



MILLBROOK
The Community Shows Up To Fall In Love With Millbrook **B3**



AMENIA
More Than 100 Attend 'Meet The Candidates' Forum **A3**

COMPASS



Special Inside

COMPASS
History Of Horror Movies; Refugee Crisis Brought To Life Through Art; And More **B1-2**

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PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

FFA
Fantastic!

A Pine Plains FFA member in the making, Harper Shea guided her calf Lingo around the field of Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School in preparation for the cow show at the FFA Fall Agricultural Fair on Saturday, Oct. 9. For full story and more photos, turn to Page A5.

Bracing for eventual paid fire service

North East fire taxes jump by 58%

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — North East Fire District Fire Commissioner Chairman Stephen Valyou, Vice-Chairman James Schultz and Commissioners Joshua Schultz, Larry Selfridge Jr. and Jay Scasso just spent the past eight months sweating the details of how to ease those fortunate enough to receive life-saving services from the all-volunteer Millerton Fire Company into accepting the reality that within three to five years, they will have to start paying for such services. In 10 years, the fire company may be an entirely paid force due to the lack of local volunteers.

To prepare for that inevitable transition to an all-paid fire department, the fire district's 2022 proposed budget amounts to a 58% tax increase. The

amount needed to be raised by taxes by the district in 2022 is \$692,805; in 2021 that number was \$422,215.

The Millerton News sat down via Zoom with three of the fire commissioners (Valyou, Schultz and Schultz) to discuss the increase and the reason behind it on Saturday, Oct. 9. The commissioners said they wanted to be completely transparent with the community about why taxpayers are facing such a dramatic increase. They also wanted to let folks know the 58% spike is in lieu of what would be an even more dramatic increase if the district were to wait until a paid service takes over when that day finally arrives.

EMS already a paid service

That stark reality hit the ambulance squad back in January of 2015,

See FIRE DISTRICT TAXES, A6

Pine Plains BOE addresses contentious public comments

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The atmosphere at the Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) Board of Education (BOE) meetings has gotten to be steadily more contentious in recent months, so much so that as of October, the BOE decided to hold all of its meetings virtually.

The BOE has also, ever since July, felt the need to have two deputies from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office on hand at its bi-monthly school board meetings.

Deputies hired

As BOE President Anne Arent explained, the deputies, who are not school resource officers, are there specifically for the board meetings. She said they're there to protect both board members and the community.

"We've been criticized for it, but we feel we need them there," she said. "Clearly at the last meeting they were [needed]... I understand; people get angry..."

Sept. 15 meeting

The last meeting Arent referred to happened on Wednesday, Sept. 15, when a number of community mem-

"We've had deputies escorting the BOE since the end of July... It makes me sad quite honestly... [but] it's well worth it because we feel we need to feel there's someone else keeping an eye on us."

Anne Arent, BOE President

bers came out to speak at the BOE meeting, some of whom were parents and some of whom were not.

They raised issues from suggesting cameras in the classroom to how children are gathered together in classrooms during the COVID crisis to the topic of gender identity being discussed privately between students and teachers. The September public comments led to an upswell of emotions that had the BOE president concerned it could lead to fisticuffs.

Public comment policy

Arent wanted to make it clear that she states at the start of every public

See PINE PLAINS BOE, A6

Amenia opts out of commercial marijuana sales and lounges

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Having kept the community in suspense after having delayed its past few planned discussions on whether it will opt in or out of allowing cannabis dispensaries and lounges in town, the Amenia Town Board passed a local law to opt out of allowing either at its 7 p.m. workshop meeting on Thursday, Oct. 7. The entire board, Attorney to the Town Ian Lindars and others attended the Zoom meeting.

During public comment, Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner read aloud a comment submitted via email by resident Daniel Donnelly, who opposed the law and encouraged the board to reconsider permitting selling marijuana in town, as well as legalizing smoking lounges.

Though he said he does not personally consume cannabis, Donnelly told board members without realizing it, they're already surrounded by people who do. This includes, he stated, among others, educators, artists, farmers, athletes, clergy, attorneys and even law enforcement.

"There are neighbors and relatives that you may be unaware of their cannabis consumption because it makes them no less productive than

any other person," Donnelly wrote. "For Amenia to close its doors to the option of recreational cannabis would only stigmatize these residents by making them feel they have to go elsewhere to partake in the market of the shameful indulgence, which it's not."

A vote against the present resolution, he continued, would make Amenia more inclusive for those residents "who belong to the migrant [popula-

tion] of social political constituents."

As part of his public comment, Donnelly attached a petition that he circulated in the community, adding that the number of signatures collected was a small fraction of the people who contacted him directly pledging opposition to the board's resolution.

After a quick review of the docu-

See MARIJUANA, A6

'We want the hospital,' says board president

By CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER
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SHARON, Conn. — Rick Cantele grew up in the Northwest Corner, went to school here, has worked here since he graduated from college. He's been a basketball coach at both the local elementary school and high school. He's coached youth

hockey and soccer and has been a member of many local boards over the years. Everybody knows Rick.

And he is now head of the community board for Sharon Hospital.

The hospital announced on Sept. 29 that it would be closing its obstetrics department, and

See NUVANCE, A4



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OPINION

Thrilled FFA Fall Ag Fair Has Returned; Column; Letters **B4**



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MILLERTON



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

Visiting Millerton from Lakeville, Conn., Victoria Littauer admired a yellow hand-knitted sweater and contemplated purchasing it at the NorthEast-Millerton Library's annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Library gets crafty at annual Craft Fair

MILLERTON — Residents from around the region got a head start on their holiday shopping while supporting local crafters, artists and artisans at the NorthEast-Millerton Library's annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the library's Main Street front lawn, shoppers browsed tables of baked goods, crafts and handmade, handcrafted items on display during what turned out to be a seasonable fall day.

Those who attended the craft fair were also invited to submit a raffle ticket for the chance to win their choice of a gift basket filled with items curated from local businesses and individuals.

All proceeds raised from the annual Craft Fair went to benefit the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

— Kaitlin Lyle



From toys and sweaters to fingerless gloves and hats, an array of hand-knitted items was laid out on a table, waiting to be bought and loved.

'Massive response' called in for tractor trailer accident in North East

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — Police and emergency personnel came out in what North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan described as a "massive response" on Saturday, Oct. 9, to McGhee Hill Road and Route 83 in the town of North East.

The Millerton Police Department (MPD) took the lead on the investigation. And although the Millerton Fire Company was the only fire department to respond, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office assisted at the scene, along with the Pine Plains Police Department and the Spill Response Team from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

A tractor trailer that was transporting cars on McGhee Hill Road, which Kennan said "is crazy" considering the design, curvature and steepness of the road, had trouble after his brakes failed and caused him to go off the side of the roadway.

The accident occurred at around 11 a.m., but according to MPD Officer-in-Charge Mike Veeder, Route 83 was closed



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

A tractor trailer carrying cars drove off the side of McGhee Hill Road in Millerton on Saturday, Oct. 9, causing a major response among local rescue departments.

"most of the day" and didn't re-open until about 8 p.m.

Kennan said as far as large tractor trailers driving on McGhee Hill Road go, "I would not recommend it," adding Saturday's accident was "one of the worst I've seen since I've been supervisor."

Veeder said that the tractor trailer "leaked quite a bit of fuel into the stream by the side of the road," which was why the DEC Spill Response Team was called to evaluate the scene immediately and to try to protect the nearby waterway.

"They're not always called

in," said Veeder, who added that the driver suffered minor injuries and was evaluated at a hospital and later released.

"He was lucky he could get out without major injuries," added the police chief. "It could have been worse. I'm glad he could walk away from it."

Tri-Town Coalition meets

Housing ambassadors trained to teach community about affordable housing

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — As a way to advocate for affordable housing and offer community members a program to obtain the tools needed to help solve the region's housing crisis, the Millerton-North East working group of the Tri-Town Coalition (TTC) affordable housing organization highlighted the Housing Ambassador Training Program (HATP) that will be made available this fall.

The HATP was discussed at the TTC's meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 14, held at 7 p.m. both in-person at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex and

via Zoom.

TTC member Sam Busselle explained the ambassador program focuses on advocacy for affordable housing and is funded by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) through Hudson River Housing.

He said it's crucial for trainees to be directly connected to the Tri-Town area of northeastern Dutchess County: Millerton/North East, Amenia and Pine Plains.

TTC member Nathan Briggs said the program training will be conducted by Regional Plan Association (RPA) Vice President Melissa Kaplan-Macey and RPA staff.

Beginning Thursday, Oct. 28,

the program will include three virtual sessions done once a month.

The first training will focus on vocabulary, including how community members define affordable housing.

The second training will focus on data, including how communities benefit from affordable housing.

The third training will focus on tools, including what communities can do to solve the housing crisis.

Briggs explained the training sequence will lead up to a facilitated community conversation on affordable housing that will be led by trainees and organized some time next year.

To help guide the group's thoughts for future conversations, Busselle shared a document that distilled elements of the Town of North East and Village of Millerton's Comprehensive Plan into focused areas of consideration.

The Housing Board met most recently on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex. Look for a follow-up article on what was discussed at that session in a future issue of The Millerton News.

Meanwhile, sessions are being planned to be held once a month for two hours in the evening, beginning Thursday, Oct. 28. All of the training is being planned to be done via Zoom.

Volunteers take trash and turn village into treasure

MILLERTON — Residents of the village of Millerton and the town of North East were invited to bring all their unwanted junk over to the Town Highway Garage on Saturday, Sept. 25, for the annual Bulk Trash Day and Electronic Recycling event.

From 8 a.m. to noon, residents popped by the garage at 11 South Center St. in Millerton, diagonally across from Fish Street, to drop off bulk trash, including lawn mowers, metal, tools, appliances, furniture, carpeting and more, along with unwanted electronics such as computers, monitors, printers, stereos and so on.

Once residents dropped off their unwanted materials, Climate Smart Millerton volunteers worked together to make sure the materials were properly disposed of, recycled or repurposed for future use.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO SUBMITTED

With help from his father, a local youngster dragged a bin on a sled to the North East Town Garage where they disposed of their unwanted items at Saturday, Sept. 25, Bulk Trash Day.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Children's author at The Dig Oct. 16

The Dig, located at 3 Main St. in Millerton, invites local children and their families to stop by on Saturday, Oct. 16, to enjoy all kinds of pumpkin goodness and visit with children's author Stephen Savage.

Author of the book, "Seven Orange Pumpkins," Savage will be at The Dig from 1 to 4

p.m. that afternoon.

Along with picking up free copies of his book, children can enjoy some crafts, pumpkin crepes and more. To make sure there are enough books to go around, The Dig is asking for people to RSVP either by email at thedigonmain@gmail.com or via phone at 518-592-1210.

Report street light outages online

The staff at the Millerton Village Hall would like residents and those who work in the village to know, if anyone notices a streetlight out, they can report it by going to the following link: www.cenhud.com/outages/streetlight-out/.

Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more!

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- CVS

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THE CYBERWEAPONS ARMS RACE

Nicole Perlroth
Cybersecurity reporter for *The New York Times* and author of *This Is How They Tell Me the World Ends*, unveils the international cyber arms market where the US and other nation states pay hackers millions of dollars to exploit each other's cyber vulnerabilities.

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Tough questions asked at Amenia's Meet the Candidates forum night

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — When faced with this year's candidates for Town Board and town supervisor, about 100 people from the community asked their future leaders thought-provoking questions at the Meet the Candidates forum on Wednesday, Oct. 6.

Sponsored by The Millerton News and moderated by the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson region, the event was held in the Webutuck High School gymnasium. Attendees were given one card each to fill out to submit questions for the candidates, which were then asked by the League moderator Jolanda Jansen.

Following opening remarks by Millerton News Publisher Janet Manko, Dare Thompson of the League outlined the format for the evening and thanked everyone for their participation. Douglas Thompson from the League served as timekeeper.

The first 60 minutes of the event was given to the candidates for two Town Board seats, five of whom were there; Working Families candidate Stacy Mantel was absent due to personal reasons. The candidates introduced themselves, spoke of their experience in the community, their priorities and their hopes for the future.

Democrat Leo Blackman prioritized wastewater and affordable housing while Amenia

Strong Republican candidate Brad Rebillard spoke about his Amenia roots and wanting to apply his experience in a new capacity.

Democrat Katherine Lee shared her goal to create a connected community while incumbent Republican Councilman James Morris said he wanted to use his experience and background as a lawyer to serve the town.

Amenia Strong candidate Jamie Vitiello said he wanted to bring compassion, competence and common sense to local government.

Once everyone had been introduced, Jansen proceeded with the first question.

"How will you improve communication between the Town Board and the people of Amenia?"

Each candidate shared their own frustration with the issue when they approached the mic; four of the five voiced their interest in making the Town Board more accessible while Morris said he felt communication has been "pretty good."

They were then asked how they planned to address the wastewater issue. The answers shed a light on their approaches to solving the long-standing issue, especially from the candidates who have made wastewater a key component in their campaign.

In a five-part question, candidates were asked if they were going to hold the luxury housing development, Silo Ridge Field Club, responsible to pay its fair share of property taxes and how they planned to address similar taxation issues in the future. This was a polarizing issue, with some candidates and audience members feeling strongly Silo Ridge residents are not paying their fair share,

and that the lawsuits currently in the Dutchess County courts on this issue prove that. Amenia Strong candidates defended Silo Ridge's approach and made the case for mutual cooperation.

Candidates were then asked how they will foster community collaboration. Vitiello stressed addressing the "isms" in the community and brought up a statement Blackman previously made that "the only crime in Amenia is incest," sparking an outcry from the audience. After responding, Blackman explained the context of his "bad joke" and said he didn't think he was "unworthy" to run for office based on that.

Borrowing the phrase "loose lips sink ships," Rebillard said, "You can't go into the community and say things like that... you can't give you personal opinion as a member of this board."

Following the closing remarks for the Town Board candidates, the two candidates running for town supervisor — incumbent Republican and Conservative candidate Victoria Perotti and newcomer and

Amenia Strong candidate Julie Doran — took to the stage.

Asked what she would do differently if elected, Doran said she'd bring transparency to the position and strong communication, while Perotti said the only thing to be done differently is the 2022 town budget. It would be under the tax cap, she said.

"We feel like we're on a good path going forward in the town of Amenia," Perotti said.

In what Doran later ascribed as "a vibrant exchange," she and Perotti took turns answering questions, which asked how much money the Silo Ridge lawsuit has cost Amenia so far (about \$100,00); how the town can start raising money and awareness for important causes; how they planned to solve current workforce housing issues; and how they plan to address the town's wastewater needs.

There was a video taken of the event, which will air on Amenia TV, Channel 22 at various times daily up to the election. It is also available any time at youtube.com/ameniatv.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Joyce Rebillard, Amenia town Supervisor Victoria Perotti and Annette Culligan invited the community to learn more about the history of the Indian Rock Schoolhouse underneath the schoolhouse pavilion.

Amenia rocks at Indian Rock Schoolhouse Picnic

AMENIA — The Amenia community had a pleasant fall day to enjoy the annual Indian Rock Schoolhouse Community Day on Saturday, Oct. 9. It was the 20th anniversary of the renovation of the historic one-room schoolhouse.

Held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the iconic red schoolhouse, the Community Day celebration offered plenty of activities to keep children and adults alike entertained during their visit.

The bucolic scene including a crafts table where local children could paint pumpkins, the perfect activity just before

Halloween.

Local organizations and businesses set up booths displaying their wares and sharing information for area residents to browse while chatting with local vendors, crafters and town leaders and volunteers.

The Amenia Lions Club cooked up their famous barbecue for a tasty lunch, which was followed by a celebratory set of sheet cakes. Meanwhile, live music was played for all to enjoy while old and new friends caught up with each other under the pavilion.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Housing Board talks about future needs, comp plan and zoning

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — From updates on the Tri-Town Coalition (TTC) to a thorough discussion about planning, the Amenia Housing Board (AHB) made effective use of its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 14.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams, four AHB members, two liaisons from the Amenia Town Board and Town Planner Ashley Levy from the environmental, planning and engineering consulting firm AKRF attended.

Looking toward a future listening session, AHB Chair Leo Blackman reported the TTC and the Regional Planning Association are moving ahead to train housing ambassadors in each of the coalition's towns (Amenia, Pine Plains and Millerton/North East) and assist them in the new year.

While on the subject of the TTC, Blackman said he, town Councilwoman Vicki Doyle and town Supervisor Victoria Perotti attended its last Steering Committee meeting, when Hudson River Housing Executive Director Christa Hines announced her group plans to provide TTC with

a template to evaluate potential properties for affordable housing projects.

Talking about planning, Levy explained her firm was engaged to review ways to encourage workforce housing that Amenia's zoning code may currently inhibit.

Levy suggested simplifying a section of the zoning code to turn over the selection and management of any project from the AHB to the developer or a not-for-profit. She also noted the potential financial incentives for developers, such as donated land, lower fees, streamlined processes, less parking and tax incentives.

In order to create affordable dwelling units, Levy proposed as-of-right permitting to the AHB along with New York State minimum size regulations, minimum acreage regulations and financial incentives.

For multi-family and senior dwellings, she pointed out that since dwelling density is dependent on municipal waste and water, perhaps developments with their own systems should be given the same density via floating zones.

As another option, Levy said they could expand the multi-family zone or treat new construction the same as renovations.

She also recommended that the town of Amenia's Comprehensive Plan be modified to correspond with any changes made in zoning.

As written in the meeting minutes, Blackman said the AHB will need the Town Board to approve additional time with its consultants from AKRF to be able to implement any of these changes. Levy offered to identify the proposed changes in the zoning code that are the simplest to make and report back.

Reporting on the Wastewater Committee, Blackman noted that at the Town Board's Aug. 19 meeting, Perotti announced she had found funds in the budget to hire a wastewater engineer and planned to send a check so the wastewater study could be updated. Once done, the AHB believes that will help it further pursue affordable housing in town.

The Amenia Housing Board's held a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 5:30 p.m. For more on that meeting, look for a report in a future issue of The Millerton News.

AMENIA IN BRIEF

Fire Company chicken barbecue Oct. 23

The Amenia Fire Company will sponsor its mouth-watering take-out only chicken barbecue on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Amenia firehouse, at 36 Mechanic St.

It will be a drive-thru style event, with dinners ready for pickup between

the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$16 each and are available on a pre-order basis by calling 845-418-8633.

The dinner is an important fundraiser for the fire company, and all purchases are appreciated.

Got news?

Send news briefs and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Flat-topped hill
- Move upward
- Admiration
- It's useful for serving food
- Kidnap
- One of the Greek Muses
- A type of media
- Sunscreen rating
- Former Michigan coach Brady
- German town devastated in WW2
- Gasteyer and Ortiz are two
- Leave
- Forearm bone
- Very fast airplane
- Helps little firms
- Defunct economic organization
- Science-based students organization (abbr.)
- Feels ill
- Indicates position
- Beverage containers
- Assists
- Science accreditation organization (abbr.)
- Purpose
- Group of elected officials
- Hebrew prophet
- They help you drink
- Lawmaker
- Charitable
- Doctrines
- Footwear

CLUES DOWN

- Where wrestlers work
- Dueling sword
- Practice fight
- Genus of clams
- Fear of heights
- What some tell their dog
- The Golden State
- When you expect to get there
- Pointed ends
- Extinct flightless bird
- Feeds
- Nape of neck
- Descendant
- Small boats found in Turkey
- To avoid the risk of
- Athlete with no contract (abbr.)
- 13th letter of the Greek alphabet

Sudoku

				6				2
	2			7		6		
			9			4		
7				2				9
		5		1		2	8	
		1	8	3				
				4	3			
3								6
9	2	5				4		

Level: Intermediate

Oct. 7 Solution

C	R	S		S	A	L	V	T	E						
L	U	N	T		W	E	A	S	E	L	I	N	G		
O	S	S	A		A	R		A	L	D	O	L			
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H	E	A	L	E	D		S	A	C	S		T	I	C	
E	S	T	E		B	O	R	G		M	A	N	O		
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Oct. 7 Solution

3	9	6	8	7	4	1	5	2
7	1	5	9	2	3	4	6	8
8	2	4	6	1	5	7	3	9
5	8	2	3	6	7	9	1	4
1	7	9	4	5	8	6	2	3
6	4	3	2	9	1	8	7	5
2	5	8	7	4	6	3	9	1
9	3	7	1	8	2	5	4	6
4	6	1	5	3	9	2	8	7

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO). All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Domestic Dispute reported

Thursday, Oct. 7, Deputies investigated a domestic dispute on Scenic View Road in North East.

The matter was documented by the deputies on patrol.

Past burglary investigated

Thursday, Oct. 7, Deputies investigated a burglary that had occurred in the past in the Westchester Modular Homes development in the Town of Dover.

The investigation is ongoing at this time.

Intoxicated subject reported on side of road

Saturday, Oct. 9, Deputies responded to Bangall Amenia Road near Route 44 in the Town of Washington for a person laying in the ditch on the side of the road. The subject was located

and it was determined that he had been highly intoxicated when he left work in the Town of Amenia the night before, and attempted to walk home, subsequently passing out in the ditch.

The subject was evaluated by EMS, but refused medical attention. As a courtesy, he was given transportation to an address that he requested.

Criminal contempt arrest

Tuesday, Sept. 28, Deputies arrested Richard J. Gione, 52, for Criminal Contempt 2nd (stemming from a previous investigation on Memorial Avenue in the Village of Pawling).

The subject was released and is to appear in the Village of Pawling Court at a later date.

Personal injury auto accident

Wednesday, Sept. 29, Deputies responded to 477 Mill Road in Millerton for a one-car versus a utility pole personal injury auto accident with a reported entrapment.

One patient was transported to Sharon Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

Personal injury auto accident

Thursday, Sept. 30, Deputies responded to 4 Charles Coleman Blvd. in the Village of Pawling for a car/pedestrian personal injury auto accident.

One female was transported with non-life-threatening injuries to a nearby hospital.

Report crime tips

Anyone with any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity, should contact the DCSO tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcso-tips@gmail.com. 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.

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OBITUARIES

Lucille M. Carlson

SHEFFIELD — Lucille M. Carlson, 96, of Sheffield died Sept. 29, 2021, at Fairview Hospital after a brief illness.

Lucille was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Feb. 15, 1925. daughter to Theresa (Karl) and Harry Nessler.

Lucille worked with her husband, Norman, running Carlson's Berkshire Nursery from 1959 to 2006 in Ashley Falls and as a CNA at Fairview Commons Nursing Home in Great Barrington.

She was an accomplished amateur artist in watercolor.

Lucille's husband, Norman V. Carlson, predeceased her in June 2006.

Lucille is survived by her

two sons, Eric J. Carlson and his wife, Pat, and Gary C. Carlson and his wife, Susan; five grandchildren, Daniel Carlson and his wife, Christina, Andrew Carlson and his wife, Ashleigh, Amanda Goewey and her husband, Bill, Christopher Carlson and his wife, Jennifer, and Ryan Carlson; as well as four great-grandchildren.

In keeping with Lucille's wishes there are no services; the family will hold a celebration of life at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to Birches-Roy Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made through www.birchesroyfuneralservices.com.

John H. Decker

SHARON — John H. Decker, 75, of Sharon died Oct 2, 2021, at Vassar Brothers Hospital after a brief illness.



John was born in Sharon on Oct. 14, 1945, the son of the late Henry "Hank" Decker and the late Dorothy Mason Decker.

The first few years of life were spent in Millerton before moving to Sharon. His father, Hank, was the very first caretaker of the Sharon Audubon Society and worked closely with the founders. John attended Housatonic Valley Regional High School, where he met his future wife, the late Linda Farley.

John was drafted into the Army to represent his country in the Vietnam War. After completing his basic training, he returned home to marry his high school sweetheart before deployment. John served as a mechanic in Vietnam and completed many successful covert missions to deliver supplies to operators in the field. Although his missions were perilous, his dedication to supporting his fellow soldiers was paramount.

Once he was discharged, he returned to Connecticut to begin his career and start his family.

John served as the grounds superintendent at The Hotchkiss School and during his time there he was instrumental in the multiple changes in both the structure and design of the existing golf course. He earned his certification in turf grass management from the Univer-

sity of Massachusetts. Following his tenure at Hotchkiss, he completed his career at the Sharon Country Club, serving as their superintendent until his retirement.

Once retired, John dedicated much of his time to supporting local charitable organizations by cooking for their events and helping to deliver meals during the holiday season. He enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren.

John is survived by his son, Thomas, and his wife, Linda; his daughter, Tammy and her life partner, Dylan; his three grandchildren, Nathan John, Tyler John and Chloe Mae; his step-grandchild, Christopher; his brothers, Alan and James Decker; as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, Richard Decker; and his sister, Jeanette Routhier.

John's celebration of life will be held at Hillside Cemetery in Sharon on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 10 a.m. All are welcome. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate.

Burial with standard military honors will follow.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Fire Department Ambulance Squad, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069.

To send flowers, plant a tree in John's memory or to leave an online condolence for the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com; arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

Nancy M. Trotta

MILLERTON — Nancy M. Trotta passed away peacefully at her home in Millerton, surrounded by her loving family.



She grew up on a farm in Chatham, N.Y.

She was a sports writer for the Chatham Courier. While attending Hobart William Smith College, she met the love of her life, Bob Trotta.

She earned her PHT from Syracuse University. Fifty-five years ago they moved to her home in Millerton, where she started a horse farm, Mares Nest. She was passionate about breeding, raising, training and racing Thoroughbred horses. She had winners at all three race tracks in New York State. She was an active member of the New York Breeders Association.

She worked side by side with her husband at Davis and Trotta Attorneys at Law.

She organized many fundraising events that helped start and fund the Millerton Library.

She loved picking fruits on the farm and making pies and jellies with her friends, Marilyn

Kay, Gail Schroeder and Sylvia Clark.

She is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Bob Trotta; her children, Rob Trotta, Katie Kane and her husband, Sean, and Betsy Trotta and her husband, Alex Duncan; seven grandchildren, Chelsea Kane, Joe Trotta, David Trotta, Connor Kane, Wesley Trotta, Braeden Duncan and Tony Saunders; and her sister, Barbra Sullivan.

She was preceded in death by her son, David Trotta.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the Congregational Church of Salisbury; the Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson officiated. Burial followed in the family plot at Salisbury Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

NUVANCE *Continued from Page A1*

and convening workgroups of Sharon Hospital staff to evaluate both the current surgical schedule and inpatient services with the goal of serving the community more efficiently.

Hospital President Dr. Mark Hirko called out Cantele as head of the 12-person community board when he announced the changes during the Sept. 29 Zoom, saying that the board had endorsed the decisions made by the hospital's nonprofit owner, Nuvance Health.

Cantele doesn't dispute that, and he isn't walking back on that endorsement in the face of the disappointment of community members at cuts that are deep and hard at a beloved local hospital.

"The community board's role is to represent the community and be stewards of the hospital," Cantele said. "To a person, the board is extremely dedicated to and focused on doing what we believe is best for the long term. Except for Dr. Hirko, the board is comprised exclusively of members of the communities served by the hospital. The board's members include three doctors and a former nurse at Sharon, the head of a local breast cancer foundation, the town clerk of Dover, along with local business people."

"And as we educated ourselves about some of the issues facing the hospital, it became evident that the historical model was not sustainable."

Cantele is a banker, but he isn't just thinking about the bottom line. He lives and works here. His doctors are here. He and his wife had both their children at Sharon Hospital. It was a fantastic experience both times, and he understands that this new hospital model may deprive future mothers of that opportunity.

But from both a medical and a financial point of view, the community board agreed with Nuvance that changes have to be made.

It was the board's decision, he said, to ask for an independent study. In partnership with the Foundation for Community Health in Sharon, which helped fund the purchase of the hospital by Health Quest (which later became Nuvance), a decision was made to hire Stroudwater Associates to do the study.

They were chosen, Cantele said, because "Stroudwater is in the business of helping rural community hospitals create models that are sustainable."

"The study they did identified the challenges with labor and delivery, and the impact of that lack of volume on sustaining all that goes with labor and delivery."

The labor and delivery decision

Nuvance Health COO Kerry Eaton had said in the Sept. 29 presentation that only 60% of women living in the hospital's Connecticut coverage area choose to deliver their babies at Sharon. The ob gyn doctors declined to comment.

Back in 2018, when Nuvance was still called Health Quest, the company had also announced it would close the labor and delivery unit. There was a community outcry at the time and the decision was rescinded.

Cantele said that the company has promised to work with internal "stakeholders," such as Sharon Hospital surgeons, physicians and nurses, on how to move forward with plans such as evaluating the number of hours in each day that the surgical rooms are available.

He acknowledged, though, that community members and stakeholders might never be satisfied with decisions that are being made now that will dramatically change the availability of health care in the region.

Cantele remains optimistic that better days are ahead and that the cuts will help restore health.

"It is not just about cutting back services, as Nuvance intends to recruit more primary care physicians to our area. The board will proactively work with Nuvance management to help recruit more primary care physicians. Over time Nuvance plans to expand services that are consistent with the needs of our community."

Finance, medicine, community

The needs of the three interest groups are not, at this time overlapping. Cantele hopes that at some point there will be a way to align the needs of the doctors, the desires of the community members and the financial realities of running a small rural hospital.

At the moment, that isn't happening, and it's hard and, for many, it's frightening.

"I use the hospital for all my medical care. We all want the hospital here," Cantele emphasized. "The board will continue to work hard, be thoughtful, and focus on what our community needs. We will hold Nuvance accountable for achieving its plan, so we can have a vibrant, thriving Sharon Hospital. I'm optimistic we will get there. But we all have to come together to make that work."

One thing everyone can do: "Use the hospital's services and support the local medical community whenever we can."

And, he asked of the community: "Be open minded and

recognize that change in health care, like many other businesses and industries, is inevitable. We can accomplish more by working together constructively to ensure we have a local hospital for years to come."

The Stroudwater report

Nancy Heaton, who is CEO of the Foundation for Community Health (FCH), also commented on the Nuvance plan, and confirmed Cantele's explanation of how Stroudwater was chosen.

"FCH's primary role in this current planning process has been as a funder," she explained.

"The Sharon Hospital Board asked FCH to consider funding an outside rural healthcare delivery expert to review the current state of Sharon Hospital and to provide recommendations based on that review."

"All of that was predicated on Nuvance agreeing to the process, which they did and which they also decided to co-fund."

"Stroudwater Associates was identified and mutually agreed upon as the consultant. As a funder we also have been, and will continue to be, open to dis-

cussions about supporting the exploration of new and effective methods of delivering healthcare in our rural environment. We do this through our ability to convene stakeholders and provide support for relevant research and expertise required for this process."

Eaton feels that more community input would be helpful and appropriate as Sharon Hospital moves forward.

"FCH has always been interested in strengthening the relationship of the community with Sharon Hospital, especially after financially supporting the transition of the hospital from a for-profit to a not-for-profit (providing \$3 million of the \$5 million).

"To this end we have advocated for an increased role of the Community Board in guiding the future of Sharon Hospital, supported and advocated for increased transparency and communication from the hospital to the community, and our continued participation on the Sharon Hospital Community Need Assessment committee."

Worship Services

Week of October 17, 2021

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10am www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Greenwoods Community Church 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Konnection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodschurch.com</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC <i>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people</i> Pastor Savage Frieze 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE 30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2 www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-575-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com <i>A Community of Radical Hospitality</i></p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green <i>Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits</i> 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627 www.trinitylimerock.org</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT <i>Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!</i> Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiuloi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone. <i>We hope you will join us!</i></p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School <i>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"</i> Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org <i>21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</i></p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH <i>Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville</i> MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 am, Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Wednesday 9 AM - St. Bernard</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister <i>Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</i></p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service <i>"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"</i> Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online sermons. Bible Study Guides also available by request: info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org Or contact us at 860-364-5002</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 315 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>

Local sports stories online

In addition to finding popular sports columnist Theodore Kneeland's entertaining and enlightening Bleacher Views online this week, readers can follow up on reporter Kaitlin Lyle's coverage of how some of our local high school athlete fared against their competition.

She posted articles on the Pine Plains-Rhinebeck football team's game against Onteora, with the Bombers walking away with a huge victory. Lyle also reports this week on the Lady Warriors girls soccer team's game against Ellenville, which unfortunately for Webutuck High School, didn't turn out as well. To find out all the details, go to www.tricornernews.com.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Softball fall clinics in Pine Plains

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Softball Fall Clinics are contuing through the end of the month, and players are still invited to prepare for another fierce season.

Coach Andy Belanger, Pitching and Catching Specialist Coach Samantha Sloane Cole and other fall ball coaches, the clinics are happening now and are held

Millbrook LMC Basketball Clinics

MILLBROOK — LMC Basketball Clinics will be held on Mondays at Guertin Gym at Millbrook Village Hall, at 35 Merritt Ave.

The clinics run rough Oct. 25 for grades one through four, from 5 to 6 p.m., and for grades five through eight

on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. They will run until Oct. 28.

Open to girls ages 8 to 12, the clinics are being held on the recreation ball fields, located at 28 Beach Road in Pine Plains.

Clinic attendees are asked to bring a glove, water and lots of energy.

To sign up, go to www.hello.familyid.com.

Clinics run from Nov. 1 through Nov. 29 for grades one through four from 5 to 6 p.m. and for grades five through eight from 6 to 7 p.m.

For further details, call 845-667-3419 or go to www.washingtonny.org.

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PINE PLAINS/AREA



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

Gemma Osofsky relaxed in the hay next to her calf Lemon at the Pine Plains FFA's Fall Agricultural Fair on Saturday morning, Oct. 9.



Members of the Pine Plains Class of 2023 sold hot chili to support their graduating class at the Pine Plains FFA Fall Agriculture Fair on Saturday, Oct. 9.

All things fall and FFA found in Pine Plains at annual Ag Fair

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Whether they were a rising member of the Pine Plains FFA, a longtime supporter of the local FFA chapter or a resident of Pine Plains, it was undoubtedly worth the wait to see the community brought together again by a long-standing tradition — the Pine Plains FFA's annual Fall Agricultural Fair, held on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The main Ag Fair festivities on Saturday were preceded by a dairy showmanship event for fourth- and fifth-grade students on Friday, Oct. 8, and a field day for middle and high school students also on the 8th.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's Ag Fair didn't include the traditional roast beef dinner. Last year's entire

fair had been canceled.

The crackling community excitement leading up to the fair was amplified on Saturday morning by the spectacular turnout of people who lined sidewalks in anticipation of the annual parade at 9:30 a.m. as well as the bleachers to watch the tractor pull on the lawn in front of the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School.

With a float of FFA members leading the way, the parade rang in the morning as it made its grand arrival through town toward the school, featuring local representatives, tractors, a pair of oxen towing a cart and the Stissing Mountain Band. As the last parade vehicle turned the corner toward campus, spectators made their way toward the festivities, ready to get started on a day of FFA fun.

The tractor pull paused out

of respect for a ceremony by the flagpole, then resumed its business with a cacophonous burst of noise as competing tractors strained to pull their given weights.

Walking past the food booths that emitted mouth-watering aromas, past the tractor pull and the range of cars on display at the car show in the parking lot, families and community members walked behind the high school to where the main festivities lay. Many followed signs promoting the flower show in the gym, the pet show, Cow Pie Bingo and other exhibits.

Various Pine Plains classes promoted their graduating classes with fundraisers that sold baked potatoes, pie slices, chili, pulled-pork parfaits, cotton candy and other food fit for a fall fair.

Local businesses and orga-

nizations also promoted their wares at booths set up around the school grounds. Walking into the main barn, spectators were overtaken by the sweet smell of fresh hay and the rows of calves being lovingly cared for by middle schoolers who petted and fed them and happily refreshed their hay.

In the barn next door, young children fawned over the small

animals exhibit with its array of goats, sheep, rabbits, chicken and other creatures. Meanwhile, FFA members in the making guided their cows and horses around the field in anticipation of the horse and dairy shows.

The day ended with music and tapping toes as The Stissing Center hosted a square dance to raise money for the FFA. The fireworks display

planned at the ball fields, planned by the Pine Plains Recreation Department and Pine Plains Dog Warden Rich Prentice, were canceled last minute, but town Supervisor Darrah Cloud emailed the community in her newsletter that the town would "see if it is legal to put the money that would have been used for this towards the new playground."

Pine Plains Town Board dives deep into 2022 tentative budget

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Meeting at 7 p.m., the Pine Plains Town Board held a thorough discussion about the 2022 tentative budget and its priorities on Monday, Oct. 4.

Board members met in-person at Town Hall and live-streamed their meeting to the "Town of Pine Plains" YouTube channel for the public's viewing.

Diving headfirst into their discussion, the board began with its priorities for the next fiscal year. Town Supervisor Darrah Cloud reported on a

later date that the board decided, as a town, that its priorities are taking care of town personnel, the library, the Recreation Department and public safety.

Cloud said it is trying to do better in regard to salaries, adding that it wants to bring up salaries every year on a rotating basis. She explained the board put Pine Plains Police Officer-in-Charge John Hughes on a salary versus paying him hourly.

Supporting both the library and the Recreation Department continues to be an ongoing priority. In August, Cloud said the Pine Plains Free Library received a \$50,000 grant from

Dutchess County's "Learn, Play, Create: Supporting Our Kids" grant program to create a creative youth STEAM space.

As posted online at www.dutchessny.gov, the grant will allow the library to purchase "flexible and growable plans, furniture, equipment, supplies and materials to expand underutilized spaces into modern creativity areas for youth and teens, including technology such as computers, laptops and tablets for check-out."

The Town Board will discuss the 2022 preliminary budget at its workshop meeting on Monday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. A public hearing on the preliminary budget will be held on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7:05 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 3284 Route 199 in Pine Plains.

After the public hearing, Cloud said the board plans to accept the preliminary budget as the final budget in November.

Residents interested in learning more can review the tentative budget Pine Plains Town Hall.

The 2022 preliminary budget will be posted on the town website, www.pineplains-ny.gov, around Friday, Oct. 22.



PHOTO BY TIA MAGGIO

Young patrons from the Roeliff Jansen Community Library in Copake participated in the Columbia Land Conservancy's (CLC) ponds and streams program on Saturday morning, Oct. 4, thanks to a program led by CLC teacher Jenifer Rosete and coordinated with Roe Jan Children's Librarian Tia Maggio.

Roe Jan Library teams up with CLC as young readers explore ponds & streams

COPAKE — The Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) led a program to explore ponds and streams on Saturday morning, Oct. 4, in collaboration with Children's Librarian Tia Maggio from the Roeliff Jansen Community Library.

A group of excited young library patrons, along with Jenifer Rosete of CLC and Maggio, went to the Roe Jan Kill near the library to investigate the stream and learn all about the local waterway — as scenic as it is educational.

In addition to teaching children about how to safely explore ponds and streams through its programs, the CLC offers local

students its National Explorer Backpacks program.

Maggio said that the Roe Jan Library "will always have the backpacks for kids to check out."

The backpacks are free of charge, and easy to pick up.

For more information, go to www.roejanlibrary.org or call 518-325-4101; the library is located at 9091 Route 22, Copake.

For more information on the CLC, go to www.clctrust.org.

— Whitney Joseph

AREA IN BRIEF

PPCSD BOE meetings to be virtual

PINE PLAINS — As of this time, all Pine Plains Central School District Board of Education (BOE) meetings will be held remotely until further notice.

Remote meetings will be live-streamed and a

Learn how to make a graphic novel

COPAKE — The Roeliff Jansen Community Library is hosting a four-session graphic novel workshop series led by cartoonist Barbara Slate, on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m., from Oct. 21 until Nov. 12.

No experience or drawing skills are necessary to participate. This workshop is free and open to tweens, teens and adults. Participants must commit to all four sessions; the program is limited to 20

Roe Jan Library helps small businesses

COPAKE — On Thursday, Oct. 14, the Roeliff Jansen Community Library at 9091 Route 22 will host a Small Business Workshop designed for those in the early stages of planning a small business.

Running from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., a panel of small business owners will discuss their ideas and suggestions for success.

link will be available on the school district website, www.ppcsd.org.

Residents with any BOE related questions can contact Pine Plains District Clerk Julia W. Tomaine at j.tomaine@ppcsd.org.

participants.

To register, call 518-325-4101, email director@roejanlibrary.org or visit the library.

The Roe Jan Library serves Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale and is located at 9091 Route 22.

For information on hours and events, call 518 325-4101 or go to www.roejanlibrary.org, www.facebook.com/roejanlibrary or www.instagram.com/roejanlibrary.

Topics will include business plans as well as coping with and pivoting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small business, Mei's Handmade Dumplings, will also be at the library from 4 to 7 p.m. selling dumplings outside the library.

For more information, go to www.roejanlibrary.org.

Realtor® at Large

An issue that both buyers and sellers face in today's fast paced market is that sale prices are out pacing house appraisals. (Hence the value of a cash deal which does not need an appraisal!) If the appraisal does not meet the sales price, there are several options: 1) the buyer makes up the difference between the appraisal and the selling price, 2) the price is renegotiated and 3) the deal falls apart. While it is not the end of the world, both parties should be aware of this issue and have a plan for if it happens. For more information, please check this information found in Zillow: www.zillow.com/sellers-guide/appraisal-came-in-low/



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FIRE DISTRICT TAXES *Continued from Page A1*

when the town signed a contract with Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) for \$180,000. This year, North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan said that contract went up to \$363,000.

"It's the largest single line item in the budget for the town," said Kennan. "And it's increased steadily during that six-year period. That's a contract that NDP negotiated with the town of Dover, the town of Amenia, the town of North East and the village of Millerton. Their fire district no longer owns an ambulance. They sold their ambulance last year, I think."

All three agreed that the rising cost of emergency services should not be surprising, considering how much is entailed in protecting residents and their property.

Responsible planning

According to Joshua Schultz, since the North East Fire District was established in 2004, "the board has tried to minimize the amount of taxpayer impact by keeping the budget at an operating level appropriate for the given time with not a lot of preparation or planning for the future. In 2020, the board had begun discussing what we need to do to be better prepared for what's up and coming."

"Nobody wants to admit it or accept it, but our EMS [Emergency Medical Services] went paid, and our fire service will eventually be paid as well," he added. "We're trying to be proactive; we're trying to address it now rather than saddling taxpayers with a 100% increase."

Lack of volunteers

The main challenge for the district, said James Schultz, is staffing. Considering it's been serving the community on a volunteer basis since 1892, and really only began to struggle to recruit volunteers in the last decade or so, the commission believes the fire district has fared well throughout the years. Still, it's at a critical juncture now where reliable service will likely be unsustainable in the very near future.

"Our role sheet shows I think 59 on the roles, but active members we're dwindling down to very few people," he said.

In fact, he said there are only between 16 and 27 "truly active

members" in the fire company.

"Our average age is like 44," added Schultz. "And we have one gentleman making a lot of calls that's 89 years old."

That's Bernie Silvernail, who has 72 active years in the department. A firetruck was just named in his honor at a special ceremony on Sept. 12 at the new Annex building across the street from the firehouse on Century Boulevard.

Increased call volume

"For a volunteer force we have great equipment, great facilities, but we have a staff that's burned out by an increasing call volume," said Joshua Schultz. "North East is experiencing more calls."

"I would say there's between a 20 to 25% increase in calls," Valyou agreed. "I believe the pandemic did have an impact on that. Weekend homes have become permanent residences. If you're here more, there's more of a chance for the need of EMS or fire services, and we don't have the volunteer bases coming in."

"There are a lot of socioeconomic factors that play into the dropping off of volunteer staffing: a dwindling base of people that reside in the town of North East and village of Millerton capable of being volunteers or lack of time or interest," said Joshua Schultz. "Or people working multiple jobs or familial commitments or they're unable to undergo training. Just the basic training to be fire police that in my day took eight hours now takes almost 30... To be an interior firefighter... takes almost 200 hours... [that] gives you an idea of why volunteerism is on the decline, not only nationally but certainly in fire service."

A phased approach

While a 58% tax increase might seem hefty, if the fire district did not take the approach of increasing taxes incrementally in the next couple of years, Joshua Schultz said "easily you would see a 100 or 150% increase in the budget if no step had been taken prior" when the district transitions to a paid or partially paid service in the next three to five years.

He added that while the commission doesn't have the exact mill rate set for 2022 yet, he

would "wager to say the average household with a property value of \$250,000 in North East would probably see a \$50 to \$75 increase in its fire taxes."

The town of North East collects taxes for the fire district in late March; the district's fiscal year operates on the calendar year, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

District expenses

Much of the district's expenses go toward insurance, building maintenance and repair, infrastructure for the future, rotations for equipment and truck replacement. The cost of turn-out gear alone costs thousands of dollars per firefighter.

The commissioners said they regularly pursue grants as they become available, though it's been difficult. That's why they included a line in this year's budget for a grantwriter, to more effectively obtain the coveted funding.

"In the past we tried to do it ourselves, but grant writing is very competitive," said Joshua Schultz. "For someone like us to work a normal job to write grants is tough, so we placed a line in the budget for a grant writer."

County should step up

Kennan said he knows all too well how difficult it is to budget for essential services like the fire district has to, and is looking toward county lawmakers to help fill the gap.

"Our all-volunteer fire company has provided many years of dedicated service to our community," he said. "At the same time we know that with declining numbers of volunteers, not just in our Fire Company but in smaller communities around the State, the writing is on the wall. While I hope it is not any time soon, the reality is there will be full-time, paid firefighters in our future. How that can be paid for is a critical question, and one we will be looking to Dutchess County to help solve."

When the fire district does eventually switch to becoming a paid company, Schultz explained that "in general, not a whole lot is going to change as far as the district and its structural organization."

He explained there will still be volunteers, the fire district will still exist, there will simply

be a new, partially paid staff that will work in tandem with the volunteers. The North East Fire District will still oversee the Millerton Fire Company, its volunteers as well as the paid staff. The paid firefighters would be hired from a pool of candidates in the county from a list of graduates from the fire safety academy.

The biggest change, he said, would be in the district's infrastructure, things like the firehouse's sleeping quarters, a wellness center, an improved kitchen and showers. A paid staff of dedicated workers at the firehouse would get the first piece of equipment out on calls and then volunteers would work help deal with emergencies in the district. The fire commission would continue to function as it does now.

Increase taken to heart

"We definitely take our responsibility to the taxpayers wholeheartedly and this is not a decision we came to lightly," said Joshua Schultz. "Nobody wants to increase taxes in this kind of a manner. We're all taxpayers here. Not only do we serve oaths as a board of fire commissioners, we all pay taxes in North East or Millerton, so we also are going to be affected by this."

"A lot of care and thought, many hours of conversation, have gone into what you see now as the proposed budget," he added. "And we openly welcome conservation with the community at our public hearing on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m."

The public hearing for the proposed budget will be at 29 Century Blvd. at the new Annex.

Budget to be adopted Oct. 19
After the public hearing is held on the 19th, if no adjustments or amendments are needed to the proposed budget, the commissioners will most likely adopt the budget that night.

Copies of budget available

Copies of the North East Fire District's 2022 Proposed Budget are available for view at the firehouse at 28 Century Blvd., the NorthEast-Millerton Library and Town Hall at 19 North Maple Ave.

Taxpayers can also email commissionersnfd@gmail.com for a copy of the budget or to express any concerns to the North East Fire Commission.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

The future of the FFA

Visiting the small animals exhibit on display at the Pine Plains FFA Ag Fair, Shea Cordella, 4, posed in front of a very friendly Flemish giant. See Page A5 for full story.

MARIJUANA *Continued from Page A1*

ment, Klingner reported approximately 25 signatures were collected.

Turning the board's attention to the resolution introducing the local law, town Supervisor Victoria Perotti explained the regulations of the state's new marijuana law.

If Amenia does nothing, she said, the town will automatically "opt in" to the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) passed in March, which permits cannabis dispensaries and lounges in municipalities statewide. The MRTA legalized adult-use recreational marijuana; New York approved medical marijuana in 2014.

Former Governor Andrew Cuomo set a Dec. 31 deadline for municipalities to either opt in or out of allowing dispensaries and lounges in their communities. If Amenia opts out now, Perotti said the board has the option of opting in at a later date if it wants to.

Councilman Damian Gutierrez stressed that while the town can opt out now and choose to opt in later, New York State intends to issue only a fixed number of licenses, roughly 700 in total. He said there's no current time line or guidance on when or if the state will distribute more licenses after that. Currently, the Cannabis Control Board is being manned, which will set clear guidelines for municipalities to follow.

"So while it's accurate to say we could opt in later, in practice it may be irrelevant because the licenses may have all been distributed," Gutierrez said.

Responding to Donnelly's comment that he didn't feel it's the government's job to make health-related decisions, Gutierrez said he personally disagreed.

Specific to the MRTA, the councilman said, "New York State has made recreational use legal and so nothing we do as a Town Board will make recreational use in the town of

Amenia illegal. What we're really talking about today is retail."

Gutierrez also spoke about the revenue component entailed with the marijuana law and the insight he's gained both from his research and from his conversations with retailers in Great Barrington, Mass., where pot has been sold for the past five years with great success.

From what Gutierrez said, the Massachusetts community has seen a large number of residents from neighboring states crossing their borders to buy marijuana in the popular Massachusetts shopping district, adding there's the potential for towns like Amenia to make similar revenue.

However, the more municipalities that open up commercial cannabis operations, the less tax revenue each individual municipality will make, as they will have to split their profits among not only all of the towns and villages that claim a stake, but also with the county and state. Nearby Pine Plains has already announced it will permit marijuana dispensaries in its town, about 40 minutes northwest of Amenia.

Gutierrez said he was told Theory Wellness, a dispensary in Great Barrington, earned \$30 million in revenue in its first year of operation — but stressed he has not verified the numbers. At \$30 million, he said that would mean \$1.2 million in revenue split between Dutchess County and the town — roughly what Amenia would typically collect in a typical year from property taxes.

Following further discussion, the board passed the resolution with a majority vote. Gutierrez was the only board member who voted against the resolution, as he was in favor of allowing commercial cannabis operations in the town.

A public hearing on the local law will be held at Amenia Town Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 4.

PINE PLAINS BOE *Continued from Page A1*

comment session that the BOE does not respond to any comments made by community members at the podium during its meetings.

The BOE does follow up with those who speak at its open meetings, depending on if the question is geared toward the board or the administration.

The school board deals with district policy and financial business while the administration deals with the day to day issues, curriculum, teaching materials, discipline and things of that nature.

Arent said the BOE responds to community members either by email or "snail mail" within 24 to 48 hours.

"I really try," she said. "If a comment is something adversarial, I get back ASAP... It's hard because I work full time, we all do."

It's worth noting BOE meetings are not public meetings — they are open meetings. A public meeting means the public can take part in the meeting. An open meeting means the public can observe the meeting.

"We're not required to have public comment, but we believe in it," said Arent, who added, "We follow the law to the letter."

Some of those who come to the board meetings are there to catch up on school business, but Arent is worried that others simply want to stir up trouble.

Privacy concerns

She mentioned one particular community member, who is not a parent, who spoke at the Sept. 15 meeting about putting cameras in classrooms. Arent said he's attended numerous BOE meetings in recent months.

"He wants to watch the classrooms. That to me is scary," said Arent. "He's not a parent and he

wants to watch what's going on; that's a safety issue on so many levels and a privacy issue."

Escalation of emotions

Meanwhile, BOE member Jim Griffin agreed the meetings have "been an escalation" of emotions and reactions among community members that have been difficult to get under control.

Griffin was recently in Tokyo for his job during the Olympic games, but reported that the situation with the crowds getting rowdy at board meetings did start worsening in July.

"And really it has been escalating at each one and getting more contentious and to an extent dangerous," he added.

He said there was an exchange with some "hotheaded" parents whom he described as "antagonistic." It's never been this bad, said the eight-year BOE member.

"The last time we even had anything close to this was when we made some changes in the ag program with the FFA, which got a lot of people out," said Griffin. "We had a full meeting and people were passionate about it, but it was nothing like this."

Pandemic a sore point

"I think it's coming down to a lot of complaints about why are we only listening to some experts and not others," added the BOE member. "But there's very little the district can do when there are mandates. We face a \$1,000 fine per violation when we do not implement the mask policy... We're seeing an escalation about the national conversation hitting us at home now."

Griffin said he understands how exhausted people have become trying to figure out what's best for their families. Those

serving on the school board are dealing with the same issues, he said. Arent agreed that everyone is feeling the stress of having lived through what is quickly coming up on two years under pandemic conditions.

"I think parents are tired, the community is tired — everybody is tired," said Arent. "But we're following the mandates of New York State, and that won't change."

The need for protection

It's gotten tense at the BOE meetings. For one executive session, the sheriff's deputies felt it was prudent to escort the seven school board members to the private portion of their meeting.

"We've had to go to executive session and one deputy came in and said, 'I think it's best if I escort you to executive session,' and that's difficult for us because we are trying to do our jobs to the best of our ability," said Arent. "We've had deputies escorting the BOE since the end of July, and maybe earlier than that. It's been within the last three months... It makes me sad quite honestly... [but] it's well worth it because we feel we need to feel there's someone else keeping an eye on us so we can get our work done."

Despite the tensions and the commotion, though, Griffin said he and his colleagues continue to make the students and their education the board's top priority. Members attend each BOE meeting after what usually amounts to hours of prep work ready to listen to concerned parents, teachers and administrators, even students sometimes.

"I think the other mistake people are making is they're saying, 'You're not hearing us.' I hear every comment people are saying," said Griffin. "We're serv-

ing a population of two counties with nine towns; we have 6,000 taxpayers and change. I've heard from everyone who comes to our board meetings."

Going virtual

Yet to ensure the safety of board members, and those in the audience — as some of the tensions that have arisen have been among members of the public — Griffin said the BOE meetings are going online.

"[We've] gone virtual for now; we're taking it as it is and have committed to virtual meetings through October," he said. "I can't imagine that tensions will cool by the time our first meeting happens in November, because the escalation has been constant and more tense every single time. There are pretty hostile people who have pointed right into other people's faces... the line between when something is disruptive and not violent, that's only a couple of seconds."

Griffin added that he hopes the community can calm down soon, and the school board can get back to doing what it was elected to do — what it volunteers to do, unpaid — work to advance the district and establish the best and most challenging academic environment for its students.

"This illness we're going through as a country has everybody kind of traumatized," he said. "I don't want it to set the tone. I would like us to get past this. This is not the end all and be all; it's not what Pine Plains is all about."

For the latest on the PPCSD, go to its website, www.ppcsd.org. To submit public comments for BOE meetings, send them to PublicComment@ppcsd.org.



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

CINEMA HISTORY: KATE HOCHSWENDER

From Cradle to Crypt, A History of Horror Films

If you are looking to get into the Halloween spirit and learn about the history of horror film, this is your year to hit up big-screen October showings in the Tristate region. Between these four events, you can get the full range of horror film history and genres.

IT'S ALIVE: THE HORROR FILM IS BORN

Horror got its start in the silent era. The Bardavon in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., is hosting a screening on Oct. 29 of what some call the very first (and in my opinion, still scariest) horror film: "Nosferatu," released in Germany in 1922 and the U.S. in 1929.

This first film version of the Dracula mythos was an unofficial and unauthorized adaptation of the 1897 novel by Bram Stoker; the names of the characters had to be changed for the film.

Although truly terrifying, "Nosferatu" is also beautiful. It uses shadow and light to create an atmosphere of mystery



and foreboding. It was one of the first films to use special effects to create an impossible monster, one that can only exist on the screen. This movie shows

where it all started with horror movies and is a must-see for anyone interested in not just horror but film in general.

"Nosferatu," directed by

F.W. Murnau and released in 1922, will be shown on Friday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. at Ulster Performing Arts Center, on Broadway in Kingston, N.Y., with live organ accompaniment by John Baratta.

All seats are \$6, Bardavon members are free. There will be costume contests, photo booths and more. Go to www.bardavon.org for information.

ROMANCE AND GOTHIC TERROR

Moving forward chronologically through film history, the Kent Memorial Library in Kent, Conn., is offering weekly showings of "vintage horror" on an outdoor screen this month.

Featuring movies from the 1930s and early 1940s, the library's film choices (curated by Ben Rybeck from House of Books) offer a Gothic and atmospheric lineup of black-and-white classics. These films may be less gory and shocking than modern horror — and are therefore good for all ages.

But they are also important moments in film history; and they offer a



PHOTO COURTESY AUDUBON

PUMPKINS INVITED TO JOIN THE AUDUBON TRAIL

The Sharon Audubon Center on Route 4 in Sharon, Conn., is hosting a Pumpkin Trail, open daily from dawn until dusk from Thursday, Oct. 28, through Thursday, Nov. 11, with special night time viewing events on Friday, Oct. 29, and Saturday, Oct. 30, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. (BYO flashlight).

Area residents are invited to submit as many jack-o'-lanterns as they would like for the Pumpkin Trail. They may either be carved (freehand or stenciled) or decorated (painted, using recycled materials, etc.). Audubon will also accept gourds that are decorated as ani-

mals. No inappropriate or gory entries will be accepted.

All submissions must be accompanied by a completed entry form. Entries may be dropped off at the Audubon Center on the front lawn area from Oct. 25 through Oct. 27 at noon. Participants can receive \$2 off one pumpkin for the trail by taking the coupon to Paley's Farm Market in Sharon.

Entry forms can be found on the Sharon Audubon Center Facebook page and www.Sharon.audubon.org. For more information, email wendy.miller@audubon.org.

Continued on next page

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WORKS BY POULER BRING GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS TO LIFE

A new show of work by painter Chris Pouler of Salisbury, Conn., opens at the Warren Family Gallery at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Mass., with a reception on Friday, Oct. 29, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The show runs through Dec. 18.

Pouler's new work explores the topic of the migrant/refugee crisis both here in the U.S. and globally, and attempts to bring a human face to the issue.

Students at the school are invited to become engaged with this issue through interactive and three-dimensional elements of the show.

The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Make an appointment by emailing pbanevicius@berkshireschool.org.



IMAGE FROM CHRIS POULER

Chris Pouler's portraits of refugees put a human face on a global crisis. This 10-year-old Syrian girl was killed by a Russian bomb after the photo was taken that Pouler used for the portrait.

...history of horror films

Continued from previous page

different type of horror than the modern viewer is used to: the slower build of terror, a reliance on an atmosphere of creepiness full of cobwebbed and candle-lit castles dancing with shadows and foggy, moonlit nights — rather than kill counts and jump scares.

There is also the romance of the Gothic monsters. Unlike the modern horror slashers who are stoic, silent juggernauts of strength who kill single mindedly, the Gothic villain is psychologically complex — and often even sympathetic.

"Dracula" was shown on Oct. 7. Next in the series is "The Old Dark House" on Oct. 14. This 1932 release is a lesser known black-and-white horror film by James Whale — best known for directing "Frankenstein" and "Bride of Frankenstein."

This film was recently featured on the Criterion Channel's collection called Queersighted Horror (Queer Fear). Whale's own sexuality has caused many of his films, including "The Old Dark House," to be re-analyzed through the lens of queer subtextual themes in pre-code Hollywood.

Whale's films set a precedent for the horror film as a place for the outsider, "the othered," to find comfort — which is why horror films are often so closely entangled with queer sensibility. After that is "Cat People" on Oct. 21; and another Whale film, "Bride of Frankenstein"

Oct. 28.

The free outdoor movies at the library begin at 7 p.m. Blankets, chairs and cozy apparel are encouraged. Registration is not required but is helpful, kla-bmcallister@biblio.org.

THREE DECADES OF HORROR

The Millerton Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., has an October lineup that covers the history of modern horror through the decades. Manager Casey Lehman has curated a list that spans three different decades, starting in the 1960s and ending in 1990. Each film is one that was influential on horror as we know it today — both their story themes as well as their cinematic techniques used to instill fear.

The series started on Oct. 6 with Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 film, "Psycho."

The feature on Oct. 13 and 16 was "The Bird with the Crystal Plumage," representing the "giallo" genre from Italy in the 1970s that, while lesser known in the States, has been hugely influential on the aesthetics of modern horror worldwide.

The two remaining films this month are both based on Stephen King novels.

Representing the 1980s is Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining," which remains one of the most beautifully shot and psychologically complex and terrifying horror films, with legendary acting from Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall. Don't miss the chance to see it on a big screen on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 23, at 9 p.m.

Finishing the Moviehouse lineup is "Misery" from 1990. Kathy Bates won an Oscar for her performance as a crazed fan of the novelist main character, whom she traps in her isolated home during a snowstorm. The COVID-19 isolation of the past two years will add to your appreciation of this film's claustrophobic suspense.

See "Misery" on Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 30, at 9 p.m. For more information and to order tickets go to www.themoviehouse.net.

**AND AT LAST:
IT'S 'HALLOWEEN'**
Arrive in the cinematic

modern day at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, N.Y., with a double feature: the brand-new "Halloween Kills" and "Halloween" from 2018. The two most recent installments in the long-running Halloween franchise, started by John Carpenter in the 1970s, these two films are slick and modern but with plenty of homages to their horror history — and Jamie Lee Curtis reprising her role as the Final Girl.

There are other activities that evening as well. For information, go to <https://playeatdrink.com> and www.blackholemonoplex.com/HOLEAWEEN.

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OCTOBER

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VENOM
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OCTOBER 22

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The Bird with the Crystal Plumage
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The Shining
WEDS. OCT 20 @ 7:30
SAT. OCT 23 @ 9:00

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info@themoviehouse.net

OCTOBER 22

CC AD

48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

MEET FOUR LITCHFIELD COUNTY WITCHES

Award-winning history teacher Peter Vermilyea from Housatonic Valley Regional High School will talk about his seasonally appropriate book, "Witches in Litchfield County," on a Zoom presentation through the Minor Memorial Library in Roxbury, Conn., on Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge for this program, but registration is required at www.minormemoriallibrary.org.

Whether or not

they were right, it is indisputable that our Litchfield County ancestors believed that witches lived among them. Vermilyea will discuss the lives of four 18th-century women who were accused of witchcraft — in most cases, he believes, because these were women who took a path other than was expected of them by society.

Vermilyea is also the author of "Hidden History of Litchfield County" and "Wicked Litchfield County."



Here's how to get the inside scoop on changes coming to the **Hotchkiss Library of Sharon**

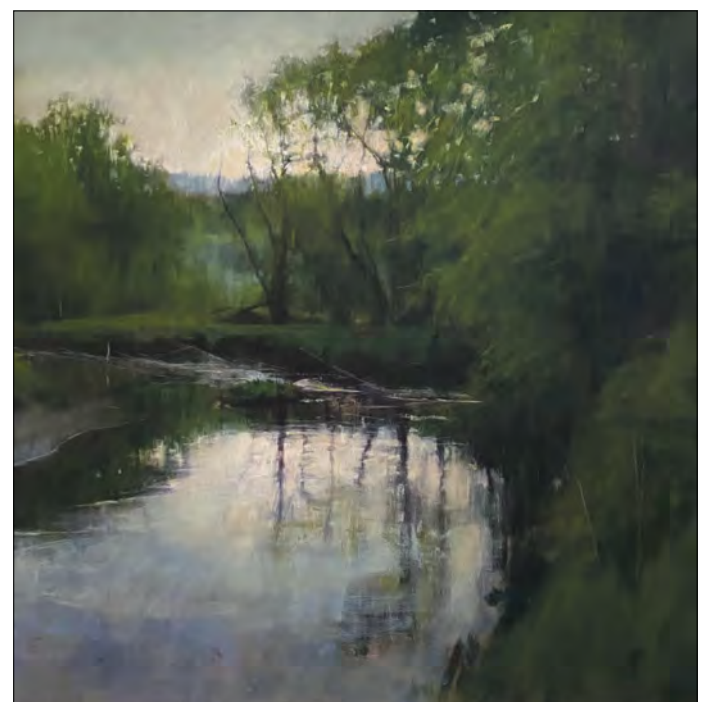
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Thu Oct 14 • Wed Oct 20 • Thu Oct 28

Library Tours | Saturdays, 11 am

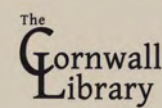
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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send calendar items to calendar@lakevillejournal.com.

Find a full calendar in this week's *Compass* tabloid and online at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

MILLBROOK



Allen Meyer, the recipient of the Augustine Rotund Lifetime Achievement Award, held his commemorative lamp and award at the fire company's annual dinner on Saturday, Oct. 9.



Leo Arruza held a certificate for 25 years of service at the Millbrook Hook and Ladder Company's annual dinner, where he also was awarded the Lifetime Member's Award.

Millbrook Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 celebrates members with annual dinner

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Millbrook Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 held its annual Firemen's Awards Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Village of Millbrook firehouse.

The event was catered by the Millbrook Deli, and the food was plentiful, delicious and varied. A greater number of awards was presented this year as some of the award recipients had outstanding years of service. Because of the COVID pandemic, the awards ceremony was not held last year.

The invocation was given by the Rev. Thomas Fiet from Lyall Memorial Federated Church. Dutchess County Undersheriff and Acting Sheriff Kirk Imperati made opening remarks and under-

scored the importance of the volunteers who protect the residents, business owners and property of Dutchess County.

Millbrook Mayor Tim Collopy was not able to attend, but Deputy Mayor Mike Herzog filled in, thanking the fire department and Rescue Squad for all that they do for the village and town. He spoke of the importance of volunteerism in small communities, noting that many of this nation's forefathers, including Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, were also volunteer firefighters.

Other dignitaries were on hand to give thanks and praise to those who serve in the Millbrook Hook and Ladder Co., including Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and County Legislator Deirdre Houston (R-25).

The two county lawmakers also took the opportunity to talk about the upcoming budget, the needs of the county and of smaller municipalities like Millbrook and Washington and how to best meet those needs.

Houston is running for reelection in the County Legislature. Molinaro, whose term limit as county executive expires at year's end, recently announced he is running against two-term U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado (D-NY-19) for a congressional seat come Nov. 2.

Awards

A number of awards were handed out at the Oct. 9 Firemen's Awards Dinner.

Awarded for 55 years of service was John V. Manzi Jr., who joined the department in August of 1965.

For 50 years of service Andrew Ciferri, Bill Manzi and Rich Cross were awarded.

Brian Hicks was awarded for 35 years of service.

Matt Rochfort was awarded for 30 years of service, 22 years of those years as president.

Kim Bownas was awarded for 30 years of service.

Tara Granger and Ken Walsh were awarded for 20 years of service.

Peggy Mulligan and Robin Horan were awarded for 10 years of service.

Tim Race was awarded for five years of service.

Allen Meyer was the recipient of the Augustine Rotundo Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement. This award is given to a member who has made a positive impact in the overall mission of the

Millbrook fire department. Meyer also celebrated 40 years of service.

The Lynn Karn Award recipient is chosen by the department's membership in memory of Karn's years of active service as a line officer and civil service. This year's award was bestowed on Fire Chief Ted Bownas.

The Sean Kimble Rookie of the Year Award was presented to Jake Zampko, who joined in July 2020.

Leo Arruza received a Certificate for 25 Years of Life Membership and was given an Honorary Life Member Presentation.

The Auxiliary Awards went to Linda Wilbur for 40 years and to Loretta Koche for 25 years; the Life Member Award went to Jennifer Strang for 15 years.

Rochfort gave special mention and a certificate of appreciation to Millbrook Deli and Pizza, which has catered this event for several years and has always done an excellent job, according to the chief.

The menu this year included appetizers, prime rib, fish and chicken, vegetables, salad, pasta, potatoes and carrot cake. Tables were set with sunflower arrangements and a bar.

The Rev. Matt Calkin of Grace Episcopal Church gave the benediction, along with his appreciation for the fire and rescue services. The dinner and awards were then over until next year, with everyone going home happy, full and thankful for the Millbrook's emergency services and its volunteers.



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, Isabella Blum, 7, and her friend, Nora Diamant, also 7, were busy painting faces on pumpkins at the Fall in Love with Millbrook pumpkin painting station at the Millbrook Library on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Falling in love with Millbrook

MILLBROOK — Fall in Love With Millbrook was sponsored by the Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) and held on Saturday, Oct. 9. The day-long event was held as a celebration of local artists and brought in droves of people, locals and visitors from afar, all whom enjoyed the autumn weather, great shopping and, excellent dining.

Those who came by the village on Saturday were treated to something a little extra special as they got to enjoy nonstop music in the streets throughout the morning and early afternoon, thanks to the various musical groups that enter-

tained the crowds from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at various locations throughout the village.

There were bands stationed along Franklin Avenue and at the Millbrook Farmers Market on the village green.

As a special treat for local youngsters, a story telling hour was held at the library with children's storyteller Jonathan Heiles at noon.

Pumpkin painting was held in front of the library as well, attracting many young people as well as the grown ups who enjoyed watching the whimsical creations come to life.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe



Several young ladies from Albany on their way to visit the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park and dressed for the occasion, decided to stop and visit Millbrook first. They are part of the Frilly J-Fasionista's. They enjoyed the music that was part of the Fall in Love with Millbrook event on Saturday, Oct. 9.

MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

Cary workshop focuses on climate solutions

On Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m., the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies will host Creatively Engaging Students in Local Climate Science: Hudson Data Jam, a virtual workshop for middle and high school educators about ways to engage students with local datasets to explore climate change in the Hudson Valley region.

Participants will also learn about the annual Hudson Data Jam competition — an opportunity for students in grades six through 12, plus families, to explore ecological datasets and creatively communicate

the stories they tell.

This event is geared toward educators of middle and high school students from any type of learning environment. Public and private school teachers, homeschoolers and other instructors will have the opportunity to learn from Cary's Education Program Leader Ashley Alred, and network with fellow Hudson Valley educators. Free and open to all, register via Eventbrite.

For more information, go to www.caryinstitute.org or call 845-677-7600, ext. 236.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Please take notice that the Pine Plains Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on October 21st 2021 at 7:05pm on Preliminary Budget 2022.

All persons desiring to be heard on said Preliminary Budget shall be given an opportunity to do so at said public hearing.

Said hearing will be held at the Pine Plains Town Hall, 3284, Rt.199 Pine Plains N.Y. 12567.

By Order of the Town Board
Madelin Dafoe
Town Clerk
10-14-21

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 8:15 PM, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Town Hall, 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York,

on the application of David Intrieri, owner of tax parcel # 7271-09-088522-0000, for a reduction in the required side yard and a reduction in the required rear yard in order to construct a 1144 square foot storage garage. The parcel is located at 43 Pine Ridge Road in the A5A Zoning District of the Town of North East.

The above application is open for inspection at the Town Hall.

Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person or by attorney or other representative. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing. Dated: October 7, 2021.

Julie Schroeder
Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
10-14-21

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of

North East, Dutchess County, New York, on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7:45 PM, or soon thereafter as possible, in the Town Hall, 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York, on the application of Sun Common on behalf of Gerald McNamara and Renee Petrofes, owners of tax parcel # 6969-00-750451, for a special permit in order to erect a ground-mounted solar array. The parcel is located at 147 East Indies Road in A5A Zoning District of the Town of North East.

The above application is open for inspection at the Town Hall.

Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person or by attorney or other representative. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing. Dated: October 7, 2021.

Julie Schroeder
Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
10-14-21

We all follow our own path

We're here to help you build yours. In two decades in the Harlem Valley, we've seen a lot of change, but one thing never does. Community happens when our paths meet. Stop by our Amenia Branch, say hi to Mark, and see where we go when we build together.

Mark Vila
Amenia Branch Manager

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MEMBER FDIC

EDITORIAL

Thrilled FFA Fall Ag Fair has returned

After a year's hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic that shut down everything we love about the Harlem Valley and all of the local traditions in our neighborhood communities, the Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) welcomed back one of its finest traditions this past weekend: the FFA Fall Agricultural Fair. The annual Ag Fair returned this year on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8 and 9, and it came back with plenty of gusto.

Fourth- and fifth-graders showcased their dairy showmanship on Friday, Oct. 8, while middle and high schoolers enjoyed a field day that same day. Although the district had to cancel its traditional Friday night roast beef dinner — a disappointment to anyone who has ever been fortunate enough to enjoy the tasty and tender beef and all the sides that accompany it in the company of FFA members, their family, friends, teachers and advisors — we understand the PPCSD's rationale considering the COVID pandemic is still raging in so many places. It simply makes sense to play it safe.

After all, the big event is really the FFA Ag Fair itself. The majority of the fair took place on Saturday, after the parade stepped off from Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center on Academy Street and then marched its way through town all the way to Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School.

That was the site of the main affair, where one could find everything from a tractor pull to a horse pull to a car show to animal exhibits to a dairy show to a horse show to a flower show to a pet show to a farmers market, and then of course, there was Cow Pie Bingo.

Let's not forget about all of the scrumptious fair food, sold by the various school classes set out to fundraise for their graduations, selling everything from chili to baked potatoes to pulled-pork parfaits to homemade pie to cotton candy. Certainly plenty of people arrived at the fair with hunger pains and left with belly aches — and we speak from years of experience — but trust us, it's well worth that little bit of discomfort.

The main point, as FFA Advisor Stephanie Rhoades explained, is that students got to "engage with the community" and talk to people about agriculture. That's exactly what they train to do in their ag classes and through the FFA program.

"We especially appreciate the local farmers and businesses who continue to support the Ag Fair. It's especially nice to get back to connecting the community with local agriculture," said Rhoades, particularly after a year away due to the pandemic, she said.

Rhoades also expressed appreciation to the local farms that worked with the FFA members, training in the weeks and months before the Ag Fair to prepare them for the animal showmanship events. This year, Lo-Nan Farm and Ronnybrook Farm in Pine Plains and Millerhurst Farm in Ancramdale participated with Pine Plains' FFA program.

Students in the PPCSD should count themselves lucky. Few school districts these days even have FFA programs any more; in the Harlem Valley, Pine Plains has an FFA chapter, but neither Webutuck nor Millbrook do any longer.

The FFA's mission, according to its website, www.ffa.org, is to "make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."

While FFA no longer stands for Future Farmers of America, its motto continues to be "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve."

Those students who belong to the Pine Plains FFA clearly understand the significance of those words and work hard to exemplify them, as shown at this past weekend's Fall Agricultural Fair.

We commend the PPCSD for supporting such a robust agricultural curriculum and continuing its FFA program throughout the years. Doing so will ensure its students learn valuable real world skills and so much more, which could ultimately propel them into multiple and fascinating fields of study.

The Ag Fair offered just a hint of what could come from a career in agriculture. It's organizations like the FFA that could provide the clues to help students reach such goals.

Amenia must work together, despite differences

Kudos to The Millerton News for sponsoring the recent Amenia Meet the Candidates night. High points were the excellent voter turnout and the opportunity for the candidates to face the electorate and answer voter questions publicly. A drawback was the format, which only allowed candidates one minute to address each question, far too short to permit the candidates to state their positions clearly.

It is refreshing to see so many candidates willing to serve in town government, after many years in which this has not been the case. Among other things, I was pleased that James Morris took such a strong, principled stand against allowing cannabis lounges in the town.

While the candidates all seemed sincerely committed

to serving the public interest, I found Brad Rebillard's obvious willingness to work hand-in-hand with persons of all viewpoints to address town issues particularly admirable.

One disturbing aspect, however, was a lack of civility from some members of the audience (catcalls, etc.), which seems related to an unfortunate tendency of some in our Amenia community to engage in class warfare, figuratively throwing bricks at others simply because they seem to be better off economically.

I was reminded of the reception that some of us got over a decade ago while trying to promote the town's purchase of the Allen property for mixed purposes like recreation, a town garage and a wastewater facility. While perhaps not always apparent, diversity is one of Amenia's



A neophyte's observation of the Amenia Meet the Candidates forum at Webutuck High School

Wednesday, Oct. 8, proved to be a rough and tumble evening at the Candidates Night at Webutuck High School. As a Millbrook resident who does lots of shopping in Amenia and has been a substitute teacher in their schools, I decided to attend knowing it would be an interesting event; it didn't disappoint.

First up were the five Town Board candidates in attendance; Stacy Mantel (WFP) was absent for personal reasons.

The format for this section was written questions submitted to the Dutchess County League of Women Voters moderators; each candidate had an opportunity to respond.

Most questions were on water and sewer in the business district and the Silo Ridge lawsuits regarding property taxes and real estate assessments.

Noteworthy among the

responses was Leo Blackman confirming a reported quote he made at a past meeting where, when asked about crime in Amenia, he responded "the most prevalent crime in Amenia is probably incest." Sadly for Mr. Blackman, he chose not to apologize for his utterance but rather to call it "unfortunate."

Another gaffe was Brad Rebillard answering a question that included his replying, "I don't care if I get elected or not."

A pleasant surprise that evening was Democrat Katherine Lee, a Wassaic resident. Ms. Lee was well-informed and knew her topics. As a conservative Republican, I found her refreshing in that she took a firm position on all the issues discussed. She has the characteristics of someone seeking to build consensus to move forward and find solutions on issues such as water,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support Councilman Ralph Fedele as he seeks re-election in North East

Vote Ralph Fedele, Democrat, for the North East Town Board. I have known Ralph for a good number of years. He has proven to be an honest and honorable man of integrity.

During his tenure on the Town Board, Ralph has demonstrated rare leadership, organizational and logistical skills, shown through his many years volunteering with the one-room 1858 Irondale Schoolhouse project.

Ralph sincerely cares for this town and its future. Join me in voting for Ralph Fedele and the future welfare of the town of North East on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Larry Conklin
Millerton

Editor's Note: Mr. Conklin writes a monthly opinion column for The Millerton News entitled Veteran's Corner.

sewer, maintaining working farms and improving town support in creating a more vibrant business district.

Incumbent Councilmember James Morris, an attorney, was rock-steady throughout the evening. Like Ms. Lee he is well-versed on the issues and seeks to find solutions rather than send barbs across the aisle for political points.

Jamie Vitiello, a resident of Silo Ridge running on the Conservative and Amenia Strong party lines, stressed he was not a part of ongoing lawsuits against the town. I question why he would not just run on the Conservative line, and forego Amenia Strong so as not to be associated with the lawsuits. That rationale must be above my pay grade!

Finally, there was a 30-minute Q&A for town supervisor candidates, incumbent Victoria

Perotti (Republican, Conservative) and Julie Doran (Amenia Strong). Of particular note was Ms. Doran sharing she is either employed directly or works contractually for Silo Ridge. After being interrupted twice by Ms. Doran, Supervisor Perotti stayed on topic and has a firm grasp of how to guide the town down the road to infrastructure improvements.

Angry attacks by upstarts to the political process during the evening certainly caused a lapse in the level of civility expected Wednesday night.

Town residents would do well to consider the motives of each candidate running this year. Remember, slow and steady wins the race when it comes to getting real results on issues important to Amenia's residents.

Alec Pandaleon
Millbrook, NY

Elect Leo Blackman to the Amenia Town Board

Amenia needs more energetic, creative and forward-looking town governance. Fortunately there is a candidate who would be a great asset to our Town Board. He is Leo Blackman, an architect who repeatedly has donated his services to the community and who also is serving us as chair of the Amenia Housing

Board and as a member of the Planning Board.

What is most important about Leo is that he is committed to working to solve some of the most critical issues we face. He is determined that we should build a wastewater system, and he has some good ideas as to how it can be funded. He

would work to develop workforce housing, so that seniors, laborers, young families and high school graduates can stay in Amenia. He would improve downtown Amenia, making it more attractive, livelier and more supportive of jobs and businesses. And he would try to ensure that all property owners

in Amenia, Silo Ridge residents as well as the rest of us, pay their fair share of taxes, so that none of us are overtaxed to pay for the undertaxation of others.

We must elect Leo Blackman on Nov. 2. (Early voting and absentee voting also are permitted.)

Cavin P. Leeman, M.D.
Amenia

Amenia voters: Beware of what's being offered by the Amenia-Wassaic Community Organization

In last week's Millerton News, Wayne Euvrard lambastes the incumbent Town Board and non-Silo Ridge candidates for not attending the big "fundraiser" put on the Amenia-Wassaic Community Organization. What is the Amenia-Wassaic Community Organization (AWCO)? I'd never heard of it, so I Googled it.

Turns out the CEO of the AWCO is the general manager of the Silo Ridge Field Club. The executive director of the AWCO and all four board members are Silo Ridge people, including James Vitiello, an Amenia Strong candidate. Wayne didn't

reveal these details.

Instead, he shilled for them and urged voters to support the Amenia Strong candidates, also all Silo Ridge people. Did Wayne really expect the Town Board and non-Silo Ridge candidates to support a public relations event created by their political opponents?

The Amenia-Wassaic Community Organization, created in 2020, is just a front organization for Silo Ridge management. They put on an apparently very successful "fundraiser" to buy votes just ahead of the Nov. 2 election.

Be very careful, Amenia

voters. Election of the Amenia Strong slate will assure Silo Ridge of majority control of the Town Board (3 of 5 votes), its appointments (for town assessor, for example), for town counsel (the lawyer who defends the town against the many current and future lawsuits over prop-

erty assessments), the town's budget for legal defense and the supervisor's agenda.

Election of the Amenia Strong slate would result in Amenia becoming a "company" town.

Dan Brown
Amenia

Look for more letters to the editor on Page B5.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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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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OPINION

More letters to the editor appear on Page B4.

For \$1.21 per month, Amenia Free Library can better serve community; Vote for Proposition No. 7

Support Amenia Library

This year, voters in Amenia have the opportunity to give their approval to an initiative to increase the town's share of financial support to the Amenia Free Library for additional programs and hours of service.

The public library is a major center of the community serving all ages, from nursery school through adulthood with a variety of informational resources to make the connections necessary

to function in the 21st century.

I ask that the voters go to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 2, to make their choices of candidates for elective office, and to be sure to go to the second page of the paper ballot containing Proposition 7 and give their consideration to supporting additional funding for the Amenia Free Library.

Vern Fish

Amenia

I would like to thank the many residents of Amenia who have recently signed petitions supporting the placement on the municipal ballot vote of a proposition requesting additional annual funding for the Amenia Free Library.

The funding increase requested under Proposition #7 will allow the library, in its new and expanded space, to meet the community's needs for programs for all patrons, an increase in our operating hours, and additional print and digital materials that the public has been asking for

and which our patrons deserve.

We have recently added an assistant to our staff, who is working diligently developing our future programs and events.

Voters should be aware that NO taxpayer dollars were used for land purchase or construction of the newly expanded and renovated library. Our expansion is the result of 25-plus years of fundraising as well as a significant grant from the New York State Education Department. We have been blessed with the support of many generous donors, to whom I offer our sincerest thanks and

appreciation.

The funding we are requesting is only used for operating expenses — salaries, materials and supplies, maintenance and utilities. The increase requested in Proposition #7, the first increase in three years, would result in a tax increase of \$14.48 for an average residence assessed for \$250,000 in Amenia... that's just \$1.21 per month for expanded library services, which our community deserves.

We invite the public to preview our newly expanded library on Saturday, Oct. 23rd, from 11

a.m. to 1 p.m. Members of the Board of Trustees and our director will be happy to provide a tour and answer any questions you may have.

We have faith that you, as well as the voters, have seen the Board of Trustees as good stewards of the public trust, and that voters will provide support for our funding request.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Gamble
President, Board of Trustees, Amenia Free Library Association

Amenia

A moonshot moment for jet flight, to be 'used for the progress of all people'

The commercial aviation community is at a crossroads and has turned to NASA research and industry leaders to find a way forward. Global research has shown that commercial flights (freight and people) are responsible for 6% of the world's CO2 and carbon-monoxide pollution, yet that same industry is responsible for only 1% of commerce and less than 0.01% of human carbon-based movement across the planet. Adding to the environmental impact, planes' pollution is released at altitude, away from trees and oceans that could

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE Peter Riva

absorb some of it before it further damages the upper atmosphere.

Kennedy's speech from 60 years ago has given them a well-proven path forward: "...we are behind, and will be behind for some time in manned flight. But we do not intend to stay behind, and in this decade, we shall make up and move ahead... We set

sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people."

Industry giants, like GE Aviation have stated, "we are fully committed to decarbonization... the goal of a net-zero company by 2050, including emissions for all our products."

BP, Elf, ESSO, Safran, Petronas and many other suppliers to the aviation community have stated they want to become net-zero emitters by then as well.

How? They are attacking the problem in stages, exactly as the U.S. space program did.

Mercury, Gemini, Apollo capsules and launch systems were all incremental developments. You could not go to the moon straight off.

First you had to learn how to get into space, then orbit, then navigate and "fly" in space and lastly to get to the moon and return. The environment was harsh, the thousands of unheard-of-before machinery all needed to be invented (for example the CAT scan was invented to "see" into the spun aluminum

Apollo capsule for cracks).

So, too, for the aviation industry. Biofuel, modifications to existing fleets' engines to take the new fuel, with new engine development already showing a 20% increase in fuel efficiency. New manufacturing techniques including bubble chamber "printing" presses to make unheard of shapes for combustion blades, new alloys and ceramic matrix composites to allow higher temperatures and lighter engines, electric propulsion units, new battery systems and production, hydrogen fuel systems (exhaust of these

is water), new aerodynamic shapes and skin coatings, and the evolution of the 1985 unducted engine now renamed open-rotor engines.

These are just the beginning. Like the thousands of Apollo moments in space innovation for the benefit of all mankind, so, too, the fixes to the pollution problem being tackled by commercial aviation will benefit us all, in every walk of life, even if you never step aboard that plane again.

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

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TAG SALES

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FALLS VILLAGE, CT

TAG SALE: Antique, Vintage, and practical items for Home & Garden. Furniture, Tableware, Lamps, China, and more. Friday October 15 and Saturday October 16, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain or Shine. 30 Prospect St., Falls Village, CT.

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