



MILLERTON
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Thankful
For Irondale
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A new life for Thorne Building and Bennett College property

Millbrook Community Partnership unveils its plans

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Drawing an audience of more than 100 in person, and even more via Zoom, the Millbrook Community Partnership, Inc. (MCP) held its first public meeting at the Millbrook firehouse on Thursday, July 29. Chairman Oakleigh Thorne explained the group is capitalizing on a once-in-a-century opportunity to re-imagine two iconic but deteriorating village structures: the Thorne Memorial Building and the Bennett College property.

The Thorne Building Community Center (TBCC) and the Thorne family representing the Bennett Park group originally merged on July 1, promising great things for two of the largest projects in the village.

July 29 public meeting

The presentation certainly drew out the public, which has long awaited

See **THORNE & BENNETT, A6**



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Millbrook Community Partnership, Inc. (MCP) Chairman Oakleigh Thorne spoke to an audience of more than 100, in person, and even more via Zoom, at the Millbrook firehouse on Thursday, July 29, about plans for the Thorne Building Community Center and Bennett Park.

'Uptick' in interest from buyers at Millerton Square Plaza

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
editor@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — According to Millerton Square Plaza owner Joseph "Skip" Trotta, despite the rumors, the Route 44 shopping plaza that once housed the Grand Union supermarket has not been sold. However, "there has been an uptick in activity

recently," he said on Thursday, July 29.

Exactly how one should interpret that statement, said the 78-year-old Connecticut businessman who owns properties and businesses in the two states with his brother, Millerton attorney Robert Trotta, is key to understanding the most important part of this story.

"At one time I had three supermarkets, two liquor stores, a travel agency, all at the same time," said Trotta. "My third supermarket was in West Hartford. My supplier wanted me to open two more supermarkets in the West Hartford area to make a group of them, but I said, 'No, I'm

See **SQUARE PLAZA, A6**

Durst's Hudson Valley Project holds its final scoping session

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

PINE PLAINS — Further soliciting the public's feedback as to what should be included in the project's scope, the Pine Plains Planning Board welcomed local residents and representatives to the second and final scoping session for the Hudson Valley Project on Saturday, July 31.

The Hudson Valley Project

Formerly known as the Durst Proj-

ect, the application was submitted to the Planning Board by The Durst Organization in April, proposing a conservation/cluster residential single-family home subdivision with 237 residential lots on the 2,655 acres of property in Pine Plains at the former Carvel Country Club. The project encompasses 237 residential lots in Pine Plains and 51 residential lots on 445 acres in Milan, totaling 3,100 acres between the two towns.

As lead agency for the project's re-

view, the Pine Plains Planning Board scheduled two public scoping sessions: the first was on Wednesday, July 21, and the second was Saturday at 9 a.m. — both were held in the Stissing Mountain High School auditorium.

Those who were unable to attend in-person will soon be able to watch a recording of the sessions on the Planning Board's YouTube channel, "Pine Plains Planning and Zoning Boards,"

See **DURST PROJECT, A6**

Thief walks away from bank robbery in Sharon

By **HUNTER LYLE**
Special to The Millerton News

SHARON, Conn. — The Connecticut State Police reported on Monday afternoon, Aug. 2, that they had received a report at about 12:30 p.m. of a bank robbery at the Sharon branch of Salisbury Bank

and Trust.

"The suspect, who is believed to be a white male, wearing blue jeans and a blue sweater, fled the scene on foot," according to a police report sent out at roughly 2 p.m.

"We are asking everyone to

See **ROBBERY, A6**

Few details regarding Sunday morning shooting in Dover's Oniontown

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
editor@millertonnews.com

DOVER — Little has been released about a shooting that has been reported to have taken place in the early morning hours on Sunday, Aug. 1, in the Oniontown section of the town of Dover.

According to The Mid Hudson News, "A victim at 28 Maple St. reported he was shot at by someone who fled in the area of Oniontown Road."

The New York State Police (NYSPP) are in charge of the case, according

to Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Capt. John Watterson, who said on Monday morning, Aug. 2, that the Sheriff's Office is assisting in the investigation.

"Yes, we did respond to Oniontown for a shooting," stated Watterson. "However, we were in the assist role and the lead agency is the New York State Police, so you'd have to get the specific details from them."

The NYSPP Troop K barracks in Salt Point has not released any details about the shooting as of press time on Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Nature Scouts on the hunt at Millerton's Rudd Pond

MILLERTON — Summertime has been both educational and fun for several dozen children between the ages of 3 and 12 who were able to learn more about creatures living in the wild through Nature Scouts at Rudd Pond.

The NorthEast-Millerton Library program, in collaboration with the Taconic State Park-Rudd Pond, the Sharon Audubon Society and the Amenia Free Library, will feature creepy-crawly insects on Thursday, Aug. 5, the pond itself on Friday, Aug. 6, and our feather friends on Thursday, Aug. 12.

All sessions run from 3 to 4 p.m. and begin at the Rudd Pond playground.

— Carol Kneeland



PHOTO BY KRISTIN MCCLUNE

During their nature walk on Thursday, July 15, a group of children from the area stopped to inspect a snake skin that had recently been shed near Rudd Pond in Millerton.



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MILLERTON

Webutuck graduates thankful for their Irondale Schoolhouse Scholarships

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Two local scholarship winners of the Irondale Schoolhouse Scholarships have simple but important advice for rising seniors who will soon be facing a year of college applications quickly followed by hefty tuition bills — the cost of pursuing their dreams.

Both winners said: Think scholarships.

Then apply early and apply often.

Webutuck graduates Daisy Matus and Liam Lynch were each able to garner at least seven scholarships to help ease the costs they will face as they continue their education at “The Next Level.”

Matus, Webutuck’s 2021 valedictorian and a self-described procrastinator, said she did work early in the year on scholarship applications but in the end put off writing her essay until shortly before applications were due, something she does not recommend.

“It does take a lot of work — there’s no doubt in that,” she acknowledged. “However, most of the scholarships can be a bit repetitive, so you can reuse essays and other material. Getting started is really nice because it gets you motivated knowing that you could possibly earn some money.”

When submitting essays, however, it is important to remember that scholarships are often created by groups with special interests and to respond appropriately to that.

For example, Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse Board Trustee John Brunese, who created the schoolhouse’s scholarship program, noted that while awards are based on academic achievement, community service and financial need, Irondale evaluators are also interested to know how applicants feel their “classwork can relate to early education in a one-room schoolhouse,” similar to the historic 1858 Irondale Schoolhouse that sits at the Main Street entrance to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Millerton.

As for students for whom graduation is someplace off in the distant future, it’s never too early to start building the sort of resume that will eventually impress those in charge of doling out the dollars.

Grades matter, but so does the way time is spent. Both winners of the Irondale Scholarship showed they were willing to help fund themselves by holding down part-time jobs.

Lynch, who will be attending the acclaimed Culinary Institute of America in nearby Hyde Park, has gained experience at the popular Harney’s Tea Café on Main

Street in Millerton, work he plans to continue as he pursues a four-year program in Food Business Management.

Thinking “big,” he has plans to eventually open his own chain of restaurants after gaining more experience, possibly with a corporate food concern.

In addition to her job at Silamar Farm, also in Millerton, just south of the village on Route 22, Matus was class vice president, a member of student council, mock trials, honor society, yearbook and the music program.

With a slight laugh she noted that even though she doesn’t plan to continue the last focus in college, one of the scholarships she received was for music, proving everything students do matters.

Earning too many scholarship to list, including several from the prestigious Rochester Institute of Technology where she will study biomedical engineering, Matus was adamant that students should apply for as many awards as possible, especially local ones such as Irondale’s, because she believes the odds of getting those are better.

Lynch’s advice is more succinct but equally apt: “Just do it. Do it fast.”

Equally important advice: Do it through the school’s free guidance office rather than wasting money on fee-based online sources.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse Board Trustee John Brunese, center, congratulated Daisy Matus and Liam Lynch as the recipients of this year’s Irondale Schoolhouse Scholarship in front of the one-room schoolhouse at the head of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Millerton.

Pulver to re-run for Legislature

NORTH EAST — An article ran last week erroneously stating the North East Republican Committee had nominated Gregg Pulver, chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature (District 19), and Ola Nesheiwat Hawatmeh, who lost the 2020 Republican Primary for U.S. Congress (District 19) to Millbrook attorney Kyle Van De Water, to join its committee.

In actuality, the Republican Committee nominated Pulver, a native of Pine Plains who continues to operate his multi-generation family farm in that town, to serve another term in the Legislature.

It also nominated Hawatmeh, a Poughkeepsie fashion designer, to run for county comptroller.

Meanwhile, when the North East Democratic Committee caucused, it nominated North East resident Claire Owens to run against Pulver in the legislative race for District 19 come November.

The Democrats also selected incumbent Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Lois of LaGrange to run for another term; she will face Hawatmeh in that challenge.

All of the nominated candidates will battle it out come the fall when Election Day arrives on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

— Whitney Joseph

The future of Alzheimer’s research, with Scott Small

SALISBURY, Conn. — Dr. Scott Small, director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at Columbia University and a resident of Millerton and New York City, will speak on Tuesday, Aug. 17, at noon at Noble Horizons in Salisbury on Zoom.

A specialist in aging and dementia, Small has run a National Institutes of Health-funded laboratory for nearly 20 years and has published more than 140 studies on memory function and malfunction. His neuroimaging and molecular work has led to seven patents. His research has been covered by The New York Times, The New Yorker and Time and his insight into Alzheimer’s disease recently led to the formation of Retromer Therapeutics, a new biotechnology company that he



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Scott Small

co-founded.

In addition to directing Columbia University’s Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center,

Small is the Boris and Rose Katz Professor of Neurology in the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Ag-

ing Brain. He is the recipient of numerous awards and published his first book in July 2021.

His book, “Forgetting: The Benefits of Not Remembering,” explains how forgetting actually benefits our brains; it also examines groundbreaking developments in Alzheimer’s disease.

At the time of his last presentation at Noble Horizons, he had just received national recognition for his lab’s revelation that age-related memory

loss really is a distinct condition from pre-Alzheimer’s, offering a hint that what we now consider the normal forgetfulness of old age might eventually be treatable.

More information and registration for this program are at www.noblehorizons.org or 860-435-9851, ext. 190.

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Harlem Valley residents invited to tune in for Sharon Hospital update Aug. 5

SHARON, Conn. — Sharon Hospital, part of Nuvance Health, will host its online “Community Update” from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 5, via online livestream video.

Members of the surrounding community are invited to join the webinar to hear from hospital President Dr. Mark Hirko. He will discuss the latest hospital developments and updates on the affiliation that created Nuvance Health.

The independent monitor engaged by Nuvance Health will be present to report on its review of compliance with the affiliation agreement issued by Connecticut’s Office of Health Strategy.

A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation. Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance by emailing sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org or calling 845-554-1734 with their name and phone number.

Questions can also be mailed to Sharon Hospital, Attn: Community Forum, 50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, CT 06069.

Instructions on how to join the virtual meeting are posted

on the hospital’s website at www.nuvancehealth.org/CT-Forums. The event will also stream at www.facebook.com/sharonhospital.

The recorded session and a

copy of the digital presentation will be accessible on the website following the event. To request a physical copy by mail, call 845-554-1734; TTY/Accessibility is 800-842-9710.



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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.

PINE PLAINS/AREA

Town plans celebration for Aug. 8

Pine Plains softball 10u Allstars team misses state title, wins a fine season

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — For all the fight they displayed on the field in this year's state championship tournament, the Pine Plains softball 10 and under (10u) Allstars team came home without a trophy. Although the team didn't win the state title, as they were knocked out of the tournament on Saturday, July 24, they are still winners in the eyes of Pine Plains. Though the girls may be heartbroken by the final outcome, the team played a hard-fought season and had the community's full support all along the way.

When the news broke last month that the Allstars team was headed to states, the Pine Plains community immediately pitched in to help the players get to the tournament. The Stissing Center, a performing arts center in Pine Plains, launched a fundraiser that helped raise an incredible \$10,000

in just a couple of days to help cover the cost of lodging. The players' parents covered all other expenses.

In two days' time, the nonprofit, local businesses and private residents pitched in to donate enough money to help the girls afford their trip to Rochester. All excess funds were directed to the Pine Plains Recreation Department to help fund the construction of new dugouts at the softball team's home field.

The tournament ran from Tuesday, July 20, through Sunday, July 25, in Rochester. The Pine Plains 10u team had its first game against Pine Bush on July 20.

Pine Plains Little League Baseball and Softball Program President Rich Tamburrino said the team's only run in that game came on a solo home run by Peyton Burton. Pitching for Pine Plains, Talia Durant struck out 14 batters. Pine Plains ultimately fell to Pine Bush with a final score of 8-1, marking

their first loss of the season.

On Wednesday, July 21, Pine Plains competed against North Bellmore North Merrick, whom Tamburrino described as "the hardest-hitting in the tournament." Tamburrino said Pine Plains always maintained the lead. In the sixth and final inning, he said Pine Plains pulled ahead, 8-6, with help from player Valentina Friedman, who went two for two with a triple hit and a single hit. Winning with "an 8-7 nail biter," Tamburrino said the win was a huge morale booster for the team.

On Friday, July 23, the team went up against Penfield Little League, with Durant going two for two with a single and a triple and striking out 16 batters. After a tight game, Pine Plains prevailed over Penfield, 3-2.

With a record of two wins and one loss, Pine Plains had what Tamburrino described as a "very evenly matched game" against Saint James Smithtown on Satur-

day, July 24. Among the highlights, Grace Wolfmann Whey had some outstanding hitting and batted two for two with a pair of singles.

Tambourine said Burton had a triple hit that landed 2 feet from being a home run, while Durant struck out 11 batters. Yet it was Saint James Smithtown that prevailed in the last inning with a final score of 9-8, adding another loss to Pine Plains' record and marking the team's final game in the tournament.

"It was kind of a heartbreaker," Tamburrino said, "but obviously the girls fought hard all through the game. It was a good game and both sides fought hard; unfortunately, we didn't advance."

A tiebreaker was arranged for the teams that held 2-2 records in the tournament on Saturday morning, July 25. Competing in its Empire Division (which Pine Plains was previously a part of) were teams from Pine Bush and North Bellmore North Merrick while the Mid Island and Fredonia competed in the Liberty Division. Mid Island was ultimately declared champion of this year's tournament.

In spite of the loss, Tamburrino praised his players on the 10u Allstars team for fighting hard all season, adding "this is something that has never been done, especially in softball."

"I think it means a lot for softball in general," he added. "It's a powerful statement made by these girls that softball is important too, that softball takes the spotlight too."

Come Sunday, Aug. 8, the town of Pine Plains will be hosting a ceremony for the 10u softball Allstars team at The Stissing Center, at 2950 Church St., with a small parade. Tamburrino said the ceremony is planned for noon and the public is welcome to attend.



PHOTO BY TIA MAGGIO

A young patron of the Roeliff-Jansen Community Library displayed the project he completed at a drop-in auxiliary library program at the Copake-Hillsdale Farmers Market.

Beekeeper will keep kids buzzing Aug. 6

COPAKE — The Roeliff-Jansen Community Library and its Children and Youth Services Associate Tia Maggio have scheduled weekly events on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Copake-Hillsdale Farmers Market at the Roe Jan Park, located at 9140 Route 22, Hillsdale. The activities are perfect for young ones looking to stay entertained and engaged during summer weekends.

Also ideal for children is an upcoming presentation at the Roe Jan Library on Friday, Aug. 6, at 10 a.m., when they'll have an opportunity to learn all about

bees and beekeeping from local beekeeper John Jasmin.

Young patrons will be able to watch bees at work in an observation hive, learn about honey and honeycombs and sample some honey — all while learning about how bees grow and work together, the important role that bees play as pollinators and what must be done to protect them.

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

For more information, call 518 325-4101 or go to www.roe-janlibrary.org.

— Carol Kneeland

New offerings this August

Ancram Opera House surveys audiences, looks to future

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

ANCRAM — "Give the people what they want and they will come" is an old theater adage. So what better way to find out what the people want from the Ancram Opera House (AOH) and Theater than having a survey to check the pulse of some 2,000 members of the community?

Jeff Mousseau, who runs the program with his co-director and co-owner Paul Ricciardi, said the survey showed "there seems to be an appetite for more actual theater productions." And that is precisely what will be included this August following multiple other activities presented throughout the early summer months.

Mousseau said he was pleased with the strong survey response.

"It's about wanting to forge a connection in our rural community of Ancram and the region through the performing arts," he said, "by bringing what we think are really exceptionally talented artists to our theater and presenting them in a very intimate and immediate environment so they have a real connection with the audience."

He said the survey, conducted earlier in the season, was "inspiring."

That's because it showed respondents "really liked our programming mix, the caliber of productions that we are presenting and the events that we present and produce."

"They responded with a lot of enthusiasm about our community outreach programs even if they are not necessarily directly participating with them," Mousseau added. "The overall vibe that people seem to feel when they come to see a show here is welcoming and friendly."

Respondents requested more "family-friendly" offerings, something of which Mousseau approves and believes is the result of more families settling in the area.

Hoping to expand its audience, Mousseau said the AOH could do a better job communicating what it does.

"People don't necessarily know the full range of what we're doing, so that's something we have to work on," he said, noting the opera house might want to cast "a wider net" and send expensive direct snail mail to supplement the email blasts that reach its current audience.

"That is not helping us to grow," noted Mousseau, who added the AOH "straddles the surrounding area."

His goal is to garner more patrons from nearby New York towns as well as parts of Massachusetts and Connecticut, since people "seem willing to travel a half-hour or even more to see a



PHOTO COURTESY ANCRAM OPERA HOUSE

Part of the Ancram Opera House's (AOH) Emergence Collective Play Lab in 2021, these performers were a part of what kept the AOH alive despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

show they're really interested in."

He added thanks to Zoom, the AOH is also working on collaborations with other organizations "in our neck of the woods [to] crack the mold and expand our partnerships."

Mousseau added he's not reaching out beyond Ancram simply to enlarge the audience; he's also doing so for cast members. While some are local actors, when a particular role can't be filled, auditions — and even some rehearsals — are sometimes moved to New York City, with its huge pool of professionals.

Those chosen often stay in an apartment located in the AOH itself, which allows for plenty of cast bonding and convenient preparations while ensuring that each production has its own identity.

That use is just one of many the building has seen over the years since it was first built as a Grange Hall in the 1920s. Since the 1970s, Mousseau said it has gone through many incarnations. The building has housed a wood working operation, a theater company, music events, readings and even yoga classes.

Mousseau and Ricciardi purchased the building in 2015, formed a nonprofit and offered

their first presentation in the summer of 2016. While COVID-19 shut things down last year and presented some challenges, the "silver lining" is that it "stretched their creativity."

They've used Zoom and other internet connections to the fullest extent possible to work with collaborators and make special presentations, sometimes working outside in order to take advantage of "this beautiful place we live in." They have even moved productions to various locations, and will do so for upcoming events this August.

Recommended although not necessary, advance ticketing is available at www.ancramopera-house.org, which also provides descriptions, times and locations of current offerings with more on tap for the fall.

Upcoming productions include "Real People Real Stories," set for Saturday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m. at The Hilltop Barn, Roeliff Jansen Park, 16 Old Route 22, Hillsdale; and live performances of The Plein Air Plays from Thursday, Aug. 12, through Sunday, Aug. 15, with the location TBA.

For other information, call 646-662-4061 or email jeff@ancramoperahouse.org.

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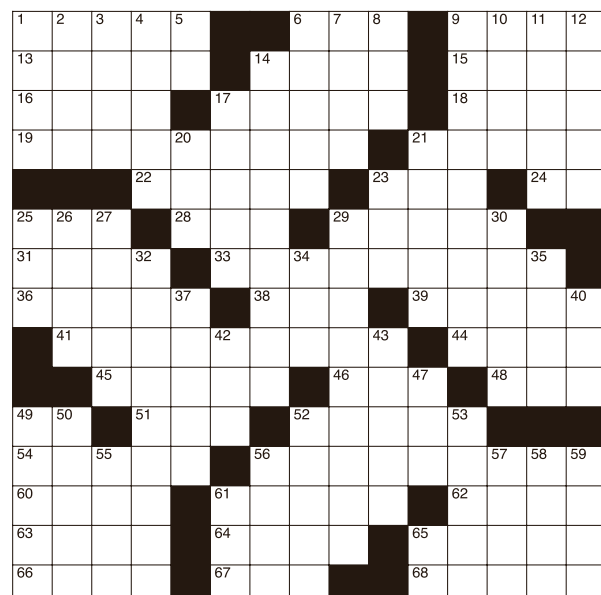
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Ponds
6. "Unbelievable" musicians
9. Invests in little enterprises
13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
14. Small sailboat
15. "Luther" actor
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Detects underwater objects
18. Harsh, grating noise
19. Steward
21. Fencing sword
22. Painful places on the body
23. "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
24. Sodium
25. Engineering degree (abbr.)
28. Small lump
29. African antelope
31. Electronic point of sale
33. Carefully chooses
36. Ringworm
38. Unrefined
39. Drenches
41. Type of pants
44. Son of Noah
45. Spiritual being
46. Upton Sinclair novel
48. Journalist Tarbell
49. Atomic #21 (abbr.)
51. Born of
52. Rich tapestry
54. S. China seaport
56. Being without clothes
60. Surrounded by
61. Remains
62. Away from wind
63. Dried-up
64. One who can see the future
65. A very large body of water
66. Digs up earth
67. Type of screen
68. Old Norse poet

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond
2. Spanish city
3. Sudden, very loud sound
4. Type of chair
5. Tin
6. Sea eagles
7. Broad volcanic crater
8. Some animals have it
9. Ottoman palaces
10. Divulge a secret
11. "A Doll's House" playwright
12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director
14. Poisonous perennial
17. Gulf in the Aegean
20. Clothes
21. Chairs
23. Family of regulator genes

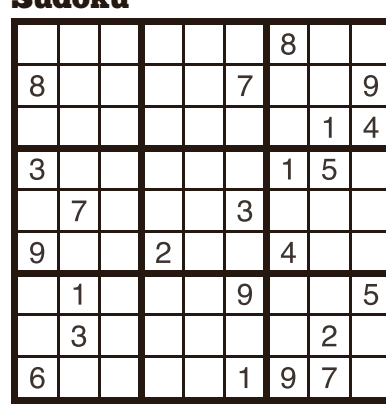


25. NY ballplayer
26. Impressive in size or scope
27. Jacques __, Fr. biologist
29. Manhattanite
30. Genus of lemurs
32. Sings to
34. River in southern Italy
35. Supplemented with difficulty
37. Farewell
40. Senior officer
42. Utah resident
43. Begets
47. Boy
49. Violently break
50. Brief appearance
52. Expressed pleasure
53. A light informal meal
55. Fabric with smooth finish
56. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
57. Ancient Greek City
58. Close tightly
59. Commit
61. A way to communicate (abbr.)
65. Heavy metal

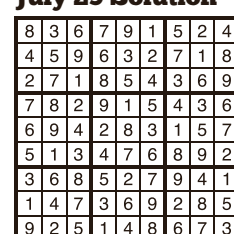
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Sudoku



July 29 Solution



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

The Art of Brewing Beer at NRM

The Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., will host the third annual Art of Brewing Festival on Saturday, Aug. 21, from 1 to 4 p.m.

In addition to craft beers there will be regional foods from truck vendors, plus music and lawn games. Inside the museum there will be show of beer can illustrations.

About a dozen regional craft breweries are participating, including Brewery Ommegang and Berkshire Brewing Company.

For \$35 (\$20 for museum members), participants receive 10 sample pours and



Norman Rockwell Museum offers much more than just art, including a screening of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" with Berkshire County's Karen Allen, above.

a souvenir Norman Rockwell Museum beer glass.

Also at the museum is the summer-long exhibi-

tion of fantasy art and illustration, with special artist talks.

Unrelated but still fun: There will be a screening on Wednesday, Aug. 25, at 6 p.m. of "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

A special guest at the screening will be one of the film's stars, Karen Allen, who is a Berkshire County resident.

Tickets for the outdoor screening are \$125 for the reception and film, or \$20 for the film only.

The museum is at 9 Glendale Road/Route 183 in Stockbridge and online at www.nrm.org.

— Cynthia Hochswender

MCKIBBEN AND HALPERN ON THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET

The stately old New Marlborough Meeting House is tucked away among trees and rolling lawn and steps away from the venerable Old Inn on the Green.

This tiny corner of Berkshire County (about a 30-minute drive from Lakeville, Conn.) looks like a sleepy New England village center, something out of an old movie. But it's pumping with life, thanks to the interesting people who inhabit this part of the world, and the cultural activities they come up with.

One such activity is the annual summertime talks with notable media figures. The talk featuring the at-that-time recently disgraced Garrison Keillor in 2019 sparked a furious conversation on social media about whether the writer/radio personality should be invited to a public forum in the village. Keillor did in fact come, and every seat in the former

church was full. But the angry feelings sparked in that debate continue to this day.

This year's speakers are (apparently) less controversial. Bill McKibben, who writes extensively about the planet and climate change, and his wife, the author Sue Halpern, will speak on Saturday, Aug. 14, at 4:30 p.m. about our world, its past and its future. The title of their talk, ominously, is "The Future You Don't Want."

Tickets are \$20 (free for those under 21); order them at www.eventbrite.com/e/bill-mckibben-and-sue-halpern-on-climate-the-environment-and-technology-tickets-158748249287.

The New Marlborough Meeting House is at 154 Hartsville New Marlborough Road in New Marlborough, Mass. Learn more about the Meeting House at www.nmmeetinghouse.org.

— Cynthia Hochswender

2021 Summer of FUN!

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Saturday, Aug. 21 @ 8pm

ELO LASER ENCOUNTER
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SHARON PLAYHOUSE STORE!

PATIO STAGE



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Saturday, Aug. 14 @ 8pm

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send calendar items to calendar@lakevillejournal.com.
Items are printed as space permits.
All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.



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MILLBROOK

Village announces HBO to film, gives updates on tennis court and sidewalks

By JUDITH O'HARA
BALFE
judythb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Village Board met on Wednesday, July 14, at the Millbrook firehouse, the first in-person meeting in more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was held at the firehouse instead of Village Hall to maintain social distancing.

It was aired on Cable Channel 22 and taped to go on the village website at a later date. It was proposed that future Village Board meetings be held at the firehouse because it's more spacious.

Speeding concerns, parking

The board said it needed feedback on driver safety and the speeding problem on Franklin Avenue — always an issue. It is considering posting signs that display the speed of drivers, staking police at speed zones to issue tickets and if it does so, whether those spots should vary over time.

Continued support for local restaurants was discussed as far as parking on Church Street. It was proposed that there be timed parking restrictions, two minutes for the Millbrook Deli, two minutes for Nooch's and three minutes for Le Beaux.

Outdoor dining is featured on Church Street, but the time

restrictions would be for patrons to pickup to-go orders, and would also affect Barbaro and Babette's Kitchen, both on Franklin Avenue.

"No parking" will also be painted on some parking spaces along Church Street and marked by cones, to help facilitate outdoor dining. The Millbrook Business Association (MBA) offered to help absorb the costs.

Shade Tree Committee

The Shade Tree Committee consists of three members: Public Works Supervisor Bob Collocola, Deputy Mayor Mike Herzog and former Trustee Kevin McGrane. Herzog asked that the three be officially appointed by the mayor; Collocola for a two-year term, McGrane and Herzog for one-year terms.

Their duties include examining trees in the village to ensure they are safe, deciding what trees need to be taken down, where to plant new trees and what types of trees to plant.

They must also inform residents if and when trees need to be removed or planted, verbally and in writing.

Herzog also asked that two vacant positions on the tree committee be filled. Anyone interested in volunteering for the positions is asked to send letters of interest to Village Clerk Sarah Witt at the Village Hall, 35 Merritt Ave., Millbrook, NY 12545.

Several resolutions were discussed and adopted by the board. One related to a new water/sewer connection for a home on Maple Avenue that had been approved years ago by former Mayor Laura Hurley.

Trustee and Department reports

Trustee Leslie Anson reported she spoke to Millbrook Central School District Assistant Superintendent for Finance Brian Fried. She said he acknowledged the gazebo located by the tennis courts does belong to the school district, so the district is responsible for its upkeep and repairs.

Collopy noted that the village had \$166,000 in Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) money; \$100,999 was spent, with \$20,000 going toward a new plow and \$6,500 going toward a plow for a highway department truck, leaving a balance of \$40,000.

He said he would like to spend what is left on paving and would supplement that with funds from the COVID American Rescue Plan.

Collopy asked that money be put in a long-standing escrow fund, which no one has made a claim for and amounts to \$2,295. He would like that transferred to the General Fund, which the board agreed

to.

Tennis court update

The tennis court repaving project effort has raised \$23,410 thus far. The work will not take place until next year, said the board. It was originally expected to cost \$25,000 but may run as high as \$30,000. The village will get three quotes and select the best price when the time comes. The board expressed its gratitude to the public for each and every donation.

Sidewalks

Engineer Rich Renna consulted about reconditioning the village sidewalks; he has submitted a formal proposal. He will also submit a figure and a schedule for the work. The initial cost for surveying and planning will cost \$10,500.

The board voted that this sum will be paid from the combined trust accounts. Once there is a final figure in place, the village will search for a grant to help finance the much-needed work.

HBO to film near diner

Collopy reminded all that HBO will be filming near the Millbrook Diner on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Set-up will be on Wednesday, the 23rd, and breakdown will be Thursday, Aug. 25. Crews will be parking three very large trucks and will utilize space at Millbrook High School, but the mayor is expecting minimal disruption.

HBO has acquired a public assembly permit, but no details were shared on the name of the production.

Thorne Building transfer

The transfer of the Thorne Building from the village to the Millbrook Community Partnership (MCP), formerly the Thorne Building Community Center, has taken place. The papers are signed and the long-awaited transfer is now complete.

Public hearings

The next regular Village Board meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Millbrook firehouse will include several public hearings. They will address the repeal of traffic violations; Bingo and games of chance; the need to charge fees at entertainment venues on a yearly basis; and solid waste.

The code regarding residency requirements to be a village justice is to be repealed as there is no longer a Justice Court in the village. An outdated ethics code revised in 2013 will also be discussed.

For more information on upcoming meetings, go to www.villageofmillbrookny.org.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

An appreciative audience listened on the lawn of the Millbrook Library to a concert on Friday evening, July 30, as musicians performed. From left are keyboardist Joe Vincent Tranchina, vocalist Elli Fordyce, bassist Robert Kopek, and not pictured, drummer John Devine.

Library turns lawn into outdoor jazz hall

MILLBROOK — A happy audience of more than 25 jazz enthusiasts gathered on the front lawn of the Millbrook Library on Friday night, July 30, to listen to local jazz singer Elli Fordyce and her trio, consisting of Joe Vincent Tranchina on the electric keyboard, Robert Kopek on the upright bass and John Devine on drums.

Fordyce is a long-time local favorite and her trio of musicians are all well-known jazz musicians in their own right.

With seating provided by the library, a slight breeze blowing courtesy of Mother Nature and the music flowing thanks to the talented musicians, it was a real summer treat.

The concert was one of many brought to the community courtesy of the library's summer programing. Adult Event Coordinator Kristen Perkins originally scheduled the concert for June 29, but the weather had other plans and the library had to reschedule the night of jazz for its rain date on July 30, which proved to be the perfect evening.

The musical selections that evening were mostly from the American Song Book, and were a welcome respite from today's chaotic world, according to those in the audience.

For more on future programs at the library, check out its website, www.millbrooklibrary.org.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe

OBITUARY

Daniel Charles Wright Jr.

SHARON — Daniel Charles Wright Jr., 93, passed away peacefully at his home in Sharon in the early hours of Wednesday, July 28, 2021. His wife of 67 years, Ann Wright, was at his bedside, along with children and grandchildren.

Dan was born on June 8, 1928, and grew up in Springfield, Mass. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 toward the end of World War II and was trained as a Corpsman. Honorably discharged, he attended the Munson Academy in Wilbraham, Mass., on the GI Bill, and upon graduation, moved to Boston to attend the Leland Powers School of Television and Radio.

While in Boston, in 1952 Dan was reintroduced to an acquaintance from Springfield named Mary Ann Callahan who was attending Boston University. They commenced a lifelong love story.

They married in 1953 and settled in NYC to pursue careers in the entertainment industry. He worked in many different areas of the business, starting out as an actor in live television, and working on production crews for live TV and TV commercials. He transitioned to talent representation and

worked with Ann for decades as a Theatrical Agent, a Sports Agent, representing successful athletes in the endorsement and commercials arena, and then as a Literary Agent representing screenwriters.

The essence of Dan as a person is not found in a recitation of his career achievements. Dan was an artist in his core being. He was an observer of human behavior which he strived all his life to translate primarily through his painting, and a lifestyle of do-it-yourself decorative arts, furniture refinishing, and always an appreciation of the common man.

His salt-of-the-earth New England values informed his personal style. His aesthetic vision is everywhere evidenced in hundreds of oil paintings on canvas, watercolors, acrylic, charcoal, and pen and ink drawings. His annual hand-drawn Christmas card was a sought-after keepsake. The Sharon house is floor to ceiling Dan art. He showed his work from time to time in NYC, and more recently at the Kent Art Association, Trinity Gallery at Lime Rock, Housatonic Valley

Art League, Town Hall Gallery in Sharon and the Litchfield Jazz Festival, where his popular collection of "Jazz Greats" portraits were displayed.

Dan loved his family, with particular unwavering love for Ann, which he stated loudly for all to hear every morning.

Dan was predeceased by son Patrick Xavier Wright of Ridgefield, Conn. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Wright of Sharon; his children, Christopher Wright of Los Angeles, Calif., Susan Wright of Sharon, and Michael Wright of Sandy Hook, Conn.; his daughters-in-law, Laurie Ledoux Wright of Sandy Hook and Holly Powell-Wright of Paso Robles, Calif.; and his grandchildren in order of age, Ryan Wright of Menlo Park, Calif., Nicholas Tripodi of Canaan, Alex Tripodi of Sharon and Jerusha Wright of Sandy Hook.

Family visitation hours will be held at the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon on Thursday, Aug. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Mary's Church in Ridgefield on Saturday, Aug. 14, at 10 a.m.

For more obituaries, turn to Page A4

LEGAL NOTICES

PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pine Plains Town Board shall conduct a public hearing on Local Law No. A of 2021 entitled: "A Local law Amending Certain Portions of Chapter 271 and Other Sections of the Town Code Relating to Zoning" on August 19, 2021 at 7:05 p.m. at the Pine Plains Town Hall, located 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York. The purpose of this Local Law is to adopt certain textual changes to the Town Code with regard to zoning in accordance with the recommendations of the Town's Zoning Review Committee and consulting planners. A copy of this Local Law is available for public inspection at the Pine Plains Town Clerk's office during regular hours. A copy of the

said Local Law has also been provided at the Town's public library located at 7775 South Main Street, Pine Plains, New York and will be posted on the

Town's website and official board. Any person desiring to be heard on this Local Law shall be permitted to do so at the public hearing. Dated: July 15, 2021.

BY ORDER OF THE PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD
Judy Harpp
Town Clerk
08-05-21

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY NEW YORK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Zoning Board of Appeals on the 24th day of August, 2021 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall,

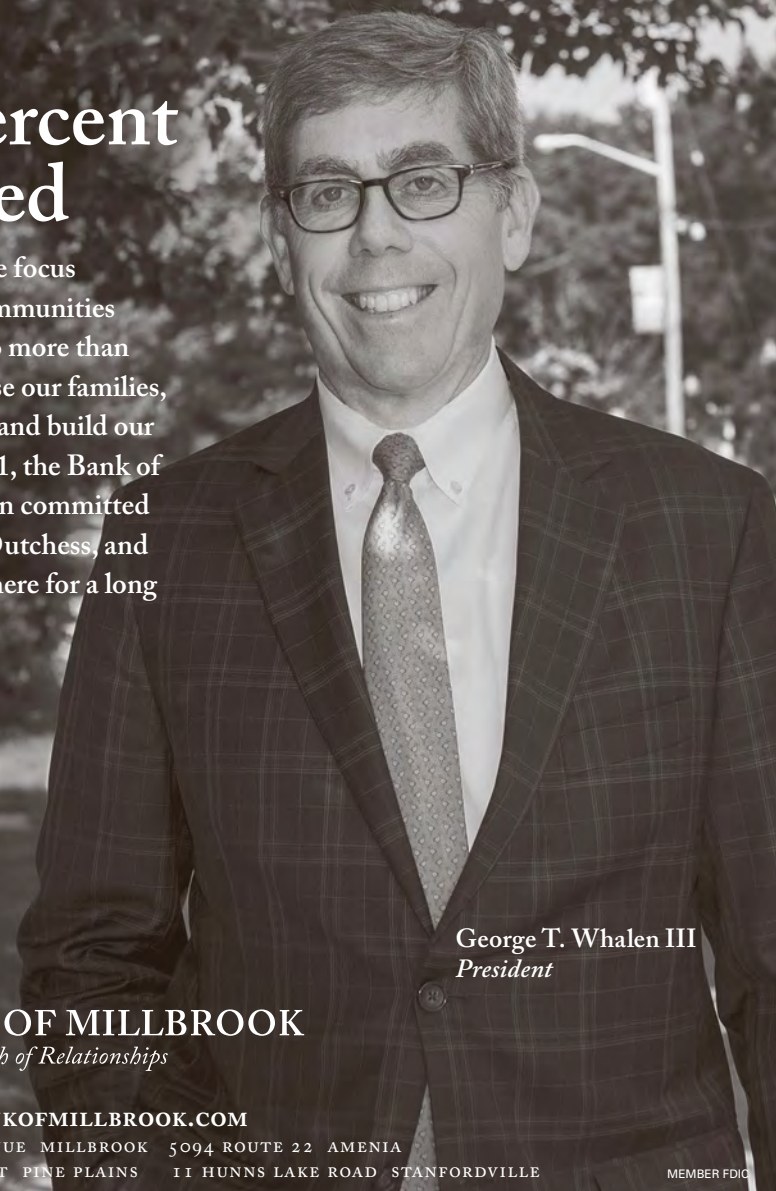
3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the area variance application submitted by Tyson Klay for property located at 31 Maple Street, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #134200-6872-14-467308.

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard with regard to the proposed action requesting the maximum rear yard setback for a proposed shed to be 3 feet in lieu of the required maximum of 40 feet. The application is available for review at the Pine Plains Town Hall during regular business hours.

By order of:
Scott Chase
Chairman of the
Zoning Board of Appeals
08-05-21

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MEMBER FDIC

EDITORIAL

MCP draws a crowd for Thorne and Bennett projects talk

The Millbrook Community Partnership (MCP), which held its inaugural public meeting on Thursday, July 29, for plans it has to revive properties at both the Bennett College site and of the actual Thorne Building itself, should be extremely pleased with itself.

MCP drew a crowd of more than 100 curious and concerned mostly village of Millbrook and town of Washington residents and business people, in person — and who knows how many more via Zoom — to the well-publicized meeting held at the Millbrook firehouse last Thursday evening.

It also elicited a good number of comments from those who attended about the park the nonprofit organization is planning to create at the former Bennett College property. That's where routes 82 and 343 meet and welcome most to the popular and highly-regarded high-end shopping destination. But before visitors can enter Millbrook via Franklin Avenue from the south end, they must first pass the almost haunted looking relic of the old Bennett College, once a leading girls college in the Hudson Valley; it closed in 1978 after going co-ed in 1974. Now all that's left are the wood and stone skeletal remains of the school, slowly disintegrating into dust and surely as much a danger as it is an eyesore.

MCP Chairman Oakleigh Thorne told the audience on July 29 that if all goes according to plan, demolition on the Bennett buildings may begin as soon as Monday, Aug. 2, which would pave the way for a 32-acre park on what really is a lovely property.

Meanwhile, Thorne also shared plans about the Thorne Building, which was donated by his family in 1895 to the village of Millbrook before it was officially a formal village. The donation of the building, which was given to be used solely for the purposes of education, is what prompted the village to incorporate.

Thorne said at last week's meeting that renovations on the building, which is also in a dire state of neglect, will soon be ready to begin. Once completed, it will become the multi-purpose Thorne Building Community Center (TBCC). (For details on what's planned for the community center, read this week's front page.) It was once the local high school and sits at the other end of the village, at the northern entrance of Franklin Avenue.

The Thorne Building Community Center and the Bennett Park group, represented by the Thorne family, merged quite recently, on July 1. We think that merger will bring great things to the Millbrook community, as it will sharpen the focus on two projects that have been extremely near and dear to both the center of the village and to its many residents and merchants for a very long time.

It also ties in entities with which the Thorne family are connected, including the Tribute Garden, which together with the Thorne family has offered to raise the \$20 million needed to complete the pair of projects. The two will also oversee the development and the operations of both the new community center and park.

We are incredibly impressed that MCP reached out so successfully to community members at this early stage. It has included the public in its vision of these two critical local projects; introduced the community to its architect (it's worth mentioning he's a local Millbrook architect) as well as the environmental manager who will focus on health and safety conditions; it has provided a rough sketch of the projects' time lines and details; and it opened the floor to hear the public's concerns and questions — all of which shows how deeply MCP has the interest of the community at heart.

We would like to thank those at the Millbrook Community Partnership for their commitment to improving the village, and to encourage them to continue with such public outreach efforts as they move forward. It will only serve to strengthen the final results, and greaten the satisfaction of those who make use of both Bennett Park and the Thorne Building Community Center in the future. From all indications, once done both projects promise to make Millbrook shine even more brightly than ever before.

GPS driver apps get mixed reviews

Dear EarthTalk: What are the environmental pros and cons of so many of us relying on GPS apps (Waze, Google Maps, etc.) to get around these days?

— B. Rogers, Newark, N.J.

It's hard to measure whether having GPS apps on our smartphones is positive or negative for the planet, but some environmentalists are skeptical. Indeed, the rise of Waze, Google Maps, Inrix and other apps that respond to live traffic data to reroute drivers accordingly — not to mention the concomitant proliferation of app-following Uber and Lyft drivers — has turned millions of formerly main-route-following drivers into sneaky shortcut seekers. Formerly quiet peaceful neighborhoods may never be the same again.

On the plus side, the widespread use of these apps saves drivers some time and may slightly reduce the amount of time we spend burning extra fuel idling in congested traffic.

EARTHTALK

Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss

But the data on this is mixed and warrants further research.

While you may have gotten to work 3 minutes faster this morning, what was the cost? Neighborhoods everywhere are miffed at the proliferation of cars racing through formerly quiet back streets to circumvent traffic.

Research out of the University of California's Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS) concludes while GPS apps are helping drivers get from point A to B faster, they are also making congestion worse overall. ITS's traffic simulations show how freeway flow changes in response to an accident when no drivers use GPS apps versus when 20% of drivers use them. With more app-using drivers, congestion builds up at off-ramps and traffic on the highway slows. "The situation then gets much worse because



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

One more reason why we need a grocery store

There is an additional climate crisis in Millerton: the climate of fear we allow to take root in our hearts. How much more could we achieve if we cultivated a climate of forgiveness, grace and faith?

Can we change the climate of fear by sharing a home-cooked meal with someone? Another reason Millerton needs a grocery store.

Rowena Fenstermacher
Millerton

Major phone carriers and scam prevention

A key deadline in the fight against phone scams passed on June 30, but you might not have noticed it — unless you've noticed that your phone seems to be ringing a lot less than it used to.

The three major carriers — AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon — have met the June 30th Federal Communications Commission (FCC) deadline to implement the FCC's new anti-spoofing protocol. Some smaller carriers were given an extension of the deadline until 2023, but FCC leaders propose significantly shortening the time smaller carriers will have to comply.

In the world of phone calls, "spoofing" is defined as the act of disguising the source of a call. Spoofing can be used legally or illegally. As a rule, the FCC considers spoofing to be legal when done within its rules; and illegal when done with the intent to defraud, cause harm or wrongfully obtain anything of value.

In other words, if the number on your phone's screen correctly represents the name of the party making the call, and the displayed number is available for callback, then the spoofing is legal. It's illegal, though, when a scammer calls you pretending to represent a business or government. It's that second category of calls

hundreds of people want to go on side streets, which were never designed to handle the traffic," says ITS Director Alexandre Bayen.

Critics of these apps blame the software designers — not us consumers trying to get to and from work or the grocery store — for the negative effects on traffic flows and neighborhood peace. To wit, later this year Google Maps will start routing drivers to the most fuel-efficient route — not necessarily the fastest — to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save drivers money in fuel costs. If the greener route is significantly slower than another way, the app will give users the option to choose for themselves, but at least this move is a nod to how much greenhouse gas busting power a little bit of code on your phone can have to help save the planet.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at www.emagazine.com. Send questions to question@earthtalk.org.

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

the FCC's new rules are aimed at stopping.

Will the new rules work? From what we can observe, it's so far, so good — but if scammers are good at one thing, it's adapting to changing circumstances. A scam that disappears in one form is likely to arise again elsewhere.

Consumer tips from the FCC

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Let them go to voicemail. Many scammers will disconnect at that point.

- If the caller claims to be from a legitimate company or organization, hang up and call them back using a valid number found on their website, or on your latest bill if you do business with them.

- If you answer and the caller (often a recording) asks you to press a button to stop receiving calls, or asks you to say "yes" in response to a question, just hang up. Scammers often use these tricks to identify, and then target, live respondents, or to use your "yes" to apply unauthorized charges on your bill.

- Caller ID showing a "local" number does not mean it is necessarily a local caller.

- If you answer and the caller asks for payment using a gift card, it's likely a scam. Legitimate organizations will not ask for payment with a gift card.

- If you have lost money because of a scam call, contact local law enforcement and your financial institution(s) for assistance.

- Consider registering your telephone numbers in the National Do Not Call Registry. Lawful telemarketers use this list to avoid calling consumers on the list.

A Scam Prevention Resources worksheet is available in the Summer 2021 issue of our Spotlight on Seniors newsletter, available while supplies last at libraries countywide, and at www.dutchessny.gov/aging.

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

It's time to see the COVID-19 reality

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments are busy trying to get you to vaccinate, wear protective masks and generally stop this pandemic. With all the tools they are offering, you would think people would wise up and get protected, if only to save their neighbors and family. But, when you listen to actual numbers from around the world, perspective on why the vaccinations are vital and the only way forward for the economy and health institutions becomes crystal clear. As more and more countries lift restrictions, real numbers may be helpful for you to judge how safe and free you can be...

You see, no one has told the coronavirus that this is a good time to go without protection. And in case you missed it, we're clearly into a third wave of the virus with the Delta variant, possibly with the Lambda variant yet to come.

At the peak of the first wave, more than 20,000 people a day were being hospitalized in the USA, 4,000 a day in Britain and 2,000 a day in the Netherlands. All of Europe had the same rates. Of those, one in every 20 persons in the hospital (who contracted COVID-19 without a vaccination) died. The second wave last January was about the same; 1 in 20 died in the hospital — that's how deadly this virus is, remember that. To date, 612,000 Americans have died from COVID-19.

This current wave with the Delta variant is seeing an increase in hospitalization at a much faster and greater rate than the first wave. How come? Well, the Delta variant is much more infectious and the hospitalization rate here is based on those not vaccinated, not on every person as before.

And the in-hospital death rate? Even with better treatment and no shortage of ventilators, those unvaccinated patients are dying at a rate slightly higher than before.

The truth is, the decision to

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

open the economy is a gamble based on a race to vaccinate. The more people vaccinated, the lower the death rate, maybe not lowering the rate of infection for the unvaccinated, especially as we now know that vaccinated people can transmit the virus, especially to kids. If we had opened up last January, the death rate would have been maybe 10 times as bad because there were so many unvaccinated. As the USA is looking at 750,000 total dead by the end of this year — that's one in every 440 people — the race to vaccinate becomes even more clear because, without at least 80% coverage, that death rate of the unvaccinated will be higher, especially with the youngest.

What can you do? Think of this as one scientist in Britain did. Imagine we're at the top of a very steep mountain. You want to get to the bottom safely. Isolating is like wearing good climbing shoes, helping you to be safe as you slowly pick your path down. Wearing the mask out in public is like using a walking stick keeping you from falling. Getting the vaccine is like walking with others, going carefully but more assuredly. Now, when we're getting near the safety of the bottom, it is shrouded in mist. Do you discard the safety measures you've taken, does the nation? That last bit of the mountain might be only 2 feet, or it could be 30... do you take the risk after all your careful, hard work and jump? No, you should proceed cautiously until you reach the bottom.

Wear a mask, get vaccinated. Stay safe, we're not out off the mountain yet.

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



PHOTO BY LIBBY HALL-ABEEL

Summer's for moving at a snail's pace

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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Robert H. Estabrook
1918-2011
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