



AMENIA
New Used Bookstore Opens For Booklovers **A3**



PINE PLAINS
Cemetery Tours Planned For Halloween Eve Are On, In Person **A4**

COMPASS
Sharon Painter Has Art Show In Amsterdam; Tales Of Old Ghosts Of New England; And More **B1-2**

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Tips to stay safe and what's happening locally

Halloween is plenty scary during COVID-19 pandemic

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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HARLEM VALLEY — Halloween may typically be a pretty spooky day, but when the world is in the midst of a health pandemic, it can be downright terrifying. That's why local and state governments, community organizations as well as health agencies have been trying to figure out ways to let children enjoy the traditionally festive fall holiday while remaining pro-

tected from the deadly and extremely contagious coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released guidelines on Friday, Oct. 9, for Halloween this year, ultimately recommending families skip trick-or-treating to stay safe, deeming it a "high risk" activity.

Governor Andrew Cuomo, meanwhile, said on Sept. 15, "I would not ban trick-or-treaters going door to door. I don't think that's appropriate. You have neighbors — if you want to

go knock on your neighbor's door, God bless you and I'm not going to tell you not to. If you want to go for a walk with your child through the neighborhood, I'm not gonna tell you, 'You can't take your child to the neighborhood,' I'm not going to do that — I'll give you my advice and guidance and then you will make a decision what you do that night."

However, after the CDC's rec-

See **HALLOWEEN, A6**

Kieran Michael Lalor fights for fifth term in State Assembly

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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NEW YORK STATE — Born in Wappingers Falls and now residing with his wife and four children in Hopewell Junction, Republican Kieran Michael Lalor knows the 105th District of the New York State Assembly well, as it encompasses not only his hometown but the Harlem Valley municipalities of the town of Washington and village of Millbrook, town of Dover and hamlets of Dover Plains and Wingdale, along with much of central and southern Dutchess County, including Pawling and Fishkill.

Lalor graduated from Providence College, becoming a social studies teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. He enlisted



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Incumbent Republican State Assemblyman Kieran Michael Lalor is a veteran running for re-election in the 105th District.

See **LALOR, A6**

Amenia farm worker loses life after tragic off-road car crash near Poplar Hill Road

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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AMENIA — Just days after the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office announced the tragic death of 2-year-old Ellie Dunlop following an automobile accident on Route 22 in Amenia on Thursday, Oct. 8, it again reported another fatality; this time resulting from a one-car off-road crash, which took place on Monday evening, Oct. 12, at roughly 5:50 p.m.

According to the Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to a report of a serious crash at the Benson Farm, located at 355 Poplar Hill Road in Amenia. A preliminary investigation found that 50-year-old Matthew Hadley was operating a 2018 Jeep in a field "when he lost control of the vehicle and was partially ejected," according to the police report. Hadley, the sole occupant of the vehicle, was later pronounced dead at the scene.

Capt. John Watterson of the Sher-

iff's Office confirmed in an email on Thursday, Oct. 15, that Hadley "lived on the farm because he had recently taken a job there."

The Sheriff's Office stated that "at this time, the primary contributing factors appear to be reckless operation in off-road conditions and lack of seatbelt use."

Assisting the Sheriff's Office at the scene were the Dutchess County

See **FATAL CAR CRASH, A6**



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Democrat Laurette Giardino is running for the 105 District in the New York State Assembly, which includes Millbrook, Dover Plains and Wingdale.

Giardino runs again for State Assembly

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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NEW YORK STATE — Democrat Laurette Giardino ran against State Assemblyman Kieran Michael Lalor (R-105) in 2018, but this time she is hoping that with so many changes in the world, the region and government in general, she will win the race for the two-year term.

She is also on the ballot lines for the Working Families and Women's Equity parties. Since the 1970s,

Giardino has been a passionate advocate for women's rights, minorities and the LGBTQ community.

Now, with COVID-19 a major issue, and its effects on health care, finances and so much more, Giardino said has added some issues to her platform.

"COVID-19 has had a major impact on our community with job loss, the loss of employer health insurance and now the cutting back on

See **GIARDINO, A6**

Millbrook mourns loss of Oakleigh B. Thorne

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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MILLBROOK — Shakespeare once asked, "What's in a name?"

Well, if the name is Thorne, and one is in Millbrook, the answer is, "a lot." It includes the large, historical yellow brick building at the top of Franklin Avenue, a gift from the Thorne family in 1895 to the village of Millbrook, to be used for educational purposes — the reason the village became incorporated. The Thorne Building was used as a school through the late 1960s. Now, after years of being vacant, the building is being converted to the Thorne Building Community Center.

At the base of Franklin Avenue is the magnificent Tribute Garden. Created in 1943 by Thorne's great grandparents, it's a treasure trove of flora, with a waterfall, a gazebo, a playground and a memorial to local veterans who fought in World Wars I and II. A gift to the community along with the Millbrook Tribute Garden Fund, which expanded under Thorne's leadership, it continues to fund local educational and charitable projects today.

Thorne passed away at his Millbrook home, Thorndale, on Oct. 7, where he had lived since 1980. He was 88 years old. He was loved by many.

See **THORNE PASSES, A6**



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OPINION
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MILLERTON

Republican George Kaye fights to stay on Town Board

By KAITLIN LYLE
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NORTH EAST — Local voters will find a familiar name listed on this year's election ballot as Republican incumbent Councilman and former town Supervisor George Kaye has decided to run for the open seat on the North East Town Board.

Born and raised in the town of North East, Kaye has channeled his strengths as a leader and his love of community to serving the town through several local boards throughout the years. Following two years of service on the town's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), he served four years on the Town Board as a councilman and then four years as town supervisor.

"I think it's difficult to understand everything about the town without having served some capacity within local government," Kaye said.

This past January, Kaye was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Town Board, which was created when then Councilman Chris Kennan was elected as town supervisor. The board unanimously voted for Kaye to fill Kennan's seat and carry out the councilman responsibilities for the remainder of the year. Now, the last year of Kennan's term must be filled, which is the position that is up for vote come Tuesday, Nov. 3.

When asked about his return to the councilman position after serving as a supervisor, Kaye said, "To be honest, there were several projects that I started as supervisor that I didn't have time to complete and I felt my experience and knowledge of those projects would serve a useful purpose and be helpful to the current Town Board."

Reminiscing about what he considers his greatest accom-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Born and raised in the town of North East, incumbent Republican Councilman George Kaye is running for an unexpired one-year term on the North East Town Board.

plishments during his time of service to the town, Kaye immediately called to mind the creation of the 2019 Town of North East/Village of Millerton Comprehensive Plan, which he hailed as "a guideline for how we wish the town to be in the future."

Along with commending the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee for its hard work and commitment, Kaye added he was "greatly honored" by the committee's decision to dedicate the updated plan to him.

Looking down the road at impending town projects, Kaye said he is currently working on two major projects for the town: the completion of the joint town/village highway garage, which has been years in the making, and the formation of the Zoning Review Committee, which will ultimately make

recommendations to the Town Board to update the town's zoning codes.

As of this time, he said the first two phases of the highway garage project have been completed and the town is moving into its third phase. As for the Zoning Review Committee, he said the committee aims to revise, update and help "to guide the town into the future with zoning codes that are more in keeping with what the town is today, not what it was 20 or 30 years ago."

Kaye commented on what he hopes for local politics: "I would hope that people would leave aside what is going on in national politics. I would say we are a small town, we love that small town flavor and feeling and we don't need to bring national politics into a local election."

Democrat Claire Owens runs to be town councilmember

By KAITLIN LYLE
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NORTH EAST — Prepared to offer a fresh set of eyes in addressing community issues, Democrat Claire Owens is running against George Kaye for an open seat on the North East Town Board.

This past January, a vacant seat was created on the board when then Councilman Chris Kennan was elected town supervisor. The board appointed Kaye to fill the seat for the remainder of the year; that seat is now up for election.

Although she didn't grow up in the local region like her opponent, Owens believes she can bring "a renewed sense of how to tackle the challenges the town is facing."

Through her previous volunteer work on the North East Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Owens has had an opportunity to engage with multiple town leaders. Following her return to the area a few years ago to be her mother's full-time caregiver, she's familiarized herself with local opportunities and resources after working with community members and organizations to learn about available resources for her mom.

When she heard a position was opening on the Town Board, Owens said she jumped on it, running on the Democratic ticket.

"I decided to run because I'm really excited about the opportunities here," she said, "and I think it's time for a generation of new leaders, especially people of a younger generation and even more importantly, women, to get involved with town politics."

Reflecting on her strengths, Owens shared her past experience in working with local, federal and state government officials. Having worked with communication professionals, she said she knows how to "frame and package" a town to make it more attractive to visitors. In addition, she said she's currently



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Democrat Claire Owens is running for a one-year position on the North East Town Board.

employed by a "nationally known organization that helps Wounded Warriors and their families."

When asked what she admires most about North East, Owens remarked, "I think that it's a great place for everybody... I think it really offers everybody something and that really is what's special about the town."

Considering the issues she's made a cornerstone of her campaign, Owens placed economic development as first and foremost on the list. Given the toll the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on the entire country, she believes the town needs to look deeply at what it offers to residents and visitors; to offer places where residents can work and earn a living wage so they can continue living here; and to provide more affordable housing. In addition to working with the Tri-Town Coalition,

an organization that focuses on finding local affordable housing solutions, Owens said she thinks working on the ground with grassroots organizations could make a huge difference in people's quality of life.

"There's so much the board can do in a day," Owens said, "but there are people who are dedicating their lives to solving this problem."

Addressing climate change, Owens continued, is a must, and she commended the town for its joint Comprehensive Plan with the village of Millerton. She said working to implement the plan is huge, as is addressing local farming issues and making recommendations encouraging more electrical vehicles and planting more trees. Regardless of whether she's elected, Owens hopes the board will continue to work with its Climate Smart Task Force.

Town Board budgets for 2021

By KAITLIN LYLE
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NORTH EAST — In spite of the challenges imposed on the town by the COVID-19 pandemic, its Town Board has been moving forward in developing a sound budget for the 2021 fiscal year.

Town Supervisor Chris Kennan reflected on the impact that COVID-19 has had on state, county and municipal financial planning, adding it's more pronounced on the state and (to some degree) the county than on local towns and villages. Though North East has received some funding from the state, he pointed out that funding will be significantly reduced next year.

Kennan said one of the areas that will be affected next year include money the town gets for its highway budgets. The largest piece of that funding, he said, is going to be reduced by 20% for 2021 and includes money for resurfacing roads, grading roads, cleaning ditches and culverts and other important road maintenance.

Kennan also said the cost of living increase for next year, which is factored for Social Security, will be 1.5%. A typical cost of living increase is usually in the 3% range most years. He went on to say that the town is providing its employees with an across-the-board 2% cost of living increase for 2021, adding that both the Town Board and the town clerk have decided not to take a raise next year.

"We felt it was a very difficult year," Kennan explained, "and we all felt with all the pressures from our budget from COVID in particular that we preferred not to take any cost of living increase, so

we will have zero increase in our salaries."

Another budget item affected includes the ongoing construction of the joint town and village highway garage. Kennan said the town took out a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the work that's been done so far at a 0.95% interest rate. However, as the town looks toward building the actual garage facility in phase three, he said its construction will be the biggest and most expensive part of the project. As a result, the town has started putting money into the budget to anticipate that cost.

When asked how much money has been saved so far, Kennan said, "When we have a construction

estimate that we are comfortable with — and we're not there yet but when we do — we'll be able to anticipate what the cost of financing it will be and we'll have harder numbers at that point."

Taking out next year's fire district budget of \$422,215, the grand total appropriations for next year's town budget has been calculated at \$3,051,739, with the amount to be raised by taxes (without the fire district budget) totaling \$2,222,773. The total revenues have been calculated at \$414,040.

The board adopted the preliminary budget at its meeting on Thursday, Oct. 8, and will continue to review the budget it at its meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12.

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CLAIRE OWENS

North East Town Board

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

Check them out inside.

- CVS (x2)
- Plantin' Seeds

Castoff books find second life at Yellow Submarine Used Books

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — Customers seeking their next great read are welcome to drop by Yellow Submarine Used Books in Amenia, where they can satisfy their search by leafing through the sundry of titles on display.

For Mary Thompson, a resident of nearby Sharon, Conn., owning a bookstore has been always been a dream of hers, one that never seemed financially possible until now. When asked whether she dreamed specifically about owning a used bookstore or an independent bookstore, Thompson replied, "I would have done either, but I have a particular love of used bookstores and I love the idea of giving books a second life, so I think it was natural for me."

As for her store's namesake, Thompson said she wanted something fun for her customers, a name that would bring back feelings of being younger, having fun and not worrying about the troubles of the world.

Currently employed as an English teacher at Oliver Wolcott Technical High School in Torrington, Conn., Thompson said the bookstore is her retirement plan and that she wanted to get her plan off the ground now. Ready to channel her passion for the printed word into her own bookstore, her original plans to open this past April were derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and then by the storm-driven power out-

ages when she again tried to open in July.

Located at 3306 Route 343, Yellow Submarine Used Books finally opened in August, inviting readers of all ages to come inside and peruse the shelves for a story to take home.

Thumbing through the titles that currently line the shelves, customers are bound to find a title or two to pique their curiosity among the fiction, non-fiction, mystery, young adult, children's, cooking, crafts, gardening, woodworking and other categories of books. In addition to visiting estate sales and library sales, Thompson mentioned that she also takes donations of books in good shape, meaning books with no stains, marks or damages and nothing smelly, moldy or wet.

"I hate to see them thrown aside or forgotten," Thompson said. "There are a lot of great authors that are older that people don't pay attention to anymore, so I thought it would be good to get people to notice them."

Additionally, she said that if there's a book a customer is looking for, she'll search for it. So far, she's received a couple of requests for self-improvement and science fiction books.

Given how closely Yellow Submarine Used Books sits in proximity to the Amenia Free Library (located just across the street), Thompson acknowledged she's been asked if she's in competition with the library. She then revealed that Amenia Free Library Director Victoria



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

A self-proclaimed bibliophile, Mary Thompson said she was thrilled to bring her dream of opening a bookstore to life with Yellow Submarine Used Books in Amenia.

Herow happens to be her niece. And while Thompson hopes to host events in her store in the future, she said she and Herow will have to coordinate between the two of them to avoid any conflicts.

Though excited to carry out her future plans for community events, Thompson is willing to wait until life calms down a bit. In the meantime, she intends to continue selling books and DVDs and hopes to bring local art into the bookstore as well as cards, bookmarks, pens, socks and other small gifts.

Reflecting on seeing her dreams realized, Thompson said, "It means a lot to me — a lot of people say the book is dead and the book is not dead.

People love books and people love to browse, and there are a lot of bibliophiles like me and the bookstore gives me a chance to explore the world of books."

Now that school is back in session, Thompson plans to balance her teaching career with her work as a bookstore owner; once she retires, she plans to focus solely on running the bookstore.

Yellow Submarine Used Books is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m., on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

Capacity is limited to between four to six people at time due to COVID-19 restrictions. Customers are required to wear masks and use hand sanitizer when they in the store.

Yellow Submarine Used Books can be reached at 845-789-1888.

WASSAIC IN BRIEF

Wisdom Walk at World Peace Sanctuary

Join the World Peace Sanctuary at 26 Benton Road on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 10 a.m. for the Grand Opening of the Wisdom Walk Trail on the sanctuary's grounds.

Join Michael Gulbrandsen as participants explore the magical forest at the sanctuary on its newly constructed trail.

Gulbrandsen will speak about walking the trail and

all present will become one with nature by listening to nature's whispers, seeing the littlest details and feeling the magic of the forest. Then walk the trail at a social distance, celebrating the journey — not the destination.

For more information, contact Ann Marie Robustelli at annmarie@worldpeace.org or go to www.worldpeace.org.

Haunted Halloween Parade Oct. 31

A COVID-safe Haunted Parade will take place throughout the hamlet of Wassaic on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., courtesy of The Wassaic Project.

There will be floats, fun and candy. Activities will be held in downtown Wassaic, co-produced with the Wassaic Fire Company.

Artists made the floats. Thanks to a series of generous donations from local businesses, organizers will also be tossing out more than 100 pounds of candy.

Costumes are encouraged, face masks are required.

For more details, go to www.wassaicproject.org.

Election Day Bake Sale at firehouse

Tuesday, Nov. 3, the Auxiliary of the Wassaic Fire Company is holding an Election Day Bake Sale from noon to 6 p.m. at the Wassaic firehouse.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., so come out to vote

and buy some homemade baked goods. Face masks and social distancing are required.

The Wassaic firehouse is located at 27 Firehouse Road in the hamlet of Wassaic. All are welcome.

Clarification

In the Oct. 15 edition of The Millerton News, an article regarding a Town Board presentation on Wassaic Park. It should be clarified that Borden Park is its own park in the hamlet of Wassaic, separate from the Wassaic Park. The board's presentation can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRNdlv53Wxo&feature=youtu.be&t=1241. We regret the confusion.

Correction

A story on the Amenia Housing Board meeting was published in this paper's Oct. 15 edition, where it was incorrectly stated that Amenia Councilmembers Vicki Doyle and Damian Gutierrez are members of the Housing Board. Both Doyle and Gutierrez are Town Board liaisons who have attended some of the recent Housing Board meetings, but are not official members of the Housing Board. We regret the error.

Send news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Webutuck school board news

BOE relishes reopening's success, assesses district business

By KAITLIN LYLE
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WEBUTUCK — Following the North East (Webutuck) Central School District's humbling success with its first day of in-person classes earlier that day, its Board of Education (BOE) assembled on Monday evening, Oct. 5, to review the highlights of reopening and other relevant district business.

Beginning at 7 p.m. via videoconference due to COVID-19, the meeting can now be viewed online at www.webutuck-schools.org.

The BOE opened the floor to a presentation on the external audit report by district auditor Victor Churchill, from Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs PC. Churchill reported that he and the district's Audit Committee had some challenges reviewing this year's audit, which he shared with the BOE.

Business Administrator Robert Farrier confirmed later on the audit report and trying to get it all wrapped up. Furthermore, he said the district's financial report had to be completed by Thursday, Oct. 15, but couldn't be completed until the audit is final. From an overall perspective of tax collection, Farrier said the district's main source of revenue has been ongoing and its current tax due is \$15,220,677 to date. As of that evening, he said the district has collected about \$10,511,000 (or 70%), leaving about \$4.5 million that has yet to be collected.

Shedding a light on the district's first day of in-person learning, Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer Eraca said she had been at all three schools and seen all of the students, teachers and additional staff.

"It went extremely well and it was a joy to see the kids back in school," she said, adding that, when asked to rate their first day back on a scale of one to 10, high school students rated it an 8.

Eraca said the district is in



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Mariah Bradley, a kindergartener at Webutuck Elementary School, showed her progress with her letters from over the screen as part of the school district's virtual learning program.

the midst of various sessions of self review for the special education and individualized education programs (IEPs). Seven of its special education staff are participating in these sessions, reviewing the IEPs to make sure they are fulfilling their requirements and meeting the needs of students. Eraca reported that the district will be receiving targeting skills group training from the New York State Alternative Assessment, which she described as a testing program that has standards in all the core subjects for students with the most severe disabilities in third through eighth grades and in high school.

As far as how the curriculum and instruction department is faring, Eraca said they are having constant meetings and touch points with the building principals and attending all of the faculty meetings and various curriculum nights. Coming up, she said, the PowerPoint presentation for the proposed in-school based health clinic has been submitted to the New York State School Boards Association and that she and Charles Davis, the Eugene Brooks Intermediate School nurse, will be presenting it at the end of the month.

In spite of the few hiccups

that accompanied the first day of reopening, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani spoke highly about the first day of in-person learning, and said students adhered to the safety guidelines as did teachers and staff. BOE members also praised the reopening's success as well as cooperation from parents and community members.

Extending her thanks to the staff and administration, BOE President Judy Moran said, "We all know how much work this was and we can't thank you enough for what appears to have been a really good start. We'll all keep our fingers crossed."

District BOCES update online

The Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) received a full update from Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) District Superintendent Richard Hooley about the BOCES program at its September BOE meeting. To read reporter Kaitlin Lyle's complete article on that report, go to www.tricornernews.com.



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PINE PLAINS

Cemetery Lantern Tours hosted in person and virtually for Halloween

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — While some fall traditions have changed this year due to COVID-19, the Pine Plains Free Library and The Little Nine Partners Historical Society have devised a safe way to still host the annual Evergreen Cemetery Lantern Tours, sharing ghoulish history while making sure tourists social distance.

An unflinching source of autumn amusement for residents, visitors and history buffs alike, the tours are one of the library's most popular fundraisers, a night that draws attention to the town of Pine Plains and casts the spotlight on the people who helped shape its history. Given the crowds that have come in the past, fans might wonder what organizers have in mind during a global pandemic. Though they had originally planned on doing a video broadcast only, Little Nine Partners Historical Society President Dyan Wapnick said they received such an overwhelming response from people who wanted to see a live tour that they decided to do both a live version and a video broadcast and work with social distancing guidelines.

"We believe this will be one of the few live tours in the area this year," Wapnick said, "and we are taking every precaution necessary to make it both safe and enjoyable. I think it shows



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Nick Arauz and Kirsten Westphal rehearsed their respective roles as Ammi Phillips and Polly Husted on Monday morning, Oct. 19, in front of the historic Duxbury house in preparation for this year's Evergreen Cemetery Lantern Tours planned for Friday, Oct. 30.

that people are looking for some normalcy in their lives, and this is something that the town looks forward to every fall. It's a fun and educational way to support the library."

As far as adapting the tours to fit COVID-19 guidelines, Wapnick said they had to scale back the number of people allowed on each tour to 25. Meanwhile, Beth McLiverty, president of the Pine Plains Free Library Board of

Trustees, said they'll have staff on hand to ensure social distancing and face masks are enforced.

"It's a completely contact-free event and outdoors, so we feel we can safely do this," McLiverty said.

All tickets must be purchased in advance, check-in will be contactless, simply involving checking guests off a list. There will be an optional one-page tour program that guests can choose to

pick up or not. To make sure they never exceed a capacity of about 35 to 40 people at the check-in area (including staff), McLiverty said guests won't be allowed to linger after the shows. Hand sanitizer will be made available, and the staff will sanitize its hands every 20 to 30 minutes.

"We would never want to compromise our community's safety," McLiverty said, "so even though we won't raise as much money as in the past, we believe this is a good compromise to have a smaller event for people to enjoy while following safety protocols."

This year's tours will be held on Friday, Oct. 30, with a rain date of Sunday, Nov. 1. With each tour timed at 60 minutes, the tours will be held at 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Meeting at 19 Maple St. in Pine Plains, spectators will take the tour through the Evergreen Cemetery.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors, and may be purchased either online at www.pineplains-ny.gov/evergreen-cemetery-lantern-tour-october-302020 or in-person at the Pine Plains Free Library, located at 775 South Main St.

Should one prefer a virtual tour, McLiverty said it can be viewed on YouTube starting on Sunday, Nov. 1.

For more information, call the library at 518-398-1927 or go to www.pineplainslibrary.org.

Town moves ahead with 2021 budget

By KAITLIN LYLE
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PINE PLAINS — Taking the next step in their preparations for the 2021 fiscal year, members of the Town Board approved the preliminary 2021 budget at their meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15.

Reflecting on how this year's budget process is coming along, town Supervisor Darrah Cloud said the board has been trying to look ahead. With the state of New York predicting inflation in the next couple of years, she explained that she wants to prepare for that possibility "because this budget doesn't go into place until next year, so we have to spend the money to make the money." She added that she's trying to plan ahead for the kind of expenses she foresees increasing as much as 2 to 3%.

On the upside, Cloud pointed out that there are a lot more new buildings in town as a result of people buying land and building houses.

"Consequently, we have more people paying the tax bill," she said, "so conceivably, it's possible for taxes to go down even if you raise them, and Dutchess County is not raising taxes this year."

Under state law, the Town Board was required to have its preliminary budget passed by Tuesday, Oct. 20. Cloud added that the board isn't going to exceed the state's tax cap of 1.56%.

Gathering via Zoom at 7 p.m. due to the COVID-19

pandemic, the board addressed the preliminary budget under the new business section of the meeting's agenda. The Town Board meeting can now be viewed online on the "Town of Pine Plains" YouTube page.

Sharing the preliminary budget with her fellow board members, Cloud gave an overview of the budget process, explaining that while they could not increase the budget at all, they could decrease it once they vote on it. She noted that she sent everyone a copy of the preliminary budget earlier that day. Going over a few of the budget components, Cloud pointed out that she fixed the amount to be raised in taxes because she hadn't included the lighting district, adding that everything is exactly the way it was as discussed during the workshop meeting on Monday, Oct. 12.

As of this time, the grand total appropriations for next year's budget has been calculated at \$2,304,055.04 while the total revenues have been calculated at \$548,807.71. The appropriated fund balance came to a total of \$301,987.90, and the amount to be raised by taxes was calculated at \$1,453,259.43.

Cloud asked for a motion to pass the preliminary budget for 2021, which included a proposed salary sheet, to which the board put forth a unanimous vote of approval.

The preliminary budget is now available on the town's website at www.pineplains-ny.gov, and in person at Town Hall, at 3284 Route 199.

BOE asks parents to commit to learning models

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Turning the Pine Plains Board of Education's (BOE) attention to the district's plans for reopening for the 2020-21 school year, Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler guided its members through the discussions and decisions made regarding reopening at its meeting on Thursday, Oct. 7.

Handler asked Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Timm to tell the BOE about recent task force meetings. Handler said he wanted to get a sense from the BOE on where the district is going, adding that the earliest date for moving any of the schools to the hybrid instruction model would be Monday, Oct. 19, to give parents enough time to adjust their plans.

During the task force's meetings, Timm said they had multiple conversations focused on determining the grade level bans to recommend to Handler to start the hybrid return to school. They looked at starting with just pre-k through first grade, pre-k through fifth grade, pre-k through eighth grade and pre-k through 12th grade.

One of the challenges involved changing classrooms in grades six and up, Timm said, which factored into the task force's decision. Taking a vote on which grade level they should start with, he said 10% of the task force was interested in starting with pre-k and first grade only, while 45% was interested in doing pre-k through fifth grade, 30% was interested in doing pre-k through eighth grade and 15% was interested in doing pre-k through

12th grade. At the superintendent's request, Handler said Timm sent out a survey to parents to solicit feedback. Compared to the last time the district sent out a survey, more parents indicated that they wanted their children in the hybrid model as opposed to the remote model. Parents were also asked about transportation to give the district a sense of how many buses might be needed and possible bus routes for this year.

"This is a tough decision on our part," Handler said. "As Brian points out, I feel a lot more comfortable with the pre-k through five: those kids are essentially self-contained in classrooms. Essentially they do not interact beyond their own cohort, and so if there is a situation, we can manage it quite easily."

"Once we get into sixth, seventh and eighth, things are moving around a little bit more," he added. "We can still manage it, but it becomes a little bit more difficult."

Handler said instruction is in place for pre-k through fifth grade as is the district personnel.

Temperatures will be taken before students enter the school buildings, though Handler shared his concerns regarding the availability of testing.

Addressing the board's questions about what the hybrid model will look like, Handler said for grades second through fifth, one group of students will be in school on Mondays and Tuesdays, while another group will be in school on Thursdays and Fridays and there will be a full remote day on Wednesdays. For the days when students aren't learning in-person, the district will live stream classes to students' homes so they can follow what's going on in the classroom. For students in pre-k through first grade, there will be asynchronous activities available on the remote days.

BOE President Chip Couse asked if parents will still have the choice for either remote or hybrid instruction. Handler said parents were asked to make a 10-week commitment to avoid students switching back and forth; they had until Oct. 19 to change their mind. As the reopening discussion

continued, the BOE, Handler and Timm received and addressed questions from the public via email. Couse later asked the BOE to indicate its comfort level with starting with students in pre-k through fifth grades; the BOE went on the record that it supports Handler on this action.

Email news and letters to the editor to editor@millertonnews.com.

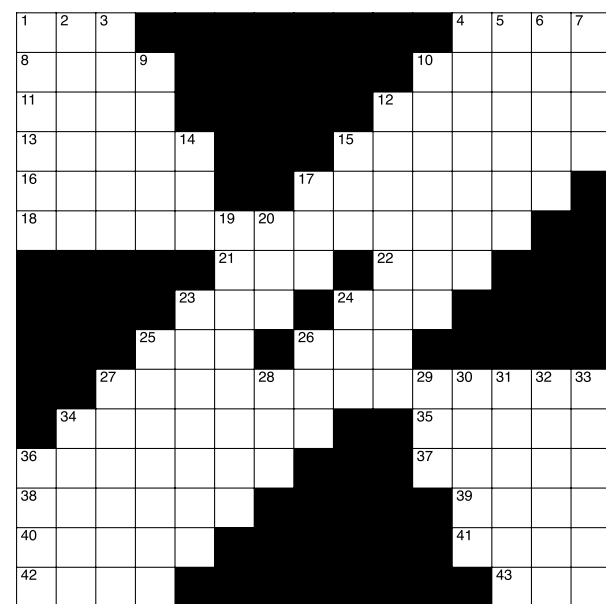
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Engine additive
4. Undemanding
8. "___ your enthusiasm"
10. Well-known island
- 11 Not saintly
12. Habitual
13. Central parts of church buildings
15. Trust
16. Intestinal
17. Deep-bodied fish
18. Live up to expectations
21. Snag
22. Partner to haw
23. General's assistant (abbr.)
24. Sheep disease
25. Male term of endearment
26. United
27. Popular TV host
34. Overnighters
35. Beloved British princess
36. Obtains from
37. Third Mughal Emperor
38. Shares the opinion of
39. Central European river
40. Feudal estates
41. KU hoops coach Bill
42. Spreads out for drying
43. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan

CLUES DOWN

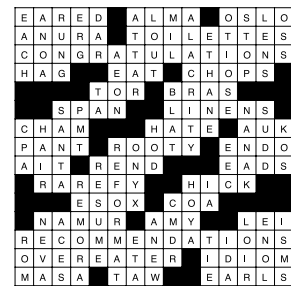
1. Picturesque
2. South Pacific island country
3. Shrub of the olive family
4. Establish the truth of
5. Unfettered
6. Originations
7. Famed English park
9. Sheep's cry
10. Danced
12. More outstanding
14. Upstate NY airport (abbr.)
15. Type of lettuce
17. Place to call a pint
19. Backs
20. Partner to cheese
23. Makes it there



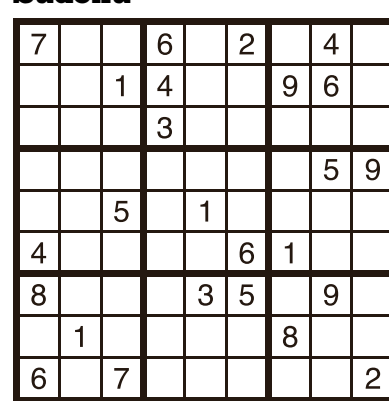
24. Value
25. One's convictions
26. Former CIA
27. Clashed
28. Affirmative
29. Journalist Tarbell
30. Athletic shoes
31. Roof style
32. Make possible
33. Make less dense
34. Healthy food
36. Silly

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

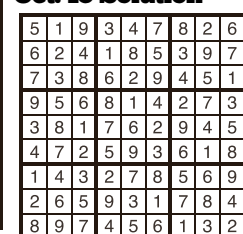
Oct. 15 Solution



Sudoku



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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Restaurateur and landscape architect Kay Vanderlyn Ulrich is running to be the next mayor of Millbrook.

Ulrich wants one more title: Mayor

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Restaurant owner, landscape architect and mother of two, Kay Vanderlyn Ulrich would also like to be Millbrook's next mayor. She is running on the United Village party, and one of her goals is, indeed, to unite the village. Ulrich has very definite ideas about what she feels needs to be done to accomplish that.

"There are a few issues that are on the top of my list for the community," she said. "I feel it is important for all residents of the village to have a voice and to be heard, regardless of their race, gender, age, religion as well socioeconomic status. This ties into the need for more openness and ease of communication between the village government and the people that reside here."

Having been on the Millbrook Planning Board for more than three years, which she also chairs, Ulrich has an idea about how the government works and how to improve it.

"We also need better collaboration between the village and Town of Washington," she said. "I like transparency. I'd work with the community to find the best way to achieve this."

As owner of Julien's Pizza, Ulrich knows how small businesses work, and she has shown over recent months that she can be flexible, creative and strong. She knows firsthand what COVID-19 has done to businesses — especially in small towns and villages.

"I'd also focus on the local economy and how it is affected

by COVID. It is going to be essential to figure out creative ways to help small businesses in our village, to bring people to Millbrook in the winter months and to make sure that we don't add to the vacancies that already existed pre-COVID," she said. "I would make an effort to try to work with local business owners and entrepreneurs to keep vacancies filled, and possibly streamline the often arduous process of starting a business, in any municipality, while respecting existing codes."

Ulrich would like to increase community projects and to strive for more community involvement.

"I have an idea for a community garden, which would not only be beneficial to the residents in town that don't have their own green space, but also to all schools, which could use the space as an outdoor classroom," she said. "My education is in landscape architecture with a focus on food systems and city planning. There can't be enough said about educating our youth about simple things, like how to grow a tomato."

"I am a mother to Asher, 5, and Lily, 1. I am an entrepreneur and business owner. Besides owning Julien's, I'm there every day working as the sous chef, cashier and dishwasher," said Ulrich. "I am the chairperson of the Village of Millbrook Planning Board, on the board for several years. I actively work on landscape design projects in my free time and I love to garden. I am very excited to have the opportunity to serve our community and to hear everyone's voice."



The Millerton News is running candidate profiles throughout the month of October. There are three candidates running for Millbrook mayor; two are featured on this page. The third profile can be found on Page B5. The village trustee profiles, printed in past editions of The Millerton News, can be found online at www.tricornernews.com, as can all candidate profiles, once they've been published in our newspaper.

Trustee Tim Collopy has his sights set on mayoral position

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — A resident of Millbrook for the past 15 years, village Trustee Tim Collopy lives with his wife, Cecilia, in their second fixer-upper home on Franklin Avenue. He has degrees in electrical engineering, statistics and business administration, and retired from IBM in 2009 as its director of quality for its Technology Group. Collopy, while serving as a trustee, was also appointed the village's deputy mayor in January 2019. He was elected as a village trustee in 2014, left the position for a time and then re-ran again in 2016, and is currently serving that term now.

Collopy, a Democrat, would like the public's vote on Nov. 3 to become the next mayor of the village of Millbrook.

"I want to be mayor of the village of Millbrook because I am the most qualified candidate to manage our budget issues," he said. "I have an MBA degree and am a retired executive IBM manager and during the past two years as deputy mayor, I worked



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Democrat and current village Trustee Tim Collopy is running to be the next mayor of Millbrook in a three-way race.

closely with [former] Mayor [Rod] Brown to understand the mechanics of the municipal budget as well as the three key issues we will be facing: staying under the general fund budget cap, closing the improved water filtration funding and initiating needed infrastructure improvements to the sewer plant."

As deputy mayor, Collopy worked closely with the former mayor before he resigned prior to his term ending to learn the detailed operations of municipal government, specifically as it pertains to Millbrook. Of prime importance was mastering the annual budget process; this year Collopy was responsible for delegating elements of the budget to each trustee while personally compiling the water/sewer and the fire/rescue budgets. A primary commitment of his, he said, is to keep future budgets under the state-mandated tax cap.

He said he is proud of having worked with the previous mayor as well as the Washington town

supervisor and town clerk to justify, contract and budget the switch to 24/7 paid ambulance service for the village and town starting in 2019 while keeping the village budget under the tax cap.

As mayor, Collopy plans to run an efficient administration that will constantly seek opportunities to reduce expenses while funding improvements to the village infrastructure. He wants to encourage resident participation during Village Board meetings and said he will be responsive to residents' ideas and concerns.

Now that the \$1.4 million water filtration project is proceeding on schedule, with probable completion this year, Collopy wants to turn the board's attention to the sewer system and sidewalk repair projects while continuing the road-by-road repaving project. He is committed to improving the working relationship with the town of Washington and the Millbrook Business Association to build a better community.

"These issues must be addressed starting with the 2020-21 budget and residents deserve a mayor who is prepared to handle them."

"As mayor, I will run an efficient administration that constantly seeks to reduce current expenses while funding capital improvements," he added. "I will encourage and be responsive to residents' ideas and suggestions to make Millbrook a better community."

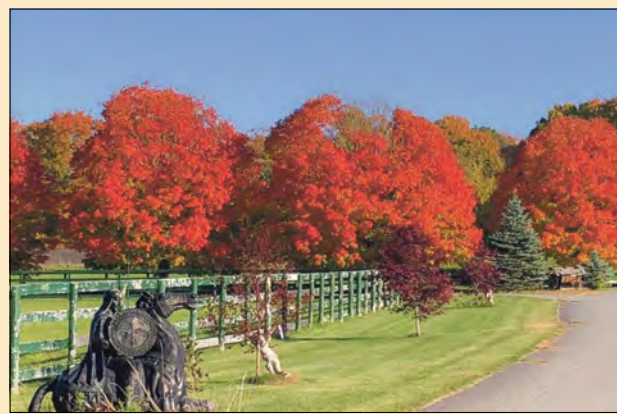


PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

The colors of fall

The sun was setting behind these trees lining The Station Park on Route 44 in Millbrook on Saturday, Oct. 17, just before 4 p.m. These red beauties were vivid even though they were almost past peak, yet that afternoon they looked as though they were about to burst into flames. The gates to the park were partially open, seeming to invite motorists to take a closer look across the still green grass to the radiant red trees beyond.

Correction

In the Oct. 8 profile of Millbrook village trustee candidate Michael Herzog, it was incorrectly stated that Herzog was appointed interim mayor because no one else stepped forward. This was an editorial error, as other trustees said they would have been happy to accept the temporary position, including Joe Rochfort and Kevin McGrane. We regret the error.

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LALOR *Continued from Page A1*

in the Marine Corps Reserve in 2000 and then enrolled in Pace University School of Law. He was called to active duty following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. His unit was demobilized in 2002, but was reactivated in 2003 when he was deployed to Iraq. Lalor completed his military service in 2006 at the rank of corporal. After finishing his service, he returned to Pace Law School and earned his degree in 2007.

Founding Iraq Vets for Congress, he addressed the National Press Club in 2008 on veterans' behalf. He also ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008, losing that race, but in 2012 he campaigned for a seat in the 105th District in the New York State Assembly and won handily. He has served four two-year terms since then; he's now seeking another.

Lalor is a staunch supporter of veterans, as well as of small businesses. He serves as the ranking member of the Assembly Banks Committee and is a member of the Assembly Committee on Government Operations, Real Property Taxation, Small Business and Veterans' Affairs. He espouses requiring all tax assessing units to participate in the Enhanced School Tax Relief Exemption program, providing more tax relief to homeowners, and has introduced legislation to protect against the outsourcing of jobs by companies receiving taxpayer-funded subsidies.

"Decisions made in Albany over the decades have made every aspect of life, including

the cost of necessities, too expensive for hardworking New Yorkers," said Lalor. "Meanwhile, our state's anti-business policies are driving small businesses under and job seekers out of the state. The Legislature should lift redundant or unnecessary unfunded mandates on school districts and local governments.

"This added flexibility for local decision-makers will ease the property tax burden," Lalor added. "We should also end our multi-billion dollar corporate welfare programs that remove the tax burden from a few hand-picked and politically connected corporations. The savings should be used for across-the-board tax relief for all New York taxpayers."

Lalor sponsored legislation to repeal changes made to the state's bail process, wherein judges don't have the ability to set bail for a defendant for dozens of serious offenses, including child sex crimes, animal abuse, certain acts of terrorism and the criminal sale of drugs on school grounds; he helped sponsor a bill that allows parents to opt their children out of standardized testing; and supports safety officers and other practical measures to keep students safe while at school.

Lalor belongs to a number of civic and community organizations including the Knights of Columbus, Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Ancient Order of Hibernians. He also coaches local youth football and baseball.

THORNE PASSES *Continued from Page A1*

Washington town Supervisor Gary Ciferri remarked, "He was probably one of the kindest, friendliest people you'd ever meet. He did so much for the town of Washington through the Tribute Garden. He was a real gentleman, and had a dry sense of humor. He always had time to talk to anyone from any walk of life. He was unique, and he will be missed."

In business he was known for his work with the Thorne family holdings, CT Corporation in NYC, which merged with Commercial Clearing House in 1976. He remained chairman of CCH until 1996. He held positions on many boards including the Dutchess Land Conservancy, Dutchess Day School, Millbrook School, Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies and Nine Partners Cemetery.

He belonged to many local clubs including The Mashomack Fish and Game Preserve Club, the Tamarack Preserve Club and the Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club. Thorne was an avid beagler, a member of the Sandanona Harehounds, the Millbrook Hunt Club and he helped co-found the Millbrook Polo Club (now the Mashomack Polo Club).

He was not only a sportsman and philanthropist, but also a horse breeder. He established Eaton-Thorne, a thoroughbred breeding operation, with the well-known bloodstock agent Lee Eaton in 1980, producing a number of champions.

His good friend, Peter Devers, shared some memories of Thorne through social media and with The Millerton News. Most of Devers' memories are about the sporting life and Thorne's kindness to him.

"Oakleigh was the first adult that told me, a young kid, to call him by his first name. In my youth we children were always taught to address our elders with the title 'Mr.' or 'Mrs.' — but Oakleigh was just Oakleigh. It was quite an honor to be given this privilege. On a road trip home from the beagle field trials at Aldie when we did a quick pit stop at a McDonald's south of Harrisburg, Oakleigh was strangely silent while munching his burger. He then said, 'You know, this is the first McDonald's hamburger I've ever had.' Welcome to America, at age 45, Oakleigh B. Thorne... He was one of a kind."

Thorne came from a prominent family. His father was a descendant of an old New York family that made its money in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALLEN FUNERAL HOME

Oakleigh B. Thorne

leather and publishing businesses; his mother was a descendant of the distinguished Palmer family of Chicago. He served in the Navy for two years, graduated from Harvard, was married to his second wife, Felicitas, for more than 50 years and they raised their two children, Eliza and Jonathan, together. He had two sons, Oakleigh IV and Henry, with his first wife, Caroline.

Devers also remembers his friend's sense of fun and kindness.

"As a huntsman, Oakleigh was trusted by his hounds," he recalled. "They knew he was one with them and would do his best for them... He was quick to praise them and rarely berated them angrily when at fault. Oakleigh wanted the hunting experience to be fun for all: himself, the field and the hounds, too."

GIARDINO *Continued from Page A1*

unemployment assistance," she said. "Many of our neighbors are unable to pay their rent or mortgage and are food insecure. I will work to extend or support new programs to help our friends keep their homes, pay for utilities and buy food to feed their families."

Recently Giardino stated, "I am running to work for the people of my district. If elected I will fight to bring jobs, job training programs and grants to the 105th. I will increase trade programs in our high schools and colleges that prepare students to have a good paying job and a secure future. Investing in these

programs will expand opportunities for young people and give local businesses the highly trained talent they need for their businesses to thrive."

Giardino knows that one priority has to be in the financial area and she plans to work to bring jobs and job training programs to local neighborhoods. Millions of New Yorkers have permanently lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many have also lost their health insurance and are now going without vital medications or medical care and are burdened with medical debt. This, she said, "is a big reason

why I support the New York Health Act, because it provides health insurance coverage for all New Yorkers regardless of employment status."

Other plans on the Democrat's platform include the development of affordable housing for seniors, veterans and working families. She also wants to expand the use of alternative energy in local communities, increase construction of solar and wind farms and she hopes to expand the usage and availability of energy efficient public transportation — all of which she said will help create green jobs in the 105th District.

A graduate of Mercy College, Giardino is retired; she owned two local businesses and volunteered with several nonprofits. She founded a local group that organizes monthly dinners for the LGBTQ community. A self-described progressive Democrat, humanist, and activist for social justice for more than 50 years, she is on a journey to fight the Republican Party's "stranglehold" on Dutchess County.

If elected, Giardino wants to pass gun violence prevention legislation, ranked choice voting and free college and technical education.

HALLOWEEN *Continued from Page A1*

ommendations came out, New York stated it would review whether families should trick-or-treat, despite Cuomo previously stating he would not ban the activity.

A spokesperson for the governor said his office would release its own guidelines after the New York State Department of Health weighs in on the matter. As of Monday, Oct. 19, the governor's office had yet to do so.

Millerton Police Officer in Charge Mike Veeder however, has released recommendations for celebrating Halloween safely during the pandemic.

"There's no doubt about it, Halloween 2020 will look different from every other year before it," he told The Millerton News last week. "While some families may be looking to give their children a return to a sense of normalcy, others may be looking for alternatives to traditional trick-or-treating."

One of his chief concerns? Drivers on the road not looking for trick-or-treaters this year.

"As children may continue take to the streets on Halloween for traditional trick-or-treating, their risk of being injured by motorists greatly increases," stated Veeder in an email.

He quoted the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that reports Halloween is consistently one of the top three days for pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

"This year, Halloween falls on a Saturday, so trick-or-treaters may potentially be out at any hour of the day," according to Donna Galasso, assistant director of Traffic Safety, AAA

Northeast.

Tips for Halloween:

- Masked costumes are in this year — just be sure that vision is not obstructed in any way.
- Washable or disposable gloves can be worn or carried/use hand sanitizer between houses.
- Wear a costume you can walk in and comfortable footwear — nothing that drags on the ground.
- Work one side of the street at a time, crossing only at corners and crosswalks. Stay out of the roadway!
- Avoid going out in large groups — stick to immediate family. Encourage teens to observe social distancing if out with friends.
- If driving trick-or-treaters on their rounds, don't forget to use appropriate car seats, and have children enter and exit the vehicle from the passenger side.
- Be bright if going out at dusk or dark; use reflective tape on costumes and treat bags and carry flashlights and glow sticks for extra visibility.
- Only accept candy that is totally wrapped and sealed, and take COVID precautions at home before consuming it.

AAA tips for motorists:

- There may be fewer children out this year, but there will be trick-or-treaters. Be vigilant in scanning far ahead, watching attentively for children running from house to house.
 - Drive a little slower than usual in residential areas; or try to avoid driving through those areas all together.
 - Obey all traffic signs and signals.
 - Avoid driving distractions, even after traditional trick-or-treat hours. Older children and teens may be out without supervision.
 - And it goes without saying: If you attend a party where alcohol is served, make sure you have a designated driver!
- Alternative Halloween ideas:**
- Let kids dress up as usual, but hold a scavenger hunt for treats in your home or yard.
 - Host an outdoor movie night featuring favorite scary (or not scary) Halloween movies.
 - Host a Halloween Zoom party or Zoom-o-Ween!
 - Decorate your house for the

holiday — don't skimp!

Area Halloween events:

Now there are still some Halloween activities taking place this year around the region, including a COVID-safe parade in the hamlet of Wassaic, on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., sponsored by The Wassaic Project and the Wassaic Fire Company. There will be floats, fun and candy.

The parade will make its way through downtown Wassaic, with floats from a number of artists and, thanks to a series of donations from local businesses, more than 100 pounds of candy will be tossed to children watching the parade. Costumes are encouraged, masks are required.

The NorthEast-Millerton Library is holding a number of Halloween events, some live and some virtual. On Friday, Oct. 23, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., it will host a Jack O'Lantern Wall Art program via Zoom. To register, go to www.nemillertonlibrary.org for details.

On Friday, Oct. 30, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., there will be a virtual costume concert with Fellowship of the Books and Danny Tieger. Dress up for the festivities and put on a pair of dancing shoes. There will be creepy and funny songs for children up to age 8, who are encouraged to wear a costume. A link can be found on the library's website.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, the library and the North East Community Center's (NECC) Teen Team program will be distributing free books and Halloween treats to trick-or-treaters from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at NECC, at 51 South Center St., on the front lawn of the library at 75 Main St. and throughout other points of the village. Trick-or-treaters

are asked to practice social distancing when they pick up their goodies.

In Pine Plains, there will be the much loved Evergreen Cemetery Lantern Tours, on Friday, Oct. 30, with a rain date of Sunday, Nov. 1. Tours last one hour, and will be held at throughout the night. They'll also be aired online this year. For details, read this week's story on Page A4.

The village of Millbrook will once again hold Trunk or Treating, on Halloween, Oct. 31, at noon, at the Town of Washington Park, 3744 Route 44. If decorating a car, preregistration is required online. Cars participating may arrive between 11:30 and 11:45 a.m. for setup. Per CDC guidelines, adults are required to wear masks. Register at washingtontony.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29885.

And in Copake, there will be a Drive-In Halloween Costume Show on Oct. 31, at 4 p.m., at the Copake Memorial Park. Children will have the chance to happily march around in their scary, beautiful or funny costumes, just bring them to the Copake Grange's Drive-In Halloween Parade, held in the park (305 Mountain View Road). COVID-19 safety guideline will be in place. There will be prizes, and children will get a treat. Space is limited; make reservations now, at www.eventbrite.com/e/124580980065. For more details on this free event, go to www.copakegrange.org.

For the full list of CDC holiday recommendations, which include not only Halloween guidelines but tips for staying safe during the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, go to www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.

FATAL CAR CRASH
Continued from Page A1

Medical Examiner, the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response, the New York State Police, the Wassaic Fire Department, the Amenia Fire Department, the Amenia Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Northern Dutchess EMS.

The Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau and Crash Investigation Unit is continuing its investigation and will release more information as it becomes available.

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The Equus Effect in Sharon is a non-profit that focuses on helping veterans make the successful transition from the military back to civilian life. Many of these veterans are suffering trauma from experiencing combat in Iraq or Afghanistan. The Equus Effect are leaders in developing a peer-to-peer program with facilitators, horses and other vets who work as a team to accelerate the journey home to family and community. With COVID, they are now offering programs for first responders to reduce stress as they deal with the continuous emergencies caused by this pandemic. They are currently building a new indoor ring so that they can be active year around and are asking for community support to accomplish this. For more information, please see their website at www.thequuseffect.org or call or text Kelly Hitt, Marketing & Communications Director + Outreach Coordinator + Volunteer Coordinator at (203) 613-1107.



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ART: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Art Goes on for Sharon Painter, With New Show in Amsterdam

Tom Goldenberg found his muse oozing from a smooched walnut that had fallen to the ground in his Sharon, Conn., yard. The acclaimed artist, who has worked with hand-ground pigments for decades, had been raking buckets of the nuisance nuts from his stand of walnut trees to give to a local farmer for his pigs.

"I noticed one day a brown, gooey pulp oozing out" of one of the crushed walnuts — and the ensuing stain it created, recalled Goldenberg. It was an "aha" moment for the artist, who is known for his landscape and abstract paintings. "So I started raking the walnuts onto a canvas and driving the garden tractor over it."

The resulting tread marks, in various shades and shapes of permanent brown stain, became the base for a new series of vibrant, large-scale abstract paintings featured in an exhibit that has just opened at Althuis Hofland Fine Arts gallery in Amsterdam, Holland.

The show, which comprises four paintings and seven works on paper, opened Oct. 16 and runs through Nov. 14. It represents the artist's first solo exhibition in Europe and is also the first gallery show that Goldenberg will not be attending in person, due to the global pandemic.

Crimped plans

"It is disappointing" not to be able to travel to Europe for the exhibit and reception, to meet in person with the gallery owners and patrons, and to explore Amsterdam and its magnificent museums for the first time, said Goldenberg.

Instead, in mid-September, the artist wrapped his works and shipped them to the gallery, where he is hoping that a virtual com-



Tom Goldenberg at his studio in Sharon.

PHOTO BY BILL HAYGOOD

ponent of the show will emerge from the unusual circumstances caused by the coronavirus. After all, it was technology that connected artist and gallery in the first place.

"The people who run the gallery saw my work on Instagram," and also noticed his huge following, "and got to be fans of what I am doing."

When first contacted by Althuis Hofland earlier this year, Goldenberg — who the late art critic Hilton Kramer in 2001 described as "one of the most accomplished painters on the current scene" — said he was skeptical. "I had no idea who they were. And then I thought, maybe I should call these people back.

"They were really excited about doing the show. It was hard not to have that kind of reciprocated enthusiasm," he explained. "They are young and energetic and have terrific sensibilities with what they are showing, cutting-edge kind of works, a lot of vitality."

The pandemic also put a crimp in the artist's



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This painting by Tom Goldenberg, titled "Calabria," a 74-by-94 inch latex on canvas, is among the Sharon artist's new works featured in a solo exhibition opening this month in Amsterdam.

plans to travel in March to the American Academy, a research and arts institution in Rome, where he had planned to return as an artist in residence for the month "before anybody would know the full-blown implications of the whole COVID thing." His 2020 visit was canceled.

Still, Goldenberg is excited about the Amsterdam show and his art being exhibited there, which he said is all new with the

exception of one or two works on paper from 2019. The largest of the paintings, titled "Calabria," is a 74-inch by 94-inch latex on canvas. Other large-scale works, also latex on canvas, include "Ortebello" (60 by 48), "Byzantine Portico" (48 by 90), and "Market" (50 by 93).

About his most recent body of work, which clearly reveals his return to abstraction derived from landscape and architectural space, Goldenberg noted: "I initially had worked with landscapes for many years, but my sense about landscape has changed. These paintings are really paintings about the earth and the passage of time and people who have been on Earth for generations." **Ethereal but of the earth** Goldenberg has long been inspired by the nature of northwest Connecticut and the Hudson Valley.

In keeping with the earth theme of his paintings, Goldenberg said that in addition to incorporating pulp from walnuts as a medium, he has also started using cast-off latex paint from the Salisbury-Sharon transfer station. "Oil paint is incredibly stunning, and

FILM: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

All You Need Is Love, Even in This Crazy World

John Hoffman didn't need the madness of the 2020 world to convince him that there is a shortage of kindness on the planet right now. An award-winning documentary filmmaker (and Dutchess County resident), Hoffman started two years ago to look for stories of kindness, decency and the power of community in America.

The end result is a new film called, "The Antidote," which he directed with Kahane Cooperman and which can be seen now "virtually" through The Moviehouse in Miller-ton, N.Y.

Hoffman describes "The Antidote" as a study of "everyday people who make the intentional choice to lift others up and make their communities bet-

ter, despite the fundamentally unkind ways of our society — which are at once facts of life in America, and yet deeply antithetical to our founding ideals."

Its goal: To give us all hope in what feels to many people like a very dark time.

The movie can be seen online through The Moviehouse (which also helps support our beloved local theater, which of course is struggling to survive the COVID-19 quarantine; movie theaters in New York state are still not allowed to open).

"The Antidote" can be seen now by going to www.themoviehouse.net. The cost is \$12; after you make your payment you have seven days to unlock the film and then 24 hours to view it.

HALLOWEEN, AUTUMN FUN AND SHAKER COLORS

For many admirers of the Shaker aesthetic, it is the muted, dusky colors that are particularly enthralling. Learn how those colors are made in a virtual talk from Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass., on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 5:30 p.m. "A Coat of Heavenly Brightness" is a conversation with Brece Honeycutt and Sarah Margolis-Pineo.

Honeycutt, artist-in-residence at the village, has been exploring the Shaker palette of yellows, blues, reds and greens, and experimenting with natural dyes and pigments she creates from Hancock's gardens and forests.

Moderated by curator Sarah Margolis-Pineo, this conversation will provide an overview of Honeycutt's ongoing research, mining objects from the village's collection to showcase the colors of the Shakers. Register on the website at www.hancockshakervillage.org for the free Zoom session.

The village is now open from Thursday to Sunday each week. Several on-premises seasonal events are coming up.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. there is a family fun day with no admission fee,

that will include a "Where the Wild Things Are" story walk, craft demonstrations, a scavenger hunt, drumming, food and live music, plus visits with the village's barnyard animals. Advance reservations are encouraged but not required.

There will be a Halloween celebration on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a costume contest for children, ghost stories, a scavenger hunt, and a goody bag handout (while supplies last). All activities are included with admission (\$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, AAA members and active and retired U.S. military; \$8 for ages 13 to 17; under 12 is free).

That evening, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. there will be a "Trick for Treat" party. Grown-ups are encouraged to dress in costume, visit stops throughout the village and try their hand at simple contests to win beer, wine and spirit giveaways and other prizes. A food truck, fire pit and music make this a great date night. Tickets are \$45 (includes three drink vouchers).

For more information on these and other events, go to www.hancockshakervillage.org.

ADVERTISE IN COMPASS

To advertise your event under the Arts & Entertainment banner, call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com

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.

Continued on next page



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CONIFERS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A Virtual Glimpse into an Enchanted Conifer Garden

This is the time of year when we begin to think of evergreens and pine cones in preparation for the winter months and snow and holiday-season wreaths.

Just in time, there will be an online presentation about conifers sponsored by the Sherman, Conn., library as part of the Great Hollow Invitational Art Show.

I don't know (yet) the subtle shadings of difference between conifers and other evergreens, but the free virtual talk on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. promises to enlighten me.

Photographer Jeff Ginsburg will be talking specifically about a really lush,

gorgeous conifer garden in Sherman created by Dr. Peter Rostenberg and his wife, Susan (whose photo "Reproduction" is on this page and is part of the Great Hollow Invitational Art Show).

The Rostenbergs are well-known to many garden enthusiasts in the region for their extensive conifer showcase, which is much more beautiful and enthralling than it might seem to be at first blush. There are many photos of it online; the plants (trees?) are drapery and large and almost look like friendly furry animals.

Ginsburg will talk about the garden and about how all the different conifers work with the other plantings and trees that surround them.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROSTENBERG

Peter's Opus is described in the news release as "an arboreal sculpture park created four decades ago by Dr. Peter

"Reproduction," a photo on canvas by Susan Rostenberg, is part of the Great Hollow Invitational Art Show in Sherman, Conn., and a focus of a talk on the famous Rostenberg conifer garden, called Peter's Opus.

Rostenberg, who practiced Internal Medicine in New Fairfield, Conn., for more than 40 years, retiring March 2020.

"Using clippers, chainsaws, shovels and more, he has created a garden that is like a world-class

symphony. As he and his wife, Susan, prepare to leave their special place, they offered Ginsburg a rare opportunity to photograph and video their amazing property."

This is a chance to see a garden that most of us didn't know existed; and it sounds as though the garden's future is not assured, once the Rostenbergs are gone.

Learn about Peter's Opus in a virtual talk on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. Register by emailing Ablake@biblio.org.

For more information about the show and the Sherman Library, go to www.shermanlibrary.org.

CLASSIC ROCK: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

'American Beauty,' Now 50 Years Old, Keeps on Truckin' at the Bardavon

It's the 50th anniversary of an iconic Grateful Dead album, and the Bardavon in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., is celebrating with a free online show on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 8 p.m. featuring covers of songs from the album and the general Dead song list.

One of the highlights of the show will be Jefferson Airplane's Jorma Kaukonen performing "Operator," with John Hurlbut. Kaukonen went on to have a long and fruitful solo career after leaving the Airplane.

The show will also include the lovely "Box of Rain," written by Dead founding bass player Phil Lesh, with Robert Hunter. It's one of the few recordings of Lesh singing. Nicki Bluhm and Amy Helm will cover the song for the Nov. 1 show.

Members of Moonalice and Doobie Decibel System will cover "Attics of My Life."

Other covers will include Animal Liberation Orchestra (ALO) performing "Friend of the Devil," Mihali performing, "Sugar Magnolia," Yonder Moun-



The Bardavon Theater in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., is celebrating the 50th anniversary (and what a long strange trip ...) of the Grateful Dead's "American Beauty" album with a virtual concert on Nov. 1.

tain String Band performing "Candyman," Marco Benevento performing, "Ripple;" The Harmonellas performing "Brokedown Palace;" Railroad Earth performing, "Till the Morning Comes;" and Donna the Buffalo performing, "Truckin'."

As a bonus, from "Workingman's Dead," The Weight Band will cover "New Speedway Boogie."

The 50th anniversary celebration was curated by Bardavon Production Manager Stephen LaMarca; the show has commen-

tary by Bardavon Executive Director Chris Silva.

A portion of all donations from this and other concerts in the Bardavon streaming series Bardavon Presents @ You Tube will benefit People's Place in Kingston, N.Y., and Dutchess Outreach in Poughkeepsie.

Coming up next on Bardavon Presents @You Tube is the 50th anniversary of "Loaded" by the Velvet Underground on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 8 p.m. with special guest artists.

Don't be sad that your favorite albums are celebrating their half century; be glad that you grew up with so much great music!

Find the Bardavon's "American Beauty" tribute on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 8 p.m. and see other shows, too, at www.youtube.com/channel/UCfYyXGTdm-F4055Duc4sgaSw.

ONE FOR THE RECORDS IN WASSAIC ON OCT. 24

There will be dancing in the streets in Wassaic, N.Y., minutes away from the Metro North train station, on Saturday, Oct. 24, when Erika da Silva's Wassaic Newsstand offers a one day Record Store event.

There will be actual vinyl 33 rpm albums for sale from noon to 6 p.m. Da Silva promises a mix of "new, used, rare, popular, obscure, classic records — something for everyone at all price ranges!"

Dancing is from 3 to 8 p.m. with live music and DJs StevieT, Third Culture Kid, Jeremy Smith and

"special guests."

The Lantern restaurant next door will be open for lunch from noon to 4 p.m. with artisan pizza, "bites," burgers and beverages. Dinner service is from 4 to 8:30 p.m.

The Record Store is open to all ages without a fee, but will not be specifically geared toward children, Da Silva said.

"We're hoping to offer a fun, low key, safe and socially-distanced enjoyable day for record lovers."

Wear a mask and don't dance too close.
— Cynthia Hochswender

GHOSTS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Tales of Old Ghosts Of New England

It's called "New" England but our region is, of course, one of the oldest parts of the U.S., so of course there are more stories about ghosts and ghouls and the unexplained here than there are in newer, shinier parts of the country.

Anyone fascinated by the undead and the unknown — and the history of this part of the world — can take advantage of one of the few good things about the quarantine: Many cultural institutions that you might not normally visit are now offering interesting virtual online presentations.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., the Bidwell House Museum in the spooky dark recesses of nearby Monterey, Mass., is offering a talk on Colonial Ghosts with Robert Oakes, an area resident and author of the new book, "Ghosts of the Berkshires."

The news release on the talk and the book reminds us that, "Before it became a haven for arts and culture, the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts was rugged



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Robert Oakes will talk about his book, "Ghosts of the Berkshires," Oct. 28.

and sparsely populated. From the early days of revolutionary fervor and industrial enterprise to today's tourism, many chilling stories remain.

"Residents and visitors alike have felt fear and awe in these hills, telling tales of shadow figures, disembodied voices and spectral trains. Robert will share Colonial and Revolutionary War-era stories from the region and discuss the gravesite of Reverend Adonijah Bidwell."

There is a \$10 fee to participate in this Zoom talk (unless you happen to be a Bidwell House Museum member); only one registration is required per household.

Register at www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/event/ghosts-of-the-berkshires-colonial-spirits.

...Tom Goldenberg

Continued from previous page

I will not give it up, but for these paintings it was appropriate to incorporate recycling, things being cast off."

He describes his new works this way: "I use abstraction to reference an architectural or fictive space. Although a traditional picture-frame is utilized, I envision the work as an inner proscenium that operates on several planes. There are burial chambers and areas of ritual sacrifice, walls and rooms as well as windows and doorways, areas above and below ground, and deep and shallow spaces for the living and the buried."

The paintings, he said, function as "elegies or heroic, intimate poems intuiting the history of

man and "The Structures of Everyday Life," the title of a book by Fernand Braudel that is rhythmically poetic in his discussion of how humanity is orchestrated by geography, climate, technology and the routines of daily life."

In 2016 Goldenberg and his wife, Michelle Alfandari, moved to Sharon, where they built a studio on their property after living and working in New York City for four decades.

"I rely on her judgment when working on a piece," Goldenberg said of his spouse's creative input. "It's a great partnership."

Further details on the Amsterdam exhibit are available at www.tomgoldenberg.com and the artist's Instagram and Facebook pages.

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EDITORIAL

Our 2020 presidential pick and other endorsements

Let's just lay it on the line: We are concerned, as Americans will be heading to the polls Nov. 3 to elect their next president, because they have to choose between two imperfect candidates, Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic former Vice President Joseph Biden. (More than 28 million have voted early, as of Tuesday, Oct. 20.) Neither man has shown himself as the complete leader America needs at this moment, a moment in time so critical to our country it's impossible to overstate.

As of Tuesday, Oct. 20, more than 225,269 Americans have died from COVID-19 and more than 8,459,967 Americans have been infected. Those are staggering statistics. Trump hasn't shown the type of leadership with COVID-19 that our nation needs. Biden, at least, has a more aggressive virus plan, including rejoining the World Health Organization (WHO). He's also acted prudently, compassionately and listens to science.

Trump had done well for our financial system — pre-pandemic. February 2020 marked an end to a peak in monthly economic activity of the longest recorded U.S. expansion, which began in June 2009 under President Obama. Now, of course, economies are failing; businesses are still shut down and millions of people remain unemployed. It's the same all over the world. Both Biden and Trump will have a challenge after the election due to the economic fallout of the pandemic.

This country is trying to reckon with its long history of social inequality. On May 25, George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis, a Black man killed by a white then-police officer, fueling months of Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests nationwide, calling for state and federal governments to defund the police.

Trump called for law and order. We agreed that protesters cannot be allowed to cause major property damage, set fires, riot and injure people, police included. We get that people are angry — we need social justice — but there are safe and peaceful ways to protest.

That said, the president's refusal to distance himself from white supremacists in the past, and again during his first debate with Biden, has been unacceptable.

Biden has not called for defunding the police, a move we're against, but rather for more extensive training and support from other agencies for police who must deal with many situations more related to mental health risks than criminal activity.

The president and Senate are rushing Judge Amy Coney Barrett through the nomination process for the Supreme Court. Of course, it's natural Trump would want a conservative who would not only support his victory, but also one who would support weakening or revoking Roe v. Wade — heaven forbid — crucial legislation that protects a woman's right to choose.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), Obamacare, is slated to be heard in the Supreme Court, with options like pre-existing conditions at risk of disappearing if Trump has his way. It's been four years since Trump took office, and still, the healthcare plan he swears he has designed has yet to see the light of day. Biden has tweaked the ACA, lowering the Medicare eligibility age to 60 and revamping prescription drug prices. But those changes could cost more than \$2 trillion. To pay for that, Biden plans to raise taxes on those making \$400,000 or more annually.

We know there is no "perfect" presidential candidate, regardless of whether one is a Republican or a Democrat. Trump is often hot-headed, juvenile, opaque, stubborn. Biden, on the other hand, seems a bit fuzzy at times, not quite as mentally acute as one would like his or her president to be. Yet his moral compass is clearly stronger than Trump's, so important during today's trying times.

We need a president who acts appropriately. He must be able to lead strongly and react immediately in global and domestic emergencies. In the final analysis, Biden is our pick. He is a seasoned politician who will represent the U.S. professionally and diplomatically. While we're not sure either candidate fits the bill 100%, the Biden-Harris ticket will get the job done and has earned our endorsement.

Federal, state and county endorsements

In the race for the 19th Congressional District, incumbent Democratic U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado is seeking his second two-year term. He won in 2018 with the Blue Wave of Democrats who took the House that year with a progressive agenda. Since then he's secured funding for local farmers, worked to improve broadband access, garnered resources for vulnerable Hudson Valley businesses and families during the pandemic and continues to fight for equal rights.

Delgado is being challenged by Millbrook attorney and Army Reserves JAG Corps veteran Kyle Van De Water. The Republican, who earned a Bronze Star in 2011 serving in Afghanistan, is a proven local leader who wants more funding for opioid treatment, to protect gun rights and secure the southern border. While we laud Van De Water's intentions, and love the idea of a Millbrook resident in Washington, Delgado has done good work and clearly deserves a second term.

Democratic State Assemblymember Didi Barrett is seeking her sixth term representing the 106th District; she's being challenged by Republican Dean Michael. Barrett has long fought for the region, protecting farmland and securing local resources (including a grant to buy a weed harvester for Rudd Pond in the town of North East) and mental health resources. Barrett works with issues affecting veterans, women, tourism and broadband access, among others.

Michael is focused on making the state more affordable and competitive, on lowering taxes and stimulating businesses. We commend Michael, active in town politics, for making a foray into state politics, but Barrett has done such a superb job since 2012 that she has again earned our hearty endorsement.

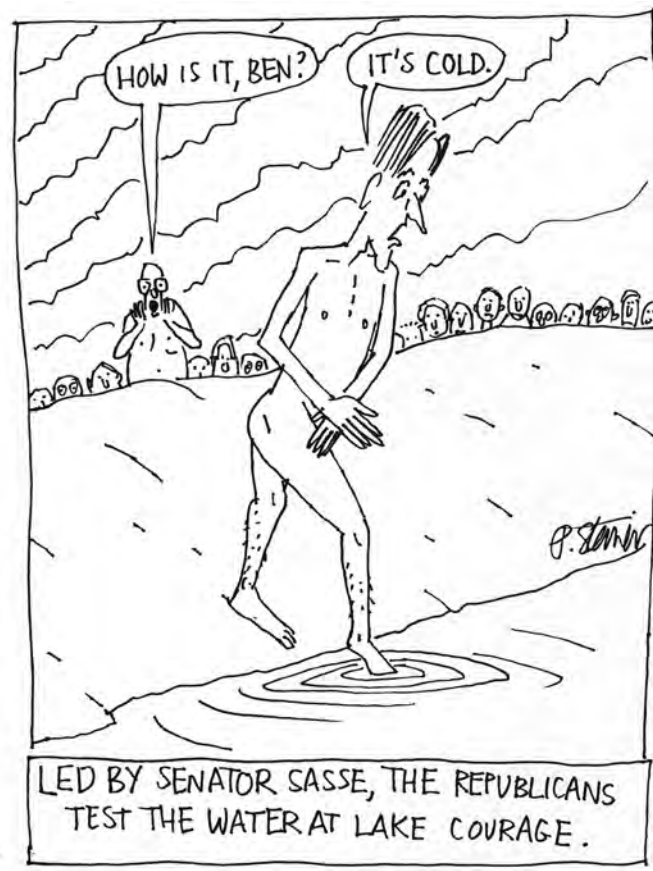
Also running for the New York State Assembly, in the 105th District, are Republican incumbent Kieran Michael Lalor and his Democratic challenger, Laurette Giardino. Lalor is a veteran who served with the Marine Corps Reserve in Iraq after 9/11; upon his return he earned his law degree. He's now seeking his fifth term. Lalor supports veterans' issues, small businesses, tax relief and repealing bail reform. He also wants school resource officers stationed in school buildings to keep students safe.

Giardino has centered her campaign around increasing trade programs in high schools and colleges, universal healthcare, justice reform, alternative energy and police reform. Worthy issues, absolutely, but Lalor has proven his leadership and effectiveness in Albany and has earned our endorsement.

Republican State Senator Sue Serino, of District 41, is hoping for her sixth term. She is focused on rejecting new taxes and fees; advocating for crime victims, senior citizens and veterans; and securing funding for education, workforce innovation, infrastructure and to combat Lyme disease.

Her Democratic opponent, Karen Smythe, wants to lower carbon emissions and protect the region's drinking water, as well as strengthen our education system, address systemic racism, develop the workforce and reignite the economy. Worthy goals, and she'd likely do an excellent job. This one was a tough call, and while leaning toward Serino we would not be at all displeased to see Smythe head to Albany.

One final word: Whoever you decide on, please, just make sure you vote.



State Senate candidate Karen Smythe will be a 'true ally' in Albany

One of the more moving things I've seen in quite a while was the field of flags the Stanford firehouse erected on a hillside, representing the people and first responders who died on 9-11-2001. They took a long time figuring out how to arrange the flags, they said, and how to pay special tribute to their brethren who perished saving others.

I was alerted to this temporary monument (it lasted only two weeks) by an email from Karen Smythe's campaign. It contained a photo of Stanford's memorial. Off to one side Karen was standing respectfully, solemnly, absorbing the scene. Her back was to the camera, but I recognized her characteristic outfit — blue jacket, dark slacks — and especially her concentration.

Karen Smythe is running for the New York State Senate, District 41, and we need more people like her in office. She's a business person, a marketing executive, and also an owner/

manager of a thriving Dutchess County HVAC company. This tells you a few things. First, she knows how to pay attention to customers, and in fact she is a terrific listener, and good at putting herself in your shoes. Second, Karen knows how to get things done efficiently, yet in a way that involves everyone. Third, Karen just plain works hard.

Our town has real needs: a village wastewater system, universal affordable broadband and upgrades to Eddie Collins Park. Soon we'll need parking for the Rail Trail, chargers for electric vehicles and affordable housing so our teachers and students can continue to live here.

With Karen Smythe, we'll have a true ally in the State Senate. She understands rural places like ours and the real issues. A vote for Karen Smythe is a vote for our future and the future of other small communities like ours.

Tom Parrett

Millerton

About that Biden sign:

Thanks Millerton News, for taking note of the vandalism of our Biden sign. A few things: it was actually my husband Ken's idea — I only built it. Neighbors have been uniformly upset by its destruction, regardless of their political persuasion. And since then, the Amenia Democratic Committee's sign at the intersection off routes 22 and 343, large and heavy, disappeared late one night. Desperate and sad actions in a democracy. Kind of brown-shirt.

So I agree with Ron Murphy that our opinions should be equally respected. But using that old Archie Bunker "love it or leave it" sentiment is hardly practicing what he preaches. It suggests that anyone seeking to make positive change in America should simply move to another country. That leaves him to define what is all right to protest, say, write about or think.

Surely after three years of "fake news," he should recognize that his president is advocating the same ideas. Ron indicts the "liberal media," but doesn't see how Fox News has been filling brains with right wing propaganda. There is nothing remotely good or patriotic about the Trump administration. You may choose to believe his endless lies, but that hardly makes you "American."

That's why I'll be proud to vote for Sue again this year and I hope others will do the same.

Martin Kirwan

Wappingers Falls

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote in favor of Prop 1

To fellow North East residents: We all want our political leaders to listen to our concerns and respond to our needs as a community. It seems that one way to have a shot at that kind of government is to support a system whereby public officials are elected not by a scheme to lump like-minded voters into a specific district but one where they compete fair and square in the marketplace of ideas in districts drawn by geography.

These are the thoughts I have in thinking about Proposition 1 on this year's ballot. The Proposition proposes that Dutchess County establish an independent commission to draw legislative districts. This seems like a very good idea. Let's not leave it up to one political party or another to draw districts to suit its own ends. Let's do this right and listen to all our eclectic voices and have our districts reflect them. Give EVERYONE a fair and honest shake.

I suggest that you vote Yes for Proposition 1.

Jennifer Dowley

Millerton

Headline was heartless

This is truly a letter to the editor, Whitney Joseph.

Getting the paper this week, your front page news heading made me furious. It was heartless.

I know you must get buyers and grab attention. However this was not right. It was beyond cold. So I am rewriting it for you.... A fatal car accident robbed our hearts and community of a shining young light.

I'm sure that would still get your buyers' attention. I know a journalist must state the facts, perhaps more heart is needed in your paper along with those facts.

Our entire community is grieving with this amazing family. That is what Millerton is about, heart and coming together for others. Sure wish that was more reflected in your "news story" for the week.

My apologies to the family for having to see the paper this week.

All my heart,

Melissa Marcoux

Millerton

**"Real change,
enduring change,
happens one step
at a time."
Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

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As a veteran, I support Sue Serino for New York State Senate

I'm a veteran and a senior and nothing about this pandemic has been easy. I'm a social guy, used to people coming and going from my home that I'm fortunate to share with my daughter and her family. In a typical week, we get visitors almost every night, and I've never been dependent on anyone for anything. The lock down and the isolation it's cre-

ated hasn't been easy and I just want to publicly thank State Senator Sue Serino (R-41) for always being there for guys like me and my family.

Last weekend, I attended the drive-thru senior event she held with the Office for the Aging and a drive-thru veterans appreciation dinner she put on with the great guys from Vet2Vet. I've been go-

ing to these events for years and I was so happy that Sue got creative to make them happen for us again this year, at a time when they were more important than ever.

While most people have been retreating into their homes, it's clear that Sue has been out there every day helping to keep people safe and working for us. As a Korean War veteran, I spent a lot

of years around politicians, and I know that most make a lot of promises they never seem to keep.

Not Sue. She's always there for us, no matter what challenges come up along the way.

That's why I'll be proud to vote for Sue again this year and I hope others will do the same.

Martin Kirwan

Wappingers Falls

MILLBROOK

Brian Hicks wants to use his skills as the next mayor

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — A well-known face around Millbrook, Brian Hicks is lauded for more than a few things, but he is probably best known as the leader-in-chief of the annual Parade of Lights every holiday season that brings thousands to stand along village sidewalks to watch roughly 75 decorated vehicles make their way from the firehouse to the Thorne Building and back down Merritt Avenue. Now he wants to be mayor. He's running on the Citizens Party line.

Hicks is also a familiar face at practically all of the community's civic events, and at anything having to do with the fire department and the rescue squad. As a first responder, and a volunteer with the fire depart-

ment for about 34 years, Hicks was named Town of Washington Volunteer of the Year in 2016 and Fireman of the Year in 2019.

Professionally, Hicks, now retired, served as both safety inspector at Grand Central Station well as general station manager at Grand Central Station.

"If I could manage Grand Central Station, I should be able to manage a village the size of Millbrook," he quipped.

Raised in nearby Clinton Corners, Hicks moved to Millbrook with his wife, Elizabeth, a retired registered nurse, years ago. They raised two daughters in the village; one now lives in Albany with her three children, two girls and a boy, ages 1, 3 and 5. Hicks is a devoted grandfather, spending quality time with his grandchildren is among his favorite things to do.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Community volunteer and former multi-term village Trustee Brian Hicks is running to be mayor.

His daughter, Erin, is a fifth-grade teacher at Alden Place Elementary School in Millbrook. She and Hicks worked together

this spring planting the beautiful geraniums in the many barrels up and down Franklin Avenue. Volunteering, it seems,

runs in the family.

Hicks has served on the Village Board before; he won a special election for a trustee position in 2016, earning 436 votes for a two-year term during which time Hicks helped unanimously pass the Fireman's Pension Fund.

Hicks also served three two-year trustee terms in the 1980s, so he knows the duties the position entails. He is a strong believer in preserving the best of Millbrook, he said.

Nowadays, Hicks said, he is aware that COVID-19 has caused serious damage to the local economy, and is focused on finding solutions and setting priorities to repair it.

"We need to support our businesses," he said, "to keep our small businesses from closing."

He also has concerns about

the village's infrastructure, which he feels needs special attention.

"We have to set priorities because we don't know how much funding will be coming from the county or the state," he said. "We could be running short. But it's something we can get through working together."

What Hicks said he wants is to work hard as mayor, keeping Millbrook the quiet and community-minded village that it's built its reputation around.

Once the pandemic is over, Hicks is committed to once again hold the popular Community Day, Fireman's Parade and Carnival and, of course, holiday parade, with many dozens of vehicles bedecked with colorful lights, and just possibly a Grinch, perhaps stealing a Christmas tree or two as he's done in years past.



The Millerton News is running candidate profiles throughout the month of October. There are three candidates running for Millbrook mayor; one is featured on this page. The other two profiles can be found on Page B5. The village trustee profiles, printed in past issues of The Millerton News, can be found online at www.tricornernews.com, as can all the profiles once they've been published in our newspaper.

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