



## MILLERTON

Drivers Celebrate As County Finally Completes Summer Culvert Project **A2**



## AMENIA

Town Gathers To Celebrate The Holidays All Day Long **A5**



**COMPASS** An English Holiday Tale; 'Off The Wall' Exhibition; Calendar; And More **B1-2**

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lucas "Luke" Kelly won Central Hudson's ninth annual fall foliage photo contest with an early morning photo he took of the Catskills this November, shown here in all its glory.

## Millbrook resident wins photo contest

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Lucas "Luke" Kelly said he is proud to have won the ninth annual fall foliage photo contest sponsored by Central Hudson Gas and Electric, along with a \$750 check and a framed print of his photo.

"I've known about Central Hudson's fall foliage photo contest for years. It was a goal of mine to win it someday," said Kelly. "I entered once, three or four years ago, and didn't make it into the finalists. I hadn't entered the contest in the last few years because I was traveling, so I decided to give it another shot this year."

But he cut it close, he said.

"The entry deadline was Nov. 5th,

but by Nov. 3rd I still hadn't taken any fall foliage photos."

Driving to work on the Taconic State Parkway, Kelly said he saw two brilliant sunrises consecutively on the first and second days of November, and found his inspiration.

The day before the contest deadline, he woke up at 5 a.m. to take what turned out to be the winning photograph.

"I thought that if we had another morning like that, I might be able to get a good photo to submit for the contest," said the Millbrook resident. "I drove up to Ferncliff Forest in Rhinebeck, climbed up the fire tower and waited for the sun to rise. It was freez-

See PHOTO CONTEST, A6

## Millerton's Methodist church tries to stay viable

By CAROL KNEELAND  
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Whenever a major shift occurs — especially in a settled small town — residents often wonder, "What's next?"

That was the question when the Millerton Presbyterian Church announced last week its coming January closure brought on mainly by financial challenges. Many now wonder what might happen to the historic United Methodist Church — just across the street from soon-to-be-shuttered Brown Church.

The Methodist church stands tall and bright with its gleaming white paint and vibrant red door at the corner of Main Street and Dutchess Avenue, its front lawn home to the village's Veterans Park.

The answer, provided by Church Trustee Jim Campbell, is encouraging. Of the self-described "small congrega-

tion with a big heart," he said, "You don't have enough membership — and that's true of any church."

"On the other hand, we do try to keep going, and thankfully we have organizations that are involved here at the church with us, and that all helps financially," he added.

Campbell, a Millerton native who has long been involved with trying to help the church survive both financial challenges and the need for major and costly structural and maintenance repairs (the roof, the furnace, etc.), said support has come from the North East Community Center's (NECC) year-round Farmers Market; concerts, which he anticipates will return after the coronavirus pandemic passes; and support from Townscape, which uses the space for staging its village-wide hanging of Christmas lights and spring planting of flowers.

See MILLERTON CHURCH, A6

## Nuvance defends hiring efforts, decision to close labor & delivery

By Cynthia Hochswender

SHARON, Conn. — Nuvance administrators responded to questions on staffing and hiring practices at its three Connecticut hospitals — with special emphasis on the labor and delivery unit.

The state Office of Health Strategy contacted Nuvance at the end of October about allegations that the nonprofit hospital group, owner of Sharon Hospital, has not lived up to promises made to the state in 2019.

OHS sent six questions to Nuvance about its hospitals in Norwalk, Danbury and Sharon. The responses were due on Nov. 22. Nuvance responded on that date with a 17-page document in which it defended its hiring and recruitment practices; and justified its decision to close the labor and delivery unit in Sharon.

About its recruitment efforts at all three hospitals, Nuvance Vice President for Strategic Planning and Business Development Sally Herlihy gives a detailed description of "competitive

compensation and comprehensive benefits" offered to entice medical staff; retention bonuses and relocation bonuses; and a \$2,500 referral fee for anyone who recruits "an eligible full-time registered nurse."

### Two new nurse practitioners in Sharon

Nonetheless, Herlihy says, "There are currently over 1,600 open positions across the Nuvance Health system, of which approximately

See NUVANCE, A6

## Millbrook Menorah aglow once again

MILLBROOK — Sunday, Dec. 5, was the last night of Hanukkah, and it was celebrated in the village of Millbrook this year with the lighting of all eight candles of the Menorah.

There were two Menorahs set up on the front lawn of the Thorne Building on Franklin Avenue for the holiday; one fully lit. Rabbi Hanoch Hecht, from the Rhinebeck Jewish Center, officiated as he has for many years as part of the holiday tradition. The event did not take place last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rabbi Hecht and his family brought doughnuts, latkes (potato pancakes) and applesauce to share with those who attended the ceremony, along with Hanukkah necklaces that lit up with tiny blue lights.

The joyous last night celebration, held at 4 p.m., also featured traditional Hanukkah songs and a brief telling of the story behind the holiday, of bringing light into the world and how it honors the oil that should have lasted only one day but miraculously lasted eight — until more consecrated oil could be brought to

See MENORAH, A6



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Above, Rabbi Hanoch Hecht of the Rhinebeck Jewish Center, left, and local resident Sheldon Lobel sponsor the lighting of the Menorah in the village of Millbrook every year, along with the Millbrook Chanukah Committee. Right, One of the two Menorahs set up on the lawn of the Thorne Building; this one stood during all eight days of Hanukkah.



## County adopts nearly \$533M budget, provides \$20M in tax relief

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Intent on expanding and enhancing county services and programs, the 2022 Dutchess County Budget was adopted with bipartisan approval from the Dutchess County Legislature on Thursday evening, Dec. 2. It promises taxpayers more than \$20

million in annual tax relief.

The 2022 budget line for total appropriations amounts to \$532,679,702; the property tax rate reduced more than 10%, from \$3.18 in 2021 to \$2.85 for 2022 per \$1,000 of true value assessments. Additionally, there was a property tax levy reduction for the eighth consecutive year, with what the county executive's office is calling "an historic \$5.5 million

cut to the property tax levy."

"Years of sound, prudent financial planning have positioned Dutchess County for this moment: The adoption of a 2022 County Budget that includes the largest tax relief in history, despite the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought our community over the past two years,"

See COUNTY BUDGET, A6



### CONTACT

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### OPINION

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# MILLERTON

## Culvert replacement done on Smithfield Road

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
editor@millertonnews.com

**NORTH EAST** — The Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) sent out word on Wednesday, Nov. 24, that after working throughout the summer and into the fall, the road work project to replace a culvert on Smithfield Road (County Route 5), near Silver Mountain Road and Cooper Road in the town of North East, is finally done.

Much to the relief of nearby residents and local drivers, the DPW said as of the 24th that it has reopened the road to traffic.

The work was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

The project included the removal and replacement of the existing concrete structure, as well as the addition of 3-foot shoulders to the roadway “to improve the safety of the area for motorists,” according to the DPW.

It was part of a dual culvert project; also being worked on this summer was a culvert on McGhee Hill Road (County



PHOTO COURTESY DUTCHESS COUNTY

**The culvert on Smithfield Road (County Route 5) near Silver Mountain Road and Cooper Road in the town of North East is complete and the road reopened to traffic.**

Route 64). Work there was completed in August.

North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan explained in September the culverts needed to be replaced immediately because “like anything else of infrastructure, it doesn’t last for forever.”

He added the culverts on both roads were either “undersized or deteriorating, which is why they needed to be re-

placed.”

The day the DPW announced the project’s completion, Kennan commented on the work.

“Everyone who uses Smithfield Road on a regular basis has to be relieved and happy to have their road back again,” he said. “Both the McGhee Hill and Smithfield culverts were in bad shape and needed replacement. These structures will be here for a long time, and the Smithfield one in particular will make for a safer road. We’re grateful to Dutchess County for undertaking and financing the work.”

Drivers had to deal with multiple detours throughout the summer, which Kennan recognized must have been frustrating. In the summer, he explained the importance of culverts, and how they get the water from one side of the road to the other.

“They’re very important because without them we would have roads being washed out or undermined very frequently,” he said.

The county contributed \$1,222,958 to help pay for the two culvert replacements, which Kennan said was critical to get the projects completed.



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

**December brings a special Three-D triple offering to patrons of the NorthEast-Millerton Library at 75 Main St. in Millerton, thanks to the work of the three sculptors pictured above, from left, Joey Sage Jablonski, Diane Schapira and Karen Culbreth.**

## Triple art 3-D offering at Millerton Library through December

By CAROL KNEELAND  
Special to The Millerton News

**MILLERTON** — The North-East-Millerton Library (NEML) often has rotating exhibits featuring local artists, but rarely do the shows highlight a trio of talented creative area residents all at once.

For the month of December, though, the NEML is doing just that, featuring Tri-state region 3-D artists Joey Sage Jablonski, Diane Schapira and Karen Culbreth.

**Joey Sage Jablonski**

According to their autobiographies, Jablonski “is a ceramic artist in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut who creates wheel-thrown pottery and sculptural clay works incorporating themes from nature.”

Jablonski said, “The actual process of working in clay makes me feel as if I’m touching the ground and touching the sky at the same time, adding that the greatest satisfaction comes from “sharing these works celebrating nature, having them become part of a home — someone’s daily life.”

**Diane Schapira**

Lakeville, Conn., resident Schapira, meanwhile, has been “a potter for 50 years specializing in functional pottery.”



**Artist Joey Sage Jablonski created the friendly frog mug pictured in this photo. Go to www.funkwarepottery.com to learn more about her work.**

She also noted that it is “very satisfying” to know the items she creates “become part of other people’s households and routines.” She similarly creates “useful trays, sculptures, reliquaries and boxes of all sorts, often in the form of houses with removable roofs,” many of which are made “with a theme in mind: home, grief, hope.”

**Karen Culbreth**

North East resident Culbreth recently retired from her 30-year career in art education at the Pine Plains Central School District.

Concentrating on clay creations, many of her pieces focus on her musings on the COVID-19 pandemic, reflections on feelings. They include her “whimsical ceramic pears and bowls.”

**More information**

The three-dimensional items made by these talented women will be on display at the NEML at 75 Main St. in Millerton throughout December.

Visitors need not have library cards, although residents may apply for one at the main desk. Proof of residency is required for the free card. Nonresidents may obtain a card for \$25.

Artists interested in displaying their work in 2022 may apply to Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson in person or by calling 518-789-3340. If displayed items are sold, a 10% donation to the library fund from the artist is appreciated.

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## NECC Childcare Survey

**MILLERTON** — Interested in learning more about the community’s childcare needs?

The North East Community Center (NECC) in Millerton has issued a survey to gain a greater understanding of local residents’ experiences with childcare in the Harlem Valley as well as to see if those who live and work in the region have or foresee the need for childcare services either now or in the future.

The survey is open to anyone living or working in or around the northeastern area

of Dutchess County, and has been made available in both English and Spanish.

All responses are optional and anonymous, unless the respondent decides to add his or her contact information.

The survey may be found online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnWxR7gpikcuAqgs-6D9zk22KpwwQ-HY-Acl-pocjyxJmrtEiw/viewform>.

For more information, contact NECC Family Program Director Jessica Raymond at [jessica@neccmillerton.org](mailto:jessica@neccmillerton.org) with any questions.

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# THANK YOU, DARRAH CLOUD!

**FOR FOUR YEARS OF HARD,  
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FOR THE TOWN OF PINE PLAINS**



**During long hours at her desk at Town Hall, her accomplishments include:**

- Wrote grants bringing in nearly \$200,000
- Posted weekly town newsletters
- Posted monthly Supervisor statements
- Posted White Papers on big town projects
- Attracted new businesses
- Re-engaged with the Durst Organization
- Forged relationships with other towns and county/state offices to reach goals we couldn't on our own.
- Co-founded Tri-Town Coalition on Affordable Housing
- Served as officer in several County Associations & Councils

**We are so grateful for Darrah Cloud's leadership as she worked with the Town Board: Don Bartles, Rory Chase, Sarah Jones & Matt Zick; with Supervisor Assistants: Kathy Rigano, Lori Patricola & Alice Hanback-Nuccio; & with Town Staff & Police & many Volunteer Committees.**

**Together they have done so many  
great things for our town!**

With gratitude, from Connie Sayre, Gil Park, Ann Noone, Thayer Durell, Larry Patricola, Beth Potter, Donn Potter, Tully Loeb, Louis Loeb, Bart Tenore, Debbie Tenore, Suzanne Ouellette, David Conte, E.M., Helen Fuss, Patricia Jean, Michel Jean, Ginger Dowd, Ken Sexton, John Kirwin, OLC, Alex Athanasiadis, Murphy Birdsall, Keith Reamer, Thom Christopher, Sarah Chase, Brenda Bertin, Joan Osofsky, Sandy Towers, Rachel & Ron Minkoff, Lenora Champagne, Robert Lyons, Matt, Whitney, & Ben, Jane & Jim, Jim Petrie, Margo Jackson, Jim Jackson, Helene McQuade, Cris Hedges, Ellen & Andy King, Scott Chase, Jeanne Valentine-Chase, Dick Hermans, Priscilla Herdman, Brian Gerber, John Reeser, Joan Redmond, Susan Crossley, John Henry, Mark DeGarmo, Jan Havick, Kate Osofsky, Elizabeth White, Erica Adelberg, Russell Bogin, Philippa Wehle, Jim Matheson, Esther Han, Amy Rothstein, Peter Salerno, Mark Stonehill, Miriam Groler, Dave Guernsey, Kathleen Corby, Irene Wilson, Esther Williams, Matt Finley, Denise Jordan Finley, Martine King, Catherine Howard, Josh Nathanson, Diana Woolis, Gail Mellow, Dyan Wapnick & Anonymous x 14

Wishing the new Town Supervisor, along with the new and continuing Town Board members, much success in moving Pine Plains forward.



## OBITUARIES

### Diane MacNeil

LAKEVILLE — Diane MacNeil, 64, passed away peacefully on Nov. 20, 2021, at her home in Garland, Texas, after a brief illness. Diane was born in Sharon on Feb. 16, 1957. She was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

She is survived by her partner, Melvin Ray Sims; and her mother, Edith Weir MacNeil

Blodgett.

She was predeceased by her father, Edwin R. MacNeil; and her brother, Alan MacNeil. She is survived by a sister-in-law, June; two nieces; and several cousins.

Memorial donations may be made to the scholarship fund at Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT 06068.

### Ruthmary Willand

SALISBURY — Ruthmary Willand, 85, of Taconic and formerly of Frankford Township, N.J., died Nov. 29, 2021, at home surrounded by her family and friends.



Ruthmary was born in Ottawa, Ill., to the late Mary (Clark) and Jack Hille. Raised in Midlothian, Ill., she taught second and fourth grade for 17 years. After moving to New Jersey, she enjoyed work in the office of an accountant.

Ruthmary was a passionate and adventurous cook who hosted many joyous family holidays.

She was a skilled and energetic gardener who loved flowers and for years had a large vegetable garden.

With her husband, Steve, she embarked on many an adventure, from fly-fishing to farming. She designed the Augusta, N.J., farmhouse where they lived together for 20 years, as well as a fishing cottage in Upstate New York.

Above all, Ruthmary was a tender and devoted mother and grandmother, who created

countless wonderful memories for her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Steven Willand; her three children, James, Mary and Richard Pellegrino; two stepchildren, Suzanne and Scott Willand; eight grandchildren, Richard, Michael, Jacquelyn and her husband, Stephen, Marissa, Nicholas, Statler, Steffen and Sharyce; and a great-grandson, Logan.

Her brother, Jack Hille, predeceased her.

Visitation was on Friday, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 4, at Smith-McCracken Funeral Home in Newton, N.J. Funeral services were held Dec. 4 at the funeral home. Interment was in Frankford Plains Cemetery in Augusta.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Ruthmary's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1893, Memphis, TN 38101.

Online condolences may be offered at [www.smithmccrackenfuneralhome.com](http://www.smithmccrackenfuneralhome.com).

### John Francis LaCurto

AMENIA — John Francis LaCurto, 79, a lifelong area resident, died peacefully on Nov. 29, 2021, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington following a courageous battle with lymphoma.



John was a licensed electrical contractor and the longtime owner of LaCurto Electric, Inc., based in Amenia, where he was known for his honest, professional nature and meticulous attention to detail in all aspects of residential and commercial wiring, maintenance, repairs and electrical construction and installation. LaCurto Electric also specialized in electric heat and specialty lighting.

John's longtime business motto was "Small jobs welcomed" and John and his longtime dedicated employees were always available to handle all aspects of the electrical trade. The business continues to operate out of the Amenia office as LaCurto/Wilcox Electric as a tribute to John's legacy and his unmatched dedication to his beloved customers.

Born Feb. 18, 1942, in Beacon, N.Y., he was the son of the late John LaCurto and Margaret L. Delaney.

He attended Webutuck High School in Amenia and served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged following his tour of duty.

His wife, Diana LaCurto passed away on June 17, 2020, at their home in Amenia.

John was a longtime parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, a past member of the Amenia Fire

Company and Amenia Lions Club and a 35-year member of the Dutchess County Electrical Contractors Association (DCECA) where he served for 10 years on the Board of Directors and five years as treasurer. John was honored in 2005 as the Citizen of the Year by the Millerton Lions Club and again in 2010 as the Citizen of the Year by the Amenia Lions Club.

John is survived by two daughters, Donna Flinn and her husband, Russell, of Millerton and Linda Staab and her companion, Rich, of Dover Plains, N.Y.; three stepchildren, Marion McPadden and her fiancé, Jose Gueits, James McPadden and his wife, Lauren, and Susan Krebs; his grandchildren, Alicia Bishop and her husband, Jason, Allison Flinn, Katelyn Staab, Madison and Mackenze McPadden and Kyle Krebs and Ann Marie Bailey, Christopher Bailey and Cole Staab; two great-grandchildren, Benjamin and Tyler Bishop; several nieces and nephews; and his longtime associates, James Dick and Shawn Wilcox.

Calling hours were held on Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, Dec. 3, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, the Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating.

Burial with military honors was at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia on Saturday, Dec. 4. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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

### Margaret 'Peg' Anne (Deloy) Bachetti

NORTH CANAAN — Margaret "Peg" Anne (Deloy) Bachetti, 78, died Nov. 28, 2021, at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center following a brief battle with cancer.

She was born in North Canaan on April 21, 1943, daughter of the late Marjorie (Garfield) and Raymond Deloy.

After graduating from Northwest Regional High School in Winsted, she enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1962, earning the rank of PFC before being released in 1964.

Peg was employed as a clerk at the North Canaan Stop & Shop. Prior to that she had worked for many years for the Becton Dickinson Company in North Canaan.

She enjoyed exploring the small towns of Vermont and

trips to Cape Cod, but her greatest joy was her family, especially her two great-grandsons.

Margaret is survived by her son, David Balch and his fiancée, Sylvia Collins; her brother, James Deloy and his wife, Cindy, of Monterey, Mass.; her grandson, Joshua Balch, his wife, Christine, and their two sons, Oakley and Jet, of Miami Beach, Fla.

A graveside service with full military honors will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph's Cemetery in North Canaan.

Memorial donations may be made to the Humane Society of the United States, 1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450, Washington, D.C. 20037.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home.

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### Worship Services

Week of December 12, 2021

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

**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](http://www.salisburyucc.org)  
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**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
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[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
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Rev. Paul Christopherson  
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[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)  
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The Rev. Heidi Truax  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
(860) 435-2627

**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](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

**Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT**  
Join our virtual Zoom service on  
Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m.  
"Faith Without Borders"  
For information, contact Jo Loi at [jokialuol@gmail.com](mailto:jokialuol@gmail.com)  
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**The Lakeville United Methodist Church**  
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9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
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Pastor Joy Veronesi  
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[Lakevillemethodist@snet.net](mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

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**All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church**  
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## SPORTS

# Former MLB player helps young athletes at Amenia pitching clinic

By KAITLIN LYLE  
[kaitlin@millertonnews.com](mailto:kaitlin@millertonnews.com)

AMENIA — Though baseball season is months away, the players in town of Amenia have been keeping up with their game by participating in the weekly pitching clinics hosted by former Pittsburgh Pirate and local pitching coach John Lamb in the Amenia Town Hall gymnasium.

"This is something he has done for years and we are very thankful for," said Amenia Recreation Supervisor Kelly Milano.

While Lamb usually hosts his popular pitching clinic in the spring, Milano said he wanted to continue working with the young athletes right after the summer season ended, through the fall and winter.

Starting Monday, Oct. 25, the six-week pitching clinic has been held in the gymnasium inside the Amenia Town Hall at 4988 Route 22, on Monday nights. The sessions have been open to athletes ages 13 and older, both boys and girls.

The clinic continues on Wednesday nights for athletes ages 9 and 12 (more commonly the Little League players).

Both clinics are held at 6 p.m., and depending on the number of children who attend, Milano said they run for about an hour, sometimes longer.

#### Clinics are free

Each week, the young athletes are given the chance to improve upon the skills they practiced on the ball field during the playing season with guidance from a professional MLB player and it's at no cost to their parents.

With Lamb working with each player individually, the young sportsmen and women get to practice their pitching and catching.

Thanks to the addition of a few new nets in the gym, they



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Starting at 6 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday nights, seasoned local pitching coach and former Pittsburgh Pirate John Lamb has been hosting a pitching clinic for the town of Amenia and its youth ballplayers inside the Amenia Town Hall gym.

have also had the chance to practice their hitting.

"I feel that this clinic is helping our athletes become better," Milano said. "Not only does it benefit the town teams but also the school teams."

#### Clinic to end, another to begin

While this year's pitching clinics are scheduled to end on Wednesday, Dec. 15, Milano said Lamb is already planning on

holding another pitching clinic starting mid-February.

Although the Amenia Recreation Department doesn't have an exact date for when the next pitching clinic will start just yet, Milano said the sessions will be open to athletes ages 9 and up and will run for six to eight weeks, depending on the weather and how quickly the town can get participants outside to work on their skills.

In Loving Memory  
of my nephew  
**Timmy Shaffer**  
1/22/1971 - 12/8/2020

Dear Timmy,  
To my firstborn nephew.  
Godchild.  
Your life was too short, but you lived it to the fullest.  
I have so many beautiful memories of watching you grow up.  
May you rest in eternal peace.  
All my love, Aunt Candy

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# Making merry at Amenia's holiday festivities and parade

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The town of Amenia was in high holiday spirits this past weekend as the Amenia Fire Company and other local sponsors launched a lineup of family-friendly holiday activities — including the 10th annual Celebration of Lights Parade — for the community on Sunday, Dec. 5.

Kicking off at 2:30 p.m., local families took part in the variety of activities made available to them on Main Street, from crafts and musical performances to refreshments and more. Around 4:45 p.m., Fountain Square drew a jolly gathering of folks for the announcement of this year's Amenia Citizen of the Year.

Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti announced that DJ Reilly had been selected as the 2021 Citizen of the Year. While Reilly was unable to attend the ceremony, his wife Judy and son Nick proudly accepted the award on his behalf.

Inviting everyone to take part in the countdown for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Perotti and her fellow residents were joyful and triumphant as they counted down the moments before the Christmas tree in front of the former M&T Bank building burst a twinkle with holiday lights.

With the tree casting a glow on Fountain Square, Perotti announced that anyone with an ornament was invited to place it on the tree from now until the New Year, and she wished everyone a happy holidays before cueing the holiday music.

As the Fountain Square festivities came to a close, families began edging their way toward the streets to get a prime view of the parade due to arrive at 5 p.m.

While they waited, they admired the decorated storefronts with lights, trees and other holiday trimmings.

In the days leading up to the Celebration of Lights, merchants were encouraged to decorate in a Winter Charm theme for the chance to win Best Window Display award. Parade participants were also encouraged to decorate their vehicles for the chance to win Best Float award. A \$100 prize was offered to each of the winners of the two awards.

Suddenly a siren could be heard above the holiday music, growing more distinct as the music transitioned from one song to the next.

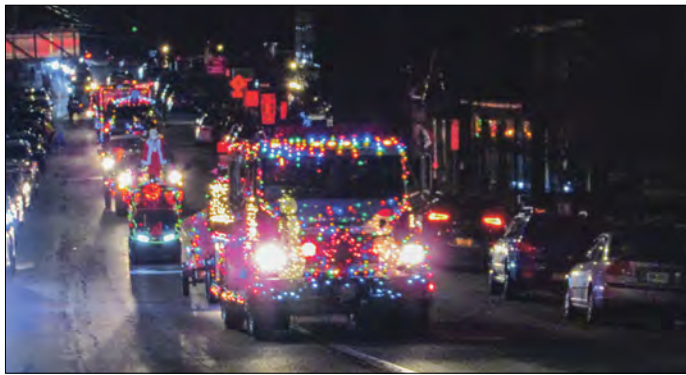
"Here they come," parents murmured to their children, and all eyes turned up the street as the first float drove slowly toward the intersection.

As the parade embarked on its journey through the center of town, spectators were blown



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Nick and Judy Reilly accepted the 2021 Amenia Citizen of the Year Award on behalf of their father and husband, DJ Reilly, this year's award recipient.



Starting at the Amenia firehouse on Mechanic Street, a spectacular lineup of local fire engines, parade floats and holiday characters made its way up Route 343 toward the Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre as part of this year's 10th annual Celebration of Lights Parade in Amenia.

away by the spectacular lineup of floats. There were firefighters, Nativity scenes, decorated golf carts, The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who, a pair of horses wearing Christmas lights around their legs and holiday candy was even thrown to children along the sidewalks.

Local residents seemed to revel as they celebrated the familiar town tradition with their loved ones, while newcomers marveled at Amenia's sense of holiday spirit.

Many gathered afterward at the Four Brothers Drive-In to admire the floats up close and waited for the announcement of the Best Float and Best Window Display winners. Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner said 22 floats were in the parade and six businesses participated in the window display contest.

"We were ecstatic by the amount of participation this year," Klingner said, adding it's always a pleasure to see the excitement on the children's faces — not to mention their joy in seeing Santa and Mrs. Claus at the parade's end.

Apple Antiques won the Best Window Display award while the Slater family of Millerton won Best Float. Following the announcement of the winners, families were invited to enjoy a free screening of "The Grinch" at the drive-in.

Klingner thanked the sponsors for putting the activities together to create a hometown feel. Those sponsors included the town of Amenia, the Amenia Recreation Department, the Amenia-Wassaic Community Organization, the Silo Ridge Field Club, Four Brothers and many others.

## AMENIA IN BRIEF

### Maplebrook's winter wonderland

On Friday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m., and on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Maplebrook School, located at 5142 Route 22 in Amenia, will offer Winter Fest.

Area residents and visitors alike can walk through

a campus winter wonderland, meet Santa, sip some hot chocolate, sing carols and purchase holiday gifts.

For the price of admission, people are asked to bring a new hat, scarf or mittens to donate to Adopt-a-Family.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Local residents welcomed comfort and closure in equal measures as they received messages of love and hope from their loved ones as channeled through medium Karen Kilmartin at a reading organized by the Wassaic Fire Co. Auxiliary on Monday evening, Nov. 29.

# Comfort and closure offered by medium at Wassaic firehouse

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

WASSAIC — Guaranteed to be as entertaining as it was emotional, the evening local residents spent with noted medium Karen Kilmartin offered closure and comfort in equal measures as the Wassaic Fire Company Auxiliary hosted a group reading with Kilmartin at the Wassaic firehouse on Monday, Nov. 29.

Nearly 60 people signed up for the event to benefit the Auxiliary, filling the chairs placed throughout the firehouse's main gathering space at 6 p.m. While they waited for Kilmartin to arrive, conversations sparked as people connected with one another just as ardently as they hoped to connect with their loved ones who had passed on.

Before they got started, Kilmartin asked attendees to turn off their phones, pointing out the amount of energy that comes from their devices may interfere with the energy she hoped to pick up. Introducing her work as a medium to the crowd, Kilmartin said she's had "the gift" since she was 2 years old and shared her family's lineage of holy men with gifts similar to hers.

Calling herself "the keeper of the gift that I have," Kilmartin expounded on how her work is about spreading light. She also touched on other factors she attributes to her uniqueness, including a few personal medical anecdotes; the struggles connected to her ability to receive messages; and how her gift was eventually channeled into a service to help others connect with their loved ones.

"Time is a human-made factor with this," Kilmartin said, sharing examples of past readings she's conducted and lives she's touched

as a result.

Kilmartin wasn't afraid to tell the crowd stories of people who have been disappointed not to connect with their loved ones through her.

She explained that while she can "knock at the door that allows people to come in," not everyone answers.

Sending them love and light, Kilmartin invited everyone to close their eyes and led them in a gentle breathing exercise to relax. In their mind's eye, she guided them to "the veil where Heaven and Earth connect." Her soothing guidance rendered a state of such deep peacefulness that even the distant whistle of a train leaving the Wassaic Metro-North Train Station was calming.

When the crowd reached a place where they could envision their loved ones, Kilmartin gave them time to try to reach their dearly departed before bringing them back to the present.

Gentle crying could be heard from some, as people began to return to the present and Kilmartin began to receive messages from beyond. With a sense of drama, she

walked around the room to relay messages of love and hope to those whose stepped forward hopefully.

Though they were invisible to the naked eye, the presence of the departed seemed as potent as if they were standing in the room beside family members and friends.

Kilmartin encouraged those who seemed eager to speak up if the incoming spirits and signs sounded familiar to them. Behind their tears, a look of amazement shone on willing and hopeful faces, and a gasp or two escaped from some people as specific descriptions of a spirit or two rang true.

"Is it her?" one woman in the audience asked hopefully as a message from her mother was relayed by Kilmartin.

As the medium confirmed specific details, the woman confessed she'd been waiting for a sign of her mother's presence all night.

Children, spouses, grandparents and others reached out to their loved ones through Kilmartin, eliciting shaky laughter, tears and gasps. To be able to offer hope and peace is rewarding, Kilmartin said, who clearly enjoys her work.



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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, was at a crossroads. Then, we were looking at drastically cutting costs in order to survive.

Two years later, after two highly successful appeals to our readership for contributions that saved your local community newspapers, this small media company is in a very different place. Your generosity kept us alive, even during a worldwide pandemic, and we were able to apply for and receive tax-exempt status from the IRS as a public charity. Your contributions to The Lakeville Journal Foundation are now tax deductible to the extent permitted under the law. Now it is time to regroup again and make a new plan to take this media company into a successful future.

During COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions, this company was able to obtain two PPP grants from the U.S. government, which, combined with our readers' generous support, helped us remain in place to report the news of your communities. Your wish for local news is what drives our mission, which publishes in the newspapers every week:

*Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly,  
and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.*

We sincerely ask you to be a Community Contributor, donating whatever you can to support local news, to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Unlike the last two years, your donations are now tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Thank you for keeping track of your local news in our publications, and profound gratitude for your support that kept The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com here for your communities.

*Noreen Doyle*

Noreen Doyle, Chair

*Janet Manko*

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

The Lakeville Journal Foundation, Inc.

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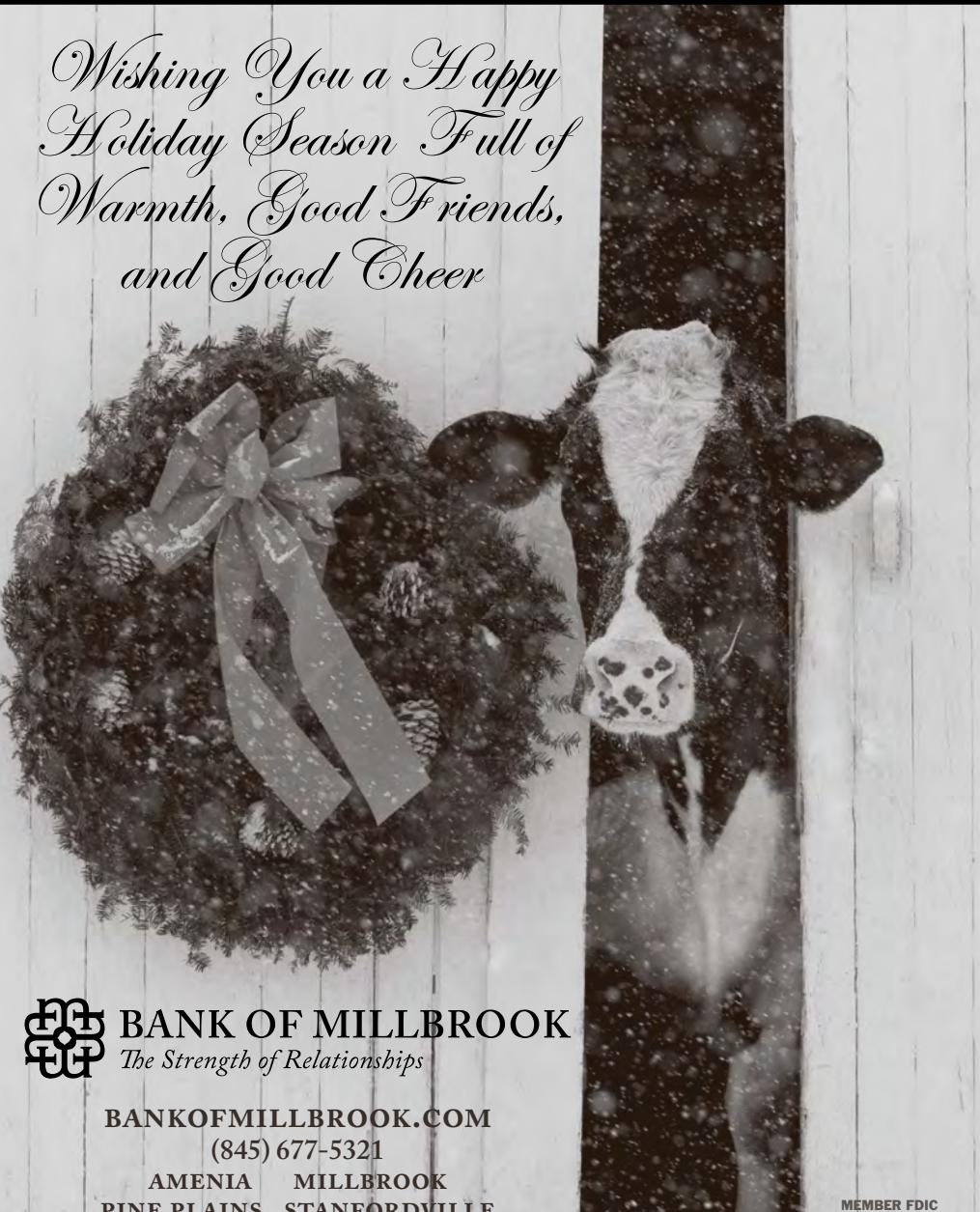
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**PHOTO CONTEST** *Continued from Page A1*

ing cold, but as I expected, there was a spectacular sunrise. The Catskills were glowing pink, and the first light of the day hitting the trees made their colors even more vibrant. That turned out to be the winning photo.”

Kelly added that he grew up in nearby Red Hook.

“Growing up in the Hudson Valley really fostered my love for the outdoors and nature,” he said.

A love of travel has kept him moving over the years. He even worked as a commercial fisherman in Alaska some summers to earn money to continue to travel.

A 2012 graduate of Ithaca College, Kelly discovered he also loves photography, which he practices while traveling.

“Throughout my early 20s, I worked in Alaska on a commercial salmon fishing boat in the summertime to pay for the next trip,” he said. “It was hard and sometimes dangerous work, but I loved it, and it allowed me to travel to some really incredible places like Patagonia, New Zealand, Nepal and Tanzania. I’ve been to six continents, 40-something countries and almost all of the states.”

After years of taking photos just to show people the places he’s visited, he realized that he had an aptitude for photography and decided to teach himself landscape photography.

He now has a business selling prints of his photos, and calendars.

“I share my work on Instagram, Facebook and Etsy under the name LukeKellyTravels,” he said, adding that before the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Lucas “Luke” Kelly, shown here canoeing, won the photo contest sponsored by Central Hudson Gas & Electric.**

pandemic he gave motivational speeches at area schools about his travels. “I’d really like to get back to doing that, but my business has been growing... my plan is to just keep working as hard as I can on photography, traveling when I can and seeing where it goes from here.”

Kelly and his fiancé, Victoria, recently moved to Millbrook.

“We really like the area so far,” he said. “We wanted to live in a small town that has a strong sense of community.”

He said he “was happy” when he learned he won the contest.

“We’re lucky to live in such a scenic area,” said Kelly. “All of the finalists’ photos were awesome, and I want to congratulate them on their spectacular work. I also want to thank Central Hudson for putting this contest on every year. It’s a pretty cool thing to do.”

To view the finalists’ photos, go to [www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=centralhudson](http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=centralhudson).

**NUVANCE** *Continued from Page A1*

two-thirds are clinical positions. These include openings at Danbury Hospital, Norwalk Hospital, and Sharon Hospital for maternity and obstetrical services, medical/surgical units, intensive care units, and surgical services staff.”

The “competitive compensation and comprehensive benefits” have attracted a total of 26 new primary care clinicians across the Nuvance system, Herlihy says. That includes four physicians and one nurse practitioner in the Norwalk Hospital service area and five physicians and four nurse practitioners in the Danbury Hospital service area.

In the Sharon Hospital service area, Herlihy says, “two new primary care nurse practitioners will be joining the Millerton and Sharon offices.”

Sharon also now has a mobile health van in its parking lot two days a week, a collaboration with the Community Health & Wellness Center in Torrington.

Herlihy says that, “As of September 2021, Sharon Hospital had a total of 244 physicians and advanced practice providers on its medical staff, while Norwalk Hospital had 768 providers, and Danbury Hospital had 1,079 providers.”

To help keep the hospitals functioning, Herlihy says, Nuvance “pays a staffing agency partner significant fees to fill specific, hard to recruit positions at Sharon Hospital. Although this option is currently being utilized in an effort to fill open positions at Sharon Hospital, the nationwide health

care worker shortage has also impacted the availability of clinical providers through staffing agencies.”

**Can’t fill labor, delivery nurse jobs in Sharon**

She referred specifically to challenges faced in staffing the labor and delivery unit in Sharon, where there are now three open registered nurse jobs that need to be filled.

“Nuvance Health has historically encountered challenges recruiting for these positions and has regularly resorted to utilizing its staffing agency partner...”

Herlihy says the staffing agency has “approximately 1,100 requests for Labor & Delivery Registered Nurses for which they have approximately 56 individuals available, resulting in a very low likelihood that the agency will be able to fill these positions.”

Herlihy says there is a national shortage of labor and delivery nurses.

Nuvance tried to grow new staff with an obstetrical registered nurse residency in 2019. “To date five nurses have completed the residency.”

**No success in attracting OB-GYN doctors**

Herlihy then described “extensive recruiting efforts aimed at attracting obstetrics and gynecology physicians to the Sharon community.”

This “multi-faceted recruitment approach via professional recruiting channels, advertising, and locum tenens searches” has so far not succeeded in attracting new doctors.

Herlihy says in her letter

that, “Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health have sought to support the hiring of physicians by community obstetrics and gynecology practices by offering financial support and incentives for recruitment and on-boarding, in accordance with federal guidelines, but efforts have been unsuccessful.”

She then blamed “the instability of community providers” for exacerbating “the strain on the remaining providers and service.”

Nuvance might have considered “shifting clinical staff from other Nuvance Health facilities to Sharon Hospital” but the remote location makes it hard for doctors “to assume call coverage, or cover in-person shifts while managing shifts in another location.”

Also, some of the doctors employed by Nuvance, which is based in New York State, are not licensed in Connecticut.

At any rate, Herlihy says, there aren’t really any extra doctors anywhere in the Nuvance system, where “there are currently more than 1,600 open positions across the health system, including 50 clinical positions at Sharon Hospital.”

**Decrease in deliveries statewide**

Herlihy’s letter then refers to Nuvance’s consistent claim that “Nuvance Health’s continuous, dedicated efforts to develop a long-term, sustainable staffing plan have been unsuccessful to date, due in part to the combination of decreasing birthing volume and the rural location.”

The Sharon Hospital labor

and delivery unit “is currently adequately staffed to meet the needs of the community,” with one Nuvance-employed and one “community-based” obstetrics doctor.

Even though there is a decreasing need for obstetricians, Herlihy says that the two now delivering babies at Sharon Hospital have “a demanding call coverage schedule” and have had to sometimes “rely on general surgeons to assist with C-sections (which increases the burden on the general surgery practice and makes it more difficult to recruit surgeons).”

In closing, Herlihy reiterates that Nuvance has tried to recruit new doctors without much success.

Some doctors recruited to Sharon have left “for busier practices in other markets, forcing Sharon Hospital to restart recruiting efforts in the midst of a workforce shortage,” Herlihy says.

Two other hospitals in Connecticut (neither of which is owned by Nuvance) have also announced this year that they will close their labor and delivery units, for similar reasons. They are Windham Community Hospital, which is part of the Hartford HealthCare network; and Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs, which is part of Trinity Health of New England.

Tina Hyde, manager of external affairs for the Office of Health Strategy, said, “OHS is reviewing the [Nuvance] responses and a timeframe for a decision of the Certificate of Need is unknown at this time.”

**MILLERTON CHURCH** *Continued from Page A1*

“We try to make ourselves available to other organizations and groups so they can utilize the building,” said Campbell. “That includes storing the Main Street flags for the American Legion.”

Recognizing how important it is for the community to have a central location to gather for important events, he cited the recent funeral of beloved town shopkeeper, Phil Terni.

“His family asked if we would do that because his church — the Catholic church — had closed” adding that “Phil and his family had always supported our church.”

With the iconic Terni’s store across the street from the Methodist church, Campbell said, “Of course we were very close. We were actually honored to do it and glad that we could provide that space” for the well attended memorial of the man who everyone in Millerton — and beyond — seemed to know.

Of churches elsewhere in the region, Campbell said, “They’re all having difficulty and that’s no secret. It’s just the way it is... You’re asking people to give time and money.”

One of the ways in which Methodist churches are able to continue functioning is to work in partnership with others, including in providing pastoral leadership.

That role in Millerton is currently being filled by Nathan Badore, a technician at the Pine Plains Pharmacy who grew up in that town and is now in the process of working toward full time clergy certification.

About two years ago, he began as a substitute pastor and in July he took over the Millerton duties from Pastor Christine Lindeberg when she was relocated, a process that happens about every five years.

Until Badore is “certified,” in about another five years, he will be able to continue to conduct services, but the “blessings for the sacraments” of communion, baptism and marriage, are provided either on or off site by other clergy.

In addition to Millerton, Badore serves in the role as pastor at the Methodist churches in Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Elizaville and Milan with services scheduled on a rotating basis. There is “a lot of time on the road” while he also tries to be sure that people know he is available to them.

During the pandemic, joint Zoom worship services for all

five churches were conducted from Pine Plains until restrictions were gradually lifted.

Badore said he believes keeping the physical church in the village of Millerton is important because “there is definitely a need for an opportunity for connection... I think it is very important for emotional and mental health for a lot of people as well as for the community... We as people are inherently social and want to be connected.”

He emphasized the importance of the church’s communicants, which typically number around 16, as the effort continues to keep the church viable. Of those, three trustees, Jim Campbell, George Kaye and Dave VanDebogart, are critical, he said.

Although no definite decisions have been made to pick up some of the social services once provided by the Millerton Presbyterian Church, such as its food pantry and medical equipment closet that will no longer be available due to its impending Jan. 23 closure, Badore said plans might evolve following a meeting in the coming days.

In addition to regular Millerton Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month, Advent observances include Zoom sessions on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

A Christmas Eve service will be held at 2 p.m. at the church, located at 6 Dutchess Ave.

For more information, call 518-789-3138.

Donations to help support the Millerton United Methodist Church may be sent to P.O. Box 812, Millerton, NY 12546.

**COUNTY BUDGET** *Continued from Page A1*

stated Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro in a Dec. 3 press release.

Molinaro first presented his Executive Budget in an address at Dutchess County Community College on Oct. 27.

Outlining two key concepts in the fiscal plan, Molinaro said Dutchess County will never accept or tolerate leaving its most vulnerable to live in isolation, and that as a society, it has a moral obligation “to assist those who are struggling the most among us and find new ways to open up opportunities for their own success.”

He spoke of the need for the county to break down barriers, create opportunities and dedicate resources and funds to reach every street in every

**MENORAH** *Continued from Page A1*

the Temple in Jerusalem.

The celebration is made possible each year by Adele and Sheldon Lobel and the Millbrook Chanukah Committee. Among the celebrants were Mayor Tim Collopy, Deputy Mayor Mike Herzog and his wife Mary Anne; Village Trustee Vickie Contino and Millbrook Business Association President Kevin McGrane.

The festivities continued afterward at Babette’s Kitchen with free hot drinks, latkes and doughnuts, as it has for years as part of the village’s Hanukkah celebration.

— Judith O’Hara Balfe

neighborhood throughout the county, which he intends to do with fiscal support from the 2022 budget.

That will come from initiatives like expanding 24/7 crisis and mental health services; directing \$3.9 million to domestic violence programming; permanently funding the Dutchess County Drug Task Force; expanding access and support for veterans in the region; expanding youth programs; investing \$30 million in an emergency response communications system; and investing \$1 million in new fire and rescue grants for first responders.

**County Budget highlights**  
Molinaro also focused on his 10% tax rate cut, maintaining 1.3% in annualized spending growth averaged over the last decade and offering the elimination of county sales tax on clothing and footwear purchases up to \$110.

On Nov. 30, the Legislature held a public hearing on the amended budget. The required hearing was very lightly attended; reportedly only one resident spoke about concerns about the county jail and funding of men-

tal health services.

Now that the budget has been adopted by the Legislature, the next step will be for the amended document to be forwarded to Molinaro for his final review and signature.

Afterward, the last step will be for the Molinaro to give his consideration if he wants to override any amendments and then adopt the tax levy, which will take place on Monday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. during the Legislature’s board meeting at the County Office Building in Poughkeepsie.

“This historic budget is a remarkable plan, which provides residents with the most signifi-

cant tax decrease in our lifetime while safeguarding the highest quality of services on which they’ve come to expect,” stated Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislator Gregg Pulver (R-19) of Pine Plains. “This will certainly not be the last unforeseen challenge we face as a community, but this budget continues Dutchess County’s successful path, and I thank my fellow legislators for passing a plan with our residents’ best interest at heart.”

The debt service also held flat in the 2022 county budget, with slight reductions from the county’s 2021 and 2020 Adopted Budgets.

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Starting this January, Eversource Energy will be increasing their residential customers an additional 21% for electricity. The reason is simply that the cost of natural gas to produce the electricity has risen sharply. Customers can do the following to help soften this increase by taking advantage of Home Energy Solutions found at <https://www.eversource.com/content/ct-c/residential/save-money-energy>. In addition one can review the budget plans and assistance offered by Eversource at: <https://www.eversource.com/content/ct-c/residential/my-account/billing-payments/help-pay-my-bill>.

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



## 'OFF THE WALL' AT KENT ART ASSOCIATION

Five artists affiliated with the Kent Art Association in Kent, Conn., have informally gathered to create an exhibition of their work, "Off The Wall."

Incongruous, not bound by subject matter, medium or artistic sentiment, artists Carl Chaiet, Werner Kappes, Frank Kara, Edward Robinson and Gino Zenobia

reaffirm that art thrives in both the darkest and brightest of times.

The exhibition runs until Dec. 24 and is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

All COVID protocols should be adhered to while in the gallery, which is at 21 S. Main St. in Kent, Conn.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## THEATER: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# The English Holiday Tale That Americans Adore

Charles Dickens wrote his holiday-season classic "A Christmas Carol" as part of the English tradition of telling ghost stories during the holiday season.

Smithsonian magazine did a wonderful article in 2016 explaining that ghost tales in winter are a continuation of a pagan practice. The longest day of the year was considered a time when the dead were most likely to come back and visit the living. That tradition died out, so to speak, in the 17th century but returned in Victorian

England.

I don't actually know whether "A Christmas Carol" is still an essential part of the British holidays, but it seems to me that in America Ebenezer Scrooge is as ubiquitous a character as Saint Nick.

This year, you can see two different theatrical productions based on the Dickens tale.

The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, N.Y., presents a musical adaptation that will run until Dec. 19, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and

Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25; email [boxoffice@centerforperformingarts.org](mailto:boxoffice@centerforperformingarts.org).

TheatreWorks in New Milford, Conn., is offering a meta "Christmas Carol" show, called "What the Dickens?" and written by Matt Austin.

A community theater group has to put on a traditional production of "A Christmas Carol" — but completely from memory. Complications and hilarity ensue in what the theater describes as "Monty Python meets Arthur Miller."

"What the Dickens?" is

presented Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Saturday, Dec. 18, with one Sunday matinee on Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seating (\$20 for students and military personnel and veterans with ID).

TheatreWorks warns that, "Due to some language and innuendo, this show is not recommended for children under 13."

Reservations can be made online at [www.theatreworks.us](http://www.theatreworks.us) or by calling 860-350-6863.

Masks and proof of vaccination or proof of negative COVID test within a 72-hour time frame are required; bring an ID card.

## Awards For Student Films From Youth Challenge

The partners behind the Bridging Divides, Healing Communities Youth Film Challenge announced three winning short films highlighting divisions and inequities in society, and how young people are tackling these challenges in their families, schools and communities.

Yonah Sadeh, a student at Bard College at Simon's Rock from Falls Village, Conn., received first place and \$2,000 for his film on affordable housing, "In Our Backyard."

Tommy Tranfaglia, a student at Endicott College from Lenox, Mass., was awarded the \$1,000 second place prize for his film on learning and attention disabilities, "Misunderstood."

Danny Wilkinson, a student at Mount Everett Regional High School from Sheffield, Mass., earned \$500 and third place for his film about body image and self-esteem, "Self image."

The challenge was led by the Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative and the Civic Life Project, with funding from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Honorable mentions went to Rachael Bentz, of Arts in Recovery for Youth from Pittsfield, Mass., for "The Story of Indigo Phoenix"; Anna Coon, a student at the University of Miami from Sharon, Conn., for "Hidden Insecurities"; Samantha Hoffman, a student at Chatham High School from East Chatham, N.Y., for "He/She/They"; and Madison Long, a

student at Housatonic Valley Regional High School from North Canaan, Conn., for "Under Pressure."

The winning films and a selection of other submissions will be screened at the Daniel Arts Center, Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Mass., on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. ([www.simons-rock.edu/events](http://www.simons-rock.edu/events)). Seating is limited and RSVP is required. All attendees must show proof of vaccination and wear masks.

Serving as judges for the challenge were Damon Osora, chair of the English Department and film teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School; Jayne Atkinson, an award-winning actor known primarily for her work in such hit television series as "24," "House of Cards" and "Madam Secretary"; Gretchen Rennell Court, a casting director for films such as "Flashdance," "Children of a Lesser God" and "The Horse Whisperer"; Mirissa Neff, a documentary filmmaker who has worked as a producer and correspondent for PBS and public radio programs; and Matthew Penn, an award-winning director of more than 150 primetime television dramas including "House," "The Sopranos," "NYPD Blue" and "Law & Order."

The Youth Film Challenge was open to residents ages 14 to 24 who live or go to school in northwest Litchfield, northeast Dutchess, Berkshire and Columbia counties.

To advertise your event, call 860-435-9873 or email [advertising@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:advertising@lakevillejournal.com)



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LOCAL AUTHORS: LEILA HAWKEN

# Preventing Depression During The Holiday Season

For some in our communities, the storm clouds of depression and anxiety may mar the anticipation of the holidays.

Taking on this timely topic, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn., sponsored a Zoom talk in November by psychotherapist Richard O'Connor, Ph.D., a Sharon resident and the author of "Undoing Depression," now in its third edition.

O'Connor described his reasons for writing his book, first published 20 years ago and said that one idea that intrigued him was that people can suffer from depression for years before realizing it.

"I sought a way to reach people before they had suffered the impact of depression on their lives," he said, adding that he too has dealt with bouts of depression over his lifetime.

"I found no single theory that could explain depression."

Depression is not a chemical imbalance in the brain, O'Connor said with certainty. It is, therefore, possible to influence it through therapy and self-help.

A healthy trend, he said, is that people are

more willing to talk about it and share their experiences with others. Current thinking centered on mindfulness can be helpful to many.

Learning how to find a calm center in the midst of stress, even for just 10 minutes, is positive, he said, noting that depression and anxiety go together.

Anxiety and depression are like two fingers on the same hand, O'Connor noted. "Learn to let self-criticism slide right off."

Anti-depressant drugs can help some people, and so he recommends trying them. He said studies have shown that drugs can help 55% of the people taking them. On the other hand, he said, placebos have been shown to help 50% of the people taking them.

A good way to stave off a depressive state is to exercise. Activity is a good mood changer, particularly in young people who may be experiencing emotional effects of pandemic isolation, or the emotional blows coming from relational break-ups or other intense stresses.

In preparing for the holidays, O'Connor suggests making adjustments to your expectations. Getting into the spirit of

giving can be a tremendous mood-booster. It just feels good to give, either by volunteering or donating in myriad other ways, he said.

"We never know what life will bring, but if you exercise good habits, then you can deal with what life has in store," he said.

Therapy can be helpful. Therapy is about trust, he noted, about opening up to a trusted person.

To find a therapist, he

said that Greenwood's Counseling Referrals of Litchfield, Conn., can be a good resource, providing evaluation and listings of appropriate therapists.

O'Connor maintains a psychotherapy practice in Sharon. For 14 years, he served as the executive director of the Northwest Center for Family Service and Mental Health. His book, "Undoing Depression," is available at bookstores and online.



PHOTO BY HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE

Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass., is lit up for the holiday season.

DAY TRIPS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Added Sparkle in a Traditional Shaker Holiday Setting

There's something about the simplicity of Shaker design and traditions that seems perfectly in keeping with ideas of an old-fashioned holiday season.

Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass., is a museum, a working farm and the oldest Shaker village in New England. Ironically, perhaps, this year they are stepping away from the more muted Shaker traditions of days gone by and adding some sparkle and pizzazz.

But perhaps this is just the incentive we all need to travel to Pittsfield, Mass., to see the 19th-century enclave, with its famous round barn.

In addition to the gloriously simple furniture and buildings, this holiday season there will "art light projections" throughout the festively festooned

grounds. Visitors can peek at the donkeys, sheep and other animals (most of which will be dozing off by the time the light show begins). There will also be a show of never-before-seen Shaker miniatures.

There will be an outdoor firepit, and adult cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

Hancock Holiday Nights runs Dec. 12 and 16 through 19, and Dec. 27 through 29. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 6-18, and free for 5 and under. Advanced purchase of timed tickets is required. (Tickets are not required for children ages 2 and younger.) Entrance to the Village is ticketed in 15-minute increments between 5 and 8 p.m. Find out more at [www.hancockshakervillage.org](http://www.hancockshakervillage.org).

JANE AUSTEN: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Christmas with the Darcys and (Gasp!) the Wickhams

It doesn't need to be the holiday season for fans of Jane Austen to crave some kind of modern sequel to her most popular works.

But it is in fact the holiday season — and playwrights Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon have a gift for all Austen fans in the form of a series of Christmas-season plays featuring the Bennett sisters and their spouses and suitors.

Shakespeare & Co. in Lenox, Mass., produced the first of these plays, "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," in 2017, the year after it debuted at the Northlight Theater in Chicago. The story revolves around bookish middle sister Mary, who finds love with a cousin of Mr. Darcy.

This year's Christmas show will be the second play based on "Pride and Prejudice." It's called "The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley" — a title guaranteed to make Austen fans gasp with trepidation.

The action takes place "downstairs,"

led by the motherly but tough head housekeeper, Mrs. Reynolds. Will she manage to keep Mr. Wickham (who of course she has known since he was a child) in line and avoid any flare-ups with archenemy Fitzwilliam Darcy?

Find out in the Tina Packer Theater at Shakespeare & Co. on Dec. 16 and 17 at 7 p.m., Dec. 18 at 2 and 7 p.m. and Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. Get details and order tickets at [www.shakespeare.org](http://www.shakespeare.org).

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## 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., [ffa.hvrhs.org](http://ffa.hvrhs.org)  
Trees, 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

**The Clark Art Museum.** 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. [www.clarkart.edu](http://www.clarkart.edu)  
ART YARNS - DIGITAL GALLERY TALK, Dec. 9, 5 to 6 p.m. (online).  
DRAWING CLOSER: PARTIAL VIEW, Dec. 10, 11 a.m. to noon.

**Furnace — Art on Paper Archive.** 107 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. [www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com](http://www.furnace-artonpaperarchive.com)  
Gelach Penn: Angels with Dirty Faces, Nov. 13 to Dec. 12.

**Southern Gallery of the Wish House.** 413 Sharon Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall Conn. [www.southernraingallery.net](http://www.southernraingallery.net)  
Cornwall Artisans Pop-Up Shop, weekends starting Nov. 26 through Dec. 19, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## BOOKS

**Scoville Memorial Library.** 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [www.scovillelibrary.org](http://www.scovillelibrary.org)  
Library Book Group led by Claudia Cayne, Dec. 11, 4 to 5 p.m. (in person and online).

## ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

Support the arts coverage you find each week in Compass. Your ad dollars help us tell readers about artists who continue to create and entertain during the pandemic.

## DANCE

**Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.** 600 Main St., Hartford, Conn. [www.thewadsworth.org](http://www.thewadsworth.org)  
Festival of Trees & Traditions, Dec. 9, 10, 11, 12, noon to 5 p.m.

**Norman Rockwell Museum.** 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, Mass. [www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org)  
Book Launch Celebration: Jan Brett's The Nutcracker, Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## KIDS

**Hotchkiss Library of Sharon.** 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [www.hotchkisslibrary.org](http://www.hotchkisslibrary.org)  
Weekly After School Story & Craft: Holidays, Dec. 15, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Millbrook Free Library.** 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. [www.millbrooklibrary.org](http://www.millbrooklibrary.org)  
Arts & Crafters: Let It Snow...flake Ornaments!, Dec. 15, 5 to 6 p.m.

## MOVIES

**The Moviehouse.** 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net)  
Now playing: House of Gucci, Encanto, Belfast, Ghostbusters: Afterlife, West Side Story, House of Gucci, Bolshoi Ballet: The Nutcracker, Dec. 19.

## MUSIC

**Barrington Stage Company.** 122 North St., Pittsfield, Mass. [www.barringtonstageco.org](http://www.barringtonstageco.org)  
Holiday Getaway, Dec. 9 to 12 (online).

**Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center.** 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org)  
Jane Lynch & Kate Flannery — A Swingin' Little Christmas, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

## THEATER

**Barrington Stage Company.** 122 North St., Pittsfield, Mass. [www.barringtonstageco.org](http://www.barringtonstageco.org)  
Eleanor, Dec. 9 to 12 (online).

**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/PINE PLAINS/AREA

## PPCSD hears from concerned community

# BOE may have to cut before and after school program

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — From receiving an update on how things are faring at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School to fielding issues raised by local residents, the Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) Board of Education (BOE) dealt with a number of parental concerns on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

The BOE met in the high school library at 7 p.m.; the meeting was live streamed to www.ppcsd.org.

### BOCES award

A presentation of the recent Dutchess Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Student of Distinction award started things off.

Dutchess BOCES Alternative High School Principal Erin Piquet said she was honored to recognize Brian Johnson as November's Student of Distinction. Piquet said Brian is an extremely motivated student and has been making excellent progress and meeting his goals. She commended him for balancing his work at BOCES' Alternative High School and the Career & Technical Institute.

### High school update

Using a three-pronged approach, Stissing Mountain High School Principal Tara Grieb offered a comprehensive overview of how the junior/senior high school, its students and its families have been doing as of late.

Grieb highlighted academic accomplishments during the pandemic and stressed the impact the students' social-emotional wellbeing has had on their schoolwork. She also spoke of the social-emotional issues that students said they've been dealing with during the health crisis.

### Healthy Kids program

Superintendent Martin Handler then spoke about the Before and After School Program (otherwise known as the Healthy Kids program). He reminded the board that Healthy Kids does not staff the program at PPCSD, which is why the district stepped in and tried to run the program on its own.

However, Handler said the district is currently having problems staffing the program.

There are about 15 students enrolled in the morning session with one district paraprofessional running it, and about nine students enrolled in the afternoon session with two district paraprofessionals running the later session.

"The problem we have is we have no redundancy," Handler explained. "If one of those people is out, we have a problem filling it."

Handler reminded the BOE that there are parents who depend on the program for childcare. He said Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center Principal Julie Roberts and Cold Spring Early Learning Center Principal Gian Starr have reached out to district staff to ask if anyone is willing to help work extra hours in the Healthy Kids program — without luck.

As the PPCSD nears the holidays, Handler said he's not sure if it will be able to continue the program after the break. He said he wanted to "give the families heads up if that's going to be the case," adding while the district won't "pull the plug" at this time, but when the BOE meets on Wednesday, Dec. 15, it will have to make a decision.

### Public comment

Among those who spoke

during public comment, district parent Mary Douglass shared her concerns about the presence of "extremely disturbing books" in the Stissing Mountain school library and e-books in the school district that she said depict graphic sexual content.

As a parent of an 11-year-old boy who loves graphic novels, she said she was "horrified to see pictures, words and graphics in the district's books displaying such content," one of which she said included pictures of oral sex being performed.

Douglass also spoke of a rumor she heard that parents had threatened BOE members with physical harm. Douglass said she believed the rumor began when the BOE meetings recently switched to being held virtually after meetings got unruly. She said she never once heard a parent threaten physical harm to a board member or to the superintendent.

"We are parents, not perpetrators," said Douglass.

She then brought up the recent "shoe drop" at Stissing Mountain, when 80 shoes were placed outside the school building to reflect students who were pulled from school who didn't comply with the vaccine mandate. Douglass read aloud some of the notes placed inside the shoes by those students' parents at the BOE meeting.

Raising his concerns about the state's current mask mandate at the meeting as the latest Omicron variant hits the U.S., Pine Plains resident Scott Cavey spoke at the BOE meeting to share his opinion.

"My stance has been and will continue to be... it has nothing to do with mask breaks and has everything to do with control."



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

This fire engine came all the way from Falls Village, Conn., to take part in Millbrook's Parade of Lights this year, which returned after a year's absence due to the COVID pandemic.

# Parade of Lights returns and makes Millbrook brilliant

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — After a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the ever-popular Parade of Lights returned to Millbrook with floats, lighted vehicles, bikes and even an antique tractor. Some speculated it drew a record number of spectators. There were far too many onlookers to count, but the crowds were glad to be back, cheering as the floats passed by, reveling in sightings of that naughty green Grinch, picking up candy and just enjoying the holiday season and being together after a long break from their last celebration on village streets.

Held on Friday, Dec. 3, the festivities began at the foot of Franklin Avenue, where a lighted nativity scene was set up. At the bottom of the Tribute Gardens, Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted children and posed for photos as wishes were made. At 6 p.m., Washington Recreation Director Chelsea Edson lit the giant Christmas tree, and kicked off the Parade of Lights.

It was heartwarming to see the community lining Franklin Avenue, store windows dressed in holiday finery, multicolored lights strung on the trees erected

all along the avenue.

The mayor's wife, Cecilia Collopy, spearheaded the festivities this year and did a masterful job. There were some new floats. Local DJ John McDonald was the emcee and did a fine job announcing the parade highlights. Radio Q92-FM was also on hand to keep things lively; music was also performed by Dan Dunninger and the Millbrook High School Brass Band. A number of floats played their own music as well.

Participating fire companies came from Millbrook, Stanfordsville, Amenia, Highland Falls, Union Vale, Wassauc, LaGrange as well as from Connecticut and beyond.

Many local businesses had floats, as did community groups like the Scouts, the 4H, the Millbrook Historical Society and many charities. Cardinal Hayes Home for Children participated for the first time; it was a welcome addition as the school is an important part of the community.

A number of local farms participated. Along with individuals from the area, more than 40 floats and other entries took part in the parade to kick off the holiday season.

A number of important causes

were also represented in the parade. There was a "Save the Millbrook Gazebo" float, complete with a replica of the controversial gazebo lit for the holidays as its centerpiece, as well as a Preserving Stissing Landmarks float.

Other organizations participated to promote their cause, as did various local businesses, all in support of the village, the town, numerous charities, merchants and all those who live and work in the area.

All in all, the community and many others from around the region came together, carefully, in light of the ongoing COVID pandemic, and after a long absence, to celebrate the season together. Many wore masks, though some did not, but the overall mood was joyous.

Many now are already looking forward to next year's parade.

Collopy said she had lots of help this year from many others, including Millbrook Business Association (MBA) President Kevin McGrane. The Village Highway Department also helped, under guidance from Superintendent Bob Collacola. They, along with the MBA, installed Christmas trees along Franklin Avenue, while volunteers decorated them.

## STATE POLICE REPORT

The following information was provided by the New York State Police (NYSP) Troop K in Salt Point. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### Burglary, sexual assault arrest in Amenia

On Thursday, Dec. 2, the NYSP from the Dover barracks arrested Thomas E. Ryan, age 54, of Lagrange, for Criminal Sex Act in the 1st degree, a class B felony, Burglary in the 2nd degree, a class C felony, and Sexual Abuse in the 1st degree, a class D felony.

The NYSP reported that on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at roughly 10:50 p.m., Troopers were dispatched to a residence in the town of Amenia for a report of a burglary in progress. According to the investigation, Ryan had illegally entered the residence through a window and sexually assaulted the victim.

Ryan was arraigned before the Town of Dover Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$20,000 cash bail or \$50,000 bond. He was scheduled to appear before the Town of Amenia Court on

Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 11 a.m.

### Crime Watch

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a crime, or you suspect criminal activity, send an e-mail to New York State Police Crime Watch at crimetip@troopers.ny.gov. All information will be kept confidential.

The Millerton News will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to editor@millertonnews.com.

## MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

### Kwanzaa reading at Millbrook Library on Dec. 16

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

### Live nativity at Grace Church

On Sunday, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m., Grace Church will present a live nativity scene for the entire community to enjoy. The live nativity will include a storytelling complete with costumed characters and live animals.

Those who would like to view the nativity may gather outside the church, located at 3328 Franklin Ave., to hear the tale of Jesus' birth and that God is present, that light shines in the darkness bringing hope, love and peace to all the world.

Everyone is asked to wear masks to the outdoor event to ensure COVID safety as community members listen to the story, sing carols and celebrate together. The nativity is suitable for all ages. For details, call 845-901-8103.

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.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Holiday lights shine brightly throughout Stanford

Stanford residents celebrated the holiday season with their friends and neighbors and watching the Holiday of Lights Parade on Saturday evening, Dec. 4. Organized by the Stanford Holiday of Lights Committee, the parade line-up started at the town Highway Garage on Creamery Road; the parade itself stepped off promptly at 6 p.m. Standing alongside the parade route, residents celebrated the holiday season together entranced as decorated fire engines and floats passed by, bringing twinkling lights and holiday cheer all throughout the town.

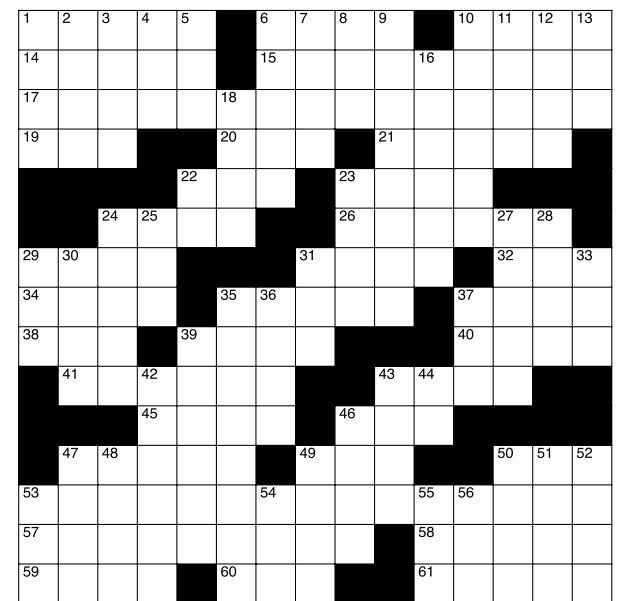
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Polish city
- Very eager
- Identifies a specific person or thing
- Tennis great Naomi
- One concerned by professional advancement
- PGA Championship reward
- A fashionable hotel
- Norse mythology afterlife location
- Stood up
- Car mechanics group
- Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
- Broken branch
- Astronomy unit
- East Asian nursemaid
- "Airplane!" actor
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- "Batman" villain
- Downfalls
- Philippine province
- Once-vital TV part
- Valley
- Tax
- Classic Scorsese film
- Subway dwellers
- Book part
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- Founder of Babism
- Haver surgery
- Withdrawal from a larger entity
- Lot's father
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.
- Lemur

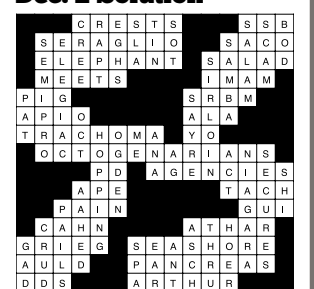
### CLUES DOWN

- Quarrels
- Right away
- Comedian Carvey
- Egyptian unit of weight
- A Brit's mother
- Tropical tree
- One who speaks Gaelic
- NHL legend Bobby
- Vacation spots
- Military personnel
- Shakira's don't lie
- Wimbledon champ
- Teletypewriter
- Mistakes
- Whale ship captain
- Thus
- From end to end
- Kids love him

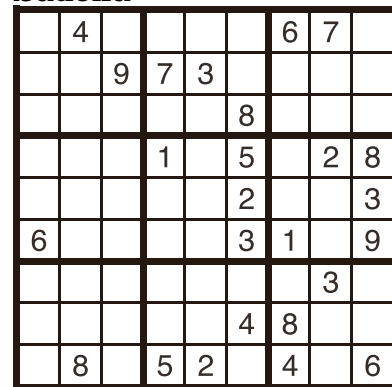


- One and only
- Fencing swords
- Taxis
- Basics
- Refuse of grapes
- Go quickly
- French ballet dynasty
- Most open
- Popular soap ingredient
- US time zone (abbr.)
- Items of food
- Backbones
- Infrequent
- Blood type
- "Let It Snow!" songwriter
- Dutch colonist
- Pike
- Egyptian sun god
- A cardinal is one
- From a distance
- Bolivian river
- N. American student organization (abbr.)
- River (Spanish)
- Chinese life force
- Chinese surname

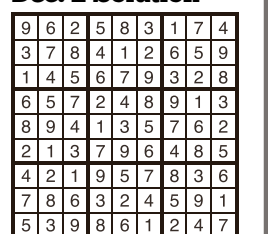
### Dec. 2 Solution



### Sudoku



### Dec. 2 Solution



Level: Intermediate



Senior living • Rehabilitation • Nursing • Memory Care

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EDITORIAL

Holiday spirit abounds

For what seems like the first time in a while, the holiday spirit seems to have been generously sprinkled all around the Harlem Valley — as those who live and work here, those who govern our towns and villages, along with those who manage many of our social services, nonprofits, libraries, churches, police and fire departments, our veterans, Scouts, food pantries and countless other grassroots clubs and organizations, have joined forces with innumerable local business owners and philanthropic groups to ensure that our communities can gather together as safely and responsibly as possible this year to celebrate the season together.

Whether one observes Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or any other religious holiday is not the point. The point is that after 22 months of dealing with the COVID crisis and living under pandemic regulations, we have been dealing with extreme stress, aggravation, tension, pressure, fear, worry... it has been a terribly trying two years for all of us.

Many have lost jobs or income; others have lost health insurance; still others have lost their homes. Some have divorced or separated from their significant others. In the worse case scenario, some have lost loved ones. The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on many of us.

It's also placed a burden on our children. They lost a year of going to school when COVID first arrived. Many spent that time in virtual isolation, which had to be scary.

Canceled classes were surely challenging to deal with, but axed holiday traditions also had to be disappointing for children, and confusing. Certainly parents could understand why parades needed to be nixed last year, as it made social distancing impossible. They also realized why visits with Santa at the local library or community center were a no-no. It's difficult, though, to explain such things to children holiday after holiday, and disheartening to young boys and girls looking forward to the joys of the season.

That's why it's so wonderful so many worked so hard to ensure that many holiday events could take place once again this year. Yes, we still have to be careful. After all, the COVID pandemic continues to rage.

In fact, with the new omicron variant, which the World Health Organization (WHO) is calling a "variant of concern," we need to be more vigilant than ever.

Just last week Governor Kathy Hochul urged New Yorkers to wear masks indoor public settings. That said, masks are also being advised at outdoor settings, like the various holiday events taking place around our region.

There have been many, with many more still to come! On Friday, Dec. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m., the North East Community Center (NECC) at 51 South Center St. in Millerton will hold its Gingerbread House Decorating workshop. Registration is needed as there are limited spots available.

Then on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the NorthEast-Millerton Library, the popular adult all-volunteer Salisbury Band Christmas Brass & Hot Chocolate Society will perform their fabulous holiday show, weather permitting.

In Amenia on Friday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m., and on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Maplebrook School on Route 22 will offer Winter Fest. Folks can walk through a campus winter wonderland, meet Santa, sip some hot chocolate, sing carols and purchase holiday gifts. For admission, people are asked to bring a new hat, scarf or mittens to donate to Adopt-a-Family.

The Amenia Lions Club also has its annual Memory Tree to benefit the Dutchess County Hearing Conservation Committee and purchase hearing aids for those who can't afford them. Forms may be picked up at Jack's Auto, Havens Real Estate or from Amenia Lions Club members. The club's Facebook page also has forms, as does Lions Club President Lori Hale at bjd hale@gmail.com. (Names must be submitted before Dec. 17 to be included in the Dec. 23rd issue of The Millerton News.)

In Dover Plains, VFW Post 5444 will host the Not Ready for Winter Dance at its Post Hall at 3422 Route 22 on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 7 to 11 p.m. For details, call 845-877-6300.

The First Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains is again sponsoring its annual Mitten Tree, a 30-year tradition. The church collects new children's and adult's gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and socks and distributes them between The Pine Plains Food Locker and Willow Roots Food Pantry. Donations may be dropped off at the church's back porch at 3039 Church St. (Route 199).

Just up the road in Copake, the free Christmas dinner (COVID-style) has started up again, thanks to a generous waitress at Dad's Diner who has organized it for three years now. That waitress (or one of Santa's special helpers?), named Colleen Quinn, may be contacted at 518-567-1208 or dosbambinos5307@gmail.com to order "one or 10" free Christmas dinners, as the flyer states. Incredible, right? One may also contact Colleen to make a donation and help pay for the dinners she is providing for her neighbors in need.

The holiday meal planned at the Copake Town Park on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, with pick up between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., includes a full ham dinner with mac & cheese, baked potato, green beans, bread and apple pie or rice pudding.

Reservations are required for planning purposes. This year, the Millbrook Library will teach about and celebrate Kwanzaa with local children on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 11:30 a.m. during a reading of "Li'L Rabbit's Kwanzaa." To register, go to www.millbrooklibrary.org.

On Sunday, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m. Millbrook's Grace Church will present a live nativity for the community to enjoy. Told with costumed characters and live animals, it will be held outside at 3328 Franklin Ave. and appropriate for all ages.

These are the types of ideas and gatherings the holidays are all about, and it's heartwarming to see such generosity and community spirit in the Harlem Valley — especially as so many continue to struggle with the realities of the pandemic and all of the challenges associated with it. It's just more proof of why living here is truly the best gift of all.



Millerton Fire Company in critical need of volunteer firefighters

The recent fire on Route 22 that destroyed the Yang house was a terrible catastrophe that stole two lives and devastated the whole town and all those that knew the family. This horrible situation sheds light on the issue that Millerton does not have enough qualified firefighters at the fire department.

If another deadly blaze occurs, the people of the town should not have to wait for other towns to arrive, as the wait could result in someone losing their life.

The volunteers that are currently at the fire department are doing great work and everyone appreciates them, however if

another crisis happens to occur, the town should be able to provide qualified firefighters to assist, in order to avoid any unnecessary losses.

The fire at the Yang house is a horrific and incredibly sad situation that shows how important fixing this matter is.

Providing qualified people at the Millerton Fire Company would make everyone living and visiting the town feel safe in their homes and in their places of work.

With the growing popularity of the small town, we should take the extra precaution in hope to avoid another calamity.

Kaitlyn Johnson

Millerton

A tale of kindness on a very snowy night

The night after Thanksgiving, I walked out of The Millerton Moviehouse with some friends and saw that while watching the movie for a mere two hours, snow had been falling and at least 3 inches were covering Main Street in Millerton.

Instead of joining my friends at the Millerton Inn for a burger, I felt I needed to get home as it looked like there was no end in sight.

As I drove down Main Street, I could feel the roads were already slick and difficult to drive and my drive home was on a windy Route 199, which in normal circumstances is not an easy drive.

I could see that after driving merely 2/10 of a mile, cars were skidding over the ice, with some already stalled on the side of the road. I pulled into Four Brothers Pizza on Route 22, with the thought of perhaps calling the police. The police didn't answer and although I felt it was an emergency, I was sure they wouldn't.

What happened next is where the real story begins.

There were two couples who were getting ready to pay the bill when they heard me explaining my situation to the young boy manager.

The men, who were wearing "Millerton Fire Department" jackets, asked me where I lived and after telling them, they looked at each other and asked if they could help. I was at first shocked, but when I realized how frightened I was to attempt driving in the storm, I said, "I would be very grateful if you could."

GUEST COLUMN

Jill Choder-Goldman

Within minutes, after telling them exactly where I lived, the one said, "I could drive you in your car" and the other said, "and I'll follow."

I'm a city girl and I can assure you this would never happen on the streets of Manhattan, and as my mother taught me, I would never get in a car with a stranger. But here, I was walking in the snow to my car with a very generous human being.

When in the car, we introduced ourselves. His name was Keith Roger and he's been a fireman with the Millerton Fire Company for 30 years.

Keith got me home safely but not without some skids on the dark windy road.

I must have said "thank you" way too many times, but I was so grateful that Keith and his friend were in Four Brothers when I stepped into that restaurant.

Definitely, an angel was looking out for me that night and I am sure I will never forget this past Thanksgiving... and Keith!

Thank you, so much Keith, from Jill.

Jill Choder-Goldman, her husband and daughter have been living part-time in Pine Plains for almost 30 years. It's been their weekend house and oasis. "Then March 13, 2020 came around and we came here for what we thought would be a month, maybe two at most. We've been here ever since, living, working and loving it," she said.



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Footprints in the snow

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, Darrah Cloud

I am writing as one of many Pine Plains residents who are very thankful for all that Darrah Cloud has contributed during her four-year tenure as town supervisor.

Darrah Cloud worked persistently and effectively with unflagging optimism for Pine Plains. Having encouraged people to stop by, Darrah was often for long hours at her desk.

She discovered funding sources and got nearly \$200,000 in grants, an amazing number for a town our size. She spoke to the community through weekly newsletters, monthly town supervisor statements, and White Papers — reports on big projects like the sewer feasibility study.

Darrah built a positive public face for Pine Plains. She attracted new businesses, encouraged the Durst project in directions more environmentally sound and responsive to town needs and forged relationships with other towns and county and state offices to reach goals we couldn't on our own, like broadband and road improvement.

She co-founded the Tri-Town Coalition on Affordable Housing and served as secretary for the Dutchess County Mayors and Supervisors Association and was appointed to several councils for the county.

Darrah worked with Town Board members and staff, the police and many volunteers on town committees. Together, they did great things for our town. Citizen participation, the environment, infrastructure, town administration and life for families improved.

For example, relevant to citizen participation, the environment and infrastructure: We enjoy a new forum, the Town Workshop, where people learn what is happening and discuss issues.

Pine Plains is now designated a "Climate Smart and Clean

Energy Community," and work continues on a Solar Law that includes the management of large-scale solar farms, and the study and upkeep of our lakes.

We have an EV charging station and Annual Town Clean-Up Day.

We look forward to even more resources through ongoing work on a proposed sewer district and a new town playground.

How have town administration and community life improved? The Comprehensive Plan for Pine Plains was updated. We have a re-vamped Investment Policy for the Town's General Fund, a re-instated Ethics Board and new policies for social media, health benefits and town police. The town purchased land in the hamlet for future development, making possible a centrally-located Town Hall. There are standing committees on Town Beautification, Playground and Broadband.

Simply put, Pine Plains is a better place for people and families. Events are held for senior citizens, and starter and senior housing projects are encouraged.

The town maintains a necessarily small and tight municipal budget, enabling people on limited incomes to continue to live in Pine Plains. A recovery coach comes to help people struggling with addictions. Our town recreation includes an ice rink and easy access to activities through a Family ID System.

We have an ongoing Home-town Heroes Project commemorating those who served in the Armed Forces.

Thank you, Darrah Cloud, for your leadership in making Pine Plains a very special place in a world very much in need of special places of civility and good citizenship.

Suzanne C. Ouellette

Pine Plains

Help fill the Mitten Tree

The First Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains is again sponsoring our annual Mitten Tree.

Our congregation has participated in this 30-year project by collecting new purchased or handmade children and adult gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and socks, which we divide between The Pine Plains Food Locker and Willow Roots Food Pantry for distribution to their recipients.

As we all know, winters in

upstate New York are chilly and we invite everyone in our community to participate!

During December, donations of new items listed above may be dropped in a plastic bin on the covered back porch at the Presbyterian Church (the stone church), 3039 Church St.

If you have questions, please phone our church, 518-398-7117.

Thanks everyone!

Jeanne Valentine-Chase

Pine Plains

 **The MILLERTON NEWS**  
www.facebook.com/themillertonnews

*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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**Volume 90, Number 46** **Thursday, December 9, 2021**

**Mission Statement**  
The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, 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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# LEGAL NOTICES

## TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARDS OF APPEALS NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Code of the Town of Amenia and NYS Town Law Article 16, a joint public hearing will be convened by the Town of Amenia Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:00 p.m. on December 8, 2021 to consider the application of SBA 2012 TC Assets, LLC ("SBA", or the "Applicant") with respect to the renewal of its Site Plan Review, Area Variance and Special Use Permit approvals for an existing telecommunications tower and facility located on an approximately 10.5-acre parcel at Route 441 within the RA "Rural Agricultural" Zoning District and identified as Grid Number 13200-7067-00-572230-0000. SBA is the lessee of the Property (the "Application").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Application is on file in the Amenia Planning Board and Zoning Board Office for public viewing and inspection during normal business hours. The Application can also be viewed and downloaded from the Town's official website at [www.ameniany.gov](http://www.ameniany.gov).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hear all persons interested in the Application at the public hearing noticed herein. All persons may appear at the hearing in person or by agent and may also submit written comments to the Planning Board at or prior to such hearing by emailing comments to Planning Board Secretary Judy Westfall at [jwestfall@ameniany.gov](mailto:jwestfall@ameniany.gov).

Dated: November 10, 2021  
Robert Boyles, Jr., Chairman  
Town of Amenia  
Planning Board  
11-18-21  
12-09-21

## 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 11, 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 is 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 2nd 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  
12-09-21  
12-16-21  
12-23-21

## LEGAL NOTICE OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, at a regular meeting held on November 18, 2021, duly adopted a resolution, subject to permissive referendum, that would enact Local Law No. x of 2021, which reads as follows:

### LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of this Local Law to opt out of allowing the licensing and establishment of cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites in the Town of Amenia that would otherwise be allowed under Cannabis Law Article 4. The Town Board, after careful examination of the law, has determined that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Town of Amenia to opt out of the licensing and establishment

of cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites within the Town of Amenia.

Section II: AUTHORITY  
This Local Law is adopted pursuant to Cannabis Law § 131 which expressly authorizes the Town Board to adopt a local law requesting the Cannabis Control Board to prohibit the establishment of cannabis retail dispensary licenses and/or on-site consumption licenses within the jurisdiction of the Town.

### Section III: LOCAL OPT-OUT

The Town Board of the Town of Amenia hereby opts out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site cannabis consumption sites from being established and operated within the Town's jurisdiction.

### Section IV: SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstances, shall be adjudicated by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly

involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

### Section V: PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM/REFERENDUM ON PETITION

This Local Law is subject to a referendum on petition in accordance with Cannabis Law §131 and the procedure outlined in Municipal Home Rule Law §24.

### Section VI: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State, provided that such filing occurs no sooner than 45 days after the adoption of this Local Law by the Town Board. Pursuant to Cannabis Law § 131, this Local Law is subject to a permissive referendum and may not be filed with the Secretary of State until the applicable time period has elapsed to file a petition, or a referendum has been conducted approving this Local Law."

Pursuant to NYS Cannabis Law § 131, this action by the Town Board is subject to permissive referendum governed by NYS Municipal Home Rule Law § 24.

Dated: November 18, 2021  
Amenia, New York.

By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Amenia  
DAWN MARIE KLINGNER,  
TOWN CLERK  
12-09-21

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**FULL TIME UNIVERSAL BANKER I:** Responsible for generating business and deepening customer relationships. Must possess strong customer service and sales skills and be detail oriented. Previous cash handling experience is important. Responsible to adhere to policies, procedures, and ensure operational soundness. Must have full working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite; Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Must be able to work extended hours and must work Saturdays. Competitive wages and incentive programs. Apply in person at the Lakeville office of Litchfield Bancorp, 326 Main Street, Lakeville. EOE/AA/M/F/D/V.

**ISABELLA FREEDMAN JEWISH RETREAT CENTER:** is a year-round 120-person retreat facility that is located in Falls Village, CT. New employees are eligible for a signing bonus of \$1,000. At the time of hire, the new employee will receive \$250. After 45 days, provided they have no active disciplinary issues, the new employee will receive the remaining \$750. Want to work at a beautiful, peaceful location, with great people? This is the place to be! We are currently seeking a Facilities Manager, Hospitality Specialists, Dishwashers, Sous Chef, and Retreat Services Associates. For more details please visit our website at <https://hazon.org/about/jobs-internships/> and email a copy of your resume to [jobs@hazon.org](mailto:jobs@hazon.org).

**NEWLY REVISED:** Seeking a Family Resource Assistant to assist with Case Management and family support programs (food, housing, utilities, school supplies). Associate or Bachelor's degree in social work, human development, human services or related area OR 2 years of experience in a similar position. Must be bilingual/Spanish speaking. Full position description available at [www.neccmillerton.org/employment](http://www.neccmillerton.org/employment). EEO/EPO.

**PT GARDENER LAKEVILLE:** Flowers, weeding, pool/boat care, dump runs. Light snow removal. Year round, 20 hrs/week, mornings. \$20-\$25/hr, based on experience. Long term opportunity. Beautiful setting. Extensive Background Check. Contact: Rob Pearson. Email: [Pearson.r99@aol.com](mailto:Pearson.r99@aol.com).

## SERVICES OFFERED

**A1 HOUSE CLEAN-OUTS:** Items removed and trucked away from homes, garages, barns, etc. Call Bill 860-364-4653.

**DAVID VALYUO CARPENTER & HANDY-MAN:** 20 years serving the tri-state area. Old homes and barns my specialty. Renovations+Repairs. Call or text 917-538-1617. email [davidvalyuo@yahoo.com](mailto:davidvalyuo@yahoo.com).

**DO YOU OR A LOVED ONE NEED PHYSICAL THERAPY AT HOME?:** Avoid the clinic. Orthopedic manual physical therapist available for in-home care. New start-up serving Litchfield County. Learn more at [FLEXabilityLLC.com](http://FLEXabilityLLC.com) or call 828-301-8129.

**LAMP REPAIR AND REWIRING:** Pick up and delivery. Serving the Northwest Corner. 413-717-2494.

## HOLIDAY

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