expected. At the time, town Supervisor Chris Kennan attributed that to the rising cost of materials and the significant shortage in labor, mostly due to the COVID health crisis.

The board decided at the time to reject the bids and wait on construction until costs dropped. It passed a resolution to rebid for the project this past December.

The board announced it had received 11 new bids for its construction on Monday, March 7. This included bids on work for general construction, electrical construction, heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and plumbing.

Kennan said following its special meeting the board evaluated the bids and got recommendations from its engineering firm, CPL.

The general construction contract was awarded to Icon Construction Group; it entered the lowest bid at \$3,793,400; the electrical construction contract was awarded to Black Electric Corporation with a bid totaling \$452,500; with a bid of \$367,000, DJ HNAC Corporation was awarded the contract for HVAC; and S&O Construction Services was awarded the contract for plumbing with its bid totaling \$403,484.

"This project has taken a very long time to get to this stage, but I know the Town Board is committed to getting this garage finished," Kennan said.

Due to a shortage in some materials, Kennan said construction timetables have been extended.

With any luck, he said the highway garage should finally be completed by some time next year, hopefully by next summer.

Candy O's celebrates sweet first year on Main Street

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — In the year since she first opened her candy shop at 28 Main St., Candy O's owner Gillian Osnato has carved out a sweet niche for herself in Millerton as "The Candy Lady."

Osnato has been busy building relationships with her customers and fellow merchants and indulging many a sweet tooth since opening last March.

On Saturday, March 19, she hosted a birthday party to celebrate Candy O turning 1 year old, which Osnato said was pretty sweet.

Though she's had prior retail experience, the Millerton resident and business owner said she gained new insight into what's involved in running a business since she opened her sweet shop. "You have to wear a lot of hats as a business owner, which I find challenging, but fun," she said.

Some days Osnato finds herself chatting with customers and ordering candy; other days she has to decorate the store or call the plumber to install an ice machine.

"It is interesting because you never know exactly what the week will bring and where your days will end up," she said.

Calling herself "an over-achiever by nature," Osnato said she wishes she had more time in the day to complete all the projects she has in mind.

Yet it's because of her drive that she's been able to bring some fun changes to the shop. **Check out what's new**

Along with offering coffee and smoothies, Osnato plans to have a new display freezer for grab-and-go ice cream cakes and cupcakes, pints, quarts and maybe even frozen bananas. She's also taken on some of the chocolate work herself and is currently creating handmade chocolate bunnies for Easter.

From the moment she opened Candy O's, Osnato

said she knew dealing with the customers would be her favorite part of owning her own business.

Still, she didn't realize how rewarding it would be to build relationships with local families and visitors from out-of-town until she began interacting with people on a daily basis.

"So many of my friendships this year have started because people were regular customers," Osnato said. "I love getting to know the names of the kids that come into the shop. I know that it makes them feel special when 'The Candy Lady' knows their name."

Relishing that reputation as "The Candy Lady" with her younger customers, Osnato said, "Once I was walking down the street and a family was sitting outside eating at the diner, and I heard 'It's The Candy Lady!' and I turned and waved to this adorable little girl. It's really a marvel!"

Asked which of her shop's sweets reigns supreme, Osnato said it's hard to pinpoint her bestselling product since "everything has its season."

In the summertime, she said ice cream takes the wheel; customers love her shop's offerings of Salted Caramel Pretzel and Cappuccino Kah-lua Calypso.

In the winter, she said chocolate is a frontrunner and customers go for the chocolate-covered orange peels and marshmallow pops.

Candy is always constant favorite, Osnato said, especially on the rainy days.

With Saturday, March 19, marking the anniversary of her first year in business, Osnato organized a birthday party for the store, at the store. Throughout its birthday weekend, Candy O's offered a special birthday cake waffle sundae, cake pops and Candy O's-themed temporary tattoos while giving away goodie bags to customers. A friend of hers, Nikki Greenberg, offered face painting.

"It was really nice to see all the support from my customers who have been coming to the shop all year and the surprise on new customers' faces when they walked into the excitement," Osnato said.

To see why Candy O's is such a sweet success, go to www.candy-os.com or call 518-592-1600.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Candy O's welcomed a steady stream of new and regular customers eager to indulge their sweet tooth throughout the shop's birthday weekend on Saturday, March 19.

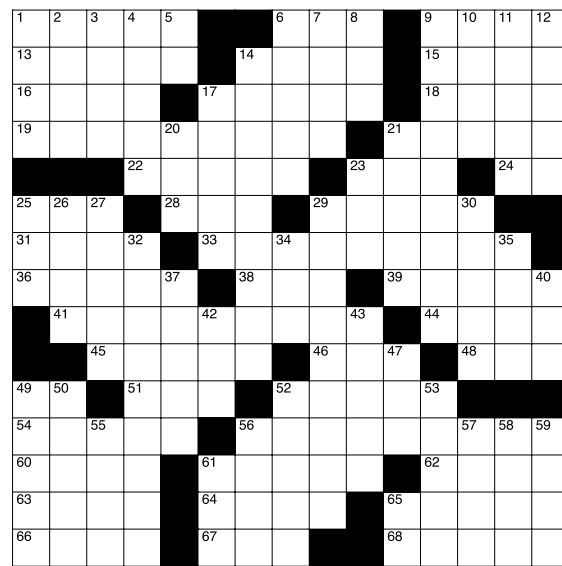
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Hillsides
6. A way to ingest
9. Large number
13. Southeastern Minnesota city
14. Cronies
15. Having sufficient skill, knowledge
16. Supplements with difficulty
17. Former VP nominee Palin
18. Cambodian monetary unit
19. Where coaches work
21. Secret political clique
22. A type of lute
23. Tan
24. Empire State
25. Where golfers begin
28. For each
29. Muslim inhabitants of the Philippines
31. Bird genus
33. Popular Dave Matthews Band song
36. Domesticates
38. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
39. Asian antelope
41. One who takes apart
44. Kin
45. Dresses
46. Says something about you (abbr.)
48. Doctor of Education
49. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
51. Overcharge
52. Sailboats
54. Indian musical patterns
56. Predisposition to a condition
60. Share a common boundary with
61. Wide
62. Skin disease
63. Monetary unit of Samoa
64. Source of the Blue Nile
65. Instrument
66. Red deer
67. Unidentified flying object
68. Bar or preclude

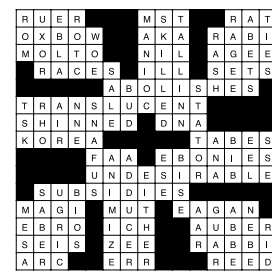
CLUES DOWN

1. Flying insects
2. Strong alcoholic spirit
3. Old
4. Moves in slowly
5. Symbol for tin
6. Having certain appendages
7. Expression of sorrow or pity

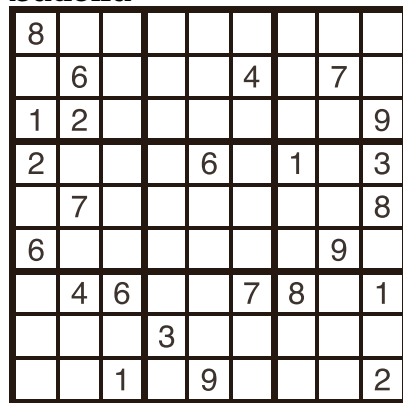


8. Type of hormone (abbr.)
9. One with an unjustified mistrust
10. Hebrew calendar month
11. Pure
12. LSU football coach
14. Unbroken views
17. Fathers
20. Part of a race
21. Hairstyle
23. Fifth note of a major scale
25. Body art
26. Amounts of time
27. Designed chairs
29. Sensational dramatic piece
30. Arrangement of steps
32. Classifies
34. Young child
35. Oh, no!
37. Astronomical period of about 18 years
40. Not or
42. Poke fun at
43. Consisting of roots
47. "___ Humbug!"
49. A way to remove
50. A confusion of voices and other sounds
52. Keyed instrument
53. Varnishes
55. Unpleasantly sticky substance
56. Unable to hear
57. A short erect tail
58. Indicates interest
59. Flow or leak through
61. British thermal unit
65. Iron

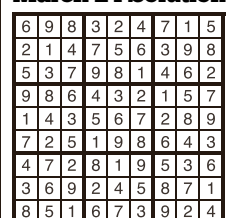
March 24 Solution



Sudoku



March 24 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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AMENIA



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Webutuck High School (WHS) Principal Katy McEnroe, center, congratulated the students who achieved placement on the WHS Honor Roll during the second quarter at a pizza lunch held in their honor in the school library.

WHS Honor Roll students celebrate success with pizza

WEBUTUCK — As a reward for their academic excellence, Webutuck High School (WHS) Principal Katy McEnroe invited the students who made the Honor Roll during the second quarter to a celebratory pizza lunch on Wednesday, March 23.

Out of the 12 students who achieved honor roll status during the second quarter, seven students came to the lunch held at 12:30 p.m. in the school library.

Sinking their teeth into

slices from a hot pizza pie, the classmates caught up with each other and shared their future plans with McEnroe and with Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Webutuck BOE talks numbers

First draft of proposed \$25M '22-'23 budget gets reviewed

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — With the 2022-23 school district budget development process underway, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District (WCSD) Board of Education (BOE) turned its attention to Business Administrator Robert Farrier's first budget presentation for the 2022-23 school year on Monday evening, March 21.

Board members convened via Zoom for their meeting at 7 p.m. Introducing the first budget presentation to the public, Farrier outlined his intent to go through a series of budget presentations in the coming weeks as Webutuck begins to build its budget for next year and put in more definitive numbers.

As far as which numbers are not known at this time, he said state aid funding isn't a definitive number until the New York State budget is finalized.

Also, any numbers based

on tax levies are used as a reference point from last year's tax rolls and could change as well.

To start, Farrier reminded the BOE the 2021-22 adopted budget totaled \$24,798,803 with a \$16,216,729 tax levy.

As of this time, the draft budget for the 2022-23 school year totals \$25,065,061 with a 1.1% budget-to-budget increase.

Taking the year-over-year changes into account, Farrier said reductions included the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) capital project that's been paid off; bus purchases that have been placed in a separate proposition for the 2022-23 district budget vote; and reductions of overall debt payment.

Future additions include hiring a special education teacher and a certified health teacher; an increase in medical costs; and contractual salary increases.

Next year's allowable tax cap has so far been calculated at 4.9% (or \$794,620) with an allowable levy total

of \$17,011,349.

Providing the BOE with a budget revenue breakdown, Farrier explained any expenses Webutuck has need to be matched by revenue, stressing there must be a balanced budget.

Reviewing the different revenue sources, he said next year's fiscal plan is really comprised of three components: aid; other sources of revenue; and the tax levy.

To balance the budget, he said he used the appropriated fund balance, totaling \$1.9 million.

Looking ahead, Farrier reiterated there are factors still to consider, such as the unknown final state aid numbers; if there will be an increase in the town of Amenia's overall assessment from development; and any identified efficiencies and reductions.

Once the WCSD has the final numbers, he said the BOE will be able to announce its tax levy and what the final numbers will be for next year's budget.

Planning Board OKs Siland site plan and special-use permit

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Following a lengthy discussion between board and applicant, the Planning Board approved the special permit and site-plan application for the Siland Recreation Facility at its 7 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, March 23.

Siland and Silo Ridge are two separate entities, according to Planning Board Secretary Judy Westfall. She said only the Silo Ridge residents will be able to use Siland, which will open to small civic groups on a limited basis pending approval.

Above all, said Westfall, Siland is not only separate from Silo Ridge, but from the property adjoining the development.

The roads for the project will run between Route 22 and the luxury Silo Ridge housing development off Route 22, right into the recreational area.

According to the resolution, the Siland Commercial Property LLC applied for a

special permit and site-plan review approval of a recreational facility late last year.

It's seeking to construct a recreational facility on a 53-acre parcel it owns at 4391 Route 22 in town.

Among other amenities, it plans to build "a field and pool house, ice-house, warming hut and tennis, pickle ball, paddle tennis courts, sledding area, ball field, playground and multi-purpose fields."

As per norm, the Planning Board referred the application to the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development (DCDPD) last November, to which DCDPD replied the standard "it's a matter of local concern." The application was also sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for comments in January.

Easements for certain project elements "will be required for various purposes" from Harlem Valley Landfill Corp. as will an access agreement with Whalen Leasing Co.

To provide screening and buffering between the project site and Whalen's commercial

and residential uses, Siland proposed installing 10 spruce trees on site and a fence on Whalen's adjoining property along the project's northern boundary.

Acting as successors in interest to Silo Ridge and Harlem Valley Landfill, Silo Ridge Homeowners Association and Harlem Valley, LLC granted Siland use of existing rights and easements for the project.

Representatives for Siland said it will apply to the ZBA for the fence on Whalen's behalf.

After conducting a comprehensive review of the project and its potential environmental impacts and holding the mandated public hearing on the project, the Planning Board reviewed the project documents at its meeting on March 23 before voting on the resolution.

Planning Board Chair Robert Boyles and members Walter Brett, Matthew Deister and Anthony Robustelli were present while members Nina Peek, Neal Kusnetz and John Stefanopoulos were not. With a vote of 3-1, the resolution

passed with a majority vote.

Brett explained why he voted against the resolution days later, noting that he lobbied Siland representatives at numerous Planning Board meetings to open the facility up to Amenia residents rather than keep it exclusive to certain groups.

"I was turned down; they would not consider it," Brett said. "They will allow non-profits or civic organizations of their choice... and it's kind

of stingy the amount of time they're using for a three-hour period three days a month. I thought Amenia residents ought to have something to say here."

Brett also said Siland reps couldn't answer who was leasing the facility.

"If Siland is leasing it to Silo Ridge, that would be equivalent to an expansion of Silo Ridge," Brett said, adding the ZBA had certain misgivings about the project

and wanted to make sure Silo Ridge wasn't expanding.

Citing the work the Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre put in to get approved before opening a few years ago, Brett said, "We take our time with [applicants] or make them jump through hoops to get what they need, and then we're going to turn around and rubber stamp this thing? They could open up one day a week, but they're not interested in doing that."



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SPORTS



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Above is the Contender Esports Hudson Valley gaming center in Wappingers Falls, where Dutchess County students practice twice per week and have weekly tournaments with other schools in non-traditional eSports.

Esports, for non-traditional athletes

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — School sports have been on the decline since the COVID-19 pandemic and due to a shrinking student enrollment, according to local athletic directors. It's caused some schools in Dutchess County to merge various athletic teams in an effort to let student athletes keep playing the sports they love.

Another challenge? Some long-popular sports have lost their popularity or are now deemed too dangerous to play. Football is one example, with parents concerned about concussions and other injuries.

Of course, some students simply are not athletically inclined, but still like games and being competitive.

The solution? Esports, courtesy of the Board of Cooperative Educational Service (BOCES). Five Dutchess County school districts are now involved in this new program for the spring 2022 semester, including in the Harlem Valley.

Along with districts such as Arlington — always known for its athletics, Millbrook and Webutuck are involved, plus Beacon and John Jay-Ketchum.

"We are pleased to be able to offer this popular activity in support of STEAM, computer science and other academic areas," said Director of Educational Resources at BOCES Jenny Schinella. "Originally, the plan was to offer it in fall, 2022," but as multiple districts were interested, Esports began this spring.

Working with Contender Esports Gaming Center on Route 9 in Wappingers Falls, the gaming started in February. Teams with up to 20 players compete; they practice once weekly at the sports center and compete on Saturdays.

The games are played at the top-level video gaming and Esports facility, which has 50 gaming stations, with consoles and PCs. The business is owned by Deanna Fine, president of the company.

Arlington High School Athletic Director Michael Cring said he's in favor of the program, but turned to Arlington High's Project Leading The Way Director Peter Ziemins for comments.

"I am very excited to be the Esports coach of the inaugural season here at Arlington High School," Ziemins said. "It comes down to teamwork, great communication skills, receiving and giving clear instruction, developing team strategies and most importantly having fun and supporting each other, win or lose."

Ziemins added that unlike traditional sports, Esports is "inclusive to anyone and allows any student who is interested to join."

Some have been reticent about the program, concerned it could prevent students from

participating in traditional sports, exercising and getting outdoors, and that today's teens spend too much time on computers already. Plus, it's already challenging to put a full team together for traditional sports due to diminishing enrollment numbers and low interest.

In fact, some schools have had to share players, such as Millbrook and Dover, to create a single merged football team.

Another question arose about whether this should be considered a club or a sport.

In the Millbrook Central School District, a questionnaire asked students how they feel about Esports.

There were 37 responses, with 28 students showing an interest in joining. The district easily filled spots when the Esports program began, which has a 10-week season.

Many Millbrook students already game; now they practice and are coached at school during the week, plus practice and compete in Wappingers. So far the response has been very positive there.

"I'm thrilled that our Board of Education approved Esports at our meeting [on Feb. 22]. By creating a competitive Esports team, our students can connect their gaming passion with their academic and personal goals," said Millbrook High School Principal Eric Seipp. "Esports is gender inclusive, although at this point limited to the high school students."

Seipp added unlike traditional sports, Esports reaches out to everyone, one reason he's a major proponent of it.

"It is my hope that providing students Esports will be a platform to teach vital skills such as teamwork, decision making and the ability for students to think on their own," he said. "We are beyond excited to offer this opportunity to our students."

The season costs about \$2,000 for Millbrook to fund, plus costs to pay the coach (usually from the IT department) and transportation fees.

The Millbrook Esports coach is IT Director Elliott Garcia. In Arlington, it's engineering teacher Mr. Ziemins.

More than 200 major colleges now offer Esports courses.

Teresa B. Manko

LAKEVILLE — Teresa B. Manko, 97, of Lakeville, died March 23, 2022. She was the widow of William H. Manko.

Born on Dec. 30, 1924, she was the daughter of Veronica and Anthony Zaloga.

Originally from Pleasant Mount, Pa., Teri and her husband and two children lived in New Jersey.

She and her husband moved to Lakeville in 1978, when he became plant manager of the Keuffel & Esser Co. in Millerton.

She was an active volunteer with more than 20 years working the jewelry table at the Noble Horizons Auxiliary Annual Holiday Fair. Additionally, she worked many years with Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut at the massive tag sale held every summer.

Teri and her husband were longtime members of Lakeville's St. Mary Church. As a church fundraiser she made pressed flower pictures, cards and bookmarks, which were sold at the annual Salisbury

Fall Festival. For fun she enjoyed golfing at Hotchkiss, bowling in Great Barrington, gardening and cooking.

She is survived by a daughter, Joyce Manko, and her partner, Kurt Freehauf, of New Jersey; a daughter-in-law, Janet Manko, of Lakeville; a granddaughter, Amber Manko, of Washington, D.C.; a sister, Adeline Heesh, of Lake Como, Pa.; and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, William M. Manko; and five of her brothers and sisters.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Friday, April 1, at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Church in Lakeville. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Salisbury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to SVNA Home Assistance at www.vnhlc.org/services/home-assistance or to Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service at www.salisburyambulance.org.



Harry William 'Bill' Flint

LAKEVILLE — Harry William "Bill" Flint, 83, a lifelong area resident, died peacefully at his home in Lakeville on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

Beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother.

A full obituary will appear in the April 7 edition of The Millerton News and Lakeville Journal. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Dover Basketball Clinic for boys & girls

WINGDALE — The Dover Recreation Department will be offering a basketball clinic to boys and girls in fifth grade and up on Monday, April 11, and Thursday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Clinic participants will learn fundamental and advance skills and drills and

have scrimmage game play on the Boyce Park basketball courts at 6420 Route 55 in Wingdale.

All skill levels are welcome.

The clinic is \$65 per participant.

For more information, go to www.doverrecreation.com.

Send news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com



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OBITUARIES

William D. Tindall

LAKEVILLE — William D. Tindall, 69, of Lakeville died in his home on March 14, 2022.

Bill was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

He was a contractor and musician, whose talent was passed down to his son, Jason, and daughter, Mercy. His love for music was truly inspiring.

Anybody that knew Bill loved him, whether it be from everyday life or just a smile at a local establishment. His presence was indescribable and his kindness immeasurable. He loved his family more than anything.


Bill is predeceased by his mother, Margot Tindall.

He is survived by his father, William F. Tindall of Naugatuck. He also leaves behind his wife, Hope (MacDaniel) Tindall and their two daughters, Patience and Mercy; his three sons, Har-

old Lynch and his wife, Lisa, and their son, Matthew, and daughter, Autumn, daughter Emily Downs and her husband, Jeremy, Jason and his wife, Chrissie, their son, Jad Tindall, and their daughter, Zoe Lorette-Moore and her husband, Christian, and their son, Benji, Brad Tindall and his significant other, Maria Pagan, and their daughter, Mia; his older sister, Mary DeGoursey and her husband, Frank, and her son Michael Dascoli.

The burial for Bill will be April 2 at Mountain View Cemetery, Sand Road in North Canaan, with a reception immediately following, the location to be announced at the cemetery.

Donations and flowers can be directly sent to Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main St., North Canaan, CT 06018.



Worship Services

Week of April 3, 2022

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. "What is Important in Life" For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone. We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Join us in our fellowship hall for in-person Bible study, Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com</p>	<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all! 860-824-0194</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

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Virtual library lecture illuminates history of first Jewish Americans

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

COPAKE — Area residents and history buffs were treated to the fascinating story surrounding the first Jewish Americans of the New World as featured in the New-York Historical Society's recent virtual lecture on Wednesday, March 23, at 6 p.m.

Last Wednesday's Zoom talk was the last in a series of New-York Historical Society lectures presented in partnership with the Columbia County Libraries Association; the Roeliff Jansen Community Library in Copake was among those that shared the talk with its patrons.

Eager to cover as much history that evening as possible, New-York Historical Society Docent Beth Skobel used archival documents, maps, portraits and other historic objects and images as visuals in her presentation.

Elaborating on the Jewish people's expulsion from Europe and their migration to and settlement in the New World, Skobel shared tales of how Jews fled the Inquisition, only to find trouble in their travels.

Among the stories told, she talked about their leaving Recife, Brazil, after the Portuguese retook Recife and brought the Inquisition with them. While some returned to Amsterdam or else fled to the Dutch, French and English colonies in the Caribbean, Skobel said one ship carrying 23 Jews back to Amsterdam was captured by pirates.

Though they were rescued from pirates by a French ship, they were held hostage until they could pay the French ship's captain. Some sold their belongings to raise the ransom.

Eventually, Skobel said pleas reached friends in Amsterdam, who sent the rest of the money and the 23 Jews were released.

However, their troubles continued when they arrived at the border of New Amsterdam (later named New York City after the British took over) and were refused admittance by the Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant until he could contact the Dutch West India Company.

Skobel explained the Dutch West India Company respected the Jews' business acumen and told Stuyvesant

to admit them. She mentioned it may have helped that there were Jewish members on the company's board of directors.

As Jews settled into the New World, Skobel touched on their endeavors to carve a place for themselves and their culture in their new home.

She highlighted the building of the Mill Street Synagogue (the first Jewish synagogue in North America); Congregation Shearith Israel's work as the overseeing body of Judaism; and several prominent Jewish figures who helped shape Jewish culture and history in the New World.

Recounting the start of the British army's seven-year occupation of New York City in 1776, Skobel said it was around this year that two British soldiers vandalized Congregation Shearith Israel and burned the synagogue's scrolls of the Torah. Projecting an image of the damaged scrolls, she said this type of damage would have normally made the Torah unfit for ritual use and the sacred scriptures would have been buried, but said it was likely because of its history that the congregation has chosen to keep it for all these years.

Focusing on a Jewish settlement in Newport, R.I., Skobel highlighted George Washington's visit with Newport's Hebrew Congregation in 1790 and his heartfelt letter to the citizen groups that addressed him during his visit. More than a simple courtesy, Skobel said Washington's letter reflected the policy of the new government toward those whose religious beliefs were perceived as different.

"In 340 well-chosen words, the letter reassures those who fled from religious tyranny that life in their new nation would be different; that religious toleration would give way to religious liberty; and that the government would not interfere with individuals' matters of conscious and belief," Skobel said as she projected a quote from his letter.

Moving on to Philadelphia, Skobel spoke of the Female Benevolent Society and the Hebrew Sunday School Society, both founded by Rebecca Gratz and her colleagues. Both were seen as how philanthropic activity was an appropriate public undertaking for respectable women.

Elsewhere in the New World, Skobel highlighted the



Thomas Sully (1783-1872), *Rebecca Gratz (1781-1869), 1831*. Oil on panel. The Rosenbach, Philadelphia, 1954.1936

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

As a prominent Jewish figure in the New World, the New-York Historical Society's lecture touched on the work of Rebecca Gratz and her colleagues in founding both the Female Benevolent Society and the Hebrew Sunday School Society.



Torah scroll burned in New York by British soldiers during the Revolutionary War, ca. 1730. Wood, parchment, and ink. Congregation Shearith Israel, New York

Despite the damage they received at the hands of two British soldiers, Congregation Shearith Israel chose to hold onto Torah scrolls from 1776.

role Charleston, S.C., played as home to the largest Jewish community in North America until the 1830s.

Telling the story of the Reformed Society of Israelites, Skobel said a group of 47 Jewish members petitioned to make worship more accessible by introducing prayers in English; when their request was denied, they formed their own congregation. Skobel

said many of their principles and practices have become part of today's reformed Judaism.

Entitled "First Jewish Americans Columbia Counties Libraries Association 3 23 22," a video of the New-York Historical Society's presentation can be temporarily found online under the "VolunteerNYHS" YouTube channel and is worth watching.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

The students in Pine Plains math teacher Gerard Lisella's, far right, class gathered on the front steps of the Pine Plains Free Library to celebrate the opening of the mini food pantry they built in support of Willow Roots.

Mini food pantry installed at library

PINE PLAINS — Students in the Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) were celebrated for making a generous contribution to help ensure those in the local community are fed. The nonprofit Willow Roots food pantry thanked them for their donation at the installation of a new mini food pantry at the Pine Plains Free Library on Wednesday, March 23.

The pantry was built proposed and built by PPCSD math teacher Gerard Lisella's students.

By 5 p.m. on the 23rd, a crowd of students with Lisella, their proud parents, school administrators, community leaders and residents as well as Willow Roots Co-Founders Nelson and Lisa Zayas gathered excitedly.

PPCSD Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler voiced his heartfelt appreciation of Willow Roots and his pride in the students, their

original idea and their hard work pulling it all together.

Meanwhile, Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19), also a Pine Plains resident, honored the math class' endeavors with certificates and high praise.

Pine Plains town Supervisor Brian Walsh agreed it was a top-notch project.

"The students did a great job as far as building this structure," said Walsh. "The donation to Willow Roots is great — Willow Roots does so much for the town and its people. I hope for more to come."

The mini-pantry is set up outside the library entrance and is open to anyone in need, 24/7. People may leave non-perishable food items or take anything they need from the small structure, which stands independently on a pole in the middle of a flower pot, filled with colorful flowers.

— Kaitlin Lyle

The Lakedville Journal
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AS IT RAN 83 YEARS AGO

100 POUND MELON ARRIVES FROM TEXAS CARRYING OWN ADDRESS

Most unusual bit of mail received at the Salisbury post office in some time was the one hundred pound water-melon sent from Fort Worth, Texas to the Reverend John Calvin Goddard. The gigantic melon, arriving last week-end packed in a wash-tub, carried the address of the recipient carved on its face. Dr. Goddard's name and Salisbury, Conn., were cut into the melon early in the season when it was still of breakfast table size, following a Texas custom, the letters growing proportionally in size to the growth of the melon. The unique gift was grown in Weatherford, Texas.

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AUDITOR *Continued from Page A1*

All throughout, David kept recording on his cell phone. He recorded the art hanging on the walls, the notices hanging on the bulletin boards, the flyers for local support groups and even the regional tourism brochures.

David eventually wound up in Bassin's office; the supervisor was meeting with someone from the Highway Department at the time.

The video exchange

After a short exchange of vague pleasantries, the video shows David saying, "I'm doing a story on Town Hall... the people sent me. The owners of the building. The people."

Bassin answered questions about the town, board meetings and his position, but then he asked David, who was not forthcoming about his full identity or his intentions, to leave.

"I don't think we want you around here at Town Hall, casing the joint for something," said Bassin in the video. "Why don't you excuse yourself, unless you leave your phone number and name?"

David refused, saying, "I haven't conducted my business yet... Do you know what the First Amendment is?"

It was then that Bassin said he would call the sheriff's office, telling David he "had no right to take pictures at Town Hall."

"I'm here with no ill intent; I'm here with no malicious intent," David responded. "I'm not being disruptive and not being disorderly; you do know that citizens can record you, just like we can record the police. We are in public."

He added, "The reason I did this is to normalize it."

Under pressure from David,

Bassin ultimately apologized for his reaction and things settled down. Sheriff's deputies never arrived.

"If I had to do it again, I wouldn't get the sheriff's involved," said Bassin. "That would just escalate the confrontation level and would be less productive. The situation gets ugly when law enforcement is brought in, when somebody tries to arrest somebody and that's not what we're trying to do."

Bassin added, "For a normal person it was just kind of strange. He was very low key, very pleasant, not threatening. The only threatening part was the way he was dressed: all in black, a black hoodie, a black mask and he was videotaping everything."

Bassin said that while the audit was being conducted, everyone at Town Hall was "pret-

ty calm, cool and collected, but afterward a couple of people told me they were puzzled and not comfortable."

Adding that such events are a "sign of the times," Bassin said if it were to happen again, he would act differently.

"The next time this happens I will probably offer the auditor a cup of coffee and some candy and let them do their thing and leave them alone," he said, adding it's important not to react or trigger a confrontation. He also said other towns need to be aware of this phenomenon so if it happens to them, the process will go smoothly.

Amenia audited too

Amenia Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner agreed, and said the town supervisor, Victoria Perotti, warned everyone working at Town Hall such an audit could occur back in January. The Amenia Town Hall

even posted signs at all of its doors and windows barring access except for the front door, said Klingner.

So when David visited the Amenia Town Hall during the first week of March, going by the name of "Guy," Klingner said most were prepared.

Her description of Guy matches David's right down to the tattoos on his hands and wrists (and neck). She said he was also dressed in black, though his hoodie wasn't pulled up over his head.

Klingner said Amenia's audit was very similar to Ancram's in terms of what was requested and what was videotaped. She said she accommodated all of the requests and the whole exchange went smoothly.

"I said, 'How can we help you?' and it was no problem," said Klingner on Sunday, March 27. "I wasn't going to argue with him because he was videotaping."

Klingner said "Guy" also audited the Stanford Town Hall and the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, where the town clerks were reportedly agitated by his presence. Those interactions have been posted on YouTube, whereas the Amenia audit was apparently so bland it "didn't make the cut," she said.

"He's only posting people who call the police or are rude to him," said Klingner. "I just didn't want any conflicts."

Klingner said the County Association of Town Clerks was to meet on Tuesday, March 29; she was betting the topic of First Amendment Audits would be raised. She

planned to advise her colleagues to share what auditor requests, even if, as in Guy's case, he doesn't appear to be a local taxpayer.

"To me it doesn't matter if he lives in Dutchess County or other jurisdictions; it's public information... I have the information that's available and if he wants it, have at it."

Safety the real worry

In retrospect, Klingner's main concern is whether the Town Hall's safety was compromised, and if those who are conducting First Amendment Audits have anything nefarious planned.

"By taking video, he knows where our cameras are; what floors he has access to; and if we called the police, he would know the response time," said Klingner. "Now our security issues are heightened. So what kind of county funding is available to address that? It is raising a lot of good points. I just don't know how far to raise this issue."

Klingner said such thoughts are just a reality in today's world, and are "a sign of the times," as Bassin said.

"I think the police should be alerted if someone is going to all the town halls; that's just putting us in jeopardy," she said. "The FBI should like to know what's going to all these town halls, too. Maybe there's something there."

It's worth noting, the Good Guy Audits YouTube channel on which David posts his audits also rates those audits with a pass or fail. Ancram's audit was not rated; the Amenia audit didn't even make the site.

HANNAFORD *Continued from Page A1*

Davis operates the store with his sister, Audrey. He explained that when the pandemic hit "it was evident we needed to up our game." That's when the siblings created a brand-new delivery department.

"We pride ourselves on the fact that we keep everything in-house, no third party is involved," said Davis, noting his store upgraded its online shopping platform to an easy-to-use program offering its full inventory at www.shop.rosieapp.com/davis_iga. He added deliveries aren't made by strangers. "The customer knows who is delivering and when."

What is Instacart?

Instacart, meanwhile, is a private American company that delivers groceries in the U.S. and Canada through its website and a mobile app. Those who deliver for Instacart are not actual store employees, explained Hannaford Spokesperson Erica Dodge.

"Hannaford partners with Instacart throughout our market, that includes our Pawling store," said Dodge on Thursday, March 24. "Instacart has super shoppers at Hannaford, but Instacart is really a separate

entity... Instacart is important to allow communities to have access and a convenient way to [get] our high-quality products."

Access is a key point, as many living in the Amenia and Millerton area, about 14 miles north of Amenia, have complained about difficulties obtaining groceries.

Millerton feels the pain

The problem was compounded in the village of Millerton after it lost its sole grocery market in 2019, when the Millerton Fresh Market closed.

That was not long after the Grand Union vacated the same Millerton Square Plaza space in February of 2017. A revolving list of grocers has inhabited that 27,000-square foot plaza space. There has not been a grocery store in Millerton or the town of North East for three years now, and residents are getting impatient.

It's an especially sore point considering the history: The North East Planning Board approved the Hannaford site plan for a brand new 36,000-square foot supermarket next to Thompson Plaza in the Boulevard District in 2013; however, two Article 78 law-

suits were filed (initiated by a Wassaic shopkeeper and backed by a Millerton resident; both were tossed out by the courts); around the same time, a ruling was passed by the Department of Justice that Hannaford had to make its footprint smaller in the Northeast rather than larger; Hannaford then merged with Stop & Shop in North Canaan, Conn.; the developer then withdrew the already-approved application.

The end result is that Millerton and North East are sans supermarket. Residents must now travel outside the community in a range of directions go grocery shopping in person.

Making matters worse is that many who live in the village don't have their own transportation, making the everyday chore of buying groceries all the more difficult.

Hannaford a viable option

Pawling is about 25 miles from Amenia; now Instacart can save shoppers the trip, said Pawling Hannaford store manager Jennifer Veronesi.

"Offering delivery to these communities has been a tremendous milestone for our store," she said. "Our custom-

ers have responded positively to this increased convenience."

Veronesi said since the Pawling Hannaford just started its new delivery service to the Amenia/Dover area this month, it's too soon to rate the program's success, but she believes it will be a big hit.

Dodge agrees, especially in light of the COVID pandemic.

"We just know deliveries, especially at this time during pandemic, and I think shopping trends are moving in that direction as people are looking for increased convenience," she said, "and one way to do that is through delivery."

Millerton Hannaford?

When asked if there's any possibility Hannaford might still be considering Millerton as a possible site to open a future grocery store, considering that residents in that community are still clamoring for the company to set up shop there, Dodge had this to say:

"That's wonderful to hear; I'm happy to hear that people feel so fondly of Hannaford, but not to my knowledge."

For more, go to www.hannaford.com, www.instacart.com or call 845-855-0553.

FIRE *Continued from Page A1*

any firefighters while battling the blaze.

The fire is currently "being investigated by the Dutchess County Fire and Rescue Team," said Watson, noting "it's not suspicious."

The fire chief added the firefighters were able to do their jobs quickly and efficiently. He did say the conditions

last Wednesday made it more difficult as it was a rainy night.

"It was slippery... that makes it harder," said Watson. "But it went very well and everybody's training paid off."

It took about half an hour to put out the fire, but the Millerton Fire Company remained on scene until approximately 2:30 a.m. on Thursday.

FLAGS *Continued from Page A1*

of Millbrook as any other community.

The copy shack and shipping center has been operating for more than 15 years from the Washington Hollow Plaza at 2517 Route 44.

Recently, much of the business' time and energy has been redirected to fulfill needs beyond copying and shipping.

A frequent customer who preferred to remain anonymous recently approached store owner Ralph Simmons and front of the store manager Shyla Winter with a special request. She asked to print Ukrainian flags to place on local lawns to show support for the embattled nation.

The customer originally

ordered 10 flags, upped the order to 20 and it's grown from there. She's had neighbors and friends place orders, too. Simmons extended her a large discount. Since then, many others have ordered the flags, said Simmons.

The blue and yellow flags are painted with the Ukrainian flag and come with or without an image of a sunflower. They're 24-inches by 18-inches and include a metal stake to plant in the grass. They cost \$14.98 with a percentage of the sales going to help Ukraine.

Simmons is donating part of the proceeds to the Afya Foundation, a nonprofit that collects unused but still viable medical supplies and equip-

ment from the New York to send where it's needed most. Currently, those supplies are going to Ukraine.

"I think there's such a desperate need just now," said Simmons. "I wish everyone would do this. It's a small effort compared to what they actually need."

By Saturday, March 26, 539 flags were sold, and \$2,500 donated to Afya.

Afya Foundation estimates that 90% of its funding goes to direct aid.

Simmons is originally from Millerton and expanded his shipping business at the plaza through the years, building up to a staff with 12 employees.

The Country Postman ships

everything from small books to fragile antiques to large furniture, all around the country and even abroad. The store is also copy and print shack and even restores old photographs. It also offers a courier service.

Simmons has contributed to charities before, such as Lucky Orphans and Angels of Light.

He said he "believes in doing good for humanity."

To contact The Country Postman, call 845-677-1076 or go to www.countrypostman.com.

Realtor® at Large

At the CTDEEP's bookstore, in the water and wetlands section, there is a remarkable new book co-authored by Micheal Klemens entitled *Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut*. This book goes into detail the current threats of over development, climate change, invasive species, etc. are having on our native populations of amphibians and reptiles. After reviewing the book, Bill Hyatt, former Chief-Ct Bureau of Natural Resources, commented that "Our success as stewards of the land...will ultimately depend on how well we conserve our most vulnerable flora and fauna." To purchase this book, please go to: https://www.ctdeepstore.com/Water-Wetlands_c21.htm. This should be a valuable resource for Inland Wetlands Commissions and concerned conservationists in our NWCT communities.



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FOOD: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Wheat Is Rising — In Price, Not Just in Baked Goods

If you bake, and especially if you bake bread, you are nervously watching what's happening with the world's supply of wheat right now.

Ukraine and Russia together supply about a quarter of the world's wheat, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

Ships don't want to pick up the wheat that's available from Black Sea ports. And because of bad weather during the last two years in Russia, the world supply of wheat was already low.

There are fears that the war will keep Russia and Ukraine from harvesting the winter wheat that was planted last autumn; and that the spring crop won't get planted.

There is a war going on and there is indescribable suffering in much of the world, so it feels very Marie Antoinette to point out that the price of wheat (and flour) is rising because of the war.

But if you bake, this might be a good time either to stock up on flour before the higher prices hit our supermarket shelves (I'm sorry; I know that is hoarding). Or you might want to start looking at recipes that use little or no flour.

Coincidentally, it is also almost Passover, a time when Jewish tradition forbids eating leavened flour products. Of the five main leavening agents for flour, one is air so ... short of matzo, there aren't a lot of flour-based foods that

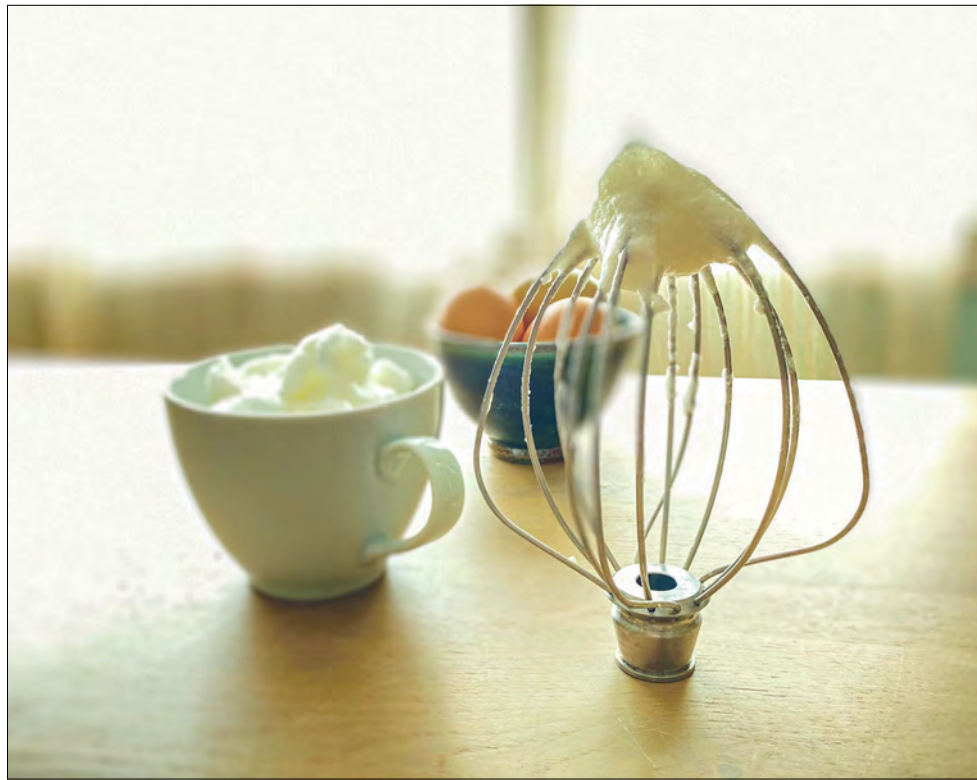


PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

If you can't use flour or leavening agents, egg whites can do the job of adding lift to baked goods.

you can eat during the spring High Holy Days.

Nowadays, there are many kinds of gluten-free bread made of alternative flours, and many of them are tasty.

For desserts, the easiest flour-free options of course are custards and fruits.

We've published in this column a recipe for the world's easiest custard, the Italian panna cotta; and we've also published instructions on how to make meringue and coconut macaroons, all of which are popular flourless desserts. You can find them at our online archive through the Scoville Memorial Library, <http://scoville.advantage-preservation.com>.

This year, we offer a ricotta cake that is wonderfully light and not too sweet and, honestly, not very hard to make

but very impressive. It is adapted from the Australian food genius Donna Hay.

Of note: At the moment, there is no shortage of white flour, there is only a potential price increase. But as of this week, flour is still about \$6 for a 5-pound bag and super fine almond flour is about \$11 for 1 pound.

LEMON, RICOTTA AND ALMOND FLOURLESS CAKE

One stick of unsalted butter, room temperature, 1 1/3 cups sugar, 1 vanilla bean, split and seeds scraped (or 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract), 1/4 cup lemon zest, 4 eggs, separated and at room temperature, 2 1/2 cups of super fine almond flour, 10 1/2 ounces of good-quality ricotta (a drier denser more artisanal version will give you a better

cake), sliced almonds and powdered sugar for the top.

Combine the butter, 2/3 cup of the sugar, the vanilla and the lemon zest in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat for 8 to 10 minutes, until the mixture is creamy and pale and well-mixed.

Scrap down the sides of the bowl, then gradually add the egg yolks, one at a time, continuing to beat until fully combined.

Add the almond flour and beat to combine.

Fold the ricotta through the almond flour mixture.

Unless you have two mixers, you'll want to move this all to another bowl and then thoroughly clean your mixing bowl. Give it a wipe with some white vinegar to be sure there is no fat left on it, because you're now

Continued on next page

SPRING:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Rites of Spring (and the Glory of Peepers)

One of the most wonderful mysteries about Life in the Country is the annual mating ritual of the salamanders and frogs.

Crazy as it sounds, it is an experience that is literally full of wonder to watch the little salamanders creep with determination toward the vernal pools where they will lay their eggs; and to hear the mating calls of the frogs, which sound like thousands of baby chicks all peeping at one time.

Get a guided tour of the show on Thursday, April 14, from 8 to 9 p.m. with Sharon Audubon. Science teacher Joseph Markow will host a vernal pool exploration

at Audubon's Miles Wildlife Sanctuary, which is at 99 West Cornwall Road in Sharon, Conn. (but **not** at the Audubon Center on Route 4).

The group will look for Spotted salamanders and Red-spotted Newts, frogs and egg masses and identify some of the vocalizations of the early breeding frogs.

The cost is \$10 for each adult, \$5 for each child. This is an activity that is suitable for ages 8 and older. Space is limited and prepaid online reservations are required; go to <https://sharon.audubon.org/events>.

Call 860-364-0520 or email Bethany at bethany.sheffer@audubon.org with questions.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VIRGINIA WOOLF

Author Roxana Robinson will interview Anne E. Fernald, editor of "The Oxford Handbook of Virginia Woolf," in a Zoom talk sponsored by the Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., on Sunday, April 3, at 4 p.m.

Registration is required at <https://cornwalllibrary.org/events/>

Designed for students, scholars and everyday readers, "The Oxford Handbook of Virginia Woolf" is a compendium of information on Woolf's life (both professional and personal), the influences that shaped her thinking and writing, and her legacy. Through

its six sections, it explores every aspect of her work, including what was then an experimental form of writing employing stream-of-consciousness, as well as Woolf's connection to the political issues of her day, her love of nature, and her connections to other women. Woven throughout the various chapters is information about the famed Bloomsbury circle.

ART OPENING AT LIBRARY APRIL 8

A drinks and hors d'oeuvres reception for artist Eileen Doman will be held at the Douglas Library on Main Street in North Canaan, Conn., on Friday, April 8, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Doman's artwork will be on display from April 1 through the end of May, during library hours: Mondays 1:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To advertise your event, call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com



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Saturday, April 9, 2022 4:00 pm
Saint James Place
Great Barrington, MA

AGATHA CHRISTIE: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

How a New Book and a New Film Ignite Nostalgia for Old Books, Films

I am not one of those people who thinks that nothing new can ever improve on a beloved old favorite.

And to be honest, I'm not even that much of a fan of Agatha Christie's mystery stories and novels.

But two new entries into the mystery entertainment genre make me feel that the older versions were better.

First up is the new novel by Anthony Horowitz, who is one of my favorite mystery writers — but not in print. He's the writer behind many of the best Agatha Christie BBC productions, and the creator and writer of the completely genius "Foyle's War."

He is also the writer of the very popular Young Adult Alex Rider adventures.

'A Line To Kill'

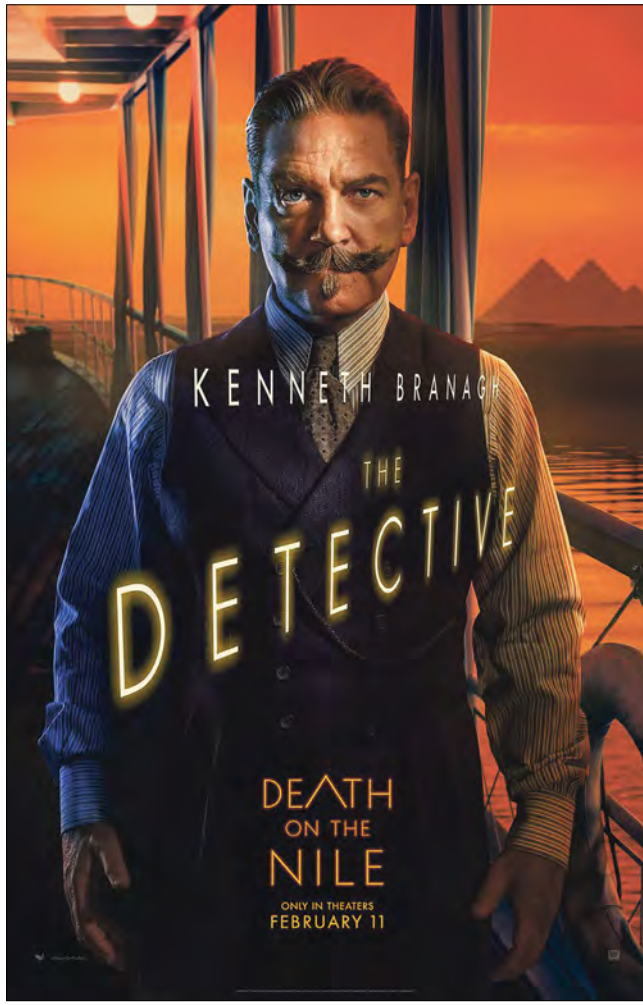
Generally I have enjoyed his new mystery novels, two of which feature Susan Ryeland, a retired publishing executive; and two of which feature Horowitz himself, and the fictional detective Daniel Hawthorne.

The newest title in the Hawthorne series is "A Line To Kill" (which is a publishing "in" joke; Horowitz likes "in" jokes and puzzles within puzzles and stories within stories).

The first two mysteries in this series were fine but a little rough around the edges. In this newest title, it became clear to me that even Horowitz, who wrote so many great television mystery scripts, hasn't quite nailed down what Christie did so well, in creating the character of Hercule Poirot.

As much as Poirot is egotistical and annoying, he's also lovable in his own way, and his brilliance is apparent. When he solves a mystery, you feel as though he truly and actually is smarter than everyone else.

Sherlock Holmes is



This is how we do it: Kenneth Branagh's new "Death on the Nile" film might send viewers back to enjoy the (better) 2004 version starring David Suchet.

the same way: Annoying but admirable.

Horowitz's detective Hawthorne is mainly offensive, and doesn't seem particularly gifted as a crime solver. He comes across mainly as what English detective novels often call "a plod."

The latest Horowitz/Hawthorne mystery,

while perfectly fine and enjoyable, makes me above all nostalgic for Christie and for Hercule Poirot and his sidekick, Captain Arthur Hastings.

In sum, if you're undecided about whether to try out the new Horowitz book, I'd politely say, "Have you read all of Agatha Christie's yet?"

...wheat is rising

Continued from previous page

going to beat your egg whites. Gradually add the remaining 2/3 cup of sugar to the whites and continue to beat at medium speed until stiff peaks form, about 10 to 15 minutes.

While the whites are beating, preheat your oven to 325. Butter or grease an 8-inch cake pan and then line the bottom and sides with parchment paper.

Gently fold a third of the egg whites into the flour/ricotta mixture, then add the rest of the

egg whites.

Pour the mixture into the prepared cake tin, and tap the sides to try and get the batter as evenly distributed as possible.

Decorate the top with a layer of the sliced almond rounds. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until you can lightly poke the center with a finger and have it bounce back.

Remove from the oven and cool completely on a wire rack, in the baking pan. Dust with powdered sugar.

'Death on the Nile' I have similar feelings about the lush new "Death on the Nile" from director/actor Kenneth Branagh.

There have been many versions of this film and they're all charming in their own way, but this one falls short. The casting in particular seems like it was done blindfolded, with darts; and while we know that Branagh is a gifted director, his gifts are not wildly in evidence in this latest film version of a classic Agatha Christie.

And so in addition to saying, "Have you read the original Christie novel?" for this one, I'd also suggest that you find the "Death on the Nile" starring actor David Suchet. His versions are unparalleled, in my opinion.

You can find most of the Suchet productions on DVD at your local library, on various streaming services and sometimes on Hoopla, which is the streaming service offered by most of our area libraries. You can also find many full-length Suchet Poirot's on YouTube.

The Branagh version is not available on streaming yet, but apparently will be on either HBO Max or Disney Plus.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send calendar items to calendar@lakevillejournal.com. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

ART

Argazzi Art, 22 Millerton Road, Lakeville, Conn. www.argazziart.com
Kathy Moss: Paintings, on view through April 15.

The Clark Art Museum, 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. www.clarkart.edu
FIRST SUNDAY FREE: PHOTOGRAPHY, April 3, 1 to 4 p.m.

BOOKS

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. www.hotchkisslibrary.org
HLS Tuesday Evening Book Group — Buddenbrooks by Thomas Mann (Parts 7 – 11), April 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m. (online).

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. www.scovillelibrary.org
Mark Scarbrough — Edith Wharton, April 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:30 a.m. to noon (online).

DANCE

Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwood Road East, Norfolk, Conn. www.norfolklibrary.org
Celebrating Ukraine with Nadia Ukrainian Dancers, April 9, 3 to 4 p.m.

KIDS

Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theater, www.grumblinggryphons.org
Anansi - the Trickster Spider: A West African Folktale at Scoville Memorial Library, April 2, 11 a.m.

Kent Memorial Library, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. www.kentmemoriallibrary.org
Reading with Wynton!, April 2, 11 a.m. D&D Adventures, April 4 and 29, 3:30 p.m.

MOVIES

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.themoviehouse.net
Morbius, opens April 1. Sonic 2, opens April 8.

MUSIC

Crescendo, Lakeville, Conn. www.worldclassmusic.org
Mientras me abraza (While she hugs me) — Baroque, Latino, and Folk Fusion — Lakeville, CT, April 8, 6 p.m.; Great Barrington, MA, April 9, 4 p.m.

The Egremont Barn, 17 Main St., South Egremont, Mass. www.theegremontbarn.com
Wanda Houston Band, March 25, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.; Lexi Weege and JJ Slater, March 31, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

TALKS

NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton N.Y. www.nemillertonlibrary.org
Medicare 101, April 7, 6 p.m. (online).

THEATER

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www.centerforperformingarts.org
Henry V, March 25 to April 3.



"His Girl Friday" starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell is on the list of diverse films showing this spring at the Mahaiwe.

SPRING MOVIES AT THE MAHAIWE

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., continues its movie screenings with "Good Will Hunting" on Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m., "His Girl Friday" on Friday, April 22, at 7 p.m., "Legally Blonde" on Friday, May 6, at 7 p.m., and "Raising

Arizona" on Saturday, May 14, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for ages 12 and under when applicable. For tickets and more information, go to www.mahaiwe.org or call the box office at 413-528-0100 Wednesday through Saturday, from noon to 4 p.m.

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MILLBROOK

Town extends building ban, adopts climate smart pledge

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — The Thursday, March 10, Town of Washington (TOW) Town Board meeting was held in person at Town Hall.

The first order of business was to extend the moratorium on certain land developments, originally passed on Sept. 28, 2021, for six months. As the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC) is still fleshing out the definitions for

hospitality uses in the TOW, the Town Board passed an extension on the moratorium, thus preventing any building or development at this time.

The board said it's been looking into getting help with electronically recording its meetings, its minutes and archiving past minutes.

A discussion was held regarding Video Ventures and King Rock Media, which Councilwoman Leslie Heaney has looked into handling the tasks.

The work would entail taping the meetings, digitally

filing and archiving them. It would also require installing a new sound system at Town Hall, which could mean buying costly new equipment.

That would allow the town to record other committee and board meetings, such as the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeal meetings.

Thought it can be expensive, having the recordings done professionally means getting them done in a timely manner and having them well documented at higher quality.

It would also aid in making

town government more transparent, a perpetual issue for many communities. It would also help the town staff handle its heavy work load.

Questions were asked at the March 10 meeting if the town could hire a part-time worker or rent the equipment rather than hiring a company or buying equipment in an attempt to save money.

It was also asked if the town and village of Millbrook could share equipment or personnel to record meetings and minutes, or even join in on hiring a media company. The board is considering having media companies come in to make presentations and present quotes.

Climate Smart

Heaney then introduced the New York State (NYS) Climate Smart Communities (CSC) pledge; the Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) asked the board to adopt it.

Many other communities have already done so. The board passed a resolution stating the TOW believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to the local and global environments and adopted the NYS CSC pledge.

The aim is to build a climate-smart community by making an inventory of emissions; planning for climate action; decreasing energy use; shifting to clean, renewable energy; using climate-smart materials management; and implementing a

climate-smart land use plan. For more information, go to www.climatesmart.ny.gov.

The step was just the first in the process to obtain state certification, said Heaney.

Some comfort, Optimum

Councilman Joe Rochfort revealed an ongoing problem with cable service; last month a representative from Optimum was present and spoke about improvements in technical and service related issues on which the cable company has been working.

Many at the meeting said they felt comforted that the representative at least gave information on how to contact an actual person at Optimum, though others said the process is taking too long.

Councilman Michael Murphy reported on the Recreation Commission, which recommended a fee increase for town pool passes. The reason is due to increased minimum wage for employees and cost increases associated with park and pool expenditures.

Murphy asked for fees to be raised by \$10 over the 2021 rates, which would bring them up to \$160 for residents and to \$225 for non-residents. The

board plans to discuss the issue at a future meeting.

Town Assessor Lisa Evangelista updated the board on information on the assessed value of the former Bennett College Property and other town properties. When property values are lower, then property taxes go down, she reminded everyone.

Evangelista said she will soon be sending a data collector out to TOW properties to make sure that tax exemptions being claimed by property owners are legitimate claims.

A draft revision of the Code of Ethics was given to Town Attorney Jeff Battistoni for his review.

Councilman Joe Rochfort reported on the CPRC's recent Open House and its survey on hospitality uses in the town. Rochfort said both went well. A full report will come later in the year from the committee.

As there were no public comments, the meeting adjourned.

The next Town Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, at 6 p.m., in person at Town Hall or via Zoom. For details, go to www.washingtonny.com.

The colors of Holi, the joys of dance

HUDSON VALLEY — Following a day of sunshine and blue skies, local libraries from around the region invited their patrons to take part in a true community celebration of the virtual kind, of Holi, the Hindu color festival. The event was held on Wednesday evening, March 16.

Sponsored by libraries throughout the Hudson Valley, including here in northeastern Dutchess and Columbia Counties, such as the Millbrook, Roeliff Jansen Community and Pawling libraries, not to mention further north in the Claverack and Hudson libraries, and just a little to our west, Staatsburg, and then north again, the village of Tivoli. Then if you hop over the Hudson River into Ulster

County, the library in the town of Stone Ridge participated.

Attendees from around the entire Hudson Valley, intrigued to learn more about the Indian culture and needing a little color in their lives tuned into the interactive video presentation led by Ajna Dance Company at 6 p.m. on the 16th.

Along with learning about the Holi Festival's significance, those watching in appreciation were able to enjoy the Ajna Dance Company perform elaborate dances in celebration of Holi.

The libraries' virtual patrons were also given the chance to pick up a few new dance moves during the celebration's Bollywood and Bhangra dance workshop.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dancing with rapture, the performers for Ajna Dance Company were excited to share the celebration of Holi with residents of the Harlem Valley during a virtual Holi celebration on Wednesday, March 16.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

A+M Flower Co. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/21/22 online. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 3054 Church St. Pine Plains, NY 12567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

- 03-24-22
- 03-31-22
- 04-07-22
- 04-14-22
- 04-21-22
- 04-28-22

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2022-2023 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2022-2023 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective May 3, 2022, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Webutuck High School gym, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect two (2) members to the Board of Education, both seats commencing July 1, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2025, to succeed John Merwin and Chris Mayville whose terms expire on June 30, 2022.

B. To adopt the annual budget of the Northeast Central School District for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property on the District.

C. PROPOSITION II: 2022-2023 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

SHALL the Board of Education of the Webutuck

Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire two (2) transportation vehicles, one (1) wheelchair accessible mini-bus and one (1) utility vehicle at a maximum aggregate cost not to exceed \$170,000; (2) expend such sum

or so much thereof as may be necessary for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid received; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$170,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

D. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York.

The election and budget vote shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with Clerk of the District no later than Monday, April 18, 2022, by 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, in the form and manner prescribed by Section 2018 of the Education Law. Vacancies on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices; candidates run at-large for the vacant seats. Such petitions must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the School District, shall state the residence address of

each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. The petition shall also describe the length of the term of the office and contain the name of the last incumbent. Petition forms may be picked up on any school day at the Office of the District Clerk, at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. or on the district's website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2022.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hour, or on the district's website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2022.

The application must be returned to the District Clerk by May 10, 2022 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 16, 2022, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 17, 2022.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these should be directed to the District Clerk.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting by "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred

method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than twenty-five (25) days before the vote. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 P.M. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law §§ 2035, 2008, any referendum or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 18, 2022; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of the candidate, and the name and residence of each signer. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter
Clerk of the Board
Northeast (Webutuck)
Central School District
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P.O. Box 405
Amenia, NY 12501
03-31-22

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Go to www.tricornnews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

EDITORIAL

County OFA is worth its weight in gold

Our Dutchess County Government provides a sundry of essential services that we support through taxes, from its Departments of Transportation and Public Works to its Sheriff's Office and Division of Veterans Services to its Emergency Response, Parks & Rec, Public Transit and so much more. Residents in the know access these services to enhance their lives, and to assist them when they are struggling.

Certainly we all know what it's like to go through times of crisis. During the COVID pandemic, many of us have dealt with health, economic and housing challenges. The county's numerous programs and services have helped thousands cope during that period alone.

Certainly it's stepped up to aid our elder population during the health crisis, and for many decades prior. Largely that's done through the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA), which provides a wide swath of services for those 60 and older.

The OFA offers assistance such as nutritional support, meal deliveries, tips on everything from how to exercise properly to how to invest safely to how to find senior housing to general advice on aging.

The OFA has helped the Hudson Valley's 60-plus population age gracefully since the '70s in a healthy and positive way, providing a strong support system so those in their golden years can more easily move through what can sometimes be trying times. After all, not all seniors have family or friends nearby. Some may be left to navigate what can be a daunting time in their lives all on their own.

We all know that life understandably becomes more difficult as we age, not necessarily worse, just more challenging. It's a fact of life for every generation.

We've all heard the same thought echo in our heads while hearing our joints creak or our backs crack:

"I'm not as young as I used to be."

No one is, and that's why everyone can use a helping hand at some point. Enter the OFA.

The OFA has programs that can assist with all sorts of situations. Volunteers are more than willing to help make daily living easier (and often, so are neighbors, friends and family) for those who need it.

Some of our more seasoned citizens may stop driving or may not like to drive at night; others may have trouble walking or lifting things like grocery bags, reaching high cabinets in the kitchen or changing light bulbs. Regular chores like taking out the garbage or raking leaves might be too difficult, and certainly shoveling snow or mowing the lawn may be best left to the teenager next door.

That's all common sense, and the OFA distributes an informative newsletter, "The Aging News," with useful tips and topics for seniors. It also includes the fantastic "Golden Living" column by OFA Director Todd N. Tancredi (which also runs regularly in The Millerton News, see this page).

"The Aging News" includes loads of information (like links to the Aging Services Directory and local Senior Friendship Centers), with information about its "A Matter of Balance" classes, senior events like its very popular annual Senior Picnics, scam alerts, free courses and more.

The OFA has long focused on the state of our seniors and their emotional health as they age. It's been especially concerned if they've felt isolated during the pandemic, as so many — of all generations — have expressed feeling lonely during the two-year long health crisis.

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy even declared social isolation a "global epidemic." The New York State OFA reported mid-March that the AARP Public Policy Institute declared "social isolation drives \$6.7 billion in additional associated Medicare spending per year."

Which is why the NYSOFA paired with the state Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Association on Aging in New York (AgingNY) to expand programs connecting seniors with volunteers. One is called Friendly Calls. In a nutshell, neighbors call their senior neighbors to chat for 20 to 30 minutes a week. To participate, call 1-800-342-9871.

New York has made caring for its senior population a priority for many years. In fact, the NYOFA celebrated National Nutrition Month this March by marking the 50th anniversary of the National Nutrition Program for the Elderly, established in 1972.

Since the program's inception half a century ago, the agency has provided more than 1 billion meals to more than 10 million seniors in the Empire State. The program continues to go strong, supported by a network of volunteer and like-minded agencies.

Dutchess County's OFA has been serving meals since forming in the '70s to seniors. It does so at its eight Senior Friendship Centers countywide, with two locally. They also serve up plenty of fellowship.

The two here in the Harlem Valley include one in Wassaic, at the South Amenia Presbyterian Church at 229 South Amenia Road. The other is in Millerton, at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex at 28 Century Blvd. Both are open Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The OFA also prepares and delivers hot meals to home bound seniors weekdays through its Home Delivered Meals Program, so older adults may remain at home for longer. Participants also reap the benefits of getting to socialize during their visits with the delivery person.

The OFA is always looking for volunteers, too, in case that sounds like something that piques your interest.

To learn more about the OFA, call 845-486-2555, email ofa@dutchessny.gov or go to www.dutchessny.gov.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sharon Hospital, thanks for great care

Recently I had the misfortune to require same-day surgery. Nobody looks forward to facing a surgical procedure, but having a facility close by helped to ease my concern.

Happily, I'm doing well, recovering at home.

I must say, the staff at Sharon Hospital more than met my expectations. From reception to patient prep leading to the operating room, I was assisted by half-a-dozen dedicated and extremely capable employees.

Each party encountered

greeted me with a smile and went above and beyond to see that my needs were met.

After all the COVID struggles these folks have been through, I had to marvel at their positive attitude. You can't teach that kind of behavior; it has to come from within. Never did I have the feeling of being just a number that had to be processed.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all.

John Walters

Millerton

If you only knew the fake food you're already eating, your stomach would turn

In labs around the world, proteins are being created in bioreactors. And these proteins are grown to mimic dairy proteins. What for, you ask? To make cheese and milk without a single cow or goat ever being present.

The basis of this manufacturer is called "precision fermentation." There are hundreds of millions of dollars being invested here. Why? To quote a spokesman for one of the companies, "Once the obvious outcry against so-called fake food dies down, in years to come all the milk and dairy product will come from bioreactors making the proteins. This is better for the planet because cows won't be making methane and there will be less CO2 emissions from the dairy industry."

People are buying into the myth of animal agriculture being bad for the planet at an

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

alarming rate.

Vegans spout nonsense that more protein and calories can be grown from pastures and that this reduction of cattle will also reduce emissions of methane and CO2, yet those very same vegans choose to overlook the fact that a pasture devoid of fertilizer becomes unproductive within two to three years — so they happily buy chemicals from the petroleum industry to revitalize crop fields.

A staggering \$19 billion of oil-derived fertilizers was sold last year in the USA to grow corn, soybean and other vegan crops; not to mention trucks belching fumes transporting sacks of the stuff.

And anyone claiming organic fertilizers are just as good should compare the organic fertilizer market last year at under \$152 million or less than 1% of oil-based fertilizers.

Already, these new factory-produced proteins form the basis for 65% of all rennet made for the cheese-making industry worldwide. Did you know that, except for non-pasteurized and artisanal cheese, all the cheese made today starts with rennet made in these bioreactors?

The baseline problem is the hubris of these agribusinesses, which think they can improve on natural food production systems all in the guise of securing investors and the potential of making money.

In essence they seek to further disconnect food production from nature.

The better way would be to spend those funds to find out how to work better in har-

mony with nature.

On much of the land around the world, you cannot grow crop after crop. The soils are fragile in many cases and the excessive rainfall in some areas (think Ireland or Washington State) does not allow for good crop growth. Much of the land around the world has also been destroyed (floods, war, fire damage) or degraded by logging and over-farming.

The only effective way of using that land for food production is to put ruminant animals back on it because they alone can turn the grass and forage plants into food we can eat, at the same time fertilizing the land and rebuilding the carbon stocks into the soil, to rehab the land. The notion that we can fix the world food shortage with tech is not only silly, but counter-productive.

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

'A Matter of Balance' classes resume in person

The Office for the Aging's (OFA) popular "A Matter of Balance" program is getting ready for a series of in-person classes, which returned in Poughkeepsie on March 7.

Two additional sessions of "A Matter of Balance" began again in mid-March; one in Fishkill, another in Rhinebeck.

Prospective participants in any class must contact the OFA at 845-486-2555 to sign up. Space is limited by social distancing and class size requirements. Specific class locations and times will be disclosed upon acceptance to the program. The classes prohibit walk-in participants. Advance registration is a must!

Fall prevention programs like "A Matter of Balance" have become increasingly essential in recent years for older adults, many of whom have found it difficult to maintain pre-pandemic levels of physical activity.

"A Matter of Balance" is designed to reduce the fear of falling, stop the fear-of-falling cycle and improve activity levels among older adults living in the community.

Read more about "A Matter of Balance" and find a printable application for

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

prospective participants at www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Aging/OFA-A-Matter-of-Balance.

Physical therapy and arthritis

Arthritis is a common condition that affects many adults in the United States. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about half of all adults 65 or older have been told they have some type of arthritis. Pain due to arthritis can impact daily tasks, but there are resources that can help improve your quality of life.

The Office of the Aging is teaming with Marist Doctorate of Physical Therapy students Lilian Tang and Ksenia Mack for an in-person presentation about how physical therapy can help manage pain for those with arthritis.

As students in their third and final year, Lilian and Ksenia will be using their knowledge and experience to cover topics about medication use, nutrition, exercise and tools

to help improve daily living.

Please join us in an informative and fun conversation on Tuesday, April 26, at 10:30 a.m. in the Poughkeepsie Friendship Center.

Space is limited to 20 participants; to reserve your seat, call OFA at 845-486-2555.

OFA presentations to continue

We've noticed a resumption of interest in Office for the Aging presentations from area seniors' groups, many of which suspended operations or changed to remote gatherings earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we continue to be watchful for further devel-

opments, there are plenty of opportunities to arrange for an OFA speaker to come to your event.

If your group is already familiar with OFA speakers, you'll be happy to know that we've added to our repertoire of presentations during the past two years.

Contact OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones at 845-486-2544 or bjones@dutchessny.gov for more information.

Golden Living is prepared by Dutchess County OFA Director Todd N. Tancredi; be reached at 845-486-2555, ofa@dutchessny.gov or via the OFA website at www.dutchessny.gov/aging.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Mission Statement

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

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