



MILLERTON

Annual Crafts For A Cause Sale Returns To Schoolhouse A2



PINE PLAINS

Properties On North Main Street Finally Demolished A5

COMPASS

Sondheim Musicals; The Secrets Of Summer Estate; Calendar; And More B1-2

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Millerton to lose one of its churches

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — While closing doors has been the plight of many churches nationwide between the changing culture and COVID-19, the Millerton community was nonetheless saddened to learn of the First Presbyterian Church of Millerton's plans to close in the next couple of months. Having struggled with its diminishing attendance of congregants, the church has decided to struggle no more by closing in January.

Established at 58 Main St., the First Presbyterian Church was first incorporated in 1847. To this day, many of

its active congregants can trace their long ties to the church through their grandparents, great-grandparents and other relatives who once occupied the church pews.

In addition to its sermons and Sunday school, the church has been a place for monthly community dinners, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, the Millerton Food Pantry, the Medical Loan Closet, English as a Second Language classes, Spanish services, Vacation Bible School and even a thrift store.

While their beloved sanctuary offered such services to benefit their

See CHURCH, A6

Train on track for Copake Iron Works

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
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COPAKE — When news was released on Nov. 16 that the Friends of Taconic State Park (FTSP) was granted permission from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to, in a matter of speaking, resurrect the railroad, smack in the center of the Copake Iron Works National Heritage Area Site in Taconic State Park, it unleashed this reporter's imagination.

It was almost as if the train could be seen puffing to life through the gnarled, forested treetops of the Taconic Mountain Range, which, according to the OPRHP, "transcends three states (Massachusetts, New

York and Connecticut) and two counties (Dutchess and Columbia)" with the famed, majestic Bash Bish Falls cradling one side of the rails and the 40-foot-deep iron ore pit cradling the other.

Some history, park details

The iron industry began in Copake in 1845, and remained active until 1903, according to OPRHP. Its website, www.parks.ny.gov/parks/taconiccopake/details.aspx, states that "the charcoal blast furnace, blowing engine house, machine shop, office and powder storage building still remain and are open to the public during the spring, summer and fall seasons" at the Taconic State Park — Copake Falls Area.

See TRAIN, A6



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The erection of the Copake Iron Works Railroad train shed is on pace for completion by next year, thanks to volunteers who were hard at work on Wednesday, Nov. 24, at the Taconic State Park in Copake Falls.

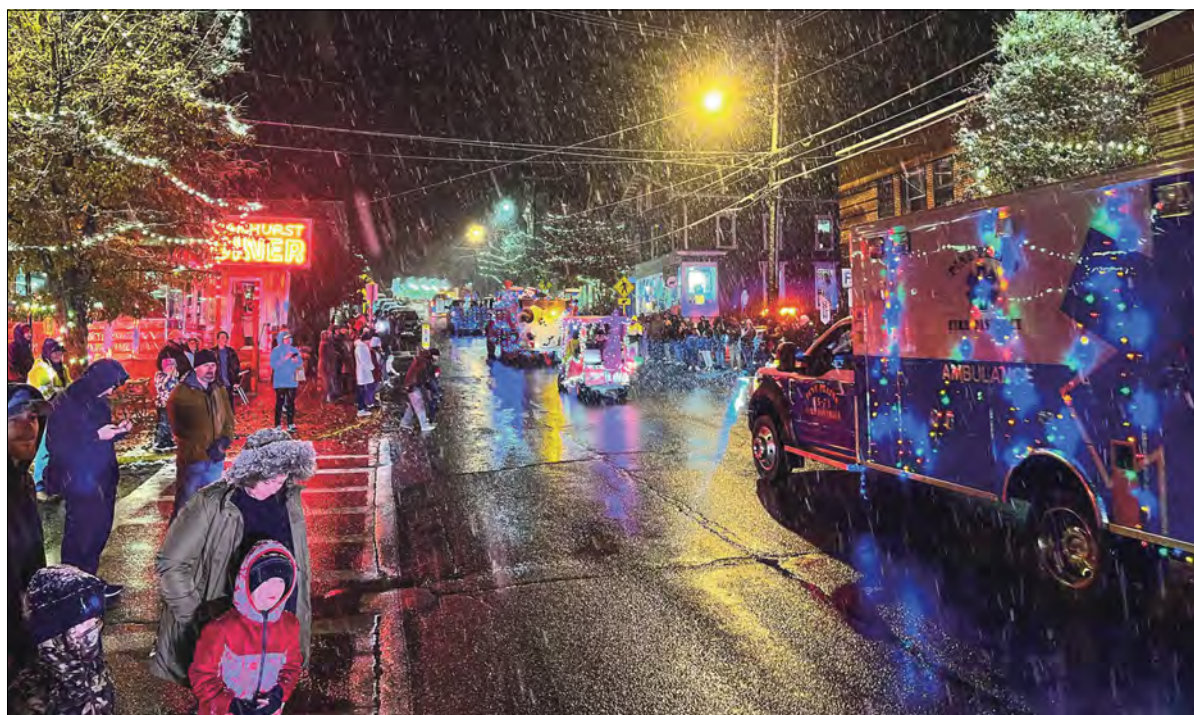


PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWNSCAPE OF MILLERTON AND NORTH EAS

Parade lights up Millerton

No amount of snowfall could prevent the Millerton community from gathering together to ring in the 2021 holiday season with the annual Parade of Lights on Friday night, Nov. 26. For full story and more photos, turn to page A2.

'It was a good fight'

Excavation of knoll approved at scenic Boston Corner Farm

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
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BOSTON CORNER — For six months there has been much back and forth among a passionate group of mostly Ancramdale residents, who petitioned the Ancram Planning Board to reject the application of excavator Fred Schneeberger to level a knoll for Boston Corner farmer John Langdon. Langdon farms property actually owned by Anthony Palumbo of Palumbo Block Co. Inc. of Dover Plains. The issue looks like it will finally be settled this Thursday, Dec. 2.

That's when the board is expected to finally adopt a resolution to officially approve the controversial project. The board voted its unanimous approval of Schneeberger's application at its Nov. 4 meeting, with plans to adopt the resolution at its December board meeting.

"This is what should have happened five months ago. The only reason it took so long is those people down there just kept busting my chops," said Schneeberger, with some frustration after going through what he said has been the longest application process for a simple excavation that he can remember in his lengthy career. "So this

should work for everybody. This isn't going to affect most people; they won't even see it."

Carol Falcetti, who led the neighborhood protest, was pragmatic about the defeat.

"The excavation will take place, but I have no idea if there will be any limitations on it," she said. "It was a good fight."

The nameless citizens' group, which drew roughly 30 or so residents concerned about Ancram's Scenic Overlay District (SOD), actually did see some

See BOSTON CORNER FARM, A6

Artistic and managing directors to leave Sharon Playhouse

By CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER
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SHARON, Conn. — After four years at the helm of The Sharon Playhouse, Artistic Director Alan M-L Wager and Managing Director Robert Levinstein have announced that they will leave the theater on Dec. 31.

"We had a wonderful run, it's time to turn it over to another team," they said in an interview on Nov. 26.

The charismatic pair successfully guided the theater through four years — two of which were made challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic — finding innovative ways to attract patrons to the Sharon venue with everything from cabaret nights to laser light shows, most of them on a custom-built stage in the parking lot.

In their short time in the Tri-state region, the two theater professionals seemed to be everywhere and to

have met (and befriended) everyone in the area.

"They've done wonderful work for us, we're really, really sorry to see them leave," said Emily Soell, president of the theater's board of directors and an actress who has appeared in many Sharon Playhouse productions over the years.

Although Levinstein and Wager

See SHARON PLAYHOUSE, A6



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MILLERTON

Parade of Lights sets village aglow

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — Just as residents were recovering from their Thanksgiving feasts, the village of Millerton coaxed them out of their cozy homes to ring in the holiday season with a few festivities — including the Millerton Fire Company's annual Parade of Lights — on Friday, Nov. 26.

In the weeks before the Parade of Lights, Townscape of Millerton and North East helped the village get dressed up for the holiday season by hanging holiday lights throughout the village.

While Millerton's business district was illuminated with strings of lights, garlands and other holiday decor a week before the parade, Townscape and local leaders saved lighting Millerton's Christmas tree for last. The tree, stationed at the entrance to the village by the spotlight at the intersection of Main Street and Route 22, was lit before the parade took off at 5:30 p.m. on Friday night.

Kicking off the Black Friday festivities in Millerton, The Moviehouse hosted a free community screening of the Christmas movie favorite "Elf" at 11 a.m. With doors opening at 10:30 a.m., each moviegoer was allotted one free small popcorn to snack on as they watched the story of Buddy the Elf play out on the big screen.

After the movie, Black Friday shoppers were encouraged to browse the village shops throughout the day, whether they were looking to gather holiday gift ideas for later or buy something that day for a bargain price.

In the early afternoon, Mother Nature treated everyone to a taste of the winter wonderland to come by turning the day's cold autumn rain into a light snowfall, which later turned into an excited flurry of fat wet flakes as the night drew near.

Under the falling snowflakes, residents lined the sidewalks from Salisbury Bank & Trust at one end of Main Street all the way down to Route 22 at the other, in anticipation of the parade. It was scheduled to begin from Arnoff Moving & Storage on Route 22 and end at the Millerton firehouse at 24 Century Blvd. There was no party this year afterward due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bundled up against the cold and checking the streets for



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWNSCAPE OF MILLERTON AND NORTH EAST

Under the flurry of fast-falling snowflakes, the Millerton Fire Company moved ahead with its annual Parade of Lights, leading a lineup of brightly illuminated parade vehicles and floats from Arnoff Moving & Storage on Route 22 up Main Street to the Millerton firehouse on Century Boulevard.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, clockwise, Stephanie Hawver, Jordan Hawver, Cheyenne Poucher and Landon Poucher celebrated the holiday season with hot chocolate and the Millerton Fire Company's annual Parade of Lights on Friday night, Nov. 26.

signs of the parade's arrival, spectators' ears perked up with the ricochet of sirens that lit up the night. Young children stood on guard along the sidewalks, waiting to notify family and other community members of the spectacle heading their way and rejoicing when the floats appeared in the distance.

Embracing the holiday season in earnest, parade participants pulled out all the stops to decorate their vehicles and floats for a festive drive through town. A lineup of brightly illuminated fire engines from several local fire companies led

the way while sounding their sirens. They were followed by a number of others eager to spread some holiday cheer from inside their cars and atop their parade floats; there were cars decked with strings of holiday lights; and even holiday characters like Santa Claus and the Grinch were spotted.

Community members appeared happy to return to their warm homes after the parade, heartened by the village's return to its festive holiday traditions and ready to enjoy the rest of the season's celebrations.

Crafts for a Cause ideal for holidays

MILLERTON — Crafted with care and created to fundraise for a cause, a selection of beautiful woodcrafts handmade by John Rocconova are being sold inside the historic Irondale Schoolhouse as part of the annual Woodcrafts for a Cause pop-up sale. The schoolhouse is at the Millerton entrance to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail on Main Street, just east of the traffic light at the intersection of routes 22 and 44.

From wooden trains, cars and sailboats to salad bowls, charcuterie and cutting boards, candle holders and other items, customers can browse the selection of beautifully crafted items on display, whether for holiday gifts or to treat themselves to something special.

All proceeds will go to Grow Against Poverty to support education and community development projects in Busia County, Kenya.

The pop-up sale opened on Friday, Nov. 26, and will return again on Saturday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 5, during the hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Holding up one of his own handcrafted wooden cars, John Rocconova encouraged shoppers to browse the menagerie of beautifully made woodcrafts on display inside the Irondale Schoolhouse.

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One of the consequences to all the new inground pools being installed in this real estate boom is the fact that they are lethal kill zones for wildlife such as frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles and small mammals. This is completely unnecessary, as a wildlife biologist, Rich Mason, has developed a very simple device that allows this wildlife to escape from the swimming pool and continue on with their lives. What is even more amazing is the price is under 25 dollars per unit. For more information and to prepare for next spring please visit: <https://froglog.us/>.



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Village Board holds public hearing

Trustees to apply for \$5 million water improvement grant

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — The Village Board voted to move forward with its Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant application after holding the mandatory public hearing on the application on Monday evening, Nov. 15.

Applying for a total of \$5,169,000, the board intends to use the grant to upgrade the water supply pipes in the Millerton Water District.

Held at the Village Hall offices at 5933 North Elm Ave. (Route 22), the board meeting began at 6 p.m. and the public hearing opened shortly thereafter.

In addition to the entire Village Board, the meeting drew four residents in attendance.

There were no public comments regarding the village's WIIA grant, and the board later decided to move forward with its application.

Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer said the following day, Tuesday, Nov. 16, that the resolution

the board put forth was for the authorization of a serial bonds principal amount not to exceed \$6 million.

Village Trustee Matthew Hartzog remarked the day after the meeting that applying for the grant doesn't mean the board will ultimately move ahead with it. Explaining there are many moving parts in place, he said if Millerton doesn't apply for a grant, the village may miss out on the federal infrastructure money that was recently made available.

Coats and cocoa warm bodies and souls



MILLERTON — The North East Community Center (NECC) in Millerton invited area residents to get cozy on Saturday, Nov. 20, at the non-profit's Coats and Clothing Giveaway.

NECC staff encouraged residents from Millerton, Amenia, Pine Plains, Dover Plains and even further afield to enjoy a hot cup of cocoa and to choose from a wide selection of warm winter coats and clothing.

NECC Executive Director Christine Sergent said NECC provided more than 150 coats, shoes and more to those in need.

— Kaitlin Lyle

From noon to 2 p.m., area residents like the fellow above, who came to South Center Street in Millerton to browse the warm winter coats and clothing offered at the NECC's Coats and Clothing Giveaway on Saturday, Nov. 20.



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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:


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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.



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PINE PLAINS



PHOTO BY DARRAH CLOUD

This aging property at 12 North Main St. was one of two properties marked for demolition late last month as part of the town's plans to revitalize the main hamlet and eventually build a new Town Hall in the main business district.

Demolition brings Pine Plains closer to vision of its future

By KAITLIN LYLE
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PINE PLAINS — After months spent waiting for the roofs to come tumbling down, the town of Pine Plains' patience was at long last rewarded as the demolition of properties at 8 and 12 North Main St. finally began last week.

The demolition ties into the town's vision for enhancing its downtown hamlet, a long-standing goal that's been featured in both the original 2004 Comprehensive Plan and the plan's 2019 update.

Along with improving public infrastructure in Pine Plains, the goal is to move the Town Hall from its present location on the outskirts of town on Route 199 into the center of the business district. Moving the location of Town Hall (among other benefits) will make it more accessible to residents and contribute to the community's vibrancy, many believe.

Pine Plains purchased the parcel at 8 North Main St. for \$134,000 in the summer of 2019; 12 North Main St. became available for purchase later that fall.

Town Supervisor Darrah Cloud explained last summer that because both properties are located next to a municipal parking lot, they are especially desirable. Owning the two properties is key to revitalization efforts and could be used to accommodate the plans to build a new Town Hall in the center of town, she said.

The parcel at 12 North Main St. was owned by Attorney to the Town Warren Replinsky's wife, Andrea, who sold it to the town for about half of its appraised value at \$100,009.

But the journey to buying 12 North Main St. was paved with some problems, when the Town Board received an email in April 2020 claiming to be a "petition,"

calling for a referendum on the purchase.

When taken to the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Dutchess, the online document was ruled as invalid on various counts — including its lack of actual signatures and failure to articulate the petition's purchase — and the town closed on 12 North Main St. in late July 2020.

Next, the town had to wait for the actual demolition work to take place. Cloud attributed the long wait to the construction company — Gentile Construction from Yonkers — having "a terrible time with getting the equipment and finding a dump to take the asbestos."

By mid-November, Gentile Construction had the needed equipment on site with plans to start demolition on Thursday, Nov. 11. The actual demolition and asbestos abatement took place on Tuesday, Nov. 23, and Wednesday, Nov. 24, bringing Pine Plains another step closer to its plans to revitalize its main hamlet with a satisfying crack of the wrecking ball.

When she closes her eyes and envisions what the completed project will look like once the space formerly occupied by the two North Main Street residences are finally built out, Cloud said, "The Town Board is dreaming of a new Town Hall in that lot, a place where the offices would be accessible to everyone."

That would be especially helpful to those without cars, Cloud said, adding that her vision for the space includes having the Pine Plains Police Department nearby; it's currently housed in a trailer at the existing Town Hall on Route 199.

Cloud added that "democracy [will be] available by dropping in [to Town Hall] while shopping and going to other places in Pine Plains."



Bundled up against the cold night, parade participants gave a hearty holiday wave to the spectators lining the sidewalks as they made their way through the town of Pine Plains as part of the annual Parade of Lights.

Decorating Day and Parade of Lights bring holiday spirit to town

By KAITLIN LYLE
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PINE PLAINS — It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Pine Plains last weekend as the town invited residents and guests alike to preen it for the coming holiday season at the 36th annual Town Decorating Day, followed by the traditional Parade of Lights on Saturday, Nov. 27.

After the surprise snowfall that came drifting down the day before on Friday, Nov. 26, Pine Plains had a cold, clear day to hang decorations and parade through town. Starting at 3 p.m., residents were invited to pick up those decorations in front of the Bank of Millbrook building at 2971 East Church St. in the center of town.

Having collected their decorations, they were given access to the pine trees lining the streets and encouraged to

garnish them for the holidays. By nightfall, the trees glowed with the holiday spirit, courtesy of the residents' thoughtful handiwork.

Local children were awestruck to find Santa Claus in Pine Plains a month early, but delighted nonetheless by the chance opportunity to share their holiday wishes with him at the gazebo at the Town Park. As the afternoon gave way to evening, holiday music came streaming into the center of town and Pine Plains shone with a little extra holiday magic with both the lighting of the town Christmas tree and the sight of local residents crowding the streets, determined to get the best view of the parade as it made its way from the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School into the center of town.

At the stroke of 5 p.m., sirens sounded from the distance and



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

heads turned toward the arrival of the parade's spectacular lineup of fire engines, resident vehicles, floats, tractors and other sights to behold.

The sirens were traced to the decorated series of fire engines from a number of local fire companies. Members of the Pine Plains FFA waved to their friends and neighbors from atop of their float, proud to embrace the community and holiday spirit in equal measure.

Local families adorned their vehicles, tractors and four-wheelers for the occasion with a variety of holiday trimmings, including inflatable holiday critters and characters and even a few surprise passengers ranging from Santa Claus to the Grinch. Some even threw candy and other treats to the little ones standing along the sidewalks with open arms.

With help from his friends

at Bank of Millbrook, Santa Claus came riding into town on the bank's parade float, while the Ronnybrook Farm team wowed the crowd with their illuminated farm-themed holiday float.

A Grinch on a motorcycle rode at the tail end of the parade, and spectators were encouraged to boo the Grinch to dissuade him from stealing Christmas this year.

Whether they were a first-responder, a local family or an organization or a visitor from a neighboring town, the event's emcee thanked each and every one of the parade's participants with gusto as they passed through the center of town. The crowd, always enthusiastic, responded in kind with applause, just thankful to be able to celebrate the holidays once more with the community as it has for so many years in the past.

Cost breakdown of proposed sewer system

By KAITLIN LYLE
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PINE PLAINS — With the Pine Plains Sewer Feasibility Study at last finalized, area residents and business owners came out to the Pine Plains Town Board workshop meeting on Monday, Nov. 15, to learn what the study's results meant for the town's future. (For more on the results of the feasibility study, read the Nov. 25 issue of The Millerton News or go to www.tricornernews.com.)

This week, we take a look at a breakdown of project costs and other details of the proposed central sewer system for Pine Plains.

Heading up the study was a team from the engineering firm, Tighe & Bond, which approached it through a series of tasks.

The first task involved an analysis and delineation of Pine Plains' wastewater needs. Tighe & Bond recommended the proposed sewer district serve the hamlet-business zoning area and include nearby parcels that would like to connect to the district as well as nearby parcels that have experienced septic issues.

With the firm's second task focused on analyzing wastewater flows, Kyle Kortright from Tighe & Bond explained the flow estimates were based on historical water meter data, and that the flow estimate for the proposed sewer district was calculated at 13,500 gallons per day.

Kortright said they also had to consider future flow estimates and calculated a total of 20,000 gallons per day for the district.

Selecting a preliminary collection system as the third task, Tighe & Bond proposed a septic tank effluent gravity collection system. The system was hailed for its low visual impact; its simple operation and maintenance; the low cost to build and maintain its subsurface disposal; and its smaller disposal field.

Including financing costs, the total project cost is projected at \$4,214,000. This includes \$2,615,000 in construction costs; \$520,000 in engineering costs; \$171,000 in land acquisition costs; \$786,000 in project contingency costs; and \$122,000 in financing insurance costs.

For debt service and operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, the total annual cost is estimated at \$205,467 — this includes \$140,467 in annual debt service costs and \$65,000 in annual O&M costs.

Tighe & Bond Senior Project Manager Erin Moore explained that, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), user costs need to be less than 2% of median household income in order for the system to be affordable.

For a single family home, user costs therefore need to be less than \$1,158 annually to be affordable, while the New York

State Comptroller stated user costs have to be less than \$696 annually plus hook-up fees to be affordable.

As a potential billing method, the single family annual cost would be \$1,100 and the small commercial annual cost would be \$3,011.

Included in the list of funding strategies to make this project more affordable for Pine Plains, Tighe & Bond suggested potential grants to help lower cost impact — such as the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Dutchess County Community Development Grant — as well

as trying to recruit additional system users.

In addition to using the study report to apply for funding, Moore said that, among the next steps, the sewer district will need to be formed, which may require a vote from those living in the proposed district. The proposed district at this point is the main hamlet in the center of town.

If the town begins to form a sewer district now, Tighe & Bond estimates its sewer district will be completed by April 2022.

As for the system's design and construction, Tighe & Bond estimates the system will be operational by 2024.

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COPAKE FALLS IN BRIEF

Holiday festivities at Historical Society

As part of this year's Winter Walk in Copake Falls, the festively decorated Roeliff Jansen Historical Society invites the community to take part in an open house at the Historical Society building, located at 8 Miles Road, on Sunday, Dec. 15.

From noon to 4 p.m., parents can bring their children to visit with Santa, enjoy the His-

torical Society's annual holiday exhibit and purchase holiday wreaths, books, raffle tickets, baked goods and beverages.

For more information, go to www.roeliffjansenshs.org. Community members can also learn more by visiting the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society Facebook page "RoeliffjansenHS" or its Instagram page "rjhscopakefalls."

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

The Great Stephen Sondheim

Stephen Sondheim died last week at age 91. He transformed the American musical. Ranking his musicals seems futile; they are all so different and almost all so good. Some of his best-known work, such as “Follies” and “Company,” is poorly suited for film adaptation, but two of his finest shows have had successful movie versions.

“Into the Woods” I saw the acclaimed 2019 Barrington Stage production of this much-loved show and came away thinking it doesn’t get any better than this. So I approached the film warily. But I doubt even the most fervent Sondheim worshippers will complain much about this spectacular 2014 Disney production, directed by

Rob Marshall and starring Meryl Streep.

Sondheim and James Lapine have conjured up a captivating look at several fairy tales — Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood — and intertwined them with a tale of their own.

A baker (James Corden) and his wife (Emily Blunt) are sent on a quest by a witch (Streep) to find the following items in order to have a baby: “A cow white as milk, cape red as blood, hair yellow as corn, and slipper pure as gold.”

During their adventures in the woods they encounter classic characters including Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), her evil stepmother (Christine Baranski) and the big bad wolf (Johnny Depp).

The first act (or 1:15 into the film) ends with the success of their quest and everyone perhaps living happily ever after.

Something quite different happens in the second act (final 45 minutes). The story moves away from fairy tales and begins to resemble the way we live now; that is to say, it gets a lot darker. Some will survive; some won’t.

The finale rewards us with a hopeful ending, two of Sondheim’s loveliest songs — “Children Will Listen” and “No One Is Alone” — and perhaps a few tears.

If you would like to step up from the usual holiday movies, gather the family and watch this wonderful show. Stream on Disney, rent on Amazon.



PHOTO COURTESY IMDB

Start a new holiday tradition by streaming Stephen Sondheim’s “Into the Woods,” starring local favorite actress Meryl Streep.

‘Sweeney Todd’

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street is definitely not a family show — unless you are the Addams Family. I saw the stage version during a 1989 revival at Circle In The Square, which was like having a front row seat at a slaughterhouse.

Tim Burton (“Batman”) directed the 2007 DreamWorks film and was the perfect man for the job. Johnny Depp was cast as Todd, not an obvious choice — Jack Nicholson must have been tied up (“Here’s Sweeney!”) — but Depp gave a fine performance that won him a Golden Globe and an Oscar. Helena Bonham Carter plays Mrs. Lovett, and Sacha Baron Cohen makes a brief but splashy

appearance.

Many of you will recall the plot. Todd returns to London after a false imprisonment, obsessed with avenging the judge who sent him away and took custody of his lovely daughter, Johanna. He gets his revenge but not before entering into a scheme to provide meat for Mrs. Lovett’s pies. Much slaughter ensues. The conclusion is a shocking stew of intrigue, retribution and carnage, with some relief being provided by the romance between a young sailor and Johanna.

The thrilling Sondheim score holds this dark melodrama together. Some songs may be familiar — “Pretty Women” and “Johanna” — but, as in all of his shows, the action does not pause for songs; they move the story along, like dialogue or opera. The director of the Metropolitan Opera reportedly was willing to stage “Sweeney” at the Met.

Turn up the brightness on your TV and stream it on Hulu or rent on Amazon.



IMAGE FROM DM HUNT LIBRARY

Handmade toys by Jennifer Markow are among items for sale at the D.M. Hunt Library pop-up shop in Falls Village, Conn.

ARTISAN GIFTS AND EDIBLES AT D.M. HUNT LIBRARY SHOP

The holiday pop-up shop at the D.M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., continues until Jan. 11, during library hours (Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 3 from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

The Holiday Pop-Up Shop has crafts, ornaments and foodie stash from local artisans and small businesses. Items for purchase will include glass ornaments by Nunwell Glass, pottery by Diane Schapira, small sculptures by Serge Fedorjaczenco and toys by Jennifer Markow. For foodies there will be culinary

salts from Rolling Rock Farms, maple syrup from Lou Timolat and Eric Carlson’s Falls Village Saw Mill, and jams from Bosco Schell.

For book lovers, there is a brand-new large Hunt tote bag and a book sale cart packed with volumes perfect for giving. In addition, the exhibition Flora & Fauna remains on display through Dec. 19. It features etchings of cats and wildlife by Allen Blagden and paintings on glass with marbled paper by Lilly Woodworth.

A portion of all sales benefits the library, which is at 63 Main St.

SMITHFIELD CHURCH CONCERT AND TEA DEC. 4

After a one-year hiatus, the Smithfield Church Christmas Concert & Tea returns on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m.

The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley will present holiday classics, an offertory on Greensleeves, excerpts from “The Nutcracker Suite,” readings of two poems and more.

There is no cost to attend. Masks are required for the concert; anyone attending the tea after the concert must bring proof of vaccination.

The Smithfield Church is at 656 Smithfield Valley Road (Route 83) in Amenia, N.Y. For more information, contact thesmithfieldchurch@gmail.com or go to www.thesmithfieldchurch.org.

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The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley



The Smithfield Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd., Amenia, NY

December 4
4:00

...The Chamber Orchestra returns, playing Christmas songs and classics!

TheSmithfieldChurch.org/concert for program details...

This event is part of *The Bang Family Concert Series*

The public is invited
No entrance admission...
A plate will be passed during the performance for those who wish to make donations to the church. Contributions will be gratefully accepted.

Attendees are asked to wear a mask in the church, and those wishing to stay after the concert for tea are required to show proof of immunization.
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DAY TRIPS: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Discovering the Secrets of a Summer Estate — Now That Autumn Has Arrived

Fall and winter usher in new seasons of beauty and tranquility throughout the 510-acre Topsmead State Forest in Litchfield, Conn., whose crown jewel is an elegant yet understated circa 1925 English Tudor-style cottage.

Edith Morton Chase built her home at Topsmead as a summer escape, but after the scent of spring and summer flowers is gone, the estate unfolds in a different way.

Trees that have shed their leaves reveal the bones of a landscape that captivates the senses. The main house, designed by noted architect Richard Henry Dana Jr., is the focal point, with its cypress exterior woodwork, lead downspouts, walls of brick and stucco, and slate roof.

Upon her death in 1972, Chase bequeathed her beloved country estate to the people of Connecticut and requested in her will that Topsmead remain undisturbed and in "a state of natural beauty," according to a history of the forest on the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) website.

Over the years, an endowment left by Chase — a savvy businesswoman, who built up her wealth and real estate holdings over the decades — has been used to preserve the buildings and grounds as they were at the time of her death.

The former landowner adored the outdoors, as is

The flowers are gone now at Topsmead State Forest in Litchfield, Conn., revealing the structures behind them. It's a perfect time for a day trip.

evident from the landscaping around the cottage. Twisted old apple trees and ornamental cherry trees line the drive, complementing the home's striking architecture. Their leaves long gone, beauty is revealed in the few remaining apples high atop the trees, or the clusters of ruby-red cherries suspended from barren limbs, making for a breath-taking silhouette against an azure sky.

Plantings of holly and juniper come into focus, now that the forsythia, peonies, lilacs and fragrant perennials are enjoying their seasonal slumber. As the nights grow longer, the curled, fallen leaves and once-soft flower petals allow the sculptural evergreens and mature trees to make an elegant statement.

According to a history of the property on the DEEP website, in 1917 Chase received 16 acres of land on Jefferson Hill in Litchfield from her father, Henry Chase, the first president of Chase Brass & Copper Company in Waterbury, Conn.

She originally built a rustic cabin on the prop-



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

erty, which was later replaced by the current residence. In 1927, according to the historical account, Chase purchased the former Buell Farm and renamed the property Topsmead Farm to reflect its "top of the meadow" location. At one time the farm produced food used on the estate.

On a recent late-morning visit, a handful of visitors strolled the lawns and paths and rested at picnic tables scattered throughout the site. The Edith M. Chase Ecology Trail offers a 7/10ths mile walk with interpretive signs. A weathered sign directs visitors to the forest's butterfly garden and wildlife viewing blind.

The park, on Buell Road, is open for year-round passive recreation, including walking, bird-watching, picnicking

and cross-country skiing. Gates open at 8 a.m. and close at sunset. Visitors are invited to picnic on the grounds; open fires or grills are not allowed. Pets on a leash are permitted in the picnic areas and on hiking trails.

The park and exterior of the building can be visited daily all year long; the gates close at sunset.

For more information, go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Forests/Topsmead-State-Forest>, or follow the Facebook link for the Friends of Topsmead State Forest.

The complete set of illustrations by
Carl Chalet
From his book "Man's First Word"
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Show runs December 4 – December 24
Thursday – Sunday, 1 – 5 pm

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

MISC.

SWSA Ski Swap Sale. Lakeville Hose Company, 4 Brook St., Lakeville, Conn. www.salisburyisjumping.com
Dropoff Dec. 3, 4 to 7 p.m.
Sale is Dec. 4, 8 to 11 a.m., pick up money, unsold equipment from 11 to noon. No dropoffs Dec. 4.

Housatonic Valley FFA Holiday Store. 246 Warren Tpke., Falls Village, Conn., ffa.hvhs.org
Trees, wreaths, roping, poinsettias and more; Nov. 27-Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hometown Holidays. Lakeville Firehouse, 4 Brook St., Lakeville, Conn.
Dec. 4: 11-4 Vendor Fair; 3-5 Photos with Santa; 5:30 Tree Lighting

Santa and Cookie Contest in Sharon. Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main Street, Sharon, Conn., www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
Meet Father Christmas, hear stories and participate in a craft, Dec. 4, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Holiday Cookie Contest, drop off cookies between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Tree Lighting in Sharon. The Green, Main St., Sharon, Conn.
Tree lighting, carols, hot cider on the porch of the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, Dec. 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Tree Lighting and Gingerbread House Competition. Cornwall Library, 30 Pine Street, Cornwall, Conn., www.cornwalllibrary.org
Children's and adult categories with prizes, Dec. 5 beginning at 4 p.m.

Kent parade of Lights. Kent, Conn.
Dec. 4, Line up at Kent Green at 5 p.m., Step off at 6 p.m.

ART

The Clark Art Museum. 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. www.clarkart.edu
PRINT ROOM POP-UP, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Five Points Center for the Visual Arts. 855 University Dr., Torrington, Conn. www.fivepointsgallery.org
CLAY SNOWMEN, Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Kenise Barnes Fine Art. 7 Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn. www.kbfa.com
Holiday pop up shop, Dec. 4, noon to 4 p.m.

BOOKS

Oblong Books & Music. 26 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.oblongbooks.com
In-Person Book Signing: Annie Leibovitz, Wonderland, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.

The Mount. 2 Plunkett St., Lenox, Mass. www.edithwharton.org
Home: A Celebration with Charlotte Moss & Susan Wissler, Dec. 7, 4 p.m. (online).

KIDS

Norman Rockwell Museum. 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, Mass. www.nrm.org
Joyful Holidays Family Day, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Winter Wonderland Scavenger Hunts, Dec. 5.

MOVIES

Bardavon. 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. www.bardavon.org
FILM: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946), Dec. 3, 8 p.m.

MUSIC

Salisbury Association. Salisbury, Conn. www.salisburyassociation.org
Annual Holiday Concert, Dec. 4, 5 p.m.

THEATER

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www.centerforperformingarts.org
A Christmas Carol, Dec. 3 to 19.

Shakespeare & Company. 70 Kemble St., Lenox, Mass. www.shakespeare.org
The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, Dec. 16 to 19.

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