

MILLERTON

Village Board tables public hearing on sign law amendment

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — Residents interested in finding out how the Village Board intends to amend Millerton’s sign law to prohibit profane language on any future sign, billboard, flag or banner in the village will have to wait a while, as the board decided to table its discussion on the sign law until further notice.

Though regulating sign content is an all-too-familiar First Amendment issue, village officials were forced to consider it last month after residents concerned with a flag bearing an obscene message at a home at the intersection of routes 22 and 44 complained. Hanging off the front of a private home just south of the Route 22 traffic light, a flag bearing the words “F*** Biden and F*** You For Voting for Him!” has shocked many passersby and local residents, a number of whom submitted their concerns and complaints to local officials as well as to this newspaper (read letters to the editor at www.tricornernews.com).

The issue was discussed at length during the Village Board meeting on Monday, March 22. As part of its discussion, village trustees, with guidance from Village Attorney Ian MacDonald, considered the complications of regulating sign content without infringing on First Amendment rights, as well as what might be considered content based and non-content based restrictions.

“That’s always the challenge,” MacDonald said during an interview on Friday, April 16, “and any time you’re regulating speech, you have to consider the First Amendment and the issues become very complicated.”

Generally speaking, MacDonald said if the sign regulations are limited to time, place and manner, the regulations will be considered non-content based and will

have a better chance of being upheld in court. When the regulation is content-based, he said it triggers what’s called “strict scrutiny” under First Amendment constitutional standards, which is a very high legal standard to overcome.

MacDonald added that caution is warranted when talking about regulations involving signs because of free speech issues.

“There are public interest groups that are willing to challenge the laws in federal court and municipalities can be liable for attorney fees, so the stakes are high and caution is warranted,” he said.

The Village Board approved a motion to introduce a local law to amend its sign law to prohibit profane language on any sign, billboard, flag or banner in the village. A public hearing for the local law was originally scheduled for Monday evening, April 19.

However, in the weeks following the March 22 meeting, the board decided to table the public hearing on the sign law amendment. When asked about its decision to table the hearing, Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer said it was done so more research could be conducted on the issue.

MacDonald added the matter was tabled by the board to ensure that the amended law will comply with the First Amendment requirements of the United States Constitution and to consider how the amendment may fit in with any broader changes to the village sign law that the board may want to make. As of the time of his interview, he was not certain as to when the board will next discuss the sign law amendment.

Trustee Matt Hartzog said on Tuesday, April 20, that the Village Board met the night before, but did not discuss the sign law. He said he doesn’t know if the issue will be on the agenda for the board’s meeting on Monday, May 10.

Caucuses planned for 2021 Village Election

MILLERTON — With this year’s Village Election scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, the current Millerton Village Hall, located at 5933 North Elm Ave. (Route 22), has been designated as the polling place for all voters registered in the village of Millerton, from noon to 9 p.m.

Voters looking for more information about this year’s candidates can attend the Republican Caucus on Thursday,

April 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex at 28 Century Blvd.

Voters are also invited to attend the Democratic Caucus on Saturday, April 24, at 9:30 a.m. at the Eddie Collins Memorial Field pavilion off Route 22.

For more information about either caucus, call Village Hall at 518-789-4489 or go to www.villageofmillerton.net.

— Kaitlin Lyle



The
MILLERTON NEWS

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PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

The owners of Westerlind in the village of Millerton got into the spirit of Earth Day and placed large letters in their storefront window, spelling out E-A-R-T-H for all to see, reminding those strolling along Main Street that we have to protect this planet if we want it to be around in the future. The entire village will be celebrating Earth Day during the next week.

Rain or shine, pandemic or not, Earth Day will be celebrated

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
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MILLERTON — Earth Day will be celebrated throughout Millerton and North East on Thursday, April 22; Saturday, April 24; and Wednesday, April 28, rain or shine. For more details about the days planned in honor of the global holiday, which falls on the 22nd, read this week’s front page as well as this week’s editorial, on Page B4.

The North East/Millerton Climate Smart Task Force organized all of the activities, which are listed in printed schedules available at businesses throughout the village and online, at www.climatesmart-millerton.org. Some of the events, but not all (due to space restrictions), are listed below. Some events require registration; for more information, go to the website listed above. Face masks and social distancing are required at all events to keep everyone safe.

On Thursday, April 22, the NorthEast-Millerton Library is offering a virtual activity for all ages at 4:30 p.m. Register at www.NEMillertonLibrary.org for Earth Day Virtual Story Hour with Miss Kristin.

On Saturday, April 24, Moonwake Yoga & Healing Studio is offering a free, in-person earth-focused yoga flow class beginning with a centering meditation, guiding students through a grounding, balancing and refreshing practice from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Register at katie@moonwake.life; the studio is located at 5 Main St., on the second floor.

Also that day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at McEnroe Organic Farm’s Composting Operation at 194 Coleman Station Road, children ages 6 and older can learn how banana peels, apple cores and cow bedding mix over time to make a nutritious blend for one’s garden.

Another event on April 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be at the NorthEast-Millerton Library at 75 Main St. It’s an in-person event for all ages. Residents can learn how to Start Your Own Flower Garden, and pick up free native plant seeds to begin a garden. Contactless pick-up will be available.

The Dig, at 3 Main St., will be offering three in-person workshops on April 24, starting at 10 a.m., on Home Tips for Sustainability; then at 11 a.m., on Composting at Home; and then at 11:30 a.m., on Crafts with Kids, 10 and under. Call 518-592-1210 for details.

Farm tours April 24

There will be farm tours on April 24. Children 6 and older can visit from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Rock Steady Farm, at 41 Kaye Road in Millerton. Rock Steady is an LGBTQIA+ coop farm that focuses on social justice and grows sustainable veggies.

Willow Brook Farm will offer tours at 196 Old Post Road 4 in Millerton and open its Farm Store, selling produce and more. It will also hold livestock and oxen demonstrations from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Broadfork Farm, at 33 Scribner Road, Millerton, grows lettuce and tea with solar power, no tilling and composting. It will offer tours on the 24th from 3 to 5 p.m.

Chaseholm Farm, at 115 Chase Road in neighboring Pine Plains, will also offer tours from 3 to 5 p.m. Chaseholm is a family farm that raises grass-fed beef and pork and produces raw milk and cheese. It has a farm store.

Virtual farm talk

For those 18 and older, on Wednesday, April 28, there will be a virtual talk entitled An Evening with the Farmers of Rock Steady Farm and Flower with the Kent Memorial Library in neighboring Connecticut.

Rock Steady is an LGBTQIA+ cooperative farm rooted in social justice that grows sustainable vegetables and affordable, accessible food through regenerative farming practices. The founders of Rock Steady are working to increase equity in the food system and safe spaces for queer and BIPOC farmers. Register with the NorthEast-

Millerton Library at www.NEMillertonLibrary.org.

Earth Day documentary

April 22 through the 25th, The Moviehouse will partner with the CSTF to present the documentary film, “The Race to Save the World,” produced and directed by Joe Gantz.

The film follows multiple generations of people teaching about climate change. According to the reviews, “This film will inspire you to stop waiting on the sidelines and make your voice heard in the fight for a livable future.”

Tickets cost \$12 through The Moviehouse Virtual Cinema, which are available for pre-order now. Go to www.watch.eventive.org/theracetosavetheworld/.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Virtual author Earth Day event April 24

As part of Millerton’s Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 24, local author Nancy Castaldo will read from and discuss her book, “Back from the Brink,” at a virtual author event organized by the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

Open to participants age 6 and up, the Zoom event will be held at 3 p.m. From the wild California condor to the gray wolf, Castaldo’s book

will delve into the threats to seven species and the scientific and political efforts to coax them back to the brink of extinction.

This free community event is co-presented by Oblong Books & Music and the NorthEast-Millerton Library in partnership with NorthEast/Millerton Climate Smart Community.

To register, go to www.nemillertonlibrary.org.



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Best ways to keep children safe in vehicles

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — Helping to educate local families in order to promote their safety and well-being, the New York State Police (NYSP) and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) worked in tandem to host a child passenger safety seat event at the Amenia firehouse on Wednesday, April 14.

As far as how often they offer this service, NYSP Troop K Traffic Sgt. Amy Anderson said they try to hold Child Safety Seat Check events between one and two times a month, though she said Troop K likes to travel throughout the region with its child passenger safety trailer to expose residents to the program.

Troopers also try to bring the event to smaller communities, such as Amenia, and other areas that might otherwise be forgotten. The event last Wednesday was the NYSP's second event in April; the first was held in Livingston earlier this month.

Standing in front of their child passenger safety trailer, the New York State Police's child safety seat technicians helped families install their children's safety seats and answered questions at a Child Safety Seat Check event in Amenia on Wednesday, April 14.

Running from 4 to 7 p.m., appointments were necessary for drivers to have their child seats checked, though Anderson said they wouldn't turn anyone away. A few appointments were made for the safety check held at the firehouse, where yellow traffic signs directed people to a trailer set up for the occasion.

That's where child safety seat technicians helped mostly parents learn how to install their



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

children's safety seats into their vehicles and answer questions.

Seats were checked to ensure they hadn't expired, and harnesses, clips and straps were checked to see if they were secure. Anderson said it helps to have the child in the seat to make sure the seat is appropriate and adequate for their weight, height and age, adding the technicians also talk to the

parents about what seat is best for their child.

In addition to showing caregivers how to properly install the seats, the technicians showed them how to adjust the seats in the car, and then had the caregivers demonstrate that they could do it without the technicians' help.

Anderson said the technicians also talked to parents

about general safety, including making sure they don't have any debris or trash in the car, as those items can become projectiles in the event of a crash.

"We talked about what happened in Wappingers," said NYSP Trooper Howard Dornier, referring to the fatal car crash that was reported in Wappingers Fall on Monday, March 1.

According to a news release

from Troop K, that crash took place on Route 9 when Poughkeepsie resident Loraine Baker's 2017 Honda CRV was rear-ended by a southbound 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer driven by Poughkeepsie resident Rene Luis Ramirez.

Ramirez and her two sons were taken to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital with serious injuries; her infant son succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. Baker also succumbed to her injuries from the crash at Westchester Medical Center.

"We like to educate the public because even though the child was in the car seat, it was the objects in the car [that caused harm]," Dornier said, "... things you would never think of [can be deadly], these innocuous things that in a car become a projectile."

"Thirty to 60 minutes of your time are priceless to saving your child's life," said DCSO Deputy Alonzo Montoya. "That's why we do this. People may think it's an inconvenience of your time, but think of what you do with that time... if you can't put that same time in your child, the value in their life, because ultimately most of [these] checks [take] 30 [minutes] to an hour."



FILE PHOTO

Taken in the spring of 2019, rising baseball players in the Webutuck Central School District were able to refine their skills on the field at Beekman Park in Amenia, thanks to an agreement set between Webutuck and the town of Amenia.

Webutuck baseball to split field time between campus and town park

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — With baseball season just around the corner, it won't be long until players on the Webutuck Central School District's (WCSD) baseball teams will have their moment to shine on the field. For the coming season, the Warriors will have the chance to play on their own field as well as the fields at Beekman Park (located at 5270 Route 22, Amenia), thanks to an agreement between Webutuck and the town.

When the district began work on its capital improvement plan this past summer, it started with the septic system; the baseball fields went under construction and therefore were inaccessible to the baseball teams for practice and games. The school district then reached out to the town of Amenia to request use of its baseball fields for all practices and scheduled home games for the 2021 season.

Though the septic system was installed this past fall and the fields at Webutuck are now ready for use, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani said the WCSD will use both its baseball field and the fields at Beekman Park as it will allow Webutuck more opportunities for its students to play baseball at all levels.

At its meeting on Thursday, April 1, the Amenia Town Board granted the WCSD a revocable license agreement (RLA) for the Webutuck High School varsity baseball program to use the baseball field at Beekman

Park. The RLA's term officially began on Monday, April 19, and will continue through Friday, June 4.

Included in the RLA's terms, Webutuck will be responsible for preparing the fields before and after every game and cleaning the field, dugouts, bleachers and all other areas of all garbage. In addition to providing all supervision, coaches and instructors and obtaining and hiring all umpires, the school district will also be responsible for any damages that may occur. Meanwhile, Amenia will be responsible for all maintenance and repairs of the field's facilities and will be responsible for providing the bases, pitching mound, pitcher's rubber and home plate.

"We're extremely grateful to have a partner in our students' well-being, education and athletics in the town of Amenia," said Castellani. "They have been extremely gracious in allowing our students to use the fields and continue to use those fields as needed."

"We are also really excited that after over a decade of not being able to use our high school field, with the completion of our capital improvement project, our students will be able to play on the home field at their school," he added.

The Webutuck Warriors varsity baseball team is scheduled to compete against the Dover Dragons at Beekman Park at 4:15 p.m. on Monday, May 3. That same day, the Webutuck junior varsity baseball team will compete at Dover High School at 4:15 p.m.

Town Board awards bid for block grant sidewalk extension project

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — Intent on setting sought-after town projects in motion, the Town Board awarded the engineering services contract for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Route 44 sidewalk extension project at its meeting on Thursday, March 18.

Starting at 7 p.m., the meeting was held via Zoom and live streamed to the "AmeniaTV" YouTube channel due to the health crisis, with the entire board in attendance.

Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti relayed to the public the engineering bids the town received for the project.

Providing a visual aid for the board's discussion, Councilman Damian Gutierrez said he made a matrix with qualitative notes on the bids, which he promptly shared on his screen. He pointed out that some of the bidders did a great job of breaking down the

number of hours they estimated each employee type — whether they were engineers or junior engineers — would require. Gutierrez said he also took the rate of the employees who would build the most hours against the project and looked to see if the bidders had a public traffic engineer on staff or on their team.

One of the big things Gutierrez said he noticed was that some of the bidders went out of the way to say construction inspection costs weren't included in their bids, and he asked Town Attorney Ian Lindars if the construction inspection costs were a part of the bid or optional. Perotti confirmed the costs were part of the overall bid for the project. Lindars added that if any of the bidders don't comply with bid instructions, they can be disqualified if the board so chooses, though he said the board also has the right to accept any bids and can overlook minor discrepancies.

As he engaged with Perotti

and his fellow board members on the merits of the individual proposals, Gutierrez said, "Overall, I want to congratulate you and [Town Clerk] Dawn Marie [Klingner] on just running a really kick-butt process here with this RFP [Request for Proposals] because we got a lot of high quality responses — the most I've ever seen for a project here in Amenia."

Perotti pointed out Town Grant Writer Mike Hagerty put together the RFP for the CDBG project, to which Gutierrez said, "Whatever we did this time around, we did it right, so let's try to replicate that for future projects — it was very well done."

Responding to Councilwoman Vicki Doyle's question about financing the project, Perotti confirmed that the project is being paid for by the block grant the town received from the county. She added the town has \$150,000 to pay for the construction of the sidewalk and for the engineering work.

Sharing her concerns about construction inspection ver-

sus construction oversight, Doyle reminded the board that "it makes a difference to have somebody on site to making sure it's being built the way it's supposed to be built, not just overseeing the paperwork, and making sure the plans and everything is purchased the way it's supposed to be purchased."

Following additional review and discussion of the proposals, the board ultimately decided that Chazen Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture & Geology Co., D.P.C., submitted the lowest responsible bid and awarded the company the engineering services contract, totaling \$30,343.

In other business, the board unanimously adopted the town's public employer health emergency plan as required by state law.

Before it voted on the resolution, Gutierrez thanked Perotti for her "quick trigger finger" to get the plan put together for the town free of charge. Perotti affirmed that there was no cost for the consultant who helped pull the plan together.

AREA IN BRIEF

Serino's Superstars seeks nominations

New York State Senator Sue Serino (R-41) is looking to recognize local students for their contributions to their school community as part of her "Serino's Superstars" initiative.

Each year, Serino seeks nominations across the region for students who demonstrate extraordinary kindness toward their peers and work toward positively contributing to their learning environment. Middle school students from of Do-

ver, Millbrook, North East and Pine Plains can be nominated as they fall within the 41st Senate District represented by Serino.

To nominate a student, go to www.nysenate.gov/questionnaires/sue-serino/2021-serino-superstars. Completed nomination forms are due back by Friday, April 23.

For more information, contact Serino's Hyde Park office at 845-229-0106.



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OBITUARIES

Leah (Martyn) Euvrard

AMENIA UNION — Leah (Martyn) Euvrard, 92, a lifelong area resident, died peacefully in the comfort of her home in Amenia on Jan. 18, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.

Mrs. Euvrard worked as a waitress and cook at the Waldorf Restaurant in Sharon for nearly 15 years and was also a caretaker, housekeeper and cook for Ruth and Teddy Ryan in Sharon for many years. The Euvrards also operated a farm in the Amenia Union area from 1951 until 1963.

Born Feb. 11, 1928, in Springfield, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Ida (Duser) and Montague Martyn.

Following her graduation from high school she attended art school in New York City for a short period of time.

On June 29, 1946, at the Sharon United Methodist Church, she married Walter Ernest Euvrard. The Euvrards happily shared 50 years of marriage. Mr. Euvrard died in 1995.

Mrs. Euvrard was a longtime member of the Sharon United Methodist Church and was very active in the parish for many years.

She was a member of the Taghhannuck Grange in Ellsworth, served as a Girl Scout and Boy Scout leader and enjoyed bowling in Great Barrington and Torrington for many years.

She was an excellent cook and baker and an avid painter in her spare time. She will be

dearly missed by her loving family and many friends.

Mrs. Euvrard is survived by five children, Wayne Euvrard and his wife, Cami, of Amenia, Valerie Euvrard of Amenia, Jeffrey Euvrard of West Haven, Conn., Dara Simmons and her husband, Bob, of Amenia and David Euvrard and his wife, Nora, of Sharon; three grandchildren, Sean Russell of Millerton, Renee Wright of Hellertown, Pa., and Ashley Speed of Torrington; two great-grandchildren, Parker and Dawkins Wright of Hellertown; and several nieces and nephews and her beloved dog, Ali.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Euvrard was predeceased by a son, Glen Euvrard of Amenia; her brother, John “Jack” Martyn, United States Marine, who was killed in action in World War II; and two sisters, Madelyn Euvrard of Florida and Anna Gaul of New Jersey.

Calling hours were held on Jan. 23, 2021 at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. Graveside services and burial will take place on Saturday, April 24, at 3 p.m. at Hillside Cemetery in Sharon, the Rev. Carl Franson officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to the Wassaic Fire Company, P.O. Box 287, Wassaic, NY 12592.

To send an online condolence, plant a tree or send flowers to the Euvrard family, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

SPORTS



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Lady Warriors varsity soccer team ended its 2020-21 season on the field on a victorious note as it beat the Pine Plains Bombers 1-0 on Friday night, April 16.

Lady Warriors varsity soccer ends season with a victory

By KAITLIN LYLE
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WEBUTUCK — Even as they struggled to best their opponents on the field this season, the players on the Webutuck varsity girls soccer team finish their season on a triumphant note as they defeated Stissing Mountain in their final game of the season on Friday, March 16.

Kicking off at 7 p.m., the Lady Warriors and the Bombers faced off on the field behind Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School. Driven to victory by the chants of “Stronger” that rang through the air, Webutuck Coach Mark Moren said the team played “great” in their final game, leaving everything out of the field.

Among the outstanding performances under the lights last

Friday night, Moren said Morgan Sprague, a sophomore at Webutuck High School, scored her first goal of the year, earning the Lady Warriors the win.

As for Webutuck’s keeper Grain Williams, Moren said she was “a brick wall in the goal, keeping us in a position to win. All the girls played great and I’m extremely proud of all of them.”

By game’s end, the Lady Warriors left the field as champions, bringing home a victory of 1-0 over the Pine Plains team.

MORE SPORTS ONLINE

Go to www.tricornernews.com to read a new Bleacher Views, in which sports columnist Theodore Kneeland discusses baseball politics.

Also, reporter Kaitlin Lyle has the latest news on how the Webutuck Lady Warriors fared on the soccer field against Pawling and Rhinebeck.

Carole (Kempf) McGuire

FALLS VILLAGE — Carole (Kempf) McGuire, 76, died on April 19, 2021, from complications with cancer. Carole was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, James “Mac” McGuire. She is survived by their two children, Andrew McGuire and Kate Bowen; and four grandchildren, Matilda McGuire, John McGuire, Wesley Bowen and Malcolm Bowen.

Carole was born to Robert Kempf and Christine (Kempf) Leitner in Cincinnati, Ohio, the eldest of five siblings, Gloria Duer (Texas), Patricia Knöchelmann (Kentucky), Michael Kempf (Ohio) and Jeffrey Kempf (Indiana).

She also precedes her stepmother, Betty Kempf (Florida).

Carole grew up in Cincinnati and was the first in her family to go to college. She received her undergraduate degree from Miami University of Ohio and her Masters in Education from Southern Connecticut State University in Speech/Language Pathology. She spent her career as an educator and supervisor of Special Education in the Region

One School District in Falls Village.

Carole was also on the Board for the Falls Village Daycare and worked with the birth to 3 program for the area. She was a Girl Scout Troop Leader, the Democratic Registrar of Voters, a clerk with the Falls Village Congregational Church and the treasurer of the Litchfield North Association.

Her interests and loves included her pontoon boat on Twin Lakes, sewing a wardrobe including her own wedding dress and various christening gowns, completing a variety of needlecraft projects, oil painting, reading four to six different newspapers and attending shows at the Hartford Stage.

Carole requested that all memorials should be donated to The Falls Village Congregational Church, which had brought her so much peace, faith and love over the years: FVCC, 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village, CT 06031.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.



Catherine (Palmer) Wilcox

SHARON — Catherine (Palmer) Wilcox passed away on April 16, 2021, at her home in Sharon.

Born May 10, 1933, in Cornwall, she was the daughter of Esther (Bailey) and Edwin Palmer.

She was married for 65 years to the late Norman Wilcox.

A graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, she lived all of her adult life in Sharon on the family dairy farm.

Catherine worked for many years at the Mohawk State Forest fire tower in Cornwall, scanning the vast forest with binoculars searching for fires, before satellites.

She then worked her way up to head the Purchasing Department at Sharon Hospital until her retirement. It was a job she loved and always talked about.

During her retirement she volunteered every Tuesday for many years at the Bargain Barn in Sharon.

She and her husband traveled the entire U.S. (including Alaska for three months) in their RV. Later, they cruised to the Panama Canal; traveled internationally with the Connecticut Dairy Tours, visiting farms in Scotland, Spain, Portugal, Ireland; cherished trips to France with their daughters and grandson, and a trip to Norway with their daughter.

They frequently went on se-

nior day trips to various places.

Catherine was very passionate about the things she loved; you always learned something new about the birds she enjoyed watching (hummingbirds in particular), the beautiful flowers she grew, or her love of cooking and baking. She was known for her cheesecakes, making sure everyone had their favorite.

She was an accomplished seamstress and knitter, sewing her clothes and dresses for her young girls with matching dresses for their dolls.

She leaves her daughter, Laure Peterson and her husband, Alan, of Dedham, Mass.; a grandson, Joshua Fontaine and his wife, Christina, of North Haven; and three great-grandchildren, Jackson, Lucy and Rae Fontaine.

She was predeceased by her husband, Norman; a daughter, Debra Fontaine, and her husband, John; a sister, Donna DiLullo; and brother, William Palmer.

A graveside ceremony is scheduled for Friday, April 23, at 11 a.m. at the Cornwall Hollow Cemetery.

The Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon has charge of the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Sharon Fire and Ambulance, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069.

Florence B. Carroll

AMENIA — Florence B. Carroll, 113, a longtime resident of Amenia, and recently of Salisbury, passed away on April 15, 2021, at Noble Horizons. Mrs. Carroll was the oldest living resident in the State of Connecticut.

Born on June 9, 1907, in Millerton, she was the daughter of the late Mary (McCann) and Emilio Brunese.

Mrs. Carroll was a graduate of Millerton High School, Class of 1925. On Feb. 9, 1930, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, she married John J. Carroll, who predeceased her on Jan. 27, 1989.

Mrs. Carroll worked as a private cook for AB Hall in Lakeville. She was also a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia.

Mrs. Carroll is survived by two sons, John Carroll and Philip Carroll, both of Amenia; a daughter, Jean Leggett of Dover Plains; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and three

great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Carroll is predeceased by five sons, Joseph, Richard, Thomas, William and Alan Carroll; a daughter, Marion Ursula Robertson; three brothers, William, Emil and John Brunese; and five sisters, Agnes Donne, Margaret Loomis, Magdalene Brunese, Cecilia Pawelchak and Gertrude Loretta Dennis.

Calling hours were held April 20 at the Hufcut Funeral Home in Dover Plains. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 21 at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, the Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia.

Memorial donations may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501.

To send the family an online condolence, go to www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.



Email obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services
Week of April 25, 2021

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PINE PLAINS

BOE draws closer to end of budget development for '21-22 school year

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) Board of Education (BOE) edged closer to the end of its budget development process for the 2021-22 school year at the budget workshop held on Wednesday, April 7.

Starting at 7 p.m., the meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After some technical difficulties, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck projected his presentation on the 2021-22 proposed school budget's expenditure and revenue budgets. Claiming they were close to the end of the line in terms of budget development, he presented what he hoped was the final budget number, though he acknowledged the district is still waiting on some additional information from a few sources.

Budget went up 1.94%

As of that evening, Goldbeck reported that the total budget has been calculated at \$34,176,675, indicating an increase of \$651,225 or 1.94% from this year's budget. Next year's tax levy limit has

been calculated at \$24,710,043, indicating an increase of \$520,367 or 2.15%.

Meanwhile, the state aid amount has been calculated at \$8,031,532, indicating an increase of \$1,201,356 (or 17.6%) over what the district budgeted this year.

However, Goldbeck said the state aid amount includes the reduction of \$108,000 in universal pre-kindergarten funds, which are accounted for in the special aid fund and the budgeted 2020-21 state aid reduction of \$76,000 — therefore, the actual state aid increase is \$441,356 or 5.8% compared to this year's budget.

Three main components

Looking at the budget's three main components, Goldbeck reported next year's administrative budget has been calculated at \$3,945,711, signaling a \$152,155 (or 4.12%) increase from this year.

The program budget has been calculated at \$27,075,382, signaling a \$413,805 (or 1.61%) increase.

The capital budget has been calculated at \$3,155,582, showing an increase of \$85,265 or 2.78%.

Taking a closer look at the administrative budget, Goldbeck said the largest amount went toward administration and im-

provements costs at \$1,595,795, followed by employee benefits at \$980,459 and central administration and finance costs at \$849,230. In addition to the \$4,960 reduction in employee benefits, he pointed out the \$3,350 increase in BOE costs, which he said was largely materials and some contractual money allocated toward the annual district budget vote.

For the program budget, Goldbeck pointed out a significant reduction of \$265,811 in the special education area, totaling \$3,802,500 overall. That being said, he told the BOE he was uncomfortable making that amount the final number as he said the district is still in annual reviews through May. He also reminded the BOE that it has a few weeks before it must adopt the budget.

Moving forward, Goldbeck pointed out the \$64,100 increase in occupational education costs (totaling \$422,100 overall) and the \$11,100 increase in summer school costs, totaling \$71,000.

For the capital budget, Goldbeck referred to the \$55,240 increase in operations and maintenance costs, totaling \$1,912,983; he also pointed out the \$30,025

increase in employee benefits, totaling \$997,599.

Capital project

After projecting the breakdown of the proposed budget by areas of expenditure and breaking down the revenue budget for the coming school year compared to the current school year, Goldbeck turned the BOE's attention to funding the district-wide capital project. With the total project cost calculated at \$7,727,992, he said the district has \$3,506,434 in existing capital reserves, and he strongly recommended the BOE use all of that money to offset the project cost.

Additionally, he advised it use the 2020-21 year-end fund balance, which he was confident would come to \$1.6 million. Assuming that amount works out, he said that would leave \$2,621,558 in possible financing. In short, Goldbeck recommended the BOE do short-term borrowing with bond anticipation notes (BANs), which could likely be fully paid off within five years.

In addition to state aid and federal grants, Goldbeck reminded the BOE that the costs for students with special needs, the unsettled Pine Plains Administrative Association contract and possible future borrowing for capital projects are budget factors to consider.

After presumably adopting the budget at its meeting on Wednesday, April 21 (after this paper went to press), the BOE is scheduled to have a public hearing on the 2021-22 budget on Wednesday, May 5, at 7 p.m.

The annual district meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18; in addition to the 2021-22 budget vote, this year's ballot will include the district-wide capital project, a proposition to establish a new capital reserve and the election of three new BOE members.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Pine Plains residents Keary Hanan and Jake Marcum picked up garbage bags at the pavilion in the center of town before scouring local roads for fallen debris as part of the Pine Plains Democrats' roadside cleanup on Saturday, April 17.

Democrats dig in to clean up roadways

PINE PLAINS — Working under April showers, local residents joined the Pine Plains Democrats in picking up litter and other refuse along town roads as part of the group's roadside clean up on Saturday, April 17.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., the local political group welcomed a total of 25 volunteers throughout the day.

After meeting at the pavilion in the center of town, community members walked throughout town, scouring the roadsides for items that might have been thrown,

blown or fallen out of vehicles during the past year.

According to Pine Plains Democratic Committee member Dick Hermans, this is the third year that the group has organized a roadside cleanup to spruce up the town.

As far as how the project hopefully encourages residents to keep their community clean, Hermans said, "I think it's nice for them to do it and to see the section of the road they're cleaning free of litter at least for a few days."

— Kaitlin Lyle

Legislator and farmer Gregg Pulver's combine catches fire

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — What started as a minor inconvenience on the job led to smoke and flames as Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver's (R-19) 2006 Case-International Harvester (IH) combine caught fire on Monday, April 12.

For those unfamiliar with what a combine does on a farm, Pulver said explained it's used for harvesting — in his case, his combine harvests corn on his family's 310-year-old farm at 21 Lake Road in Pine Plains.

Though this is an atypical time of year to harvest corn, Pulver said the local shooting club, Mashomack Preserve, leaves 50 acres of corn standing all winter long as it makes a great cover for hunting pheasants. However, if they don't harvest the corn, it becomes weed, adding "extra corn plants in a corn field don't make good yield."

The fire itself took place around 12:30 p.m. on the 12th. Pulver was on the combine before it caught aflame, warning it up and getting it ready for the spring harvest by taking it for a ride. Whether it was due to some critter that nibbled on the wires or something more flammable that was next to the machine, Pulver said he and his family are pretty sure the fire started electrically.

When the machine stopped running, Pulver shut the engine off before getting off the combine and heading to his pickup truck. He said he was probably 200 yards away from it when he turned to look back and saw it was starting to smoke, at which point he called 911.

Responding immediately to Pulver's call, the Pine Plains Fire Company was quick to respond. Firefighters extinguished the blaze in 20 to 30 minutes, though the damage was already done to the equipment. After talking with his insurance company, Pulver said he was insured for about \$100,000.

He said he was just lucky to have avoided injuries or further damage to his farm.

"I'm most fortunate because the idea was to get it warmed up to bring it to the shop to change the oil," said Pulver. "If it caught on fire in my shop... it would have been a catastrophic fire at that point."

As much as he hated to lose the combine, Pulver said he was glad he didn't bring it into the shop where it could have ignited other equipment or one of the buildings.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Despite the Pine Plains Fire Company's best efforts, the 2006 Case-IH combine owned by Pine Plains farmer and Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19) sustained severe damages after catching on fire on Monday, April 12. Pulver's insurance company insured the combine at around \$100,000.





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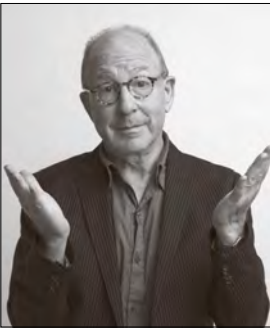


PHOTO BY CELESTE SLOMAN

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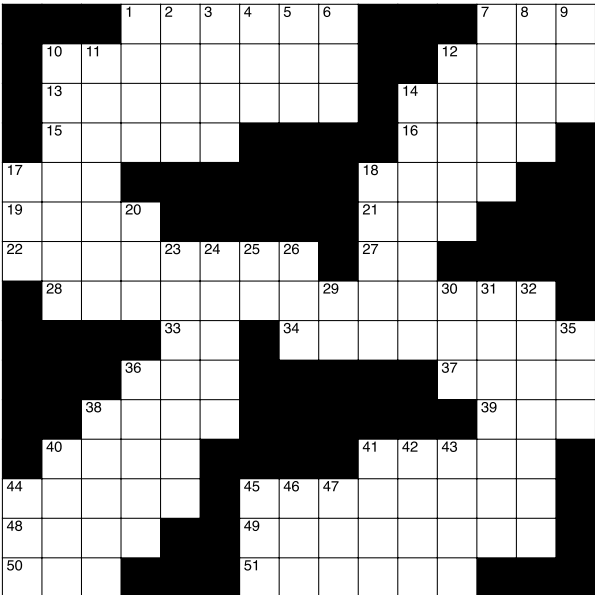
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Switches
- Legal financial term (abbr.)
- Sweeties
- Competition
- Measures electrical resistance
- Psychotherapy researcher
- Causes injury to
- Open
- Polish peninsula
- Hebrew calendar month
- Whale ship captain
- Children's accessory
- Unknown point
- Exists
- Extremely confident
- Expression of disgust
- The government has many
- Small constellation
- Northern Indian city
- The best pitchers
- Naturally occurring solid
- Apple computers
- Portuguese city
- Ancient Greek war dance
- More reliable
- Sailboat
- Newspapers
- Frequently flooded area
- They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

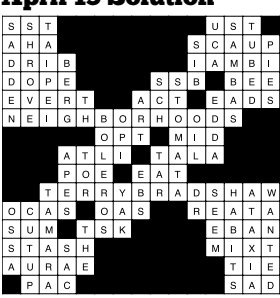
- Partial
- "Mad Men" leading man
- The ___ of March
- Healthy
- Where golfers begin
- Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
- Of the cheek
- Injury reminder
- Statesman Franklin
- For an unknown reason
- Brain parts
- Islamic calendar month
- Avenue where ad men work
- Possesses
- Accept
- Stake
- Former British PM May
- US battleships circa 1939
- Greek alphabet letter
- When you hope to get there



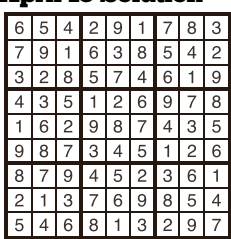
29. Top lawyer
30. Fiddler crabs
31. Intolerant
32. Persons that cause extreme fear
35. Car mechanics group
36. Capital of Ghana
38. Famed ballplayer Hank
40. Emphasizes insignificance
41. Light-colored
42. Distinctive smell
43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
44. Sunscreen rating
45. Short-term memory
46. Japanese delicacy
47. One point north of due east

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

April 15 Solution

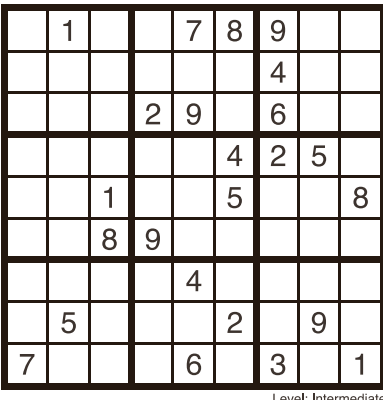


April 15 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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DURST Continued from Page A1

conservation subdivision concept was submitted to the board.

Mesinger reminded the board that the purpose of the pre-sketch process is two-fold: to establish a base residential yield for how many units can be developed on the property and to establish at least 50% of the site as open space as required by the conservation subdivision process.

Monian projected the pre-sketch plan that outlined the various conservation features mapped on site; 53% of the site was identified as open space and the calculation for the base residential yield came out with 223 units. In addition to submitting the conservation subdivision application to the Pine Plains Planning Board, Mesinger said Durst met with the Milan Planning Board to present the concept and talk about the development process.

They also met with the New York State Department of Health to talk about water and sewer, and are now trying to schedule a meeting with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to talk about issues that might fall under its jurisdiction.

Open space

Looking at the sketch plan application itself, Mesinger pointed out key features, such as how the plan respects the buffers around the regulated wetlands and limits road crossings. However, he said he believes the plan's most salient feature is the amount of open space. With the base residential yield calculated at 237 lots (11.2 acres per lot), the development

is largely focused on Lake Carvel and north and west of Route 199. Because Durst is considering a resort in Pine Plains, Mesinger said they'd like to have the resort be an alternative to be considered in the project's DEIS.

Planners Frank Fish and Sarah Yackel from BFJ Planning, planning consultants for the town, gave the board a preview of what steps are expected in the SEQRA process.

Fish said he believes the first action would be for the board to declare its intent to be lead agency in the SEQRA process, while Yackel walked the board through that process with its anticipated steps, meetings and scoping sessions. The board engaged in a thorough discussion both with its planners and Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky in terms of how the resort alternative would work.

Working with Milan

Planning Board member Dick Hermans asked if the board should set up a formal liaison with Milan to stay abreast of Milan's side of the project. The board agreed it was a good idea to have a Pine Plains liaison attend Milan's meetings and designated Hermans to be the liaison.

Replansky said he believed the Planning Board is obligated to conduct a coordinated SEQRA review with Milan. As he's anticipating that there's going to be much more coordination between the two municipalities during the review of this project, he said the board should start thinking in terms of how it will do that.

suggested Attorney to the Town John Andrews visit the site to examine the issues at the public hearing. Highway Superintendent Megan Chamberlin joined Andrews — along with Building Inspector Michael Segelken and land surveyor Kirk Horton — they looked at where the runoff originated. While they observed a little ravine coming down through the area, Chamberlin said that everything seemed to be under control. Andrews declined to comment.

In the meantime, residents were told the discussion regarding the application would continue at the Planning Board's April 28 meeting, however, the agenda changed and the board ended up approving the application last Wednesday.

Finelli said that night's agenda was originally supposed to feature Andrews' report regarding his evaluation of the land's drainage issues. Tuning into the meeting over Zoom, the Finellis said they were surprised by the Planning Board's decision to approve the subdivision application.

"I'm a little disappointed that they did this," said Gary's wife, Barbara.

"I guess the outcome would have been the same whether it was last night or on the 28th," Gary Finelli said the day after the meeting. "We were surprised by it and disappointed that it came last minute."

Including in the discussion, Planning Board member Leo Blackman said there were some changes made to the application's State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) document. He also said Andrews reported there were potential endangered species and drainage issues on the property. However, Blackman explained the board can't address those issues directly unless they're actually impacted by the change.

"The change is just a property line," Blackman said, "so until there's some proposal for that, there's not much we can do."

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WILLOW ROOTS Continued from Page A1

day, March 21.

Willow Roots submitted its application for a special use permit and site plan approval in December 2020, and a public hearing was held this past January. A copy of the Planning Board's resolution for the application can now be read online on the town's website, www.pineplains-ny.gov.

The Planning Board discussed the special use permit at its March 10 meeting. It was around that time that Nelson Zayas reported Willow Roots had been offered the space of former thrift store Pass It On from landlord Kyle Loughhead for the pantry's Saturday distributions.

Zayas explained they didn't withdraw their application at that time as they thought they had a new site back in January

but it fell through. If the new South Main space were to fall through in a few months, he said he didn't want to go through the process again. Zayas said Willow Roots would continue to process its donations and paperwork at their home on North Main Street and do food distributions at the new location.

Planning Board Chairman Michael Stabile asked Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky whether it was OK to go ahead with the resolution as it stood. Replansky said his preference would be to hold the resolution for another 30 days to determine its status and if Willow Roots was going to move to another location. Though he recommended the application be withdrawn, Replansky said it was the board's decision.

Planning Board members

EARTH DAY Continued from Page A1

the current health crisis.

Jennifer Dowley is one of Chow's volunteers, and a member of the Climate Smart Task Force. She explained some of the concepts for the multi-day Earth Day celebration, officially a global holiday on Thursday, April 22, which promotes "things that are green," like home composting, enriching the earth, using electric vehicles, relying less on fossil fuels, etc.

"The whole theme of Earth Day this year is restore our earth... Most of the merchants think what this will do is just give people another reason to come to the village, and our merchants are all down for that because that just means more customers for them," said Dowley. "And they are unified in helping with 100 trees for Millerton, which is really wonderful."

100 trees for the park

One hundred trees for Millerton is a project to plant 100 new trees at the to be renamed Eddie Collins Park on Route 22, which is currently being renovated as a more comprehensive recreational space for the entire community. A new swimming pool will be built there; the former pool was shut down years ago due to severe cracks and leaks.

The trees cost \$600 each, so the CSTF is hoping to raise \$60,000, which would be enough money to purchase, plant and tend to the trees for a year. Dowley said a card rack was being designed and should be ready by Earth Day, and that most merchants are totally behind the campaign.

"Oblong Books is setting aside 10% of its earnings that weekend for the trees. It's just so fabulous," she said. "Our community is so supportive."

There are many local businesses, community organizations, farms, even the library, getting into the spirit of Earth Day, with activities planned on Thursday, April 22; Saturday, April 24; and Wednesday, April 28. For more on some of what's planned, turn to Page A2.

NECC clean up

"Our other big partner is the North East Community Center [NECC], and its annual Rail Trail and garden clean up," said Dowley.

That clean up is taking place on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. until noon at NECC, located at 51 South Center St., which

backs up onto the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

Residents are asked to join the community center and local student volunteers to spruce up the Rail Trail and the NECC grounds, help prepare its garden beds for planting, spread wood chips on its paths, organize its garden tools and (depending on the weather) repaint its picnic tables.

Volunteers are asked to bring gloves, shoes and clothes they won't mind getting a little dirty. Health-safety protocols will be maintained throughout the event and masks are mandatory.

Volunteers should just show up; afterward they can enjoy a takeaway barbecue lunch that will be provided once the work is completed. For more information, email nathan@neccmillerton.org or call 518-789-4259, ext. 129.

EV on Century Boulevard

Dowley is also very excited about North East Ford, located just outside of the village on Route 44. The dealership is bringing a 2021 Ford Mustang Mock E, a fully electric vehicle (EV), to a tent it's going to set up on Century Boulevard on the 24th. That's where she hopes an EV charging station will ultimately be established by the village for future EV drivers.

Dowley is currently working with the Village Board, which has been awarded a grant; it now has to go out to bid to pursue the project, she said.

"The whole thing about EVs is so new and interesting and the Mustang is such an iconic car, and although nobody can take this one on a drive on Earth Day they can sit in it and make an appointment for a test drive on Saturday, from 10 to 5," said Dowley excitedly. "It's coming — it's coming very soon."

Climate Smart Community website

In addition to all of the Earth Day events, the CSTF just launched its new Climate Smart Community website — perfect timing, according to North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan, who mentioned it in his newsletter email on Saturday, April 3.

"And, ta-da... spring is bringing us the launch of the Climate Smart Millerton website, which couldn't be more exciting," stated Kennan, sharing the link at www.climatesmartmillerton.org. "Rather than spend a lot of

time and words describing this website, I encourage everyone to go to it and explore. Dive in! It's the most visible product of the Town and Village's participation in New York State's remarkable and ambitious Climate Smart Communities program."

The program aims for communities to "reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to make themselves better able to thrive under climate change," according to Kennan, who said "one way we do that is by bringing information to the public, and this website does just that."

Kennan continued to explain why caring about climate change is so important to our planet's future — regardless of where one lives.

"If you've ever thought, 'what does it matter, we are a small community and our impact on the global climate is zilch,' think again," he said. "Because if every community like ours, and bigger, took actions to improve our climate, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce our carbon footprint, the combined effect would be to help slow global warming, with all the negative impacts it is having and will have. Our Climate Smart program is part of addressing that challenge, and it's across the board: individuals, groups, businesses, organizations, and yes, your local government."

The town supervisor credited the task force for contributing "hundreds and hundreds of hours of volunteer work," and said the town has "been blessed with a knowledgeable and dedicated

with the town and the Planning Board. The application was officially withdrawn March 29.

Looking ahead, Zayas said Willow Roots will distribute food from 7730 South Main St. and do its office work from 23 North Main St.

As far as their neighbors' complaints about the pantry's operations, he said Willow Roots "will always continue to look for ways to improve what we do and look at what the needs are in the community."

He added Willow Roots is considering adding more programs this year to both benefit the community and make its operations more self-sufficient.

"We're continuing to cast out the net and see what the community wants," said Lisa Zayas. "This is definitely the home run."

group of people who have slaved over it. While many have contributed to its formation, I would like in particular to thank Kathy Chow, our fearless Climate Smart Communities Task Force leader, and Tom Parrett and Rich Stalzer, who have shouldered so much of this burden. Thank you all!"

CSC supports wastewater petition

In the meantime, a petition drive was launched during the weekend of April 17 "to build support for the creation of a wastewater disposal system for the heart of the Village of Millerton," according to the North East/Millerton Climate Smart Community, which sent out notification about the petition drive via an email blast from the Millerton Business Alliance (MBA).

According to the email, "The MBA wants to register its support of the Village's effort to install a wastewater treatment plant. It is our understanding that there are currently federal funds available through the American Rescue Act for the development of wastewater treatment infrastructure and that it is likely that there will be future monies available through pending federal infrastructure bills."

Copies of the petition can be signed at Montage, at 25 Main St., or Oblong Books & Music, at 26 Main St. Those who prefer may send a letter of support to the mayor and town supervisor.

Look for further details about the wastewater petition in next week's edition of The Millerton News. Read more about Earth Day on this week's Opinion Page.



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What I love about our small towns is finding the hidden gems, which are numerous. One of these gems would be the Under Mountain Weavers here in Salisbury, founded by master weaver Eric Gerstel. His daughter, Karen, and her husband, Joe Woodard, have carried on the tradition of weaving on a historic 72-inch Scottie fly shuttle. They produce handwoven chenille scarves, cotton and bamboo towels, napkins, placemats and shawls in addition to wool blankets and rugs. Give them a call at 860-435-9265 to set up a visit to their studio. The quality of their products is simply amazing.



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

MOVIES: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

‘Empire Records’ and a Memorable Blue Mohair Sweater

I can’t tell from the IMDb how old costume designer Susan Lyall is but I will say that she’s more or less captured my life on film, so she must be about my age.

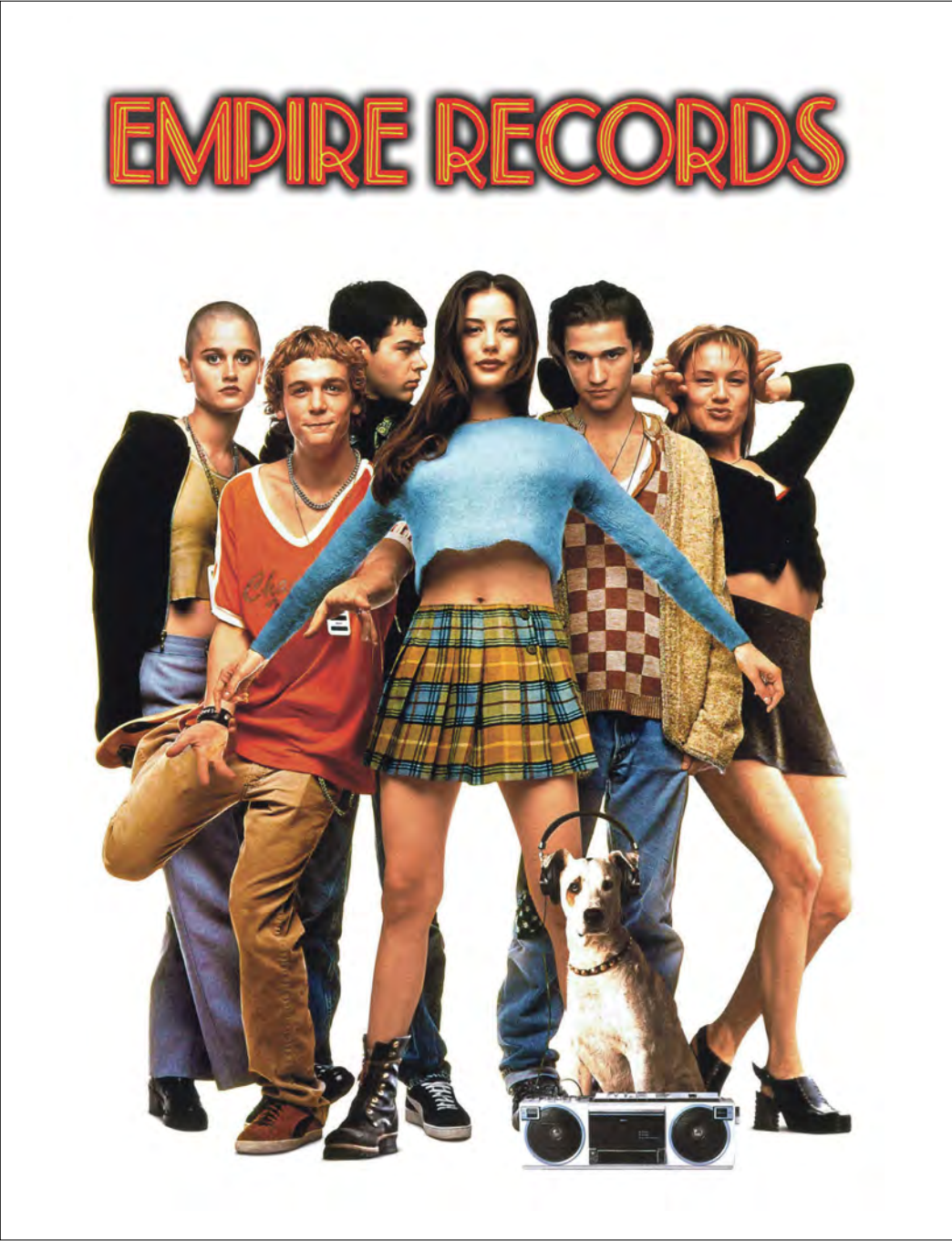
Her most-recent most-famous movie is Aaron Sorkin’s “Trial of the Chicago 7,” for Netflix, about my childhood in Chicago (oh, yeah, and the aftermath of the famous Democratic National Convention).

A second film (in which she captures the mood of my later) life is a favorite film written by David Mamet (an alum of my high school) about a small town in New England (hello), that is hilarious and feels very true to life. Its central character is a newspaper editor.

In the middle somewhere is the film “Empire Records,” about a day in the life of a group of teens working in a record store. The dramas and tragedies of teen life are in the foreground while, in the background, they struggle to accept the sale of their beloved record store to a national chain.

Part of Lyall’s brilliance as a costume designer is that you can’t really tell that someone designed the costumes. They just look completely natural, like “well, of course. What else would they wear?” Which when you think about it is, obviously, a hard trick to pull off.

Lyall (a Norfolk, Conn., resident) will be featured in a video interview as part of the Saturday, May 1, screening by the Boondocks Film Society, which pairs edibles/cocktails/interesting locations with cult films — in this case, “Empire Records”



If you’re a woman of a certain age, you either owned Liv Tyler’s outfit in “Empire Records” or wished you owned it. See the film and hear from the costume designer in a May 1 Boondocks Film Society screening.

at Gedney Farm in Great Barrington, Mass. There will also be a pop-up store selling records. (Yes! Vinyl!).

The video interview with Lyall will be conducted by Peter Warren of Black Hole Monopex, a co-host of the evening.

Probably the most memorable outfit from the film is the light blue mohair tummy-duster sweater that the young Liv Tyler pairs with a tartan

plaid mini skirt and a pair of combat boots. I love that look.

When this film came out in 1995, Tyler was the star of the moment (although the fabulous “Stealing Beauty” didn’t come out until 1996). Sort of stuck in the background are two other soon-to-be-famous actresses: Renee Zellweger and Robin Tunney.

There’s a large cast, a fun script, and a

soundtrack with songs by The Gin Blossoms, Edwyn Collins, The Cranberries and other alt/indie bands, that all still feel fresh and snappy.

To screen the film (and taste craft cocktails and movie-themed food — and maybe even buy some records), go to the Boondocks Film Society website at <https://boondocks-filmsociety.org>. Tickets are \$16. The event begins at 7 p.m., the film begins at dusk (bring a sweater and a blanket).

STREAMING:
BRUCE T. PADDOCK

Let’s Visit Scandinavia!

In the Before Times, I used to enjoy traveling abroad. Seeing new places and finding new ways that folks do everyday things is extremely satisfying to me.

Now, of course, foreign travel is out of the question. So I try to make do with foreign television shows instead. I can pretend I’m sitting in my Airbnb in Barcelona or Nice or Stockholm, watching what the locals watch. (I’d honestly love it if I could see the commercials that originally ran with each show, but I suspect most viewers would disagree with me.)

Lately, I’ve been on a Scandinavia kick, and there are some excellent shows to be found. Everything I’ll mention here can be found on Netflix.

The biggest genre right now is the Nordic noir crime drama. What does it say about the Finns that 1) they excel at this genre — “Bordertown” and “Deadwind” are international favorites — and 2) no matter how hard I looked, I couldn’t find a Finnish comedy anywhere. Do they exist?

Anyway, I wanted to look beyond the obvious choices and quickly found a gem. “Rita” is billed as a comedy, but it’s more than that ... although it has some very funny moments — the sleeve scene in episode 1, for example. Rita is a Danish schoolteacher with three adultish children. She speaks her mind, she ignores the rules, and all those other clichés that the series rises above effortlessly.

Rita is not a role model. None of the characters on this show is. They do bad things, self-destructive things sometimes. And they suffer the consequenc-

es. But the wonderful cast makes them relatable, fascinating, and — most of them, anyway — endearing.

The most endearing and least erring is new teacher **Hjördis**. Netflix just put up her own spinoff series. It’s only four episodes, but I can’t wait to watch.

For international political intrigue and occasional gunfire, you’d find it hard to beat Norway’s “Occupied.” The premise: Norway elects a new super-green prime minister, who announces he will stop oil drilling in the North Sea. Russia takes over the oil platforms and occupies Oslo in order to keep the oil flowing. The EU and the US want oil and don’t want war with Russia, so Norway is on its own. Some capitulate, others revolt. And sadly, it’s all too believable.

If that sounds too heavy, there’s always “Norsemen,” set in a Viking village around the year 800. The warriors go out and loot, pillage and bring back slaves — and yes, it’s a comedy. A silly, self-aware, broad, crass, laugh-out-loud comedy. And it’s in English, so you don’t have to read subtitles! The production company filmed every scene twice, once in Norwegian for the home audience, and once in English for the rest of the world.

One note: If you plan to watch both “Occupied” and “Norsemen,” you might want to start with “Occupied.” The actor who plays the prime minister also plays the Viking chieftain, and you might have trouble taking his negotiations with the Russian ambassador seriously if you keep picturing him in furs and leather armor.

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CAUTION: ARTISTS AT WORK

Father-and-daughter artists Julian and Tilly Strauss will open their studios in Amenia, N.Y., as part of the ARTmost-NY Open Studio Tour on Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2.

Also on the tour will be Lori Adams, Donna Castelluccio, Michael Gellatly, Bob Madden, Karen Madden, Bill Prickett and Brian Wohrman.

The studios (in Amenia, Pawling and Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The artists will be at work in their studios during the tour, offering visitors a sense of their challenges in realizing their specific vision.

There will be finished works on display, but the artists will also be working on the projects that drive them to create. It might be dirty, noisy and seem chaotic, but it will not be dull.

For more information on the tour and the artists, go to www.artmostny.org. Social distancing and masks are required.

We here at Robin Hood Radio are on-air and on-line keeping you informed and updated 24 hours a day on the following stations of the Robin Hood Radio Network.

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WHDD FM 97.5

Serving the Route 7 corridor from Cornwall to Kent, and the Route 22 corridor from Amenia to Pawling

WHDD FM 91.9

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

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LEARNING TO LEAN FORWARD — INTO RISK

Victoria Labalme, a native of Cornwall, Conn., and the author of the Wall Street Journal bestselling book, “Risk Forward” will share a few of her radically freeing and reassuring insights in a Zoom event sponsored by the Scoville Memorial Library and Oblong Books on Wednesday, May 5, at 7 p.m.

A member of the Speaker Hall of Fame, Labalme is known for her Keynote Performances, online learning courses and workshops around the world. She has worked with more than 700 or-

ganizations, CEOs and top teams at global companies, entrepreneurs, and experts in a range of fields.

To register for this free virtual talk by Labalme (who was featured in the March 25 issue of The Lakeville Journal Company’s Compass, www.tricornernews.com), go to www.scovillelibrary.org/event/author-victoria-labalme.

Copies of “Risk Forward” with a signed bookplate are available from Oblong Books, www.oblong-books.com/risk-forward-signed-by-victoria-labalme



PHOTO BY JONATHAN DOSTER

Area land trusts will do presentations and walks in the coming weeks to showcase some of their hiking trails, such as this one on the Sharon Land Trust’s D’Alton Preserve, which is expected to open to the public on June 5.

NATURE OUTINGS BLOSSOM IN THE WARMER WEATHER

Tristate region land trusts and nature conservancies are coming back to life, and offering outdoor experiences.

In Cornwall, Conn., the **Cornwall Conservation Trust** is hosting a bike and hike on Sunday, April 25, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St.

The outing promises a “(relatively) easy 11-mile bicycle ride,” with stops to hike at the Trust’s Ballyhack Preserve, Welles Preserve and Cathedral Pines Preserve.

Each hike is about a mile and will take about 40 minutes. Participants are asked to be sure their bicycle is in working order; everyone must wear a bicycle helmet, and a face mask for the hiking portions of the day.

The event will be limited to the first 15 riders who register, because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Bicycles will be guarded during the walks. Weather updates will be posted on the Trust’s website.

To reserve a spot, register with your name and phone number to event@cornwallconservationtrust.org. For more information, for the cycling route and for trail maps and details on the hikes, go to www.cornwallconservationtrust.org.

An indoor (on Zoom) event about getting outdoors will be hosted on Tuesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn., and will be a conversation about the trails of the Sharon Land Trust.

Land Trust Executive Director Maria Grace will talk with Holly Nelson about the trails and preserves that are owned or managed by the Trust and are open to the public for hiking and other passive recreation.

The Trust owns more than 1,400 acres and holds conservation easements over an additional 1,800, much of which is still in agriculture. They have created nine preserves, with the express purpose of inviting the public to enjoy the landscape, with more than 15 miles of trails that have been blazed through fields, forests and along unique and sometimes rare habitats. Some trails cross through several of the Trust’s holdings, showing the variety of lands within an easy walk. Grace will offer a guided tour to the Trust’s properties in the talk.

To register for the talk go to www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org/event/hike.

In Falls Village, Conn., environmental educator Shamu Sadeh from the **Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center** will lead an in-person walk on Saturday, May 1, at 2 p.m. to explore the springtime forest.

Hosted by the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, the walk will take place on the grounds of the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, which has more than 400 acres of woods. Sadeh will point out and teach about wildflowers, edible plants and forest ecology.

This program will be limited to 20 participants. Registration, masks and social distancing will be required. To register and receive the meet-up spot, call the library at 860-824-7424 or go to www.HuntLibrary.org or the library’s Facebook page.

To learn more about our area land trusts and the wealth of outdoor opportunities they provide, look for our Towns and Villages special focusing on land trusts, in our issue of May 20.



There’s more than one Litchfield County connection to the award-winning film, “Patton,” starring George C. Scott. Journalist Jurgen Kalwa of Sharon, Conn., shares the origin story of the film and its link to his home in a Zoom talk on Sunday, May 2.

THE ROAD TO ‘PATTON’

What happens when a Sharon journalist discovers that a famous movie has a significant connection to his own house? He digs a little and turns his finding into a story.

Join the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn., on Zoom for a discussion with Jürgen Kalwa on Sunday, May 2, at 4 p.m.

When Kalwa, a German journalist, author and longtime resident of Sharon, learned of a direct connection between his house on West Cornwall Road and the famous biopic “Patton,” he had to find out if there was more to the story. Ladislav Fargo wrote the book “Ordeal and Triumph,” which served as the basis of the film, in Kalwa’s house. “Patton” won seven Oscars exactly 50 years ago, including the best actor award, which George C. Scott famously rejected.

Kalwa, a correspondent

for German Public Radio (Deutschlandfunk) and the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, reports on sports, arts, leisure and social issues. He just completed a long-format radio piece on his Patton story and will recount how he stumbled onto this tale and the interviews he conducted to piece it together. This is Kalwa’s tribute to a general who was instrumental in liberating his home country from the Nazis in 1945 and to a film that gained a special place in Hollywood history.

Why did it take 25 years to bring “Patton’s” story to the screen? Why was the film so successful and how did it become such a classic war movie? Find out on May 2 at 4 p.m. with this free, virtual event. Registration is required; to receive the Zoom link, RSVP at www.hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org/event/patton.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

FORAGING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Tricky Business of Eating Found Foods

In spring 2020, as COVID-19 was sending city folks up here full-time to live in the country, The Lakeville Journal published its annual short article talking about the delights of finding, cooking and eating the wild leeks that are also known as “ramps.”

This did not end well. Several people unfamiliar with the dangers of eating found foods without a guide ended up with severe gastric distress that took them to the emergency room at Sharon Hospital. Our goal at this newspaper company is not ever to poison our readers. However, spring is here again and the ramps are beginning to mature on the sides of roads and under bushes in swampy parts of our region.

We would like to strongly encourage anyone who is interested in going out to forage for found foods in the woods, which is super fun, to please find a competent guide to take you, someone who has found and cooked and eaten wild ramps many times and has never ended

up in the emergency room because of it.

The same caution applies to another unconventional food that the University of Connecticut sent an email about this week. Kaelin Smith from the university’s Home & Garden Education Center writes in this week’s nature column that gardeners might want to think about edible flowers as they prepare to plant their gardens.

Three flowers Smith recommends as beautiful and as edible are calendula, nasturtiums and squash blossoms. I’ve never tasted calendula but I can vouch for the delicious delight of eating nasturtiums and squash blossoms (usually from zucchini). These plants are also fairly easy to grow in a decent-sized garden plot.

And an advantage you have here is that, if you buy and plant a nasturtium plant, you can feel pretty confident that you are actually eating nasturtium blossoms.

Enjoy some edible flowers this summer; but make sure you know what they are.



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Nasturtiums are lovely, easy to grow and delicious on a salad — but don’t eat them unless you’re certain they are nasturtiums and not a toxic twin.

STUDIO RENTAL WANTED

ARTIST HARPER BLANCHET is looking to move his studio & living space from its present location to a new rental location in the Sharon, Salisbury, Millerton, Ancram, Copake area.

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MILLBROOK

Residents ask town to pave Killearn Road

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — The Town of Washington (TOW) Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 8, at 6 p.m. via Zoom due to the health crisis, with a large group of participants in anticipation of more discussion on Janet's Farm LLC, also known as the Second Mountain project to redo the Migdale property in Mabbettsville (for more on that, go to www.tricornernews.com).

Killearn Road

In non-Migdale related news, a petition was submitted to the Town Board from residents Courtney and David Albert that supported the renovation of Killearn Road. While many in the community favor the rural aspect of dirt roads, others support the town of black-topping the roads or taking measures to meet stricter safety standards.

Those in favor of improving the roads argue they should be passable throughout the year and in various weather conditions to allow for the passing of ambulances, firetrucks and other emergency vehicles.

A motion was made to prepare and circulate a Request for Proposals (RFP) among

engineering firms, seeking a proposal for the renovation of Killearn Road. The motion passed unanimously. About 20 residents signed the petition, noting specific problems that have been caused at various times when the road has been impassable due to it not being paved.

Investment policy

A motion was made to adopt a TOW investment policy that applies to all monies and other financial resources for the purpose of investment, singly or on behalf any other entity or individual. This is to safeguard the principal; to conform to all applicable federal, state and other legal requirements; to enable the ability to liquefy to meet operating expenses if needed; and to earn a reasonable rate of interest. The board approved the motion.

More town news

Tim Marshall resigned from the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC), and a request for applicants has been posted on the TOW website, www.washingtonny.org. CAC Chair David Greenwood sent a letter to Marshall thanking him for his many years of service.

The next Town Board meeting will be on Thursday, May 13. Go to www.washingtonny.org for details and the Zoom link.



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Jim Donnelly, in a blue shirt and mask, was the first reader at the open mic poetry night. Donnelly works at the Millbrook Post Office and is a longtime lover of poetry.

Poetry flows freely in Millbrook

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Since the Academy of American Poets declared April National Poetry Month back in 1996, there have been many different kinds of celebrations: readings, open mic nights, book signings and book discussions. There are as many different types of poetry as there are poets, and every April, just like spring flowers, they bloom in libraries, book stores and cafes, among elsewhere.

Poetry Month celebrates the way words can bring joy or sorrow to everyday life. The Millbrook community celebrated

National Poetry Month this year thanks to the efforts of the Millbrook Arts Group (MAG), the Millbrook Library and Merritt Bookstore. In fact, 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of celebrating National Poetry Month.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Millbrook Literary Festival wasn't held in 2020, nor will it be held this year. But National Poetry Month is being celebrated in 2021 in a very big way.

MAG was determined to do so, and posted countless poems around the village throughout the month of April, for all to read and enjoy. The library hosted three poetry workshops and has



Poetry fan Allison Cantone read, "My God, It's Full of Stars," by Tracy K. Smith at last week's open mic event.

been holding open mic sessions on its lawn. Merritt Bookstore hosted two open mic events. All of the activities were for people of all ages, so children could attend.

MAG also introduced "Poetryline," a collection of contemporary poetry on signs throughout the village featuring poets courtesy of Four Way Books. This nonprofit press, based in NYC, publishes poetry and short fiction of both established and new writers.

In addition to being supported by Four Way Books and Merritt Bookstore, "Poetryline" is supported by the Millbrook Tribute Garden, the HW Wilson Foundation, the Millbrook Literary Festival, the Millbrook Business Association, Bates Miyamoto Design and J. Velletri and Sons.

Throughout this month, poems have been displayed on windows, doors and tabletops, in

stores and in restaurants around Millbrook. Merritt Bookstore has hosted two poetry readings featuring local poets in partnership with the Millbrook Literary Festival; the first was on Saturday, April 3.

The second open mic was on Saturday, April 17, at Merritt, held inside due to the chilly weather, with masks and social distancing. The types of poetry varied, but all were read passionately and received much applause from the audience. Some of the poems were from famed poets, others were original works read by the authors, including Cathy Morrell, a friend of the library.

On Monday, April 26, there will be an on last open mic held on the lawn at the Millbrook Library at 6 p.m., weather permitting. Fans may come listen, poets may recite — originals or classics — all ages and skill levels are welcome. Masks and social distancing are required.

Positive turnout at firehouse blood drive

MILLBROOK — The American Red Cross held a blood drive on Thursday, April 15, at the Millbrook firehouse, with seven staff, two of whom were volunteers, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Roughly 25 people registered to donate blood. There were snacks, up-beat music and a lot of pleasant people to help out and everything went off without a hitch.

Dwan Patrick, from Albany, was in charge. She explained that COVID-19 has changed some of the Red Cross' protocols, but the efforts have never stopped, nor has the generosity

of those making the life-saving donations.

Each station was thoroughly cleaned between donations, set at least 6 feet apart from the next station and all staff and participants wore masks. Temperatures were taken and questionnaires filled out by each donor, many of whom were repeat donors.

Healthy donors can give blood about every two months if their doctors give the OK. Organizers said blood donations are especially needed right now during the coronavirus pandemic.

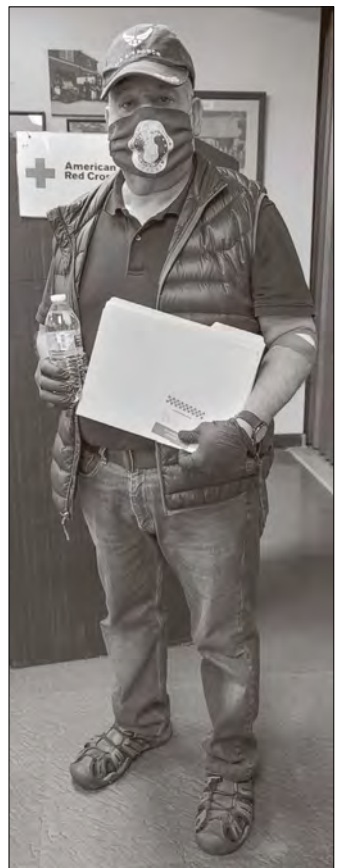
— Judith O'Hara Balfe



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

After donating blood at the Millbrook firehouse, Hyde Park resident Benjamin E. Barela, left, stopped to get a snack and a drink and to reflect on the importance of donating blood. Barela is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a retired New York police officer, having served for 35 years. He said he has always been a blood donor and will always be a blood donor.

Above, from left, Saadiqah Sheppard and Tracy Straight Freed, Red Cross staff members, tended to donor Patricia Millius of Millerton, who gives blood a few times a year. Millius said she is very aware that her donations might save a life.



JULY 22 BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross plans to hold another blood drive at the Millbrook firehouse on Thursday, July 22.

Look for more information about how to register as the time draws near in future issues of The Millerton News, and online, at the Red Cross website, www.redcross.org.

Spring Programs at Silver Lake

Join us for a day of outdoor fun at camp!

\$48/person. Masks and social distancing required. See www.silverlakect.org for registration and program details.



Silver Lake Sampler April 24

Grade 4 & older • See what it's like to spend a day at camp! Arts & crafts, garden, games, and more.

Waterways May 8

Grade 3 & older • Explore Silver Lake's stream and pond and learn how you can help them thrive.

Love Creation May 15

Grade 3 & older • Spend a day in the Silver Lake garden! Learn about where food comes from and how to take care of the earth.

Silver Lake Field Day May 22

Grade 3 & older • Engage in silly competition with friends, new and old. High-energy fun! No skills required.



223 Low Rd., Sharon, CT

The Lakeville Journal Company

The Lakeville Journal • The Millerton News • TriCornerNews.com

Fostering Democracy and an Atmosphere of Open Communication Since 1897



This letter has been enclosed in print editions of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News and on www.tricornernews.com. We invite all our readers to continue to keep track of our progress and we will keep you updated regularly.

Can you imagine a world without your Lakeville Journal or Millerton News?

Dear Reader, Late in 2019, we came to you, hat in hand, to share with you our story within the world of vanishing local journalism. You generously supported us, to date, in the amount of \$164,975 in what was known as the "Community Membership" model and will now be known as the "Community Contributor" model.

- Your generosity made up a deeply appreciated 39% of annual General Expenses from September of 2019.
- We are happy to have qualified for a PPP loan (which we will convert to a 'grant', having met the necessary criteria), in the amount of \$146,643, contributing 35% of General Expenses during this same period.
- As they experienced their own COVID-19 cash needs, our steadfast advertisers needed to scale back their commitments to us. Our advertising revenue has dropped over 30%.
- Effective October 15, 2020, we have raised the cost of the newspaper to two dollars, the first increase since 2003.

COVID-19 has awakened an awareness of the significance of our papers, as we seek information about our world. Thanks to our Community's generosity and the unswerving dedication of our fine Team, we were able to remain fully functional through this pandemic. We love our Community partnership. We will continue our work, with your kind respect and support.

— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

Support your local, independent voice in journalism by making a contribution at www.tricornernews.com/contribute or by mailing a check with your contact information to The Lakeville Journal, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039.

In return for your Community Contribution, we regret that we cannot offer a tax deduction at this time.

EDITORIAL

Millerton Earth Day 2021 delivers more than just fun

We’ve all heard it before: “We only have one earth, so let’s do our best to take care of it.” Of course, it makes sense, right? That’s why an estimated 1 billion people in more than 192 countries around the world participate in Earth Day, recognized annually on April 22. This year in the Harlem Valley, individual communities are celebrating Mother Earth in their own special ways.

Right here in northeastern Dutchess County, the North East/Millerton Climate Smart Task Force (CSTF) has made it its mission for residents throughout the town and village to honor Earth Day with a slew of educational, entertaining and community-minded in-person and virtual activities (for more, read this week’s front page and Page A2). Scheduled for Thursday, April 22; Saturday, April 24; and Wednesday, April 28; Millerton’s Earth Day celebration is guaranteed not only to occur rain or shine, but to make a lasting imprint on those who take part.

One of the volunteers who helped coordinate the multi-day event is CSTF member Jennifer Dowley, who said that after last year’s Earth Day celebration was canceled due to the deadly coronavirus pandemic shutting down public functions, the task force regrouped, putting all of its efforts into this year’s event — and into its just launched climate smart website, www.climatesmartmillerton.org, but more on that in a moment.

It took an immense amount of planning, not simply from those volunteering on the CSTF, led by Coordinator Kathy Chow, but also from those who coordinated activities and events with the task force throughout the community, from the many local farms that planned tours at their facilities to the NorthEast-Millerton Library that set up story hours and gave away free seeds to home gardeners to the Kent Memorial Library that hosted a special lecture to the yoga studio and local businesses that offered free workshops to The Moviehouse that sold tickets to an environmentally-themed documentary to the Ford dealership that showcased an electric Mustang on Century Boulevard for excited future EV drivers to check out to the many merchants that set up jars on their counters to collect dollar bills and change to help buy trees for the currently under-renovation Eddie Collins Park.

The CSTF is hoping to raise \$60,000 to buy and tend to 100 new trees at the park for a year after planting them in the fall. According to Dowley, Oblong Books & Music owner Dick Hermans said he would set aside 10% of the store’s profits from the Earth Day weekend for the tree project, a testament of the village’s community spirit.

A really great example of that community spirit, though, can be found online, at the task force’s new website: www.climatesmartmillerton.org.

Rarely has this paper been so impressed by the work of a volunteer group formed by coordinating municipalities — congrats to the North East Town Board and to the Millerton Village Board for doing so and for appointing such well-educated, capable and dedicated members.

At the top of the website, it simply states: “How North East and Millerton can become more resilient to a warmer, more volatile climate.”

There are multiple tabs on the website for those who would like to learn more about how to “Do Something,” “Our Climate,” “Resources,” “Community” and “About.” Within the “Do Something” tab, one can get more in-depth and read about “Individuals and Families,” “Businesses, Farms and Institutions” or “Government.”

Under each of those options there are even more categories to delve into regarding climate change. The website is well researched and offers loads of information, yet it’s easy to understand and not too complicated for a layperson. It is extremely well done and promises to be an incredible resource for the community.

We are so impressed with the North East/Millerton Climate Smart Task Force. Not only has it planned a spectacular celebration for Earth Day 2021 for the entire community — young and old alike (during a major health crisis — no small feat) — but it has provided a valuable resource that residents will be sure to lean on now and well into the future.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Spring skies



Pine Plains Community Garden is a true volunteer effort

As this new season gets under way at the Community Garden in Pine Plains, we have many reasons to count our blessings and find new inspiration in the way people in this community have come together to help one another despite the COVID crisis and despite political and social tensions that potentially could drive us apart. We are very grateful for one such heartening recent development at the Community Garden.

Visitors and passersby may notice that our front garden suddenly looks much more appealing: All of the paths are now heavily mulched with woodchips. The benefits begin but do not end with garden serenity and a new sense of order. No longer confronted with an army of noxious, possibly tick-infested weeds constantly invading not only the paths but the vegetable beds, we garden volunteers can focus our efforts on

growing more and healthier food rather than continually battling aggressive plant interlopers.

For this remarkable transformation, we would like to thank Pine Plains Town Supervisor Darrah Cloud, a steadfast supporter of the garden, demonstrated in this case by granting us permission to use the woodchip mulch — produced and stored on town property using town resources — and by allowing us to request further use of town resources in the form of Highway Department equipment for delivery.

Highway Superintendent Heather M. Emerich enthusiastically approved our request, including crew work time, and her stellar crew managed to get the mulch to the garden quickly and efficiently despite their very busy schedule at this time of year.

In the spirit of mutual community support, it is particularly gratifying that Willow Roots food

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let’s continue our legacy

Our history is pregnant with renowned individuals and personal lives on the Almighty. Consider Samuel F.B. Morse, inventor of the American telegraph system and Morse Code, who on May 24, 1844, from our Supreme Court sent his first message based on Numbers 23.23: “What hath God wrought.”

Or, Samuel Adams, signer of the Declaration of Independence, in his will: “I... recommend my Soul to that

Almighty Being who gave it...” Or William Cushing, First Associate Justice in his will, “Sensible of my morality, but being of sound mind after recommending my soul to Almighty God through the merits of my Redeemer.”

Or, John Dickinson, signer of the U.S. Constitution in his will: “Rendering thanks to my Creator for my existence...” Or Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, in his will: “...I give to my dear family the religion of Christ.” Or John Jay, our First Chief Justice in his will “Unto HIM who is the author and giver of all good, I render sincere and humble thanks...” Or Charles C. Pinckney, signer of The Constitution in his will: “To the eternal, immutable and only true GOD, be all honor and glory, now and forever, Amen.”

Or John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Independence: “I entreat you in the most earnest manner to believe in Jesus Christ, for there is no salvation in any other.” For centuries, we have shared a legacy of prayer relying on the Almighty. We invite you to continue this legacy as well as your own legacy.

Since 1952, every president has proclaimed a National Day of Prayer. Let us continue the legacy together. Come join us Thursday, May 6, at the Memorials next to the Salisbury Town Hall at 6 p.m. to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer.

Marie Barnum
Salisbury, Conn.

Democracy destroyed — it could happen

In The Millerton News edition of April 15, two letters appeared in the editorial section advocating repeal of the filibuster. The writers claimed this is a mechanism to block progress and tie the hands of Congress, creating real and tangible pain for the citizens they are supposed to represent. More importantly, it provides a tool for the minority to control the majority — Hogwash!

Does anyone really think liberals care about equal representation? Isn’t this about setting

up a complete takeover by the Democrats in perpetuity?! As one senator replied, “We want to unpack the Supreme Court,” or we simply can’t be held up by filibuster.

In point of fact, the filibuster rule has already been changed dating back to 1975. Closure occurs when a three-fifths majority approves; formerly a two-thirds vote was required.

In simple terms, 60 out of 100 senators must agree. Does that sound unfair to anyone? Apparently we are complaining

about the necessity of getting 60 people out of 100 to agree on something.

This country faces a very uncertain future. We have close to a 50-50 split between conservatives and a more liberal agenda. As a consequence, it has never been harder to reach a majority vote on just about anything. Perhaps those individuals that feel the majority isn’t being heard should reconsider their thoughts and seek compromise, although it must seem easier to circumvent the rules.

If in fact, we are planning on making significant changes to the way our government functions; by God it should be determined by the majority not just the party in charge! It makes no difference if we’re talking about Republicans or Democrats.

I guess the next thing we could argue about is how much of a majority should be required? Nobody wins when only partisan politics are applied.

John Walters
Millerton

Making money by policing only does harm

Anyone who has driven up from New York along Route 684 knows that there are townships along the way that generate substantial revenue from traffic tickets for speeding and other driving fines. There is nothing wrong with that, as one D.C. police officer recently explained on NPR.

“If you follow any car, every car, for a few miles, they will have broken some traffic rule, and you can pull them over.”

Changing lanes without signaling, obstructed views with an air freshener, a COVID-delayed registration sticker, forgetting to honk in Ohio each time you pass a car, “jumping” a yellow light, not leaving enough braking distance in traffic... the list is endless (and often silly or at best out-of-date).

“Pull them over” translates to a traffic ticket (usually), which generates revenue. Quotas, unspoken quotas, and other internal directives for officers to “serve and protect” traffic laws and drivers’ misdeeds become an Excel spreadsheet line item to calculate overall police budget capabilities. And remember, almost 95% of traffic tickets result in paid fines across the nation. It’s guaranteed money. Serious crime has no financial reward for police departments.

Now, why in heck do these traffic cops (because that’s what

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

they are when conducting traffic duties) need firepower? If we split the police forces into serve and protect crime fighters and simple traffic police — gave them different training, different uniforms and vehicles — then if you were stopped for a traffic violation they could give you only a ticket. If there were anything more their computer told them before they approached the car, they could radio for police back-up and de-escalate the situation. Heck, put up more traffic cameras and mail the tickets, keep the police expenses low and revenue — and safety — high.

If I, as a driver, were stopped by a traffic cop, I would not be frightened, I would not have to wave my empty hands out the window to show I was not armed... why? Because I would know a traffic cop wasn’t armed, already frightened, and ready for battle.

We have to face facts. Police are under tremendous pressure. It is a battle out there. These are brave men and women whose talents are undermined by making them traffic cops. Good cops whose ability to train for

and concentrate on serious crime is hampered by the hours they spend cruising around in traffic looking to raise money for local police budgets. Using fully trained police as simplistic fund-raisers really has to stop. It is dangerous for the cops and — as shown recently — the public.

And this traffic duty does almost nothing to stop serious crime and, more importantly, reduces manpower and tax budgets desperately needed elsewhere.

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

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(USPS 384600)

An Independent New York Newspaper

Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East, Town of Washington Town of Amenia, Town of Pine Plains, North East (Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District

Published Weekly by The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546

Tel. (860) 435-9873 ext. 608

www.tricornernews.com • editor@millertonnews.com

Volume 90, Number 13

Thursday, April 22, 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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In Memoriam
A. Whitney Ellsworth
1936-2011

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Subscription Rates - One Year:

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Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Millerton, NY 12546. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

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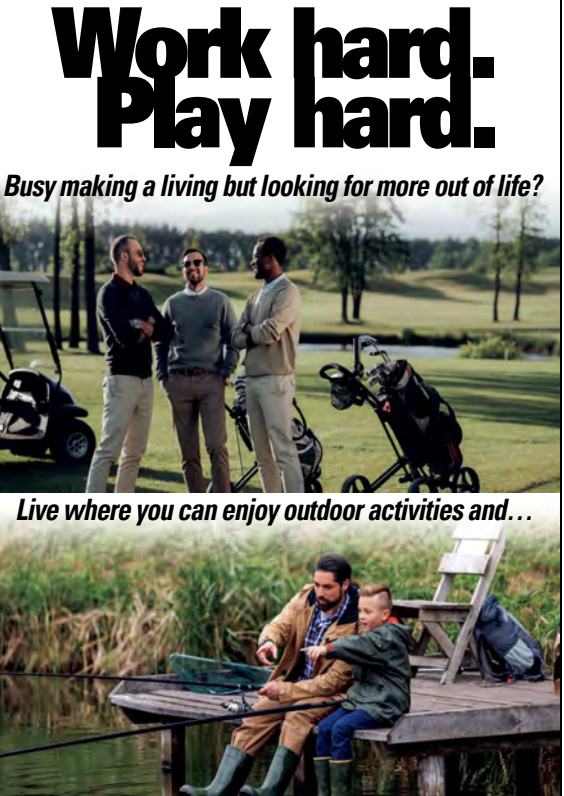
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