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Millerton Lions Club disbands

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — After 72 years of bringing service and good cheer to the community, the Millerton Lions Club gave its final roar at its Friday, June 25, meeting as members voted to officially disband as of the end of the month, according to its last president, Maryann Belarge, and Treasurer Ed Downey.

Belarge said the group, part of the Lions Club International, focused

on global concerns: vision, diabetes, childhood cancer, the environment and world hunger. It was the unique manner, however, that club members found to address those issues, that made it such a special part of the community.

Downey, the son of Augustine Downey, one of the 1948 original 37 founding businessmen, professionals and community members, spoke of some of the club's long history.

See LIONS CLUB, A6



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

Holding a needlework seal of the organization, Millerton Lions Club's last president, Maryann Belarge, who served nearly five full terms, recounted some of the club's best moments.

Dutchess County Legislature looks to downsize come 2022

Webutuck BOE member causes Reapportionment Commission to disband

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
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DUTCHESS COUNTY — What began as a simple story about the Dutchess County Legislature considering the idea of downsizing from 25 members to 21 members come January 2022, quickly morphed into another. The news instead became about how the chairman of the Independent Reapportionment Commission that was created to look at the lines of the legislative districts

following this year's decennial Census caused it to disband. That's because he serves on the North East (Webutuck) Board of Education (BOE). The commission was disbanded by Thursday, June 24, according to Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19), a lifelong resident of Pine Plains.

The news about BOE member Richard Keller-Coffey broke just in the last two weeks, after it was dis-

See DOWNSIZING, A6



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Fireworks fantasia

After more than a year-and-a-half of socially distant celebrations, the town of Amenia celebrated the Fourth of July in a big way as residents and folks from nearby towns looking to celebrate the nation's birthday came teeming to the Amenia firehouse to watch the free fireworks display held at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 4. The fireworks show was courtesy of the Silo Ridge Community Foundation and the Amenia-Wassaic Community Organization in partnership with the Amenia Fire Company. From the very first burst of color and sound, spectators appeared enraptured by a truly spectacular show, as all eyes looked toward the sky and the dazzling display of fireworks.

Washington committee tasked with amending Comp Plan

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
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WASHINGTON — The Washington Town Board held a special meeting on Monday, June 28, to request the newly formed Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC) led by Paul Schwartz (who also chairs the town's Planning Board) amend the Comprehensive Plan (CP).

The goal is for the CP to suggest definitions for hospitality uses and where such used might best be located, especially important in light of

the currently-on-hold Second Mountain (aka Migdale Estate) project in Mabbettsville proposed by famed NYC restaurateur Will Guidara. He hopes to create a luxury hotel and spa as a vacation destination that would include 28 single-family condominiums, guest houses, an outdoor pool and possibly an outdoor theater.

Washington town Supervisor Gary Ciferri asked if those attending the virtual meeting were familiar with the CP. He added that due to anticipated public comments collected from a town survey and public meet-

ings to be held later on, no comments would be entertained that night.

Those present were asked to consider whether they feel the community is successfully represented by the CP and how to best improve the plan based on feedback from surveys and future discussions.

Board members said they feel they've always been sensitive to concerns about the real property tax base.

Due to more people shopping online, some feel there is less need

See COMP PLAN, A6

Fun at the Farmers Market

This young artist was dressed for a summer's day when she recently shared the artwork she created at the Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market under the direction of Roeliff Jansen Library's Children and Youth Services Associate Tia Maggio. Youngsters of any age are welcome to join Maggio at the market on Saturday mornings through Labor Day between 10 a.m. and noon for a rolling program of readings and related projects. The Farmers Market is held at Roe Jan Park, 9140 Route 22, Hillsdale, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



PHOTO BY TIA MAGGIO



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OPINION
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MILLERTON

Library shifts to individual talks as Community Conversation series ends

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — During the course of six Community Conversations, the NorthEast-Millerton Library was able to gauge residents' thoughts, concerns and ideas about the community they live in and the one they want to see it become by hosting the series of talks both in-person and online.

Now that its Community Conversation series has come to an end, the library will be looking to organize one-on-one conversations with residents and compile its findings into a report that will be presented to the community later this year.

The first Community Conversation was held on May 18 while the sixth and last Community Conversation was held on Monday, June 14. Both conversations were held via Zoom.

Inviting attendees to keep an open mind, NorthEast-Miller-

ton Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson launched the conversation's open-ended questions by asking what residents would like to see from their ideal community.

As they each took a turn in answering the questions, community members were invited to introduce themselves and state what their ties to Millerton are, whether they identified as residents (new or existing), employees, visitors or otherwise.

Their answers to the first question focused on the perceived disparity between the weekend crowd and the weekday crowd — the old "locals versus newcomers" debate — and wanting to see ways the crowds can collaborate more fully; the revitalization of Eddie Collins Memorial Park to create a welcoming place for everyone; having the local Webster Central School District step up and insert itself more fully in the community; and di-

versity among the community, which soon became a recurring topic brought up throughout the dialogue and subsequent questions.

When asked by Leo-Jameson what was missing in the community, affordable housing was brought up as a prevalent issue as well as the absence of a grocery store in what's now become described as a "food desert," as well as inclusivity at all levels.

Participants were also asked to consider what is stopping the progress they hoped to see in the village and town. Keeping all these issues in mind, Leo-Jameson asked participants how these issues have affected them personally and encouraged them to share their stories.

Considering the outcome of the series, Leo-Jameson said the library is "very happy with the amount of interest and participation in the Community Conversations."

For the six individual conversations, she said they had about 65 to 70 participants cumulatively, "which greatly exceeded our expectations."

The library's next step will be offering one-on-one conversations with anyone who was unable to make the previous dates. Anyone interested in engaging in a one-on-one conversation is invited to reach out to the library, either via phone at 518-789-3340 or via email at info@nemillertonlibrary.org.

As the library plans to hold the individual conversations until August, Leo-Jameson said they'd love to be able to talk to more people in their 20s and teens. Once all of the conversations are completed, she said the library will start sorting through notes taken to find the trends and common ideas that came up. As of this time, the library plans to have a report for the community around October or November.



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

Bundled up in a cozy blanket and relaxing in the arms of Two by Two Zoo Educator Sue Scalzo, Billy Joe the joey popped his head out to watch young readers visit with a few of his friends from the Two by Two Zoo inside the Millerton firehouse.

Traveling zoo stops by the firehouse

MILLERTON — With help from a menagerie of creatures from the traveling Two by Two Zoo, the NorthEast-Millerton Library drew a large turnout of young readers and their families at the kick-off to this year's Summer Reading Program on Friday, July 2.

Originally scheduled to be held at the library's backyard, the program was moved over to the Millerton firehouse at 29 Century Blvd. that afternoon.

From a rabbit, to a bearded dragon and a North American alligator to a ball python, goats, a hedgehog and many other members of the animal kingdom, local children and their families visited with a wide range of animals that traveled to Millerton with the Two by Two Zoo.

With the program running from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., NorthEast-Millerton Library Youth Services Coordinator Kristin McClune counted



Walking around the menagerie of animals, Jacey Scribner, 6, visited with the goats set up outside the Millerton firehouse on Century Boulevard.

that nearly 77 people attended within the first half hour.

On their way out of the firehouse, the children were invited to choose a free book from a selection of chapter and picture books provided by the library to take with them.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Possible funding options assessed

Housing group searches for new ways to make homes affordable for locals

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — In continuing to explore affordable housing, the Millerton-North East working group of the Tri-Town Coalition turned to two seasoned experts in affordable housing at its monthly virtual meeting on Tuesday, June 8.

Group member Sam Busselle announced it has been getting a more robust response after its last two Zoom meetings with more people willing to help and a growing interest in reviewing local zoning.

He then introduced Hudson River Housing (HRH) Executive Director Christa Hines. Busselle said Hines would explain some funding options HRH has made use of with past projects.

Even when taking into account the challenges the housing market faced pre-COVID-19 and how those challenges were exacerbated with the pandemic, Hines said there ways to fund projects. Using HRH as an example, she emphasized that the specific project needs to be appropriate for the specific funding.

"Since we're really trying to find sites, I thought it was important to tie the funding opportunities to the various sites

that we're looking at," Hines said.

Hines highlighted some of HRH's main funding sources, with the primary source usually being New York State and its Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. Describing it as a "competitive but very generous resource," she said this is the resource that will fund the largest projects, typically ones that are at least 70 units or more.

The second resource HRH uses most often is the Small Building Participating Loan Program, also through New York State. It's for smaller projects of about five to 40 units. However, Hines said this is for rehabilitation projects only and cannot be used for new construction.

Nevertheless, she said it's a great opportunity for multi-family buildings and that the state has relaxed the requirements somewhat to allow people to use adjacent properties for such projects, given the difficulties in finding five-unit properties in the local region.

Sharing with the group a funding source she just recently learned about, Hines shed a light on the Net Zero program funded from the New York State Energy Research

and Development Authority (NYSERDA), which includes projects of about 20 units, new construction and seeks sites between 1 and 2 acres in size. For one- to four-family homes or single-family homes, she said Dutchess County's HOME Investment Partnership Program, in which the county awards grants to acquire and rehab smaller housing projects fits such requirements.

Following Hines' presentation, Busselle then introduced architect Dennis Wedlick, whom he described as "a passionate participant in designing affordable homes as well as carbon neutral homes."

Wedlick praised the Coalition's accomplishment in raising awareness and building community support for finding affordable housing in the region.

Choosing to talk the affordable housing issue as an energy problem, Wedlick explained that one of the reasons it might be helpful to consider it from a different angle is to think about different potential partners who could help find solutions, such as NYSERDA.

He also spoke about it as an ecological problem. In talking about the conservation of the rural landscape, Wedlick said a

rural workforce is needed, but can't be sustained without people living in rural communities.

As he moved through his presentation, Wedlick covered other angles — such as open space, high density versus low density living and rural workforce housing — to help encourage new thinking going forward.

Drawing from his experience in working with housing in Columbia County along with his knowledge of low-income housing through working on case studies for Habitat for Humanity, Wedlick recommended that the Coalition examine the housing issue one case study at a time, a tactic he said would help get architects and engineers involved with future projects.

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Accio storytime!

Young readers and longtime fans of the "Harry Potter" book series were eager to tune into Zoom on Thursday, June 10, as the NorthEast-Millerton Library hosted popular heroine of the wizarding world Hermione Granger as part of the library's Virtual Princess/Superhero Storytime Series. Beginning at 4:30 p.m., readers logged on for a magical, interactive storytime with Hermione, who read stories, played games and sang songs with her young audience. The storytime on marked the library's fourth Virtual Live Storytime in an eight-month series. For more information on upcoming programs, go to www.nemillertonlibrary.org, call 518-789-3340 or stop by 75 Main St., Millerton.

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New RiverTown Trade exhibits the eclectic and artistic

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The heart of Amenia's business district was sparked with a touch of glamour as Samuel Gold, known by many as a "purveyor of curious goods," brought RiverTown Trade to Main Street. RiverTown Trade opened Memorial Day weekend and celebrated its arrival with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, June 12.

Long before he brought his creative eye to Amenia, Gold crafted a reputation for himself by creating high-end boutique hotels for more than 20 years. When the idea for RiverTown Trade crossed his mind, he had been retired for almost 12 years. His gradual return to retail started last summer when a business owner from Cold Spring, where Gold was living, offered him commercial space in that popular town for a pop-up store to run from June to the end of the year. Calling it a whimsical approach to his product selectivity, Gold said that the shop was well-received.

His creative juices flowing once more, Gold said he "got the band back together" and contacted all of his past creators and strategists. A collaborative trio soon formed with Gold at the helm, Amiee Rabinowitz working as creative design director and Ellen Carey working as strategist and social media representative.

RiverTown Trade soon became their first venture in a new kind of retail — one in which the majority of items on display are designed exclusively for the shop.

To date, Gold said they have between 16 to 18 artisans and designers who work solely for the shop, six to eight of whom are local. Trying to expand what they do in a three-dimensional way, he said they work with the clothing



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

As he waited for customers to enter his store, Samuel Gold, the owner of RiverTown Trade, posed next to a handful of original artwork and a chair that was repurposed and hand stitched by TOTem Salvaged.

and accessory designers to put together "things you can't purchase by a click on the internet."

With the artisans getting their name out through their work for RiverTown Trade, Gold said, "It's a win-win situation that I feel works for the shop, for RiverTown Trade and the local artists who are just coming out and reintroducing themselves."

Walking through the doors at 3300 Route 343, customers are instantaneously overtaken by the warmth and whimsy radiating throughout the space, from the walls painted "RiverTown Trade Cool Lava" (a custom shade RiverTown mixed itself) to the curious assortment of exclusively designed items. It won't take folks long to realize RiverTown Trade isn't their regular Main Street store but rather a destination where one is

bound to find something unusual.

There are lavender soaps, candles and bath soaps from Los Poblanos in Albuquerque, N.M.; repurposed chairs and vintage handbags from TOTem Salvaged; signed original prints from Ron Galella; caftans by TWO; COVID-19 merchandise from RiverTown Trade; and all sorts of original gifts. Enter the "More Joy" room at the back of the space and customers will find a beautiful line of silk scarves and caftans to purchase.

"Basically what I'm trying to do is give back to the community in terms of value and some sort of sense of getting back to normalcy to open at this time," Gold said, "and I'd like to help support the local business owners and the area artisans with displaying their products... and just create a fun

environment where people can socialize and gather, and eventually I'll hold special events, book signings, maybe art exhibits — all with all local authors, artists, chefs, ice cream makers.

"We're trying to create a hands-on experience for the area residents and the people who come visit," he continued, "I think people come here to get an organic sense of living apart from the city and I hope I achieve that."

Envisioning the sophistication he aspires to bring into town, Gold said he hopes to create "the feel-good effect" when customers come into the store with the music, the space, the scents and the merchandise. He also shared his enthusiasm in being part of Amenia's revitalization.

RiverTown Trade is open Thursdays through Mondays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

To reach RiverTown Trade, call 845-789-1145.

Absentee ballots cement GOP primary results

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — The Dutchess County Board of Elections (BOE) began tallying up the absentee ballots from the Tuesday, June 22, Amenia Republican Primary Election one week later, on Tuesday, June 29, but stated unequivocally it would not announce any of the races until it could announce all of the races. It did so on Thursday, July 1, announcing the unofficial winners, adding the results would be certified shortly.

Incumbent town Supervisor Victoria Perotti won with 120 votes, guaranteeing a spot in the November General Election, when she'll run for her fifth two-year term. Perotti also ran on the Conservative Party line in the primary. She faced newcomer Julie Doran, who received 109 votes and also ran on the newly-formed independent Amenia Strong party line.

For the Amenia Town Board, which has two open four-year term town coun-

cilmember positions come November, incumbent Councilman James Morris won the top spot with a majority of 126 votes, followed by newcomer Brad Rebillard, who also ran on the Amenia Strong line and garnered 111 votes.

Newcomer Jamie Vitello, who also ran on the Amenia Strong line, came in third place with 107 votes while incumbent Michele Somogyi, who like her Town Board colleague Morris only ran on the GOP line, came in last place with 106 votes.

There were two seats to fill on the Dutchess County Republican Committee, with incumbent Mark Doyle hoping to return to the office. He will do just that as he received the majority of 34 votes, followed by Jeanne Rebillard (wife of Town Board candidate Brad Rebillard) with 24 votes and Apostolis Stefanopoulos coming a close third place with 23 votes.

The results are posted on the BOE's website, www.elections.dutchessny.gov.

Webutuck BOE gets strong feedback on Harvard study

By KAITLIN LYLE
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WEBUTUCK — In spite of the challenges the school district faced this year, the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) was delighted to learn it had a successful first year participating in the National Center for Rural Education Research Network (NCRERN) initiative as Webutuck Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jen Eraca presented the NCRERN mentoring intervention results on Monday, June 7.

NCRERN is an initiative created by the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University to test new strategies for reducing absenteeism, increasing college enrollment and building college readiness in rural school districts. It was first introduced to the BOE in July 2019.

Webutuck was accepted last spring as one of about 40 out of a total 300 eligible school districts in the state. Thirty districts in Ohio also participated.

Despite COVID-19, Eraca said Webutuck was able to work with Harvard, and one of the items they focused on for the first year was chronic absenteeism in the nation's schools, which Eraca said has been deemed "a hidden educational crisis."

She defined "chronic absenteeism" as when children miss 10% or more of school days based on a 180-day academic year; 10% of a normal school year would be 18 days. This includes excused and unexcused absences and suspensions. After sharing some absenteeism statistics, she projected an example Harvard gave on the methodology behind the power of piloting and testing, using JCPenney and Subway as unsuccessful and successful piloting and testing, respectively.

Eraca explained they applied this methodology to their work

with Harvard, later referred to as the "proving ground model." She said the proving ground model works to understand the challenge, identify potential solutions, tests the solutions and acts upon the method either by continuing the method, stopping or trying something new.

Eraca said they had to garner mentee and mentor participation and get permission from parents for children to participate, as well as develop a tracking form based on the results.

She graphed the results on a weekly basis and shared them with the mentors so they knew where they stood.

Challenges included garnering support; the uncertainty of the school year; struggles between the remote and hybrid learning models with mentees; struggles with school closures; and the general fatigue of a global pandemic.

Eraca reported NCRERN's mentoring intervention consisted of five districts between New York and Ohio that piloted, totaling 649 student participants in grades five through 12. According to NCRERN, Eraca said no districts were considered "successful" based on the 90% or higher threshold. Out of the five districts, Webutuck was in the top two for getting the highest percentages of increases, with a 38% increase in attendance.

As the district expanded the study to Webutuck Elementary School (WES), Eraca said, "We as a district could not have gone off without the dedication of fifth-grade ELA teacher Amanda Simon as well as Principal Jenn Hengen."

Eraca said Webutuck had a treatment group for the study at WES for students in grades one through four, which showed a 27% improvement in attendance. The control group showed a 41% improvement.

In addition to charting the weekly data, she said they held meetings on a quarterly basis

and created Google forms to garner feedback from the mentors and mentees.

Based on snippets of mentor feedback she projected for the BOE, Eraca said the study was by and large very positive and beneficial, while the mentee feedback demonstrated the intervention's effectiveness and the importance of the relationships between the mentors and mentees.

When asked if they would participate in the study again, 80% of mentors confirmed they would as did 100% of the mentees.

Eraca said Webutuck will continue to repilot the study and plan to expand to others as needed.

"We feel we have a very good system here... and the feedback from mentors and mentees is significant enough that we feel it is something that is very worthwhile," she said.

WASSAIC IN BRIEF

Wassaic Fire Co. Auxiliary holds sub drive-thru

On Saturday, July 17, the Wassaic Fire Company Auxiliary will host a sub drive-thru for the local community.

Running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wassaic firehouse at 27 Firehouse Road, each lunch will cost \$10 and include a choice of a ham or turkey sub with lettuce, tomato, cheese, macaroni salad, chips, water and dessert.

For tickets, contact Sue at 845-406-8462 or any Fire Company Auxiliary member.

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

Blue-green algae blooms trouble in waters at Wilcox Park, causing lake to close for summer

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILAN — With the heat wave that's swept through the Harlem Valley in the last week or two, residents have been doing everything they can to beat the heat, including heading to their local beach for a refreshing swim. Sadly, due to ongoing issues with blue-green algae blooms in the waters, Dutchess County announced the lake at Wilcox Memorial Park off Route 199 in Milan will be closed for the rest of the season.

Those who frequent the swimming area at Wilcox Park might already be familiar with the algae issue as the lake has often closed "over the past several seasons despite efforts to prevent the algae," according to Colleen Pillus, the communications director for Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro. In fact, Pillus said the lake "was actually closed more days than it was open" in recent summers.

Blue-green algae is defined on the New York State



PHOTO COURTESY DUTCHESS COUNTY

Department of Health (DOH) website, www.health.ny.gov, as microscopic organisms that form dense blooms in surface waters, such as ponds, lakes, streams and other bodies of water.

The DOH states the blue-green algae blooms can be identified if there's strongly colored water (such as blue-green, green, yellow, purple, red, white or brown), a paint-like appearance and/or float-

ing mats or scums.

It recommends people and animals always stay away from blue-green algae blooms in surface waters — this means no boating, swimming, fishing or wading in areas with

In previous seasons, the lake at Wilcox Memorial Park off Route 199 in Milan offered Dutchess County residents and their families a local spot to cool off during the summer heat waves. Unfortunately, the swimming area will be closed this season due to the ongoing issue with blue-green algae blooms.

blooms.

Residents should also avoid eating fish caught from areas with blooms and rinse themselves, family members and pets with clean water if they come into contact with algae blooms.

In light of the harm these algae blooms can cause to the health of anyone who comes in contact with them, Pillus said swimming is offline this year as the Dutchess County Department of Public Works Parks Division evaluates treat-

ment options.

While county residents may be disappointed that they won't be able to go swimming at the lake at Wilcox Park this summer, the county is looking into alternative options to help folks stay cool in the heat.

"There will be a Parks resolution sent to the Legislature for consideration this month [that] includes investment in a new splash pad water play structure for Wilcox Park to have as another water fun option," Pillus said, adding that will be a priority of the Dutchess Invests plan under the American Rescue Plan (COVID) emergency funding.

There are also other swimming options available locally. One popular spot, said Pillus, is Lake Taghkanic State Park, located at 1528 Route 82 in Ancram in Columbia County.

There is also swimming this year at Stissing Lake (on Beach Road in Pine Plains in Dutchess County) as well as in the Copake Falls area of Taconic State Park, located at 253 Route 344 in Copake Falls, also in Columbia County.

More dissatisfaction with Hecate Energy

Copake joins lawsuit against the state over renewable energy projects

By KAITLIN LYLE
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COPAKE — As of Tuesday, June 29, the town of Copake joined five other rural New York towns and seven state organizations in a lawsuit against New York State to challenge the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) to overturn regulations that set the standard uniform conditions applicable to all renewable energy projects in the state. The lawsuit would directly impact the Hecate Energy solar farm project before the town of Copake right now.

The New York State Legislature passed a law to create ORES last spring in conjunction with the enactment of Executive Law 94-c, according to the town of Copake. Through that law, developers can accelerate the approval process from the state for large-scale renewable energy projects. However, rural towns like Copake argue that ORES and 94-c replace the Article 10 procedures that were previously used for such projects.

Such was the case for Copake this past spring when it learned that Hecate Energy planned to switch from an Article 10 review to 94-c for its proposed 360-acre, 60-megawatt solar facility in its Crayville hamlet. More details on the proposed solar project can be found on the town's website, www.townof-copake.org.

Adding on to these concerns, Copake learned the state exempted ORES applications from the required State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA) process in the recently passed budget.

As defined by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the SEQRA process requires "all state and local government agencies to consider the environmental impacts equally with social and economic factors" when taking government action.

Without going through SEQRA, Copake town Supervisor Jeanne Mettler said last spring that it will be simpler for developers to get "faster, easier permission for their projects."

Alleging a violation of the SEQRA process, the lawsuit filed last week argues the ORES regulations adopted in 2021 do not properly comply with SEQRA.

It also charges that ORES "failed to acknowledge that its regulations for siting power plants could result in even one significant adverse environment impact, and as a result failed to

prepare an environmental impact statement [EIS]," according to a recent press release from the town of Copake, which noted that the lawsuit complains ORES delegated the drafting of said regulations to a private consulting company, Tetra Tech, which represents several renewable energy developers in New York State like Hecate Energy.

The Copake Town Board

unanimously approved a resolution to join the lawsuit at its meeting on Thursday, June 10.

Copake won't be paying any legal fees or expenses for its participation in the lawsuit as donors from across New York State are paying for the litigation.

"We are proud to stand with other rural towns in challenging the 94-c regulations" Mettler

stated. "We are outraged that the State of New York has accelerated the permitting process for industrial scale power facilities without regard to the impact of these projects on rural towns.

"In failing to comply with SEQRA they showed disregard if not contempt for the rural landscapes, prime farmland and woodlands which we treasure," she added.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Her body in tune with her instrument, Bulgarian violinist virtuoso Bella Hristova poured her heart into her performance for The Stissing Center's first in-person concert of 2021 on Sunday, June 26.

Music, live, and in person

PINE PLAINS — It was with great joy that The Stissing Center (TSC) welcomed the community back into its halls at 2950 Church St. in Pine Plains on Sunday, June 26, for its first in-person concert since the COVID-19 lock-down last March.

Spotlighting the talents of Bulgarian violinist virtuoso Bella Hristova in a 4 p.m. solo concert, the performance also marked the start of the second season of The Stissing Center's chamber

music series, "LIVE! from The Stissing Center."

Even as the audience abided by COVID-19 restrictions, both TSC team and those who attended the concert were grateful to be back in the still-under-renovation building to enjoy the one-of-a-kind performance in the already beautiful venue.

For more information on upcoming events at The Stissing Center, go to www.thestissingcenter.org.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO BY TIA MAGGIO

Katya, one of 14 participants at the Saturday, June 26, program, carefully patted the soil after a plant was introduced to Native American garden right next to the sensory garden.

Three Sisters Garden takes root at Roe Jan Library

COPAKE — Greenagers Education Coordinator Aretha Whitehead helped young patrons of the Roeliff Jansen Community Library anchor a trellis in their newly installed Three Sisters Garden, which is a kind of traditional Native American garden that grows three main staple crops: Corn, Squash and Beans.

The trellis will help support the squash as it grows in the

garden, which young readers planted with great enthusiasm at the library on Saturday, June 26.

The Three Sisters is also a part of the the Roe Jan Library's "agriculture," which includes stories and gardening technology.

For more information about the library at 9091 Route 22, call 518-325-4101 or go to www.roe-janlibrary.org.

— Carol Kneeland

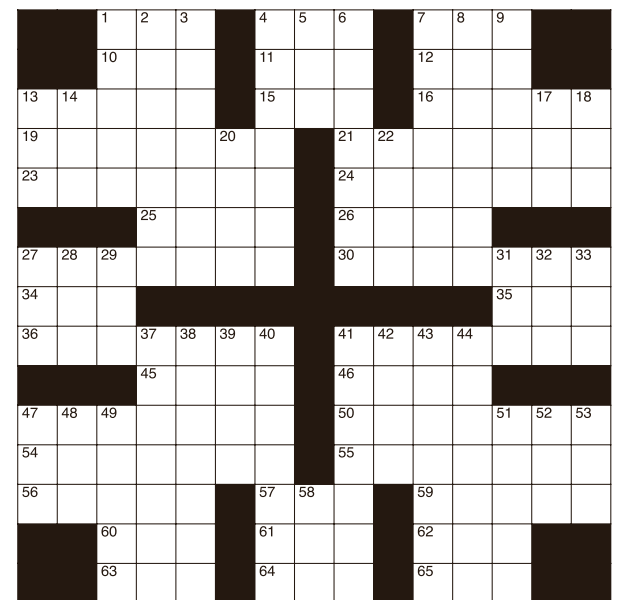
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Sr. enlisted Army member
- Payroll firm
- Monetary unit of Macao
- Cooking vessel
- Cow sound
- Hairpiece
- Spoon-shaped surgical instrument
- Mother
- Remove from record
- Foolish
- Mailman
- Unit of data size
- Stirred
- Deceptive movement
- We all have one
- Direct from pasture beef animal
- A person's own self
- Helps little firms
- Deep, red-brown sea bream
- Tumbler
- A short section of a musical composition
- Young woman (French)
- Wings
- Wine bottles
- Thin layers of rock
- Opposite to
- American state
- Uncertainty about something
- Basics
- Indian seaport
- Owed as a debt
- Buffer solution
- Unit of work or energy
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- One point south of due east
- Born of

CLUES DOWN

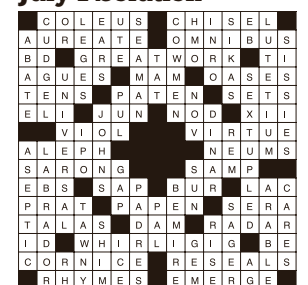
- Small stem bearing leaves
- Female Bacchanalians
- Mediterranean city
- Measures electric current
- Arrived extinct
- Edible butterfish
- Causing wonder or astonishment
- Behaviors showing high moral standards
- Ancient Irish alphabets
- Footballer Newton
- Utilize
- Sum of absolute errors
- Opposite of the beginning
- Shoe company



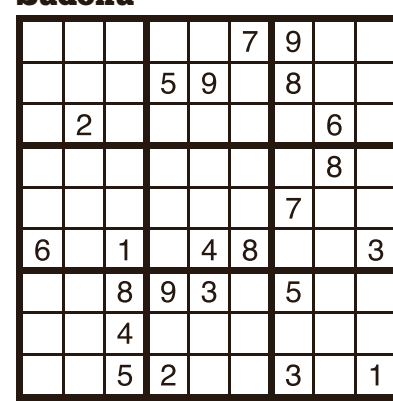
- Algerian port city
- Girls organization (abbr.)
- Type of cell (abbr.)
- Swiss river
- When you hope to get there
- Fall behind
- Expresses distaste, disapproval
- Volume containing several novels
- Less sharp
- Food for the poor
- Having made a valid will
- Royal estates
- Relating to wings
- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Taking something through force
- Angry

- Show the present
- Norway
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Consume
- Founder of Babism

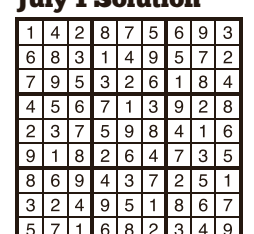
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

CHAMBER MUSIC: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Change of Plan for July 11 Music Mountain Concert

One thing COVID-19 taught us all was the need to be flexible; and one challenge arts venues had was the need to book performances well in advance, not only so they could do publicity but also so the performers could create a logical schedule for themselves.

But the best-laid plans etc. and etc., and so Music Mountain in Falls Village, Conn., home to world-class chamber music concerts in an intimate setting, had a significant change to its schedule on the eve of its season opener on July 4 weekend.

The Juilliard Quartet, one of America's most famous and most venerable chamber music groups, was originally scheduled for Sunday, July 11. The personnel in the quartet is now all young musicians; none of the original quartet members is still touring. But accidents can happen, even with young folks, and one member of the quartet has had one that will cancel the group's engagement here in the Northwest Corner.

Music Mountain is putting a positive spin on the change, with its June 29 announcement: "Thirty-two years ago, when the



PHOTO BY STEPHEN BARTON

The Balourdet String Quartet from Boston, Mass., will step in for the Juilliard Quartet at Music Mountain on July 11.

renowned Juilliard String Quartet had a last-minute cancellation at Music Mountain, a young, unknown quartet took the stage. Their performance was a riveting success, and the quartet has returned to Music Mountain every summer since by popular demand. They were the Shanghai Quartet, now performing at Music Mountain's 92nd Season Opening Concert on July 4, a not-to-be-missed event.

"On July 11, history may be about to repeat itself. A dramatic event has forced

the Juilliard String Quartet to cancel at the last minute, and a young quartet, the Balourdet String Quartet, will take the stage."

The Balourdet quartet is based in Boston, Mass., and has won numerous grands prix this year in competitions around the world.

They will present a crowd-pleasing menu of music by Mozart, Debussy and Brahms.

The July 11 concert will be a benefit for the Music Mountain Academy, a training and mentorship

program for young chamber ensembles.

Tickets are \$60; children 5-18 are admitted free to all concerts when accompanied by a ticket holder.

Sunday afternoon Chamber Music concerts start at 3 p.m. and last approximately two hours, with a 20-minute intermission. Ticket holders are welcome to bring a picnic and dine on the lawn before the concert.

For more information, go to www.musicmountain.org or call 860-824-7126.

MOTETS OF THE RENAISSANCE AND EARLY BAROQUE

Crescendo returns to Saint James Place in Great Barrington, Mass., on Friday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. for a live concert of motets by composers of the European Renaissance and Early Baroque.

Twenty singers of Crescendo's Vocal Ensemble are joined by solo soprano Jennifer Tyo, Christa Patton (Renaissance harp) and Hideki Yamaya (Re-

naissance lute). Crescendo's founder and artistic director, Christine Gevert, will direct from the organ.

The motets offered in the concert include works by giants of the late Renaissance such as Giovanni Gabrieli, Michael Praetorius, Orlando Gibbons and William Byrd.

The July 23 concert is one of four programs that Crescendo will present this

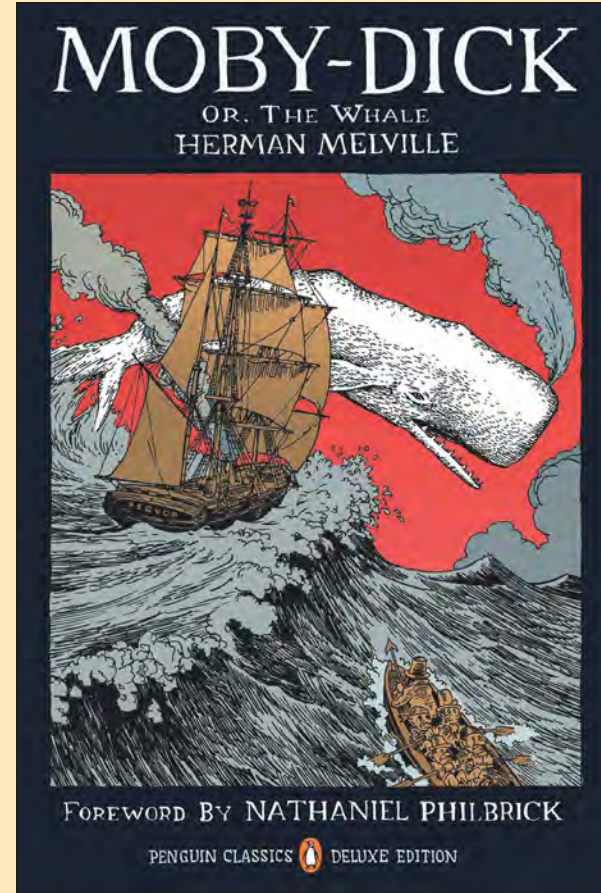
summer and early fall.

These include an Aug. 13 chamber music concert and a Sept. 3 choral concert with organ featuring well-known music by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Vivaldi, Stainer and Tallis.

On Oct. 29 and 30, Crescendo will present a choral/instrumental concert, "Music Across Borders," a concert that was post-

poned from March 2020.

Tickets for the July 23 concert (\$35 general, \$60 premium and \$10 under 18) can be purchased online at www.worldclassmusic.org or at the door. Unvaccinated audience members must wear a mask at all times.



MOBY-DICK READ-A-THON

The Berkshire County Historical Society and Herman Melville's Arrowhead will host the fifth annual Moby-Dick Read-A-Thon from July 29 to Aug. 3.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, readers will read aloud for 10 minutes, virtually, with the next reader picking up where the prior reader left off. Advanced sign-up is required at [\[shirehistory.org/moby-dick-read-a-thon\]\(http://shirehistory.org/moby-dick-read-a-thon\).](http://www.berk-</p>
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The event is free, but a \$5 donation is suggested. Anyone who does not own a copy of "Moby-Dick" can purchase one through the Berkshire County Historical Society online shop at berkshire-county-historical-society.square.site; or go to www.powermobydick.com for a free online edition.

ALL ABOARD FOR THE DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM

The Tristate region is host to what seems to be an unusually large number of railroad enthusiasts. Certainly this area has plenty of railway history to offer on its own.

But for those who've tired of the local museums and exhibitions, the Danbury Railway Museum opened to the public over July 4 weekend and is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Equipment on display includes the 1907 B&M steam engine, the Railway Post Office car, the RDC and a caboose.

All volunteers have been vaccinated and will wear masks; vaccinated visitors

are asked to wear masks indoors and while riding in the train; others are asked to wear masks at all times.

The museum is located in the restored 1903 Danbury Station and rail yard at 120 White St. in Danbury, Conn. For more information, go to www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org, e-mail to info@danburyrail.org, or call the museum at 203-778-8337.

Two of the most famous locomotives of the New Haven Line, including the New York Central #2013 in this photo, can now be seen at the Danbury Railway Museum.



PHOTO BY RUDY GARBELY



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Serving Sharon, Millerton, Lakeville, Salisbury and Falls Village, and adjacent Eastern, NY

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Serving in New York - Northern and Eastern Dutchess County, Columbia County, Eastern Ulster and Windham County, and Southern Greene County


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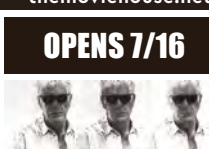
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ART: ANABELLE BAUM

Entering a World of Fantasy at NRM

While Norman Rockwell was known for his representational paintings of American life, his work also encapsulates an enchanting and fantastical picture of life as well.

This summer, the Stockbridge, Mass., Norman Rockwell Museum (NRM), which is dedicated to the art of illustration, will host several events inspired by fantasy and enchantment.

Founded in 1969, the 36-acre property is home to the world's most extensive collection of Rockwell art. The artist's studio is also on the museum campus.

Each summer, the museum does special explorations of different kinds of illustration. This year's theme is "Enchanted: A



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY NRM

This summer's special show at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., is centered around the art of fantasy and enchantment.

History of Fantasy Illustration," which features more than 100 pieces by more than 50 artists. The show is spread throughout several galleries of the museum, with art dating from as far back as the

Middle Ages to the present day.

In addition to Enchanted, NRM has another exhibition this summer, "Real and Imagined: Fantastical Rockwell," which features the artist's less familiar

fantasy art from the mid 20th century. Rockwell's full-size works depicting fairytale and fantastical subjects provide a different view of the artist's body of work.

The museum will also

be launching a Tuesday evening series that will be available online and in-person, including several in-person art workshops with selected artists featured in "Enchanted."

These exhibitions are now open Thursdays through Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays from noon to 7 p.m. (starting this month).

The outdoor installation will be on display from July 10 through Oct. 31. Both indoor exhibitions opened on June 12 and will close on Oct. 31.

All visitors are required to wear masks while inside the museum.

The exhibitions are included with general admission; to purchase tickets go to www.NRM.org or the front desk.

VIRTUAL BAROQUE CONCERTS

The Northwest Music Association presents the New Baroque Soloists in its 14th annual concert series, featuring the music of such 18th-century composers as Bach, Handel, Telemann, Vivaldi and Quantz, streaming this year from St. John's Church in Salisbury, Conn.

Four performances, directed by Doug Myers, will be available for viewing on the Northwest Music YouTube channel at 5 p.m. on four consecutive Thursdays: July 22 and 29 and Aug. 5 and 12, and for a limited time after.

On Aug. 5, John Ferillo, principal oboist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, will do a solo performance of the works of Albinoni as well as rarely performed duets with New Baroque's lead oboist, Amanda Hardy.

To view the concerts and for more information, go to www.northwestmusicassociation.com.

There are no admission fees. Northwest Music Association (a 501c3) relies on donations: Northwest Music Association, P.O. Box 446, Salisbury, CT 06068.

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

Streaming Is Easy, Comedy Is Hard

According to Rotten Tomatoes, Britannica, and me, the best comedy series of all time is "Seinfeld." Beyond that, I know that recommending comedy shows is a risky business. Given the trickiness of humor, you won't like all of the following shows, but you will probably love one or two.

Freaks and Geeks, set in a suburban high school in the 1980s, aired in 2000 to a thunderous silence and was canceled after 12 episodes, due to lack of support by NBC (remember network television?).

Created and produced by Paul Feig and Judd Apatow, it has since become a cult classic. The cast of wild high-school kids includes Linda Cardellini (as the school's star "mathlete"), Seth Rogen (his first role at about age 17), as well as other actors who later became comedy stars: James Franco, Samm Levine and Jason Segal. Watching these famous performers at the start of their careers is a hoot. Stream on Hulu, Amazon and Apple.

Derry Girls is a British sitcom about the lives of four teenage girls at a Catholic school in Northern Ireland in the 1990s. This is a teen show unlike any other. The crazy situations and witty dialogue are hilarious, but there is a serious

undercurrent because of The Troubles (the 30-year conflict in Northern Ireland). You will need closed captions to understand the Irish slang. Six episodes on Netflix.

The kids are amusing, but let's move on to some serious comedy about folks like us, old people. The undercurrent here is often more poignant. Is there anything funny about funerals or erectile dysfunction? Well, yes, when Alan Arkin and Michael Douglas are involved, as in **The Kominsky Method**. Douglas plays Sandy Kominsky,

an acting coach in his 70s, and Arkin plays Norman Newland, his agent and best friend.

The dialogue between the two is priceless, and the women in the show add to the fun and drama: Kathleen Turner as Sandy's ex wife and Jane Seymour as Norman's old flame. Three seasons on Netflix. Season three offers more tears than laughs, but it's a sweet end to an enjoyable show that knows when it's time to go.

To pull off a comedy about comedy you need impressive writing and acting. HBO's terrific new

show **Hacks** has an abundance of both. It stars Jean Smart ("Frasier," "Mare of Easttown"), who is nothing short of wonderful in her role as Deborah Vance, a stand-up Las Vegas comedian who looks lovely at age 70 or so, but whose jokes are aging badly.

Enter Ava Daniels (charmingly played by Hannah Einbinder), a 25-year-old, bisexual TV writer, who is hired to help freshen up her material. The ensuing

clash of generations leads to many surprising developments.

There are plenty of laughs along the way, but some episodes are quite moving, and one is even shocking. This show is the most likely to please everyone.

If you don't fall in love with these two gals, you probably need to go back to **Seinfeld** (180 episodes, just stolen away from Hulu by Netflix for \$500 million).

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Thurs. - Sun., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

or

See it online at www.hvart.org, July 1 - August 31.

MILLBROOK

Dems and Republicans caucus for town and village elections

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
jbalfe@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Democratic and Republican Committees are planning ahead for the General Election come November.

Democratic Caucus

The Democratic Caucus only garnered one candidate interested in running for the Millbrook Village Board, which will have two open seats for village trustee in the upcoming General Election this November. The Millbrook Democratic Committee held its caucus on Thursday, June 24.

Two appointed trustees are currently serving in the seats that will go up for vote on the board; they are Buffy Arbogast and Leslie Anson, who has not declared a party affiliation for the upcoming election or committed to running again in November.

Arbogast will now campaign for the full four-year position, which will end on Dec. 31, 2025.

Arbogast was nominated by the Democrats at the caucus on the 24th, which was led by party Chair Ceil Collopy. About eight people gathered on the porch of Town Hall for the caucus to nominate their party's sole candidate.

Republicans to Caucus

The Republican Caucus will be held on Tuesday, July 13, at 7 p.m. at the pool at the Town of Washington Park in Mabbettsville off of Route 44.

That caucus will be led by the local Republican Party Committee Chair Cathy Shanks and is focusing on the Washington Town Board election, as those candidates have already petitioned through the Dutchess County Board of Elections (BOE), according to Washington Town Clerk Mary Alex.

The Washington Town Board, which is the governing and legislative body of the town, consists of the town supervisor and four councilmembers, all of whom hold four-year terms.

Gary Ciferri has been town supervisor since January of

2012 and is running for re-election. So far Ciferri is the only one who has thrown his hat into the supervisor's race.

Incumbent Councilmen Mike Murphy and Stephen Turletes are running for re-election, as is incumbent Councilman Joe Rochfort, who was appointed to fill the seat of the late Councilman Al De Bonis, and will also be running for a full term in November.

Newcomers Leslie Heaney and Bullard Andrew Spence have also made their intent to run for the Town Board known, and Doug Giles has been mentioned as a possible candidate.

The new Town Board terms begin on Jan. 1, 2022 and end on Dec. 31, 2025.

Legislative race

Dutchess County Legislator Deirdre Houston (R-25) is also seeking re-election to serve her third two-year term.

Newcomer Daniel Hutnick, a Democrat out of Amenia, has announced his intention to run against Houston for the District 25 in the County Legislature, which may be shrinking in the size next year from 25 to 21 districts and could affect local representation (for more, read article on front page).

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The annual meeting of the Valley View Cemetery Association will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 4 p.m. at the Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. All plot owners are urged to attend.

Donna Reimer
Secretary/Treasurer
06-24-21
07-01-21
07-08-21

relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing.
Dated: July 1, 2021.

Julie Schroeder
Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
07-08-21

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, July 15, 2021 at 7:30 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: July 1, 2021.

Julie Schroeder
Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
07-08-21

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, July 15, 2021 at 8:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Town Hall, 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York, on the application of Taylor Oil, Inc., owner of tax parcel # 7171-12-980713, appealing the April 13, 2021 decision of the Code Enforcement Officer regarding the dispensing of gasoline and diesel fuel by other than employees of a bulk storage facility. The parcel is located at 6073 Route 22 in the HB-III 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

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.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Fountains resident and artist Del Snook posed for a photo at the recent art exhibit with two of his portraits beside him. One of the pieces was entitled "Mr. Bennett" and took a second-place prize.

Years of skill and creativity go into Fountains art show

MILLBROOK — The Artists Group at The Fountains in Millbrook was happy to present its Annual Art Show after having missed the opportunity to do so last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Tuesday, June 29, the artists held a reception in the auditorium at the Millbrook senior

living facility. The judge for the exhibit was well-known Brazilian-born abstract artist Lillian Washburn, who created her first work of art at the age of 37.

Fountains residents have a dedicated art studio on the premises and are guided by art teacher Ellen O'Shea.

Community Life Director

Lisa Rieckermann is the driving force behind the annual art show.

Refreshments were served, while residents enjoyed the artwork that lined the walls and the wood carvings that were on display throughout the studio. Guests were not allowed.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe

Millbrook Library asks local residents what it is they want

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — When Courtney Tshalis, director of the Millbrook Library, sent out invitations to local residents to come to the library for frank conversations about the community, to discuss what might strengthen it and improve connections among those who live there, people's interests were piqued. Tshalis said the discussions would not focus on politics, town business or the library, so what did that leave?

The answer? Community.

Hence the library's Community Conversations series was born, with small groups of residents grouped together to have intimate discussions about the town and village; some were held in person and some on Zoom during the past several weeks. To draw a diverse group of participants, the library chose different locations for the in-person sessions at different times of the week and different times of day. At the talks, each group had a leader to get things going, and once they did, people began to easily connect.

The first talk took place on Tuesday morning, June 1, at the library and the last conversation was on Saturday afternoon, June 12, at The Fountains senior living facility. One of the sessions was held at Grace Church. While the groups were usually small, by the end of the project five conversations had been held with 35 to 40 people having given their thoughts and opinions on a variety of community matters.

Tshalis said she was pleased with the results.

"I am very happy with how the conversations went," she said. "Even though some of them were small, we heard a lot of great, passionate feedback from those who attended. The information we learned will be very helpful for us as we create our long-term plan, and I believe it will be helpful to other organizations in Millbrook as well. We really think it's important to share what we heard with the community."

The library will do that after compiling all of what it learned from the series and then sharing the results with the community later this summer.

Several conversations centered on Millbrook's high quality of life, and how much residents appreciate that it has remained quiet and quaint through the years, said Tshalis. However, nothing is perfect, and other conversations focused on some of the village's disadvantages.

One topic that was raised in

each session addressed village businesses; most people said they are happy with the businesses found in the village, but others said shopping is limited by the types of good and the cost of goods. Some of the participants said they would like to see a greater variety of items offered in the business district at lower prices. At the same time, everyone said they want to support local businesses, especially after the past pandemic year-and-a-half when merchants struggled just to remain open.

A number of residents said they would like to see some new types of shops and even different types of restaurants, open longer hours and more days a week.

Other thoughts that came to the fore were about how to attract and retain younger residents in the community, who are especially vital considering that volunteerism isn't what it used to be.

Although Millbrook and the town of Washington "took care of its own" while COVID-19 was raging, keeping up with food banks and other necessary donation centers as well as vaccination sites, volunteers are needed for the fire department and the rescue squad, among others. As existing volunteers age and retire, fewer young people are replacing them.

Nightlife in the village, or the lack thereof, was mentioned at the sessions. Residents noted that there is very little to do in Millbrook after dark, although the Millbrook Arts Group provides about a half dozen concert a year. There is no movie house or community theater. The big event of the summer, the Firemen's Carnival, won't even be held this year since the Thorne Building no longer belongs to the village — felt more keenly this year, perhaps, after 15 months of virtual isolation. It is possible the Thorne Building Community Center will step up and offer some entertainment.

The American Library Association provided tools and materials to libraries interested in engaging these Community Conversations as a way to engage with local residents and other stakeholders in their towns and villages. The nearby NorthEast-Millerton Library just wrapped up a similar series hoping to achieve similar goals.

"We were so pleased to be able to meet with so many community members and hear from them about their hopes for and thoughts about living in Millbrook," President of the Board of Trustees Jodi Fernandes said, who participated in the program as a group leader. "These conversations are an important part of the library's next

strategic plan and will help the library better address our community's interests and needs."

Tshalis still hopes to tackle other important issues in future discussions, such as health care access, transportation and the types of businesses that should be allowed into town, a hot issue in light of the momentarily-on-hold Second Mountain (Migdale) spa resort application in Mabbettsville.

The library currently has a survey posted online for residents to answer questions that were raised in the Community Conversation series, at www.millbrooklibrary.org.

Abigail Gallagher is new to the library's youth services staff, and to the area; she praised the library for taking the initiative to learn more about the wants of its patrons and other locals.

"As a newer member of the Millbrook community, it was both informative and a joy to witness the community conversations we held," she said. "I particularly enjoyed the way longtime Millbrook residents and newer residents came together to speak about the things they love about our community, as well as thoughtful ideas. Community members will be key to shaping the way we move forward together."

MILLBROOK IN BRIEF MAG Summer Concert Series

The Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) is offering free family-friendly concerts at the Millbrook bandshell for the community on Saturdays through Aug. 28.

Saturday, July 17: Soul Purpose: A seven-piece band fueled by a shared love of Soul, New Orleans Funk, Swing, R&B and Jazz.

Saturday, July 31: Long Steel Rail: An infectious blend of Bluegrass, Folk, Classic Country and String Band music.

Saturday, Aug. 14: What It Is: Dance Band Rock, Soul, Pop and Funk.

Saturday, Aug. 28: Raquel and The Wild Flowers: Blends the sound of traditional country music with a rock and roll drive.

For more details, email info@millbrookarts-group.org or go to www.millbrookartsgroup.org.

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EDITORIAL

Millerton Lions Club no more

After more than seven decades of monthly dinners, holiday parties and silent auctions; years of planning and hosting carnivals and circuses for enthusiastic villagers and their guests; countless seasons of holding Little League practices and games; who knows how many hours preparing for bake sales, barbecues, flea markets, food drives and raffles; hundreds, possibly thousands, of hours volunteering for roadside and community cleanups; more than 60 incredible years creating a beloved community birthday calendar and many other years devoted to a vital scholarship program; and endless hours spent collecting donated eye glasses and fundraising for vision and hearing tests, diabetes treatment, childhood cancer treatment, helping the environment and so many other global concerns, the Millerton Lions Club seems to have done it all in its 72-year history.

However this year, which came on the heels of an admittedly very difficult year-and-a-half in which the entire world found itself battling the deadly coronavirus pandemic, the Millerton Lions Club board decided to close the book on the celebrated organization. It held its final meeting on Friday, June 25, when it officially voted to disband. During that time, the club made a profound mark on and those who live and work here.

With 1.4 million men and women serving as Lions in 48,000 clubs globally, their motto is “Together We Serve,” as they strive to make a lasting impact and improve lives through acts of kindness.

With a focus on service, the Millerton Lions Club was founded in 1948 with 37 original members — all men — including businessmen and other professionals and community members.

The first female didn’t join until 1990. That was Nancy TenBroeck, who owned Millerton Computing. According to outgoing Lions Treasurer Ed Downey, she helped “draw on a new pool of talent, which extended the club’s reach and ultimately its life.”

In fact the Lions’ last sitting president, a nearly five-term president, was female and wildly popular with her fellow Lions and the rest of the community. She was none other than Maryann Belarge, who helped steer the club for many years as it worked to get many good deeds done in the village of Millerton and the town of North East.

The list of what the Millerton Lions Club accomplished in its seven-plus decades in the village and town is too great to lay out in a single editorial, or in the corresponding article readers will find on this week’s front page by reporter Carol Kneeland. However, we do hope you’ll take the time to read both; the article shares some interesting history and accounts about the club and a photo or two.

We would just like to go on the record saying how much we appreciate all the Millerton Lions Club has done for the community, its residents, its businesses and those who just stopped by to visit our wonderful neck of the woods.

To those who volunteered to join the Lions Club throughout its existence and become Lions, or Leos as the case may be for some of our younger residents, we thank you. We recognize the amount of time spent, the amount of energy invested, the amount of dedication contributed — it was no small commitment when you signed up to be a Lion and we can’t express how much we respect and honor that pledge.

Your good deeds, and most likely those of your father (or mother, as the case may be, as we find service to others often runs in the family), have helped establish our little corner of the Hudson Valley as one of the most enviable and respected communities in all of Dutchess County.

The Millerton Lions Club and its efforts are a large part of why that is so. We admit we are sorry to see you write the final chapter of your Lions Club tale (or should we say tail?), but we understand and sympathize with why and how you reached your decision and wish all Lions members, past and present, nothing but the best moving forward.

We realize it’s hard to keep finding volunteers in today’s busy world for such civic organizations. We simply want thank those of you who served for your many contributions to our community — your selfless actions and tireless efforts improved countless lives for more than seven decades — now that’s worthy of a mighty roar.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Oh, deer...



Summer 2021 ‘Spotlight on Seniors’

The Summer 2021 edition of the Office for the Aging’s (OFA) quarterly newsletter, “Spotlight on Seniors,” is now available. View it online, with back issues, at www.dutchessny.gov/aging.

To become a regular email subscriber to “Spotlight on Seniors” and the OFA’s weekly Aging News, sign up via www.dutchessny.gov/DutchessDelivery, which can also be used to subscribe to alerts and newsletters from other Dutchess County Government departments. The Aging News is emailed every Friday, and homebound clients of the OFA’s Home Delivered Meals program receive weekly print copies.

Those who don’t have internet access and want to be on the mailing list may request a copy of Spotlight be mailed by calling the office at 845-486-2555. Mailing lists are not sold or shared.

The Spotlight is also at all Dutchess County public libraries and can be dropped off at senior housing complexes or medical offices. Email OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones at bjones@

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

dutchessny.gov to find out more.

Where did my OFA email go? Seniors who use an email address provided by an internet service provider (ISP) may sometimes find their email programs’ spam filters mistakenly classify legitimate emails as spam, including emails from the OFA.

New Emergency Broadband Benefit
The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) is a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program, aimed at helping families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. EBB provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households.

A household is eligible for EBB if a member of the household meets one of the criteria:

- Has an income that is at or

A look at airlines’ disaster financials

Since most of us love to travel — by air when we can — some of the fallout of the COVID shut-downs globally on the airline industries is now only just becoming clear and the news is seriously worrying. As if the Boeing 737 Max crashes and retrofit cost and groundings were not hard enough for the industry to bear, now comes the accounting wizards looking at airlines’ bottom lines, shaking their heads.

One of the largest aircraft leasing corporations in the world, Air Lease Corp., has an executive chairman, Steven Udvar-Hazy. In a recent interview in “AvWeek” he proclaimed, “The airline industry has lost everything they

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

earned since World War II — all the profits are gone. And if it was not for government support in the form of guarantees, equity, loans, all kinds of medicine, the airline industry would have been crippled. . . [they] have mortgaged everything they’ve got — planes, slots, airport terminals, ground facilities or frequent flier programs.”

Compare this period in the airline world with 40 years ago. Back then, only 10% of aircraft were fully leased. Now more than 50% are fully leased with another 15% partially leased. All the other infrastructure — hangars, terminals, service vehicles, you name it, if they once owned it, they have borrowed on it — is now carried as debt. OK, interest rates may be low, but for how long?

The worry here is that short-staffing (people not yet back at work), reduced staffing to save money, union busting to renegotiate salaries — all these factors perhaps necessary to keep airlines from going bankrupt — may impact air travel safety.

And if you think the FAA has recouped from four years of cutbacks yet, you are kidding yourself. FAA inspectors are in short supply. So short in supply that some airlines, like American, have canceled flights because repaired, serviced airliners could not get inspected on time.

This all may compound itself into airlines disappearing. We’ve seen airlines fold before. But, worse, it could be a Boeing Max/ Trump Administration FAA/ COVID outcome leading to an air tragedy.

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

below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid or Lifeline;

- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since Feb. 29 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider’s existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

For additional details, go to www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit or contact your broadband provider.

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.

Want equality? Start with better jobs

Jobs. They are the primary focus of the Federal Reserve Bank, the Biden Administration, the Republican opposition and most U.S. corporations. Supposedly, with all this high-powered attention, we still can’t find enough workers to fill all the positions available. Has anyone questioned why?

One important reason might be that 60% of jobs in the U.S. are considered “mediocre” or “of poor quality,” according to a recent Gallup survey. If you combine those findings with the fact that many workers in the service economy are poorly compensated, the problem begins to come into clearer focus.

If you listen to the free market critics, generous federal unemployment checks are the root cause of the problem. These simpletons argue that these higher benefits have discouraged workers from returning to their former jobs. They ignore the obvious, which is that if the “government dole” is preferable to the offered wage, then that wage must be far too low.

It is myths like these, as well as the historical focus on the number of jobs gained or lost without paying attention to the quality of employment, which obscures the truth.

American companies, especially in the service sector, have spent the last 30-plus years cutting wages and benefits in the name of reducing costs and improving profit margins. Global competition and lower wages abroad (especially in China) have been blamed for this development. That trend has reversed in a big way, but here in the U.S. we act like it is still a fact.

Our treatment of the American worker, especially the lower-income, service worker, needs to change. A recent Gallup poll, for example, found that only one-third of low-income workers received fringe benefits like health insurance and retirement benefits. An even smaller number received paid sick leave. Is it any wonder that only 28% of the lowest quintile workers claimed to have a “good” job?

THE RETIRED INVESTOR

Bill Schmick

Remember all the fuss when the Biden administration tried to raise the minimum wage earlier this year? No dice. Here’s another myth: The federal minimum wage is meant to be a living wage. At the going rate (\$7.25 per hour), a family of four is living well below the poverty line. The reality is that about half of America’s working population earns less than a living wage. Is it any wonder we have exploding rates of crime among our youth?

Parents, who just want to feed themselves and their children, are forced to work, sometimes two jobs, away from home until the early hours. That leaves their kids alone and unsupervised for much of the day and night. We all know this but choose to look the other way or worse, use the race card as an explanation. Shame on us!

But simply paying workers more is not the answer, although it certainly helps. Creating an entirely new culture around the job is the challenge we face. Not only must we, as a nation, provide higher pay and better benefits, but also a workplace culture that improves the overall lives of our employees. To me, a quality job is one that makes a person feel valued and respected with a voice in their workplace. I see it as an opportunity to shape my work life, while contributing to the goals of an organization.

If this sounds schmaltzy to you, or a job description above your pay grade, consider this: Jobs that do not meet employees’ needs have a higher-than-average turnover rate, poorer employee productivity and a lower-quality consumer experience. Amid the competition to hire workers in today’s post-pandemic environment, I believe workers at all levels are seeking more than just a sign-on bonus or a bump up over a minimum wage level.

Otherwise, chances are your

new hire will consider their position as “just a job,” as opposed to “a career.” As such, these disengaged employees cost businesses an average of \$350 billion every year in productivity, or \$2,246 per disengaged employee. In a tight labor market, with traditional hiring habits of “only money counts,” a high turnover of employees is a given. The cost of replacing an employee can range from one-half to two times the employee’s annual salary.

The pandemic has changed quite a few things, some temporary and others permanent. The American worker took it on the chin during the last year and a half. Millions were unemployed, while many who did show up to work were faced with constant danger to their health and safety. Essential workers in health care, early childhood education, food production and delivery, as well as countless minimum wage workers not only showed up, but delivered in our time of need.

Many others managed to work from home, delivering

to their employer extra hours, higher productivity and lower expenses for the same, or lesser wages. Going forward, there is no need for America’s workers to justify their worth. That’s been proven, in my opinion.

No, the ball is squarely in the employers’ court. American workers have experienced deteriorating wages and working conditions over the last few decades. As a result, fundamental pillars of our democracy have been eroded. Economic stability and opportunity have decreased dramatically, while inequality has risen to historical levels. The present polarization of this country is no accident. Our workers need and deserve better jobs with higher wages and a radical change in the quality of the workplace.

Bill Schmick is an investment advisor representative at Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill’s forecasts and opinions are purely his own and not necessarily the views of Onota Partners, Inc. (OPT). Email him at bill@schmick-sretiredinvestor.com.

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Conjure this...

Alas, the Fourth of July, a date, the Bard might have said, to be conjured with. It is a time of hamburger hangovers, fireworks flash ups and backyard bashes. Not to mention celebrating the birth of a country, a minor detail.

When I was a lad living on the coast of Maine, the date was reckoned to be the time when the impossibly elderly of my parents' generation decided it was safe to enter the chilly waters of the Atlantic; and no, it is not true that there were still ice cubes floating on the water. The last of those were almost always gone by mid-June.

Down in Boston, they celebrate with a gigantic fireworks display while The Pops plays "The 1812 Overture," meaning that either Bostonites cannot do simple arithmetic, or they don't care about it being a celebration of the wrong war being won by the wrong country in the wrong century as long as there are large bangs and booms involved.

For those of us in the bleachers, it is also a highly important date, for it marks the traditional halfway point of the baseball season. Now that is a time for conjurations.

It is a time when all bleacher wizards, seers and savants don their magical cloaks (linen, seersucker or madras, please, because it is, after all, summer) and toss the bones, consult the charts, or read the tea leaves to try

BLEACHER VIEWS

Theodore Kneeland

and determine the fate of their favorite team for the rest of the season.

Will the Sox pull one of their famous August fades? Will the Yankees start playing like the premier team from New York and not like a bunch of knuckleheads from somewhere out in the unwashed middle of the country? Will the Mets ever figure out how to hit a baseball and give the poor pitching staff something called "run support?"

These and many more burning questions will fill the scented air as the always hopeful try to find some basis for their eternal optimism.

Saying the appropriate sooth and burning incense gained from last year's burnt bat ashes, the mid-season magicians strive to add that hope to hot weather and get a divisional winner or at least a wild card team to step out of the charmed circle and onto the field. Will our conjurations work? Stay tuned; September is just around the corner, and then all questions will be answered — darn it.

Millerton resident Theodore Kneeland is a retired teacher and coach — and athlete.

The fast and furr-ioust compete at Millerton's Caora Farm

MILLERTON — The sounds of sheep could be heard running around the fields behind Caora Farm in Millerton, as it hosted the annual Sheep Dog Trials during the last weekend in June, from Thursday, June 24, through Sunday, June 27. It was a hot few days for both man and animal.

Though the trials were closed to spectators due to COVID-19, this year's event welcomed an abundance of trained herding dogs from as far away as California, including 22 dogs younger than 3 years old in the nursery class and 113 dogs in the open trial of fully trained dogs, according to Beth Murray of Caora Farm.

Each phase of the trial tests the dogs' agility as well as the trainer's ability to control the dogs (and then the sheep) through whistles, commands and hand gestures.

"The sheep are an exceptionally healthy and clever wool flock," Murray said, "and it's quite a challenge for most dogs to manage the course. This really brings out the most talented and best trained dogs, and of course great handlers that can partner with the dogs."

— Kaitlin Lyle



Many elements were at play in each phase of the Caora Farm Sheep Dog Trials, from the dog's ability to control the sheep movement to the handler's ability to communicate and influence their dogs. Left, whether they had trained for the trials or were new to the event, the Caora Farm Sheep Dog Trials' participating handlers and dogs waited patiently for their moment to shine on the field.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

SPORTS IN BRIEF

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