

**AMENIA**  
Pop-Up  
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Project,  
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**TOWNS & VILLAGES**  
Land Trusts,  
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And More **INSIDE**

**COMPASS**  
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## Tentrr slow to remove tents from Iron Mine Pond

# Tentrr pairs with state to set up camp at 45 regional parks

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

MILLERTON — Although the four tents placed by the private tent-renting company, Tentrr, directly on the hiking path at the secluded Iron Mine Pond at Taconic State Park in Millerton at the end of April, just a mile from the more popular Rudd Pond, were still standing as of Friday, May 14 — despite assurances from the Office of Parks,

Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) on May 2 that they would be relocated, North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan said he's not worried.

"I have no doubt that the state intends to take them down and I'm guessing that it requires Tentrr to take them down," said Kennan on Friday morning, "and I'm sure they're not going to be occupied until they take them down. I'm not worried [the state has] given me an assurance that they're coming

down."

That assurance came from Regional Park Director Linda Cooper just days after the tents were erected and so upset members of the community that two petitions were created, one collecting 558 signatures in 24 hours and convincing the parks department and Tentrr to agree to move the four tents from Iron Mine Pond elsewhere.

See **TENTRR**, A6

## Pine Plains Free Library has new leadership

# From assistant to director, Alexis Tackett takes charge

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

PINE PLAINS — Just seven months after she first joined the Pine Plains Free Library as a library assistant, Alexis Tackett, 23, happily accepted the position of library director last month, replacing Veronica Stork. Stork had served the library as director for the past five years.

Glancing at her resume, Tackett's love of books and the printed world shine through her past experiences. For three years, she worked at a Barnes & Noble, first as a bookseller and then as a "kids' lead," where she

After joining the Pine Plains Free Library as a library assistant this past October, Alexis Tackett, 23, was offered the position of library director earlier this spring, replacing Veronica Stork, who served the library as its director for five years.

was in charge of organizing story-time twice a week and other events for young readers.

She was later offered a position as an aide for the San Antonio Public

See **ALEXIS TACKETT**, A6



PHOTO SUBMITTED

# Dutchess County confronts opioid epidemic, drugs flow over the border

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

DUCHESS COUNTY — While the COVID-19 pandemic remains at the front line of the county's concerns — even while more and more residents get their vaccinations — Dutchess County officials on both the county and local levels continue to combat the opioid epidemic, educating residents through vital training and making programs available to those struggling with addiction.

Though the statistics have shown significant improvements in some areas related to opioid use and over-

doses in Dutchess County in the past few years, there are other indicators related to drug use that haven't had much significant change.

The crude rate per a population of 100,000 people for hospital discharges involving opioid use (including abuse, poisoning, dependence and unspecified use) went from 248.8 discharges in 2017 to 190 discharges in 2018, according to the New York State Opioid Data Dashboard.

Another statistic on the dashboard reported a significant improvement in the crude rate per 1,000 unique 911 emergency medical service (EMS) dispatches for unique naloxone admin-

istrations by EMS agencies: the rate was 7 administrations in 2018 and 5.4 administrations in 2019.

Meanwhile, the dashboard reported no significant changes in the number of emergency department visits involving any opioid overdose or the number of overdose deaths involving any drug for people ages 18 to 64.

However, what has worsened is the number of overdose deaths involving methadone, the number of hospital discharges involving heroin overdoses and the number of emergency department visits (including outpatients and

See **OPIOID EPIDEMIC**, A6



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Two Connecticut State Police troopers and a small police boat were still at the top of the Great Falls on the Housatonic River on Sunday afternoon, May 16.

# Police search Great Falls for missing man

By **PATRICK L. SULLIVAN & CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER**

AMESVILLE, Conn. — A man described by Connecticut State Police as a 38-year-old white male went missing in the Housatonic River on Saturday, May 15.

Despite recovery efforts, by 5 p.m. no body had been found and the scene was turned over to the State Police, according to Lakeville Hose Company Assistant Fire Chief Jason Wilson.

Lakeville Hose Company, the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department, North Canaan Volunteer Fire Department and Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service responded to the 2:30 p.m. call.

Wilson said the incident took place near the boat launch above the falls, on Housatonic River Road.

Apparently the missing man used a rope swung tied to a tree on the west bank of the river, Wilson said. One of the rescue volunteers at the scene said the man had been there fishing with friends. According to the State Police, the man "never resurfaced after entering the water above the Great Falls Dam."

The regional rope team and the dive team from Goshen also responded. The divers were on the site at approximately 3 p.m.

Using sonar, the rescuers tried to find the missing man, to no avail.

"There's a lot of debris in there, and it's deep," Wilson said.

At 5 p.m., the search was turned over to the State Police's diving unit.

As of 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 16, two State Police cruisers and a small boat were still at the site. The state troopers would not say anything other than that

the incident is still under investigation.

In addition to the State Police, the State Police Dive Team and the volunteer fire and ambulance services, support was also provided at the scene from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (which has its own police) and the regional dive and rescue teams.

The Housatonic River has proven fatally attractive to unwary swimmers and boaters through the years, with as many as three drowning deaths per year at the Great Falls and the rapids at the Bull's Bridge area near Kent.

The Housatonic appears to be much more placid than it actually is, especially in spring when the water is at its deepest. In addition to fast-moving water, there are also rocks and weeds below the surface that can grab swimmers and pull them down.

Extreme caution is recommended at these sites. State and local officials as well as nearby property owners remind visitors that parking is not allowed on the narrow roadsides near the river. When cars are parked along the shoulder of the roads, it becomes extremely difficult for emergency and rescue vehicles to get by.

Visitors are also asked not to leave trash along the sides of the rivers, and when possible to stay at public recreation areas, where there are parking areas and trash bins.

Last summer, many public recreation areas at rivers and lakes were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, many parks and swimming areas have opened again to the public. A public access point is being planned along the Housatonic River in North Canaan but is not available yet.



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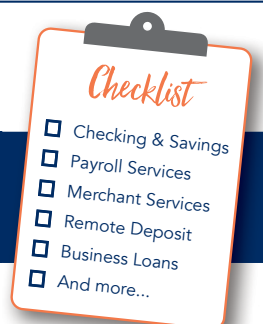
**OPINION**  
The Great Mask Debate  
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# MILLERTON

## North East reaches final phase of joint highway garage project

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

**NORTHEAST** — The North East Town Board officially launched the fourth and final phase of the long-anticipated joint highway garage project with the village of Millerton on Route 22 by approving bid documents for the highway garage building's construction, on Thursday, May 13.

Keeping in mind that the village's and the town's respective highway garages were aging and inadequate for accommodating their equipment, part of the aim behind the project was to provide both municipalities the chance to share a facility.

The village's existing highway garage sits just north of Eddie Collins Memorial Field while the town's highway garage

is at 11 South Center St. in Millerton, adjacent to the Webatuck Creek.

The shared highway garage project was done through a four-phased approach, the first of which involved the construction of a storage building for the actual highway equipment. That was completed in December 2019.

Installing the fuel storage tanks and dispensing system for the town and village to use was the focus of the second phase and was completed last July.

For the third phase, a storage building for sand and salt was constructed for wintertime needs; that was completed this past September.

Since first constructed, North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan reported that all three buildings are being used

by both the town and the village.

Lastly, the fourth phase focuses on the construction of the highway garage itself and is considered the largest component of the entire project.

Meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening, May 13, the Town Board, which took the lead in the project, adopted a resolution to approve the bid documents for the garage's construction. The board also adopted a resolution authorizing "the construction of Phase 3 of a new highway garage facility with fuel depot on a town owned parcel of land on Route 22... at a maximum estimated cost of \$3,224,000 and authorizing the issuance of not exceeding \$2,929,000 of said town to pay a portion of the cost thereof."

Construction bids are due Friday, June 18. Anticipating

construction to be completed by next March, Kennan said once construction is done the town will then be out of the old and decaying garage on South Center Street.

As another step forward, he mentioned the Town Board put the job of removing the old salt storage shed at South Center Street out to bid and accepted an offer for about \$5,500. As it was done through an auction, Kennan did not know who placed the bid, but was pleased nonetheless that "someone wants to buy it and they'll be coming and taking it away."

As for the cost of constructing the highway garage, Kennan said, "We don't know how much it'll cost till we receive the bids. At that point, we'll have a very good idea of what the [final] price of that will be."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

### Star-struck storytime

In a galaxy not so far away, the NorthEast-Millerton Library invited young readers to tune in for a special edition of its Virtual Princess/Superhero Storytime Series, starring everyone's favorite galactic rebel royal, Princess Leia. On Thursday, May 13, at 4:30 p.m., young readers watched on Facebook Live as Princess Leia read stories and invited local children to sing and play games during the program. Those who joined in were also automatically entered to win a 10-minute video call from the princess herself directly afterward.

## Hotchkiss students teach civics at NorthEast-Millerton library

By CAROL KNEELAND  
Special to The Millerton News

**MILLERTON** — "Youngsters teaching youngsters" is a great way to spread the word about civics according to Youth Services Director Kristin McClune of the NorthEast-Millerton Library, which is currently sponsoring a virtual weekly program in conjunction with The Hotchkiss School of Lakeville, Conn., whose students have designed and are teaching the program.

McClune described the series for students in grades four through six, which began Monday, May 3, as "a really great experience. The students were really engaged and asked a number of interesting questions."

Topics already covered include: Individual Citizenship: What's my role? It also covered Government Structures: How does it all work?

Upcoming topics on Monday, May 17, at 7 p.m. are The Different Departments: Who Does What? On May 24 the class will discuss The International Experience: What's it Like in Other Countries? On May 31 they will talk about Mock Congressional Debate Activity.

According to Hotchkiss Volunteer Coordinator Caroline Kenny-Burchfield, students developed the program because "after the November elections they wanted to celebrate the advantages of having a society such as ours where students can have a voice in public life. They wanted to make sure that students here knew how to use their voice and were aware that they can have an impact and that it is really their responsibility to get involved. It was really from that, that this program began."

Among the Hotchkiss students who developed and are leading the program are Isabel Su from Beijing, China; Chase Dobson from Vermont; and Grace Hennessey from Hartford, Conn., with other students helping to teach the program.

"I think that what makes

this program so interesting is that there are actually students involved who are not from the United States, but they recognize the privileges of living in our country and the freedoms and responsibilities that come with freedom that we have that other countries perhaps don't offer their citizens," said Kenny-Burchfield. "That is also part of what drove this."

She said the series began by discussing volunteering.

"[Focusing on] ways that we can act as good citizens... really is our responsibility to look around and see how we can make our communities stronger — even if it is something as simple as helping out a senior neighbor or picking up garbage," she said. "Everything we do in that way is building our community and that's an important part of being a responsible citizen of the United States. It all

trickles down to the local level."

While community service is not mandatory, Hotchkiss students are encouraged to participate in the school's numerous outreach programs. Following graduation, many alumni continue their civic involvement including Ray McGuire, who is currently one of a number of New York City mayoral candidates.

Kenny-Burchfield, who attended school with McGuire, remembers him as being the "anchor of the basketball team" and "a very powerful presence on campus in the very best way." She said he has had a very strong streak of service in addition to a very successful Wall Street career.

Having followed his career, she said that after graduation, "He was always getting involved, particularly trying to elevate the opportunities of students of col-

or, particularly with those who reflected his background, which was growing up with a single mom in a very poor community," working to help provide them with some of the same opportunities he experienced as a Hotchkiss scholarship student.

Registration for the program is required; email kmclune@nemillertonlibrary.org to do so.

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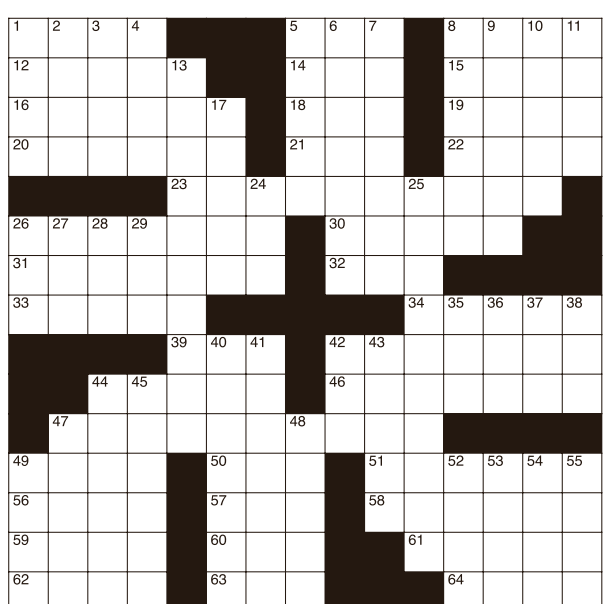
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- A group of sheep
- Of she
- This (Spanish)
- A type of sorcery
- A team's best pitcher
- Port in southern Japan
- Makes very happy
- Trigonometric unit of measurement
- From a distance
- Winged nut
- Consumed
- "Heat" director
- In all places
- Made improvements to
- St. \_\_\_ Girl: brand of beer
- A type of "seat"
- Wood
- A brief treatise on a subject of interest
- Approval
- Basics
- Where judges sit
- W. African religion
- Commentators
- Having many different functions
- Member of a Semitic people
- Flightless, fast-running bird
- After the seventh
- Small N. Zealand tree
- Health care pro (abbr.)
- Playground mainstay
- Expressing relief
- Records brain activity (abbr.)
- Fishing net
- Beer
- Tooth caregiver
- Japanese beverage

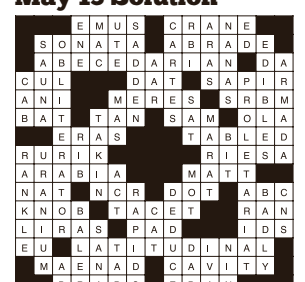
### CLUES DOWN

- Garden tools
- Early Syrian kingdom
- 500 sheets of paper
- Information
- Beloved comic strip character
- Distinct form of a plant
- Replenishment
- Semitransparent glassy substance
- Expedition to observe animals
- One who held landed granted by Anglo-Saxon king
- Obtain in return for labor
- Inheritable genetically
- One who rescues
- Doctor of Education
- Liberal arts

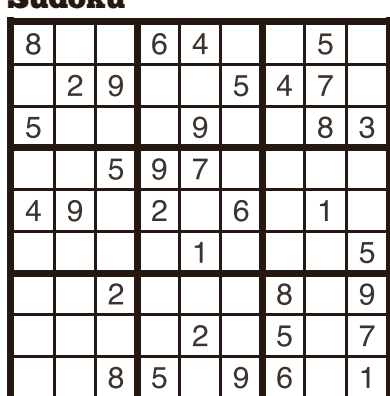


- Shock treatment
- Disfigure
- When you hope to get there
- Peacock network
- Part of (abbr.)
- The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet
- Not just "play"
- Former CIA
- Reduced to a sloping edge
- Restricted the development of
- Sciences degree
- Sea eagles
- Saturated
- Joints
- Sailing boat
- Respiratory organs
- Guitarists use them
- Disco act: Bee \_\_\_
- First Chinese dynasty
- Intentionally lose
- Muslim people of China

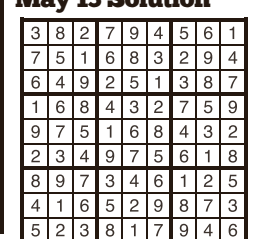
### May 13 Solution



### Sudoku



### May 13 Solution



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# Amenia Housing Board plans for future listening session

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Though they had plenty of time to prepare, members of the Amenia Housing Board outlined what they'd like to accomplish when hosting an upcoming listening session for the community during a meeting held on Tuesday, April 13.

Starting at 5:30 p.m., members convened for their monthly meeting via Zoom due to the pandemic. Member Leo Blackman suggested they host the listening session either at the end of May or in June. He volunteered Amenia town Councilwoman Vicki Doyle's daughter, Erica, to take the list of people from

the board's housing survey who shared their email addresses and make a new list the board could use for outreach for the planned listening session.

Deciding another postcard announcing the session might be over the top, Blackman said posters could be used to publicize the session and the board could advertise the event through The Millerton News and Robin Hood Radio. Other suggestions included using the Tri-Town Coalition's list of community members and reaching out through the Millerton Farmers Market.

Wanting to talk about some of the specifics of the listening session, Blackman said "it's go-

ing to be important that we're prepared to get voices from the people of Amenia and prepared to receive negative responses" as well as concerns about taxes going up, keeping government out of housing and other related concerns for which the board has to be prepared."

He gave an outline of what to include in the session, and said the board should figure out whether to hold it in-person or over Zoom, particularly with COVID-19 restrictions in mind, and asked if it should be just one session long.

Additionally, Blackman said the Housing Board should figure out the best time for people to participate as well as consider inviting a Spanish translator.

It was suggested town Supervisor Victoria Perotti do the welcoming remarks as a way of showing the town's support of the Housing Board. Blackman advised they talk briefly about the Housing Board, Amenia's Comprehensive Plan and what the group would like to get out of the session.

He discussed talking about the region's housing needs, the gap between what housing options are available and the different needs among Amenia residents.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Blackman said the

board could have 10 minutes to talk about its housing survey results, what was learned through those results and how many people responded.

Blackman said the board should talk about its goals for the listening session as well as its long-term goals, and suggested getting a moderator. Some board members suggested having multiple moderators and perhaps planning for an activity that would break participants into smaller groups for discussion. Each group could then have a moderator with five or six people tackling two or three questions in effort to have participants share their responses.

"It's a really great thing if people feel heard and if they can see that their ideas are being responded to," Blackman said.

As far as the takeaway the board wants to get from the listening session, Councilwoman Doyle said it seemed to her that the process started organically with the housing survey as a way of listening to the Amenia community's thoughts. However, she said the survey "was just step one," and the next step would be to tell the community what the Housing Board learned from the survey, to ask the community what resonates with them and the to collect and compile that information.

## SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

### Dump truck fire

Thursday, May 13, Deputies responded to Southeast Auto Recycling at 1492 Route 22 in the town of Dover for a dump truck on fire.

The fire was extinguished by JH Ketchum Hose Company without incident.

### Rollover auto accident

Wednesday, May 12, Deputies responded to Flint Hill Road and Cascade Mountain Road in the town of Amenia for a rollover motor vehicle accident.

The patient was transported by EMS to Sharon Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

### Drunk and disorderly

Saturday, May 1, Deputies assigned to the COVID-19 vaccine site at 3081 Route 22 in Dover investigated a disturbance in the parking lot.

The disturbance was deter-

mined to be caused by an intoxicated family member. The situation was mediated by deputies without incident.

### Fraud investigation

Sunday, May 2, Deputies investigated a fraud complaint in the town of Dover.

The complainant reported that her cell phone was hacked, and money taken out of her bank account. The investigation is ongoing.

### Tips wanted

Anyone with any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity, should contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

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



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

A resident of Dutchess County, Veronica Thomas proudly brandished her arm that received the J&J version of the COVID-19 vaccine at the Pop-Up Clinic held in the Amenia Town Hall gymnasium on Monday morning, May 17.

## Pop-up COVID vaccine clinic held at Town Hall

AMENIA — Area residents got vaccinated against COVID-19 in a single dose at a Pop-Up COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic organized by the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health at the Amenia Town Hall on Monday, May 17.

Running from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the clinic was held in the gymnasium of the Route 22 building early that day.

Volunteers from the Medical Reserves Corps helped administer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to those who wanted to get

their shots; they watched over their patients afterward to monitor their reactions.

Although residents were encouraged to make appointments, the clinic accepted walk-ins until noon. Twenty-one residents were vaccinated at the Town Hall. Additionally, with assistance from the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, vaccine doses were delivered to five local homebound residents. In all, 26 J&J doses were administered on Monday.

— Kaitlin Lyle

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**Rose M. Judson**

ANCRAM — Rose M. Judson, 84, a 10-year resident of Ancram, formerly of Millerton, died peacefully on May 14, 2021, at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson, N.Y., with her loving family at her bedside.



Mrs. Judson worked for the Taconic Developmental Disabilities Services Office as a therapy aide for more than 20 years and retired in 2001.

Born April 10, 1937, in New Milford, she was the daughter of the late Bertha (Thalles) and Charles White.

Rose graduated from New Milford High School. In November of 1971 she married Melvin Judson. Mr. Judson died in 2008.

Rose was an avid gardener and enjoyed growing beautiful flowers and tending to her extensive vegetable garden.

She also enjoyed deer hunting every season and fishing in her spare time.

She will be dearly missed by her loving family and many friends.

Rose is survived by her four children, Shannon Moore of Texas, Randy McCarrall of Ghent, N.Y., Tara Young of Craftsbury, Vt., and Nathan Judson and his companion, Rosemary Gansowski, of Ancram; three brothers, Herb, Alfred and Tommy White; a sister, Linda Dittrich; seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and husband, she was also predeceased by seven brothers, one sister and four half brothers.

Graveside services and burial will take place on Friday, May 21, at noon at New Milford Center Cemetery, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 676910, Dallas, TX 75267-6910. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

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

**Randy Keith Wilson**

NORFOLK — Randy Keith Wilson, 67, a lifelong area resident passed away on Oct. 30, 2020, with family and friends by his side following a short battle with cancer.



Randy was born on Dec. 3, 1952, in Sharon. He was the son of the late Richard Albert and Agnes E. (Traver) Wilson of Lakeville.

After his mother's death in 1962 he was raised by his sister, Mary Sager, in Cornwall Bridge.

Randy attended Salisbury Central School, Cornwall Consolidated School and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1974.

Randy worked for about 20 years at Kent Manufacturing in Kent.

He enjoyed working on everyone's cars and trucks, watching wrestling on television and going to wrestling matches. Randy also loved spending time with his extended family and friends.

Randy is survived by a brother, Charles R. Wilson of Torrington; his sisters, Marcia E. Audia, Dorothy Therrien and her husband, Robert, all of Beverly Hills, Fla.; Mary A. Sager and Linda Cavanaugh and her husband, Gordon, all of Cornwall Bridge; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews and cousins. He is also survived by his extended family, DeeDe Gordon-Taylor and her children, Tessa, Kira, Rory and Sam "his bestest buddy" Taylor.

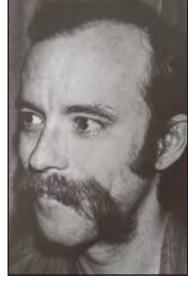
In addition to his parents, he

Email obituaries to [cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com)

**OBITUARIES**

**Christopher Kaufholz**

LAKEVILLE — Christopher Kaufholz, 74, passed away on Feb. 19, 2021, after a long illness.



He was born in Pittsfield, Mass., on Sept. 6, 1946, the son of the late Frederick and Mary Kaufholz of Lakeville and the brother of David Kaufholz of Franklin, N.C.

He had been a resident at Noble Horizons for the past six years. Prior to that, he lived in Lakeville and on Upper Goose Island in Casco Bay, Maine.

He graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1964.

He then served in the Air Force from 1966 to 1970, where he achieved the rank of staff sergeant with the 99th OMS on Guam as a B-52 Crew Chief with Top Secret Clearance.

After serving his country, he apprenticed as a cabinet maker for several years before forming his own business, Chris Kaufholz Woodworking. During that time, he and his brother formed a bluegrass duo, The IKB (for Infamous Kaufholz Brothers). Chris played guitar,

banjo and fiddle. They later played for several years in a popular bluegrass band, Iron Mountain Cannonball.

Having an avid interest in computers, Chris graduated from the Computer Processing Institute in East Hartford, Conn., in 1989.

Then, at the age of 45, he enrolled at the University of Connecticut and received his degree with honors in Computer Science Engineering in 1994. Subsequently, he joined NRS in Lakeville as a Systems Analyst until his retirement.

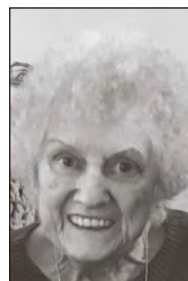
After retirement, he continued to dabble in computers while also continuing his interest in woodworking, constructing fine cabinets and furniture for his friends.

Chris is survived by his brother, David Kaufholz; and his former wives, Lucy Lamson of Salisbury and Michele Conklin of North Canaan.

Chris asked that there be no formal services, but that his ashes be spread on his beloved island in Maine.

**Rita Lucille Rundall**

PINE PLAINS — Rita Lucille Rundall, 82, a longtime resident of Pine Plains, passed away on May 12, 2021.



Born on Oct. 20, 1938, she was the daughter of Charlotte (Wagner) and Webster Wilbur.

Rita worked for many years as a cook at the Maplebrook School in Amenia.

She was devoted to her family and loved time spent with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Rita loved cooking, camping, playing cards and casinos. She enjoyed many fond memories of camping in Rhode Island and trips to the Foxwoods Casino.

Rita is survived by her sons, Lawrence "Larry" Rundall Jr. and his wife, Claire, of Pine Plains and Jerome "Jerry" Rundall and his wife, Karen, of Elizaville, N.Y.; a daughter, Robin Rundall Swartz of Pine Plains; a granddaughter Nicole Rundall Kosiorek and her husband Matthew; her great-grandchildren Juliana and Matthew Jr. Kosiorek of Lee,

Mass.; her grandson Andrew Rundall and his wife, Renee, and great-grandson Arjen Rundall of Clinton Corners, N.Y.; a granddaughter Ashley Fitzpatrick and great-grandson Daniel DiRusso of Pine Plains; and a brother, Frederick Wilbur and his wife, Mary, of Pine Plains.

She was predeceased by her soul mate and loving husband Lawrence "Larry" in 2015 after 58 years of marriage. She was also predeceased by grandson Shawn Michael Rundall; sisters Edith, Charlotte, Clara, Monaretta and Alnora; and brothers Howard, Webster, Ralph, Clayton, John, Melvin, Chester and Gordon.

Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon. A service was held May 18, followed by burial at the Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains. Memorial donations may be made to Pine Plains Ambulance, 42 Poplar Ave., Pine Plains, NY 12567.

**Memorial service:**

**Ralph 'Dusty' Wilson Sandmeyer**

CORNWALL — Ralph "Dusty" Wilson Sandmeyer died on May 13, 2020. Due to COVID, we decided to postpone his service for a year.

Dusty was much beloved by his wife, Sandy; his two daughters, Kate Ward of Cornwall and Kira Woods of Winter Park, Fla.; and his four grandchildren, Austin and Fallyn Ward and Wilson and Turner Woods.

We miss him dearly and look forward to sharing our love for him and celebrating his life with friends and family on Saturday, May 29, at 11 a.m. at the United Church of Christ, Cornwall, Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall Village.

Masks are encouraged, especially for anyone who has not been vaccinated.

**Bleacher Views**

Make sure to read sports columnist Theodore Kneeland's Bleacher Views online this week, at [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com).

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**Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon**  
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Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker  
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860-364-5260  
[www.christchurchsharon.org](http://www.christchurchsharon.org)

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
Rev. Paul Christopherson  
SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
In-Person and on You-Tube  
[www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)  
860-435-9290

**Greenwoods Community Church**  
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Kidz Konnection  
K-6th grade (during Sun. Service)  
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[www.greenwoodschurch.com](http://www.greenwoodschurch.com)

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**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
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Amenia Union, NY  
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860-364-5634  
[sharonumc5634@att.net](mailto:sharonumc5634@att.net)

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock  
Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM  
Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page  
Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study  
Rev. Heidi Truax  
[trinity@trinitylimerock.org](mailto:trinity@trinitylimerock.org)  
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**The Lakeville United Methodist Church**  
519 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039  
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[Lakevillemethodist@snet.net](mailto:Lakevillemethodist@snet.net)

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Rev. Lee Gangaware  
860-824-5534  
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# PINE PLAINS

## BOE holds public hearing for 2021-22 school district budget

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

**PINE PLAINS** — Moving another step closer to the end of the 2021-22 budget process, the Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) held the mandated public hearing on the budget on Wednesday, May 5, to give the school community a last chance to pose comments and questions.

Starting at 7 p.m., the BOE met in-person in the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School library and live streamed the meeting to the (Pine Plains Central School District) website, www.ppcsd.org.

BOE President Chip Couse opened the public hearing on the 2021-22 proposed school district budget, starting with a presentation on the budget by Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck.

Presenting the budget the BOE adopted on Wednesday, April 21, Goldbeck said the \$34,176,675 budget reflects an increase of 1.94% (or \$651,225) from this year's district budget. The tax levy limit totals \$24,710,043, indicating an increase of 2.15% (or \$574,104) from this year's budget.

The state aid increase was calculated at \$8,031,532, and Goldbeck pointed out the 17.59% (or \$1,201,356) increase in terms of budgeting. However, Goldbeck reminded both the BOE and the public that the budget was reduced by \$760,000 due to anticipated mid-year cuts. While the cuts didn't happen, he said state aid was reduced by about 10% as a result.

Among the important priorities for next year's budget, Goldbeck highlighted the academic program for students in kindergarten through 12th grade; the full day pre-k program; academic intervention and programs for students with special needs, the career & technical education program; the district-wide one-to-one computer initiative for

students in pre-k through 12th grade; foreign language classes; the agriculture program; the technology program at the junior/senior high school; and the athletic programs and extracurricular activities.

For a breakdown of the budget by areas of expenditure, an outline of the budget's three main components, details on the

tax levy and other details on the 2021-22 PPCSD budget, go to [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com).

As there was no public comment, the BOE closed the public hearing.

The school district budget vote and BOE elections were held on Tuesday, May 18, the day this paper went to press. Look for the results in next week's paper.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, clockwise, Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center fifth-graders John Courrage, Iyan Reilly, Alfred Blackburn and Kayla French worked together to dig up the skeleton buried in front of their school as part of their enrichment class taught by Nelson Zayas.

## Digging in the dirt teaches Seymour Smith students life lessons

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

**PINE PLAINS** — Searching the soil for tokens of the past, a group of fifth-grade students at Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center took a hands-on approach to learning history earlier by taking part in an archaeological dig in front of their school.

Though he's best known as co-founder of the Willow Roots food pantry in town, Nelson Zayas has built a reputation for himself as an enrichment teacher in the Pine Plains Central School District for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Now in his third year of organizing the enrichment class, Zayas said the idea behind the class is to expose students to more than what they might learn through the regular classroom curriculum and push them a little further in their education with special activities and projects. For example, to teach students more about astronomy, he put together a project in which students grew vegetables hydroponically.

With the recent outing held a couple of weeks ago when the skies cooperated, the aim was to inspire students to explore the history of Pine Plains as well as to demonstrate what happens during an authentic archaeological dig.

Zayas received two grants in 2019 for this project, including a \$500 Stewart's Shops Holiday Match Grant and a \$1,000 Berkshire Taconic Pine Plains SEED Grant. Part of the funding was used to purchase a life-sized faux skeleton, which Zayas buried in front of Seymour Smith last year along with a few artifacts for the students to unearth.

The skeleton was meant to represent an individual from the Colonial period of history. Zayas said the artifacts were meant to help the students identify the time period in which the individual lived. Along with burying buckles by the feet and a musket ball in the skeleton's chest, he revealed that he buried a fishing kit, a metal tin, a candle and other historic treasures for students to uncover.

However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last spring, the project was postponed until students could return to school in-person. Once they came back to school in the fall, Zayas said the students had one or two digging days before the weather turned uncooperative.

They resumed their dig this April, using trowels to scrape the dirt, a dustbin and a 5-gallon bucket to collect the dirt. Once they knew there was a body to find, the group set to work, uncovering the skeletal remains, their growing curiosity driving them to learn more about what time period the skeleton was from and what had led to the body's demise.

Dubbing the bundle of bones "Jake," they concentrated on moving dirt away from the skeleton,

revealing the rib cage, the top of the sternum and a forearm from underneath the cover of dirt.

As the students gradually uncovered more details and mused over the cause of death among themselves, Zayas offered a few questions to kick start their investigation and observed the students as they realized it would be better to dig horizontally instead of straight down in order to get more done.

Zayas also noted the students were initially screening the dirt as they would in an authentic archaeological dig, but stopped when it became clear that it was slowing down the process.

"I think New York State, Dutchess County and Pine Plains have so much history to offer that tie into the curriculum," Zayas said. "You can either sit in the classroom and read the book and learn names and dates or watch a video, or you can have a hands-on activity."

Zayas said another advantage of the hands-on approach is that students aren't just learning history lessons, they are creating lifelong memories — and friendships — all while digging up those artifacts together.

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**TENTRR** *Continued from Page A1*

On Monday, May 17, Kennan gave a quick update.

"Haven't been up there, but I'm told they will all be gone by today," he emailed.

Kennan is among the more than 19 million New York residents (according to the 2010 Census) plus the 265.5 million tourists (according to 2019 numbers, before COVID hit the scene), who have heard the news that the state is hoping to draw everyday citizens to camp at its state parks this summer, through a new private-public partnership with Tentrr.

Even during the midst of the

pandemic in 2020, OPRHP reported the more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more that it oversees were visited by a record 78 million people, despite, or perhaps because so many were tired of being cooped up due to COVID-19.

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced 45 new sites that will be outfitted by Tentrr at four state parks in the Hudson Valley on Tuesday, May 4. Tentrr will provide all one needs at the campsites. They can be reserved, including locally at Taconic State

Park in Millerton in Dutchess County (it also crosses into Columbia County) and Lake Taghkanic State Park in Columbia County, as well as at Mills-Norrie State Park in Dutchess County and at the Sebago and Silver Mine areas of Harriman State Park in Orange and Rockland Counties.

According to the governor's office, Tentrr will provide "the tents, sleeping accommodations and an array of equipment needed for camping at each site."

The equipment will be set up and ready to use "upon arrival" to make camping extra convenient; the camping sites will be maintained by Tentrr staff.

"Camping at a State Park is an ideal way to explore the great outdoors with friends and family," Cuomo said. "This partnership continues our work to create diverse and exciting destinations to attract visitors to New York's great outdoors, enhance our tourism economy and help people experience all that the State has to offer."

**The amenities**

As described by the state, all of the Tentrr camp sites will offer a 10-foot by 12-foot, canvas-walled tent atop a raised platform. Each site will include a queen-sized bed and memory foam mattress, a propane heating source, a solar-powered "sun" shower, a camp toilet, water container, Adirondack chairs, a fire pit, grill and a picnic table with storage and benches. There will be multiple options for everything from sin-

gle occupancy to camping available for groups up to 12.

**Local reaction**

Kennan said he supports the pilot program, and hopes it accomplishes its goal of getting more people outdoors — especially important after the past year and a half of everyone being confined in quarantine conditions due to the coronavirus.

"I think anything that gets people out into our state parks is a great thing," he said. "Our state parks are wonderful resources for people to connect to nature, and after the year we've been through I think that's a very healthy, restorative activity, and the Tentrr solution will be something that people that are not diehard campers might think is very attractive."

New York State Senator Sue Serino (R-4) agrees that the governor's initiative is a positive one.

"I love this program," she said, adding Rudd Pond is an ideal place to explore while camping. "I think of when I was growing up. It wasn't uncommon to take a tent and put our sleeping bags in the backyard; somebody living in the city might not have had that opportunity. In light of the last year, with everybody wanting to be outside and have some breathing space, it's wonderful for people to get outside. It will bring tourism to our parks, it's a great opportunity to do that."

Serino added that she thinks "the state needs to make some nice investments for our parks, too, and it makes sense to do this

all the way around and make some revenue."

**Costs and profits**

It will cost \$135 a night for folks to set up camp at a state park through Tentrr. The partnership highlights the governor's NY Parks 100 initiative, "which renews the historic commitment to investing and expanding the State Park system by committing at least \$440 million over the next four years," according to Cuomo's website.

When asked for specifics on how much of a percentage the state will earn and how much money will go to Tentrr, OPRHP Public Affairs Bureau Public Information Officer Dan Keefe gave the following response:

"It's too early to reliably predict revenue/visitation impacts as we are in the first weeks of a pilot agreement."

**Private companies profit off public land**

As to concerns some local residents have voiced regarding private companies profiting off of renting tents on state land, Keefe said that shouldn't be a worry.

"State Parks has several other active partnerships with private vendors to provide camping services, including at Allegany and Sampson State Parks," Keefe said. "State Parks has long partnered with private vendors to leverage limited resources to offer expanded visitor services. All contracts must comply with state law and are independently approved by the state comptroller's office

and the attorney general. Vendors provide an array of recreational and hospitality services that enhance the experience for many visitors — from small snack bars to historic hotels such as the Bear Mountain Inn and the Gideon Putnam to kayak rental concessions and rafting tours to the Maid of the Mist at Niagara Falls."

Regarding other sensitive issues about Tentrr tents, especially at Taconic State Park, Kennan mentioned specifics.

"The siting of tents in state parks is something that should be carefully thought through," said the town supervisor. "And especially when they are in close proximity to a community like Millerton, I think community input is my first concern. And I think the state park should be thoughtful in places that are frequently used by a community which are very beautiful and undeveloped because putting tents in the middle of or right by a pond that has no other structures, no other signs of human occupation, is really intrusive."

Serino, meanwhile, is confident the parks department wants to do right by the town and village.

"They want this program to work the right way," she said, "they don't want anything to prevent this from being a complete success."

For more information, go to [www.tentrr.com](http://www.tentrr.com) or go to [www.parks.ny.gov](http://www.parks.ny.gov).

**OPIOID EPIDEMIC** *Continued from Page A1*

admitted patients) involving any drug overdose; these statistics were taken from an age-adjusted rate per a population of 100,000 people.

Regarding drug-related arrests, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services website, [www.criminaljustice.ny.gov](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov), reported that out of a total of 1,200 felony adult arrests reported in Dutchess County in 2019, 215 adult arrests were related to drugs; out of a total of 3,070 misdemeanor adult arrests, 597 adult arrests were related to drugs.

Focusing on Dutchess County's rural municipalities, officials have been doing their utmost to keep their communities safe and aware — including organizing multiple Narcan training sessions — though some have been fortunate in having no recent reports of drug-related incidents in their municipalities.

Millbrook Mayor Tim Collopy said he was unaware of any opioid issues in his village, though he could not officially confirm those numbers. He added that, according to Millbrook Police Department Sgt. Jared Witt, there have been no drug-related arrests in the past year.

Calling this epidemic a tragedy, Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud said she believes the situation is getting "a little better here" in recent years. Within the first two years of beginning her tenure in 2018, she believes Pine Plains had lost nearly a dozen people to the opioid epidemic, including many closely connected to the town, who grew up there or were in town at the time of their death.

Speaking from her past experience as a bar owner, Cloud said she has long been aware of the issue, having watched people exchanging illegal drugs and taking drugs and recognizing that "unless the police witness it, there's nothing you can do about it."

She said she has also observed how, in many small rural towns like those in the Harlem Valley, people sometimes feel vulnerable and start taking drugs to feel good, sometimes even getting on a methadone program to trade their methadone for other drugs.

"It's been appalling and it's very much inside people's houses, almost like a private thing, so there's no way to police it really... and then a lot of parents are going out of their minds about it," Cloud said, "so we as a [Town] Board got really concerned about it pretty early in my tenure."

To that end, Cloud said the town was offered the services of a drug counselor, CaraMia Bacchiochi, by a group connected to the Council on Addiction Prevention & Education of Dutchess County (CAPE). When Bacchiochi's program ended after about a year and the funding dried up, Cloud turned to Pine Plains' Council of Churches for assistance, resulting in help being offered from the Episcopal Church of the Regeneration, located at 18 Pine St.

The church decided to host a recovery coach for the commu-

nity in its Parish House. Coming from Hudson River Healthcare and the Dutchess County Department of Community and Behavioral Health, Deborah Hagan has been providing those struggling with addiction with a listening ear along with connections to a medication assisted treatment program.

Cloud reported Hagan comes once a week and people have been able to talk with her either in-person or over the phone during the pandemic.

"That was a real gift to find her," Cloud said. "I miss CaraMia, but I think having Deborah here is huge... I am just happy that we can offer the service and that the church has really stepped up."

**Distribution line to Connecticut**

Just over the border, in Litchfield County, Conn., lawmakers are dealing with similar problems battling drugs, and trying to deal with the challenges of how drugs are distributed.

According to Bobby Lawlor, a drug intelligence officer for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, a federal program run out of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (which is a White House entity) and a former New Haven, Conn., police officer with extensive experience in narcotics investigations, it's complex.

The Lakeville Journal's Patrick L. Sullivan spoke with Lawlor in a phone interview on Saturday, May 8, in which Lawlor described the illegal drug trade. Below is a portion of Sullivan's report published in last week's Journal.

In general, street-level drug dealers in northwest Connecticut towns get their supplies from distributors in larger cities — Poughkeepsie, Danbury; Waterbury; Hartford; possibly as far afield as Springfield, Mass.

The main source for distributors in New England is New York City, which sell the drugs to larger Connecticut cities, such as Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury.

The supply lines are difficult to track, Lawlor said. "They are based on relationships and connections — guys who were in prison together, family members."

The drugs that come out of New York City flow from the southwest border of the United States, through Chicago and/or Atlanta, and then to New York.

The organizations that transport the drugs from the border, through Chicago and Atlanta, and on to New York "are very sophisticated," Lawlor said.

The distribution from New York outwards is similarly well-organized.

After that, however, the distribution becomes somewhat more haphazard and dependent on the "relationships and connections," until the drugs get to the street or retail dealers — who are often users themselves, and selling drugs in order to pay for their own supplies.

For more on Sullivan's article, go to [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com).

**ALEXIS TACKETT** *Continued from Page A1*

Library where she worked for two years while finishing her Bachelor's degree in English and creative writing at the University of Texas in San Antonio, Texas.

Tackett completed her Bachelor's degree last May and is now pursuing her Master's degree in library and information science.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Tackett's work hours were reduced, yet it was right around that time that she decided to advance her career. After hearing there was a position opening for a library assistant at the Pine Plains Free Library, Tackett applied and was hired.

Together with her partner Paul Kennedy, Tackett moved from Texas to New York last fall. She officially started her new job on Thursday, Oct. 8. In fact, Tackett said she remembers her start date clearly as she and Kennedy had to drive two days from Texas to New York to get her car

to New York. The couple now reside in the City of Hudson.

At the time she started at the Pine Plains library, Tackett said she found out Stork was preparing for maternity leave, and the two of them rushed to make sure Tackett was trained for her new role before Stork's due date. Nevertheless, Tackett said Stork was great getting her on board and while she wished they had more time together, she enjoyed working with Stork.

"The Pine Plains Free Library, to me, is the epicenter of the community," Tackett said. "I think the biggest thing I love about the library is how everyone knows each other, how close everyone is. Everybody is friendly, there's this feeling of camaraderie with everybody, and when I first got here, I felt there was a bit of a trial period with people getting to know you, but pretty quickly, I learned to love the people that

come in and out of here and it's such a great environment."

Stork went on maternity leave on Nov. 10, and though she was scheduled to come back to the library in March, Tackett said Stork let the library know that she decided not to return as she wanted to dedicate time to her new baby and felt the library was in good hands.

Tackett said Stork had texted her about her decision and asked Tackett if she was interested in becoming director. When she said she was interested, Stork responded by saying she would write her a letter of recommendation, an act Tackett believes played a major part in her getting the job. Just the same, Tackett was surprised when Beth McLiverty, president of the library's Board of Trustees, offered her the position.

"She made a joke at the next [board] meeting that she'd never seen me speechless," Tackett re-

called.

On Friday, April 2, the Pine Plains Free Library officially welcomed Tackett as its new director.

Reflecting on what she'd like to accomplish, Tackett said her biggest priority right now is bringing more young patrons into the library. Aiming to get local children involved with its programming, she recently posted a position for a youth services coordinator.

She also mentioned that the town of Pine Plains has agreed to update the library's entire internet service and that it's looking to completely change its network to improve its WiFi technology.

"It's kind of coming in with rose-colored glasses a little bit because you see so much you want to accomplish," Tackett said, "but I think ultimately what I want is to do is bring the library back as a community center."



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Deadline for the June 3<sup>RD</sup> issue will be THURSDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>, at 12 NOON for ALL Display Advertising. Classified Line Deadline is NOON on Friday, May 28<sup>TH</sup>.

This includes all sections of the newspapers.

Letters to the Editor will be accepted until Noon Friday, May 28<sup>TH</sup>.  
Email [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com)

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## The Dream of a Hero Who Can Make it all OK Again

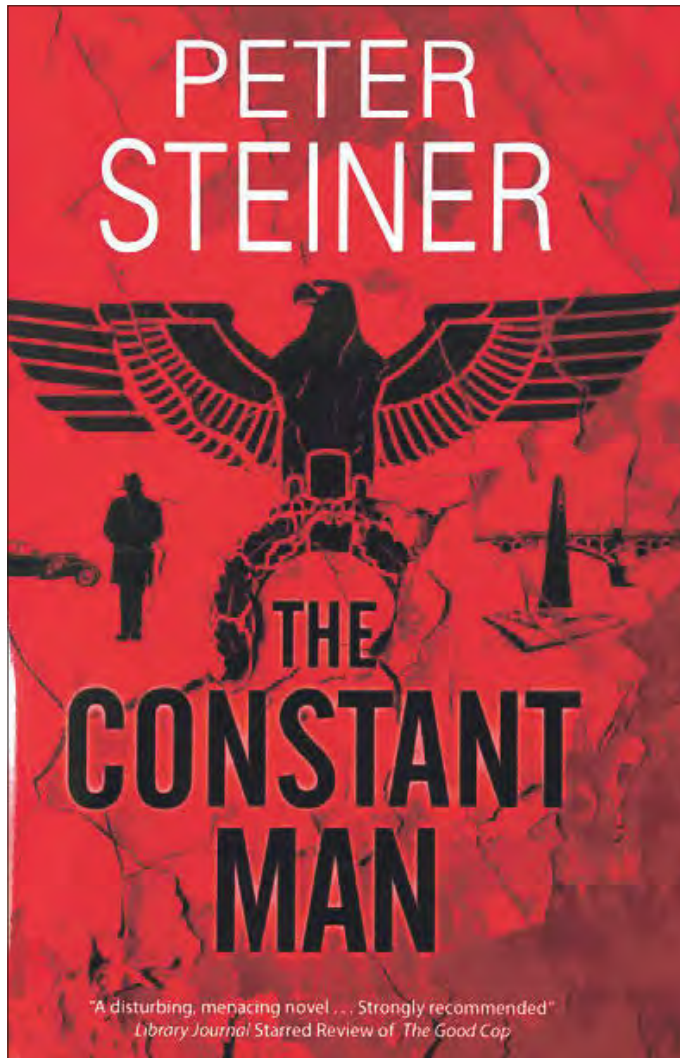
Peter Steiner from Sharon, Conn., has all the dream jobs that one might want. It's not enough that he's a talented painter, or a cartoonist for The New Yorker (and Lakeville Journal Co.), responsible for one of the most famous cartoons of the last half century ("On the internet, nobody knows you're dog").

He's also the author of two series of mystery/thrillers, one set in southern France (where he has an envy-inspiring second home) and one set in Germany during World War II.

One writes what one knows and while Steiner (happily) did not survive the Nazi regime, his parents did. Steiner himself was a professor of German before embarking on his career(s) in the arts/culture/entertainment.

He has just released the second novel in the World War II series, following "The Good Cop" with the new "The Constant Man," which will be released on June 1 by Severn House.

"The Good Cop" was released in 2019 and introduced police officer Willi



Peter Steiner's new novel, "The Constant Man," brings back police officer Willi Geismeier, trying to bring stability to the disordered world of Nazi Germany.

Geismeier, doing his best to remain untarnished in a corrupt world.

In that novel as in this new title, Steiner un-

abashedly draws parallels between the Nazis and the contemporary American political scene.

"As the son of refugees

from the Third Reich, I am naturally interested in understanding autocracy and how it can come about in an enlightened society," he said of "The Constant Man." "When autocracy started taking root in the United States in 2016 I was moved to write about it. These two novels are my personal exploration of complicity and resistance."

In this new entry in the series, Geismeier is eluding capture by the Nazis while trying to stop a serial killer who has already killed one of the police officer's close friends.

Although this is fiction that tackles tough subjects, the author says that his goal above all is to entertain the reader.

And he does so, in part, by creating a main character whom we can trust to bring order to a disordered world.

"The Constant Man" will be available at Oblong Books in Millerton, N.Y., where they will have copies signed by the author. The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon will host a Zoom talk with Steiner on Tuesday, June 8, at 7 p.m.

## IN TIME FOR SUMMER AND THE HOLIDAYS, A NEW PUZZLE

Summer is coming, and with it comes the need for things to do and games to play on rainy days. And if this wet spring is any indication, you will probably need to have quite a few rainy day pastimes on hand.

Jigsaw puzzles are a classic summer house/summertime/rainy day activity. In the early days of COVID-19, there was a brief shortage of puzzles worldwide as we all looked for ways to fill up

long hours spent at home, alone.

Many new puzzle companies have stepped in to fill the void, but what could be a better puzzle option than one that also supports a small, independently owned community newspaper such as The Lakeville Journal.

We introduced our first jigsaw puzzle last December, in time for the holidays. The image on it was a calendar drawn for The Lakeville Journal by Sha-

ron, Conn., artist Mariana van Rossen-Hoogendyk in 1958.

That puzzle sold well enough that we are now introducing a second puzzle to our collection, this time a watercolor done for us by Sharon artist Tom Goldenberg.

Goldenberg was featured in an October 2020 issue of the Compass arts and entertainment section of this newspaper, on the occasion of a show of his work opening in Amster-

dam.

Of the inspiration for the image, Goldenberg said, "The work on paper 'Map Reading' was made after studying early maps showing the configurations of ancient Italian hill towns. The topography of these places inspired the composition of this image."

We have made two versions of this puzzle. Both are 500 pieces but one is on cardboard and one is on wood. The Lakeville Journal Co. will receive 10% from each sale; Goldenberg has generously donated his work.

The puzzles are made and shipped by Create Jigsaw. They take care of 100% of the order. To find our online puzzle shop, go to [www.createjigsawpuzzles.com/sell/lakevillejournal](http://www.createjigsawpuzzles.com/sell/lakevillejournal). We will not have any puzzles for sale at our office; each puzzle is made "on demand."

And of course at our puzzle website you can still order our first design, the lovely 1958 holiday image.

— Cynthia Hochswender

Artist Tom Goldenberg of Sharon, Conn., has donated one of his watercolors to The Lakeville Journal Co. for use as a jigsaw puzzle — which is now available for sale.



## FROM HELL TO 'HAIRSPRAY' IN DIVERSE QUARTET OF FILMS AT MAHAWE

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., is screening four extremely diverse titles over two subsequent weekends. All films start at 7 p.m.

The series begins on Friday, May 28, with "La La Land," famous as much for the singing and dancing by Ryan Gosling as it is for the famous/notorious 2017 Academy Awards-night snafu in which it was involved.

"Glory" will show on Saturday, May 29. In this 1989 film, (which won multiple Academy Awards, with no snafus), director Edward Zwick shows the wartime suffering of Black soldiers in the Union's first African-American regiment during the Civil War: the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment.

"Cool Hand Luke" ... well, what need one say about "Cool Hand Luke" other than Paul Newman, 1967. One of Newman's most famous films, it won four Academy Awards in 1968 — and continues to win awards, including being inducted into the Online Film and Television Association Hall of Fame in 2017. See it on the big screen on Friday, June 4.

Following a brutal film about the Civil War and a film about brutality in a Southern prison, the Mahaiwe wraps up the series with another musical, "Hairspray," on Saturday, June 5.

The first mainstream film by director John Waters, it immortalized its young star, Ricki Lake, who leads a cast that also includes Sonny Bono, Divine, Debbie Harry, Jerry Stiller, Ric Ocasek and Pia Zadora.

The Mahaiwe has gone to great lengths to make visitors feel safe from COVID-19. Audiences will be capped at 75 guests, with space between pods. Masks and 6-foot social distancing are required inside the theater.

The theater has a new medical-grade MERV 13 HEPA-filtered and bipolar ionized air management system. There is touchless ticketing. All Mahaiwe personnel will be fully vaccinated.

For information, go to [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org) or call the box office at 413-528-0100, Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

— Cynthia Hochswender



PHOTO BY TOM GOLDBERG



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ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

# Little Gifts of Love and Thanks to Frontline Health Care Workers

Many people spent their down-time during the COVID-19 quarantine learning to paint.

That wasn't an option for Janet Andre Block, already an accomplished artist whose work is well-known, especially in her hometown of Salisbury, Conn.

The pandemic brought up two impulses that dovetailed. Like many of us, she wanted to find a way to while away the hours; and like many of us, she wanted to help. Somehow.

So she began to make small paintings, of diverse subjects including her trademark evocations of voluptuous pears. Each canvas she created was 2 inches by 2 inches; and each was given as a gift of thanks to a staff member at the Bellevue/New York University Hospital Emergency Department in New York City.

"I've had a five-plus year connection with the Emergency Department at Bellevue/NYU where I curated an art gallery for the



PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

Janet Andre Block of Salisbury, Conn., donated 400 2-inch by 2-inch canvases with her paintings on them to health care workers at a New York City hospital.

staff and students. All the art was donated and we have created a beautiful, peaceful environment for people who have chosen to take on a critical and tough job on our behalf.

"When COVID hit," she said, "I was inspired to add

an additional project."

In all, she painted (and donated) 400 of the small canvases. An amalgam of them all is in the photo above, behind Block.

Block continues to do work for sale, which can be found at Honeychurch

Home in Salisbury, Joie Maison also in Salisbury and, until the end of May, at Sweet William's coffee shop/bakery, also in Salisbury.

To learn more about the artist, go to [www.janetan-dreblock.com](http://www.janetan-dreblock.com).

KARMA: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

# Random Acts of Kindness: the Secret Sauce to a Happy, Healthy Life

The woman in line ahead of me sensed my panic.

I had taken my elderly mother to an appointment for her second COVID-19 vaccine, and upon arriving we found ourselves at the end of a long line that snaked several times around a cavernous auditorium. Due to mobility issues, my mother has difficulty standing for more than five or 10 minutes at a time. With about 200 people in front of us, this was not going to be a quick in-and-out as was the case at the Torrington Area Health District clinic four weeks earlier. My heart sank.

With no one nearby to assist us, we were about to leave when a middle-aged woman approached us from near the front of the line and insisted we exchange places. In that moment, this stranger's selfless act of kindness restored my faith in humanity. Were it not for social distancing rules, I would have hugged her. She will never know the depth of my gratitude. But, hopefully, she benefited somehow from her benevolence.

Have you ever noticed that when you do something nice for someone, you get a warm and fuzzy feeling inside, too? There's

a scientific reason for that. Studies have shown that altruism increases dopamine and serotonin, the feel-good chemicals in the brain.

A serotonin rush causes feelings of satisfaction and well-being. Doing something nice for someone also boosts endorphins, a phenomenon referred to as "helper's high," resulting in increased energy levels and happiness, and decreased stress and anxiety.

Kindness also releases the hormone oxytocin, which reduces inflammation and protects the heart by dilating blood vessels, thereby lowering blood pressure and strengthening the heart, both emotionally and physically. Maybe that's where the adage "you have a big heart" came from.

Likewise, the teachings of Buddha reveal that the simple path to happiness comes from unconditional compassion, or *karuna* as it's referred to in Buddhism. True compassion, as Buddha has taught, is not helping others and then seeking praise or fame or glory.

In other words, true compassion is not the form of help where we ask others to repay our kindness or even thank us; it is daily living that is helpful to all, something as simple

as conserving water or picking up trash along the roadway, or holding a door open for the person behind you.

Now that society is slowly starting to resemble pre-pandemic life, this may be the perfect time to reach out to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, strangers through random acts of kindness. When out in public, smile and say hello to people you may pass every day but have never spoken to, or while waiting in line in the grocery store — still socially distanced, of course.

Spring is the perfect time to help an elderly neighbor. Offer to mow their lawn, weed the garden, walk the dog or simply invite them for a cup of tea and a chat. Check on someone who has been going through a tough time. Kindness binds communities.

Building your relationship with others will have a positive effect on your emotional well-being as you take time out from the stressors in your own life and focus on helping

others.

A few weeks ago I returned to my car after shopping and found a small rubber ducky tucked into the door handle. A note tag, in the shape of the iconic Jeep grill, dangled from an iridescent purple ribbon. The message read: "Beep Beep, Sweet Jeep. You have been DUCKED by a fellow Jeeper." And on the reverse side, "Love, J & L." I may never meet J or L, but I'd be willing to guess that they have a big heart.

Kindness just may be the secret to a happy, healthy life.

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

# Horror and Comedy Horror

Who doesn't like a good horror story? You there with your hand raised, please skip to the last paragraph while we cover the seriously disturbing stuff:

The great silent films of the 1920s were often horror movies, which may have been the inspiration for John Krasinski's "A Quiet Place" (2018). When his movie opens you see an empty street, then someone tiptoeing through a ransacked store. You hear nothing, and you will hear nothing for most of the next tense and terrifying 90 minutes. You are in a post-apocalyptic America that is occupied by blind monsters who have an acute sense of hearing. If they hear you, you are dead meat, quite literally. The story centers on the Abbot family: Lee (Krasinski), Evelyn (Emily Blunt) and their children, who live silently in the basement of a house in a deserted town while Lee searches for a solution. "A Quiet Place" was filmed in Pawling, N.Y., on a relatively low budget, but it was a critical and commercial success. If you saw it, you'll recall the heartbreaking but hopeful ending and will want to see "A Quiet Place Part II" which will be released on May 28. If you missed it, go to Amazon Prime and rent or buy it, from \$2.99.

"The Terror," based on Dan Simmons' novel, is an unusual historical horror tale that dramatizes a true story: The Royal Navy's expedition to the Arctic in 1845, led by Captain John Franklin. His two ships head into uncharted territory, searching for the Northwest Passage, and are soon trapped in the ice. The crew faces

two kinds of horror: the struggle to survive, leading to mutiny, murder and cannibalism — along with being stalked by a mysterious creature that lives on the deadly ice.

This all sounds impossibly grim, but the writing, characterization and striking production design lift it beyond the genre into one of the rare TV shows you will not soon forget. The cast, all British actors, is superb. Ten episodes on Hulu. (Note: there is a second season subtitled "Infamy," which tells an entirely different story.)

I don't quite get comedy horror. Are they two sides of the same emotional coin? Like anxiety and depression? Whatever, there are more than a few comedy/horror shows out there, and you could do worse than Netflix's British import "Crazyhead."

Amy (Cara Theobald) and Raquel (Susan Wokoma) are two friends with the ability to see that some ordinary citizens are actually demons. Their mission is to hunt down these demons and exorcise them, except when Raquel is at Pilates class.

Although the results are occasionally violent and gruesome, you are unlikely to be scared. But the two gals are fine and the blunt British humor leads to some lovely, hilarious lines. This show has been compared favorably to "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," a classic series that I have never watched. Yes, a shameful gap in my cultural knowledge that I promise to rectify, as soon as I take my copy of "Middlemarch" off the shelf and actually open it. Six episodes on Netflix.

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Look for a new calendar of events at our website, [www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar](http://www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar). We will also include the calendar in our print edition as space allows.

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# James Maestri earns Eagle Scout status

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — James Maestri, who recently earned an Eagle Scout badge, has always loved the Scouts, having joined when he was in first grade. "Boy Scouts has given me the opportunity to explore nature, learn a variety of subjects while completing merit badges and allowed me to meet new people. I would recommend Scouts to all young kids," he said.

In this time of COVID-19, many things have become more difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. But James is a senior at Millbrook High School and will be going to college next fall, so this was do or die, he said. With the help of Mike Herzog, a Scout Leader and a Trustee on the Millbrook Village Board, James said he found the perfect Eagle Scout project, and he worked hard to achieve his goal. To achieve Eagle Scout status, one must complete a community project.

Much to the pleasure of the entire staff at Village Hall, James built shelves to store files that



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Millbrook High School senior James Maestri has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, capping off a career in Scouting that began when he was in first grade.**

had previously been stored on the floor. According to everyone at Village Hall, he did so with just a little help from his friends,

and he did a terrific job.

James, the son of a very proud mom, Ann Scaglione, has two older siblings: a brother, Robbie, and a sister, Isabella. He moved from Rockland County to Millbrook in 2014, when he was in sixth grade, and he said it was a difficult time to make such a drastic change. But he had been in the Scouts since first grade, and immediately joined the local group, which made the transition a little easier.

In particular, he loved summer camp, and camping in general, he said. He has all the merit badges to show for his fondness for camping and his dedication to Scouting.

James worked on his shelving project every Wednesday since October 2020, and the excellent outcome is proof of his diligence. He mentioned he is grateful to Herzog, and also to Dawn and Brett Blackburn for their help, especially for their assistance with administrative papers.

Herzog was happy to give James praise.

"Much is expected from any individual who achieves the rank of Eagle Scout," said Herzog. "I'm confident that James will meet that responsibility with the enthusiasm and good nature he has always shown in Troop 32."

James' family is planning some sort of celebration this

spring, when they'll also be celebrating his high school graduation. They praised the parade held by the village last year when COVID made graduation celebrations impossible; decisions are still being made on how the school will celebrate in 2021, right around the corner.

James is looking forward to moving ahead with his education, but is still deciding exactly what he wants to do. Something in business, he thinks; he particularly likes the possibility of a career in real estate, but said he isn't sure what path he'll take.

The newly minted Eagle Scout is a hard worker, and has worked at Marona's Market in the village for the past three years, something he has thoroughly enjoyed.

He also loves hiking, and being outdoors in general. His family has two shepherd dogs and three chickens. There were more chickens, but hungry foxes have depleted his little flock.

Other things he likes include Legos and board games, and he said he loved being part of the drama club at school.

One thing is certain: Whatever James decides to do, his strong work ethic and many skills will support him. As will his character and determination, just as they helped him achieve the Scouts' highest honor of Eagle Scout.



PHOTO BY PAM FREEMAN

**Donna Coane, who prefers to be called Ohstonha Ohskennononon, led participants at the Blessing Our Sacred Earth ceremony at Innisfree Garden on Sunday, May 16, to four different stations in the garden, where prayers were offered and seeds were brought for the occasion.**

## Innisfree Garden helps bless the 'Sacred Earth'

MILLBROOK — The much anticipated ceremony, Blessing Our Sacred Earth, described as an interfaith celebration of God's creation, was held at Innisfree Garden on Sunday, May 16.

The annual event was co-sponsored by Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook and Innisfree Garden. The celebration was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but was able to be held this year as more people have been vaccinated

and restrictions are lifting.

The Rev. Matt Calkins of Grace Church was joined this year by The Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF, who offered insight on the Franciscan tradition of creation care.

Donna Coane, who prefers to be called Ohstonha Ohskennononon, offered an Iroquois Thanksgiving prayer.

Tickets for the event sold out early; 102 people were registered to attend.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe

 **The MILLERTON NEWS**  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### Legal Notice

The Town of Pine Plains Planning Board will be holding a special meeting on Wednesday, May 26th, 2021 at 7:30pm. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom and broadcasted to the Planning Board's YouTube channel at this URL: [www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Mq6XtGozf20YyvEzVeRA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Mq6XtGozf20YyvEzVeRA)

Tricia Devine  
Town of Pine Plains  
Planning Board Secretary  
05-20-21

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, at a meeting held on the 13th day of May, 2021, duly adopted the resolution published herewith subject to a permissive referendum.

Dated: Millerton, New York, May 13, 2021.

Gail Wheeler, Town Clerk  
BOND RESOLUTION  
DATED MAY 13, 2021.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE 3 OF A NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE FACILITY WITH FUEL DEPOT ON A TOWN OWNED PARCEL OF LAND ON ROUTE 22 IN MILLERTON, NEW YORK, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$3,224,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$2,929,000 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF.

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital project hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, have been performed; and

WHEREAS, the capital project hereinafter described has been determined to be a Unlisted Action pursuant to the regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, the implementation of which as proposed, the Town Board has determined will not result in any significant adverse environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, it is now

desired to authorize the financing thereof; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York as follows:

**Section 1.** The construction of Phase 3 of a new highway garage facility with fuel depot on a Town owned parcel of land on Route 22 in Millerton, New York, in and for the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, site improvements and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$3,224,000.

**Section 2.** The plan for the financing of the aforesaid maximum estimated cost is as follows:

a) by the issuance of not exceeding \$2,929,000 serial bonds of said Town, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, and **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** the amount of serial bonds to be issued shall be reduced by any grants-in-aid received therefor; and

b) by the expenditure of not exceeding \$295,000 current available fund monies hereby appropriated therefor.

**Section 3.** It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is thirty years, pursuant to subdivision 11(a) (1) of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law. It is hereby further determined that the maximum maturity of the serial bonds herein authorized will exceed five years.

**Section 4.** The faith and credit of said Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property in said Town, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable.

**Section 5.** Subject to

the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Supervisor of said Town, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Supervisor, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

**Section 6.** All other matters except as provided herein relating to the bonds herein authorized including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed herein and the manner of execution of the same, including the consolidation with other issues, and also the ability to issue bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, shall be determined by the Supervisor, the chief fiscal officer of such Town. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals, in addition to those required by Section 51.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Supervisor shall determine consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

**Section 7.** The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said Town is not authorized to expend money, or

2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

**Section 8.** This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise

set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

**Section 9.** Upon this resolution taking effect, the same shall be published in full or summary form in the official newspaper of said Town for such purpose, together with a notice of the Town Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

**Section 10. THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM.**

05-20-21

### PUBLIC NOTICE RFP for Town of North East and Village of Millerton Joint Government Operations Greenhouse Gas (GHG)-related Studies and Plans

The Town of North East is seeking proposals for the following Government Operations greenhouse gas (GHG) studies and plans, for the Town of North East and the Village of Millerton, in accordance with the NYS Climate Smart Communities program, as part of their shared goal to achieve certification as Climate Smart Communities:

2019 or 2020 Government Operations Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory

Government Operations Climate Action Plan.

RFP packets will be available starting 05/14/2021 at North East Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Avenue, Millerton NY between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Additional Town Clerk office hours are Wednesdays 5:00-7:00pm, and Friday from 9:00am-12:30pm. E-mail requests shall also be accepted.

RFPs shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked on the outside: Town of North East Government Operations Greenhouse Gas-related Studies and Plans and be delivered by mail or in person to the Town Clerk's Office, North East Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave., Millerton, NY 12546 by 2:00pm on June 10, 2021, when they will be opened and publicly read and available for public inspection.

The Town of North East reserves the right to accept only that proposal which it deems best aligned with the shared interests of the Town of North

East and the Village of

Millerton.

"This project has been funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation."

Dated: May 13, 2021.

By Order of the North East  
Town Board  
Gail Wheeler, Town Clerk  
05-20-21

### Legal Notice

SUMMONS, NOTICE AND BRIEF STATEMENT OF NATURE OF ACTION CONSUMER CREDIT TRANSACTION SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF DUTCHESS Index No. 2019-53431 M&T BANK, Plaintiff, -against- CANDIDA FINK; JOSEPH FINK; RABBI MOSHE KALONYMUS FINK; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF LEWIS W. FINK, deceased; et al Defendants. TO THE DEFENDANT(S): All Unknown Heirs, Devisees or Personal Representatives of Lewis W. Fink and any of his, her or any of their successors in right, title and interest YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon plaintiff's attorneys an answer to the complaint in this action within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if the Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to answer, judgment will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Trial is desired in the County of DUTCHESS. The basis of venue designated above is that the real property, which is the subject matter of this action, is located in the County of DUTCHESS, New York. NOTICE: YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED

THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING A PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Hon. Christi J. Acker Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on May 6, 2021 and entered on May 7, 2021 in the DUTCHESS County Clerk's Office, in Poughkeepsie, New York. The Nature of this action pertains to a note and mortgage held by Plaintiff on real property owned by the above named defendants as specified in the complaint filed in this action. The above named defendants have failed to comply with the terms and provisions of the said mortgage and said instruments secured by said mortgage, by failing and omitting to pay the balance due and owing and the Plaintiff has commenced a foreclosure action. Plaintiff is seeking a judgment foreclosing its mortgage against the real property and premises which situate in the Town of Dover, County of Dutchess and State of New York and is commonly known as 272 Lime Kiln Rd., Dover Plains, New York 12522 and all other relief as to the Court may seem just and equitable. DATED: May 10, 2021 SCHILLER, KNAPP, LEFKOWITZ & HERTZEL, LLP BY: WILLIAM B. SCHILLER, ESQ. Attorneys for Plaintiff 950 New Loudon Road Latham, New York 12110 Telephone: (518) 786-9069 69568.

05-20-21

05-27-21

06-03-21

06-10-21

EDITORIAL

The great mask debate of New York State is settled

We only wanted it to be as simple as following a doctor's order to figure out if we still had to wear face masks in the state of New York, as the coronavirus pandemic thankfully appears to be waning, after the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky said most Americans could stop wearing masks on Thursday, May 13.

Dr. Walensky made breaking news when she announced last week that after about 15 months, fully vaccinated Americans could finally start going about their normal activities again without wearing face coverings, whether indoors or outdoors, and without social distancing.

"If you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing the things that you had stopped doing because of the pandemic," she said.

The sighs of relief could practically be heard from coast to coast. But then U.S. residents realized that the final decision rests with the governors from each individual state. Like in New York, where until Monday, May 17, Gov. Andrew Cuomo was straddling the fence as to whether he was going to drop the mask mandate. He announced that morning New York State would indeed follow the CDC's new guidance.

According to Dr. Walensky, Americans who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine must continue to wear masks. Masks are also still required for people who go into crowded indoor settings including hospitals, airplanes, buses, trains, nursing homes, homeless shelters, schools and jails. Face coverings and social distancing are also suggested for those with compromised immune systems.

The new rule will go into effect in New York starting Wednesday, May 19, striking the statewide Executive Order the governor enacted mandating masks in April 2020. Private venues will still be able to enforce their own rules as they see fit.

Back when Cuomo instituted that Executive Order requiring everyone age 2 and older to wear a mask when in public or unable to stay socially distant about 800 New Yorkers were dying due to COVID a day. Now, about 20 COVID deaths are recorded daily, according to NBC New York. Those numbers fell to 11 on Monday, the lowest single-day count since last October, according to the governor. Hospitalizations have also reportedly dropped by 60% in the last month.

Initially, last week after Dr. Walensky announced the CDC's new guidelines, Cuomo said he wanted to "review... them in consultation with [New York State Health Commissioner] Dr. [Howard] Zucker and our partners and health experts in surrounding states."

Meanwhile, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont opted to drop the mask requirement while New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy decided to keep the mask mandate in place as of May 17.

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro was one of a number of county executives from the Hudson Valley who had urged Cuomo to get behind the CDC's new guidance. He made a joint statement with five other county executives calling for the governor to allow fully vaccinated residents to return to normalcy and discard masks. They noted that active cases, hospitalizations and deaths have been steadily dropping day by day and more people have been receiving vaccinations. In fact, more than 50% of the state's adult population is now fully vaccinated.

We are glad to see consensus on this issue between our state and the CDC. In the short time since Thursday's announcement it was confusing for folks who didn't know who to listen to: the CDC or their governor. Conflicting rules would present a real challenge for retailers trying to enforce state laws requiring masks when shoppers could easily think they have the right to go maskless, placing the duty of enforcement on clerks and salespeople and other workers who shouldn't have to bear such responsibilities. And as we know, the issue of wearing masks can get pretty heated, which is why it's never great for there to be a lot of gray area as to whether we still have to wear masks.

The New York Times conducted a survey with 723 epidemiologists this month to track the virus. According to its findings, the end of the pandemic will come "when at least 70% of Americans of all ages are vaccinated." The report continued to state that "the country is not there yet. Nationwide, 36% of Americans are fully vaccinated, and the pace of vaccinations has slowed."

In order to truly feel comfortable living mask free, we believe America will have to meet the minimum threshold set by the epidemiologists in The Times' survey of 70% of U.S. residents being fully vaccinated.

So while it seems most of us can now pull off our masks, for those who can't, or shouldn't, but want to, the key is to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccine lines that once took hours now only take minutes, so there really are no excuses. It will not only help protect you, it will protect those around you.

For more information on how to register for a COVID-19 vaccine in New York, go to [www.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](http://www.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov).



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

'Sunbathing'



North East assessor defends her decision

Last week's paper contained a letter in which the writer questioned the propriety of how my office of North East Assessor determines the status and assessment of "permanent structures" upon real property. For the benefit of the public, I will explain how I address such matters.

All property assessments in the State of New York are governed by state-wide law. Real Property Tax Law Section 300 provides that all "Real Property" in this State is subject to taxation unless specifically exempted by law. Section 102(12) (b) further provides that "Real Property" includes "buildings and other articles and structures ... erected upon, under or above the land, or affixed thereto." In determining whether a structure is attached to the land,

courts have set forth a three-prong test which requires the assessor to determine whether 1.) the structure is annexed to the use of realty or merely just sited on the realty; 2.) the structure is adapted to be used on the realty; and 3.) the party installing it intends to make it a permanent part of the realty. Typically, a shed fits squarely within this definition.

The issue raised by last week's letter seems to pertain to whether a shed is permanent in nature. Permanence is not equated with perpetuity. It is sufficient that the structure be intended to be on the land for a period of the land's current use or until replaced.

The fact that a structure may be moved is not sufficient to exclude it from the definition of Real Property. As an example, a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pine Plains church looking forward to returning to 'normal'

It will soon be Memorial Day in Pine Plains and now that so many in our community have been vaccinated, we are returning to some pre-COVID traditions, such as our town's annual parade and our church's Chicken BBQ!

The Presbyterian Church is sponsoring their Community Chicken BBQ immediately following our town parade and pickup is between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The takeout dinners include a generous serving of In-Chase's infamous chicken barbecue and include half a chicken

(leg, thigh, breast, wing) plus sides of mac and cheese, coleslaw, dinner roll and brownie.

Reservations may be made by phoning the Presbyterian Church at 518-398-7117 and leaving a voicemail or by emailing [dyanwapnick@optimum.net](mailto:dyanwapnick@optimum.net).

Takeout boxes are \$16 each and you may pay by cash, check or the Venmo app (@FUPCPP/FirstUnitedPresbyterianChurchPinePlains).

Thank you for all your support!

Jeanne Valentine-Chase  
Pine Plains

backyard shed is meant to serve the purposes of the property, while a temporary office trailer on a construction site serves the purposes of the construction, not the use of the land.

While I can sympathize with notions of common sense, my job as assessor is to administer the laws as they are written and interpreted by the courts in a fair, impartial and unbiased fashion without regard to the identity of the owner or my personal feelings. In each of the last 14 years, I have tried to produce a fair and equitable assessment roll so that all property owners will know that they are paying only their fair share of the tax burden.

However, the actions taken by an assessor are not without meaningful review. If any taxpayer disagrees with my

office's determinations and assessments, the owner has the right to file a grievance so that the Board of Assessment Review may determine whether or not the assessment is in error.

A complaint form, Form RP-524, can be obtained by calling 518-789-3300, ext. 605 or online at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov). All grievances must be received on or before Wednesday, May 26, Grievance Day, which is when the Board of Assessment Review convenes to hear all complaints.

I hope that this information is useful to the people of our Town in understanding how and why certain structures are considered to be taxable Real Property under the law.

Katherine Johnson, IAO  
Sole Elected Assessor for  
the Town of North East  
North East

Ransom and hacking? Blame Queen Elizabeth I

History always repeats. In the 16th century, England had a strong Navy for defense. They defeated the Spanish Armada (mainly thanks to a "divine" storm — they were outnumbered 20 to one at the time) and could protect the country. But Her Majesty's Navy was not capable of effective offensive force — with almost no foreign ports, no territories to rely on support from. In short, they could defend but could not expand.

Meanwhile, the Spanish and the Portuguese (staunch enemies of non-Catholic England) had

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

huge Navies and had begun the plunder of gold, jewels and silver from the Americas. The Spanish and Portuguese galleons were well armed and their Navies ready to fight and defend precious cargo, ports and settlements. It was only when the ore and treasure needed to be carried back to the motherland on the vast open seas that the ships were

Women's role in climate change

Dear EarthTalk: What exactly is "climate feminism?"  
— Jim M., Lorton, Va.

Climate change impacts the everyday lives of all citizens around the globe, but certain communities are disproportionately affected. Women, in particular, shoulder a disproportionate burden as they are most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods but lack the needed resources to properly respond to climate disasters. With women representing over 70% of the total global population living in poverty, the United Nations estimates that 80% of those displaced by climate change are women.

At the very core of female climate change vulnerability is the pervasiveness of patriarchy and gender hierarchies. Flooding, drought and other effects of climate change, such as increased heat and air pollution, can disproportionately impact women, particularly pregnant women, causing premature births, stillbirths and other problems.

"[The climate crisis] grows out of a patriarchal system that is also entangled with racism, white supremacy and extractive capitalism," says author and climate activist Katharine K. Wilkinson. And while women may be the most impacted by climate disasters, they have limited opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.

Despite historical setbacks, climate feminists have made much progress in recent years,

with increased female representation in government roles and leadership positions. Today, many of our climate justice leaders are women. Youth activist Greta Thunberg has captured the attention of global leaders, demanding they take immediate action against climate change. U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez developed and proposed the Green New Deal, pushing the U.S. government a step closer to recognizing the scale of our climate crisis and enacting drastic environmental policy changes.

That said, how can we help advance climate feminism? Men in positions of power can certainly change the face of climate leadership by listening to the ideas of women from diverse backgrounds — and stepping back for women to make the decisions and set the vision.

Most important, women need more leadership positions in local sustainable management and development in addition to increased representation in the federal government. National climate policies that are gender-responsive can not only bring greater responsiveness to the public's needs but also help dismantle ethnic or gender divides in the environmental field, pointing toward a more peaceful and sustainable future.

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

vulnerable.

So, what Queen Elizabeth did was license privateers, especially Sir Francis Drake — to ply their trade on the open seas that belonged to no one. If Drake's cutthroats happened to run up against a well-loaded Spanish galleon, well then, it was just a privateer who stole the cargo. As part of his license as a privateer (never a pirate), he paid the Crown for that license to freely trade in foreign waters. When the Spanish protested Drake was little more than a licensed pirate of the Queen's, paperwork was able to show that she never ordered him to attack anybody.

Today, Russia has a very strong defense. There can be no question about that. Any nation thinking they could attack and prevail against Russia would be quickly shown how wrong-headed such thinking is.

Similarly, Russia learned after Afghanistan how feeble their offensive capability is. Assist local insurrections? Sure. Crimea and Syria prove that. Actually go conquer any country on their own? Unlikely. So, how does Russia handle the growing influence,

power, wealth of the USA, how can they slow that down and level the playing field? The same way Elizabeth I did — license privateers to rob, pillage, kidnap and ransom wealthy American interests.

Computers and the machines' need to link up are the vulnerable sea-routes of today. All the ransom attacks, hacking, pillaging of American computer systems are, in effect, the Sir Francis Drake gambit replayed. It will all stop one day, just as it did for all the Caribbean privateer "pirates" who were, at one time, secretly working for the queen: Edward Teach (aka Blackbeard), Jean-David Nau, Jack Rackham, Black Bart, "Red Legs" Greaves, Henry Jennings and many more.

Why did they stop? Diplomacy, tit-for-tat attacks on English shipping, and the pirates were all hung, made the scapegoats. If I were a hacker for Putin or Beijing, I'd think about the end-game here...

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

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly,

fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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Monday at 12 p.m. except holiday weeks when a special deadline is published in advance

**RATES**  
\$12 for the first 15 words or less. 40¢ for each additional word. Call us for our special 4-time rate. All line ads must be prepaid. Discover, Mastercard, Visa, and American Express accepted.

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## HELP WANTED

**DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH PEOPLE?:** Have you had retail management experience? Habitat for Humanity of NW CT seeks a manager for their retail operation in Canaan. 20 hours a week initially. Some lifting, and weekends are required. Experience driving a small box truck is a plus. Please forward your resume and cover letter to [jobs@habitatnwt.org](mailto:jobs@habitatnwt.org).

**DRIVER:** For the Lakeville Journal Company for newspaper routes, part time Wednesdays, Thursdays and some Fridays. Call Janet Manko. 860-435-9873, x201 or email publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

## HELP WANTED

**EXPERIENCED JOB SUPERVISORS, SKILLED CARPENTERS, TRADESMEN AND APPRENTICES:** Wanted for local quality construction company/your excellent team and work on challenging, exciting projects. Contact [prutting@prutting.com](mailto:prutting@prutting.com).

**FLOOD SANITATION CDL DRIVER:** \$25 per hour. 518-789-4678.

**FULL TIME WEED WACKER AND LANDSCAPING:** \$17.00 per hour. Sharon. Please call 860-309-4482.

**HELP WANTED, CUSTODIAN AND OR COMMERCIAL CLEANER:** 30-35 hrs. per week or part time. 5-7 years experience. Position is early morning start, M-F. Must be reliable and detail oriented. 845-546-7657.

**ISABELLA FREEDMAN JEWISH RETREAT CENTER:** A year-round 120-person retreat facility that is located in Falls Village, CT. We are currently seeking: Housekeeper (Part time) Prep Cook (Full time) Porter (Full time) Retreat Associate (Full time) Sous Chef (Full time). For more details please visit our website at <https://hazon.org/about/jobs-internships/> and email a copy of your resume to [jobs@hazon.org](mailto:jobs@hazon.org).

**LAWN MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING:** Well established business seeks full-time & part-time employees. Driver's license, Ability to drive truck & trailer, Experience with Zero-Turn mowing equipment. References required. Quality work ethic a must. Competitive wages based on experience. 860-824-0053.

**RECEPTIONIST PT/FT:** Busy, well-established general dental practice in Sharon, CT. Monday-Friday. Looking for someone bright-eyed, motivated and pleasant. Email resume to [office@drnwwea.org](mailto:office@drnwwea.org) or call 860-364-0200.

## TAG SALES

### STORMVILLE, NY

**STORMVILLE AIRPORT FLEA MARKET:** MAY 29, 30. 8 am to 4 pm, rain or shine. 428 Route 216, Stormville, NY. Free Admission and Parking. No pets. Vendor space available. 845-221-6561. 6 FT. SOCIAL DISTANCE, FACE MASK REQUIRED. [www.stormvilleairportflea-market.com](http://www.stormvilleairportflea-market.com).

### NORTH CANAAN, CT

**TAG SALE:** MAY 22 & 23 Saturday and Sunday 9:00am to 4:00pm. 11 College Hill Rd, Canaan, CT. Books, housewares, decorative items, vintage, home and garden, kitchenware, games, sport, etc. Masks required. Payment by Cash, Venmo, Zelle or PayPal.

# Real Estate

## HELP WANTED

**NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER:** Seeking an organized Senior Administrative Assistant to provide high-level support to the Admin unit. Must have experience with data systems and software and 4 years office experience. Bilingual/Spanish speaking preferred. For a full position description, visit [necmillerton.org/employment](http://necmillerton.org/employment) Submit cover letter and resume to [info@necmillerton.org](mailto:info@necmillerton.org) EEO/ EPO.

**PAINTERS WANTED:** Full time, experienced painters wanted with a minimum of 5 years experience. Must have transportation, must be reliable and have a neat and clean appearance. We offer a 401K Plan and pay with payroll company. Starting pay \$18 per hour. Please respond to [illpaintit@yahoo.com](mailto:illpaintit@yahoo.com) with name, experience, desired salary and contact information. 5 positions available.

**SEEKING PART-TIME/FULL-TIME NANNY/BABYSITTER:** for our children ages 4 and 6. Includes child-care, meal prep, and light housekeeping. Location in Sharon. Ideally starting around May 15th, but flexible on timing. Vaccination required. Email Jen for more details: [naylor99@gmail.com](mailto:naylor99@gmail.com).

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

**FOR SALE:** Vision Fitness Recumbent Bike, R2600HRT. \$150. Barely used. Dale @ 516-473-6973.

Email your classified ad to Lyndee Stalter at [classified@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:classified@lakevillejournal.com).

## SERVICES OFFERED

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

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

**HOMESERVICES:** Lawn mowing, power washing, tree and plant trimming, fencing. Call 203-826-4744 or 203-207-1330.

**I OFFER HOUSEKEEPING, HOME AND COMMERCIAL CLEANING:** I clean kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms, windows, etc. You will love the results! Call or text 845-366-0107.

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

**WANT A PERFECTLY CLEAN HOME OR OFFICE?:** Contact Dilma's Perfectionistas at 860-491-4622 or email [DilmasPerfectionistas@yahoo.com](mailto:DilmasPerfectionistas@yahoo.com) Experienced. Thorough & Honest. Excellent References. Total satisfaction guaranteed.

## BOATS, MOTORS, ACCESSORIES

**FOR SALE:** 17 ft Grumman aluminum Canoe. \$250. Dale @ 516-473-6973.

## WANTED

**WANTED TO BUY:** Collectibles, Antiques, Oddities. For Cash. Call 914-263-2917.

## REAL ESTATE

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:** Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT

## Coaching opportunities for the 2021-2022 school year Part-time

The Hotchkiss School seeks athletic coaches committed to the growth and well-being of our students. Our expansive athletics programs include options for students to participate and grow alongside their teammates. With 94% of students participating in a team sport, athletics are an essential part of The Hotchkiss School experience. You'll find students cheering each other on during matches, competing in off-season intramural teams, and challenging themselves beyond what they thought possible.

Coaching opportunities available for the 2021-2022 school year include:

- Boys Varsity Soccer, assistant coach
- Varsity Volleyball, head or assistant coach
- Boys Varsity Hockey, assistant coach
- Boys Varsity Squash, assistant coach
- Varsity Diving, head coach
- Varsity Baseball, head coach
- Varsity Sailing, head coach
- Varsity Rowing, assistant coach

To learn more about our Athletics Program, visit [hotchkiss.org/athletics](http://hotchkiss.org/athletics)

For details regarding qualifications, duties and responsibilities, compensation, and how to apply, visit [Hotchkiss.org/careers](http://Hotchkiss.org/careers) > view current career openings for Staff positions.



The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT

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Visit [hotchkiss.org/careers](http://hotchkiss.org/careers) to learn more!



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- Oversee outside vendors and follow-up on their requirements
- Negotiate contracts with tradesmen and oversee projects to completion
- Use of Excel, Word, and email required to communicate and organize documents to run property, including timesheets for garden and maintenance team
- Keep record of all work, including materials and supplies

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