

# The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

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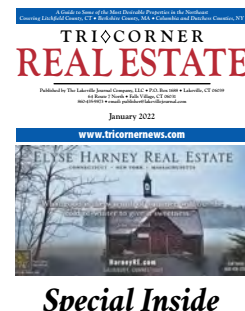
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PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

A dynamic doggie duo, Kali the Australian Shepherd and Zoey the Golden Retriever rested by Old St. Nick's boots to take a festive holiday moment at the Top Dogs 4-H Club's Pet Photos with Santa event.



## Happy Howlidays!

AMENIA — The Top Dogs 4-H Club found a way to unleash some holiday joy by offering Pet Photos with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the pet-friendly town of Amenia.

Families from around the region were invited to bring their furry friends over to Cascade Country Corner at 8 Old North Road to snap a candid or posed, depending on the pooch, Christmas photo with Chris Kringle.

For a \$10 donation to the Top Dogs 4-H Club, families received a 4x6 photo of their canine companions and any other family member who wanted to pose with jolly Old St. Nick.

Outside in front of Ritchie's Deli, Top Dog 4-H Club members were more than willing to sit in the unusually mild 60 degree weather for a bake sale that offered an array of delicious goodies to the local families that stopped by. They also held a pet food drive that accepted all kinds of food donations for dogs and cats.

In total, the Top Dog 4-H Club was able to donate 10 bags of dog food and 40 cans of cat food to the local charity, Giving Humanity, with its Giving Box for kitties and pups in need of nourishment.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTOS BY ANN SARTORI

Normally a camera-cloying canine, JT Lyle of Sharon, Conn., had to be coaxed with a tasty treat before submitting to sit for a pet photo with Santa Claus on Sunday, Dec. 12.

## Winter fire safety tips

# Families heal following fatal fire, with Millerton's support

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — It's been more than a month since the devastating house fire claimed their homes and two of their friends and neighbors, but the Millerton families affected by the fatal house fire on Saturday, Nov. 6, are continuing to heal and navigate

their way to a sense of normalcy.

Thanks to the support and comfort of the community, the families that were both directly affected by the fire and those that were displaced by the blaze, they're trying their best to work through what has been an extremely difficult time.

On the morning of Nov. 6, the home of Millerton restaurant own-

er Amy Yang went ablaze. Yang's 24-year-old daughter, Jenny, died in the fire; so, too, did 30-year-old Wangdi Tamang. Both resided at 5902 South Elm Ave. (Route 22) in Millerton along with the rest of the Yang residence. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, said Mil-

See SAFETY TIPS, A6

# Pine Plains Fire Co. has annual election

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
editor@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The results of the Pine Plains Fire Company's annual election on Thursday, Dec. 9, may or may not be of surprise to those in the community — depending on how much they know about firehouse politics. According to those inside the fire station, there are always politics to deal with — that's just the nature of the beast. Yet when those sirens blare, all politics are put aside and the business of saving lives is the only

thing on the minds of each and every volunteer who dons their gear.

"No matter what anybody has to say when we're inside the firehouse, when we're on a call together, we're together," said newly re-elected Pine Plains Rescue Squad First Lt. Veronica "Ronnie" Brenner Walsh, wife of newly re-elected Fire Chief and town Supervisor-elect Brian Walsh. "I have watched for 23 years a lot of stuff go down. Never have I seen any firefighter go public with

See FIRE CO. ELECTION, A6

## New slate of officers

### Pine Plains Fire Company

- Fire Chief Brian Walsh
- First Assistant Chief Ray Brown
- Second Assistant Chief Mike McCarthy
- Captain Matt Cade
- First Lieutenant Tyson Klay

### Pine Plains Rescue Squad

- Captain Nia Carey
- First Lieutenant Veronica "Ronnie" Brenner Walsh

# Clark now Chief Operating Officer at Lakeville Journal Company

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — James H. Clark of Salisbury, who began working at The Lakeville Journal in August of 2002, has been promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer. Clark has served the company in multiple capacities over the years, always with the highest standard of work ethic and skill.

Clark began as a graphic artist in 2002, then was promoted to composing manager in 2005. He advanced to production coordinator in 2006, and took on the task of keeping the flow of all the work done at The Lakeville Journal efficient, seamless and on time. He saw the tools of the trade advance over the course of his career from paper paste-up on drafting boards to completely digitized systems in all departments at the company. He oversaw the digital transition in those departments due to his expertise in computers and software, but also due to his pa-



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Lakeville Journal Co. Production Coordinator James Clark has been promoted to chief operating officer.

tiency in working tirelessly to have those with less understanding than he of digital change master the new systems.

Clark will continue to oversee the

operations of the company in his new role, and to use creativity to strategize new systems as the company moves

See CLARK, A6



## CONTACT

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# MILLERTON

## Molinaro, Pulver tour Hope Rising Farm to celebrate \$17,900 grant

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Congratulating Hope Rising Farm Therapeutic Riding Center as a recent recipient of the county's "Learn, Play, Create: Supporting Our Kids" program, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19), of Pine Plains, toured the Millerton therapeutic riding facility on Friday, Dec. 3.

Their goal was to achieve a better understanding of the facility's offerings and how local youth have benefited from its programs.

In November, the county's grant program awarded \$3 million to fund 147 projects of local nonprofit organizations that directly serve children. The projects aim to enhance and empower opportunities for children to learn, play and create "while filling an educational, financial, social and/or emotional void because of the quarantine and stay-at-home orders necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic," according to the county.

Of those recipients, Hope Rising Farm, located at 19 Morse Hill Road in Millerton, received \$17,900 to purchase equipment for therapeutic means.

According to its website, www.hoperisingfarm.org, the facility was founded in 2017 "to enhance the physical, sensory, emotional, cognitive and social skills of adults and children with special needs through equine-



Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro was introduced to a few of the horses at Hope Rising Farm Therapeutic Riding Center during his tour of the Millerton facility on Friday, Dec. 3.

assisted activities."

Allison Dunne, a volunteer and soon-to-be certified therapeutic riding instructor at Hope Rising Farm, said the riding facility plans to purchase an equicizer, a SureHands Lift & Care System, an Inky-Dinky therapeutic saddle, a larger therapeutic riding saddle, ladder reins, gait belts, a Hippo Helper and a seat shrinker.

Dunne said the equicizer and the SureHands Lift & Care System will take up the bulk of the grant funding. She explained an equicizer is a mechanical horse used to instill confidence and strength in riders, so that they may practice riding without being on a live animal. The SureHands Life & Care System will be used to help students in wheelchairs get on the back of the horses to ride.

"It meant the world," Dunne

said in regard to receiving the grant. "It kind of signifies the next step for Hope Rising Farm. As a nonprofit, there's so much you can do and there's so much we can offer."

She added that out of all of the grant recipients, Hope Rising Farm was the only one that Molinaro and Pulver actually visited in person.

On Friday afternoon, the two county officials toured the riding facility with Hope Rising Farm Founder and Executive Director Jackie Wikane. They met some of the students and Wikane gave an abbreviated lesson to show Molinaro and Pulver what the riding facility does with those who go there.

Parents also met with the officials to share how the facility's programs have benefited their children.

"It was one of the most amazing experiences that I've had at a farm, quite honestly," Pulver said, a lifelong farmer himself.

In describing what it was like to watch the programs being demonstrated by the young people who use them, "who don't normally have an opportunity to ride a horse or the physical ability to get on a horse," Pulver said seeing the emotional connection between those youth and the horses floored him.

He said he was touched to see the connections the riders make at the facility with the horses. He said he was quite impressed by how much the students seem to have benefitted from attending the various programs and services offered at Hope Rising Farm.

"We are very fortunate to have them in our community," Pulver said.

"To me, to have the county executive and chair of the Legislature there was just phenomenal," Dunne said, likewise impressed. "To see how engaged they were in what we do at the farm really helped us identify potential opportunities down the road to take us to the next level... We put our best foot forward and were rewarded."

To contact Hope Rising Farm, call 845-797-8365 or go to www.hoperisingfarm.org.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA SCHULTZ

With help from the Millerton Fire Company, Santa and his elves visited with children from around the Millerton-North East community as part of the fire company's second annual Santa Run on Saturday, Dec. 11.

## Fire Co. fills in for Rudolph to help Santa

MILLERTON — Helping to spread some holiday cheer around the Millerton-North East community, the Millerton Fire Company embarked on a holly jolly journey as part of the company's second annual Santa Run to help children celebrate in the age of the coronavirus pandemic on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Families interested in having Santa visit their homes were invited to drop off letters in the fire company's special "Letters to Santa" mailbox stationed in front

of the firehouse last month.

Beginning at noon on the 11th, the fire company escorted Old St. Nick and a few of his special helpers (even the Grinch got into the act!) around the village of Millerton and the town of North East and beyond.

With each stop on Rudolph's route, the fire company made sure to safely deliver Santa and his elves to the homes of local children for a friendly visit as an early Christmas surprise.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO BY DARRYL GANGLOFF

Jolly Old St. Nick made sure to visit with a smiling Darla Gangloff, who was delighted to spend time with Santa a little ahead of Christmas Day.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

In spite of the grumpy expression on his face, the Grinch did his part to help spread some holiday joy with the Millerton Fire Company during its second annual Santa Run on Saturday, Dec. 11.

## Library has the conversation

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The North-East-Millerton Library (NEML) is sharing its findings from spring time Community Conversations it held; it invited residents to learned what was said at a virtual presentation on Thursday, Dec. 3.

The NEML held several talks in person and via Zoom focused on Millerton, exploring its strengths, areas to improve and what residents would like to see in the future.

Though people spoke anonymously, NEML Director Rhianon Leo-Jameson was able to share what was learned publicly.

More than 80 individuals participate in either group conversations or one-on-one talks. Of those, 75% of the participants live either full-time or part-time in the village of Millerton or the town of North East; 19% said they visit the area to shop, dine, for entertainment or other reasons; and 18% work in either Millerton or North East.

"These are our neighbors and friends and individuals we see every day in Millerton," Leo-Jameson said.

She said many expressed they want Millerton to feel like "their hometown, not just a small town."

Participants also voiced an

interest in having a school that's active in the community... with diverse backgrounds, incomes and beliefs.

Other concerns focused on the lack of communication, a lack of community members working together and the lack of community inclusivity.

The library divided up the information it gathered into three categories: communication, working together and community inclusivity.

### Communication

Concerns were listed about local government websites not being clear or up-to-date; local government and community group websites being only in English; an absence of clear ways to contact certain community groups; an absence of volunteer opportunities; and the difficulties of learning what's going on in the community.

### Working together

Leo-Jameson said participants said they felt town and village organizations should cooperate more, work toward common goals and cooperate to provide better services rather than multiple groups duplicating services.

### Community inclusivity

Participants shared concerns about being "priced out of local shops" and a lack of general amenities (access to public transpor-

tation, internet access, groceries, etc.). There were worries about a divide between newcomers and "locals" and the challenges obtaining affordable housing for both renters and owners.

Leo-Jameson reported about participants' thoughts on how the village and town are impacted by and how they impact the environment, how they can attract more of arts programs and activities and how they can fund and develop essential services like a municipal sewer system.

Looking into actions that would make a difference in their community, participants also suggested having a community liaison. They also suggested creating a central place where people could find information about events as well as holding community festivals not (or not only) centered around shopping.

The library's findings from its Community Conversations series can be found online, at www.nemillertonlibrary.org.

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## The Jane Lloyd Fund Helping Cancer Patients Day To Day

The Jane Lloyd Fund was founded in 2006 by the Lloyd family after Jane lost her eight-year battle with cancer. They wanted to respond to the generosity of the community who helped Jane when she was in need so that others in the community might experience the same sense of well-being in their own time of need.

The fund was established at Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to help families who live or work in the Region One area of the Northwest Corner of Connecticut, and who, because of the effects of cancer and its treatment, cannot meet their day to day financial obligations.

We are honored during this season of giving to share the list below of long-standing clambake sponsors who this year gave to The Jane Lloyd Fund as though the clambake was actually taking place. We are humbled and inspired by their exceptional dedication to our community, especially during these difficult times. Since the first clambake over 15 years ago, the generous sponsorships of local business have made it possible for 100% of the clambake proceeds to benefit cancer patients in our community.

Please patronize these local businesses. They truly care about our community and the people who live and work here. They recognize the need as well as the need to give back, and they do so every year.

Please show your appreciation, especially during the holidays, by bringing your business to these generous local merchants and encourage family and friends to do the same.

Thank you for caring and please accept our warmest wishes for the holiday season and new year.

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Please visit [www.thejanelloydfund.org](http://www.thejanelloydfund.org) for new additions to the sponsorship list or to make your own gift in support of cancer patients in our community.



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**OBITUARIES**

**Mark Douglas Niedhammer**

LAKEVILLE — Mark Niedhammer of Lakeville died Dec. 9, 2021, at Vassar Brothers Hospital after a short illness.

He was born in Schenectady, N.Y., on Oct. 15, 1948, son of the late Evelyn (Zaberowski) and Edwin Niedhammer.

Mark graduated from Bishop Gibbons High School in Schenectady and the Embry Riddle Aeronautical Institute in Florida.

He served in the New York State Air National Guard.

His career started in Schenectady as a cameraman for WMHT, which led to his doing the same job for WABC in New York.

He excelled at his job and was the recipient of an Emmy Award. He left the city and moved to Lakeville, where he worked at The Lakeville Journal as the Classified Ads manager and also a friendly greeter.

He spent a summer or two working at the Town Grove in Lakeville. His last position was

“the friendly man in the booth” at the Salisbury Sharon Transfer Station.

Mark was a true “people person,” with an infectious personality. He loved nature (and nature photography) and music. He was also an avid fisherman. He possessed a strong faith, which guided him in life.

He is survived by his partner, Anne Bowen of Salisbury; his sister, Marcia McDevitt and her husband, Richard, of Albany, N.Y., and their three sons, Tavis (and his wife, Rie), Richard (and his wife, Anne) and Adam McDevitt; and two great-nieces and two great-nephews.

A funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, Dec. 30, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Church in Lakeville.

Contributions may be made in Mark’s honor to a charity of the donor’s choice.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

**In appreciation:  
Mark Niedhammer**

The thing about Mark is that he had a lot of layers. He liked to present himself as almost a vaudevillian jester, silly all the time and joking all the time but there was a lot more in there.

Most people never saw those other sides of him, but I think they could feel it. People liked Mark. They could sense the warmth and intelligence underneath all that silliness.

Mark could have a short fuse at times, but those times were rare compared to the many, many times I would hear him patiently (oh so patiently) helping someone create their classified advertisement for The Lakeville Journal. I’m pretty patient but on many occasions I felt certain that I could never, ever have mustered up the level of care that Mark could find in himself for those people who really needed it.

The highest level of care was saved for children. If you ever saw Mark deep in serious conversation with a youngster, you

would feel such envy. He was always focused, never distracted or rushed when he was talking to a child.

Adults didn’t always get the same kind of conversations with Mark, but that’s probably because we were always whizzing by him on the way out to do something that seemed important at the time.

Two of the adults who got the best part of conversational Mark were Richard and Fran Paddock. Fran used to work beside Mark in the front of our Bissell Street office, for years. Even after she retired she and her husband, Dick, would wander in and sit and chat with Mark for hours.

By then, Mark had already had his fill of running around chasing journalism stories, as a cameraman for the ABC news affiliate in New York City.

Two of the highlights of his television news career were covering the visit of the pope to New York — I think it was Pope John Paul in 1979. Mark didn’t

talk about it in detail most of the time, but once he described to me, with delight, they way they had strapped him to one of the news vehicles, like Homer listening to the song of the Sirens, so his camera wouldn’t shake or fall.

He also covered the Winter Olympics in (I think) Lake Placid in 1980. He loved that trip and still wore his Olympic news team jacket for years after.

I can’t remember which story Mark won his Emmy Award for, but he did win one, and it always elicited a look of surprise from our summer interns when I would tell them that. They, like perhaps others, might have overlooked the talent in that silly guy sitting at the front desk answering the phone at our office.

But he always patiently shared photo tips and tricks with the interns, and our reporters. Of course, the thing is this: Mark could share tips with me all day long but I could never take photos like he did. Some people just have a gift. Here’s the positive proof: One time we took an office field trip into New York City and Mark sat

next to me on the train. We both raised our cameras and took the same photo at the same time. The end result? No comparison, and I’m not being modest. That to me was the greatest photo lesson ever: It’s in your eye. It’s the way you see the world.

In his later years, Mark saw the world in new and happy ways with his companion Anne Bowen, who patiently put up with all of Mark’s silly jokes because she also was the beneficiary of Mark’s warmth and caring.

I think Mark found the perfect companion in Anne, who is kind, patient, generous, curious about the world and — most important — has a great laugh.

As I write this I wonder whether Mark would want us to laugh as we remember him, or if he’d want us to cry a little bit because he’s gone. I think maybe a tear or two would be OK. Everyone needs to know they were loved and will be missed.

But then he would want us to live by the words he shared with us all, day after day: “Continue to have a wonderful day!”

**Cynthia Hochswender**  
Lakeville

**In appreciation:  
Mark Niedhammer**

It’s easy to define Mark by his sense of humor. After all, conversation almost always started with a joke and from there meandered through non sequiturs and demonstrations of gadgets, made more amusing by how out of place they seemed to be in everyday life — a part of a single piano action, a magnet from a hard drive, a pear he had grown inside of a glass jar.

While Mark’s humor sparked instant friendships, it was his kind, encouraging comments and willingness to offer help that ensured the friendship endured.

Mark came into my life as a mentor when I was about 10 years old. We spent many weekends doing the kinds of things I found fun in the moment. Looking back, those moments become much more meaningful.

Fishing at the Grove always started with a trip to pick up a can of sweet corn — for the sun-fish, of course. Occasionally, curiosity about whether other types of “bait” would work were indulged. Based on our tests, broccoli, green beans, and various other vegetables are unsuitable.

A sledding trip started with

a stop at Bubbles and Bows (a retail clothing shop he owned) for a new hat. A drive around the Northwest Corner was an excuse to introduce me to Turkish delight, which he had procured specifically for the drive.

Once, he arrived driving a limo and proceeded to act as chauffeur for a trip through the McDonald’s drive-thru for french fries. He ordered a large to my small to compare the size of the individual fries — they were, in fact, the same size.

Later, at 18 and after having moved out of the area and back, I visited The Lakeville Journal to renew a classified ad for a computer business I was starting.

Mark said, “Hey! They’re hiring a graphic designer and it would be great if you worked here!” Thus began nearly 20 years with Mark as a colleague, during which I got to know and appreciate him in a different way.

Mark’s overarching approach to customer service was that of friendship. Every person who sat at his desk to place a classified line ad, make an inquiry, or just to chat was treated as if they were the most important person to him — because they were. An approach worthy of emulation.

When I proposed to my wife, there was no question in my mind that Mark would be the person I’d ask to be my best man. He accepted, with a tear in his eye (yes, really) and threw his full support behind us.

Once we had kids, he and his longtime companion, Anne, always greeted them with genuine excitement and talked with them as people first and children second. Of course, this was not at all unfamiliar to me.

Relationships evolve and change over time and ours was no exception. But, I will always remember Mark as a mentor and friend.

**James Clark**  
Salisbury

**In appreciation:  
Mark Niedhammer**

When I started working at The Lakeville Journal I quickly realized I was only ever going to be “the other” funny guy in the office.

I can’t remember the circumstances that led to a photo of us — I, dressed in my usual understated elegance, and Mark in a bee costume.

But it didn’t surprise me that Mark was so attired.

International Talk Like a Pirate Day, observed annually on Sept. 19, was always a highlight of the fall. I recall an earnest discussion of where to buy a stuffed parrot, for maximum verisimilitude. (He already had a tricorne hat and a crutch.)

Mark was also the source for endlessly entertaining stories about his days as a TV news cameraman in New York City.

The bulk of his material was

completely unsuited for even cautious paraphrasing in a family newspaper.

But it was funny.

We shared an interest in fly-fishing, but sadly never were able to coordinate on a fishing adventure. But we sure talked a blue streak about it.

A couple years ago Mark approached me for help and advice in a personal matter, which I was in a position to supply.

The situation was resolved in a highly satisfactory manner, in the course of which I was able to get past the comedy and get to know the warm, caring side of Mark.

Of course we cracked jokes as well.

He was my friend, and I will miss him.

**Patrick L. Sullivan**  
Lakeville

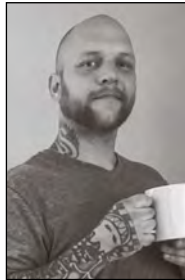


**Philip Dell Dunham**

EAST CANAAN — Philip Dell Dunham, 38, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 8, 2021. He was born on July 26, 1983, and was the third son to Cathie and Phil Dunham of East Canaan.

Phil was preceded in death by his oldest brother, Dana, in 2008; by his paternal grandparents, Robert and Glenda Dunham; his maternal grandfather, John Dell; and by several uncles, aunts and a few very close friends.

He is survived by his parents; his two sons, Parker Dunham of East Canaan and Gavitt Dunham of Waterford, Conn.; his maternal grandmother, Myra Dell of Salisbury; his brother, Jeremy and his wife, Melanie, of Conway, S.C.; and by many aunts,



uncles, nephews, cousins and close friends.

Phil lived life large. He was always up for a good time or lending a helping hand; he made friends most everywhere he went.

He was known for his big heart, witty sense of humor, friendly personality and big hugs. In his life he worked various jobs, often putting his exceptional mechanical skills to use.

Whether writing songs, playing for friends, or playing gigs, music was a huge part of Phil’s life. He played with his brothers as often as possible and was a member of multiple projects over the years including Yellow 5, Tones of Home, Silenced, and Last of the Marsupials, as well as

playing acoustic solo and duo shows at various points in time. He was also a very talented artist either on a sketch pad or with a tattoo gun.

A celebration of Phil’s life will take place on Saturday, Jan. 15, at the Pilgrim House in North Canaan, from 1 to 4 p.m. Anyone who plays music is asked to bring their instruments as a large part of the celebration will be an open mic. The family asks that those who plan to play reach out to Wiley Morey via Facebook ahead of the event.

Memorial contributions can be made to the gofundme page started by a friend: <https://gofundme.com/fae965e7>; any funds remaining after funeral expenses will go to his boys.

**For more obituaries,  
see Page A3.**

**Support Local Journalism  
In Your Community**

Dear reader,

When this newspaper made a plea to our readers for support in 2019, The Lakeville Journal Company, publishers of The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com), was at a crossroads. Then, we were looking at drastically cutting costs in order to survive.

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*Noreen Doyle*

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MEMBER FDIC

## Library spreads its wings, adds wing

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

AMENIA — It was a long time coming, but those who like to visit the Amenia Free Library are finally living the dream of having ample and comfortable space to read its lively collection, use its computers, check out all its DVDs, books on tape, children's section and so much more — not to mention chat with its knowledgeable and friendly staff — after decades of planning and fundraising and a COVID-delayed construction process. That's right, as of Nov. 18 patrons could finally check out the Amenia Free Library's long-awaited expansion after it officially opened to the public.

The once-tiny library, located at 3309 Route 343, began saving for the expansion back in 1994 and planning for it around 2000.

Before more than doubling in size, it was extremely tiny — the existing structure totaled



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Walking into the Amenia Free Library's recently opened addition, patrons will be pleased to find materials easier to access and the reading space more open, spacious and comfortable.**

just 880 square feet. The expansion itself involved constructing a 68-foot long by 28-foot wide addition to the west side of the building, adding a total of 1,900 square feet to the structure.

The expansion cost included "\$900,000 for the construction itself and more than \$100,000 for engineering and architectural costs," according to Library Board of Directors President Alan Gamble, who spoke to this newspaper just as the project was about to be completed.

The library received approval from the Amenia Planning Board for the project in the fall of 2018, and celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony in August 2020. During the past year, passing motorists and curious passersby watched as the new, modern structure took shape on the west side of the main building.

Taking requests for increased hours, services and materials into account, the Library Board presented Proposition No. 7 to voters on this year's ballot, requesting additional funding from the town to support the library's operations.

Prop. 7 asked the town to

increase its contribution by \$50,000, totaling \$175,000 annually. It was its first request for an increase in three years. On Election Day, Nov. 2, 538 voters out of 1,043 voters approved the proposition, which passed, giving the library the money it needs to function.

"We are thrilled and very thankful for our community of voters that our proposition did pass," said Library Director Victoria Herow. "It will allow us to keep growing in our next chapter of the library and allow us to be there for the community with our programming and the services that we offer."

"I think it's wonderful," said Library Board Trustee Amanda Forbes. "I think it speaks to the fact we really need this space, the community needs this space and it'll be put to very good use. The community is going to love this space: it's super bright and roomy and I especially love the children's area where kids will be able to do activities and browse books without being crowded anymore."

The library invited patrons and voters to preview the final renovation in October. A nice crowd turned out to mingle

among books and bites, to talk and taste while they enjoyed the new views of the reworked library space.

In early November, the library closed its doors to the public in order to move materials into the new structure. Though the hope was originally to reopen by mid-November, Herow said there was more to take care of before the library could reopen and plans were postponed. The library officially reopened on Thursday, Nov. 18.

"We're really happy to be over here finally in our new space," Herow said. "We have a larger work space for the staff, we have a much larger children's area and we have better shelving for everything."

Asked how patrons have reacted to the renovated library, Herow said they usually take a minute to walk in the door to absorb their new surroundings, adding that overall they appear to be really happy about the redesigned layout and added room.

The library is currently open Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays from 2 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and closed Sundays.

Herow said the original, smaller library space is now being redone. Once that space is finished in the next couple of months, she said there will be a larger space for future library programs. Until then, Herow said the Amenia Free Library will be operating all of its programs out of the new space.

For more information, call 845-373-8273 or go to [www.amenialibrary.org](http://www.amenialibrary.org); herow can also be emailed at [director@amenialibrary.org](mailto:director@amenialibrary.org).

The library reminds its patrons in light of the omicron variant face masks are required by all who enter, even for those who are fully vaccinated.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Under the artistic direction of musician and arranger Matt Finley, the Smithfield Church Orchestra delivered a soaring repertoire of holiday arrangements at the Smithfield Church's annual Christmas Concert.**

### Smithfield Concert & Tea

AMENIA — Nearly 120 people from around the region celebrated the arrival of the Christmas season at the Smithfield Church with the return of the church's annual Christmas Concert and Tea on Saturday, Dec. 4.

This year's event was hosted by the Bang Family Concert Series and Katharine Dunlop.

Under the direction of

musician and arranger Matt Finley, the musical talents of the Smithfield Church Orchestra soared as the orchestra performed a stunning selection of holiday arrangements.

After the music warmed their hearts, attendees were invited to warm their spirits and bodies by enjoying tea among friends.

— Kaitlin Lyle

## Stanford election results finalized

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

STANFORD — Now that the Tuesday, Nov. 2, Election Day results are what many Stanford residents consider old news, most in that town said they are just relieved to learn how the absentee ballot results that were challenged in court turned out.

Most of the races in Stanford were settled on Election Night, but not all.

Incumbent town Supervisor Wendy Burton (DEM) was challenged by Mark D'Agostino (REP, CON) for her two-year position, with numbers posting at 736 to 521 on Election Night. Those changed slightly after the absentee ballot results were tabulated. In the final analysis, Burton beat D'Agostino, 779 to 539.

Incumbent Town Clerk Ritamary Bell (DEM, REP) ran unopposed for office as did Highway Superintendent James Smith (DEM, REP), with both being returned to office for their two-year terms. Town Justice Dennis Smith (REP) also ran unchallenged, and was returned to his four-year term serving the town.

Where things got heated were the races for the two town council member positions, both for four-year terms.

The candidates were Anne Arent (DEM), also the president of the Pine Plains Board of Education; Nathan Lavertue (DEM); Dennis Buchal (REP, CON); and Hans Tabor (REP, CON).

According to Republican BOE Elections Commissioner Erik Haight, there were 12 objected ballots when counting the

Town Board elections.

Following the final tally, Lavertue led the race with 677 votes, Arent came in second with 670 votes, followed by Buchal with 667 votes and Tabor came in last with 560 votes.

Democratic BOE Elections Commissioner Hannah Black explained a ballot can be objected to for a number of reasons, such as if a voter's signature on the ballot doesn't match the signature they registered with or because of an affidavit ballot.

Black said in this case, the objected ballots didn't hold up the process much and that she and Haight counted all the other town election results while they were waiting for Stanford's results to come in.

Election results are at [www.elections.dutchessny.gov](http://www.elections.dutchessny.gov).

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

## Standard Space: 'Your View Is My View'

Theo Coulobme is a gallery owner, a curator, a teacher at The Millbrook School and a talented photographer in his own right (and a one-time Maine park ranger). The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Conn., this autumn featured a show of his work (curated by the school's Terri Moore), but access to the campus has been limited because of the pandemic.

So Coulobme has moved the show back to his own gallery, with an opening scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 18, from 4:30 to 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY THEO COULOMBE

The view of Long Pond in Salisbury from Dug Road is a featured image in a show of work by Theo Coulobme at his Standard Space gallery in Sharon, Conn.

Shantell Martin, Laksmi Hedemark, Ayana Evans, Tsedaye Mackonan, Signal Corps and Alan Krathaus.

The show is called "Your View is My View II" and it will remain up until Jan. 9.

The gallery is at 147 Main St. on the Green in Sharon, Conn. The website (with images from other, recent shows) is at [www.standardsspace.net](http://www.standardsspace.net).

Learn more by calling 917-627-3261 or emailing [info@standardsspace.net](mailto:info@standardsspace.net) — Cynthia Hochswender

is also asked to wear a mask.

A focus of the show will be Coulobme's own landscape photographs, many of them featuring familiar vistas and views from the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. There will also be Coulobme's collaborative works with contemporary artists including

capacity. Audience members will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Masks will be required. For this concert, the Salisbury UCC handbell choir, directed by Mary Davidson, will present its first performance since the

### THE TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY HANDBELL CHOIR CONCERT IN SALISBURY DEC. 18

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, Conn., will present its annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 3 p.m. at 30 Main St. The Meeting House doors will open at 2:30 p.m. Attendance will be restricted to one-half

beginning of the pandemic. The bell choir will highlight a selection of bright, festive seasonal favorites. The program will feature four settings of the Ave Maria, with Josquin's gorgeous classic of the high Renaissance and Cecilia MacDowell's haunting modern setting for vocal trio.

The 20 members of the choir, including cantor Jennifer Oberto, soprano, will perform pieces by Clarke, Elgar, Holst and Quartel. For more information, contact the church office at 860-435-2442.

### Christmas Eve Service

Smithfield Church  
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The artisan goods shop connected to the popular Le Gamin restaurant in Sharon, Conn., has many handmade and imported holiday gifts, from clothing, jewelry and accessories to ceramic tableware by owner Tam Tran of Lost Wax Studio in New York City.

Local artisan Alisha Trimble's line of custom embroidery will be offered on two days, at the shop, which is next

to the restaurant in the Sharon shopping plaza.

Customers can purchase items for the home, or from the clothing selection, have them embroidered in-house with custom art, simple monograms, or a choice of motifs from the artist's book.

Trimble's work can be ordered and purchased on Thursday, Dec. 16 (noon to 5 p.m.), and Saturday, Dec. 18 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

### MISC.

**Berkshire Botanical Garden.** 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.berkshirebotanical.org](http://www.berkshirebotanical.org)  
Winter Table Arrangements with Township Four, Dec. 18, 1 to 3 p.m.

**D. M. Hunt Library.** 63 Main Street, Falls Village, Conn. [www.huntlibrary.org](http://www.huntlibrary.org)  
HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP, through Jan. 11.

**Grace Episcopal Church.** 3330 Franklin Ave., Millbrook, N.Y. [www.gracemillbrook.org](http://www.gracemillbrook.org)  
Live Nativity Scene, Dec. 19.

**Housatonic Valley FFA Holiday Store.** 246 Warren Tpke., Falls Village, Conn., [ffahv.org](http://ffahv.org)  
Trees sold out; wreaths, roping, poinsettias and more; Nov. 27-Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Kent Chamber of Commerce.** Kent, Conn. [www.kentct.com](http://www.kentct.com)  
Kent Gingerbread Festival 2021, through Dec. 31.

**The Mount.** 2 Plunkett St., Lenox, Mass. [www.edithwharton.org](http://www.edithwharton.org)  
Holiday House Tours, Nov. 27 through Jan. 2.

### ART

**Furnace — Art on Paper Archive.** 107 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com](http://www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com)  
Selections from the Flat File Opening Reception, Dec. 18, 2 to 4 p.m.

### KIDS

**Kent Memorial Library.** 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. [www.kentmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.kentmemoriallibrary.org)  
Tween Movie Night - Holiday PJ's & Dinner, Dec. 17, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### MOVIES

**The Moviehouse.** 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net)  
Bolshoi Ballet: The Nutcracker, Dec. 19.

### MUSIC

**Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center.** 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org)  
John Pizzarelli Plays New Standards, Dec. 18, 8 p.m.

### THEATER

**Shakespeare & Company.** 70 Kemble St., Lenox, Mass. [www.shakespeare.org](http://www.shakespeare.org)  
The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, Dec. 16 to 19.

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MILLBROOK

# Village Board discusses sidewalks, trees, grants

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Village Board's November meeting addressed holiday concerns, which were reported on in the Nov. 25 issue of The Millerton News. Below is a rundown of the other items the trustees discussed at that November meeting.

There is currently an opening on the police force, noted Sgt. Jared Witt. For more information, contact the Millbrook

Police Department.

The Village Highway Supervisor Bob Collocola reported that he received \$150 for the old plow at auction. The highway crew has been busy making repairs after several storms. It has also been picking up the flower barrels on Franklin Avenue, four had to be disposed of, he said. Collocola said he will look into purchasing new barrels made of resin or another more sustainable material. Fall is always busy with leaf blowing and leaf pickup, he added, although soon

it will be time for snow plowing.

The Highway Department undertook the responsibility of setting up the many small Christmas trees displayed along Franklin Avenue around Thanksgiving; soon enough the board will talk about when to remove the trees.

Trustees Vicky Contino and Buffy Arbogast worked with the Millbrook Business Association (MBA), which decorated the trees this year with MBA volunteers.

Mayor Tim Collopy adver-

tised for bids to repair of the retaining wall on Harts Village Road.

Deputy Mayor Michael Herzog asked that a resolution be made to allow the village to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the county for money to repair village sidewalks. The village was awaiting an estimate on how much that will cost. CDBGs typically max out at \$150,000 per municipality.

There was further discussion on bnb's, and whether the vil-

lage needs to update its zoning code for such businesses. Also, the board discussed if a local law is needed or needs to be amended, if a special permit is required to operate bnb's, and what the proper process is for collecting taxes for those sorts of businesses in the village.

Herzog reported on the Shade Tree Committee. At the time there were three members: himself, Collocola and former Trustee and current MBA President Kevin McGrane. The committee wanted two more non-voting members, and was accepting applications through Village Hall.

The Shade Tree Committee inspects trees that might be hazardous. When asked, they will examine a tree; determine

if a tree could be saved or must come down; and if a tree is within 25 feet of the center of the road. The village is considered the "manager" of trees located within its confines. When in doubt, an arborist is called in to make a final decision.

Millbrook has long been a Tree City designee, so the work done by the committee is considered important. It usually replaces between three to five dead trees per year.

Village meetings are recorded and can be viewed online, at [www.villageofmillbrookny.com](http://www.villageofmillbrookny.com), as can individual department reports.

A Village Board meeting was held Dec. 8; look for more on that meeting in a future issue of The Millerton News.

## Board of Ed gets involved

# Another look: How to save the Gazebo?

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Ashley Lempka, Chairwoman of the FRIENDS of the Save the Gazebo group, reported on Wednesday, Dec. 8, to the Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) that the Board of Education (BOE) had gotten back to her regarding questions she had about salvaging the aging garden structure. The Millbrook Gazebo has become a galvanizing issue in the village and one that the BOE discussed at its meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 7.

The MCSD learned it's actually the owner of the Gazebo, which is located near Elm Drive Elementary School. Questions had arisen about whether the district owned the structure or the village of Millbrook did. But yes, MCSD is the rightful owner.

Now the question the MCSD is asking is whether it should be torn down, and if so, of if it should be replaced? Many in the community believe it has an important place in the village's history, while others claims it's in an eyesore and in a sorry state. It is currently closed and some think it should remain so.

The FRIENDS of the Gazebo arose as a nonprofit group created to save the site. The 501(C)3



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

The Save the Gazebo float, shown here, was very popular in this year's holiday Parade of Lights in Millbrook.

is trying to work with the MCSD on measures to preserve it.

Lempka had presented some questions to the district about the group obtaining a 99-year lease for the Gazebo and other was to save the structure. The question about the lease has gone unanswered. Another question also unaddressed is from the president of the American Country House Foundation, who offered to provide survey-

ing services for the Gazebo.

Yet another query was made about the possibility of purchasing the Gazebo and the small plot of land it sits on. Lempka said she was told that idea is not currently being considered and that any divestiture of real property would require voter authorization.

One problem was settled, however; the MCSD will provide maintenance for the Ga-

zebo during the winter.

Asked if there would be tax write-offs for those who send in donations to repair the Gazebo, the BOE said tax deductions could be available through either direct donations to the district or through a proxy donation through a charitable organization (like the Millbrook Educational Foundation).

The FRIENDS also asked about getting an independent assessment and their own inspection of the Gazebo. The MCSD replied any work done must comply with state building codes.

"We will be having the Gazebo assessed along with all of our school buildings, grounds and related structures during a comprehensive architectural and engineering assessment in the coming months," stated the MCSD. "This will ensure that the Gazebo assessment is in line with the codes under which the district is responsible to adhere to."

Lempka indicated it will take time to learn what the future holds for this much-loved structure, and the FRIENDS will support along the way.

## MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

### Kwanzaa reading at Millbrook Library

Area children are invited to celebrate the holiday of Kwanzaa with the The Millbrook Library this December.

The library will present "Li'L Rabbit's Kwanzaa," by author Donna Washington and illustrated by Shane E. Evans during its monthly

story time.

The holiday story will be read by children's librarian Miss Abbey on Dec. 16 at 11:30 a.m.; story time is posted on the library's YouTube channel each Thursday morning at that time.

To register, go to [www.millbrooklibrary.org](http://www.millbrooklibrary.org).

### Live nativity scene at Grace Church

Sunday, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m., Grace Church will present a live nativity scene for the community to enjoy.

The live nativity will include a storytelling complete with costumed characters and live animals. The audience may gather outside the church, located at 3328 Franklin Ave., to hear the tale of Jesus' birth and that God is with us, that the light

that shines in the darkness brings hope, love and peace to all the world.

The event will be held outdoors; everyone is asked to wear masks to ensure COVID safety as community members listen to the story, sing carols and celebrate together. The nativity is suitable for all ages.

For more information, call 845-901-8103.

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

## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF RANDOLPH IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION JUVENILE DEPARTMENT RANDOLPH COUNTY FILE NO. 21 JA 68 IN RE: JULIE HANNAN TO: RICHARD CAMPBELL, FATHER OF JULIE HANNAN, A FEMALE CHILD BORN ON OR ABOUT MARCH 11, 2006 IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NY.**

TAKE NOTICE that a juvenile petition with respect to the above-described child has been filed in the above-entitled proceeding.

You are required and directed to make a defense of such pleading by filing an Answer

to the Petition in this proceeding within forty (40) days after the first publication of this notice, exclusive of such

date. The Answer must be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court no later than January 25, 2022.

A Permanency Planning Hearing has been scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on February 2, 2022 at the Randolph County District Court, Courtroom #1B, Randolph County Courthouse, 176 E. Salisbury Street, Asheboro, North Carolina. You are entitled to attend any hearings affecting your parental rights. If you are indigent, you have a right to appointed counsel. If you request counsel, do so at or before the time of the hearing. You are further notified that this a new proceeding and any attorney heretofore appointed to represent you will represent you in this proceeding.

Upon your failure to file an Answer to the Petition within the time prescribed, the Petitioner, the Randolph County Department of Social Services, will apply to the Court for relief sought in the Petition, UP TO AN INCLUDING POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF

**YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS** with respect to the above-described minor children.

This the 16th day of December, 2021.

Chrystal Kay  
Staff Attorney, Randolph County Department of Social Services  
Post Office Box 3239  
Asheboro, North Carolina 27204  
(336) 683-8050  
12-16-21  
12-23-21  
01-06-21

### Legal Notice

Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the Pine Plains Fire District of the Town of Pine Plains, County of Dutchess, New York, will be held on the 4th day of January, 2022, at 7 o'clock P.M. on that day at the firehouse, 7 Lake Road, Pine Plains, NY.

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pine Plains Fire District.

12-16-21

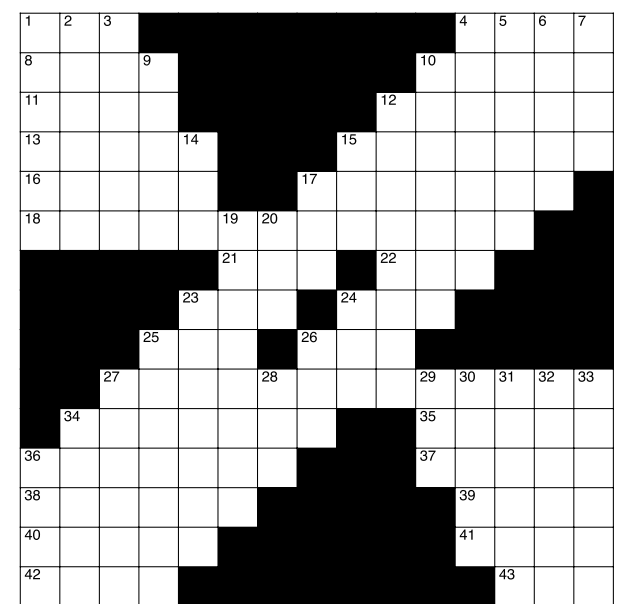
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- You fry food in it
- Pesky insect
- Gets older
- \_\_\_ Dern, actress
- Uncouth man
- One who sulks
- Napoleon's king of Naples
- One who swims underwater
- Make amends
- Expressions
- Document format
- What a beaver makes
- Limb
- Photograph
- Golf score
- Moroccan mountain range
- Wrinkled dog breed: Shar \_\_\_
- 20th century sex symbol
- Remedy for all diseases
- Bluish greens
- Moved swiftly
- Type of units
- Madames
- Indian religious god
- Potentially hazardous asteroids
- Leak slowly through
- An association of criminals
- A way to push content (abbr.)

### CLUES DOWN

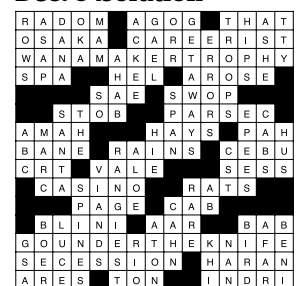
- Town in central Brazil
- Large burrowing rodent
- Nerve cell
- Estimating
- Bakers use it
- Regions
- Small lake
- Environmentalist nun
- More kookie
- Announce officially
- Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv
- Title given to friar
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Buildings
- Pouch
- They steal on the high seas
- It's mightier than the sword



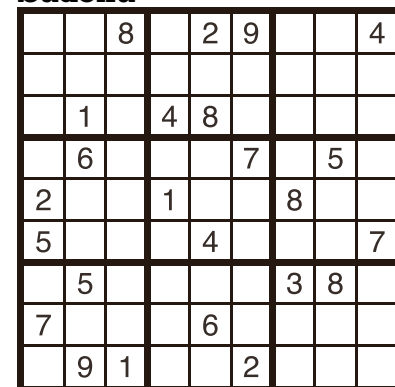
- Going off on a tangent
- Monetary unit
- Young woman
- Type of bulb
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- City opposite Dusseldorf
- Animal disease
- Martini necessities
- Elude
- La \_\_\_ : Buenos Aires capital
- An oft-enduring symbol

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

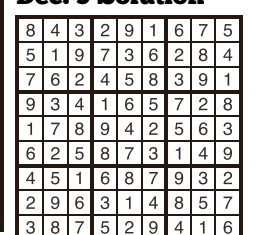
### Dec. 9 Solution



### Sudoku



### Dec. 9 Solution



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EDITORIAL

# Grateful for MFC, let's stay safe

It's mid-December, a joyous time for most who are thick in the grip of their holiday celebrations — shopping, baking, wrapping, visiting — doing all of those things that make us most jolly.

While we never like to place a damper on the seasonal festivities, we would like to, just for a moment, redirect our readers' focus to glance back on what happened in our community roughly a month ago, on Nov. 6.

Early that Saturday morning, the Millerton Fire Company (MFC) rushed into a home on South Elm Avenue (Route 22), with as many as eight fire departments backing it up in addition to those on stand-by, saving lives, as the Yang family saw its house ignite into flames.

Nearly 50 of our volunteer firefighters from around the region risked their lives — as they have at countless calls — while their axes chopped through scorching walls, while their bodies were assaulted with splintering glass, while their lungs were flooded with toxic smoke and while their helmets were pelted with shards and shingles from the falling roof.

Yet those are the kinds of dangerous conditions our firemen and women contend with time and again when in the line of duty.

In the case of the South Elm house fire that fateful November morning, sadly, two of our Millerton neighbors didn't make it out alive. The MFC and other departments not only had to deal with the physical toll of that tragedy, but with the emotional anguish.

We can't stress how deeply we appreciate all that our firefighters and other emergency workers do, whether here in the village of Millerton and town of North East or elsewhere throughout the Harlem Valley.

When the Millerton Fire Company responded to Golden Wok owner Amy Yang's home on Nov. 6, we can say with absolute confidence they saved lives.

Along with the rest of the community, we continue to mourn the loss of Mrs. Yang's daughter, 24-year-old Jenny Yang, and another resident at the home, 30-year-old Wangdi Tamang.

We know there were other heroes that day who helped save people trapped in the Yang home. To all who ran into the burning building to rescue some of those stuck in what was at that point an extremely unsafe structure fully engulfed in flames — you are indeed amazing.

So, too, are all in the community who have taken the initiative to help the immediate survivors of the fire and other nearby residents who were also displaced by the blaze.

A number of locals have started GoFundMe pages to help fundraise for neighbors left homeless by the tragedy.

Others have started community food drives, household good drives and even furniture collections to get the families back on their feet.

For details on those initiatives and ways to contribute, please read this week's front page story by Millerton News reporter Kaitlin Lyle.

**Tips to stay safe**

Which brings us to the fact that we are on the cusp of winter, set to officially begin on Tuesday, Dec. 21. That means more people in the Northeast will be revving up their heating appliances and other incendiary devices. We thought this would therefore be a good time to reinforce some safety tips.

For starters, make sure your smoke detectors work, have fresh batteries and are placed in the proper locations. One local fire chief recommended that if you're buying a smoke detector to pick up a combo-kit with a CO2 unit; he added that there are now smoke detectors with batteries that last seven years. Once the batteries expire, the units can be thrown away.

If you are installing wood stoves and/or fireplaces, have them installed to code and get them certified by a certified installer. Your local municipal building inspector should give his or her blessing.

Clean all of your chimneys annually; they should be swept down to the firebox.

Those with boilers should have them maintained, cleaned and certified annually by someone who is licensed to do so.

For the holidays, be careful with Christmas trees and other holiday decorations. Many people don't properly hydrate their trees. A dry Christmas tree can go ablaze "like paper going up," said one fire chief, who "strongly recommends unplugging lights on the tree at night." Christmas lights can also short circuit, he warned.

These are some basic, common-sense tips to stay safe this winter and holiday season. As always, keep papers away from heaters no matter the heat source.

Bottom line, do your part to stay safe so the firefighters we value so highly can also stay safe and snug — inside their firehouses — and not have to show up at your house to fight a fire that could easily have been prevented.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

**Snow and berries**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Millerton Fire Company is, and was, a lifesaver

A recent letter to the editor gave the mistaken impression that our Millerton Fire Company (MFC) was not sufficiently staffed to respond to the incredibly tragic fire on South Elm Avenue last month.

From everything I observed first-hand and have learned since, that is just not the case.

Given the extraordinary intensity of this fire, our Fire Company responded quickly, in force, and to the best of their abilities.

Fire companies from other towns responded to lend assistance, in what is known as Mutual Aid, as they regularly do, and as our company does with other towns.

While more volunteers are certainly needed to assure the future of our Fire Company, the women and men of our MFC should be recognized and appreciated for their exceptional dedication and effort.

I'm glad to know they are there.

**Chris Kennan**  
Supervisor,  
Town of North East

## It's time for U.S. Senator Schumer to step up

Along with so many others, I have grave concerns about the state of our Democracy and the efforts of certain political actors to undermine Democracy's foundational election process. In this vein, I have sent the following email to U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY):

I write to urge you to delay the upcoming Senate recess in order to bring voting rights legislation to a vote before the end

of the year and before conservative Republican-majority state legislators do further harm to voter protections and enfranchisement measures.

Why can't Democrats work as diligently to protect voting rights as Republicans do to disenfranchise people and weaken voter protections?

I urge others to make similar pleas to Sen. Schumer.

**Amy Rothstein**  
Pine Plains

## Remote senior exercise, Tai Chi and Bingocize

**D**utchess County seniors who'd like to get their exercise in this winter, without running the added risks of winter travel, can now sign up for remote Tai Chi and/or Bingocize classes this winter. As mentioned in last week's Golden Living, the Office for the Aging (OFA) is also offering a remote "A Matter of Balance" class this winter. To register for any class, and for more information, call OFA at 845-486-2555 or email ofa@dutchessny.gov.

If you'd like to become a volunteer class leader in any exercise class, contact OFA. Training is provided.

**Winter 2021-22**

**'Spotlight on Seniors'**

The Winter 2021-22 issue of OFA's "Spotlight on Seniors" newsletter is now in print and being delivered to thousands of seniors and caregivers throughout Dutchess County. You can read about the recent return of OFA's Tri-Town Senior Friendship Center; OFA's plans for events throughout 2022; possible upcoming changes to New York Medicaid; information on discussing aging as it relates to driving and much more.

There's even a bit of advice on how to make your outdoor space safely bird-friendly for the winter.

You can also view the Spotlight online at www.dutchessny.gov/aging, where you can also find back issues of the newsletter.

OFA also delivers copies of the Spotlight to public libraries, senior centers and senior

### GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

housing complexes throughout Dutchess County. If you manage any such facilities and would like some Spotlights to distribute while supplies last, email bjones@dutchessny.gov.

If you're not online and would like to be placed on the mailing list for future issues of the Spotlight, call 845-486-2555.

**OFA meals, Friendship Centers and poor weather**

With winter about to begin, and a good chance of winter weather preceding the formal arrival of the solstice, it becomes necessary from time to time to close OFA Senior Friendship Centers and cancel Home Delivered Meals (HDM) operations.

Remember: When schools in your area are closed or delayed, it means there's a strong possibility that Friendship Centers will be closed and HDM deliveries canceled. Frozen and shelf-stable meals are delivered in advance of inclement weather to ensure HDM clients have a nutritious meal to enjoy on days when normal delivery is canceled.

Since a typical day for the OFA Nutrition Program involves serving and delivering meals to more than 400 seniors throughout Dutchess County, it's often not possible to call clients individually.

# All about yokeless axial-flux motors

What the heck is that? I can hear you asking. Just as we all had to

learn new terms like MRI scans, CAT scans, hybrid-power motors, fully EVs and a host of new developments, the aviation and space industry requirements for more capability and new technologies push our envelope of understanding... and when those technologies trickle down, you get the benefit.

Today, let's talk about (mostly) cars.

The first cars in the late 1800s and early 1900s were often electric. Yes, electric.

People did not travel as far and electric motors worked fine, especially in cities. In England, morning milk bottle deliveries are from electric milk "floats" (small trucks to us in America). Since Toyota and Honda pioneered hybrid electric cars — especially Prius models — the demand for electric or partially electric vehicles has soared. Since Formula 1 race cars went hybrid a few years ago, the desire for electric capacity has grown, been re-invented, and is being tested.

Now racing cars, and sports cars, perform better when their weight is low and the power is high. The heavier the batteries, the more load has to be put on the engine to move the car forward. It is all simple physics — power-to-weight ratios govern everything in transport.

So, we came up with lithium-ion batteries instead of alkaline batteries or lead-acid batteries or the nickel-iron batteries of Thomas Edison from more than 100 years ago (some of which are still working in Manhattan subway systems).

Battery technology is advancing, sometimes with risks (lithium-ion batteries get hot when charged), admittedly, but technology of batteries is under re-invention with Zinc-manganese, gold-nanowire, Organosilicon-electrolyte, lithium-tungsten and something weird called Tanktwo-string-cells, which self-replaces spent battery cells with new parts. So, all-in-all batteries are in development and the estimate is that battery weight per kilowatt/hour capacity is likely to drop by 40% in the next four years. Lighter batteries mean greater range and better power-to-weight ratios.

But cars don't have to be totally light and the economics of reducing weight versus the cost

## A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

of development is a finite money calculation. Not so for aviation where weight is everything.

The desire to have urban air taxis, short-range commuter planes, vertical takeoff and all electric flight has forced new inventions. Leading the way is a company in the U.K. called YASA, which has developed a yokeless axial-flux topology motor. It develops higher power and greater torque, pound-for-pound, than conventional electric motors.

Back in 2005, when the demand for such aviation motors didn't yet exist, the creators at YASA looked around for someone to carry the cost of development — knowing they were really designing for aviation, they instead went to the really expensive car market.

Koenigsegg, Ferrari and McLaren all signed up because they saw the electric car future.

That future was, for them, greater torque, more power, faster cars. Then Mercedes stepped in and bought YASA, full stop. This new yokeless axial-flux motor is called Evolito for planes and will appear in most cars by the end of the decade.

How efficient is this technology? Eliminating the heavy iron stator yoke in a normal radial-flux motor makes up 30 to 40% of the weight.

Tim Woolmer, founder and chief technology officer at YASA, said, "...for the same amount of magnetic material, you can create 20% more torque... We removed [the stator] because we have two rotors, and we spin the flux around the rotating rotors... so radial [motor] to axial-flux gives you maybe a 100% overall benefit."

Think of yokeless axial-flux motors this way: You can cut your engine size in half, get the same performance and have maybe 50% more range. Suddenly that electric car goes from having a 300 mile capability to a capability of 450 miles. Oh, one more thing: Less moving parts equals less wear and tear.

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

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

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