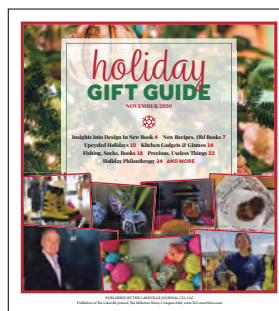




MILLERTON
Oblong Books
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Celebrates
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PHOTO BY OLIVIA NORSTEIN

Chris Norstein and her husband, Warren, who is the chef and owner of Big W's BBQ in Wingdale, had a rare quiet moment to pose for this photo during warmer weather. Warren spends most of his time smoking meats for hours at his very popular restaurant, which sold turkey feasts for Thanksgiving and will do so again for Christmas.

Big W's BBQ helps set the holiday table

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

WINGDALE — Ask Warren Norstein of Big W's what's cookin' and he'll happily explain not just what's on the menu, but how it got there and exactly what makes his mouth watering BBQ good enough to drive miles for.

He is also the man responsible for the dozens upon dozens of feasts of slowly smoked turkeys, chickens and ducks gracing Thanksgiving tables throughout the Tri-State region, as he'll do for the coming holidays — despite COVID-19 shortages.

A perpetually jovial man, Norstein said, "no offense to any turkey people," but turkeys are "a stupid bird in life and in death... wet and cold."

How it all began...

He touts the technique of smoking because when cooked in ovens much warmer than his smokers, the birds' water content becomes "excited" and drops down into the pans, which can make for great gravy but sadly for birds that can be "dried out and nasty."

Beyond being a great BBQ guy, for 14 years Norstein cut his teeth at "fancy

See **BIG W'S, A6**

Millerton pantry gives turkeys to those in need

MILLERTON — Not even the COVID-19 pandemic could stop the local community from embracing the giving season as volunteers gathered at the First Presbyterian Church of Millerton on Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, to assemble Thanksgiving baskets for residents in need.

Working in collaboration with the North East Community Center (NECC), volunteers from the church's food pantry donned their face masks and kept a safe distance from one another as they put together boxes and bags filled with dried, canned, non-perishable and fresh goods.

Fifty turkeys and some chickens

arrived on Friday, Nov. 20, courtesy of the Sunday in the Country Food Drive, while the NECC donated vegetables and the rest of the food came from donations from the food pantry and a food drive it held in May.

As a brand new addition to the program, this year's Thanksgiving baskets featured pie kits with the NECC Teen Team's "Best Pumpkin Pie" recipe.

While the volunteers who were there on Thursday packing baskets said they hadn't yet figured out their Thanksgiving plans for this year, they

See **MILLERTON PANTRY, A6**

The January Regents exams have been canceled for 2021.
Go to www.TriCornerNews.com to for a full report.

School district hopes to reopen after Thanksgiving break

More COVID-19 cases keeps Webutuck schools closed

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — In light of recent reports of positive COVID-19 cases in the North East (Webutuck) Central School District, its Board of Education (BOE) focused on how to reopen schools at its BOE meeting on Monday, Nov. 16.

Gathering via Zoom due to the pandemic, the BOE met at 7 p.m. Prior to Superintendent Raymond Castellani's report in which reopening details were discussed more at length, the BOE heard district updates from Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer

Eraca and Business Administrator Robert Farrier.

When Castellani spoke, he said schools were closed about two weeks ago after learning there were four positive cases of COVID-19 in the district. In total, the district had to quarantine more than 40 people, Castellani said, as the district had to trace the cases back to the last day in which the infected individual or individuals were in school and in contact with people, and then had to contact all the people the individual may have been in contact with or in the vicinity of. For cases involving students, he explained, that meant dealing with students who were on

the bus or in the classrooms as well as staff members who might have been in the classrooms or in contact with the students. For cases involving staff members, Castellani said contact tracers had to go back and look at all the students and colleagues whom the staff member may have been in contact with.

Adhering to the Dutchess County Department of Health's (DOH) guidelines, Castellani said they had to contact and contact trace "over 40-plus people" and tell them to remain in quarantine for two weeks. Of that number, he said there were at least 10

See **SCHOOLS, A6**

Farm to Food Pantry program has Harlem Valley farms fighting hunger

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — Now more than ever, access to fresh food is an essential to staying healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the Farm to Food Pantry program launched this past summer, area farms and food lockers have been working in tandem to address this need, making sure local residents can access healthy farm-fresh food through their local food banks.

How farms are filling pantries

As noted on its website, www.farmtofoodpantry.com, the program recruits individuals interested in helping their communities "feed the hungry and malnourished by helping local farms to donate their products to nearby food pantries." In a nutshell, the program aims to make healthy eat-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Harlem Valley Homestead in Wingdale has been donating fresh produce to the Farm to Food Pantry program, through which it goes to local food lockers, thereby contributing to the farm's mission of creating an access point for fresh, local food for the community.

See **FARM TO PANTRY, A6**

We want to know what you did this Thanksgiving

MILLERTON — This has been an unusual year as we have had in probably the better part of a century, according to those who have been around long enough to remember the decades in between — or to those who have studied them. Between the coronavirus being unleashed on the world, the many months of social unrest and the reawakening of the Black Lives Matter movement, the

turbulent 2020 elections and now President Trump refusing to concede to President Elect Joseph Biden, a nice, relaxing Thanksgiving break might be just what we all need.

The question is: How are you planning to celebrate the holiday this year, and to do so safely with COVID-19 still raging and infections rising around the country, and right here in Dutchess County?

According to North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan, "as of today [Thursday, Nov. 19], there are 609 active cases of COVID-19 in Dutchess County being monitored by the Dutchess County Department of Health [DOH], with 37 individuals currently hospitalized."

Just three weeks ago, the health

See **THANKSGIVING, A6**



CONTACT
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860-435-9873, ext. 608

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Be Thankful;
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MILLERTON

Oblong Books & Music celebrates 45 years in business

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — For all the changes that have shaped the face of Main Street in Millerton — as well as the rest of the world — these last 45 years, Oblong Books & Music has remained a steadfast force, drawing customers from all walks of life and inspiring fellow merchants with its time-honored business. Today, the green storefront that leads to an interior teeming with books, games, toys and so much more for its customers to explore has become a village icon, just as The Moviehouse and the former Saperstein's store. Reminiscing about how his business and the community have evolved since he first opened shop in the fall of 1975, Oblong co-founder and co-owner Dick Hermans said it's gratifying to see his business is still a force that draws people to the area, and an anchor businesses in downtown Millerton.

Though they didn't have an official plan in place, Hermans and Oblong co-founder Holly Nelson had a zest for the store's eponymous elements: Nelson was an ardent reader and Hermans had previously worked at a record store in college. At the time of its inception, Hermans said there were a couple of book and record stores around and they thought they could do something similar in Millerton. They found an available space at 32 Main St. (now occupied by Demitasse), as the liquor store that was previously housed there was moving out. For \$125



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Little did Oblong Books & Music co-founders Holly Nelson and Dick Hermans know that when they opened their independent bookstore in Millerton 45 years ago, it would evolve into one of the village's anchor businesses, welcoming in fourth-generation customers from around the Tri-state region and across the country.

a month, the duo rented the space and cleaned it up. Hermans said his father helped him build shelves for LP records; he also borrowed his father's truck to go to Book-a-Zine in New York City and fill the truck with books for the store. To this day, he said Oblong still does business with Book-a-Zine.

On Oct. 15, 1975, Oblong Books & Music officially opened its doors. Casting his mind back to that very first day, Hermans remembered that they made \$184 in sales. From that point on, Hermans and Nelson paid attention to what people liked and didn't like and tried to keep their inventory well stocked. Initially a modest operation, it wasn't long before people discovered the independent bookshop, and Oblong Books & Music soon had customers from around the Tri-state region.

Hermans and Nelson man-

aged their store at 32 Main St. for six years before outgrowing it and moving across the street to 23 Main St., formerly the home of B.W. Eagle Eye. By that time, they were selling LP records, cassettes and 8-track tapes in addition to books. Eight years later, they moved to their current location at 26 Main St. Hermans said they'd passed on buying the space eight years earlier as they didn't have the money at the time. They were later able to scrape together a down payment and moved in during July of 1990. Four years later, the village shoemaker, Carl Ciancio, retired from his business on South Center Street and Hermans and Nelson built a link between the two buildings to create Oblong Jr.

By September 2001, Oblong Books & Music opened a store in the northern Dutchess County village of Rhinebeck; as Hermans



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Located at 26 Main St. in Millerton, Oblong Books & Music's entry is welcoming and has become an iconic destination over the past decades.

was signing the lease for the new building at 6422 Montgomery St. in that popular locale, Nelson was retiring. Hermans' daughter, Suzanna, now runs the Rhinebeck store. She's also Oblong's co-owner.

Taking into account how Oblong has evolved over the years, Hermans mused that the business has matured. He marveled at how the store is now welcoming in fourth-generation customers.

"One of the things my dad said — and not that I wouldn't have figured it out — is that to

succeed, you gotta show up and you gotta keep regular hours and have a routine and do the job," Hermans said, "and I think that's one of the things that's made us, at this point, strong as a business — because we have, in Millerton, a very sturdy amount of business that comes to our door or gets picked up by the curbside.

"We have now got customers all over the country ordering books from us," he added. "We are not limited to our neighborhoods in northern Dutchess. We are a store that sells books in ev-

ery state on a regular basis. It's a little scary but it's provided us with a new income flow that I never would have anticipated."

Hermans remarked that the store has been through a lot and that, like Millerton, it's had a healthy evolution. Taking into account past recessions and COVID-19, he said the pandemic hasn't hurt business as much as online shopping has, since websites like Amazon have taken on a chunk of book sales from his business. Hermans acknowledged he worried about that for a while, but knows there are people who understand that buying online isn't good for the local economy, the importance of shopping locally, and who don't want to read on a screen.

Between the two stores, Oblong Books & Music currently has about 24 employees — with two people working from home on a full-time basis. Its hours of operation run every day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday; Tuesdays are now used for curbside pickup orders.

Call Oblong in Millerton at 518-789-3797; its website is www.oblongbooks.com.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Virtual Q&A with author Ibram X. Kendi

Join the North East Community Center (NECC) on Monday, Nov. 30, from 7 to 7:30 p.m. for a special event with National Book Award winning author, Ibram X. Kendi. He will be discussing his book, "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You," and an-

swering participants' questions.

This is an online event but space is very limited. RSVP at tinyurl.com/DRKENDITALK.

This event it cosponsored by the NECC and the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

For more information, go to www.neccmillerton.org.

Make garlands

Join the NorthEast-Millerton Library for its Zoom workshop, Festive Garlands, on Friday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 5 p.m. Ages 9 and up welcome. RSVP to kmcllune@nemillertonlibrary.org.

For details, call 518-789-3340 or stop by the library.

Adopt-a-Family still accepting donations for the holidays

Donations are still needed for the holiday Adopt-a-Family program, which provides support for families of children ages 13 and below in the Webutuck and Pine Plains

Central School Districts.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, gift cards rather than new toys will be given to families, so they can purchase basic necessities at local stores, as well as toys

and warm winter clothing for their children.

Call 518-789-4508 or send a check to: Adopt-a-Family, P.O. Box 880, Millerton, NY 12546.



PHOTO BY TYE DUNCAN

Turkey trot

This momma turkey trotted along the sidewalk on South Maple Avenue, in front of the Baptist Church in Millerton, on a July afternoon, long before the Thanksgiving season, with five of her baby chicks in tow. The plucky poultry have had plenty of time since the summer to find a safe haven, as Thursday, Nov. 26, is when they are best known for making their way onto dining room tables across the United States for Thanksgiving day feasts.


Correction

The Nov. 19 front page article in The Millerton News detailed the opening of the north-bound extension of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, which runs from Main Street in Millerton to Under Mountain Road in Ancram. Beilke Road was incorrectly identified as being located in Ancram in the article instead of Millerton. We regret the error.

Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more!


Check them out inside.

- CVS (x2)
- Plantin Seeds
- Tractor Supply



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In speaking with the Corner Food Pantry here in Lakeville, the demand is close to double from years previous. The volunteers at the Corner Food Pantry are expecting over 112 individuals or families to pick up food ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. So the adverse economic impact of COVID is being felt across our communities. My sense is that all food banks are under similar pressure in the NW corner. To help, the best thing is cash donations to purchase additional food and to volunteer. To contact the Corner Food Pantry, either go to their website at www.thecornerfoodpantry.org or call 860-435-9886.



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

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

Dear Reader,

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

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

COVID-19 has awakened an awareness of the significance of our papers, as we seek information about our world. Thanks to our Community's generosity and the 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.

— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

Support your local, independent voice in journalism by making a contribution at www.tricornernews.com/contribute or by clipping the form below and mailing a check

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MILLBROOK

Village Board meets

Bids approved, zoning, planning secretary appointed

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judith@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Nov. 10 Village Board meeting was opened by newly-elected Mayor Mike Herzog at 6:30 p.m.; in attendance were re-elected Trustee Vicky Contino and Trustee Tim Collopy, with Trustee Kevin McGrane present via Zoom; Trustee Joe Rochfort was absent.

The mayor first asked for a moment of silence in honor of the late Washington town Councilman Al De Bonis, who passed away on Oct. 19.

The department report was submitted from Fire Chief Ted Bownas. A total of 78 incidents, including five auto accidents, 50 EMS calls, two structure fires and one carbon monoxide call were made last month. EMS responses were reported from Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP), as were 55 from the Mill-

brook fire department and zero from the Rescue Squad.

Chief Bownas also mentioned that mail-in raffle tickets are being mailed out by the department, as its usual fundraisers could not take place this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. The fire department is hoping for a good response to help make up the difference in fundraising losses for 2020. The mayor commended the volunteer fire department members who helped with early voting.

The police report was presented by Sgt. Jared Witt; it included 16 village and town complaints. There were four property damage reports and one road hazard report. The Millbrook Police Department assisted other departments; it assisted the Millbrook fire department five times, the Millbrook EMS 10 times, the Town of Washington twice. Police officers reported for court

duty twice. They made arrests: 10 were for domestic incidents, two were for criminal mischief. There were also incident reports of disturbances, assaults, resisting arrest, larceny, aggravated harassment, a fight and a prisoner transport, for a total of 29 criminal incidents.

Herzog thanked Witt for his help with the early voting election process at the Millbrook firehouse, one of the county's five Early Voting Super-sites, which had a phenomenal turnout. The department will try to recoup some of its expenses from Dutchess County, including 35 hours of overtime. Herzog thanked Dutchess County Legislator Deirdre Houston (R-25) and Democratic County Election Administrator Debbie Wright for their assistance.

Herzog and Witt have been attending a series of county-wide meetings about police reform.

Millbrook's policing policy has not been updated since 1996.

Highway Department Superintendent Bob Collocola reported the village is doing leaf pickup. Workers brought in the flower barrels from Franklin Avenue for the winter, installed a sander on its second truck and installed Plexiglas windows at Village Hall. They also assisted with flushing storm drains and replaced cold patching at a new catch basin on Hillside Avenue. Out on a Limb tree service removed two trees, one on Maple Avenue and one at the water tower. Outside lighting at Village Hall was repaired and replaced by Curto Electric.

Three bids were received for roof repairs at Village Hall: one for \$ 7,000; one for \$ 12,956; and one from Bob Turner for \$6,500, which was accepted.

Bids were received for replacing the furnace at Village Hall.

One was from Pen Tech for \$14,200; one for \$18,500; and one for \$ 17,613, from Pen Tech, which won the bid based on cost and because it's done work for the village before.

A single bid was made and awarded for a new police car, from Meyer Ford in Morristown, N.J. The bid is for a 2020 SUV at a cost of \$40,973.20, with no lettering or emergency equipment. The Police Department said it prefers to get that work done locally, at an estimated cost of about \$15,000. Witt said that price is a little high, but it includes a prisoner cage, spotlight and push bumper.

The mayor read a proclamation for Arbor Day, on April 24, 2021. Two trees will be planted this fall to replace trees that were previously removed; a third tree will be planted on Arbor Day with the help of some students, hopefully, near Elm Drive El-

ementary School.

Regina Crawford, who had previously resigned as secretary for the village's planning and zoning boards, has agreed to return to the positions. The boards were happy to welcome her back. And at the Oct. 13 meeting, David Gruning was sworn in as a member of the Planning Board.

A contract between the Town of Washington Recreation Department and the village was approved, to be signed shortly.

A county sponsored drive-thru holiday event will be held in Wilcox Park in Stanford in early December, as many local parades have been canceled due to the pandemic. To participate, contact Dutchess County Parks at 845-298-4600 or email sonail@dutchessny.gov by Nov. 30.

The next Village Board meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

OBITUARIES

Diane Elizabeth (Schultz) Hosier

MILLERTON — Diane Elizabeth (Schultz) Hosier, a lifelong resident of Millerton, enjoyed her final sunrise at her home on Nov. 18, 2020.



Diane will join the love of her life, Bradley C. Hosier Jr., and her parents, Elizabeth (Krum) and Lewis Schultz; her mother- and father-in-law, Sophie and Bradley Hosier Sr.; and many others.

Diane is survived by her stepmother, Sylvia Schultz; her sisters, Deborah Steidle and her husband, Raymond, Nancy Murphy and her husband, Larry; her brother, James Schultz and his wife, Glynda; and her sisters-in-law, Kelly Schultz and Veronica Silvernale.

Diane is also survived by two daughters, Rebecca Kipling and her husband, Jeremy, and Shannon Mersand; her son, Sean Hosier and Diana Leon; a daughter-in-law, Cheryl Barto and a son-in-law, Alex Mersand; her grandchildren, Taylor Hosier, Sophie Kipling, Owen Hosier, Anastasia Mersand, Octaviana Hosier, Auriella Hosier and Genesis Fiallos; her beloved nephews, Joshua Schultz, Jerry Murphy and Brandi and Jay Murphy; her grandniece, Samantha Murphy; and many others.

Although Diane had just three biological children and six biological grandchildren, her legacy also lives on in the various children and grandchildren she unofficially adopted during her almost 64 years. In no particular order she leaves the troublemaking to Michelle Brown Paul, Kwasi Paul Jr., Michelle Struna, Julie Contino, Keith Watson,

Melanie Granger, Ruth Brior, Lisa Levi, Tessa Finch, Laura Clark, Anthony Piscatello, Michelle Baker, Megan McClune Smith, Laura Todd, Amy Flood, Debbie Ferro, Crystal Milton, Emma Vallely, Lucas Vallely and many others.

Diane touched many lives, and will be fondly remembered by all as the smiling face behind the beer at Dominick's, the ice cream cone at the Dairy Queen, the burger at the Cozy Corner and the vacuum at The Hotchkiss School. She was the dessert queen at the Hamilton Inn, the house manager at Kolburne School, the teacher's aide at Astor Head Start and most recently the author of many strongly worded posts on Facebook.

The family asks that you share your memories on her Facebook page in response to this obituary.

A scholarship fund will be set up at Salisbury Bank to benefit those who intend to enter the field of early childhood education, specifically focusing on working with children with autism spectrum disorders. Please visit Salisbury Bank to make a donation in Diane's memory. Memorial contributions may also be made to "Feeding Families" either online or in person at the Oakhurst Diner in Millerton. Visitation was private. A celebration of Diane's life will be held in 2021. Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

Howard Marshall

NORTH CANAAN — Howard Courtney Marshall, 61, of North Canaan and Torrington passed away after a short illness on Nov. 16, 2020, while at Valerie Manor in Torrington.

He was born in Winsted on Dec. 5, 1958. He attended Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Howard is survived by his loving parents, Althea Jane (King) and Courtney Harold Marshall of Torrington and formerly of North Canaan. He is also survived by his daughter, Melissa Ann Richards of Spokane, Wash.; and four grandchildren, Gage Holman, Blake Holman, Kylee Hissong and Makayla Richards, also of Washington state.

Howard was one of six children. He leaves behind his sisters, Janet Wright of Longview, Wash., Faith Ellis of Carrollton, Texas, Julie Lang and her husband Paul of Salisbury and Stacey Marshall of Ballston Spa,

N.Y.; a brother, Charles Marshall and his wife, Dolores, of Torrington; several nieces and nephews; and 19 great-nieces and nephews, Bernice Case and his wife, Erin, Jennifer Case, Brian Blodgett, John Ellis and his wife, Nikki, David Ellis, Michelle Rothenberg and her husband, Scott, Steven Lang and his wife, Amanda, Ashley Marshall, Eric Marshall and his wife, Cassandra, and Casandra Smith, Malcolm and Nate Case, Raven Lee, Anthea Taylor, Kullen Case, Heavenly Blodgett, Steven Blodgett, Autumn Blodgett Williams, Riley Blodgett, Charlotte and Emma Ellis, Lilli Rothenberg, Henry and Hannah Lang, Brayden Marshall, Rhett and Allie Williams.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan. A private burial will be at Hillside Cemetery in East Canaan at the convenience of the family.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

A pumpkin patch worth celebrating

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County's (CCEDC) 4-H Club created a Pumpkin Patch in front of its Millbrook offices on Route 343 this month in anticipation of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, brightening up the muted landscape with a bright splash of seasonal orange.

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.

11-26-20
12-03-20
12-10-20
12-17-20
12-24-20
01-07-21

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF AMENIA NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, at a regular meeting thereof, held on November 19, 2020, duly adopted the following Resolution, subject to Permissive Referendum:

RESOLUTION No. 55 of 2020

RE: AUTHORIZING SECOND AMENDMENT TO TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ORANGE COUNTY-POUGHKEEPSIE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS

WHEREAS, the Town of Amenia ("Town") owns real property located at 12 Washington Court, identified on Tax Grid No. 7167-00-410168, in the Town of Amenia, New York (the "Premises"); and

WHEREAS, the Town recognized the need to upgrade the municipal communication services for Fire, Police, Water Department, Highway Department and future municipal communication

needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town desired to construct a municipal tower for municipal use and for other companies requiring electromagnetic signal distribution; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 17, 2002, the Town of Amenia entered into a Master Management Agreement with JNS Enterprises, Inc. whereby JNS was engaged to arrange for the development, construction and management of a municipal cell tower and to manage the ongoing operations; and

WHEREAS, the municipal cell tower was constructed along with an accessory structure for storage on the Premises; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 28, 2004, the Town and Orange County-Poughkeepsie Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Verizon") entered into a Tower Lease Agreement whereby Verizon leased a portion of the cellular tower and the land owned by the Town located at 12 Washington Court, for the purpose of transmitting wireless signals and maintaining an equipment shelter; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 15, 2011, JNS entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement with Crown Communications, LLC ("Crown") whereby Crown agreed to accept and assume JNS' obligations under the Master Management Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, by Resolution No. 24 of 2011, agreed to, consented, and authorized the Assignment and Assumption Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 9, 2012, Crown and Verizon entered into a First Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement, whereby Verizon was granted the right to substitute antennas on the tower without any fee increases, provided the

number of antennas did not exceed 12 and the maximum allowable surface area of 10,140 sq. ft. was not exceeded; and

WHEREAS, Verizon and the Town now wish to enter into a Second Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement in order to modify certain terms of the Agreement and the First Amendment as described in the Second Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement, a copy of which is affixed hereto; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Town Board Resolution #20 of 2002, the Town Board, in accordance with New York State SEQRA Regulations, caused an Environmental Assessment Form to be drafted and, after careful evaluation, issued a Negative Declaration determining that the municipal tower would not have any significant adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Amenia determines that this Second Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement is a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and therefore not subject to review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the approval of the Tower Lease Agreement dated October 28, 2004, the First Amendment thereto dated March 9, 2012, and this Second Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement are collectively subject to a Permissive Referendum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the recitations above set forth are incorporated in this Resolution as if fully set forth and adopted herein; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby ratifies the Tower Lease Agreement dated October 28, 2004, the First Amendment thereto dated March 9, 2012, and approves the Second Amendment to

the Tower Lease Agreement, in the form annexed hereto, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Second Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement on behalf of the Town; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign any additional documents that may be necessary to effectuate the Second Amendment to the Tower Lease Agreement and to take such administrative and ministerial action as may be necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution is adopted subject to Permissive Referendum; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall give Notice of Adoption of Resolution by publishing a copy of this Resolution, together with the Notice of Adoption thereof, in the official newspaper of the Town, and, in addition, the Town Clerk shall post or cause to be posted on the bulletin board maintained by the Town Clerk at Town Hall and on the Town's website, a copy of such Resolution and Notice of Adoption thereof, with the publication and posting to be done within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

Motion made by Gutierrez; Seconded by Morris

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilwomen/councilmen voting as follows:

- Supervisor Perotti
- Aye
- Councilwoman Doyle
- Aye
- Councilman Gutierrez
- Aye
- Councilman Morris
- Aye
- Councilwoman Somogyi
- Aye

Dated: Amenia, New York, November 19, 2020.

DAWN MARIE KLINGNER
TOWN CLERK
11-26-20

Town Board adopts '21 Budget

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Following a detailed process to develop next year's fiscal plan while taking into account the constraints resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Board adopted the 2021 Budget at its meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Board members convened via video conference due to the pandemic, live streaming their meeting to the "Amenia-TV" YouTube channel for the public to watch from the comfort of their homes.

In her report, town Supervisor Victoria Perotti announced that the 2021 Adopted Budget's town tax levy per 1,000 is 2.12202, indicating an increase of 0.14789 from the 2020 tax levy per thousand of 1.97413. She stated that this is an increase in the budget of approximately 0.07%. Including the town's highway expenses, the amount to be raised by taxes has been calculated at \$1,831,710. Perotti explained that the Town Board re-

viewed each line in the budget to reduce as much as it could and still be able to pay expenses.

"The town budget was hampered by the fact that we will receive less revenue due to COVID-19's devastating effect on sales tax revenue and state revenue," Perotti said. "In order to keep the increase as low as we could, we are using \$275,000 of fund balance in the General Fund; \$50,000 fund balance in the Highway Fund; and \$15,000 fund balance in the Water Fund."

Adding the general and highway funds together, total appropriations for next year's budget have been calculated at \$2,849,569 while the amount to be raised by taxes has been calculated at \$1,831,710. According to the resolution for the budget, the tax levy imposed for town taxes totals \$1,831,710.

As the meeting's first resolution of the night, the Town Board unanimously voted to adopt the 2021 Budget, which can now be found online, at www.ameniany.gov.

St. Thomas dedicates much needed new food pantry building

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA UNION — Sometimes all it takes is a simple question to bring about a big change that can affect several hundred people. In this case, one led to the Harvest House, a new building for the critical St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Food of Life/Comida de Vida Food Pantry.

Harvest House's inspiration
According to the church's priest and executive director of the pantry, AJ Stack, the spark came during the dog days of summer. Patrick Bergquist of the Episcopal Charities of the Diocese of New York was making a site visit.

"We were having a conversation about the adaptive changes we had made for the virus," said Stack, which included using the steep incline that needed to be navigated to get bags of food from the parish hall bursting with supplies to the open air distribution tables.

Stack said that he was asked, "So what are you going to do when winter comes?" We just got a deer in the headlights look and said, 'Oh! That's our next job — to figure out what to do when winter comes.'"

He noted the work on the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, at 40 Leedsville Road in Amenia Union, just built the Harvest House for its successful Food of Life/Comida de Vida Food Pantry, next to the mid-19th century brick church known for its bright red door. Here is Priest and Pantry Executive Director AJ Stack at the Harvest House's dedication on Sunday, Nov. 22.

20,000 pounds worth of food was designed by Wassaic architect and community volunteer Leo Blackman. Stack also credits Ducillo Construction Company for the swift completion of the project.

"They [both] deserve praise for how wonderful they have been in this whole process," he said. "They have been just amazing to work with."

Stack said an official building dedication took place on Sunday, Nov. 22. Due to COVID-19 concerns, it was limited to only a few invited attendees and was not open to the general public. With the final electrical touches on the pantry building completed the Friday before the dedication, food distribution shifted immediately from the Parish Hall to the new site on the church property at 40 Leedsville Road in Amenia Union.

Hours and more

There, every Friday from 1:30 to 5 p.m., some 30 rotating volunteers — up from the previous eight to 12 volunteers — are continuing to fill bags as one checks the requests of clients, which more often than not include families with children who rely on the pantry as a source of good nutrition necessary for growth. Another volunteer brings the bagged items to an outside table that is sanitized as soon as the items are transferred to the recipient.

To donate, to receive

Support for the pantry also comes from St. Peter's in Lithgow, Grace Church in Millbrook, Congregation Beth David in Amenia, Sharon Congregational Church in Connecticut, The Millbrook School, the Wassaic Volunteer Fire Department and other local schools.

For more information or to donate to the Food of Life/Comida de Vida Food Pantry, go to www.stthomasamenia.com or call 845-373-9161.

project to construct a building for the busy food pantry, which provides needed storage while keeping both visitors and volunteers safe and warm, began in August.

"We did exactly what we needed," he said. "We built a building with a specific purpose, and its going to meet the needs and meet it cost-effectively."

Food of Life Pantry is busy, now more than ever

Since its inception 11 years ago, the church's pantry has been a source of much needed help, mainly for the working poor of the area — many of whom had their jobs impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Three days of supplies, which includes food and household items, are given to families each week with no residency requirements or other questions asked.

In March, 181 people per week were served, but with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, that number quickly soared to 374 weekly and has settled to an av-

erage of 325 per week with no reduction anticipated anytime soon.

Stack emphasized that the building "has been fully funded by generous grants and donors... so any donations made at this point would go to the general fund that helps make the pantry run."

The response, he said, is representative of how much people in the region care for their fellow man.

"[It] goes to show, I think, the passion that our community has to taking care of our neighbors," said Stack, "and that the community is willing to step up in a big way."

That local funding was augmented by grants from St. Thomas, Episcopal Charities, Northeast Dutchess Fund, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and The Foundation for Community Health.

The Harvest House project

With the \$121,725 project costs covered, the building that holds

Webutuck addresses snow days, student attendance

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — The North East (Webutuck) Central School District Board of Education (BOE) met on Monday, Nov. 2, via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting can now be viewed at www.webutuckschools.org.

Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer Eraca said her department is adjusting and planning for when the district returns to normal.

Regarding the proposal for an in-school based health clinic, Eraca reported that on Wednesday, Oct. 28, she and Eugene Brooks Intermediate School nurse Charlie Davis presented plans for the clinic at the New York State School Boards Association convention. Eraca said they spoke of the reasons for the clinic and its benefits. They explained an on-campus clinic "equals opportunity." She said the association gave a lot of feedback.

Reporting the latest on the capital improvement project, Business Administrator Robert Farrier said the control panel has been installed and was being wired. The work was expected to continue for a few days, along

with work on the pumps. The district also wants to blackout by winter.

Farrier later said the state released its mid-year finance report and that "it's not pretty." He added the state hasn't made any decisions regarding school aid, and was waiting until after the elections. It was hopeful some federal aid would be provided to states (regardless of who won).

As it was only November, Farrier said the district would begin budget talks for next year shortly. He said the BOE must wait until it knows the revenue component — the most vital piece of the budget process.

Superintendent Raymond Castellani spoke of snow delays and cancellation procedures. The state will allow New York school districts to use remote learning as a day of instruction instead of a snow day. The Pine Plains district has declined to use the pilot program for the present.

Saying Webutuck will take advantage of the program, Castellani said, "It may not be every single time that it snows — there is something about having a day in the snow... but in speaking with the administration, speaking with the Teachers' Association, we thought that, again, be-

cause our virtual is going well... why lose a day of instruction not knowing what's going to happen in the future with COVID and what the state or the country is going to do?"

Castellani pointed out the benefits of keeping snow days in reserve to use in the spring if there's a resurgence in COVID-19 cases. Hopefully, there won't be too many of those days, he said, adding that it's good to have them when needed.

Castellani remarked parents must continue working with teachers to make sure students get their work done. A decision-making flow chart to help determine student attendance from the state's Department of Health was projected on screen. Castellani, with assistance from Farrier, guided BOE and community members watching from home through symptoms and other related factors to help determine whether a student should physically attend school. Farrier said the district will remain strict because it wants to be open for in-person learning for as much of the school year as possible.

Currently, Webutuck is closed due to new positive COVID cases. For more, see this week's front page.



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BIG W'S *Continued from Page A1*

French" restaurants throughout The Big Apple like Bouley, rising like yeasty bread to the lofty position of manager of "some of the bigger kitchens." Thinking about the direction his life was taking, he made a detour north to spend more time with his wife, three children and "another on the way."

With his wife working as a nurse, he did the daddy thing — and was the only guy in the room with all the other mothers for almost four years. Then, "[I] realized I needed to work, and I needed to cook. But the notion of going back to New York City and giving up what I had already gotten out of my relationship with my children didn't seem worth it."

A French chef tries to BBQ

This Brooklyn kid said, "I had been coaxed by a whole bunch of people to do BBQ" he said. "[I] had never actually eaten it before." Agreeing to emulate Southern grillmasters who would BBQ and sell their goods along the roadside, he learned quickly.

"There is, by the way, a reason they started doing it that way down there. The weather is very accommodating," said Norstein.

Climate aside, 20 years ago, he and his New Jersey brother built a couple of smokers and experimented. A trip to Arkansas and a kitchen truck equipped by Ebay, and he was more or less in business. Back then, he said, "there was nobody doing any kind of cooking on the street... so there was nobody to ask, 'What do you

do?' 'How do you do this?' And quite frankly that was a good thing because I didn't know what I couldn't do."

He began his venture "on a part of the road where I was pretty sure nobody would ever see me," he said. "This way I could guarantee that I'd tried it, would go out of business and I could spare myself the anguish of doing it too long."

He planned on a clientele of "workers who were out on the streets doing construction and that kind of thing... who were too dirty to go into restaurants," he said. The classically trained French chef said he thought he could feed them well, for less than they were paying for fast food or bagged lunches.

Norstein didn't reckon on their schedules, however, and found that by the time he'd spent seven hours smoking the meat, they were already headed home. He "switched very quickly from dirty guys with Carhartt jackets to women who were looking to feed their families "with far more than a third of a rack of ribs."

A roof over his head

He moved to the lawn of an "incredulous" but savvy collision shop owner on Route 22 who insisted he "do it properly."

Thus, Big W's, as it is known today, was born.

"At that point I couldn't be noncommittal," he said. "He was looking for me to put up or shut up. So I did it. And we couldn't

keep enough food, even though [we kept redoubling amounts]."

When lines were long, his wife, Chris, would put fluttering Post-it notes on customers' shirts indicating the number of racks they would be allowed, guaranteeing that "the last person standing in line would get fed, and nobody would be angry."

He had never wanted to open his own restaurant, but customers were not to be denied. So 17 years ago, after four exhausting years selling out of tender smoked pulled pork, dry rub slow smoked spareribs, smoked

brisket and slow smoked chicken, this good guy left the road and, with his family working alongside him when they could, "ended up in this little deli space in downtown bustling Wingdale, N.Y.," providing great BBQ and now holiday feasts — Thanksgiving and Christmas included — which he first started in order to feed his workers whom, he said, deserved the day off.

Big W's is located at 1475 Route 22, Wingdale. To call Big W's, dial 845-832-6200. Its website is www.theforkingpig.com; it can also be found on Facebook.

FARM TO PANTRY *Continued from Page A1*

ing a lot easier for people who aren't able to access it, said Farm to Food Pantry Program Coordinator Nicole Zlotnikov.

Starting in June, Zlotnikov said program volunteers have gone around to local farms to collect donations of fresh produce and other products to bring to nearby food banks, including the Pawling Food Bank and the Dover Plains Food Pantry. Since the program first took off, they've approached Harlem Valley Homestead in Wingdale, McEnroe Organic Farm in Millerton and Zfarms and the Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, both in Dover Plains. To date, the program has received donations of fresh produce, eggs and bread, though Zlotnikov noted, "We honestly take whatever they can give us — whatever they don't sell, we take it."

Volunteers are vital

As for the volunteers, Zlotnikov said they usually meet every one to two weeks, though it all depends on how much food there is to collect from the different farms. Some weeks, the program requires less volunteers, though volunteers are typically emailed a couple of days in advance before the weekend schedule is sent out. Gathering at around 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings, volunteers are divided into groups and sent out to the farms to collect the donations. Afterward, the volunteers meet at the chosen food pantry, where the food goes to low-income residents.

While the program strives to vary which food banks get the donations each week, Zlotnikov said if they collect enough food, both food pantries get donations that day.

Volunteers looking to help can donate their time and efforts by working at participating farms, where they can harvest the produce, glean the fields post-harvest and cull the waste binds. Volunteers can also collect unsold fresh produce at local farmers markets and deliver the collections to the food pantries. That work is slowing down now that it's fall.

When asked about any concerns related to recruiting volunteers during a global pandemic, Zlotnikov acknowledged that there were some as far as having to maintain a 6-foot distance between workers and making sure everyone wore masks. Otherwise, she said that it's worked out well with volunteers working outdoors and taking their own cars to collect donations.

"I think it's great," she said about how the program's fared so far. "The amount of volunteers and the amount of time

that we've donated has been very helpful and I'm grateful for the volunteers that came and helped us."

Throughout the summer months, the Farm to Food Pantry program flourished with farms donating their extra vegetables and a total of seven volunteers working together to collect food donations. Now that the main growing season has come to an end, the program is down to two volunteers and donations are starting to dwindle.

Looking ahead, Zlotnikov said she hopes they'll have more volunteers join the program as they recruit more farms. As another goal, she explained that she's trying to make the Farm to Food Pantry program year-round, if possible. However, she acknowledged that it might not be possible since it depends on the kinds of crops that grow over the various seasons.

Reflecting on why a program like this is crucial in these unprecedented times, Zlotnikov pointed out that many people aren't able to access the food they need and that going to the supermarket can be a struggle. The program also helps address the issue of food waste as farmers donate food they might normally throw away to people who need it.

"It connects individuals that would like to help their communities to feed the hungry and helps local farms to donate their food products to local food pantries," she said, "and the volunteers spend time outdoors working with local farms and connecting with others to do something good for someone."

Lack of local access to food

Given the lack of supermarkets and grocery stores in some local towns, like Millerton and Dover, Diana Zlotnikov, owner of Zfarms, said people have called Dover Plains a "food desert," since they have to travel to other areas — sometimes many miles away — to find healthy,

SCHOOLS *Continued from Page A1*

staff members, and because the district didn't have enough staff to cover the 10 staff members who went into quarantine, the district needed to close down again. However, Castellani said this gave the district an opportunity to try to move through the quarantine without infecting more people.

With an anticipated reopening date scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 17, Castellani said the district decided on Saturday morning, Nov. 14, that they were going to open when they didn't hear anything about any addi-

tional cases. But within a few hours, he said the district was contacted and told that there were at least two to three more individuals who tested positive. At that point, knowing that the district didn't have enough staff to cover the programs and classes and knowing the spike in COVID-19 cases going on in Dutchess County, Castellani said Webutuck decided to close through the Thanksgiving holiday. Within the past two to three weeks, positive cases in the county rose from just over 200 to just over 500.

Acknowledging the questions and concerns about schools opening after Thanksgiving as well as Governor Andrew Cuomo's concerns about a spike in COVID-19 cases after the holiday, Castellani said the district is trying to make sure it opens up as soon as Thanksgiving break is over, although he assured the BOE and the public that it will monitor the situation closely.

"This has been an extremely difficult decision in a difficult time," Castellani said at the BOE meeting. "It is our hope and our intent that we do open up — it was our hope to open up tomorrow — but we're taking the safety of our staff and especially our students as well as the idea of it making its way through the area quickly and opening up after Thanksgiving."

On the bright side, Castellani said the district is getting a lot of feedback from parents. While many said they would love to have their students in school, he said parents are being patient with what Webutuck teachers and administrators are doing regarding remote instruction, which he remarked is much stronger than it was back in April.

That said, he mentioned the Webutuck district followed up with a survey on remote learning for the second semester. Castellani said the survey is important for the district to understand, come January, how many parents and families are looking to remain with their children learning remotely versus having their children go on campus for in-person instruction. To date, the district has some flexibility in its class sizes, especially at the secondary level.

Information regarding the survey can be found online at the Webutuck website, www.webutuckschools.org. Parents must make their selection for which learning model they'd like their children to be involved with by Friday, Dec. 4, and are encouraged to participate in the survey so the district can plan ahead for how to best serve the student population.

MILLERTON PANTRY *Continued from Page A1*

PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, local volunteers Helen Brandt, Monika Barlow and Carol Dean worked together inside the First Presbyterian Church of Millerton on Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, to assemble Thanksgiving baskets for local families in need.

shared how thankful they are that their families are healthy.

"I'm thankful for so many things," said volunteer Helen Brandt. "I'm thankful my family's all well... I'm grateful that they're coming up with a vaccine."

"I'm thankful we've made

it this far and we're all well," agreed fellow volunteer Carol Dean.

"I'm thankful, like Carol is, that everyone in my family is healthy and that we can help other people," volunteer Monika Barlow said.

— Kaitlin Lyle

THANKSGIVING *Continued from Page A1*

department recorded 212 active cases in Dutchess County.

Kennan reported in an email sent out to community residents on Nov. 16 that the county's DOH "is seeing a very significant spread of COVID-19... and this upsurge is not just centered in one college, or one residential care facility. The County's Health Department is seeing 'community spread' across the County. And they see much of the spread coming from smaller, social gatherings."

Which brings us to the point: We, at The Millerton News, would like to know: Did you and yours enjoy a different kind of Thanksgiving this year to stay keep your loves ones safe? If so, why not share it with our readers? Send us a couple of sentences by Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 2 p.m., of how you celebrated the holiday. Better yet, send it with a high resolution photo, with photo IDs, to editor@millertonnews.com.

— Whitney Joseph, Editor

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

November 26-December 2, 2020



IMAGE COURTESY NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM

Visit some of the iconic Norman Rockwell holiday paintings at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass. Included in the collection is "Community Supper," which was a 1958 illustration for the Farming Tractor Calendar of the Ford Motor Company.

HOLIDAYS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Rediscovering the Traditions Of the Holiday Season

The Southern Berkshires, more than any other place in the world, evoke a Norman Rockwell kind of holiday season because, of course, Rockwell lived here and often painted scenes of Stockbridge, Mass., where he lived and worked, and which is the site of the Norman Rockwell Museum.

To see some of the iconic Rockwell Thanksgiving and Christmas paintings, visit the museum during the special COVID-19 hours: Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Seniors and immunocompromised visitors can come Thursday through Friday, 10 a.m. to noon, if they would like. Two-hour-long private visits can also be arranged for up to nine people, on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.

Once you're up in Stockbridge, it's a short trip (about 20 minutes) to the Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass., which is planning several seasonal activities at the farm/museum/history center.

On Friday, Nov. 27, and Saturday, Nov. 28, be-

tween 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. there will be talks and demonstrations of how the Shakers lived and worked. Learn about woodworking and blacksmithing and the Shaker way of life. There are several hikes and talks planned (registration is requested). Children are invited to "smoosh" pumpkins and feed them to the farm's pigs. There will be a foraging workshop on Saturday for an extra fee.

Holiday shoppers looking for handmade gifts can come to the artisan markets on Saturdays between Nov. 28 and Dec. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The curated selection of gifts from regional artisans includes everything from jam and syrup to clothing and jewelry to bath products, toys and more. No museum admission is necessary to shop.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be drop-in holiday cookie decorating and ornament-making workshops for a small fee, artisan demos, a gingerbread contest, story time with Santa (registration requested), caroling, a fire pit and Shaker history talks.

For more information on Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass., including hours and admission fees, go to www.hancockshaker-village.org.

For more information on the Norman Rockwell Museum, including hours and admission fees, go to www.nrm.org.

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A sculpture by the late Lillian Lovitt will be on display as part of the 12 x 12 Art Show this year.

HOLIDAY ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

This Year, You Can Shop for Art Gifts Online

In the Tri-state region, people like to make things, whether it be artisan handmade goods such as knitwear and fiber art or wonderful edibles. Normally it's easy to find these little treasures in time for holiday giving at any number of artisan sales between Thanksgiving and the end of December.

This is not the case in 2020; but one opportunity for buying one-of-a-kind inexpensive and high-quality artwork is now available in Falls Village, Conn.

The town's public library is the D. M. Hunt, which has a tradition of showcasing work by amateurs and well-known professionals on the library's ArtWall.

It has become a tradition that the library hosts a small and very well-attended sale each year, of small works in a range of prices and media. All the pieces are 1 foot square (or 12 by 12 inches, which is why it's called the 12 x 12 Art Show).

The sale usually begins with a crush of shoppers; the pieces remain on display through the pre-holiday season and latecomers can scoop up any pieces that haven't yet been claimed (and speaking from experience, often the remaining pieces are excellent).

This year, there won't be an opening sale day and reception. Twelve artists have already submitted their work, which is now on display at the library. You can take a look during open hours, by appointment or online at www.huntlibrary.org.



This detail from "Earth and Sky," by Sarah Martinez, is in the 12 x 12 sale at the D. M. Hunt Library.

[org/art-wall](http://www.huntlibrary.org/art-wall).

The artists are Marsha Altemus, John Atchley, Robert Cronin, Sergei Fedorjaczenco, John Hodgson, Jason Bailer Losh, Louise March, Sarah Martinez, Ken Musselman, Gayle Shanley, Jude Streng and Kathy Wismar.

The show is dedicated to Lillian Lovitt, a sculptor who, according to the library press release, "generously shared her skills and insight with the Hunt Library ArtWall and with the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society. Lovitt died earlier this year, and one of her works will be on display as a memorial tribute to her life and art."

For more information on the 12 x 12 Art Show at the D.M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., call 860-824-7424 or go online to www.huntlibrary.org/art-wall. All art sales benefit both the artists and the library.

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.

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BAKING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Gingerbread Festivals in Two Area Towns

Gingerbread houses can be fun and simple or over-the-top elaborate; you can bake the cookies from your own dough and assemble them yourself or you can buy any of a dozen or so easy-to-find gingerbread kits.

No matter how you get there, it's all fun — and what evokes childhood fantasy more than being able to eat a house?

Of course, the most eye-catching cookie houses are more in the look-but-don't-lick category. This is largely the case with the elaborate constructions featured each year in the Kent, Conn., Chamber of Commerce Gingerbread Festival.

The Kent festival claims to be one of the biggest in Connecticut. It opens this week on Friday, Nov. 27, and will remain on display through the month of December. This year the cookie constructions are arrayed in a gallery space at the Kent Town Center at 25 N. Main St., perfect for socially distant viewing.

The "Ginger Girls" will as always create a simple puzzle that visitors can solve as they admire the cookie scenes.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Gingerbread houses don't have to only be houses. Brittany Hrabcsak's award-winning North Pole recreation was one of the highlights of the 2019 Gingerbread Festival in Kent, Conn.

Get more information and a "taste" of what was on display last year online at www.kentctgingerbreadfest.com. You can also go to www.facebook.com/kentgingerbread or call 860-592-0061.

The Kent houses are large-scale and pretty sophisticated. For those who are new to the gingerbread arts and just want to have a little creative fun, the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn., is sponsoring a contest for bakers between the ages of 8 and 17.

The rules say you

need to design, build and decorate your own house, which implies that you also need to bake your own cookies. You then need to shoot and submit a brief video, one that is 45 seconds or shorter, with a little information on your inspirations and your process.

There isn't a lot of time left to make plans; participants have to register by Tuesday, Dec. 1. Send an email to Isabel Carrington at icarrington@warnertre.org; include your name, age and town.

Completed video

entries must be sent and received by email by Tuesday, Dec. 15. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative and unique design(s); the winners will be featured on the theater's social media.

In this age of the instructive online video, you probably can figure out pretty quickly how to best build a cookie house. If you want a recipe that is as delicious as it is sturdy, try the one from children's book author Cynthia Rylant, on this page. It is included in her book "The Cookie-Store Cat."

The dough requires some effort, as is true with all gingerbread cookie dough. It must be refrigerated overnight, so don't wait until the last minute.

To hold the cookie walls together requires some patience and finesse. The legendary baker Patsy Stroble of Kent, Conn., taught a gingerbread workshop many years ago in which she recommended "gluing" two walls together at a time with royal icing and leaning them against a soup can while the "glue" dries.

But again — this is why we have YouTube.

GINGERBREAD COOKIE DOUGH

From Cynthia Rylant's "The Cookie-Store Cat"

½ cup butter, soft	1 ½ tsp. ginger
½ cup sugar	¾ tsp. baking soda
1 egg	½ tsp. cinnamon
½ cup molasses	½ tsp. cloves
1 Tbs. vinegar	¼ tsp. salt
2 ½ cups all-purpose flour	

Cream the butter and the sugar. Beat in the egg, molasses and vinegar. Sift the dry ingredients and blend them into the creamed mixture. Don't overbeat the dough, not only so it remains tender but also so you don't burn out the engine on your mixer.

Separate the dough into three parcels, wrap them in plastic wrap and refrigerate them for three hours or overnight.

When you're ready to bake, you'll want to be prepared not only to cut out your shapes but also to get them in the oven fairly soon. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees. If you can, have at least two cookie sheets ready. You can grease them but you'll be much happier if you line them with parchment paper instead.

Gingerbread cookie dough is easiest to work with when it's cold; that's why you have three separate packets: Work on one at a time and leave the rest in the refrigerator.

There are two ways to cut your shapes: before you bake or after you bake. Cookie dough responds unexpectedly to heat, so if you cut your shapes first, they'll puff up and distort slightly as they bake. This can be fine, depending on your design (it's best if you know what your design is before you start to bake).

The other method is to roll the dough out in sheets and then

cut your shapes the instant you take the cookies out of the oven. This will give you sharper edges but is fairly difficult to do.

I have historically made mini gingerbread houses, using playing cards as my shape guides. Each wall is one card.

Cut one card in half lengthwise and use the halves as the guide for your two roof sheets. Cut another card in half the other way to make the front and back walls that hold the two larger walls together.

You are better off decorating the pieces before you try to glue the house together, in my experience.

Once you've figured out your walls, cut your cookies and bake them for about 5 or 6 minutes. If you roll them out and then cut them on the parchment paper it's very easy to lift the parchment sheet from your worktable and put it on the cookie sheet.

To make the royal icing, combine one egg white with 2 cups of confectioners sugar and the juice of half a lemon. The easiest way to get the icing onto your cookie walls is to carefully scoop it into a sturdy plastic bag. Cut off a tiny bit of the tip of one bottom corner of the bag and gently squeeze the icing out, as you would with a pastry bag. Make sure the top of the bag is sealed shut so the icing doesn't come up out of the top.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER MAY

Potter Jane Herold is using a converted chicken coop as her workshop, now that she is living and working full time in Cornwall, Conn. Visitors can buy her work in another former farm building, above, next to her home and studio.

POTTERY: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Pottery so Beautiful, You Could Eat Off It

Two essential questions always arise when you see beautiful pottery dishware: Can you eat off it and can you put it in the dishwasher?

With Jane Herold's work, it's never an issue.

Her dishes are used at some of the world's top restaurants and, as she happily says, "They can survive five washings every night in an industrial dishwasher!" So: No problem.

Herold and her husband, the painter/sculptor Robert Adzema, have only recently moved to Cornwall, Conn., from just outside New York City. That means, of course, that it's much more difficult for chefs to come by and talk custom dishware with her.

But it means it's much easier for Tri-state residents (lucky us) to meet Herold, talk about kilns and ash and clay with her,

and possibly purchase some dishes, pitchers, beakers and more.

Prices and a rough sense of what her shapes and colors look like can be determined ahead of time at her website, www.janeherold.com.

If you're unsure about the potential gorgeousness of Herold's work when combined with edibles, you can find images of her dishes and bowls with chef-prepared food on it on Instagram (search for #janeheroldpottery).

One warning: Herold cautions against heating food in the microwave, especially frozen food, on her pottery.

She has found that the handmade ware gets damaged when it has very cold food on it and is then subjected to the high temperatures generated by a microwave oven.

If you're driving through Cornwall, you can't miss Herold's home and studio and shop: It's the place with the little roadside shack that has a few pieces of pottery on a shelf outside, and a sign indicating that you've found Jane Herold Pottery.

There aren't actually any ceramic pieces in the small outbuilding. You'll need to come up to the house.

"Don't be shy about coming up the driveway," Herold said. "Visitors are very welcome — and there's no pressure to buy anything."

You can email or call ahead of time and make an appointment, or you can just stop by.

An added incentive to visit: Herold's husband, Robert, specializes in crafting massive, gorgeous, sculptural metal sundials, many of which are in

public spaces (including one on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River, facing Manhattan) as well as in the gardens of many private homes.

He also makes lovely plein air watercolors of our region, which are for sale in their shared shop (see his work at www.robertadzema.com).

For those who do feel a little bashful about being alone with the artists, Herold will hold several open house events on the first two weekends of December, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. on the Sundays.

To find out more about Jane Herold and her pottery, and to get email updates on her open house/open studio events in December, go to www.janeherold.com.

If you want to stop by, send her a text at 845-304-8208.

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PINE PLAINS

Stissing Mountain history teacher receives honor

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Central School District community extended its congratulations last month to Neil Murray, a longtime history teacher at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, when Murray's work in conveying a love and respect of history in his students was honored with the 2020 Eileen Mylod Hayden Award for Excellence in History Education.

As noted on the district's website, www.ppcsd.org, the Eileen Mylod Hayden Award for Excellence in History Education is designed to recognize "teachers at middle or high school levels who effectively impart a love of history in their students."

Casting his memory back to when he first became intrigued by history, Murray immediately recalled a project he did in the

fourth grade on General George Custer, sparking what would later evolve into a lifelong interest. While attending college at the University of Buffalo in upstate New York, he decided to pursue a career in education and teach history and was hired by the Pine Plains Central School District right out of college. From that moment on, Murray said he's been teaching history in "the same district, same room, same desk since September of '99."

Today, Murray teaches courses in United States History and Military History to the juniors and seniors enrolled at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School. Relaying his respect for history through his work in the local community, he's been involved with the American Legion Post 426 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5519 for many years, during which time he's helped assemble local programs like the annual Veterans

Day ceremony.

As far as what he enjoys about imparting his love of history in his students, Murray said, "I guess for students to understand that you can make tangible connections to the past by relating it to their own lives today, experiencing the past and understanding that it's not just names and dates in a textbook — that these were real people living lives not different from ours, just in a different time. By remembering history as a story, it makes it more interesting."

Murray also underlined the importance of making sure his students remember that the history they're learning about is "livable" and said that's key to helping make those lessons stick.

"These are real people with real experiences and real lives and did the same things we did in the context of their time period," he said.

Regarding his teaching meth-

ods, Murray said he likes to engage his students through "living history."

To make connections with the past, he explained, is to experience the difficulties faced and to understand how much harder life was, which, in turn, helps foster a greater appreciation for the past. For example, in order to cook a simple meal, Murray said his students would have to figure out how they would find the materials to build a fire, and then how they would use the fire to cook their food.

When he was first notified that he'd be honored with this year's Eileen Mylod Hayden Award for Excellence in History Education, Murray said he was humbled.

"For me, obviously you don't engage in these educational practices to win an award," he said.

"Neil is an asset to our district and community," said Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School Principal Tara Grieb. "His incorporation of living history into learning experiences for students should be a model for all educators. Where others lecture, he is an avid storyteller with a deep knowledge base. This award is well deserved!"

Concerning his plans to continue sharing his love of history with future generations of students from the Pine Plains area, Murray said, "I've always tried to come up with new and innovative ways to bring history to life for my students."

Murray shared his interest in teaching about different time periods and eras as well as different historical topics and other aspects of living history.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stissing Mountain history teacher Neil Murray won the 2020 Eileen Mylod Hayden Award for Excellence in History Education. Here, Murray wore the traditional uniform of the Dutchess County Militia of the American Revolution.

Dutchess County to light up Wilcox Park

STANFORD — Dutchess County Parks will host "Go Light Your World," a holiday illumination weekend Dec. 5 and 6, from 6 to 9 p.m., at Wilcox Memorial Park, located off Route 199 in Stanford. Holiday light displays will be showcased throughout the park for attendees to drive through. There is no charge for the event.

Displays will be created by Dutchess County Parks, local municipalities, nonprofits, businesses, fire departments, clubs and schools. Applications are currently being accepted from interested organizations.

"As COVID-19 continues to impact our area, Dutchess County Parks continues to find new and creative ways to safely collaborate and highlight our beautiful parks," said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro in a press release. "We are grateful to the many local organizations and municipal partners who have joined this effort to decorate Wilcox for the holidays and bring some much-needed cheer to Dutchess County residents of all ages."

Dutchess County Parks Director Sandy Washburn said, "This season, many parades

have been canceled due to the pandemic, so we are excited to offer this unique opportunity to come together safely and celebrate the season with this drive through light display."

Organizations interested in participating can get more information about display guidelines and register at www.dutchessny.gov/parks. Registration is open now through Monday, Nov. 30.

If severe weather is forecast, the event will be canceled. For more information, contact Dutchess County Parks at 845-298-4600 or email soneil@dutchessny.gov.

Staff member tests positive for COVID, BOE warns caution

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The health and safety of the Pine Plains Central School District's students and staff was first and foremost on its Board of Education's (BOE) mind at its meeting on Monday, Nov. 18.

Starting at 7 p.m., the BOE met via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A video recording will be posted online at www.ppcsd.org at a later date.

Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler notified the board that the district just learned a staff member tested positive for COVID-19 and another staff member "is probably positive." Assuring the BOE the district is treating this as a problem and that he'd be sending a letter out the following day, Handler said neither staff member have been in school for an extended amount of time because others in their families were affected by the virus and they have self-quarantined in response. While that means the district won't have to do any contact tracing right now, Handler said it's only a matter of time, outlining the impact it will have on the district. For example, in the case of staff members testing positive, it would mean the district would lose the staff's services for 14 days.

"It's not so much that the virus is spreading all over the

place," Handler commented, "it's that once you get a case or two cases or three cases and start contact tracing and quarantining, it puts you off the board."

Right now, Handler reported the district is just holding it together and has just enough staff to do the job. With the Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH) doing what he described as an excellent job responding to calls from the school district — even on Sundays — he said the DOH is overwhelmed, especially in terms of contact tracing. Handler believes the DOH is now getting those who are contacted through contact tracing to quarantine for 10 days. Though the DOH will continue to support the school district, Handler remarked that the district will be doing a lot of the leg work on the contact tracing.

Regarding the issue of testing, Handler acknowledged that there are only a few places in all of Dutchess County where rapid tests are available. There are many more places county-wide where the lab-based test can be taken; those tests take longer to obtain results these days, given the increase in cases. In talking with Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro about how the supply of testing is looking

going forward, Handler was informed that the county is getting tests from New York State and that they'll be distributed to these testing outlets, though there are still concerns about the supply chain.

Other factors to consider include local students who will be intermingling with college students coming home for Thanksgiving; the upcoming holiday season; and students enrolled in Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) programs.

Regarding the holidays, Handler said, "Halloween clearly caused the latest spike, and what we've been hearing from the health department people is that it's household transmission that's really driving the numbers. These are not big super spreader events — at least not here in Dutchess County — it's people having people over."

Agreeing with what Governor Andrew Cuomo said about how "the disease dictates what actions you take," Handler said, "I think we need to see where we are approaching Thanksgiving, where we are after Thanksgiving, and make a determination. My goal — and I'm not certain we can do this but I'm going to try — my goal is to try to keep

the pre-k through eighth at the hybrid model if we possibly can. That would be my first and foremost target."

In a letter that will be dis-

tributed to school district families, Handler shared his intent to inform parents of students in grades pre-k through eighth grade that the district is going to

do its best to keep going through the Thanksgiving holiday while having a contingency plan in case it is forced to shift its instruction with little notice.

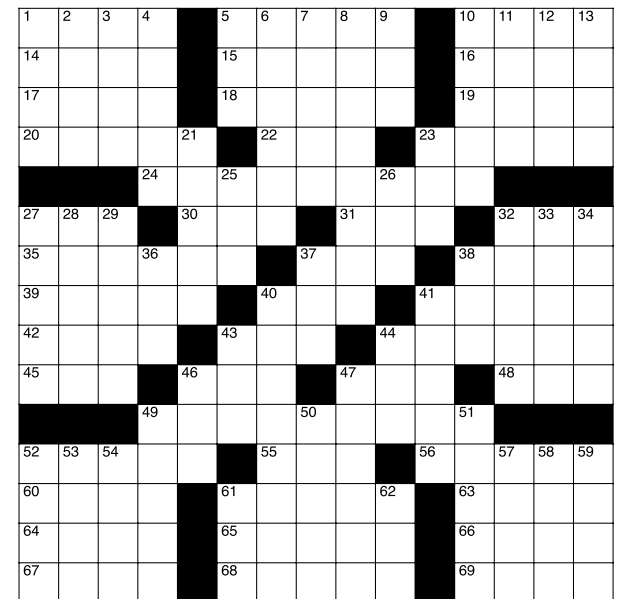
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Cold War player
- Flat-bottomed sailboat
- Jamaican tangelo
- Debauched man
- Less covered
- Require to live
- Patrick and Akroyd are two
- Mixes
- Insurance claim expenses
- Tries to persuade
- Equal (prefix)
- Czech name for Prague
- London soccer team
- Greek letter
- Small Eurasian deer
- Swiss river
- Miller beer
- Less appealing
- 8th month (abbr.)
- Alto, California city
- Grandmothers
- American time
- NW Chinese people
- "Westworld" actress __ Rachel Wood
- Northeastern US university
- Poplar trees (Spanish)
- Hip hop legend Kool Moe __
- Not or
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Fonts
- Female cattle mammary gland
- Down time
- Spiritual leader
- Small brown and gray American rail
- Trimmed by cutting
- NY Giants owner
- A long narrative poem
- Old World lizard
- Product for sale
- Shut Your Pie Hole (abbr.)
- Pacific Island country
- Whale ship captain

CLUES DOWN

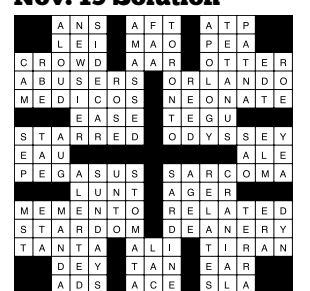
- Language
- Fly high in the air
- Made musical sounds
- Organized again
- TV channel
- Unable to fly
- Get up
- Air traveler
- Married woman
- Take weapons from
- Sicilian city
- Actress Remini
- Thought
- Infections



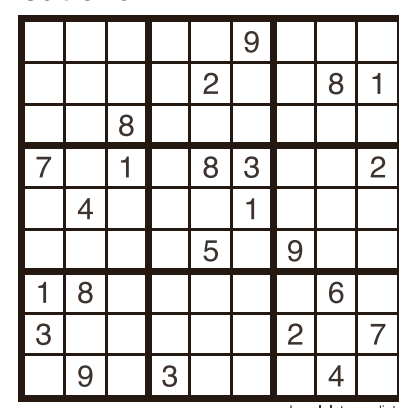
- Golf score
- Hill or rocky peak
- Witch
- Adjusted
- Succulent plant
- Forearm bones
- Hot fluid in the earth's crust
- Subatomic particle
- Part of an organism
- 007's creator
- Burned material residue
- Brain layer: __ mater
- Unable to partake
- Lesion
- Historic railroad company (abbr.)
- Basics
- Scottish port
- Flower cluster
- Instruct
- Untamed

- Moth genus
- Utilizes
- Foolish
- Fall in small drops
- A place to get clean
- La __ Tar Pits
- Metrical foot
- Semiliquid food
- Small crow

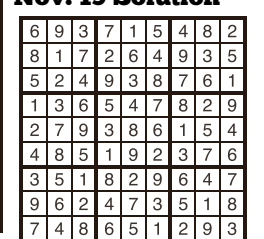
Nov. 19 Solution



Sudoku



Nov. 19 Solution



Level: Intermediate

AREA IN BRIEF

Penny Social

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Holiday Penny Social on Friday, Nov. 27. Due to COVID-19, things will be different this year. Prizes will be displayed inside the Grange Hall. Bidding will take place between noon and 6 p.m. at the Grange Hall; only five bidders will be allowed at one time. A live drawing on the Grange's Facebook Page will start at 7 p.m.


For details, call 845-663-7778 or 845-868-7869.



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EDITORIAL

We can still be thankful

Believe it or not, this year, we actually still have much for which to be thankful — now and, we hope, in the near future. Yes, the world is in the middle of a deadly pandemic. As of Monday, Nov. 23, 1,396,579 people have died across the globe from the coronavirus. That's a staggering number of lives lost, far too many, considering it's only been since Dec. 31, 2019, when COVID-19 was first reported in Wuhan, China, although we have no real way of knowing when the virus first reared its ugly head in that city.

But COVID didn't really make its appearance in the U.S. until Jan. 20, and then in New York on Feb. 29. By March 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) was profoundly concerned by the spread and the severity of the virus, and by the apparent apathy with which many people seemed to be responding to the outbreak. It was then that the WHO decided to characterize the coronavirus as a pandemic — a disease that is so prevalent it can spread over an entire country or the whole world.

That is where we are today, with cases of COVID-19 once again flourishing, even though many states had seemed to get their numbers under control months earlier. According to estimates by separate research teams at Columbia University and the University of Washington that were reported last week, an estimated one in 100 Americans are contagious with the coronavirus right now — the worst it's been since virus deaths peaked in the U.S. this past spring.

Between the colder weather forcing people indoors, states relaxing their restrictions, many people still refusing to wear masks, more people socializing and general pandemic fatigue — there are multiple reasons why cases are surging. And with about 40% of Americans reporting they plan to attend large Thanksgiving celebrations, despite health officials warning to do otherwise, we're deeply concerned — and we're echoing those health officials who advise people to stay home, keep Thanksgiving gatherings small and play it safe.

But, back to being thankful, just last week, pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer and Moderna came out with the encouraging news that they now have experimental vaccines that are between 90 to 95% effective, which, according to experts, is incredibly impressive in the medical field. Those vaccines could be available to about 20 million Americans by December, with the first doses going to the vulnerable, health care and front line workers. It would not be widely available, most likely, for many months more. The question is, will people take the vaccine? It could be a life-saver and the very thing that helps society return to a sense of normalcy sooner rather than later.

Think about it, we could ultimately go back to work, our kids could go back to school, we could go back to church or temple, we could reopen our businesses, we could go out to dinner and to the movies, we could visit the theater and go dancing, we could go to the museum and antiquing, we could go skiing and sledding (yes, it's almost that time of year), we could go shopping at the mall and at the supermarket — in-person, at 100% capacity and without fear. Most importantly, we could spend time with our friends and family — all of them. We could do all of those things we used to do on a daily basis that we took for granted but just never realized it. But hang in there, the time will come.

We also have a new administration to look forward to. A White House that will bring us new leadership, new plans, new partnerships, a new approach and a new outlook. A fresh start, much needed during these dark and troubling times, when there is social unrest and political turmoil and a president so unwilling to abide by the democratic process he swore to uphold that he won't even concede an election he lost fair and square. Trump is putting the American people he vowed to protect in jeopardy because he's too petty to share vital information the president elect is entitled to, data he needs to make informed decisions before he takes office. That is inappropriate, immature and inexcusable. The president is doing nothing but tarnishing the highest office in our land. But we digress. Soon, Trump will be out, and for that, we should all be thankful.

Mostly, we should be thankful that we live here, in the Harlem Valley, where we still have a strong sense of community, of neighbor helping neighbor (just read Janice Hylton's and Gail Smallridge's letter to the editor on this page to understand exactly what we're talking about), where we can rely on people looking out for one another. That still means something in this increasingly chaotic world — and it offers us a sense of calm and reassurance when we start to feel overwhelmed.

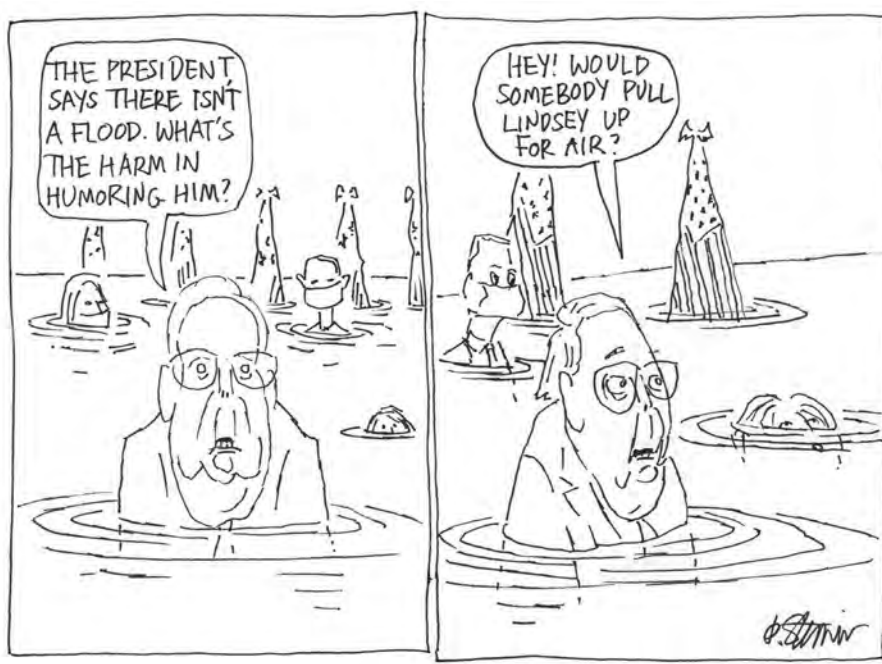
No, we can't gather with all of our friends and family at large feasts this Thanksgiving as we have in years past. It's too dangerous, tempting as it may be. But we can still stand behind our fences, masks on, and wave to our neighbors; we can still chat, via Zoom, and clink glasses virtually with our relatives; we can still pick up the phone, and talk for a good couple of hours, and share an intimate conversation with those who are close to our hearts.

These are the things we have to be thankful for this year — that our connections and relationships endure even as the pandemic rages on around us — and we must do our due diligence to stay safe and healthy until the virus is quelled and we can celebrate together in person once more.



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Mountain Mist



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A letter from Innisfree Garden

On behalf of our trustees, staff, friends and other volunteers, I would like to thank all who visited and supported Innisfree Garden this year.

Even with our careful precautions for public health and safety, we are thrilled that a record 23,000 visitors found relief in the simple pleasures of walking through this sublimely beautiful landscape. There were days when it felt like both garden and guests glowed with contentment. But your visits showed us so much more.

The palpable sense of community growing at Innisfree fills us with hope. Fellow visitors — strangers from all walks of life — share remarkable experiences in this verdant refuge and enjoy a transcendent connection to the land, to themselves and to each other. From your many kind words, we know that countless visitors felt that magic at Innisfree, where what binds us together is greater than any divide.

This is exactly what Innisfree was created to do. Landscape architect Lester Collins believed that gardens are for people, places where art and nature nourish us in mind, body and soul. Carrying forward ideas he shared with his clients, Walter and Marion Beck, Collins

shaped Innisfree as a place where people connect deeply with essential qualities of nature and fundamental cultural ideas of peace, awareness and beauty. Especially at times like these, Innisfree is an essential oasis.

There are places that truly matter in this world, and we are humbled that Innisfree matters to the unprecedented number of you who supported our efforts to preserve and share this living landmark by visiting, becoming members and making additional

donations.

It will be our honor and delight to welcome you back to Innisfree next year, back to wonder, joy and peace. As the garden rests and recharges this winter, let us all hold on to hope, looking ahead to the promise of spring.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jean Parker Phifer

President

Innisfree Foundation

Verbank

Giving our heart felt thanks

In mid-July of 2020, our home burned down. The immediate response of the North East community, our friends near and far and our families, was astonishing and humbling in its generosity and support.

The Millerton, Copake, Ancram, Lakeville and Wassaic fire companies came to help that hot day to suppress a raging fire.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the five fire companies and all the remarkable volunteers. Our neighbors came down the road to offer help. Our friends took us and our kitty Scout in while we arranged a place to live. Our community stepped in with funds, clothing,

housing and unconditional love.

Today we are resettled and have begun to rebuild our home on the property we love. To say that we are fortunate people is a significant understatement. We have been so greatly blessed in this unexpected process by so many in unending ways.

Thank you. To each of you, thank you. May you be equally blessed in your lives. And may these challenging times continue to reveal what community truly means.

With deepest gratitude to our extraordinary community,

Janice Hylton,
Gail Smallridge
& Scout the Kitty

Millerton

Recreation American style — post COVID-19

People come to experience our outdoors, our culture and rub shoulders with our pioneering spirit. Our land is full of natural wonders, vistas that take your breath away. Cultures ancient and new will be, once again, open, waiting, to be explored: New England, coasts of two oceans, mountains, plains, the desert Southwest, homeland hills and valleys, historic rivers — all these are our playground, and Americans know how to play and welcome people to share. Some would say that God seems to have created this very continent for all our enjoyment.

However, like Alfred Russell Wallace once said in 1863: "...future ages will certainly look back upon us as a people so immersed in the pursuit of wealth as to be blind to higher considerations. They will charge us with having culpably allowed the destruction of some of those records of Creation which we had it in our power to preserve; and while professing to regard every living thing as the direct handiwork and best evidence of a Creator, yet, with a strange inconsistency, seeing many of them perish irrecoverably from the face of the earth, uncared for and unknown."

Take Yosemite Park, which is in danger of being driven on and trampled — to destruction. The Grand Canyon south rim has more square miles of paths and roadways than your average town: hundreds of acres of asphalt. Yellowstone is normally so crowded in summer they experience traffic jams six and seven miles long. Jones Beach used to be a wilderness preservation area. Chesapeake Bay used to have the cleanest waters on the Atlantic Coast. The Everglades Park has lost 30% of its fresh water and nearly all of its tidal action (to

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

save what unsalted water is left). The Indian ruins of New Mexico's Santa Fe and Taos region are dwarfed by adjacent (and huge) buses, RV and car parks. The list goes on.

At sunset a year ago, I stood on Route 12 in southwestern New Mexico between the Apache and Gila National Forests. Twenty miles in front of me the road stretched to the horizon and 20 miles behind lay a straight path from whence I had come. The curve of the earth was just discernible; the cool evening air tingled with the smell of Pinon pine and the grey sand of the forest desert apron blowing gently in the breeze. As I stood there, without another human in sight, no cars, no sound, just nature, the hand of man was still in abundant evidence — the blacktop, white lane markers and sign warning, "Watch Out For Snowplows." Still, I felt that this road didn't intrude on nature; it complimented it in a way that, somehow, couldn't offend. If the land were meant to be walked, traveled, then this road was the kindest, narrowest, path. For it, too, seemed to follow the contours and flow with nature.

Years ago, traveling up Route 684 north of Manhattan, I was struck how wrong 684 was for the land. Efficient? Yes. Popular? Sure. In tune with its surroundings? No. It cuts through, instead of around. It dominates instead of flowing across valleys and rivers. It tames and offends the land. In Tony Hiss' book, "The Meaning of Place," he explains

this innate ability of humans to feel right, in tune, with their surroundings. When things are not in tune with their surroundings, we are alienated, feel rushed, or harried, and generally feel inhuman or unnatural.

The "controversial and startling" plans (as one paper put it) for Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone (three parks with the highest public profiles, a good place to start) required that engineers rip up offending roads and car-parks, no matter how efficient. In their place will go transportation systems (railways, bus lanes and the like) that will, according to ex-Secretary Bruce Babbitt, "preserve the essence of these National Parks"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shop local, and shop now

These are trying times for all of us. Our main defenses from infection: masks, hand washing and social distancing have us feeling isolated and powerless. And here we are at the beginning of the holiday season. We should be joining friends and relatives for a festive Thanksgiving. But we cannot. We must not. Not spreading the COVID virus has to be a priority for all of us. Please do, however, spend part of the Thanksgiving weekend phoning and emailing those you love and enjoying your time at home. It will be different next year.

Retail businesses are facing a crucial time as well. Nothing has been normal this year and most are counting on the next few weeks to provide them with the income they need to survive the pandemic and welcome in the New Year of 2021.

It is possible there will be another lockdown in New York State during the most important weeks for retail businesses. I encourage you to shop at the stores you care about being here after the pandemic. Do that shopping now. Literally now. Pick three of the people on your list and get holiday gifts for them today.

Every store you have ever loved, or even liked, needs your support this season. All are prepared to serve you however you need, either with actual in store hours, curbside pickup or home delivery. Please resist buying from national online outfits. Those purchases will only further erode the ability of your local stores to survive. It is a matter of survival this time. Shop locally or lose your local stores. It is that simple.

Be well, be patient and be safe. Make the best of the rest of 2020.

Dick Hermans

Co-owner Oblong

Books & Music
Pine Plains

Suzanna Hermans

Co-owner Oblong

Books & Music
Red Hook

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The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, Publishers of
The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly,
fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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HOLIDAYS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Getting into the Spirit(s) of the Christmas Season

Falling into the growing category of Places We Might Not Go in Normal Times, But Hey It's on Zoom so Why Not: A presentation from the Miner Library in Roxbury, Conn., that expands the idea of how we celebrate the Christmas season.

Or rather, it returns us to a venerable old tradition that associated Christmas with ghosts — think of Charles Dickens with his famous "A Christmas Carol" and his three other spectral holiday tales.

If you're a fan of the ghoulish but didn't get enough horror during this year's limited Halloween festivities, and if 19th-century literature isn't your thing, then the Miner Library's presentation of Creepy Christmas Tales might be just right for you during this particularly horrid holiday season.

This is not a play or a work of fiction (technically). Jeff Belanger, who lives in Massachusetts, is a specialist in ghostly tales and has hosted and written a TV series called "New England Legends," which has been shown on PBS and Amazon Prime.

Belanger is presenting a free talk for the Miner Library called "New England

Legends, Creepy Christmas Special" on Monday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m.

What's in store for viewers of the program? Here's how the press release describes it: "From the origins of the holiday to the monsters like Krampus, the Belsnickel and Gryla to the ghosts that lurk in the red and green shadows, Jeff will take you on a multi-media journey of this haunting holiday! This program is NOT suitable for young children."

If this whets your appetite for spooky seasonal literature, look for "The Story of the Goblins Who Stole a Sexton," "The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain" and "The Haunted House," all by Charles Dickens, all available free online.

For me, I think the loveliest seasonal spirit story of all time is "Daniel Plainway: or The Holiday Haunting of the Moosepath League," by Van Reid.

For more information or to sign up for Jeff Belanger's free talk for the Miner Library called "New England Legends, Creepy Christmas Special," which is on Zoom on Monday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., call the library at 860-350-2181 or go to www.minormemoriallibrary.org. Reservations are required.



PHOTO COURTESY NUTMEG BALLET

THE NUTCRACKER: LIVE FROM NUTMEG CONSERVATORY & THE WARNER THEATRE

The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory's 2020 production of The Nutcracker will be presented virtually from the Warner Theatre's Main Stage in Torrington, Conn., during the first two weekends of December. Six performances will be streamed with additional opportunities to view recorded shows.

All dance roles will feature trainees of The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory. These students have come from across the nation to train and further their developing artistry, under strict pandemic

constraints. Cameo roles will be performed by children from The Torrington School of Ballet. The mysterious Dr. Drosselmeyer will once again be portrayed by accomplished European stage actor Thomas Evertz.

Originally conceived by Sharon Dante, this year's production is an abridged version of The Nutmeg's beloved classic. The Nutcracker features original choreography by Nutmeg's faculty including Artistic Director Victoria Mazzarelli, Ballet Master Tim Melady, Joan Kunsch,

Denise Limoli, Cassie Sprance and Susan Szabo.

One special feature of this year's digital presentation is a narration by Dr. Drosselmeyer.

Designed to preserve a story line of this iconic ballet despite the need to shorten its presentation, the addition of spoken word will delight the youngest of audiences and offer a reimagined experience for those who return to this classic year after year.

In addition to these streamed presentations, The Nutmeg is also pro-

ducing a movie unique to downtown Torrington. "Clara's Dream — A Nutcracker Story" will be filmed at locations on Main Street, the Warner Theatre and the historic Hotchkiss-Fyler House.

Streamed performances of *The Nutcracker* will be on Friday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, at noon and Sunday, Dec. 13, at noon. For details on how to purchase tickets, go to www.warnertheatre.org.

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We at The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News sincerely wish each of you and your families a healthy and joyful season of thanks.

REGIONAL INFORMATION



VISITORS WELCOME: to Christ Castle Church Sundays! 9 Granite Avenue, North Canaan, CT. 9 am, 1st service is Liturgical/Sacramental like Episcopalian. 10:15 am, 2nd service is Evangelical like Baptist.

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