



MILLERTON
North East Town Supervisor Shares His Goals For The New Year **A2**



MILLBROOK
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Fugitive in Connecticut sexual assault case nabbed in Millerton

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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MILLERTON — As of Monday morning, Jan. 4, Luis Ixim-Coc was sitting in the Dutchess County Jail in Poughkeepsie fighting extradition charges to the Fairfield County Superior Court in Connecticut on sexual assault charges for raping a child under the age of 13. After being apprehended in Millerton on Tuesday, Dec. 22, the fugitive was arraigned in

Dutchess County Court before being remanded to jail with no bail.

The 21-year-old was arrested in the village after fleeing the Nutmeg State based on evidence that “was discovered through intelligence gathered by the FBI-Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force and [Dutchess County] Sheriff’s Office [DCSO] Special Operations Division and was arrested at his residence, 60 North

See **FUGITIVE ARRESTED, A7**

Remembering the challenges of 2020

The year in review

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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Part I

HARLEM VALLEY — There can be little question that 2020 was a year that most Americans will long remember, and that includes those living in New York’s Harlem Valley. Certainly the arrival of the coronavirus from Wuhan, China, at the start of the year and its declaration as a pandemic in mid-March set the tone for a year as difficult as most have ever experienced, with Governor Andrew Cuomo shutting down non-essential businesses,

schools and mass gatherings statewide for months on end through his New York State on PAUSE Executive Order. Even as 2021 begins, the state’s economy has yet to recover and probably won’t for years.

While COVID-19 overshadowed almost all of 2020, there was plenty of other news that occurred, and as is tradition for The Millerton News, now is the time the newspaper looks back on the most discussed stories throughout the year, in a two-part year in review. The first part of the series will cover

See **YEAR IN REVIEW, A7**

Mabettsville business stays out of court

Ruge’s Auto settles car lot paving issue amicably

By **JUDITH O’HARA BALFE**
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MABBETTSVILLE — For the better part of a year, things were tense between Ruge’s Automotive, located at 3692 Route 44 in Mabettsville, and its neighbors. Mabettsville, a tiny hamlet in the town of Washington just two miles east of Millbrook, is likewise a quaint, picturesque, rural community.

The heart of the issue

So when the Chevy dealership wanted to pave the two car lots located on North Mabettsville Road across Route 44 from the dealership that display its vehicles, and also en-

hance the lots’ lighting system, neighbors living nearby were not pleased.

Those neighbors felt the addition of bright lights, so many vehicles and the black-topped lots would surely detract from the country ambience when driving west into the village. There was also a question of whether this changes would impact the area as far as the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and/or the town’s Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) were involved, which depended on issues like whether the area was over an aquifer and whether there could be drainage problems.

See **RUGE’S, A8**

A COVID-19 update for 2021

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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DUTCHESS COUNTY — As of Tuesday morning, Jan. 5, the Dutchess County COVID-19 Community Impact Dashboard posted a cumulative count of 12,797 positive confirmed cases in Dutchess County since the start of the outbreak, as reported by the New York State Department of Health (DOH). That information was updated on Monday, Jan. 4.

Harlem Valley case load

A breakdown by municipality shows as of the 4th there were 15 cases in Amenia, 40 in Dover, six in Milan, five or less in Millbrook, five or less in

“We are also preparing a massive vaccination program. The vaccine works, but it only works if we take it.”

Governor Andrew Cuomo

Millerton, five or less in the town of North East, five or less in Pine Plains, seven in Stanford and five or less in the town of Washington.

Dutchess County figures

So far, 372,796 COVID tests have been conducted with a 8.12% seven-day rolling average of positive infection rates. Among the three county hospitals, 145 residents have been

hospitalized due to the virus since the outbreak. A total of 10,932 COVID-19 patients have recovered. Sadly, 243 residents in Dutchess County have died during the pandemic.

State statistics

Meanwhile, on Sunday Governor Andrew Cuomo said that 7,963 people were hospitalized, that’s 149 more from the day before and more than twice the number at the beginning of December. The New York Times reported that the statewide rate of positive test results was 7.98%, compared with around 5% at the beginning of December.

See **COVID UPDATE, A7**

After two decades of dreaming, Amenia Library expansion takes shape

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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AMENIA — More than 20 years after the idea of expanding the Amenia Free Library on Route 343 was first dreamed of, that expansion is now in being built. The end result will provide a comfortable space for its collection, programming, employees and patrons.

The history

Taking a closer look at the project’s time line, Amenia Free Library Board of Trustees President Alan Gamble said the idea was first conceived

See **LIBRARY EXPANSION A8**



PHOTO SUBMITTED

With Ducillo Construction overseeing construction as the project’s general contractor, the Amenia Free Library began excavation work on the west side of the building in the fall of 2020 to make way for the 68-foot long by 28-foot wide addition to the existing library, which by all accounts is too small for its current collection and programming.



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OPINION

New Year, New Hope; Columns; Letter **B4**



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MILLERTON

North East town supervisor sets goals for 2021

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
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NORTH EAST — Talk to North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan and he'd be among the first to admit that 2020 was a difficult year — the challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic only made his job of running the town that much tougher. But Kennan was still able to see a number of projects accomplished, and as he begins the second year of his four-year term he spoke to The Millerton News about some of his goals for 2021.

More Rail Trail parking

"One of the things I am interested in getting started is access to the Rail Trail, because there are no parking lots up there till you get to Under Mountain Road. It's nine or 10 miles till you get to another parking lot, and for many people that's just too far," said the town supervisor, who spent the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 26, running the newly completed northern extension of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail (HVRT). "It's great — really beautiful. I'm actually quite encouraged. I think between New York State Parks and Dutchess County we will find a solution."

When asked what exactly the town is doing to solve the issue, Kennan said it's fairly basic.

"First of all, we're talking about it. We're letting people know there is a need for parking up there, otherwise people will be parking on the roads, and that is dangerous," he said. "Even now,



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said the town's old highway garage at 11 South Center St. should probably be demolished once the new joint highway garage complex is complete, which he hopes will be done by year's end.

just in these colder months, we had a lot of people parking on the roads. When we get to spring and summer, it needs to be addressed."

The only parking specifically designated for the HVRT is on South Center Street, right near the soon-to-be vacated town highway garage. There are roughly 27 parking spots in that lot, not nearly enough for trail users at the height of the season. The Rail Trail is a favorite tourist destination, not to mention a very popular amenity for local residents — especially during the pandemic, as noted by Kennan.

"I think the Rail Trail has been a great asset for our community in this time of COVID because it is a place where people can get out and walk, not so much bike, but walk or run," he said. "Even on Saturday [Dec. 26], there were people out there north by Boston Corners Road, I think I passed about six or seven people, I went out at 4 o'clock, and it was getting

late, it was getting dark."

Wastewater goals

Another priority for Kennan is to bring a wastewater system into town, specifically into the village center.

"There are such big implications for economic development and implications for housing," he said. "It will change conditions, which at the moment are inhibiting more stores, restaurants and other attractions from coming to our town and creating jobs."

While primarily planned for the village's business district, the wastewater system could also be brought into the Boulevard District, which stretches from Route 44 out toward the Connecticut border, "a place where businesses could be opening and just [aren't]," according to Kennan, who said "it's not inviting at the moment," though it is a focus for the town's new Zoning Review Committee (ZRC), and "it is something which a wastewater system would help,"



PHOTO BY DAN STANBERG

More parking is needed for the recently completed north-bound extension of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, as currently trail users have only limited options, according to North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan.

according to the town supervisor.

The benefits could include attracting a new food market, said Kennan, which the town desperately needs.

"And I'm not saying 'supermarket,' I'm saying 'food market,' because a supermarket is too big for this location, but a nice food market would be so important to the community," he said. "Everybody misses not having a market."

Previously, residents were able to shop at the Millerton Fresh Market, but that store closed on June 17, 2019; that was the last time there was a local supermarket.

Highway garage

"We made lot of progress," said Kennan. "We acquired that site at a very advantageous cost, thanks to the previous board. Now we have two of three buildings finished: the storage building and the sand and salt storage. Next year my hope is we will actually complete the highway garage. That will enable us to move everything out of the location at South Center Street, which has always been an inappropriate location for the town's highway garage."

The sand and salt shed at 11 South Center St. has already been discontinued, as it was leaching salt into the Weatuck Creek adjacent to the site. The materials

are now stored at the sand and salt shed at the new Route 22 site.

Once the new highway garage is complete, hopefully by year's end, the deteriorating garage on South Center Street may be knocked down, if the town supervisor has his say.

"I think the building itself should be demolished," he said. "What happens to that site is a bigger question. We will be interested in getting a lot of ideas for that; if funding came with the ideas it will be even better. That's a ways down the road. That facility will be in use through all of 2021, so it won't be until the end of the year, at best, until we're out of there."

Support park redo

And while the redevelopment of Eddie Collins Field is really a village project, Kennan said he feels strongly about it, as the park is "such a great resource for our community, important for our community and the plans that have been developed are really exciting and very thoughtful and it will be a real attraction."

The town supervisor said he plans to lend his full support to the village of Millerton and the committee that's spearheading the park's renovation. The town even contributed \$25,000 from its recreation account during its November board meeting.

"I think everybody on the Town Board felt we wanted to not just support [the project] with our words but make it clear that Eddie Collins Field is not just a park for village, but also for town residents," said Kennan. "My dream is that it gets used by a lot of people. It will lend itself to a variety of different activities."

In addition to a new ball field, soccer field, basketball courts and outdoor community center there will be a new swimming pool — something the entire community has been longing for after major cracks and other damage forced the old Denney Pool to shut down.

More board participation

Kennan touched on another point: he'd like to see more participation in town government.

"One of my goals for the Town Board is to find a way to open up our board meetings to more discussion," he said.

Another goal? To begin the planning process for a new Town Hall. The logical place is where the current Town Hall is located at 19 North Maple Ave., said Kennan, as it "really is a municipal center, with a cluster of essential services located nearby: the post office, the bank, the village hall." The only problem now is that the existing building is unsuitable. It's a former private home, not designed for municipal purposes.

"In a perfect world we would have a municipal building with part of the building for town government and part of the building for the village," said Kennan. "The village is in temporary quarters at the moment, but it's one step at a time."

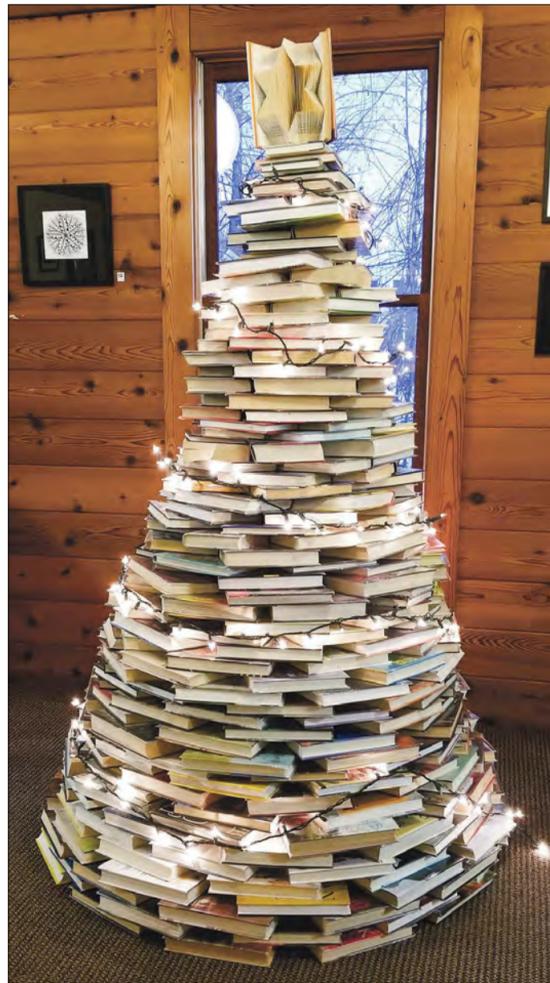


PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

This book lovers' Christmas book tree took volunteer Vivian Sukenik and a local teen a number of hours to construct. It can now be seen at the NorthEast-Millerton Library, where it will be through much of the month of January 2021.

Back to its roots

MILLERTON — Volunteers at the NorthEast-Millerton Library decided to add an extra measure of holiday cheer for book lovers by creating a Christmas tree using some 300 of the volumes that were being culled from the shelves to make room for new additions.

Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson said the books used in the construction are among those that will be taken in January to www.betterworldbooks.com, an organization that saves discarded books from landfills by selling donated volumes online, in turn using the funds from the sales to support literacy programs around the world.

With the re-shelving work ongoing, the staff needed to find some place to store the books until they can be transported to the drop-off spot in Poughkeepsie.

Inspired by photos of similar projects online, the seed was sown and the tree arose, despite the late poet Joyce Kilmer's belief that such a creation could be accomplished by only a higher power.

Leo-Jameson said volunteer Vivian Sukenik and a local teen spent "a couple of hours" on the construction, with the teen devoting about six hours creating the unique star — learning how to fold the book, making an original pattern and folding the pages.

Of course both book and tree sizes vary, but www.epublishers.com — perhaps with an eye toward encouraging customers to read digitally and save a tree — estimates one tree is needed to produce 62.5 books. At the library, it took approximately 300 books to make this holiday masterpiece.

— Carol Kneeland

MILLERTON IN BRIEF NECC Toddler Programs online

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the North East Community Center (NECC) has shifted its Toddler Programming to virtual. For community residents who have not participated in Toddler Programming before and would like to join NECC for free Toddler and Caregiver programs, complete the center's easy to use Virtual Programming Registration Form, available at www.necc.squarespace.com/programs/toddler-youth.

For more information, go to www.neccmillerton.org/programs or call 518-789-4259.

NECC, meanwhile, has a Community Crisis Fund, to provide essential and emergency services including food and other supplies to those in need of help. It is also fundraising to continue essential NECC services.

Knit and craft online from home

The NorthEast-Millerton Library's online Knitting and Crafting Group meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Join the group from the comfort of home, from a computer, tablet or smartphone, by going to www.gotomeet.me/NEMillertonLibrary/ visit. Or join in by phone; call 1-571-317-3112. The access code is 310-897-565.

For more on the library, go to www.nemillertonlibrary.org.

Help the Little Free Grocery

The NorthEast-Millerton Library's original funding for its Little Free Grocery has run out. The library is hoping residents will consider donating to keep the program going.

Donations can be made by going to www.nemillertonlibrary.org/support-us/ or mailing a check to the NorthEast-Millerton Library, P.O. Box 786, Millerton, NY 12546.

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School administrators plan for COVID in the new year**Webutuck extends in-person pause, students to return Jan. 11**By KAITLIN LYLE
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WEBUTUCK — While students were initially expecting to return to school on Monday, Jan. 4, following the winter break, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District decided to take extra precautions to protect students, staff and community members from the spike in COVID-19 cases during the holidays by continuing its full remote instruction through Sunday, Jan. 10, with students returning to school in-person on Monday, Jan. 11.

In his letter to Webutuck families on Wednesday, Dec. 23, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani reported that Dutchess County is currently seeing its highest number of COVID-19 cases since the spring, with the number of positive cases identified in the county calculated at 9.4% on Tuesday, Dec. 22, with a seven-day average of 6.4% of positive

cases at that time.

He explained that the numbers spiked since the days before Thanksgiving when the five-day average of positive COVID-19 cases was in the 2% range. As a consequence, Castellani reported school districts throughout Dutchess County and the Mid-Hudson region have decided to extend their “holiday pause” of in-person learning to the recommended 10 to 14 days after the new year.

During the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) meeting on Monday, Dec. 21, BOE members voted to authorize the district to continue its remote instruction model through Sunday, Jan. 10.

“The board has had a real difficult time trying to juggle getting students in as much as possible to be in school in-person instruction, and it’s really based on the data we’re getting from Dutchess County and the spike from the holiday spike was high, so I think it’s a great decision in respects that we’ve taken

every precaution to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our community,” Castellani said.

The spike in COVID cases was high after Thanksgiving due to the number of people who traveled, and another spike is predicted in the coming weeks after a reported 85 million Americans traveled for the Christmas holiday. Again, schools said they are trying to manage with such realities when planning reopenings, but that it’s difficult.

Though the administration team wants all of its students back to school as soon as possible, Castellani said he believes the district’s remote instruction is very strong and very successful at this point.

“What we don’t want is to come back too early and have to close again,” he said.

Come Monday, Jan. 11, and Tuesday, Jan. 12, the district plans to have students in grades seventh through 12th resume the hybrid instruction model with

the district’s A cohort attending in-person learning and its B cohort remaining in remote instruction. Cohort B will start attending school in-person on Thursday, Jan. 14, and Friday, Jan. 15, while cohort A remain in remote learning. Meanwhile, students in grades pre-k through sixth will continue their Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday schedule, starting Monday, Jan. 11, and Wednesdays will continue to be a correspondence and communication day with remote learning for the district’s students.

In terms of his expectations for the new year, Castellani said, “I’m hoping that we are back to normal as soon as possible for our students and our families.”

To stay up-to-date on the district’s plans, families are encouraged to check out Webutuck’s website at www.webutuckschools.org or to call the district office at 845-373-4100, and to keep reading The Millerton News.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Christmas spirit reaches Rail Trail

Cyclists, walkers, runners or those just out for a stroll on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail during the past few weeks may have noticed that part of the trail was touched by the Christmas spirit. A tree in one section of the trail in the town of Amenia was decorated for the holidays with colorful bulbs, painted figures and other holiday ornaments for Christmas. Whoever the mysterious elves were who decorated the tree, the ornaments were the talk of the trail this holiday season.

Town adopts capital asset policy, updates water chargesBy KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — Starting promptly at 7 p.m., the Town Board went straight to work at its meeting on Thursday, Dec. 17.

The board met via video-conference due to the COVID pandemic and live streamed it to the town’s YouTube channel, “AmeniaTV.” All board members were present, save Councilman Damien Gutierrez.

Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti announced that the 2021 reorganization meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m.

The board accepted a motion to appoint James Walsh and Brad Rebillard as alternates to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner noted that alternates are appointed to a one-year term, and that Welsh and Rebillard will serve from Friday, Jan. 1, to Dec. 31, 2021.

For the first resolution of the night, the board adopted a formal capital asset policy to ensure town assets are accurately capitalized “for inclusion in the town’s financial statements by establishing guidelines for the record keeping of capital assets, including acquisition, threshold for capitaliza-

tion, determination of useful life, inventory and disposition thereof.”

Next, the board turned its attention to a resolution to amend the medical, dental and vision insurance premium contribution percentages for town employees and elected officials. The board amended the medical insurance premium contribution amount from 25% to 20%, which took effect on Friday, Jan. 1, and includes dental and vision.

Looking to “keep pace” with the increasing costs of operation and maintain of its water system infrastructure, the board passed a resolution to

adopt water usage charges for the town’s water district. Current water use charges include \$50 for a single family home, \$55 for a multiple dwelling residence and \$60 for a commercial residence for the first 12,000 gallons. All charges include \$5 each for every additional 1,000 gallons. The proposed charges will focus on the first 5,000 gallons of water, with \$50 charged for a single family home, \$55 charged for a multiple dwelling and \$60 charged for a commercial residence. These proposed charges will also charge \$5 each for every additional 1,000 gallons.

In response to Council-

woman Vicki Doyle’s questions about the effect these changes would have on residential water bills, Perotti explained that for a lot of people, this isn’t going to affect them as “there’s quite a few people that only use 3 to 5,000 gallons, so theirs wouldn’t change.”

Following the approval of several resolutions to authorize local tax settlements, the board adopted a resolution to employ RBT CPAs, LLP, for accounting and auditing services for the 2021 calendar year. In another employment resolution for 2021, Attorney Ian Lindars, Esq., from Stenger, Diamond & Glass, LLP, was retained to pro-

vide legal services and advice to the Town Board, while Attorney Shane Egan, Esq., from Cappillino Rothschild & Egan LLP, was retained to provide legal services for tax certiorari matters.

After applying for and receiving a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant for the planned sidewalk extension project from downtown Amenia to Beekman Park, the board authorized a formal solicitation for a request for proposals (RFPs) for engineering services for the project. All proposals must be submitted in writing to the town clerk no later than 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14.

Dover gets certified as bronze-level Climate Smart CommunityBy KAITLIN LYLE
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DOVER — The town of Dover’s efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change were rewarded this past September when it was recognized as one of 13 communities in New York to achieve certification as a Climate Smart Community (CSC) and one of just 10 communities to achieve bronze-level certification in the state.

As listed on www.climatesmart.ny.gov, the goal of the CSC program is to help local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. In order to get certified, communities must first pledge to join the CSC program and become a registered Climate Smart Community. After registering for the program, communities must take actions to bring them closer to CSC certification, some of which even have competitive funding available to help them complete the action. Such actions include creating a climate smart community; shifting to clean, renewable energy; informing and inspiring the public; enhancing community resilience to climate change; etc.

Once they select and then review and begin to document their actions, communities move forward with their application process.

To date, the CSC program has a total of 319 registered communities, 55 of which have reached bronze-level certification and seven of which have reached silver-level certification. According to the CSC website, bronze-level certification is the initial level of certification “for local governments that have [made] their

commitment to climate action and taken steps to implement climate-smart policies and projects.”

Through the Dover Town Board’s support and the Dover Conservation Advisory Council’s (CAC) hard work in establishing the Climate Smart Dover Task Force, the CSC certification process has been a transformative journey, said Dover Town Clerk Katie Palmer-House, who serves as co-chair of both the Climate Smart Dover Task Force and the Dover CAC.

Recalling her experiences as a Town Board member back when some town roads and private property infrastructure were devastated by repetitive flooding, Palmer-House shared how communities in eastern Dutchess County worked together to prepare a multi-jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan in 2009. She said doing so has helped her understand that they, as officials and residents, needed to change their paradigm of “working against our natural environment and begin to work with it instead.

“Even as our Eastern Dutchess communities are collectively considered the ‘Harlem Valley,’ Dover’s natural environment and ecology are breathtakingly unique,” Palmer-House said. “We have fertile plains for crops and livestock, steep slopes and rocky outcrop, coveted resources under the ground as well as rare wildlife and flora that thrive, in spite of our unwitting town-driven efforts to develop an economically viable built environment.”

When she learned about the state’s CSC program back in 2012, Palmer-House said it seemed the natural next step to

pursue it after preparing the All Hazards Mitigation Plan. In July of 2016, the Town Board took the CSC pledge and it has been working toward certification ever since.

Last month, Palmer-House said she was excited when the Town Board approved an application to the New York State Charge Ready Program to install a public electric vehicle charging station on town property. Additionally, she said the board is considering purchasing an electrical vehicle for official town use.

Along with continuing municipal efforts to educate students and residents about making the paradigm shift through resources posted on the “Climate Smart Dover” Facebook page and through publications that are now available on the town’s website at www.doverny.us, Palmer-House said the town is continuing to work on the development of a “sustainability” chapter as an addition and supplement to its impending Comprehensive Plan update, which has been funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office of Climate Change’s CSC Program.

As far as what securing bronze-level CSC certification means to Dover, Palmer-House said the achievement marks a milestone representing a conscious commitment the town has made “to preserve and restore what we love about Dover as a legacy to future generations.

“In the end,” she said, “I think our collective motivation to continue efforts is grounded in the simple, yet profound timeless phrase, ‘There’s no place like home.’”

COVID-19 update**Sharon Hospital coronavirus testing**

SHARON, Conn. — Testing for COVID-19 will move to an appointment-only basis at Sharon Hospital until further notice. All specimen collections at the hospital are completed in an isolated area at the facility’s rear Wound Care entrance.

Hours of operation: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 845-790-8855, Option 1.

“This change is part of our adaptive strategy to streamline access and address challenges posed by winter weather,” said Dr. Mark Hirko, president of the hospital. “This location offers increased separation from patient care areas and is easily accessible by car, so you can drive up, park and await instructions to enter the testing area.”

Individuals who arrive without a scheduled appointment will be asked to call 845-790-8855, Option 1, to coordinate a future visit.

Bring the following to your COVID-19 test at Sharon Hospital:

- Wear a medical face mask.
- Government-issued photo ID (examples: driver’s license; passport)
- Insurance card
- Physician’s order
- Prescription for the COVID-19 test (your doctor will tell you if you need to bring a paper order with you or if it will be submitted electronically).

cally). Nuvance Health procedural and surgical patients who meet specific criteria should have a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of their procedure or surgery. Their physician or surgeon will let them know if they need a

COVID-19 test. Information about COVID-19 testing at Nuvance Health’s primary care practices and outpatient locations. Go to www.patients.healthquest.org/covid-19-testing.

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Aquatic Ecosystem Research was retained by the Twin Lakes Association and the Town of Salisbury, with the help of a grant from the CTDEEP, to study the lakes and recommend future actions to ensure their long term health. The recommendations included not using broad scale herbicidal treatments to control the weeds, but rather a more measured approach without chemicals. Additionally, for lake shore owners to reduce the use of fertilizers and control stormwater runoff with rain gardens and a buffer zone of native plants at the water’s edge. The report identified the north section of the West Lake and the channel as major concerns. For a copy of the report, please let me know and I would be happy to send.

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

BOE to move forward with critical district-wide building repairs

By KAITLIN LYLE
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PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) took the next step forward in addressing critical repairs in the district at its meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 2.

The BOE convened via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic, kicking off with a presentation by CSArch Executive Principal Tom Ritzenthaler regarding the replacements and restorations needed in the district.

Among the repairs, CSArch recommended replacing the roof at Cold Spring Early Learning Center; replacing the boiler, floor tile and roof and restoring the masonry at Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center; and replacing the Stissing Mountain Junior High School gymnasium floor.

For the boiler replacement at Seymour Smith, CSArch pre-

sented the options for a propane boiler versus a fuel oil burner, and the current total project cost provides estimates for either option.

At Cold Spring, the current estimates for the roof replacement total \$2,377,527 while the junior high school gym floor replacement was estimated at \$526,102.

At Seymour Smith, the roof replacement came to an estimated \$1,666,546; the masonry restoration was estimated at \$776,463; and the floor tile replacement was estimated at \$846,338. The cost of a propane burner was estimated at \$1,542,138 while the cost of a fuel oil burner was estimated at \$1,163,330.

Overall, if the district were to elect a propane burner, the total project cost for all three school buildings would come to \$7,735,114; if the district chooses a fuel oil burner, the total project cost would come to \$7,356,306.

As of Monday, Nov. 30, the district had \$3,506,434 in funding available through its capital reserves, though use of those reserves requires voter approval. Looking at the time line for this project, the BOE would ideally want to finalize the project scope and budget by January and review funding options between January and February. By February, the BOE would like to approve a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) resolution for the project and then go out for a referendum in March before the project is voted on, likely at the board's May 18 meeting.

"The Board recognized the urgency of getting this work done, noting that delay will only increase the repair work needed to be done and the likelihood that it will only get more expensive," BOE President Chip Couse said on a later date. "While not yet a true safety issue, we saw 'bowing' in parapet walls that

could become dangerous."

Having seen the work that needs to be done after taking a tour of the school buildings, Couse made his own recommendation that the district go forth with a proposal that includes a dual fuel boiler without installing the tanks.

The BOE came to the consensus it should go ahead with the full scope of the project and authorized CSArch to prepare a proposal for voters to include all the work with the option of a propane versus a fuel oil burner that would allow the district to source either fuel, depending on pricing advantages.

Couse added on a later date that the BOE decided it would be advantageous to do all the proposed work at once, since putting off any segment would only become more expensive in the future, as not only would the work be done in phases but the cost of materials could likely increase.



PHOTOS BY TIA MAGGIO

For the birds

On Saturday, Dec. 19, the Roeliff Jansen Community Library created handmade bird feeders to help decorate its trees for the holidays with help from new children's librarian Tia Maggio, who created these popular "to go" bags for their patrons to pick up and make edible garlands, seed covered pine cones and more, "to make our winter feathered friends happy," said Maggio. For more children's activities, contact youth@roejanlibrary.org or call 518-325-4101. The Roe Jan Library is located at 9091 Route 22; check it out online, at www.roejanlibrary.org, or on Facebook.



Town makes headway with broadband, police reform and sewer study

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — In the last few months of 2020, the town of Pine Plains was able to make significant progress on three major projects — including its police reform plan, sewer feasibility study and efforts to address broadband access — and town officials are looking forward to advancing further in the coming new year.

Broadband

Recognized as an ongoing challenge for local municipalities in both Dutchess and Columbia Counties, the issue of securing broadband access has been intensely discussed at the Pine Plains Broadband Committee's weekly meetings in 2020. Describing the discussions as an eye-opening experience, town Supervisor Darrah Cloud praised the Broadband Committee's brilliance, adding that many of its members have worked for internet companies and therefore have been able to shed a light on "the enormous folly of the FCC in determining that all these towns are fully served by broadband."

Because the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) looks at Census blocks — or the smallest geographic areas used by the United States Census Bureau to tabulate data — to determine service in an area, Cloud said that if one person reports having service in a Census block, the FCC declares that area as served.

As a result, she said many towns in both Dutchess and Columbia Counties don't have adequate broadband. Another issue previously brought to the committee's attention focused on how it would take another five years at least for Optimum to upgrade all the service lines in northeastern Dutchess County, totaling \$35,000 a mile for laying down the fiber optic cables.

"The big lesson in all this has been 'follow the money,'" Cloud said recently, "and some of the companies came out and said it's not worth it to string a \$35,000 wire to one house."

Moving forward, Pine Plains is now trying to band together

"It's about changing the culture of policing or, in a way, rewarding the best parts of it and working on the bias that is kind of implicit in a lot of us."

Darrah Cloud, Town Supervisor

with Columbia County to address the issue, while Cloud is striving to attract interest from more towns in Dutchess County. Come Thursday, Jan. 7, the town's Broadband Committee plans to meet with Columbia County's Broadband Committee. Though she anticipates learning more at the meeting, Cloud said the Columbia County Broadband Committee is looking at public-private enterprises involving town investments in infrastructure and in creating a foundation.

"We've just got our fingers in every single pie trying to figure out which way to go and who can help us and who's willing to partner," Cloud said.

On Dec. 18, Cloud happily announced via her newsletter that the Pine Plains Central School District was invited by Governor Andrew Cuomo's office to join a program geared toward obtaining broadband with help from the not-for-profit Education Superhighway. She explained that, if all goes well, Education Superhighway would pay for the build-out of high-speed internet to reach residences where students don't have internet access.

Police reform

Having worked on the town's police reform plan with Pine Plains Officer-in-Charge John Hughes and Pine Plains Police Officer Michael Beliveau, Cloud said they've been putting together all the policies they need for the reform plan, as per the governor's Executive Order last year that all communities with their own police agencies develop a reform policy by April 1 or face losing state aid.

Once a week, the town's stakeholders committee has been meeting to discuss the plan, and following the recent release of the Dutchess County Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative's comprehensive report, the group has been reading the

report and earmarking sections to help guide its plan.

"It's about changing the culture of policing or, in a way, rewarding the best parts of it and working on the bias that is kind of implicit in a lot of us because as the song goes, we were very carefully taught to be racist and nobody wants to be that way, I don't think," Cloud said. "It's not a happy place, but it's time for reflection on that in every sector and they're all working on it... It's been eye-opening for, I think, the regular citizens who are on the stakeholders committee as far as what goes on in police agencies, the trends we're seeing and how hard it is to get the training to handle new situations that are emerging."

Among some of those emerging situations, Cloud emphasized the significance of training local police officers on mental health issues, focusing on how to handle specific individuals, what to look for and what behavior can tell an officer to help prevent a situation from escalating.

The stakeholders' last committee meeting for the time being was held on Wednesday evening, Dec. 23. As of this time, Cloud said she, Hughes and Beliveau plan to take the committee's recommendations and add them into the town's policies.

Sewer feasibility study

In discussing another major document for the town, Cloud said the Pine Plains Town Board just received its sewer feasibility study — which she likened to "250 pages of engineering bliss" — and that the board plans to dig into it for the next month to understand the recommendations and the possibilities.

Having worked all summer on the project with the engineering and environmental consulting firm Tighe & Bond, Cloud said the company conducted various tests all over town and started putting the

document together in earnest this past September.

As of press time, the town supervisor said the board is going to read through the sewer study and schedule a meeting with the project's engineer, during which time the board will figure out the next step in the process.

Additionally, Cloud said the town will need to hold a public meeting on the sewer study somewhere down the line to get community feedback.



The Lakeville Journal Company

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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.

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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.

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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 unwavering 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.

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AREA IN BRIEF

Grange Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner Saturday, Jan. 9

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville.

All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will

consist of spaghetti, homemade meatballs, salad, garlic bread and homemade tomato soup spice cake for dessert. A \$15 donation per dinner is asked.

Drive to the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for your dinner and get your food

through your car window, and take it home to enjoy. All CDC health guidelines will be followed including face mask and glove wearing and social distancing.

Call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton for reservations at 845-868-7869.

Anna Belas

AMENIA — Anna Belas, 88, a longtime resident of Amenia, passed away Dec. 31, 2020, after an extended nursing home stay.



Mrs. Belas was a secretary to the Safety Department at the Wassaic Developmental Center for 18 years, retiring in 1994. She previously worked as a secretary at Pawling Corporation.

Born on Aug. 26, 1932, in New York, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Elizabeth (Sutek) and Samuel Klvac. On May 23, 1953, in New York, she married Paul Belas, who predeceased her on Oct. 25, 2017.

She was a passionate cook and canner and enjoyed crocheting and coloring and sitting in the warmth of the sun.

She loved watching "Dancing With the Stars" and reading her tabloid magazines. She spoke adoringly about her grandchildren.

Mrs. Belas is survived by two daughters, Brenda Rennia and her husband, Carl Michael, of Amenia, and Cindy Langiu and her husband, Americo, of Dover Plains; a son, Edward Belas and his wife, Wendy, of Altoona, Fla.; and two grandchildren, Claudia and Griffin Langiu.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Belas was predeceased by a son, Robert Belas.

Funeral services were private and arranged by Hufcut Funeral Home in Dover Plains. Burial was at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains.

Jane (Lyon) Bly

WASSAIC and DOVER PLAINS — Jane (Lyon) Bly, 99, a lifelong area resident, died Jan. 2, 2021, at Sharon Health Care Center following a lengthy illness.



Jane Lyon was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1921 to the late Edna (Lawless) and John Patrick Lyon of Schultsville, N.Y. She graduated from Rhinebeck High School, Class of 1938, and attended the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

Jane served as Secretary to the President of Bennett College in Millbrook for 25 years. After retiring from Bennett, it was her pleasure to travel frequently to Ireland, the home of her ancestors.

She was interested in photography and poetry. Her photographs appeared in Agway Cooperative and Country magazine. Her published poetry was also inspired by life on the farm. She was a member of the Amenia Historical Society for many years.

On Sept. 28, 1956, she married Harry L. Bly in Danbury, Conn. They owned and operated First Settler Farm in Wassaic from 1962 to 1998.

Mr. Bly died in December of 1998, and Jane moved to Dover Plains in 2001.

Jane asked that her family and friends remember their many joyful gatherings: the mu-

sic, the stories, the love and the laughter.

Jane is survived by her daughter, Patricia McNamara Cassidy and her husband, Harry, of Dover Plains; two stepdaughters, Evelyn Bunch of Palmer, Ark., and Laura Dennis and her husband, George, of Brantingham, N.Y.; a daughter-in-law, Jane H. Bly of Millbrook; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and many friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, Jane was predeceased by her son, John Edwards of Red Lodge, Mont., in 2018; a stepdaughter, Lucy Bly of Mesa, Ariz.; a stepson, Harry J. Bly of Millbrook; and her sister, Mary Lyon DeWitz of Winter Park, Fla.

Graveside services and burial will take place on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Flanders Lane off Route 7 in Kent. The Rev. Francis Fador will officiate.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Amenia Free Library, P.O. Box 27, Amenia, NY 12501.

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

Jean Marie Lee

FALLS VILLAGE — Jean Marie (Logan) Lee, 84, of Falls Village (formerly of South Attleboro, Mass.), passed away peacefully, in the comfort of her home, surrounded by her adoring family on Jan. 1, 2021.



She was the beloved wife of Robert E. Lee, to whom she was wed for the past 59 years.

Born in Attleboro, Mass., on April 13, 1936, she was a loving daughter of the late Georgiana A. (Lumnah) and Vincent H. Logan. She was predeceased by her sister, Margaret J. Warchal; and brother, Walter B. Logan.

Jean grew up in Attleboro and was a 1954 graduate of Attleboro High School. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She worked for more than 37 years as office manager for College Hill Bookstore/Dulgarian Properties in Providence, R.I. As Kenneth Dulgarian so eloquently put at her retirement party in October of 2017, "Jean was the calm in every storm!" And that is how Jean lived her life: calmly with an abundance of dignity and grace.

She went on numerous trips and cruises with her husband. She enjoyed reading, playing cards and keeping in regular touch with friends, going all the way back to her high school years.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her loving children, Robert E. Lee Jr. and his wife,

Mary-Anne of Hudson, Ohio, and Cynthia (Lee) Conklin of Falls Village; her four grandchildren, Brigid and Connor Lee of Hudson, Melissa Rabbitt and her husband, Adam Lomazoff, of Waltham, Mass., Jaime Lee Conklin of New Haven, Conn.; and her two great-grandchildren, Greyson and Cooper (of Waltham, Mass.); and several nieces and nephews.

Her Catholic Funeral Mass, which relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend, will be celebrated in the Spring of 2021 (date to be determined).

Those wishing to may remember Jean with a donation to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, 32 Union St., Winsted, CT 06098.

To send Jean's family a message of condolence or remembrance, go to www.duffy-poule.com.

Susan Jane Bohlin

WEST CORNWALL — Susan Jane Bohlin died in San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 10, 2020, at the age of 77.



Susan was 14 when given a medal for "good sportsmanship." Respect, integrity, grace combined with the welcoming of diversity and a refusal to give up determined the way she lived her life.

While living in West Cornwall, she worked at Ellsworth Hill Farm and also volunteered at Audubon.

After moving to San Diego, her commitments were accounting related to agriculture; PACE and the literacy program at St. Vincent de Paul, for which she was given an award from the city of San Diego; a PhD in Economics from UCSD; and traveling to remote areas of the world.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Adele Louise Bushnell

SALISBURY — Adele Louise Bushnell, 93, died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Dec. 30, 2020, at Noble Horizons.



Adele was born on Jan. 17, 1927, at home in Salisbury. She was the daughter of the late George Bushnell and Hazel (Brown) Bushnell, both of Salisbury.

She was married to the late Howard W. "Buzzy" Morey Sr., also of Salisbury.

Adele worked for more than 20 years as a housekeeper, the last seven of which were spent at Noble Horizons.

Adele's greatest passion was spending quality time with her family. She loved her family tremendously. She cared for many of her grandchildren throughout their childhood and could often be spotted with Buzzy at their sports and school events.

She enjoyed traveling with her family to Vermont each fall, as well as to Lake George and Florida.

Adele was also an avid bingo player and enjoyed trips to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

Adele is survived by her brothers, Louis Bushnell, of North Canaan, Ralph Bushnell and his wife, June, of Florida, and Harold Bushnell and his wife, Audrey, of New York; her sisters-in-law, Jeanette Bushnell

of New York and Carol Bushnell of Florida; her children, Darlene Wellersdick and her husband, Vaughn, of Sharon, Chris Morey and his wife, Anne Minacci-Morey, of Prince Edward Island, Canada, Howard W. Morey Jr. and his wife, Melanie, of Fort Valley, Ga., Jerry Morey and his wife, Tina Sawyer Morey,

of Ashley Falls, Mass., Danny Morey and his partner, Colaine, of North Canaan, Lisa Moyers and her husband, Bruce, of East Longmeadow, Mass., and Hazel Morey and her friend, Scott, of North Canaan; 13 grandchildren and their families, Jerry Jr., Joshua, Brittni, Joseph, Ciarra, Kylie, Shane, Lily, Jonathan, Steven, Haven, Brianna and Tristina; nine great-grandchildren; and many close friends whom she loved dearly.

She was predeceased by her son, Earl Morey II, of Salisbury; her brothers, George Bushnell and his wife, Dee, Robert Bushnell and Sammy Bushnell; and her sister-in-law Effie Bushnell.

The family will hold services for Adele in the spring of 2021.

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

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Bitterman Center in North Canaan.

Thomas James Dahoney III

MILLERTON — Thomas James Dahoney III, 69, a seven year resident of Millerton and formerly of Millbrook, died unexpectedly on Dec. 29, 2020, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital.

Tucker, as he was more affectionately known, worked at Rally Farms, a Black Angus farm, in Millbrook for 44 years prior to his retirement in 2013. Following his retirement he worked for North View Custom Farming in Amenia.

Born June 20, 1951, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Anna (Downey) and Thomas James Dahoney Jr.

He was a graduate of Webutuck High School and attended Dutchess Community College.

He served in the United States Army as an Army medic during the Vietnam War from 1971 until his honorable discharge in 1973.

On Sept. 3, 1983, at St. Patrick's Church in Millerton, he married Marva Kimball. Mrs. Dahoney survives at home in Millerton.

Tucker absolutely loved farming and being outdoors. He enjoyed hunting and fishing in his spare time also.

He was a life member of the Millerton American Legion Post #178 and was a longtime parish-

ioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia.

In addition to his beloved wife, Tucker is survived by his siblings, Kathleen Frisenda and her husband, Robert, Peter Dahoney and his wife, Sheila, Ellen Fontaine and her husband, Patrick, Lisa Riley and her husband, Kevin, and James Dahoney and his wife, Dianna; his sisters-in-law, Rena Wood and Eloise Smith and her husband, Kevin; several uncles and cousins; many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews; and numerous friends.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Mary Eileen Dahoney and Patricia (Dahoney) Hinck; and his brother, Kevin Dahoney.

Due to COVID, private visitation took place on Dec. 31. A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, the Rev. Robert K. Wilson officiating.

A Memorial Mass for family and friends will be announced at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton American Legion Post #178, 155 Route 44, Millerton, NY 12546.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

OBITUARIES

Jeannette T. (Langevin) Birdsall

FALLS VILLAGE — Jeannette T. (Langevin) Birdsall, 89, passed peacefully on Dec. 27, 2020, at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She was the widow of Richard E. Birdsall.

Jeannette was born in Waterbury, Conn., on Sept. 17, 1931, daughter of the late Alphionsine (Montambault) and Alcide Langevin.

After moving from Canada, Jeannette's family settled in the Waterbury area, where she was the only child born as a U.S. citizen. She lived there before moving on to Danbury and finally to Falls Village.

She worked to make her home the best it could be for her family.

She loved all animals but had

a special place for dogs and cats.

Jeannette loved her family but was especially devoted to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her son, Steve Birdsall and his wife, Sue, of Kansas; her grandchildren, Richard, Melissa, Kevin, Jennifer and Stephanie; and her great-grandchildren, Charles, Jon, Katelyn, Alex and Matthew.

Jeannette was predeceased by her daughter, Jacqueline Hamilton.

Funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family.

Memorial donations may be sent to The Last Post, 95 Belden St., Falls Village, CT 06031.

The Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan was in charge of arrangements.

For more obituaries, see Page A6

Worship Services
Week of January 10, 2021

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10am www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-364-0194</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people Pastor Savage Frieze 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE 50 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2 www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</p>	<p>Greenwoods Community Church 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Connection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodschurch.com</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627 www.trinitylimerock.org</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone. We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Join our virtual service on Sunday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m. "Is your glass half full or half empty?" For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Sunday School 9:15 a.m. "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational Church 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online sermons. Bible Study Guides also available by request: info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org Or contact us at 860-364-5002</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 am, Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Face masks required</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com</p>

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Email obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

Rand Scott 'Randy' Krakenberg

MILLERTON — Rand Scott "Randy" Krakenberg, 56, a lifelong area resident, died Dec. 29, 2020, at his home in Millerton.

Randy worked as a self-employed professional carpenter and contractor throughout most of his life and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Born Oct. 12, 1964, in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., he was the son of the late Claude Krakenberg and Nancy Vernetta Hamilton.

He attended Webutuck High School in Amenia and received his GED in 1983.

He was a member of the Millerton Presbyterian Church and was an active member and sponsor of Alcoholics Anonymous, where he was known as an understanding and empathetic friend.

In his spare time he was an avid dirt bike rider and enjoyed dirt bike racing.

He also enjoyed riding his bicycle on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and watching his favorite football team, the New

York Jets.

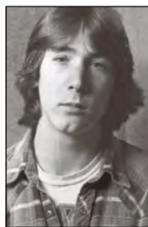
He will be dearly missed by his family and many friends.

Randy is survived by his longtime companion, Barbara L. Reeves and her daughter, Chaneen J. Reeves, of Millerton; two sisters, Deborah Wilkerson and her husband, Bill Haviland, of Millerton and Carol Lang of Carmel, N.Y.; his brother, Claude Krakenberg of Hopewell Junction, N.Y.; three nephews, Shannon Clark and Tony Clark of Millerton and Chris Wilkerson and his wife, Heather, of Copake; one niece; six great-nieces and -nephews; two cousins, Heather Besze and Neal Hamilton; and his "Uncle Al" and many friends.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

To send an online condolence, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.



James Thornton Metz Jr.

SHARON — James Thornton Metz Jr. of Longboat Key, Fla., the beloved husband of Kathleen (McGowan) Metz for more than 56 years, died peacefully on Dec. 29, 2020, at the age of 82.

Raised in Garden City, N.Y., he was the son of the late James Thornton Metz and Eleanor (Bechtoldt) Metz. He graduated from Garden City High School and Colgate University and served in the United States Army.

Mr. Metz was chairman of the family-owned and operated Metz Holdings and related petroleum and real estate entities that he founded, including The New Yorker restaurant and The Hamilton Inn. He moved to the rural countryside in the Sharon area 46 years ago after his favorite dog, Derby, was killed on a busy avenue in Garden City.

He continued to maintain a summer residence in Sharon and in Blue Rocks, Nova Scotia.

He was a devoted parishioner at St. Mary's Star of the Sea (Longboat Key, Fla.) and Immaculate Conception (Amenia).

Every December for many years, excluding the current year due to COVID-19 restrictions, he helped arrange shepherds, donkeys, a camel and llamas for a live nativity at the church in Amenia, to the delight of many.

One of his favorite hobbies was raising and showing Aberdeen Angus, winning in 1984 the Supreme Champion All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity

with Cobble Pond New Yorker.

Over the years, he provided a refuge for rescue animals and retired horses on the farm.

Mr. Metz was a member of the Sharon Country Club, Tamarack Preserve, Longboat Key Club and the Lunenburg Yacht Club.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, include his loving children, Alicia, Lauren Simons, both of Sharon, Kathryn (Lloyd) Helm of Loudonville, N.Y., James (Victoria) of Franklin, Tenn., Robert (Robin) of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., Margaret of Philadelphia; and his brother-in-law, G. Laurence McGowan of Newtown, Conn. He is also survived by nine cherished grandchildren, Lillian Simons, William, Grace, and Eleanor Helm, Naomi and James Metz, and Robert, Henry and Charles Metz.

Mr. Metz was predeceased by his two brothers, Richard K. Metz and D. Craig Metz.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Jan. 9 at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. The Rev. R. Kent Wilson will officiate per New York State official health guidelines.

Burial is private at Hillside Cemetery in Sharon.

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

Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.



Dolores Sue (Palanker) Laschever

GOSHEN — Dolores Laschever, a distinguished journalist and longtime Connecticut resident, died on Dec. 22, 2020, in Simsbury, Conn. She was 92.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Dolores was the daughter of Rose (Banditson) and Meyer N. Palanker.

Her father was a furrier and her mother owned a dress shop. The first in her extended family to attend college, she earned a journalism degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where she wrote for the Michigan Daily, joined Theta Sigma Phi, the Association for Women Journalists, and met her future husband, Barnett D. Laschever.

Following her 1950 graduation, Dolores and her husband moved to Connecticut, where she worked in the communications department at Hartford's Wadsworth Atheneum before embarking with her husband on an extended trip that eventually took them all the way around the world. Through Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and on to China, they traveled by car and train, seaplane and bicycle, on the backs of burros, horses and camels, and on rickety buses that lurched and slid through mountain passes from Switzerland to northern India. After close to a year on the road, they boarded an ocean liner in Hong Kong and steamed back to the U.S. in steerage.

In 1955, Dolores and her husband relocated briefly to New York City and then East Brunswick, N.J. They came back to Connecticut in 1965, moving into an old farmhouse in Goshen, where they raised their family. Returning to work when her youngest child began school, Dolores spent the next four decades as a reporter, photographer and editor for the Litchfield Enquirer, the Torrington Register-Citizen,

The Lakeville Journal and the Hartford Courant, for which she wrote occasional columns about happenings in the state's Northwest Corner. She mentored generations of young journalists, and was an avid gardener, animal lover and renowned cook who welcomed generations of extended family and friends to gather around her dinner table. She remained an adventurous traveler, even going on African safari when she was 78.

In Goshen, where she lived for 45 years, Dolores was a member of the Agricultural Society and volunteered for numerous local organizations. She served on the boards of the Nutmeg Ballet Company and Child and Family Services of Torrington.

Predeceased by her son Adam in 1997 and her husband in 2014, Dolores is survived by her son Jonathan and Jonathan's wife, Kathryn, of Branford, Conn.; her daughters Sara Laschever and her husband, Tim Riley, of Concord, Mass., Ann-Rebecca Laschever and her husband, Claudio Kupchik of Woodmere, N.Y., and Valerie Chausse and her husband, Keith, of Litchfield; as well as 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Dolores will be interred following a private graveside ceremony at the Goshen Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to the Melanoma Research Foundation, Alzheimer's Research Foundation or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Arrangements are entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford. For further information and to sign the guest book for Dolores, visit online at www.weinsteinmortuary.com/funeral-obituary/dolores-sue-laschever/.

Hannah Elizabeth Vogt

FALLS VILLAGE — Hannah Elizabeth Vogt, 43, passed away on Dec. 27, 2020, from complications of an ischemic stroke at UCONN Health Center.

Beloved daughter of R. Carl Vogt Jr. and Virginia (Scranton) Vogt, she was born on Dec. 10, 1977, in Hartford.

She graduated from Canton High School and attended SCSU and UCONN. She worked for 20 years at Orthopedic Associates of Central Connecticut in Bloomfield and had recently accepted a position with VOYA Financial in Windsor.

She is also survived by her brother and best friend, Samuel Vogt and his wife, Sarah;

her nieces, Isabella and Aivry Vogt; her aunts, Lissa and Susan Vogt and Elizabeth (Scranton) Rhoades and her husband, Sandy; and her cousins, Michael and Jessica Rhoades.

No calling hours or services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Foodshare, 450 Woodland Ave., Bloomfield, CT 06002; or to Canton Volunteer Fire and EMS, P.O. Box 168, Collinsville, CT 06022.

The Vincent Funeral Home of Canton is caring for the arrangements. Go to Hannah's "Book of Memories" at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

Email obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

OBITUARIES

Carolyn Neugeboren

LAKEVILLE — Carolyn Neugeboren, 88, of Lakeville passed away on Dec. 31, 2020, at her home.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., on July 2, 1932, she lived for many years with her devoted husband, the late Myron Neugeboren, at homes in New York and Connecticut.

She is survived by her loving sons, Harlan, Robert and Edward; her daughters-in-law, Laurel, Beverly and Sandra;

and her grandchildren, Ross, Samantha, Jonah, Olivia, Abigail, Alexandra, Annaleah and Ashlyn.

Carolyn was the beloved grande dame of the family, who loved to cook, collect folk art, and make her homes welcoming to all who visited.

Known for her mottos "Food is Love," and "Old is Good," her memory will be cherished by the many, many who loved her.

Lila Frances Zlotoff

SHARON — Lila Frances Zlotoff (nee Paley) quietly and peacefully took her last breath with her family at her bedside on Dec. 14, 2020.

Lila lived for 96 years; she was predeceased by Robert "Bob" Zlotoff, to whom she was married for nearly 70 years; and she is survived by her sister, Gladys Baker; as well as her four devoted children and their spouses, Dr. Howard and Fern Zlotoff, Dr. Ron Zlotoff and Donna Kemper, Jerry and Rhonda Zlotoff and Sue and Dr. Eric Unger.

Lila had 12 adored grandchildren, Barrett, Jordan, Alisa, Lindsay, Daniel, Corey, Ben, Jesse, Lauren, Jason, Ari and Aimee; and 13 sweet great-grandchildren, Eli, Jackson, Nathaniel, Sawyer, Cleo, Jacob, Anna, June, Sam, Laughlin, Zeke, Isaac and Emma.

Lila was predeceased by her sister, Mae Benson; and her brother, Morris Paley

Lila was born in a cabin river in the Housatonic River in Cornwall Bridge on July 30, 1924, then raised on the Paley Farm in Sharon.

A graduate of Danbury State Teachers College, Lila got her degree in teaching, which was her passion and, later, her vocation.

Her life's adventures truly began after a blind date with Bob in 1944, a Navy pilot at the time, who was visiting her neighboring town while on leave from his air base.

After her wedding in 1946 Lila became a devoted and loving wife and mother. The family resided in Manhasset Hills, N.Y., for many years.

Her general parenting style can be summed up in a single sentence: "GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY."

Although she displayed no prowess in the kitchen, her

coleslaw, baked macaroni and cheese, My-T-Fine chocolate pudding and mandelbrot remain solid comfort foods for her family and always elicit broad smiles. Her four children also developed an odd appreciation for food that is slightly burnt.

A teacher at heart and a lover of words, Lila loved Scrabble and reading The New York Times and working on the Sunday crossword puzzle. As her children grew, so did her inner voice, and she became active for many years in the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), eventually serving a term as local chapter president. Her personality morphed from "you must march to the beat of the drummer" to... "create waves and let your voice be heard."

Lila had a deep appreciation for nature, which she instilled in her children; she preferred to be outside or always have a window open, and loved birds and big dogs. She enjoyed playing tennis and bowled in a league for many years

Later in her life, Lila honed the ability to leave her entire family with jaws agape. Once, she marched into a kosher butcher shop in New Jersey and asked the clerk behind the counter if he'd like to come to Connecticut to meet her daughter. This young man became her son-in-law.

She maintained a childlike quality and was willing to sleep in a tent with her grandchildren, help to stage their holiday plays, listen to them, and most importantly, open her heart to share their stories.

We are all individuals of confounding complexity. Lila could be a force of nature and a sweet person when she wanted to be either. Memories of Lila will be cherished by her family.



For more obituaries, see Page A5

Correcting Errors

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

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FUGITIVE ARRESTED *Continued from Page A1*

Center St.," according to Capt. John Watterson of the DCSO.

According to Det. Lt. Mark Williams of the Danbury, Conn., Police Department, "the incident began on Oct. 10, 2019; that's when it was first reported to our police department," he said. "How they came upon him in Millerton, though, is unknown to me."

Williams said that as of Dec. 31, 2020, as Ixim-Coc had not yet been extradited, the Danbury Police did not yet have an arrest record for him in its system. However, based on the records it did have, he was not in its system for having any prior arrests in the city of Danbury.

According to Williams, the sexual assault wasn't a random crime.

"Luis was known to the victim," said the detective lieutenant. "He wasn't a stranger."

The warrant that was issued for his arrest was from Fairfield County Superior Court in Con-

necticut; it charged Ixim-Coc with Sexual Assault in the 1st Degree (Class A Felony). Williams explained the charges actually include three counts of Sexual Assault in the 1st Degree and three counts of Risk of Injury to a Child, including one for Impairing of Morals and the others related to Sexual Contact, which are lesser Class B Felonies.

As with any criminal case, the charges against Ixim-Coc are only accusations at this point, and he is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

If anyone has any information about similar incidents involving Ixim-Coc, they are urged to contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office at 845-486-3800. Information can also be provided via the Sheriff's Office tipline at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or dcsotips@gmail.com; all information will be kept confidential.

COVID UPDATE *Continued from Page A1*

The seven-day average positivity rate has also risen in New York City, where it was 9.08%, according to Mayor Bill de Blasio this past Sunday, versus 5.5% at the beginning of December. Hospitalizations there have also been on the rise, with the seven-day average at 224 toward the end of December, compared with 151 at the beginning of the month.

Across the country

In the U.S., according to www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us/, as of Jan. 4, there have been 21,115,036 total coronavirus cases; 8,316,310 active cases; 360,088 deaths; and 12,438,638 Americans recovered.

Worldwide those figures are even more haunting. As of Jan. 4 there have been 85,614,877 global coronavirus cases; 1,853,282 deaths; and 60,571,308 patients recovered.

Now scientists are concerned about the new variant of the disease first discovered in the U.K., referred to as B.1.1.7., which is

believed to be between 10 and 60% more transmissible than the original version of the virus. The reason why may be as simple as that those infected with this new variant may carry more of the virus in their nose and mouth, and thus spread it more easily when they speak, cough, sneeze, etc.

On Monday the new strain was discovered in New York in a Saratoga Springs man with no travel history; the governor said it was likely community spread. It's also been recorded in California, Colorado and Florida.

Vaccine distribution

Another challenge has been the vaccine roll out. On Dec. 16, the governor's website posted it had received its first doses of the vaccines and was ready to start inoculating "high-risk hospital workers [emergency room workers, ICU staff and Pulmonary Department staff], nursing home residents, nursing home staff, followed by all long-term and congregate care residents

and staff, EMS workers, other health care workers, coroners and medical examiners. Staff at every hospital will have access to the first vaccine allocation.

"The first COVID-19 vaccines are here," stated www.forward.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-distribution. "New York State is receiving this week an initial allocation of enough doses of this vaccine for 170,000 New Yorkers." More doses came later in the month, but getting them into the arms of New Yorkers has been a slow process.

On Sunday, Jan. 3, Cuomo delivered pre-recorded remarks at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City, a mostly minority congregation, about how to get the vaccines distributed to the public more expeditiously.

"We are also preparing a massive vaccination program. The vaccine works, but it only works if we take it," he said. "We are told that we need to vaccinate 70 to 90% of New Yorkers

for it to be effective. That is an enormous number. Think of it — 90% of New Yorkers don't agree to do anything, let alone take a vaccine. This is not only an individual responsibility; it is a community obligation. There is a simplicity to the virus: no one is safe unless everyone is safe. We should all take the vaccine. I would take the vaccine today, but I think it's more important that our essential workers be given these first vaccines."

Cuomo spoke of the importance of ensuring communities of color receive the vaccine in a fair and equitable fashion.

"And that's why I say to you today that I want to take the vaccine," he said. "I move around a lot and come into contact with many people and I would feel much safer if I took the vaccine, but I will not take the vaccine until the vaccine is available for my group in Black, Hispanic and poor communities around the state."

YEAR IN REVIEW *Continued from Page A1*

stories from last January through June. The second part of the series will publish on Jan. 14 and will focus on the stories from last July through December.

January

As town and village boards kicked off 2020 with their annual organizational meetings, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District discussed opening a health clinic on campus. Meanwhile in the Millbrook Central School District, Laura Mitchell went from being the interim superintendent to being appointed superintendent of schools by its Board of Education (BOE) on July 1.

Starting the year off with an unforgettable act of compassion, the New York State Police (NYSP) relocated 38 severely neglected animals from a Columbia County farm to Godspeer Horse Hostel in Amenia on Jan. 2. On Jan. 8, Amenia resident Jeremy L. Annis, 28, was tragically killed in a fatal accident on the Shunpike (State Road 57) in the town of Washington. Annis was the passenger in a Toyota sedan driven by his uncle, Amenia resident James M. Ruiz, who sustained critical injuries in the accident.

Controversy arose in the village of Millerton regarding where its Police Department should be located, after it was moved from Village Hall to One John St. to 50 Main St., for a variety of necessary reasons. Problems at 50 Main St., including traffic behind the narrow alleyway to the "stigma" of having the police located in a business district where restaurants and bars were trying to do business, led some Millerton merchants to voice their concerns to the Village Board and suggest the Millerton Police Department relocate elsewhere. The department, along with the rest of Village Hall (which was in need of new digs), eventually did.

February

Disappointed by the U.S. Senate's decision to acquit President Donald J. Trump on charges of obstruction of justice and abuse of power, a group of area residents held a demonstration at Fountain Square in Amenia on Feb. 5 to protest the outcome of his impeachment trial. While the Millerton Village Board continued to assess merchants' concerns about the Police Department's temporary relocation to Main Street, the North East Town Board reviewed concerns and complaints from residents regarding its proposed new sign law at a public hearing on Feb. 13, with the American Legion Post 178 weighing in.

After spending several months soliciting community feedback and fine-tuning design plans, representatives from The Durst Organization presented the Pine Plains Town Board and its Planning Board with new plans to develop the former Carvel property as a resort with multiple recreational activities; the original plans were to develop a luxury second-home community. Following the discovery of an unauthorized 59.8% tax cut in its budget for 2020, Stanford



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Students from the North East (Webutuck) Central School District and nearby Region One School District over the border in Connecticut staged Black Lives Matter protests in Millerton this summer to support calls for social justice.

town Supervisor Wendy Burton and the Stanford Town Board addressed the community's anxieties at two separate board meetings, during which time they discussed the town's tax and financial status, the 2020 budget process and their intent to resolve the tax cut.

Given how enrollment in the school district has dropped over the past several years and the suggestions to either help bolster enrollment numbers or cut costs by streamlining the schools, the Millbrook BOE considered initiating a pre-k program at its board meeting on Feb. 25.

March

In spite of their efforts to appeal GRJH's application to build a convenience store and gas station in the hamlet of Caryville, members of the community coalition Save Caryville were disappointed by the Copake Planning Board's decision to approve GRJH's plan on March 5.

With COVID-19 appearing in New York as well as throughout the U.S. and the world, by Friday, March 13, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared COVID a global pandemic.

Though schools across the state closed in response to the pandemic, the Webutuck, Pine Plains and Millbrook school districts made sure students who rely on school breakfasts and lunches had healthy food delivered to their homes during the closure. Rising to meet the community's needs during the pandemic, supermarkets and pharmacies found themselves busier than ever in trying to keep their businesses sanitized and their shelves stocked with vital supplies.

April

While congregations found a way to connect with one another on a virtual platform in order to celebrate Easter and Passover from a safe and social distance, New York State officials and businesses assessed the long-term impact that COVID-19 would have on the economy. Local businesses began receiving Payment Protection Program (PPP) funds from the federal government to stay afloat while the pandemic raged on.

On April 15, Cuomo issued an Executive Order mandating New Yorkers wear face masks when in public when social distancing was impossible. As a way

to protect the electoral process from the pandemic, New York's presidential primary was postponed from Tuesday, April 28, to Tuesday, June 23.

With the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) dwindling and communities scrambling to shield themselves from the spread of COVID-19, Millbrook engineer and inventor Greg Loibl manufactured face shields for health care workers on the front lines and others in the community trying to stay safe. To make them more accessible to those needing them most, Loibl's wife set up a GoFundMe account while Loibl either donated the masks or sold them at cost.

The Pine Plains Town Board bought a key piece of property at 12 North Main St. for \$100,000, which may ultimately be used as the site for a future Town Hall in the main hamlet. The board voted to go forward with the contract at its April 16 meeting after negotiating for a 2% interest rate through a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) — only for it to be challenged by a "petition," which called for a referendum on the property's purchase. The petition was an online document containing no addresses or signatures as required by law, and was ruled invalid by the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Dutchess.

After commemorating its centennial year in the village of Millerton in July of 2019, the iconic store, Terni's, announced it would close its doors for good on April 30.

While local residents volunteered to sew face masks for the community, the Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre in Amenia sought to be declared an essential business by New York State so it could open for the 2021 season. The drive-in theater would later reopen with new COVID-19 guidelines on May 15.

May

After waiting anxiously to get word from the state, Harlem Valley school districts were informed that schools would remain closed for the remainder of the academic year following Governor Cuomo's announcement on May 1.

On May 13, the Pine Plains Planning Board organized a preliminary discussion to examine The Durst Organization's pre-sketched submission of its resort

development project. Also in Pine Plains, Stissing Mountain freshman Paige Arent created a GoFundMe page to purchase gift cards for families struggling to support themselves during the pandemic, surpassing her \$1,000 fundraising goal by raising upwards of \$1,710 by May 12.

While this year's celebration of Memorial Day was altered due to COVID-19, local communities found a way to safely honor their heroes who died in service. Dutchess County commemorated the nation's fallen heroes with a vehicle convoy that drove throughout the region with stops in the Harlem Valley on Monday, May 25.

The Webutuck Central School District secured a \$100,000 grant from the Foundation for Community Health in Sharon, Conn., to support its plans for an in-school based health clinic.

The governor gave the all clear for most area businesses to reopen, with some exceptions. The Moviehouse in Millerton remained shut, but it kept moviegoers entertained through the launch of a new streaming service.

June

Due to the challenges posed by the pandemic, the annual Regents exams scheduled for June were canceled. Local school districts pulled out all the stops to give the Class of 2020 the graduation ceremony it longed for while adhering to the proper health and safety restrictions.

New York voters showed their support for their school districts by sending in their mail-in ballots for the annual school board elections and budget votes on June 9. Following George Floyd's

death at the hands of a white ex-police officer in Minneapolis on May 25, area residents and local students joined together to take a stand against systematic racism and rally for racial equality this spring throughout the region.

Channeling her passion for the Black Lives Matter movement into her senior mural painted in June, Dover High School graduate Jody Grant said she was dismayed when the district said she had to get rid of it and then painted over her artwork within 24 hours of giving her notice.

After finding a headstone placed by "Friends" of former slave Thomas Stansbury outside the stone wall of the North East Center Burying Ground

in Millerton, local history buff Bernie Silvernail urged Dutchess County Legislator Gregg Pulver (R-19) to help investigate the situation. Pulver reported later that the property was surveyed and it was determined that some of the graves, including Stansbury's, were located outside the cemetery proper's confines in a small adjacent area owned by heirs of the original property. Pulver worked with a pro bono lawyer to complete the sale of the landlocked property to the Cemetery Association to include the land in the hallowed ground. The land's heir was said to be pleased to make the sale, though it was put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.



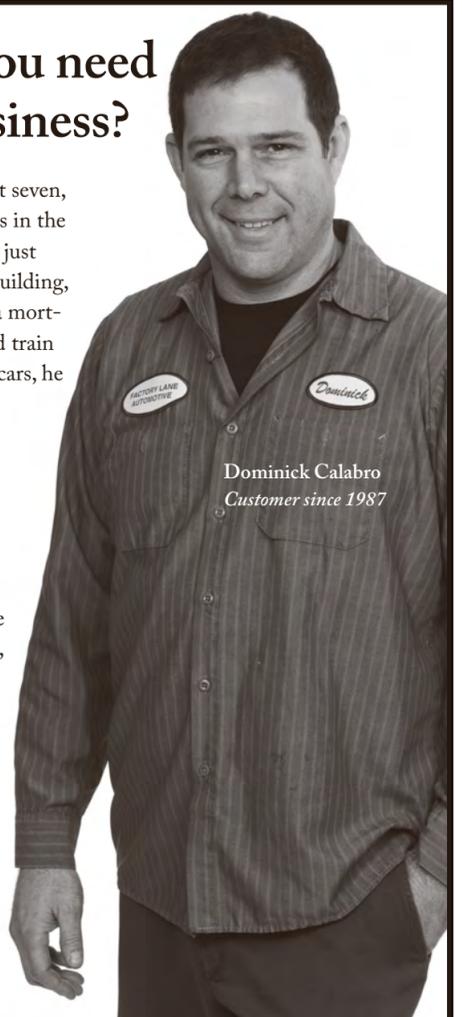
PHOTO BY CLARE CARAMANICA

Members the Oakhurst Diner staff worked to feed local residents in need of a solid meal thanks to community funding during the height of the coronavirus pandemic this spring. From left, Mario Ramirez, Antonia Perez and Heather Savage welcomed patrons who could pay and those who couldn't.

What tools do you need to build your business?

You get handed your first wrench at seven, and by 14 you're swapping engines in the car you race. It gets in your blood. Not just mechanics. Building. Dominick kept building, starting his business at 24, taking out a mortgage on a broken down and abandoned train station in Pine Plains. Between fixing cars, he fixed sheetrock and plumbing.

These days, that building has four commercial spaces in addition to Factory Lane Automotive, and the racecar Dominick works on belongs to his youngest son. When you build, or rebuild, for a living, it helps to have the right tools at hand. And over the years, one of Dominick's most valuable tools has been his bank.



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LIBRARY EXPANSION *Continued from Page A1*

around 1994. "At that time, it was just this cloud, this vision of something we didn't know what," he said. Though they lacked the funding at the time, that vision began to take shape, motivating the library to start saving. By the early 2000s, Gamble said the board started talking with local architect Darlene Riemer. She started on modest proposals and as fundraising grew, he said, so did the board's goals. With encouragement from Mid-Hudson Library System Executive Director Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, the board organized focus groups to determine the community's needs. It began meeting with young families, senior citizens and leaders in local government and businesses. Gamble said "the number one thing on everybody's list was more space." The community also showed

an interest in more programs — which the library has since incorporated into its offerings — but again, it needed more space for more programs. It eventually bought land next to the library to help make way for the expansion and applied for the necessary approvals from local and state agencies for the expansion. The project had community support and also received the town Planning Board's approval in the fall of 2018. This past summer, the library held a groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction on Aug. 29. **The structure** With the existing structure measuring at 884 square feet, the new 68-foot long by 28-foot wide addition will add 2,386 square feet to the library, totaling 3,270 square feet overall. On top of providing appropriate storage for the library's

rare books and creating more flexibility for its computers and other technology, the expansion plans initially included a fenced patio for outdoor activities at the rear of the property; installing new septic and heating systems; installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant rest rooms; a new vestibule; paving the parking lot and adding a parking space. Now that construction is in full gear, its plans also include paving the driveway with marked spaces and handicapped parking; using natural gas instead of fuel oil; creating a dedicated children's area with a low wall; and setting aside more than 400 square feet for an additional basement for additional on site storage. Given how "chopped up" the side area is where the children's area and stairs are located, Gamble said when the renovation is done, one of the

first things patrons will notice is that the former stairs will be replaced by a big open area, similar to the public meeting area inside the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex. Having received approval on the library's overall design from the New York State Historical Preservation Office, Gamble informed library patrons and town residents that by late spring/early summer of 2021, they'll be able to see a new entrance welcoming them into a facility that's "fully handicapped accessible, energy efficient and features a bright, modern, yet cozy design." Regarding the open space that will be created during the renovation, he highlighted the new electrical and lighting systems as well as the new roof, energy efficient window treatments and the relaxed reading lounge and community meeting

space area. Envisioning a state of the art facility for the community, Gamble spoke with enormous satisfaction about the details the library is trying to incorporate, from the ADA-compliant bathrooms (complete with both a men's and a women's rest room and an electric hand dryer to avoid towel waste) and drinking fountains with a place for people to fill their water bottles to the librarian's office (complete with a lunch counter and kitchenette) and the WiFi access and data ports. **Building a dream** With Ducillo Construction serving as general contractor, the first work day was on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Since then, incoming patrons and motorists passing by the library have often been able to spot the construction equipment digging deep into the earth at the west side of the existing building, bringing the library another step closer to its goal with each mound of dirt removed. **Budget shortfall** Taking into account recent change orders for soil and the foundation issues as well as new furniture, bookshelves and other furnishings, the project's total projected "all in" cost has been calculated at \$1,180,000. After calculating the library's total funding to date, Gamble said the library has \$972,611 in its coffers, leaving it about \$200,000 short of the project total. At this point, he said the library is hoping to raise the rest of it or, if necessary, take out a small mortgage.

"I think the one point we always want to make is that all of the money for the construction and the furnishing is coming from donations, not the money that we get through taxes," Gamble said. "The board and the public at large are responsible for raising the money for us to put this together." To help the library reach its \$1 million fundraising goal, Gregory said residents can either stop by the library or contact her at 845-373-9757. As there are still a lot of opportunities to add one's name to the library's new addition, she said anyone interested in naming rights or naming a portion of the library in honor of or in memory of a loved one can contact her, Gamble or Herow. "We are a community library," Gregory said, "and we are here for our residents, so what better way to reach out to our community?" **Future looks bright** When asked what it means to her to see this project become a reality, Herow immediately spoke of the programs the library will be able to host and said the expansion shows the library will be here for the community long into the future. "I'm excited because we'll have more room for patrons to come and stay," she said. "As cozy as the space that we have now is, it'll be exciting to have space and room to grow." "Libraries are just so important," Gamble said. "We just find every day if you just sit and watch how many people come in and out and to be able to give them what everybody deserves in a library, that's really the goal."



Here come Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch

MILLERTON — With many holiday traditions canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Millerton Fire Company took it upon itself to spread the Christmas spirit throughout town by organizing Santa Runs for local children. To help families get excited about the holidays, the fire company installed a festive mailbox in front of the firehouse on Century Boulevard this past November for children to send their letters to Santa and to request a visit from Santa.

As posted on the "Millerton Fire Company" Facebook page, the Santa Runs were held on Saturday, Dec. 12, with the route and times posted on Facebook to keep families in the know. Featuring holiday characters like the Grinch, Santa and Mrs. Claus traveled in their sleigh, starting off from Rudd Pond Road and Traver Place around 3 p.m. and made their way through town before ending near Boston Corners Road around 7:40 p.m.

— Kaitlin Lyle

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Walking down the road with a mischievous look on his face, the Grinch made an appearance behind the sleigh carrying Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Millerton Fire Company's Santa Runs on Saturday, Dec. 12.

RUGE'S *Continued from Page A1*

Those concerns first were raised by residents Margaret and Charles Schneible at a Village Board meeting. The couple owns British Sporting Arms at 3684 Route 44. There were also complaints when the project was proposed because it involved a Mabbettsville property, and therefore it belonged in the lap of the Town of Washington (TOW) Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals rather than the Village Board. **Site plan submitted, twice** In June 2020, Scott Hutchins from Ruge's Auto Dealership submitted a site plan map and a request to make improvements and renovations to the property. It was essentially Ruge's application to pave and upgrade the lighting in its parking lots. The application was denied. In July there was no mention of the subject, but in September, Ruge's submitted another site plan to the Town of Washington Planning Board. Some of the dealership's neighbors weighed in at those Planning Board meetings, in person and through correspondence. The list of complaints included a fear of storm water runoff; concern about lighting that would be more appropriate on Route 9 than in Mabbettsville; loud noise; a lack of privacy; further commercialization of the area; and loss of pleasant vistas. The applicant argued that a display lot is meant to allow people to view the dealer's vehicles, which shouldn't be hidden by fences or high shrubbery. Likewise, when people want to examine the vehicles, they should not have to wallow in mud and the dealer should be allowed to pave the lot. Additionally, the two lots have always been used as display lots; the use is not a new use. **Automotive history** The car dealership has a long history in Mabbettsville; it's

been in business there for more than 100 years. It was originally Johnson's Garage in the 1930s, according to Bob Audia. It was Alex Doherty's Ford Dealership in the '30s and '40s until Samuel and Mary Audia bought it in 1947. In 1957 it moved down the street from the original site; and 24 years ago, the lot was improved. One of the lots in question was purchased in 1968; the second lot was bought in 1986. Zoning at the time of the purchase was for Highway Business use, allowing the dealership use. The second lot, which has a residential house on it, has dual zoning, for Residential and Highway Business use. Route 44 is considered a major highway, and the hamlet of Mabbettsville has traditionally supported more businesses than residences. The auto business remained in the Audia family until July 2016, when Bob Audia retired and sold it to the Ruge family, which has a successful dealership in Rhinebeck. The business and license were purchased; the brick and mortar establishment and the lots are leased from the Audias. Ruge's is scheduled to purchase the entire property in July 2021. **Hearings and negotiations** A public hearing was set for Nov. 3, 2020, but after opening the hearing, Chairman Paul

Schwartz called for a motion to adjourn the public hearing to Dec. 1, in accordance with a request made by applicant Scott Hutchins. The public hearing was not needed after all the paperwork, discussions, arguments and accusations, because the Ruge's and their neighbors had a meeting and worked things out. According to those involved, all parties are pleased with the outcome. Negotiations included: a reduced area for parking and displaying the vehicles; a 60-foot setback in the front, on the residential lot side, with trees planted to shield residents; similar tree shielding for neighbors on the west side of the back lot with a panel fence; and the east side of the lot will have improved landscaping. Also included in the negotiation, Ruge's will reduce the lighting from four to three fixtures, with a reduction in wattage, and keep the lights on only during business hours and then keep them on motion sensors only from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m. Additionally, a polymer surface with gravel top, not black-top, will be applied to the two lots. There will be a maximum of 100 cars on the lots at any time and there will be more "neighborly" lighting changes on the dealership side lots. Ruge's final site plan pro-

posed a storm water collection swale with catch basins on the south of the landscaping, creating a natural buffer between properties. The Planning Board said the submission includes the required storm water and erosion control standards needed and outlined for the DEC and town code. It granted the necessary permits. The situation could have been fraught with even more problems, as Bob Audia is a councilman for town of Washington, as was the late Al DeBonis, whose family owns a house adjacent to the Ruge properties. Peter Audia, meanwhile, is a member of the town's Zoning Board of Appeals, and Gary Ciferri is the Washington town Supervisor, who has worked for the dealership for many years. It's nice to note that everything appears to have been settled amicably and out of the courts, and now business can return to normal, or as normal as possible at a time when nothing seems quite normal.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Events

January 7-13, 2021



PHOTOS BY
MELISSA ROTH CHERNISKE
Brittany Hrabcsak's cookie recreation of Whoville from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" won first prize in the Kent, Conn., Gingerbread Festival.

GINGERBREAD: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Gingerbread 'House Proud' in Kent and Salisbury, Conn.

In just nine years, the Kent Gingerbread Festival in Kent, Conn., has gone from being just fun to being quite a big deal. It's one of the biggest gingerbread festivals in the region and has become a big draw to town, even in years when there's a pandemic quarantine. This year, to make it easier to access the houses, the festival organizers used space in a retail area in the center of town owned by Rocco and Candi Valeri, that was converted for the holiday season to Gingerbread Station.

The cookie creations were on display for the month of December. Awards were announced Jan. 1; the judging this year was by state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) and Jill Owens Zinzi, of Kent Coffee and Chocolate Co., described as "the mother of the Kent Gingerbread Festival herself."

The grand prize winner this year was Brittany Hrabcsak, who has been an award winner in the festival for several years in a row now (for her first foray into gingerbread decoration she was young enough to qualify for the Youth Award). This year, Hrabcsak created Whoville from Dr. Seuss' holiday tale, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Sue Hanneman won second place for her recreation of Rapunzel in her castle tower.

Third place was awarded to the Swyft restaurant



Isabel Carrington and Emily Creighton not only know how to bake and decorate like pros, they also collected tens of thousands of views on social media for their cookie version of the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn.

team.

The people's choice award went to Denise Howard, Teddie Miner, Cat Heidel, Karen Heuvel, and Janette Ireland.

"Social Media's most loved creation" went to Isabel Carrington and Emily Creighton, whose post of their gingerbread Warner Theatre reached 19,200 followers and elicited 3,100 comments.

The Youth Award was won this year by Jordana Berman, Abby Berman and Alexander Berman, who recreated the Kent train station (now home to the Kent Station Pharmacy).

The prize for Most Realistic creation went to Tom Doyle, for building a fully edible cookie version of the exterior AND interior of Foreign Cargo.

Just starting out this year, the Salisbury, Conn., gingerbread festival and holiday decorating competition announced two winners at the end of December. Heidi Hoeller and Wanda Hoeller won the gingerbread contest with their Gingerville Ski Chalet; and the Hussey Family of Lakeville won first place in the Light Up Salisbury contest. Both contests were sponsored by the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance and Salisbury Recreation.



Rapunzel and her tower were captured in cookies by Sue Hanneman, whose baking and decorating efforts won her second place in the Kent, Conn., Gingerbread Festival.

TORT LAW:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

In Case You're Worried About the Presidential Election

Perhaps you've been wondering what goes on inside the grand white building in Winsted, Conn., that's called the American Museum of Tort Law. If you have questions or concerns about the presidential election and about pardons that Pres. Donald Trump has been giving, this is a good time to visit the website of the museum, which was founded by Winsted native Ralph Nader and which is run by Richard Newman.

Chances are that you have not and maybe never will visit the museum and tour the exhibits on the history of famous trial law cases (including of course the 1970 legal battle between Nader and General Motors over the Corvair, which Nader deemed "unsafe at any speed").

The museum's physical plant might not change much, but its online offerings are constantly updated and always interesting. Newman has done short interviews with dozens of attorneys on topics of interest, from Gerald Posner talking about his new book on Big Pharma; to Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center talking about a 1981 lynching in Mobile, Ala.; to Mike Chase talking about his book, "How To Become a Federal Criminal," a list of absurd federal crimes that are still on the law books.

Newman has also interviewed Salisbury

resident and retired attorney Tom Morrison about his new book, which makes fun of lawyers who take themselves too seriously, called "Torts 'R' Us."

The newest conversation on YouTube and the museum website is with constitutional law expert Bruce Fein, who has worked in government and has worked for the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Foundation. He's appeared on CNN as well as Fox, on NPR and MSNBC. He is an equal opportunity critic of government officials and presidents in both parties. In the first of what will eventually be two videos on the last days of the Trump Administration, Newman interviews Fein about questions of the legitimacy of the November election. In short, Fein says, "Joe Biden is probably the most legitimate president in history" because the election has been so heavily scrutinized.

He then launches into an attack on what appears to be a failure of law schools (Fein himself earned his JD at Harvard) to teach ethics.

He and Newman will post another conversation in the next few weeks about Trump's presidential pardons.

To find the full list of video conversations hosted by the American Museum of Tort Law, go to YouTube, search for the museum by name and click on "videos."

At The Movies

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LEARNING TO LOVE CLASSICAL MUSIC

The David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., will host the two-part Zoom event, "Learning to Enjoy Classical Music with Warren Whitaker," on two Saturdays, Jan. 23 and 30, at 4 p.m. on both days. Register online at www.HuntLibrary.org, on the library's Facebook page or by calling the library at 860-824-7424. This program is free and suitable for all ages.

Many people are intrigued by classical music but also intimidated by it and do not know where to begin. Warren Whitaker, a lawyer and long-time amateur music enthusiast, will discuss how to approach classical music for enjoyment in the first session on Jan. 23.

He will then discuss the major composers and their most accessible works as a guide to the beginner in the second session on Jan. 30. Whitaker is on the board of Music Mountain, the nationally renowned chamber music concert hall located in Falls Village.

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.

ART: LEILA HAWKEN

Sharon's Alethea Platt, an Artist and a Fierce Advocate for Women

The dozens of viewers who attended the December talk on the life and art of Sharon, Conn., summer artist-resident Alethea Hill Platt came away with a more informed appreciation of this late 19th- and early 20th-century woman, who earned every inch of her success as an artist while exercising her fierce independence as a woman of her times.

Sponsored by the Sharon Historical Society and held on Friday, Dec. 11, the vividly detailed talk was titled, "A Kind of Nobility: The Forgotten Artist Alethea Hill Platt." Presenting the Zoom lecture was scholar and researcher Eve Kahn, who said she undertook her research when the COVID-19 pandemic began in March.

The more Kahn uncovered about the substantial body of work accomplished by her extraordinary subject (who was a friend of Florence Griswold and many leading Connecticut families of the time), the more her subject intrigued her.

The sixth of nine children, Platt was born into a family descended from Revolutionary War officers, Kahn said. Platt lived her early years in Manhattan, across Fifth Avenue from the First Presbyterian Church. A fiercely bitter court battle over family inheritance issues brought the loss of the Fifth Avenue address and brought her to live with a relative in Sharon in 1898.

Her Sharon home and studio space along Cornwall Bridge Road came to be named Ellespie Studio. She also maintained

studio space on Eighth Avenue in New York, where she taught and resided. The Van Dyke Studios building was a haven for Bohemians, according to Kahn. The building still stands.

Kahn presumed that an estate settlement must have been reached, providing the means to support an independent life of travel.

Platt was comfortable working in the developing American Impressionist style. To the practiced eye, her work seemed effortless, mostly oil applied thickly on canvas and some watercolors. She traveled and painted frequently in Europe, but in 1914 American artists could no longer travel abroad. So, Platt went to Maine and throughout New England to find inspiration and forest, land and water scenes, Kahn said.

Critics were not always

impressed. One wrote that all four corners of Platt's painting would make a pleasant picture, while another complained of "too much zest in the details."

Nevertheless, Platt presented more than 200 ex-

hibitions during her fairly noteworthy career, lending her energies in support of organizations that in turn promoted women artists.

Platt's final painting in 1931 was of a relative, Stuart Platt. She died in

1932 and is buried in White Plains, N.Y. Some of Alethea's relatives are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Sharon.

Platt invited anyone with information to share about Platt or questions to contact her at www.evekahn.com.



Left, Alethea Hill Platt, who lived the later part of her life in Sharon, was an artist who also supported the work of other women artists. This portrait of her was taken by her friend and New York City neighbor, the artist Mary H. Tannahill, in the early 1900s. Below, Untitled view of Boothbay Harbor, c. 1920s.



PHOTOS COURTESY PLATT FAMILY

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

How To Protect Yourself And Your Family from a Changing Planet

The beginning of the new year is a time of optimism, when we hope that the coming 12 months will be better than the past 12 months.

If such high spirits seem unwarranted to you, then a new book by David Pogue called, "How To Prepare for Climate Change: A Practical Guide to Surviving the Chaos," will perfectly suit your mindset.

Pogue will share his warnings about the incredibly bad shape our planet is in during a talk hosted by the Salisbury Forum on Friday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

The words alone in Pogue's new book might seem daunting, even depressing. But Pogue himself is upbeat, fun and polished, a veteran of quick, snappy how-to's on network news shows and TED Talks. He's been a New York Times reporter, a best-selling New York Times author, an Emmy Award-winning host and writer and author of several books in the "For

Dummies" series.

And if that doesn't automatically up his fun quotient in your eyes, the 1985 graduate of Yale spent 10 years conducting and arranging Broadway musicals.

That might remind you of the story of the band continuing to play as the Titanic sank. Our planet, according to Pogue, an award-winning journalist/researcher, is sinking like that great ship. Even when he shares a droplet of (relatively) good news — that the decrease in our use of planes and cars during COVID-19 did wonderful things for air and water quality worldwide — he adds the flip side, which is that as soon as global lockdown ended, humans went right back to flying and driving and wasting electricity on lightly occupied shopping malls and office buildings, and any small environmental gains were quickly eradicated.

Pogue's intention in tell-

ing us all this isn't to send us back to bed, to lie beneath the covers and await the inevitable suffocation of Earth. He wants to scare you into action.

With his how-to background, he wants to teach his readers how they, as individuals, can prepare themselves for the future through mitigation and adaptation — and how they can be ready for and perhaps even minimize the inevitable suffering that lies in

"The time for bickering about who or what is at fault is long gone," Pogue says in the introduction to his book, which he says is "about where to live, how to invest, what to eat, how to build, what insurance you need, how to talk to your kids."

To learn what you can do to protect yourself from climate change, tune in to the Salisbury Forum Zoom presentation by David Pogue on Friday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. as he talks about his new book,

"How To Prepare for Climate Change: A Practical Guide to Surviving the Chaos."

For the link, go to www.salisburyforum.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Despite concerns about COVID-19, some cultural venues are opening again and some events are being scheduled — but some events are then being canceled as infections rise again. It's a good idea to check websites before you go to an event.



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MUSEUMS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

History, Art, Architecture and Paris in an Online Tour

It's not like most of us have the opportunity to visit all the great museums even without COVID-19. But it is possible these days to get a "next best thing" tour of world culture thanks to the internet.

Let me be clear at this point that I'm not a great art connoisseur and have not been to most of the world's great museums (yet). But I would like to learn more, and as the new year begins I feel a bit of an urge to learn and see new things; while the online museum experience has a lot of flaws, it also is better than sitting around the house watching cat videos on YouTube.

Let's begin by saying frankly that most museum virtual tours are disappointing, for many reasons. Generally the art works are all presented as being the same size, so that a wall-size painting such as Georges Seurat's "A Sunday on La Grande Jatte" (at the



PHOTO © 2015, RMN-GP-GRAND PALAIS2012

The nave of the Grand Palais after restoration, 2012.

Art Institute of Chicago, www.artic.edu) looks the same size online as "Maternal Caress" by Mary Cassatt, which is about 10.5 by 4.5 inches.

Many museums offer virtual "walking tours" and Google street view visits to museum galleries, but they're usually poorly lit, distorted and nausea-inducing if the camera pans around too quickly.

You are also unable to access many virtual tours unless you download Adobe Flash, which I have had some bad experiences with and won't allow on my computer.

Google tries very hard to put its fingerprint on most of the world's museums and cultural heritage sites through its Google Arts and Culture website. There you can find links to many mu-

seums and lots of activities, most of which are geared to young people. There are games and puzzles, and there are short videos of indie pop culture icons such as Grimes and Fiest talking about famous works of art, modern and ancient.

Most of it I found uninteresting or overwhelming but there are some glimmers of excellence. The one I liked best and that I'll

recommend to you here is a tour of the Grand Palais in Paris. If you go to the actual museum website, you just get the usual short teasers about their current shows.

But if you go to the Google Arts and Culture page on the Grand Palais, you get interesting history and photos of the creation of the building — which combines sculpture and classical architecture and a glass dome and an outdoor colonnade — for the Universal Exposition of 1900.

The photos and the history (in English) are clear and easy to absorb. For World War history buffs, there is an entire text and photo section on the conversion of the space (which is huge, on the scale of Grand Central Station) into a hospital for wounded soldiers.

There are four "views" of the exterior of the building, including a view of Paris from the roof. Unlike the dizzying videos in which a camera pans around a site,

here you click on arrows that bring your progressively closer to whatever details you'd like to focus on.

And of course there are photos and short explanations of the photos and paintings in the museum's collection.

No doubt there are many other excellent tours of art and architecture on the internet.

But in a three-hour search of the internet this morning, the website for the Grand Palais was the one I felt most like recommending. It was a nice mix of architecture and art; and it was a virtual journey to Paris, which is a city I'd like to visit if I had the time and money and there wasn't a worldwide pandemic.

To visit the Google Arts and Culture tour of RMN-Grand Palais online, go to <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/rmn-grand-palais>.

In case you're wondering, RMN stands for Réunion des musées nationaux.

FOOD: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Tart, Citrus and Sunny, Marmalade Is a Reason To Get Out of Bed in Winter

There's an apocryphal story about marmalade that says the sugary citrus jam got its name from Mary, Queen of Scots (the famous Mary from the 1500s, who was a cousin to Queen Elizabeth). Supposedly, the future queen was ill and her grandmother's cook, who had a large supply of citrus fruit on hand, was trying to find something to tempt her to eat.

"Marie est malade," he kept muttering in French (Mary is ill) as he tried out confections, ending up with the one that became known as "marmalade."

The name actually comes from the Portuguese word for quince, which was originally the fruit used to make marmalade.

Over the centuries, what we have come to know as marmalade is usually made from citrus fruit, particularly oranges.

There is no realistic way to make it seem like marmalade is healthy, other than that it's made from the peels and juice of citrus fruit (which are healthy, especially now, in the middle of winter). But like all fruit preserves, marmalade is made with a lot of sugar.

So, healthwise it's hard to recommend marmalade. But in the COVID-19 quarantine world, if we all began baking bread last spring, then why not continue to entertain ourselves in quarantine by learning to make fruit preserves, which go so nicely with bread? And since it's winter, the fruit in greatest abundance is citrus.

WORTH THE EFFORT

Making marmalade is a lot of work, perhaps more than the average fruit preserve; but the color and flavor can definitely brighten up a gray winter morning and give you a reason to get out of bed.

For Christmas, my friend in Seattle gave me a copy

of a book by a local chef (Yossy Arefi) called "Sweetener off the Vine." It's divided by seasons and many of the winter recipes involve citrus; and for some reason the marmalade recipe really reached out to me.

I made a batch. I wouldn't do it every week, but it's delicious and I recommend it if you have several hours to devote to lavishing attention on a few pounds of citrus.

The recipe calls for blood oranges and Meyer lemons, which I found at a Trader Joe store last week. You can use any citrus, even clementines or grapefruit. The blood oranges of course add spectacular color; and the Meyer lemons (which you can often find at Stop & Shop in North Canaan at a reasonable price) have a much softer, thinner skin that's easier to work with. Whichever fruit you use, the thinner the skin and the plumper the fruit, the easier and more delicious your marmalade will be.

NOT SUGAR-FREE

This recipe calls for 2 pounds or about nine blood oranges; 1 pound or about four Meyer lemons; one regular lemon; and 5 cups of sugar (yes, it's a lot).

You'll note that you don't need to use pectin in this recipe, but you will want to get citrus fruit that has seeds in it (the pectin is in the seeds).

This will make lot of jam, so you'll want to use canning jars with fresh sealing lids to preserve it. I use the 4-pint Ball jar known as the 125. I filled about six of them, and had about 2 cups of jam left to put in a regular jar that I did not "preserve."

Before you get going on the fruit, either clean the jars in your dishwasher so they're hot and sterile or boil them for 10 minutes.

You'll need a very large, clean pot for boiling the jars after they've been



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

filled; a clean funnel; some paper towels; and if possible a pair of canning tongs to lift the jars.

THE TEDIIOUS PREPARATION OF THE FRUIT

Scrub your fruit and then use a juicer to get all the juice and most of the membrane out of the fruit.

Toss out the membrane but keep all the seeds.

Save the juice, of course.

After juicing, you should have a couple dozen half rounds of citrus. I cut each half round into three pieces and then used a sharp knife to carefully slice away the bitter white pith on the inside of the peel.

It's tedious but necessary; do it while you listen to a podcast or watch a movie. The less bitter, spongy pith on your peel, the better your marmalade will taste.

The next step is equally tedious: You need to take your scraped peels and slice them as thin as possible, as thin as blades of grass or hay. Don't worry about the length; long strands are actually kind of pretty.

BOIL THE RINDS

If you have an InstantPot, now is the time to get it out: You need to boil the peel strips in 2 quarts of

water (8 cups) until they're tender and almost translucent — which can take up to an hour if you do it on your stovetop.

If you have an InstantPot, combine the water and peels and cook them on high pressure for 10 minutes, then quick release the pressure. If you don't, use a large nonreactive pot and boil them lightly until they're ready. You'll need about 3/4 cup of the cooking liquid, so keep an eye on the pot and make sure you don't boil away all the liquid. That's one advantage of the InstantPot: Your liquid won't boil away.

When they're tender and almost translucent, rinse the peels in cool water to stop them from cooking any more.

At this point your jars should be clean and hot and ready to take out of the dishwasher; put them on a cookie sheet and put them in a 200 degree oven, so they're warm when the jam is ready: If you put hot jam in a cool jar, the glass will crack.

The next two steps have to be done on the stovetop. First, take your giant pot and fill it with enough that your jars will be submerged. Start it boiling so it's ready for canning

as soon as the marmalade is done cooking. Once it's boiling, reduce it to a simmer.

In a large pot that has a ceramic or other non-reactive surface, combine the citrus peels, the citrus juice (from way back in step one), the sugar, the citrus seeds (tie them up tightly in cheesecloth) and 3/4 cup of the cooking liquid.

Bring it all to a rolling boil (very big bubbles but foaming) and keep cooking for about 30 minutes. At this moment, it's great to have a cooking thermometer, to check when it reaches 220 degrees.

If you don't have a thermometer, put some spoons in your freezer and then test a spoonful of marmalade at a time by putting it in the freezer for a few minutes to see if it gels up. I don't personally find this method works very well but ...

IN WHICH WE SAY 'CAREFULLY' AGAIN AND AGAIN

Once your marmalade is done, turn off the stove and take your tray of canning jars out of the oven.

Carefully spoon the jam into the jars, leaving a quarter inch of air at the top. Wipe the top and

sides of the jars carefully with a wet paper towel; if there's jam overflow, your jars won't seal.

Carefully place your jars in the simmering water in your big pot. You don't want them to tip because you don't want any jam to spill on your jar, which could keep the jar from sealing.

In a perfect world, you should have a trivet at the bottom of your big canning pot so your jars don't touch the pot surface, which can cause them to break. This sounds much fussier and harder than it actually is; I didn't use a trivet and I did tip my jars over as I was putting them in the pot, and it was fine — but it's possible that I just got lucky.

Return the heat to high so your water is boiling vigorously again, then boil your filled jars for 10 minutes.

Remove them carefully and set them down in a spot that's relatively not sunny and relatively cool, which at this time of year is pretty much anyplace in my kitchen. Don't move the jars for 12 hours, so you don't "break" the set of the marmalade or the seal on the jars.

If at the end of that time the lids aren't sealed, clean the lids and jars again and boil them again for another 10 minutes. If your marmalade didn't set, I suppose you could pour it all back in a clean pot and boil it down some more.

I always feel like preserving jars of food is very intimidating and time-consuming, but it really is very easy. You just boil your jars for 10 minutes. Done. But it does help if you prepare your jars correctly and have the right tools. If you want to learn more about canning, go to the National Center for Home Food Preservation website at <https://nchfp.uga.edu>.

EDITORIAL

New year, new hope

We've finally made it. After 12 exhausting, seemingly endless and torturous months, we've managed to put 2020 — a year of death and tragedy — the year of the global coronavirus pandemic — behind us. Yes, we are still very much in the throes of dealing with the blasted virus, fighting for our lives and the lives of our loved ones as millions will now hopefully line up to get vaccinated against COVID-19, while continuing to wear our face coverings, wash our hands religiously and social distance to protect ourselves and others from getting sick. But at least there is some relief in knowing that the year 2021 has, at long last, arrived. And with a new year comes new hope.

It's been difficult, to say the least, to make it through this past year. It began with the unnerving knowledge that an unknown virus had made its way over from Wuhan, China, to our shores in December of 2019, only to see cases explode in New York by mid-March, 2020. Soon the Big Apple was the epicenter of the COVID crisis in the U.S., and Governor Andrew Cuomo shut down the state with his Executive Order putting New York on PAUSE — closing all non-essential businesses, schools and mass gatherings through most of the fall. Slowly, New York began to reopen in phases, though not all of it has returned to normal, even today, nearly one year later.

That's understandable, as the U.S. saw the pandemic escalate dramatically in November, when the daily number of reported deaths rose steadily; by mid-December deaths surpassed 3,000 for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

Those numbers are only getting worse as we now enter the new year, and have a new strain from the U.K. complicating matters. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the coronavirus is the worst pandemic to hit America in more than a century. But CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield was not completely discouraged when he spoke at the end of 2020.

"This has been a year of challenges, but also of innovation, modernization and advancement in public health," he said, noting the numerous vaccines now on the market, from the American vaccines to the British vaccine; China and Russia, even India, have also come out with vaccines. "I am hopeful for the future and the months to come as [the] CDC continues to secure the safety of the American people and this Nation."

We, too, have hope for the American people. We have hope that in the coming months people will start to become inoculated against COVID-19 — first healthcare workers and front line workers; then the elderly and other vulnerable citizens; along with essential workers like teachers and government employees; then bus drivers, garbage collectors, etc.; then those who most need the vaccine, be it children, those with compromised immune systems (once it's figured out how they can do so safely), etc. Everyone should get the vaccine. Period. That's what vaccines are for, to protect society during a pandemic. We need to make sure everyone is kept safe and healthy, as quickly as possible.

Once our citizens are inoculated, once we have eradicated the coronavirus from our land, we, as a society, can refocus on the issues that brought us so much unrest in 2020. We can revisit topics like social justice and its impact on rural communities like ours. We can talk about police reform, and see if our local departments would benefit from new policies. We can discuss how to expand broadband services in the Harlem Valley and how to ensure residents in the region, especially students, have reliable access.

So instead of looking at 2020 as a year to rue, and rather than striking a match to last year's calendar, why not instead consider 2020 as a year of learning, possibly of loss, but certainly one from which to move on with something gained? Perspective, perhaps, and now, with 2021 having arrived, new hope.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

At the start of a new year, thank you

We made it through 2020. That's about all one can say. That year which started so well, with a nice round number suggesting perfect vision, turned out to be such a challenge, to put it very mildly. Between the coronavirus pandemic, the economic free fall which it produced, the complete disruption of work, of schools, the urgent focus on racial justice, and a bitter, toxic, political climate... well, it was a year to remember, and not fondly.

In our little corner of Dutchess County, we persevered. We socially distanced, we wore our masks, and we led markedly different lives than we could have ever imagined. Town government carried on, virtually at first, then in a mostly closed Town Hall, with much sanitizing, pass-through windows and Board meetings held on Zoom. The Town's Courtroom got re-imagined and modified, and our Court continued its important work. Our great Highway crew kept after our roads, while construction continued on our new

Highway Garage on Route 22. A big THANK YOU to all our Town of North East employees, who showed dedication and good cheer in a very trying environment.

We are also blessed to have such committed and engaged residents who volunteer their time on Town Boards and Committees. Our Planning Board, our Board of Assessment Review and our Zoning Board of Appeals each continued with their meetings and their work, thoughtfully and responsibly. Our Conservation Advisory Committee and our Climate Smart Communities Task Force continued their mission to make this part of the world both more resilient in the face of climate change and part of the solution in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And our newly formed Zoning Review Committee, formed in response to the Town's Comprehensive Plan, got off the ground with its critical but time-consuming work reviewing and revising our zoning



Coronavirus is forcing an important conversation

At the Office for the Aging (OFA), we do the best we can to anticipate the needs and concerns of seniors and caregivers throughout Dutchess County; and when it comes to anticipation, a line from a Golden Living column from 2018 really hit the mark: "Bad news has a way of showing up before the conversation ever happens."

In 2020, the bad news showed up, in the form of a deadly virus.

By "conversation," we had been referring to the time when a senior's adult children first notice that their parent is having trouble managing their independence, and how they can discuss that topic frankly, with a minimum of awkwardness.

If your senior family member has remained socially and mentally active while staying physically safe during the coronavirus pandemic thus far, that's a great accomplishment. It's a sign that they're mastering a key aspect of aging gracefully: learning to accept help gracefully. It's impressive, given that the pandemic had not been on

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

anybody's calendar at this time one year earlier.

If you're the senior in question, and you've learned to adapt to the virus while also adapting to aging, and you've been working with your family to accomplish this... great job!

But if you're the senior or the family members who are wondering how you'll be able to hold things together over the winter into the new year, please get in touch with the Office for the Aging with any questions you're prepared to ask. Chances are there will be additional questions that haven't come to mind yet. That's to be expected.

And what if you don't know where to begin? Not a problem. The main point is that you're seeking solutions. To get started on a plan, look at later life's biggest challenges:

- Whether to retrofit a familiar home to meet seniors'

Internet theft and hacking

Imagine your competitor is a farmer with tractors. No doubt he has a diesel tank to refill from. Now, if you wanted to steal from him, you could, in the dead of night, go and siphon gallons of diesel fuel from his tank. Straightforward theft. And unless he's a dunce, he'll know pretty soon gallons were missing.

Instead, you decide to both cripple his business profitability, use his fuel to increase yours and remain virtually undetected. How? You go over in the dead of night and make a pin hole in his diesel tank, attach a hose and run the hose back

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

to your own barn tank. Drip, drip, drip — 11,000 drips and you get a gallon. Say it takes a day. Meanwhile, he's using the diesel for his tractors and, at worst, he'll assume his tractor is using a teeny bit more fuel. Meanwhile, at the end of a year, you'll have stolen and used 365 gallons and he'll never know...

In the case of internet hacking and theft, the smartest people do exactly that, they make a teeny intrusion and download a steady — but ever so small as to remain unnoticeable — data stream. Now, what use is this data to the hacker?

First, if they download vital secrets, technologies, they can use them (like using diesel) to prop up their own industries. Sometimes it is something simple like the chemical composition of a new rocket fuel or perhaps test results on the flexibility of a new plastic. Other times such data could be information on plans for defense that they can get ahead of in development. In the time of Reagan, they could have learned that there never was any real "Star Wars Program." It was a bluff to force the Soviet's hand.

Second, if they download emails, they can probe individuals to look for vulnerabilities. This is standard spy stuff... an employee is in trouble making mortgage payments... another is having an affair... a third has a sick child... all these can be exploited.

And third, analyzing the downloads, they can look for programs' vulnerabilities and upload (implant) more vulnerabilities and secret back-doors. That way, if the primary hack is discovered, they will already have — what's the number here? About 16,000 customers infected? Plenty of backdoors to invade at will. What for? See steps one and two above.

This is a nerve rending saga now. All these companies have lost diesel. And the crook stealing the diesel has even injected bad chemicals into the farmer's tank that may ruin his business.

What's the cure? The farmer, having discovered the pinhole siphon, needs to empty the tank, buys a better one and starts again.

What is important for the future is to beef up the security on that farm!

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

Send letters to editor@millertonnews.com

Has the COVID-19 economic slowdown affected the climate?

Dear EarthTalk: Given the economic slowdown around the world due to the coronavirus in 2020, was there a positive impact on climate change? — M. Stiles, Meriden, Conn.

The coronavirus pandemic has certainly led to a decrease in industrial activity and resulting greenhouse gas emissions during its reign over the planet in 2020. A recent study by German researchers calculated that global

carbon dioxide emissions fell by about 8% over the past year. While this is no doubt a good result from an otherwise bad situation, the researchers warn it represents nothing but a small drop in the bucket compared to what we still need to accomplish — even bigger annual emissions drops every year for decades to come — to avert cataclysmic climate change.

Despite the drop in emissions over this past year, 2020 will likely go down in history as the year things started to really accelerate with regard to climate change's effects. Recent increases in both the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are consequences of global climate change.

In 2020, extreme weather events plagued people around the world amid the pandemic. In the U.S. alone, Americans witnessed orange skies clouded with smoke and a number of powerful hurricanes coming from the Atlantic. Globally, there have been record high average temperatures, double the activity of a normal hurricane season, the hottest temperature ever reliably recorded in human history (54°C), the most costly damages from flooding to date in China, record low Arctic sea ice and the strongest tropical cyclone to hit land that has ever been recorded (Super Typhoon Goni). These abnormally extreme weather events are all indicators of the accelerating effects of climate change on our planet.

Even though climate change continues to worsen, in small ways all over the world nature has taken this economic slowdown as a chance to breathe. For example, the murky waters of Venice's canals became clearer than they had been in decades — and sea life even returned to the

evolving living situations, or to move into a new home with senior-friendly design features, also known as universal design;

- Whether to restrict driving, and whether to give up the car keys altogether;

- When to get help with health care decisions;

- What level of informal (unpaid) and formal (paid) in-home care is needed, and who's available to provide that care, keeping in mind that the pandemic has exacerbated the existing shortage of home aides;

- When to turn over household financial decisions and bill-paying to a trustworthy third party.

It's not necessary to have answered all those questions right away. To have considered the questions in the first place means you've started on a journey to a plan with which everybody is comfortable.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging Director Todd N. Tancredi. He can be reached at 845-486-2555, ofa@dutchessny.gov or online, at www.dutchessny.gov/aging.

city's urban waterways.

While global warming has not stopped because of the global pandemic, we have learned that Mother Nature responds positively to our improved behavior (even when not intended), which gives environmental advocates hope to keep on working. It's now up to every one of us to make significant changes in our own orbits if we hope to mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change.

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Coronavirus cancels 2021 Winter State Championships, postpones high risk sports

By KAITLIN LYLE
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NEW YORK STATE — Looking into the latest news regarding the status of the 2021 winter sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) announced in December that all 2021 Winter State Championships — including basketball, competitive cheerleading, indoor track and field and wrestling — have been canceled to ensure the safety of student athletes, coaches and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise, NYSPHSAA announced that all high risk sports will be postponed until state officials give the OK.

It was just this past November that NYSPHSAA announced that the start date for this year's high risk winter sports would be postponed to Monday, Jan. 4, to minimize risk and exposure to COVID-19. Following the announcement, administrators in Harlem Valley school districts

discussed how the season would pan out in their respective districts. Webutuck High School in Amenia, Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School in Pine Plains and Millbrook High School are all NYSPHSAA members. They also assessed their available low and moderate risk sports options for students, as the association previously determined that low and moderate risk sports — such as indoor track and field, gymnastics, swimming and diving and skiing (not all of which are offered locally) — were permitted to begin on Nov. 30 for schools and sections that determined it "feasible to host interscholastic events at that time."

NYSPHSAA announced its decision in December regarding the 2021 Winter State Championships and high-risk sports. It stated in a press release its decision to cancel the championships addressed concerns regarding increased travel, hotel accommodations, meal planning and transportation logistics dur-

ing the pandemic, as well as how venue capacity limitations and social distancing restrictions make it "increasingly difficult" to ensure the safety of students, coaches and families.

Meanwhile, the decision to postpone all high risk sports was based on concerns with the increase in both infection and hospitalization rates across New York State. In addition to basketball, competitive cheerleading and wrestling, boys lacrosse, ice hockey, football, volleyball and wrestling are among the sports that were declared high risk by the New York State Department of Health.

"As an educator, I am witnessing first-hand the challenges our member schools are facing each day in addressing this pandemic," stated NYSPHSAA President Julie Bergman.

At this time, the 2021 NYSPHSAA Spring State Championships remain scheduled and both low and moderate risk regular sports seasons continue to be permitted.

The Pine Plains varsity boys basketball team faced off against Millbrook in the Stissing Mountain High School gymnasium in a home game held during the 2019-20 winter sports season.



The Webutuck varsity girls basketball team was well-matched when it competed against Ellenville in one of the home games held in the Webutuck High School gymnasium during the 2019-20 winter sports season.

ARCHIVE PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

Off season questions

When there is no baseball, those of us who are fanatic about being fans have to make our annual pilgrimage to YouTube, so we might do a refresher course on the Abbott and Costello classic, "Who's on First?" I did notice this time around that classic though it is, they did forget to ask a few questions.

Idunno (he plays third) Why (left field) baseball is played in a ball park while other sports are played in a stadium or an arena. If it's a park, where are the trees, the water, the flowers? Now admittedly there are Orioles and Cardinals flying around, but shouldn't the Royals play in a castle, the Padres in a church, and the Rays in an aquarium? Of course, in the last case, you might need scuba equipment to get into the stands, but still.

Speaking of stands, why is that where the seats are? If everyone in the stands is sitting, not standing, why call them stands? And why are you sitting

BLEACHER VIEWS

Theodore Kneeland

there? To see your team score runs, of course. How do you score a run, you might ask? Why you stop running as you cross home plate, naturally. What is a plate doing at home anyway? Did someone steal it from an unsuspecting mother? If so, that would be the oddest looking plate in the china cabinet. Maybe Mom just wanted to get rid of it anyway.

As far as stealing goes, if you steal a base, where do you hide it? Oh, in the dugout, that place where the fellow with the power shovel ruined the foundation of the stands so that everyone had to sit. Of course.

Another way to score one of those valued runs is to hit a home run, wherein no one runs, they trot. So why isn't it called a home

trot? Clearly because you have to practice your home run trot so that your run counts. Got it.

You have to remember, though, to touch all the bases during your home run trot. As you do, you might ask why there are three bases. Shouldn't there be only one base? Or is that a baseless question to ask?

Of course, if you hit a "fly," you don't get to stand on a base. To do that, your fly has to turn into a hit by "dropping in," and not because a player dropped the ball either. That would be an "error." But if your "fly" "drops" by itself, you get a "hit" even though you had to do that just to get a "fly."

If you can follow all that, it's pretty easy to understand why Costello couldn't figure out that Who was the first baseman. Makes perfect Sense, doesn't it? Oh sorry! He's the umpire.

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

Looking Back at Tangled Lines

2020 Specks of good news in a challenging year

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
patrick@lakevillejournal.com

There was one very good thing that happened in 2020: It was the year I finally got the hang of fishing with specks.

I define "specks" as flies size 20 and smaller.

Itty bitty bugs are present on all trout waters, usually year-round. Trout eat them, and anglers using the right imitations catch the trout.

Except me. That all changed this year, when I discovered a brand of fluorocarbon tippet that worked for me. Without getting into the aquatic weeds, suddenly the practical difficulties of using specks were significantly diminished.

Meanwhile: As the pandemic lockdowns began, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont had a brain wave, or somebody had it for him. Trout season opened about two and a half weeks ahead of schedule, with the result that in late March, when everybody else was huddled inside waiting for the end of the world, I was hauling a fat 22-inch rainbow trout out of the Blackberry River in North Canaan.

Also in March, in the no man's land between the Great Falls and the Falls Village power station, I caught a nice fat small-mouth that was probably looking for

TANGLED LINES

Patrick L. Sullivan

a good place to spawn, and a sinister-looking pike that would not fit in my 24-inch net. I have great respect for pike, especially for their large, sharp teeth. Also the slowly working jaw muscles. I clipped off the fly without getting my fingers anywhere near its mouth.

April: Started clambering around the little blue lines, those streams holding wild brook trout that provide great sport for those inclined to expend great physical and mental effort in pursuit of little fish.

May: More of the same, weather permitting. The rod of choice was a Cabela's CGR fiberglass 6.5 foot 4 weight, supplemented by the Dragontail Mizuchi zoom tenkara or fixed-line rod.

June: By Memorial Day, water temperatures in the Housatonic River were at the point where wet wading was not only possible but preferable. The trout were heading into their summertime Witness Protection mode, so I targeted small-mouth bass.

were larger than my usual clients. Almost completely absent were the dinkers, the green-colored juvenile fish that are usually so ubiquitous as to qualify as a nuisance.

August: The little blue lines were out of contention, as we experienced drought conditions. So I floated around a lake and caught large-mouth bass, gave a couple of lessons, and generally loafed.

September: Got a fair bit of time in on the Esopus in Ulster County. Caught more and bigger rainbows than usual. October: Still giving the blue lines a pass, I took advantage of the fall trout stocking on the Blackberry to practice my speck technique. This was supplemented by a couple of all-too-brief trips to the Esopus, where the specks produced on pickier trout.

November: Pretty much wound things up where the season started, on the humble and hard-fished Blackberry.

December: With the blue lines back in play, made a couple of forays to the Stream That Shall Not Be Named, to see if the speck treatment would work in that setting. It did, but the wild brookies seemed more interested in big bushy flies that are bigger than their mouths.

Then it snowed, and I reluctantly put most of the fishing gear away.

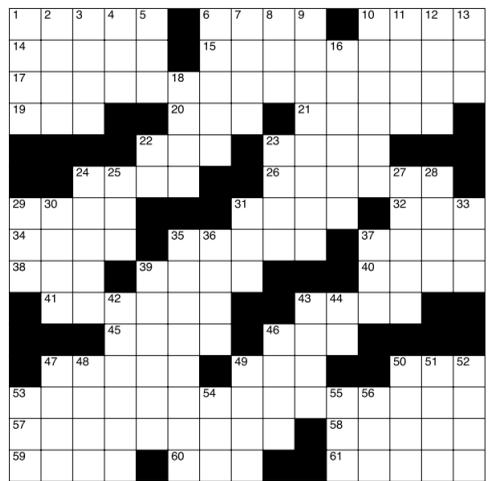
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Partner to "oohead"
- Relaxing places
- Humorous monologue
- Simple elegance
- Bearable
- Disobedience
- Express delight
- Gov't attorneys
- Wake up
- A type of band
- Remain as is
- Turfs
- Battle-ax
- Volcanic crater
- The mother of Jesus
- One's life history
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Doubles
- Jacob __, American journalist
- House pet
- S. African river
- Broad sashes
- Establish as a foundation
- KGB double agent Aldrich
- Part of a book
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Train group (abbr.)
- Frames per second
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal from a federation
- Guitarist sounds
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.
- Helps escape

CLUES DOWN

- Currency exchange charge
- River in Tuscany
- Breakfast dish
- Defunct European currency
- Upper class young woman
- Part of a purse
- Self-contained units
- Boxing's GOAT
- Legislators
- Flightless birds
- U. of Miami's mascot is one
- Floating ice
- Low, marshy land
- Seldom
- Lyric poems
- Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- Full extent of something
- __ Claus
- Naturally occurring solid material

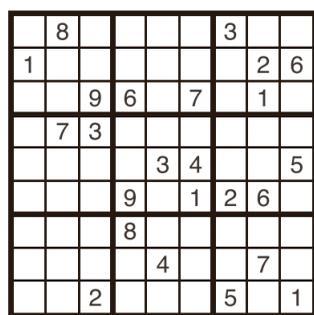


- Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
- Thirteen
- Partner to cheese
- Member of a Semitic people
- One thousandth of an inch
- Former CIA
- Most lemony
- Engage in
- Small Eurasian deer
- Provisions
- All humans have them
- Swiss river
- Storage term (abbr.)
- Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
- Dutch colonist
- Full-grown pike fish
- Egyptian sun god
- Flute
- Flew off!
- Scottish tax
- Young women's association
- Populous Brazilian city
- Malaysian Isthmus
- Pointed end of a pen

Dec. 24 & 31 Solution



Sudoku



Dec. 24 & 31 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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MILLBROOK

Village Board meets one last time in 2020, Herzog ends term as mayor

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The former Mayor Michael Herzog led his final meeting of the Village Board on Tuesday, Dec. 8; he returned to the position of trustee this first week of January.

Village Clerk Sarah Witt presented the six-month expense report to the board, mentioning it would reflect the impact of the pandemic, with some items like state highway funding being down by 20%. More impact was felt because many state-mandated items were unfunded.

Fire Chief Ted Bownas reported 77 incidents in November including two motor vehicle accidents; 51 EMS calls; one appliance fire; two structure fires; seven trees or wires down; one brush fire; one carbon monoxide call; one unknown odor check. He also gave EMS call response numbers: Northern Dutchess Paramedic had 51; MFD Rescue had one; Mutual Aid had two; EMS had nine. The fire department also allowed community volunteer Brian Hicks to use its facility to create, assemble, paint and repair figures for the Millbrook crèche and other holiday decorations for nearly two weeks.

Sgt. Jared Witt of the Millbrook Police Department presented his November report. There were 188 incidents: 20 traffic complaints including parking and road hazard infractions. The department assisted other agencies including neighboring police departments 12 times; the fire department, five times; Town of Washington EMT, three times; and Millbrook EMT, five times. There were reports of criminal mischief, domestic violence, trespass, larceny, dumping, harassment and exposure, all listed at one call each. There was one animal complaint; three incidents of lost and found property; 25 house checks; and four property checks; 20 school checks; welfare checks; and two each of checks on civil activity, suspicious activity and community policing. There was one missing person report; three citizen assists; and one mental

health call.

Witt and his department helped the Angels of Light Foundation in November and December, collecting and delivering gifts for children with terminal illnesses.

Public Works Bob Collocola presented his departmental report: November involved leaf pick up, storm damage clean up and clearing catch basin tops. Road crews painted truck beds and installed a second sander; cleaned out the Village Hall basement and replaced all the light bulbs in the basement.

Workers also put up 80 Christmas trees in the village, its nativity scene and Santa and his reindeer for the Millbrook Business Association (MBA). With the holidays now over, workers will collect all the trees put out by residents for disposal; the trees will go to a pheasant farm and become homes for pheasants. A goat farm will also pick up some of the trees as goats reportedly like to eat them.

Two trees that were expected to be planted this fall will instead be planted in the spring due to COVID related delays.

Collocola said all precautions are being taken at the garage to prevent COVID-19 from spreading: Outsiders are not allowed in the garage; mask wearing and social distancing are being enforced and the garage is sanitized every day.

At the meeting, Collocola and Herzog thanked those who helped decorate the village for Christmas: Brian Hicks, Erin Hicks, Brie Bownas, Mike Masserone and artist Lori Spagnola, also the MBA and numerous community volunteers.

Scott Osborne reported on the sewer and water systems. One pump has been out of service but was set to be replaced; two pumps were being used alternatively. Total water production for November was 5,980,000 gallons. Sampling results showed no chloroform in the water. The sewer report showed the total ebullient flow was 4,450,687. Total precipitation for November was 3.9 inches. The annual report has been submitted to the Department of

Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The village clerk gave the Building Department's report. Six building permits were issued in November for a total of \$690; three municipal searches brought in \$375 for a total of \$1,065. She also reported that unpaid taxes (for 13 parcels) amounted to \$ 18,303.89 and were reported to the county.

Herzog said he was looking for volunteers to discuss police policy and procedures, to create a report on police reform to submit to the county by April. Governor Andrew Cuomo has set an April 1 deadline for reports on police reform from all departments statewide or departments risk losing state funding. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Village Hall. The county has been holding community stakeholder meetings on police reform throughout 2020 with

the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office to get the process underway, and has brought local municipalities into the fold.

In closing, Herzog thanked Willie Murphy for the decorated tree at the top of Franklin Avenue; Murphy has been decorating the tree more than 30 years. He also thanked Sam Martin for the Santa Mail Box in front of Samantha's Sweet Shoppe on Church Street and the wish lists the store helped fill for local children.

Herzog thanked Joe Rochfort for his four years of hard work as a trustee and the Highway Department for making the village Christmas-ready. He thanked the board and village staff for its help during his four-month tenure as mayor, filling in after former Mayor Rod Brown resigned unexpectedly before his term ended. The board's reorganization meeting for 2021 was held on Tuesday, Jan. 5, after press time.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Library returns to COVID shutdown hours

Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the state, the Millbrook Library has returned to curbside service only, and the library building itself is now closed to the public. Patrons can still order books from the Millbrook Library as well as other libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System. Programs will proceed as scheduled online and craft kits are still available; call 845-677-3611 or email director@millbrooklibrary.org for more information. Patrons can request specific items, book bundles or movie bundles with the library online, by phone or by email. Above, the library was decorated for the holidays on New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1.

Faith Shultz wins scholarship, awards

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — At just 18 years old, Faith Shultz has long been used to her hard work resulting in awards for her efforts. A graduate of Millbrook High School, she is proud to have gone through the Millbrook Central School District through her academic career. She also proudly pointed out that she graduated from the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Career Technical Institute (CTI), where she took part in the Careers in Animal and Plant Sciences program.

For the past 10 years, Shultz has also been raising Nubian and Toggenburg dairy goats, which involves a lot of hard work as well as a lot of expertise and love. She feeds, milks, breeds and shows the goats at fairs and exhibits. She was one of several 4-H members from the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County in Millbrook who visited a number of farms in Austria a few years ago to see how other

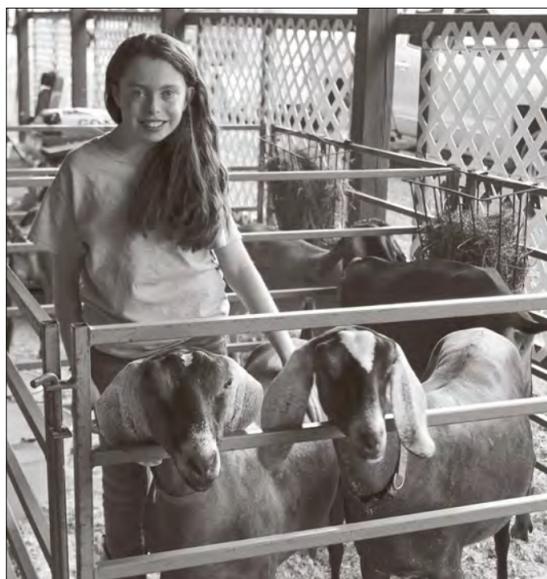


PHOTO SUBMITTED

4-H member Faith Shultz said she loves spending time with her Nubian goats at Daisy Hill Farm.

dairy farmers care for their animals.

Aside from raising her goats, Shultz has always been an excellent student, and has won many awards for her efforts; she was recently given the 2020 Dutchess County Dairy Committee Scholarship award, one of three first year scholarships recognizing her several years as a 4-H'er.

She is currently at Dutchess Community College (DCC), pursuing a career in agriculture and said she plans to transfer to SUNY Cobleskill in the future. During the summer of 2020 she worked at the 4-H division at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Millbrook.

Daisy Hill Farm is a small herd farm located in Millbrook, according to Shultz, where she raises her goats.

"As a small herd, we pride ourselves in having does that are not only productive in the milk bucket but in the show ring as well," she said with pride. "We are a CAE Free herd, tested yearly." She recently introduced a new breed of goat, "part goat, part giraffe," was how Shultz described the animal, but very definitely "sweethearts."

Shultz is aware that she is fortunate in having had help and guidance along the way, but also knows how fortunate she is to be able to pursue a career in some-

thing that she very much loves.

"I am very grateful to everyone who has guided me along the way and given me unforgettable experiences that have helped to influence my future," she said. "I look forward to becoming an agricultural educator and educating society on the importance of agriculture and the impacts it has on our daily lives."

Other awards she has won over the years have come from the New York Farm Bureau, the Dutchess County Agricultural Society, the Rhinebeck Farmers Market and from BOCES.

Her career in 4-H, of which she has been a member for seven years, is also laudable; she's held various positions such as president, vice president and secretary. She's been a member of the Kids-for-Kids Dairy Goat Club, the Top Dogs Canine Club and the Dutchess County Teen Ambassadors. She has been a 4-H program assistant intern since February 2019.

Shultz wants to major in agricultural business management and minor in agricultural education once at SUNY.

"My career goal is to educate our local communities on the importance of agriculture by working with local agricultural programs and through marketing," she said.

They're lofty goals, but Shultz has always worked hard to achieve such goals, and in all likelihood, will succeed in accomplishing them.

For more information, follow Shultz and her goats on her Facebook page, Daisy Hill Farm Nubian Dairy Goats.

Diana Bontecou retires from the Millbrook Library

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — After seven fun and productive years at the Millbrook Library, Diana Bontecou decided to retire from her position as its adult program director. Over the years, Bontecou has been responsible for many wonderful programs, involving cooking classes — Greek, Italian, Korean, vegetarian, raw food — you name it. Popular "Chopped" TV show champion chef Dafna Mizrahi was even a guest once.

Bontecou has also curated countless art exhibits that rotated on a near monthly basis, covering all mediums and a variety of artists from near and far. Some of her favorites included the yearly Art Blast art show that showcased the work of Millbrook students, usually held in January. She also enjoyed exhibiting work from senior residents at The Fountains, along with other local artists who showed their art at the library's Gallery, usually celebrated at openings replete with live music and refreshments.

Bontecou also specialized in offering programs for local veterans; one particularly popular program featured music from the WWI era. She also organized annual celebrations for St. Patrick's Day with Irish music and dancing.

Bontecou would regularly invite authors to the library to read from and discuss their books with patrons. She was involved with the annual Millbrook Literary Festival, which required a lot of work, but has long been a



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Millbrook Library Adult Program Director Diana Bontecou retired at the end of December. She recently sat beneath one of the quilts in an exhibit she curated, just one of many she has curated in the past seven years.

favorite with local readers and authors and an event Bontecou particularly enjoyed.

Bontecou regularly scheduled craft events before the pandemic — included making things such as greeting cards, lotus lanterns and silk-screen paintings.

Another favorite event Bontecou was known for was the library's dinner and mystery night, as well as a series that featured South Korean culture, including both traditional tea and wedding ceremony demonstrations.

"I was able to coordinate with many wonderful people to help me make our programming unique and successful," she said. "I was also able to partner with many amazing community

groups such as the Millbrook Arts Group and The Catskill Jazz Factory, allowing us to hold beautiful concerts in our great hall. Of course, I will also be grateful to all the incredible artists whose works adorned our walls over the years."

For the seven years that Bontecou ran the adult programming at the Millbrook Library, patrons could always count on something exciting, fun and educational to enjoy. That changed this past March, when the coronavirus pandemic caused public gatherings to be banned for fear of spreading the deadly virus.

Bontecou said she will really miss her work and those she worked with — and no doubt she will be missed greatly in return. But she's looking forward to the next chapter in her life: riding her horse, walking her dog and playing with her three cats. She'll also have more time to spend renovating her house with her partner, James Warhola, whom, coincidentally, she met when he appeared as a guest author at the library. When the world returns to normal, Bontecou said the pair hopes to travel.

"I love to cook," she said, "and I need to decompress. I'll still be involved with the Berkshire Taconic Community Outreach," a regional philanthropic organization looking to strengthen the local communities that she supports.

Bontecou retired at the end of December.

"Everyone should be lucky enough to retire from a job they love," she said.

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Village Board wants to use grant to fix sidewalk in front of library

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Village Board heard suggestions for its 2021 Community Development Block Grant application at a special public hearing and meeting held on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

The meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is now on the "Village of Millerton VOM" Facebook page. With the exception of Trustee Joshua Schulz, the full board and resident Sam Busselle were present.

Mayor Debbie Middlebrook said the board hopes to do some sidewalk work, namely the section in front of the NorthEast-Millerton Library. She said there's a tree that needs to come down and that the sidewalk has already been broken up and chipped due to the tree's roots. In addition to replacing that section of sidewalk, Middlebrook said the board hopes to install a new crosswalk at that section at the same time. The village already has multi-modal crossing signs

it can utilize and residents want a crosswalk in that vicinity; the mayor said getting both projects done at once would be both ideal and cost effective.

As a member of the Tri-Town Coalition, which seeks affordable housing solutions, Busselle made a request. Saying that Dutchess County encourages cooperation among the municipalities of Amenia, Pine Plains, North East and Millerton, Busselle said the coalition wants better communication to facilitate better collaboration.

If the coalition could generate some funding and if he could draft some proposals, Busselle plans to appeal to all of the municipalities for financial assistance, adding it could lead to another "Community Conversation," next year to get more people involved in creating local affordable housing.

Busselle suggested that since Trustee Matthew Hartzog is familiar with housing issues, he could be of help.

"We don't have enough publicity, we don't have enough commitment from the communities,

from the people who really need housing... but we don't have the resources to sort of stimulate it at this point," Busselle said, "so I just want to know if we can keep this open as a placeholder while we determine whether or not each of the towns would be interested in participating."

Middlebrook said she thought block grants were for tangible items, such as modifying bathrooms in public buildings to make them Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint, etc. She said she wasn't sure if setting aside funding to publicize meetings would qualify a grant.

Busselle said he's been involved with the CDBG process for 30 years, adding when he was more active with the North East Community Center (NECC), it made CDBG applications for social services. As he recalled, he said up to 15% of its funding can be used for social services.

Checking the description, Trustee Alicia Sartori found that up to 15% of a CDBG's annual allocation after the deduction of the county's administrative expenses

may be set aside for public service activities.

Middlebrook said it sounded like the village could apply for the sidewalk work and then apply for Busselle's idea. She asked Sartori later that evening whether there was a separate funding source for what Busselle wanted; Sartori said she'd have to look into it.

"Maybe what we can do is look into it for next year since we're in such a time crunch now to get this application in," Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer said.

Hartzog, who had to leave the meeting early, said he was in favor of the sidewalk project. Kilmer inquired if the village has any other sidewalk repairs left to do. Middlebrook said there are more sidewalks that need work in residential areas of the village. After further discussion, the board closed the public hearing at 9:27 p.m. A resolution was passed to apply for block grant funds to replace the sidewalk in front of the library. Middlebrook noted this section will go up toward Salisbury Bank and heading both east and west through Millerton.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notice

Notice of formation of 6 WEST STREET PAWLING, LLC; Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/06/2020; Office located in Dutchess County; SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served; SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: The LLC, 10 West Street, Pawling, NY 12589; Purpose is any lawful act or activity.

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should contact the Planning Board Secretary via email at ne.pb@townofnortheastny.gov to request a link to access the meeting. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board prior to such hearing by email.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the above notice is subject to current and new Executive Orders by the Governor of the State of New York relating to open meetings. Dated: December 23, 2020.

Dale Culver
Chairman
Planning Board
01-07-21

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Coatings Pro of New York, LLC of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/13/2020 in Office in Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Custom Coatings Pro of New York, LLC P.O. Box 53 Pawling, NY 12564. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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TOWN OF NORTH EAST PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Town of North East on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 via Zoom at 7:40 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the application of Peter W. Clair for a Lot Line Adjustment on Tax Parcel #: 7170-00-735431 and Tax Parcel #7170-00-770393. The parcels are located at 5644 Route 22, Millerton, NY 12546 and Route 22, Millerton, NY 12546.

The above application is open for inspection via email. Please request a copy by emailing the Planning Board office at ne.pb@townofnortheastny.gov calling 518-789-3300, Ext. 608. The application is also available on the town website for inspection.

Persons wishing to view and/or appear at such hearing

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

Memories on Main Street

Area residents and visiting shoppers strolling along Main Street before the new year may have spotted the arrangement of framed family photos that were featured in the former Terni's storefront; the vignette was removed by the end of the holiday season. After celebrating its centennial year in business in July 2019, the family-owned shop that sold everything from guns and hunting gear to newspapers and pipes at 42 Main St. closed its doors for good in April 2020. Given the generations of Terni family members who kept the Millerton business running during the past century, the appearance of the family photos seemed a fitting tribute to the impact the Terni family had on the Millerton community.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

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HELP WANTED, TOWN OF SHARON, CT, ROAD MAINTAINER: The Town of Sharon is accepting applications for a full time Road Crew Member with the Sharon Highway Department. A CDL (Class A or B) is required. Applications and job description can be obtained at the Selectmen's Office, 63 Main Street, P.O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 weekdays from 9AM to 12 Noon and 1PM to 4PM or phone 860-364-5789. Hourly rate \$22.65 and is a Union Position. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, short-term disability insurance, paid holidays, pension after one year of service and paid vacation after one year of service. Applications along with resume must be received by 4:00PM Thursday, January 22, 2021 at the above address. The Town of Sharon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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