



**MILLERTON**  
Library Holds Annual Craft Fair With Record Turnout **A2**



**AMENIA**  
Fire Company Holds Drive-Thru BBQ Fundraiser **A3**

**COMPASS**  
Dining & Rare Waterfowl; Horror Films; Surviving Quarantine Portraits; And More **B1-2**

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Incumbent New York State Senator Sue Serino (R-41) has served since 2015. She's being challenged by Democrat Karen Smythe, who ran against Serino in the 2018 election and lost by less than 700 votes.

## State Sen. Sue Serino fights to stay in office

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — New York State Senator Sue Serino (R-41) has filled her two-year term position five times since 2015 — now she's seeking her sixth term. Having accumulated much political expertise in that time, she also brought with her a background in business and real estate. Serino vows to continue to fight tax and fee increases based on New York City politicians, and points to her leading the way in securing personal income tax cuts in Albany. She said

she's also been front and center in securing tax cuts for local homeowners. Serino knows Dutchess County well, having been raised here. And she also knows the trials and tribulations families go through living in the county, including the hardships of being a single parent. As a single mother she worked hard; she worked as a waitress, quickly rising to become a restaurant manager. The birth of her son, Anthony, precipitated a move into the childcare business.

Being born into a family of im-

See SUE SERINO, A6

## Molinaro to lead state's county executives assoc.

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
editor@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro has been making a name for himself in politics ever since he first took a seat as a village trustee on the Tivoli Village Board in 1994 at the tender age of 18. By the next year, he was being heralded as the youngest mayor to ever serve in the history of the United States of America.

Molinaro served as mayor for that tiny northern Dutchess County village five times before being elected to the county Legislature; he then served as legislator for four terms. Molinaro, a Republican, then continued his po-

litical ambitions in the state capital of Albany, as he was elected to represent the 103rd District in the New York State Assembly in 2006; he served in the Assembly until he was elected to lead the county in 2011 as its seventh county executive. He was the youngest county executive in Dutchess County history — only 36 at the time. In 2019, he was easily re-elected to serve a third four-year term. In 2018, Molinaro ran unsuccessfully as the Republican candidate challenging Governor Andrew Cuomo for that seat. It was one of his few losses.

Last week, on Wednesday, Oct. 7, the New York State County Executives

See MOLINARO, A6

## Fatal Route 22 car crash in Amenia leaves 2-year-old girl dead

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
editor@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — A 2-year-old girl is dead following a car accident that occurred on Route 22 in the town of Amenia on Thursday morning, Oct. 8, at around 8:20 a.m., according to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

According to a preliminary investigation report released by the Sheriff's Office the following day, the two-car fatal crash involved a 2018

Nissan Sentra operated by 26-year-old Millerton resident Reneisha Johnson. Johnson's 2-year-old daughter, Ellie Dunlop, was a passenger in the Sentra. Johnson was traveling southbound on Route 22 and was stopped in traffic for "an uninvolved vehicle making a turn," according to a release from the Sheriff's Office.

A 2000 Ford Explorer operated by 73-year old Amenia resident, Forrest McBreairty, reportedly struck Johnson's Nissan in the rear after failing to

notice it was stopped on the roadway.

Both occupants of the Nissan were injured upon impact; the child was seriously hurt. The mother and daughter were initially transported to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, from where they were flown to Westchester Medical Center. Ellie later passed away at Westchester Medical Center.

According to the press release,

See FATAL CAR CRASH, A6

## Democrat Karen Smythe takes a second run at state senate seat

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — A Democrat running for New York State Senate, Karen Smythe is an advocate for the environment. She is dedicated to fighting for lower carbon emissions, protecting the Hudson Valley's drinking water and to preserving the region's natural beauty. She is also running on the Working Families and Save America Service party lines.

Smythe is no stranger to this race. She ran against incumbent Sen. Sue Serino (R-41) in 2018, losing her bid for the two-year term by only 688 votes. She knew then, she said, that she would run again in 2020.

District 41 incorporates almost all of Dutchess County and the western half of Putnam County. In addition to the city and town of Poughkeepsie, it stretches from Red Hook to Mil-

See KAREN SMYTHE, A6



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Democrat Karen Smythe is running for a second time for the New York State Senate District 41, again against Republican incumbent Sen. Sue Serino.

## Sale of Kaplan Farm in North East depends on subdivision approval

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
editor@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — If all goes according to plan, come Wednesday, Oct. 14, Millerton resident and North East landowner Linda Kaplan will learn from the town's Planning Board if she will be able to subdivide her late husband, Sam's, family farm, which was left to her when he passed away in 2017. If so, two of the three par-

cells of the former Joseph Kaplan and Sons, Inc., Dairy Farm will finally be able to be sold — after more than a decade on the real estate market — though Linda is the first to admit that Sam could never really bring himself to let go of the family farm, no matter how much he grumbled about wanting to make millions from it.

"We had some offers, yes, but they were usually less than my husband wanted to take," said Linda in an in-

terview last week. "The honest answer is, I don't think Sam was too anxious to sell. He loved the farm. I think it worked out the way it was supposed to. He didn't have to see the farm go. Everyday, he would go down and spend time there."

The Kaplan Farm is known to most people in the area, even if not by name. It's right on Route 22, south

See KAPLAN FARM, A6



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**OPINION**  
Next Steps For Local Journalism; Letters **B4**



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# MILLERTON



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

NorthEast-Millerton Library President Debbie Ruppel welcomed visitors to this year's Craft Fair, held on the library's front lawn Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Crafts galore at library fundraiser

MILLERTON — The North-East-Millerton Library couldn't have asked for a better fall day to host its annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 10. Traditionally held inside the library annex, this year's craft fair was organized on the library's front lawn from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with tables spread out to promote social distancing in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

From pottery, photography and glassware to jams, blan-

kets, cozies and clothing for babies, adults and dolls, the fair's handmade wares offered a little something special for visitors looking to do some early holiday shopping for their loved ones.

Everyone was required to wear a face mask while at the fair as a safety precaution. Raffle tickets were available for purchase for the chance to win gift baskets and certificates; all proceeds benefitted the library.

— Kaitlin Lyle



A member of the NorthEast-Millerton Library Board and a resident of Millerton, John Lloyd volunteered his time at the annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 10.

## Webutuck superintendent 'humbled by success' of district's hybrid reopening

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — One week before the North East (Webutuck) Central School District was set to move into a hybrid instruction model, the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) discussed the logistics involved and addressed the public's questions and concerns at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 28, held via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It met again last week to assess the reopening's success.

Initiating the conversation, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani assured the public that "a tremendous amount of work and hours have gone into trying to cross every t and dot every i... Where we need to be is having our children in school — we all want that; there's nobody here that doesn't want that."

While acknowledging the district is now better prepared to deliver remote instruction and students now better adapted to learn online, Castellani stressed the best place for them to be is in the classroom.

But not everyone returned on Monday, Oct. 5. Out of the 601 students enrolled in the district, 159 students opted to continue with remote instruction while 226 students in grades pre-k through sixth are attending in-person; 216 students in grades seventh through 12th are attending in-person; and 108 student cohorts in grades seventh through 12th are attending in-person.

Because plans are based on these numbers, Castellani said the district cannot allow for students who chose remote learning to come back to school until after Wednesday, Dec. 23. The plan, he said, is that the district has enough space and enough staff for pre-k students to come in four days a week with schools closed on Wednesdays for deep cleaning. Students in grades seventh through 12th would come in on a hybrid model with one group of students coming into school on Mondays and Tuesdays and another group coming in on Thursdays and Fridays with a deep cleaning day on Wednesdays.

Castellani said the BOE went through each classroom and measured how many students could fit inside while abiding health guidelines. Desks have since been situated based on the guidelines and all "non-essential" furniture and materials

removed and placed in storage.

The district also looked at student enrollment and dividing individual classes by grade level into a number of sections to accommodate the smaller class sizes. For example, while the kindergarten class would originally have two sections with 21 students per class, there are now three sections with 10 students per class.

Castellani gave an overview of the choices of district-provided transportation or private transportation as well as the one bus run schedule, the school day schedule plan, mask breaks, lunch and an explanation of what the school day looks like for in-person and remote stu-

dents in k through sixth and seventh through 12th grades.

"There is no manual telling us how to do this; we have looked at what other school districts have done, we've visited other school districts, we have talked countless hours planning this out," he said. "I'm sure there will be some type of fly in the ointment in the first few days and weeks and we have to work through it... unless you start getting the train moving forward, the train stands still and we can't have that."

Throughout the remainder of the discussion, Castellani and administrators answered questions related to substitutes, bus schedules, student illness,

sessions for special education, determining student cohorts, lunch structures and more from the public and the BOE.

In reflection of how Webutuck fared during the first week of its hybrid instruction model, Castellani said on Friday, Oct. 9, "I am humbled by the success of the program the first week. I could not be more pleased and thankful to our staff and our faculty and our students for adapting to this new normal that we have right now."

"Students have been following protocols and guidance by staying socially distant, by wearing their masks and following our directions in the hallways and on buses," he continued. "They seem happy and pleased in every conversation I've had with them to be back. Our faculty and staff have put their best foot forward in making sure our students are welcomed and are exposed to an instructional model both in-person and remote that seems to be a success so far."

A copy of the hybrid re-entry plan is available at [www.webutuckschools.org](http://www.webutuckschools.org).



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

### Donors give at critical time

A resident of Troy, Alexis Sluus made a life-saving donation at the American Red Cross Blood Drive held at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex on Friday, Oct. 9. She, along with all other donors that day, also had her blood tested for COVID-19 antibodies. "There's always a critical need for blood no matter what's going on in the world," said American Red Cross Team Supervisor Jeff Becke. "People always seem to come out when there's a great need."

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## Bulk Trash Day Oct. 17

MILLERTON — The town of North East and the village of Millerton are joining forces for its residents to offer Bulk Trash Day on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 8 a.m. to noon at the old North East Town Garage at the corner of Fish Street and South Center Street. Due to COVID-19, masks are required.

Residents will unload their own vehicles into separate metal, electronics or bulk containers.

### Acceptable items:

Bulk Trash: Residents can bring bulky items including metal, lawn mowers, tools, appliances, furniture, carpeting and junk.

Electronics for Recycling: Computers, monitors, fax machines, printers, stereos, flat screen TVs, telephones, lithium and sealed lead acid batteries (non-automotive).

### Do not bring:

Paint cans, propane tanks, car batteries, alkaline or rechargeable batteries, tires or heavy construction debris. No box trucks, please.

### Fees:

- Pick-up truck or trailer: \$30 to \$60
- Car: \$15 to \$30
- SUV/van: \$30 to \$60
- Oversized item: \$50\*
- (\*At the town's discretion)
- Electronics for recycling: N/C
- Tube TV: \$25
- Unit with freon: \$30
- Mattress or box spring: \$10
- Appliance: \$10 to \$30

## MILLERTON IN BRIEF

### Candidates forum for Town Board Oct. 22

There will be a Candidates Forum for the North East Town Board on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m., sponsored by the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

The forum will be online only; go to [www.NEMillertonLibrary.org](http://www.NEMillertonLibrary.org) to RSVP or submit a question to the candidates. Questions must be pertinent to the actions and role of the Town Board.

Thus, questions on health care, foreign policy, etc., are not permitted. Questions may only be posed by residents of the Town of North East or Village of Millerton, and members of the press.

George N. Kaye and Claire Owens will answer questions from moderator Meg Downey.

Call 518-789-3340 for more information.

### Auxiliary & Sons of Post 178 BBQ Oct. 17

The Millerton American Legion Post 178 Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion will hold one of their first joint events since the coronavirus pandemic hit, planned for Saturday, Oct. 17.

It will be a Take-Out Only Chicken Barbecue with sides and dessert. Din-

ners can be picked up at the American Legion Post 178, 155 Route 44, between 4 and 6 p.m. Advanced tickets are available from any Legion member or by calling or texting 518-755-0291. The cost is \$15.

All community support is greatly appreciated for this important fundraising event.

Send news and photos to [editor@millertonnews.com](mailto:editor@millertonnews.com)

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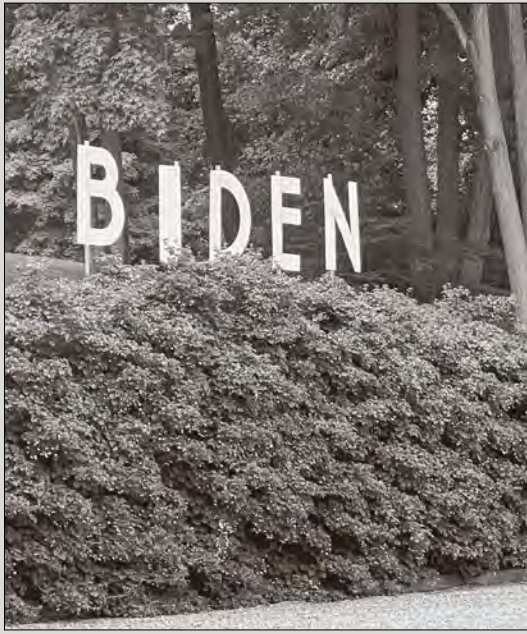
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## Political divide



PHOTOS BY LEO BLACKMAN

The Biden sign supporting the Democratic presidential nominee installed on Wassaic resident Leo Blackman's front lawn was torn down after roughly three weeks. There's still been no word on who vandalized the sign.

WASSAIC — In the spirit of local political activism during what has been a decidedly tumultuous national election season, Wassaic resident Leo Blackman set up a sign with large letters reading, "Biden," left, on his front lawn on the first of September.

By the morning of Sept. 23, however, he saw that the large white

letters spelling out the Democratic presidential candidate's name had been torn down by an unknown vandal, leading Blackman to question how the act of intended political intimidation "compared to no peaceful transition of power," which President Trump has alluded to during his numerous speeches and tweets.

— Whitney Joseph



## Town Board trades ideas for the future of Wassaic Park after much research

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Inspired by a presentation by Councilpersons Damian Gutierrez and Vicki Doyle, the Town Board discussed what it would like to see at Wassaic Park, also known as Borden Park, in the coming years when it met in August.

The board gathered in person at Town Hall, where Gutierrez explained he and Doyle compiled information during the previous six-plus months regarding the park. After speaking with a number of local residents and children at the park, he said the two of them wanted to consolidate all of the data into one presentation for the board so it could discuss the park's future.

Gutierrez said the biggest challenge is that Wassaic Park is underutilized. In addition to offering few amenities, he said the park hasn't been maintained adequately or regularly. He said the board has received numerous resident complaints regarding maintenance, safety, access and the lack of amenities. Specific site challenges focus on its remote location, parking issues, security concerns and environmental concerns due to its proximity to the Wassaic Creek.

Delivering a quick overview of the parcel on which the park is located, Gutierrez said it's about 13 acres and the site — located in the hamlet of Wassaic behind the former Borden Condensed Milk Factory (now Pawling Corp) — is shared with the town's current highway garage, which is in poor condition. Since the highway garage is to be relocated in the near future when a new garage is built,

he said a peninsula of land will eventually become available. Currently, the main access to the park is by a trail that runs from the railroad crossing that cuts through the hamlet center.

Gutierrez repeated one of town Supervisor Victoria Perotti's goals for this year: To make the park Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. So far, the grading at the park's entrance has been examined, new equipment has been installed and a fishing spot has been created.

Perotti shared a recommendation the town received about installing a handicapped accessible path to the fishing spot, adding that the Housatonic Valley Association has expressed an interest in helping the town do that.

Gutierrez said he sent out an email to families in the hamlet of Wassaic in January, inviting them to share any ideas they might have for the park. Some of the feedback he received included repairing the existing playground equipment; installing more lighting; offering adult activities, such as a dog park or a Bocce court; installing a skate park; as well as addressing general safety concerns from parents. Doyle spoke with neighborhood children in June and learned they would like higher swing sets, a decent slide and other new park and playground equipment.

Focusing on the playground, Doyle explained, "The whole reason why I got involved was really because it sounded like we needed to tear down the existing playground, and I wasn't positive that was necessary."

Aware of some missing parts of playground equipment and other related issues, Doyle said

she spoke with Highway Superintendent Megan Chamberlin, who said the playground could be repaired and didn't need to be torn down. Since then, Doyle said Chamberlin and Recreation Groundskeeper Shawn Howard have identified the missing parts and since purchased them, adding the town now plans to repair the playground for \$3,007.

This July, Gutierrez said he and Doyle held a virtual Town Hall meeting with children and their parents to solicit feedback. He said they heard a variety of sports-oriented ideas.

Gutierrez said he would love to find a way to use the park while also benefiting local businesses. What's critical, he said, is figuring out how the town can secure funding.

"I think that any ideas that we have that might be eligible or good candidates for any grant funding are things we should certainly explore," Gutierrez said.

He advised the board discuss a maintenance plan as well as a long-term plan for the park. If the board is more proactive about maintenance, Gutierrez said the town will be more likely to address any issues at the park before residents complain.

As the board suggested potential ideas for the park's future, Perotti said it needs better signage while Morris suggested investing in the park. The idea of a potential skate park was particularly well-received by the board members, and Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner said a skate park could Amenia on the map. Councilwoman Michele Somogyi asked if there was a way to get a grant to hire a professional who understands the lay of the land.

## Webutuck BOE gets kindergarten update

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — At its meeting on Monday, Sept. 21, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District Board of Education (BOE) heard from Webutuck Elementary School (WES) teacher Michelle Smith and district administrators to learn more about what's been going on in kindergarten. The meeting kicked off at 7 p.m. over Zoom due to COVID.

For those wondering what kindergarten might look like over a screen, Smith put together a slideshow to share what's been going on with kindergarten students enrolled at WES this year. As a longtime kindergarten teacher at Webutuck, Smith said that while she's taught kindergarten in a lot of different places — including the former Millerton Elementary School building and WES — "sitting in my living room, it's a whole new experience for me and the children."

Along with being able to see the positives of remote learning during the pandemic, Smith shared that she's been amazed by how the children have formed a community and how attached they are to each other and to herself. She also told the BOE students have been able to connect with each other and how being in their own homes has given them more opportunities to find things in common, turning school into a fun family experience.

As a celebration of how

families have been handling this new instruction model, Smith remarked, "When they say it takes a village, I've seen our village... I've seen the grandparents, the aunts, the uncles, the neighbors, the babysitters. I've gotten to talk to all of them every single day over my computer and as a person who lives in this community, it's just given me a great sense of pride to really see how people have been able to step up and help the children and make it really meaningful and active for them."

For those worried about kindergartners staring at a screen all day, Smith assured them that the district has tried to balance full-class instruction, small group instruction and independent work. She informed the BOE that it's sent students a tin of materials with manipulatives for children to build and count with (such as pattern and counting blocks), a container of Play-Doh, scissors and a binder for everyday writing practice.

As she talked about the activities students have been working on as of late, Smith said one of the goals for this year entails "connecting concepts across the curriculum and really trying to make learning real in real-world experiences and having the children represent their knowledge in real-world experiences."

Smith concluded her presentation by sharing how proud she is of the community for helping to start the school year on a positive note for Webutuck's youngest students.



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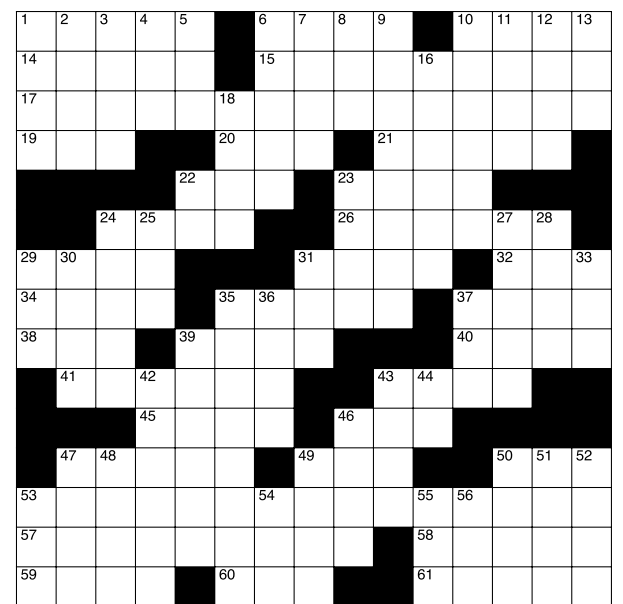
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Battered corners: dog—
- \_\_\_ Mater: one's school
- National capital
- Frogs and toads order
- Bathrooms (French)
- Praise
- Witch
- Consume
- Pork and lamb are two types
- Rocky peak
- Women's undergarments
- From end to end
- Bed sheets
- South Sudanese king
- Dislike immensely
- Diving seabird
- Breathe noisily
- Full of roots
- Inside
- Small island in a river
- Tear into pieces
- "CSI" actor George
- Make less dense
- Derogatory term for a country native
- Pike and pickerel genus
- Important in respiration and other biochemical reactions (abbr.)
- Belgian city
- "The Joy Luck Club" author
- Essence of "Aloha"
- Suggestions
- One who overindulges
- Expression
- Maize dough
- Make into leather
- British noblemen

### CLUES DOWN

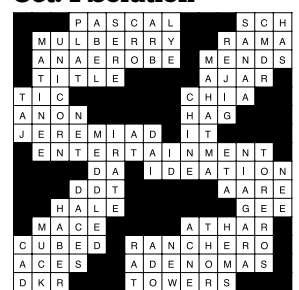
- One of two or more people or things
- Small, deerlike water buffalo
- Part of a ladder
- Unit of work
- Patriotic women
- Fragrant essential oil
- Aggressive, uncouth man
- One thousandth of an inch
- Brisk and cheerful readiness
- Serving no practical purpose
- Prevent from going forward
- Camera part
- Former CIA
- Colorless, odorless gas
- Long division of time
- Atomic #73
- Make a bleating sound
- The kids love him
- Female condition prior to menstrual period
- Founder of Sikhism
- Sudanese swamp



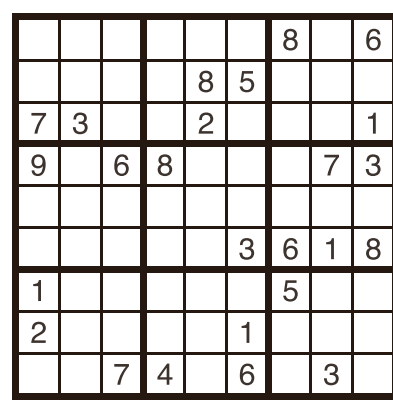
- He/she can help with your finances
- Part of the human body
- Mortar trough
- Greek island
- Change pagination
- Queens hip hop group
- Precursor to the EU
- A way to go on
- Slender marine fish
- Georgetown's mascot
- Farm state
- Military leader (abbr.)
- Russian river
- Teams' best pitchers
- In a more positive way
- Long French river
- Reactive structures in organic chemistry

- Distinctive practices
- Male gypsy
- When you hope to get there
- Men's fashion accessory
- Journalist Tarbell

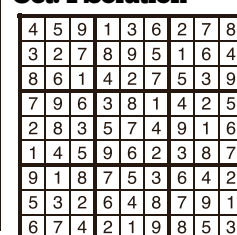
### Oct. 1 Solution



### Sudoku



### Oct. 1 Solution



Level: Advanced



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

## Finger lickin' good

Members of the Amenia Fire Company could be found cooking up a storm on Saturday, Oct. 10, as they sold dinners at their take-out only chicken barbecue fundraiser. With dinner tickets priced at \$15 each, the drive-thru barbecue was held at the Amenia firehouse on Mechanic Street. After checking in with the company's seasoned and junior firefighters, community members drove through the firehouse parking lot to pick up their meals between 3 and 6 p.m. for a Columbus Day weekend treat they were sure to enjoy.



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# MILLBROOK



The Millerton News is running candidate profiles throughout the month of October. There are four candidates running for two Millbrook village trustee positions; two are featured on this page. The other two trustee profiles ran in last week's Millerton News and can be found online at [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com), as can all the profiles once they've been published in our newspaper. Look for profiles on the mayoral candidates in next week's edition.

## Sierra Roth vows to bring youthful enthusiasm to Village Board

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judith@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Although Sierra Roth has lived in Dutchess County all of her life, growing up in the nearby town of Pleasant Valley, she is a relative newcomer to the village of Millbrook. She has lived in the village for almost three years.

"I absolutely fell in love with the community," she said.

Roth attended Dutchess Community College (DCC), earning a degree in Criminal Justice; she then attended the Police Academy. However, a life-long passion for horses led her to reassess her career, follow her heart and her dreams. She became a riding instructor, specializing in teaching youths.

Roth accepted a position to work for a local family, and moved to Millbrook to train and care for their horses. She said she appreciates the long history the equine community has in Millbrook, and she feels that the horse population and the beautiful local farms add great value to the area. She said she loves being a part of that life.

"As I got used to Millbrook, I decided to move into the village itself," said Roth. "The community has been more than welcoming and I see myself staying



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Sierra Roth is running for the four-year position of village of Millbrook trustee on the Citizens party line, with the hope of bringing new ideas to the community.**

a resident here for a very long time."

Having been here for almost three years has given her time to get to know the residents, she said, and to recognized issues facing the community. She said she's become concerned for the future of Millbrook.

"I noticed that there is no representation coming from

the younger generation and realized the need for a fresh outlook and a new perception, so that is why I decided to run for a trustee position," said Roth. "I care about Millbrook and its future — I would like to see more families come into the community to raise their kids and continue to grow businesses within the village to keep

the population up."

That's one issue that many have come to realize is important to the village's future — as the population has dwindled, it's become difficult for the schools to fill their sports rosters. And, of course, a shrinking population means a shrinking tax base.

Working as she does with mostly youths, Roth said she feels it is important to focus on the needs of the younger generation, as well as to take care of seniors and other residents. There is a need for inter-generational cooperation and new goals to be determined.

Used to hard work, Roth said she is willing and able to expend the energy that is required for making changes, and through both her formal education and her chosen career, she knows the value of discipline and organization. She feels she'll fit in with the rigors of government as much as she does with the beloved pastures she spends so much time on. Nurturing horses, she said, is akin to nurturing a village, sowing ideas and planning and developing concepts whenever needed.

"I hope to bring to the Village Board new energy, focusing on opportunities for a new generation of leadership," said the candidate.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Democrat Victoria "Vicky" Contino is running for one of two four-year term positions of village trustee on the Millbrook Village Board. She filled an unexpired term this year.**

## 'Vicky' Contino hopes to continue serving as trustee

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judith@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Incumbent Victoria "Vicky" Contino is running for a full four-year term as trustee on the Millbrook Village Board. She is currently filling an unexpired term for current interim Mayor Mike Herzog, who is filling the unexpired term for former Mayor Rod Brown, who resigned unexpectedly this summer before his term was to expire at year's end. Herzog will serve as mayor until Dec. 31, and is on the ballot Nov. 3 seeking another term as village trustee, running against Contino and three others, seeking the position he knowingly risked losing when he volunteered to take over the mayoral seat after nobody else stepped forward to do so. Contino liked filling in, and wants to remain on the board.

"I am running for Millbrook village trustee because, as an attorney, I spent 35 years helping arts and tourism, real estate, finance and human service clients resolve problems before New York State and local governments," said Contino. "I believe deeply that diverse interests can

come together to get things done that benefit both the private sector and the community, and have spent my career doing just that."

Especially essential in this rural area, Contino also has extensive success in securing government and land use grants.

Now retired, she and husband, Paul Ashlin, are permanent residents of the village, which they said they love for its beauty and community spirit. The pair said Millbrook is a place that is unique, affordable and vibrant, and a fine place to live, visit and conduct business.

Contino said she feels that if elected, she will bring a new perspective to village government, and that her understanding of government, its power, the duties of elected officials and the board's ability to regulate services will be invaluable in her service to the community.

She added that she learned many of her skills while working in New York City. She has served on the Board of GrowNYC, an organization that was developed to "improve New York City's quality of life through environmental programs that transform communities block by block and

empower all New Yorkers to secure a clean and healthy environment for future generations," according to its website, [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org).

"I want to apply my experience to preserve and enhance our quality of life in Millbrook, and promote our standing as a uniquely beautiful and vibrant village to visit," said Contino.

Leadership comes naturally to this candidate, who has shown her ability to work with diverse factions, to bring together community stakeholders and to work with decision makers in government during her brief time on the Village Board. Contino said she felt her late tenure as a trustee went well, and that the transition was fairly seamless; it also gave her an opportunity to see what to expect moving forward, if elected in November.

Contino was a partner at Wilsson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman, & Dicker LLP, in New York City, she led the firm's Government Relations practice, for 16 years; she was also a lead lobbyist for NYC's largest labor union. She earned her BA from Stony Brook University and her law degree at New York Law School.

### Help save a life

## Blood drive at the firehouse Oct. 21

MILLBROOK — The Red Cross is holding a lifesaving blood drive Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Millbrook firehouse, 20 Front St.

Donors are asked to make appointments by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor

App, visiting [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the do-

nor's immune system has produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms.

For more information, go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or visit the organization on Twitter at @RedCross.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INNISFREE GARDEN

### Autumn at Innisfree

Now through Nov. 1, enjoy the brilliant foliage and beauty of Innisfree Garden, and the glorious colors of fall, especially the rare Column Sugar Maples (botanical name *Acer Saccharum*), seen in the photo above. The garden is open rain or shine, Fridays through Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Innisfree has been named one of the 10 best gardens in the world. A special date is coming up: Saturday, Oct. 17. Two tours will be featured at Innisfree: The Curator's Tour and The Tree Lover's Tour, both at 10 a.m. Located at 362 Tyrell Road, Millbrook, reservations must be made at [www.innisfreegarden.org](http://www.innisfreegarden.org) or at 845-677-8000. Masks are required and social distancing protocols must be followed. For more information and to check out some gorgeous photos, go to Innisfree's website.

# Karen Smythe

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To see a full list of endorsements and more, visit

## www.karen4nysenate.com

Paid for by Friends of Karen Smythe

PINE PLAINS/AREA

# Celebrating all things autumn

HILLSDALE — The town of Hillsdale was recently overtaken by the autumn spirit as community members and weekend travelers participated in the ninth annual Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Running from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the festival was spread throughout the local business community and Hamlet Park, at the corner of routes

22 and 23.

From the "Gathering of Scarecrows" and other seasonal displays to the pumpkin painting, community tables, police and sheriff's department exhibits and more, spectators of all ages savored the sights, sounds and tastes of fall, all while abiding by the proper safety precautions during today's coronavirus pandemic.

— Kaitlin Lyle



Leya Baron, 3, above, checked in with Dr. Scarecrow, which Shannon Mays (not pictured) fashioned for Hillsdale's ninth annual Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, Oct. 10.



All while keeping herself protected against COVID-19, Sadie Geogorian, 9, pictured above, helped set up a few ghosts and goblins around Hillsdale's Hamlet Park at the start of the ninth annual Pumpkin Festival. Meanwhile, pictured at right, Leon Green, left, and Jason Durant welcomed visitors to the town of Hillsdale's Hamlet Park for the ninth annual Pumpkin Festival with help from Alfie, the French bull dog.

PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE



# Board of Education surveys past goals for business, facilities and community

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Continuing to review its goals from the 2019-20 school year on Wednesday, Sept. 30, the Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) assessed input from school district administrators of how its business and finance, district facilities and community fared last year.

Starting at 7 p.m., the entire BOE met via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following a thorough discussion of last year's curriculum and instruction goals (see story, this page), the BOE proceeded to analyze last year's business and finance goals.

With Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck supplying input for each of the BOE's business and finance goals, the BOE discussed its success in attaining those goals. This included being able to demonstrate "fis-

cal stability and reasonable tax rate" by keeping its 2020-21 budget increase under 2% and ensuring the tax levy increase was equal to the 2.43% tax levy limit; avoiding repeat audit findings for all audits; and negotiating and signing contracts with school unions "in a timely and efficient manner."

As far as establishing a future plan to prepare for the economic challenges entailed with a decreasing enrollment, Goldbeck reported that this goal is an "ongoing aspect of [the] budget development process."

Meanwhile, Assistant Director of School Facilities Mike Remsburger offered input regarding the BOE's facilities goals. Remsburger reported the district is continuing to work on its five-year facilities plan and is looking into additional areas that need attention, such as the roofs at Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center and Cold Spring Early Learning Center, the boiler at Seymour Smith and ventilation in the district. Additionally, Remsburger reported that the auditorium

project is 99% complete and that plans have been implemented to track and remedy environmental issues in the district.

For last year's community goals, the BOE received positive feedback from administrators in terms of how community relations have been enhanced through website improvements and by using multi-media communication strategies, such as parent Zoom meetings, "Virtual Literacy Week" and the "Bombers Athletics" Twitter account.

As part of her feedback, District Clerk Julia Tomaine reported that a district-wide calendar was created through its website host, Blackboard, and that building administrators and secretaries have been encouraged to use it.

For the board's goal of increasing voter turnout to 10% of eligible voters, she said 32% of eligible voters participated in this year's annual school board election, a significant increase from the 6% of voters who participated last year.

Regarding the goal of planning a commemorative event to

celebrate the 50th anniversary of Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, High School Principal Tara Grieb's feedback was that these plans might have to wait until the district is "more COVID free" or perhaps the event could be organized by the district's historical committee or alumni association.

Toward the end of the meeting, BOE President Chip Couse shared his appreciation of the effort the administration made.

# BOE reviews 2019-20 curriculum, instruction goals

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) welcomed input from administrators during its review of last year's curriculum and instruction goals at its meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

The meeting was organized via videoconference due to COVID-19; the entire BOE was present. Members were encouraged to say whether they wanted to keep a goal, change a goal or add a goal for this year.

Because the district was "sideswiped" in March by the pandemic, Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler said it didn't have the best data available. For example, because the New York State Department of Education (NYSDOE) canceled this year's Regents exams, the district had a difficult time measuring the percentage of students who received Regents diplomas with advanced designations.

Regarding efforts to continue monitoring the long-term effectiveness of its pre-k program, Handler asked the BOE if it wanted Cold Spring Early Learning Center Principal Gian Starr to do a new study or see if he can put together what former Cold Spring Principal Jay Glynn had learned before he retired. The BOE said it would be interesting to see if Starr has a different take on the study and if the program suffered under COVID-19. Handler suggested they give the task to Starr.

The BOE reviewed Director of Pupil Personnel Services Janine Babcock's input regarding the district's efforts to maintain opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in regular classes and extracurricular programs. Babcock reported that students with disabilities are being included in extracurricular programs and school functions, have been streamlined into general education classes where appropriate and are included with their peers in specials/electives, lunch and recess as much as possible. The BOE also learned from Athletic Director Rob Scott that the district is continuing to offer opportunities to students with disabilities through its unified basketball program.

When discussing the BOE's goal of academic growth for grades k through eighth with appropriate achievement testing, Handler said students took a pre-test at the beginning of the school year and then a mid-year test, but were unable to take the end-of-year test to measure their academic growth due to the pandemic. Based on his last conversation with Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center Principal Julie Roberts, he said Roberts plans to administer that final test when the students return to school in-person.

"It will be a good measure of what regression, if any, there was as a result of this whole nonsense," Handler said before suggesting the BOE set a goal to use the district's testing program to measure regression, if any, as a result of the extended period of virtual learning.

With the Chinese language program ending at the high school, Handler reported the district is still offering three levels of Chinese through the Orange-Ulster Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) program for those students still involved in the Chinese language program. This year, he said district's language program only offers Spanish, though Handler said he hasn't given up on offering American Sign Language.

With the goal of establishing a comprehensive attendance improvement plan at the elementary and secondary levels, the BOE reviewed feedback from Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School Principal Tara Grieb, Starr and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Timm. Grieb said attendance improved through the implementation of a social worker and the comprehensive multi-step system enacted at the junior/senior high school.

By enacting the comprehensive attendance improvement plan at the elementary school last year, Starr said there's been "increased communication between school and home" and the school has learned more about the individual situations of parents with frequently absent children. Overall, Timm reported that the trend of student attendance has improved during the past three years.

Send news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

## AREA IN BRIEF

### Harvest Dinner

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange #808 will host a Harvest Turkey Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville.

The menu will include roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, butternut squash, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

Dinners are take-out only; pick-up starts at 5 p.m. The donation for each dinner is \$15.

Face masks, gloves and social distancing are required. For reservations, call 845-868-7869.

## Realtor® at Large

Here is another lesson that has taken 20 years to learn: In purchasing farmland or commercial properties it is common to do some level of environmental review as part of one's due diligence. If a Phase 1 Environmental Review is presented by the seller, the report can be hundreds of pages of data, that to the layman it would seem that deciphering the Rosetta Stone would be an easier task. There is a solution, and that being to ask Rob Rein, LEP, to review the Phase 1 or 2 and to highlight the risks that a buyer should be concerned with. In addition, a clear path would be laid out on what addition tests should happen to protect the buyer and what the costs would be. Rob has just done this for a complicated property and my buyers now can make a knowledgeable decision to proceed or not. To contact Rob of Enviro Consultants, please call his cell at (203) 702-8833.



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**SUE SERINO** *Continued from Page A1*

migrants, Serino said she recognized the value of both education and hard work early on. Realizing the importance and advantages of being a homeowner, she became interested in real estate, and in helping her neighbors, family and friends achieve the American Dream of owning their own home. That was in 1996, when she opened a real estate office in the city of Poughkeepsie. By 2003, with a sales force of 23, she relocated her business to Hyde Park.

During that time, Serino had been dealing with problems she described as “inherent” in New York State, such as high taxes and bureaucracy; she decided to be proactive and make a change

in her community.

In 2010 she ran for and was elected to the Hyde Park Town Board; in 2011 she was elected to the Dutchess County Legislature. She worked diligently to make things more equitable for her hardworking constituents, trying to keep local taxes low. In 2015, she was elected to the State Senate to represent District 41.

Today, Serino sees a far different need in her district, as the coronavirus pandemic has created a new set of problems unique to this time period in Dutchess County.

“The Hudson Valley has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and rebuilding our community needs to be our top pri-

ority,” said Serino. “Now, more than ever, we need leaders who know we cannot tax our way out of this disaster and we need leaders who will take an innovative approach to help move our community forward.

“As someone who has been a working single-mom, I know what it’s like to live paycheck to paycheck and I understand the challenges too many of our neighbors are facing now,” she added. “As a small business owner who has successfully navigated a painful recession in the past, I have the experience and the proven ability to help get our community back on track and I won’t stop working to ensure the Hudson Valley has an inde-

pendent voice fighting for it in Albany.”

Serino will also be on the Conservative, Independent and Rebuild Our State party lines this Election Day. The state senator is endorsed by the New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association (PBA), the National Foundation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) and the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA).

She has served on several committees, including the Committees on Aging; Social Services; and Children and Families; as well as Insurance; Legislative Women’s Caucus; and Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

**FATAL CAR CRASH** *Continued from Page A1*

“Driver inattention and sun glare are thought to be the primary contributing factors in the crash.”

The Sheriff’s Office Detective Bureau and Crash Investigation Unit are continuing to investigate the crash and will

release more information when it becomes available; at the present time, no charges have been filed.

The Sheriff’s Office was assisted at the scene by the New York State Police and the Amenia Fire Department.

**KAREN SMYTHE** *Continued from Page A1*

lerton in the northern parts of the county and from Cold Spring to Lake Carmel in the southern parts of the county. It includes North East, Millerton, Millbrook, Amenia and Pine Plains, as well as Hyde Park and Fishkill.

When asked about the most pressing issues facing Hudson Valley residents and businesses, she paused before responding.

“While there are many issues facing our region, the pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for affordable high-speed broadband in rural areas,” said Smythe. “Whether it’s students learning remotely, seniors accessing telehealth appointments or employees working from home, it’s now abundantly clear that broadband is no longer a luxury — it’s become a necessity.”

Vowing to bring equity to the situation, she added, “I would partner with representatives like Congressman Antonio Delgado, Senator Jen Metzger and other Hudson Valley leaders to make sure internet providers are meeting their mandated requirements in terms of building the necessary infrastructure — and penalizing them if they’re not. Once the infrastructure is in place, I would work to direct

funding to ensure that municipalities like Millerton and others are able to provide service to low-income households that might otherwise struggle to provide service. Our reliance on broadband is only going to increase in the coming years and Millerton can’t afford to get left behind.”

Smythe brings to the position a business acumen earned as the first daughter in her family to head its construction business. She’s no stranger to hard work, negotiating and leadership, she said. She has also gained skills in communicating and working with others for the common good through her professional life.

Other issues on her platform include ensuring that veterans will thrive after returning from military service, with full access to mental health programs and legal services. She likes to be involved with veterans’ issues and is a member of her local VFW Auxiliary. She also promises to work to ensure a woman’s right to make her own reproductive decisions, and has been endorsed by both Planned Parenthood and the National Institute for Reproductive Health. Smythe was also endorsed by the Sierra Club, Food and Water Watch, a number of unions, by many Democratic organizations, both local and national, and the Military Sexual Trauma Movement.

Smythe is a native of Poughkeepsie, where she grew up, married, had her son and daughter, taught Sunday school and coached soccer. She advocates for issues like education as well as the need to keep the environment protected for future generations.

Always active in the community, Smythe has served on the Board of the Bardovan, the Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum and was a trustee at Vassar College.

Her campaign slogan is, “Let’s Build a Stronger Hudson Valley Together,” and said she hopes voters will give her the chance to do so.

**MOLINARO** *Continued from Page A1*

Association (NYSCEA), an affiliate of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), announced that Molinaro has yet again been elected to serve in a newly elected capacity. This time, it’s to represent his fellow county executives, as the president of the NYSCEA. It’s

not a small task, as it “represents the 19 counties that have county executives as their chief elected official. These counties, including the City of New York, represent 16.7 million New Yorkers,” according to the organization.

As usual, Molinaro was gracious upon his victory.

“These are challenging times for everyone. As county executives, our first responsibility is to serve the public, keep our citizens safe and help our communities thrive,” he stated in a press release. “But in this environment, we cannot do this by ourselves. We all need to work together,

and we need a strong partnership with the federal, state and local governments on behalf of all New Yorkers. I look forward to working with county leaders from across the state and building the necessary partnerships we all need to battle this pandemic and save our economy.”

**KAPLAN FARM** *Continued from Page A1*

of Millerton, at 5681-5705 Route 22 to be exact. It’s the colorfully painted building, next to a small bungalow that’s adjacent to an ancient but still beautiful farmhouse that appears in danger of falling down, which Linda said recently had a new roof installed to make it more attractive to potential buyers.

There are three parcels: Two of the parcels are in contract for an undisclosed amount. Linda said the parcels “have already been divided by Route 22.” The main parcel is 268 acres, and across the road on Route 22 is another 49-acre parcel. The third lot is 148 acres — that’s located on McGhee Hill Road, explained Linda. The North East Planning Board is holding a public hearing on Wednesday, Oct. 14, to grant minor subdivision approval. The application was originally submitted in July.

North East Planning Board Chairman Dale Culver doesn’t foresee any issues with the application.

“There really are no requirements. The land is cleaved by two different roads already, taking a section east of 22 and a section west of 22 that’s selling, and keeping a piece south of McGhee Hill Road,” he said. “Just the rest of it they’re selling. There isn’t even a line to draw really, in some sense, because the road is the line delineation. It’s no big deal. What happens afterward, that’s up to interpretation. The initial part is clean and crisp and really there’s nothing to deal with.”

Culver agreed that Sam had a tough time letting the farm go. He said it was a “family legacy” that ran deep. He added he hasn’t heard what the new buyer intends to do with the former dairy farm, and hasn’t asked Linda since it “isn’t his right because whoever the buyer is isn’t the applicant. Linda is.” Culver went on to add that, “I wish her well, that’s all, she sur-

vived a lot. She survived Sam,” he added good-heartedly, noting Sam was a character known to many in the local community. “She’ll survive this.”

Although she said she’s extremely pleased an offer was made for the farm, Linda said she doesn’t know what the plans are for its future either.

“Hopefully [it will get approved] but you never know till the last t is crossed and i is dotted,” she said. “That’s where I stand at this point. I have no idea what the buyer plans to do at this point.”

She added the farm had been “for sale for quite a long time, over 10 years.” Sam’s father bought the dairy farm in the early ‘40s, and then sadly it burned down in the 1960s. The Kaplan Farm was known around the region for its livestock auction, added Linda.

“I can remember as a kid, cars would be lined up, all down Route 22 for the auction on Mondays,” she said. “I think they had about 100 heads of dairy cows. There were auctions, all kinds. People who came to bid were from all over. I would meet people all the time who would say, ‘Oh yeah, my dad used to bring animals to the auction.’ I’m not sure when the auction ceased; I would say it went up to 1960 maybe, through the 50s at least. There was an auction in Wassaic. Yes, there is a lot of history.”

One thing that Sam constantly complained about when he was around, said his wife, was that the town’s zoning codes made it difficult for him to sell his property. Linda conceded that zoning could be problematic when trying to sell land in a rural area.

“Because there was nothing commercial that could be used there [we had a hard time selling the farm],” she said. “Sam had a hardware store that wanted to relocate there before he put

the farm up for sale, but zoning wouldn’t allow it. They weren’t interested in rezoning or anything like that. That was probably in the 80s.”

The Kaplan Farm is in the town’s A5A agricultural residential zone, where commercial development is not allowed under current zoning regulations.

Culver, for his part, agreed

that zoning can complicate selling land — especially when the buyer has specific intentions for the property.

“I don’t know,” he said. “Because zoning can always either help or hurt the sale of property depending on what you want to do or how a land is zoned because when you look a property you know how it its zoned.”



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYNE

**An autumn outing**

From left, Tiah Krasowsky, 2, and her sister, Gayla, 8, embraced the fall — and Halloween — spirit at the town of Hillsdale’s annual Pumpkin Festival with friends Charlie David, 2, and his sister, Lucy Amash, 7. For full story and more photos, turn to Page A5.

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**AREA IN BRIEF**

**Roe Jan Kill & Park Cleanup Oct. 17**

COPAKE — Be a part of the Great Giveback: Roe Jan Kill & Park Cleanup on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Roe Jan Community Library is partnering with libraries throughout New York State for a day of giving back to the community. The library is teaming up with the Riverkeepers, a Great Giveback partner for 2020, and National River Cleanup & American Rivers to clean up the Roe Jan Kill and Roe Jan Park.

Come prepared to get dirty! Rubber boots, even hip waders, are encouraged.

Volunteers will be clearing the Roe Jan Kill of debris, as well as the surrounding park land in order to help keep local rivers clean.

Go to [www.eventbrite.com/e/hillsdale-roeliff-jansen-kill-cleanup-registration-121418067709](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/hillsdale-roeliff-jansen-kill-cleanup-registration-121418067709) to register for the cleanup.

Masks and social distancing are required.

For more information on hours and events, call 518-325-4101 or go to [www.roejanlibrary.org](http://www.roejanlibrary.org) or [www.facebook.com/roejanlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/roejanlibrary) or [www.instagram.com/roejanlibrary](http://www.instagram.com/roejanlibrary).

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

October 15-21, 2020

DAY TRIP: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## A Spectacular Day of Dining, and Admiring Waterfowl

It isn't only the leaves that put on their most spectacular show of colors in autumn. It's also waterfowl, who moult their dowdy summer plumage in October and November and put on their finest feathers, as their six-month mating and courtship period begins.

That's what makes autumn the most perfect time of all to visit the Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield, Conn.

I traveled to Ripley last week, just as the ducks and cranes and swans were plucking at their old feathers, in preparation for the burst of autumn feather glory. Normally, of course, I wouldn't have known that's what was going on; I would have just thought they were, I don't know, itchy or something. But I was lucky enough to have as my tour guide Andrew Ocampo, who is the conservancy's director of aviculture and who is certainly the best informed expert on all avians of anyone I've ever met.

When I first drove up to Ripley, which turned out to be an easy 40-minute trek from my house in Lakeville, Conn., I was greeted by Executive Director Gavin Berger (who lives in Miller-ton, N.Y., and is an advisor to The Lakeville Journal



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

**Rare Siberian cranes are now in residence at the Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield, Conn., and can be visited on weekends (or during the week, if you book a guided tour).**

Co.) and Cate Hogan, the conservancy's chief operating officer — and a pair of statuesque Siberian cranes, who had arrived at Ripley one week earlier from their home at Zoo New England in Boston, Mass.

"The cranes are extremely rare," Hogan told us, and they had been sent to Ripley on sort of an avian couples retreat. The idea: To find the ideal environment for them to

breed, and thus to help revive a dying breed. Once you've seen these birds, you know they're eminent-ly worth saving. They are tall and magnificent, mostly white but with black feathers on their wings, which they unfold to greet you when you enter the conservancy grounds. They live near the entrance — in a tented area, not just to protect the cranes from human visitors but also to protect the visitors themselves; these are very large, very strong birds.

At first I'd thought our visit to Ripley would be just a nice day outdoors looking at cranes and ducks and geese and swans. Once Ocampo joined us on the tour, however, it became clear that there is much more going on at Ripley than just paddling. Ocampo himself has an understated "aw shucks" quality; it takes Hogan to explain that he is one of the most sought-after bird breeders in the

world. When I first heard this, I figured there would be test tubes and science involved, but as we walked around the grounds and the many ponds and pens, Ocampo explained that breeding birds has much more to do with creating the right mood, making sure the birds feel safe and that they are well-fed and comfortable. From there, nature does its thing (birds want to breed, Ocampo explained; like all animals, they have a biological imperative to replace themselves).

The next step is to keep the eggs and baby birds safe so they can make it to adulthood.

Ocampo won't always be available to act as a tour guide, but there are plenty of signs at each of the ponds and pens explaining what's what. You can also sign up for a guided tour, which will make your visit much more meaningful. There is a fee for the tour, however; but once you've spent a little time at the conservancy you'll know for sure that the money you give will be well-spent. For tour information, go to the website at [www.ripleyconservancy.org/guided-tours-field-trips](http://www.ripleyconservancy.org/guided-tours-field-trips).

You can also of course visit on your own, and you will still have a spectacularly good time, with lots of arresting visuals. This is a

*Continued on next page*

FILM: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## For Those Who Just Can't Wait: Horror Films

The suspense is killing us! No one knows yet whether trick-or-treating will be organized by towns on Halloween this year, which is leading to some perhaps seasonally appropriate terror (well, OK: anxiety) about what will happen on Oct. 31 and whether homeowners need to go out and buy large bags of candy in advance of the arrival of costumed children.

Until we know what's happening, there are other ways to express the yearning for Halloween horror — with horror film screenings at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., and the Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, N.Y.

There isn't room here to lay out ticket information, social distance requirements and other details, or even a summary of all the films, but here are the basics.

### COMING UP AT THE MAHAWE

The screenings are indoor but with limited capacity and social distance protocols.

Jordan Peele's 2017 "Get Out," will show on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 18, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Two high-definition screenings of the National Theatre's production of "Frankenstein" will show on two Wednesdays, Oct. 21 and 28, at 7:30 p.m. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch portrays Doctor Frankenstein in the Oct. 21 screening and The Creature on Oct. 28.

"Hocus Pocus," the 1993 film starring Bette Midler, Kathy Najimy

and Sarah Jessica Parker is Friday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 24, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

A true horror double-feature is saved for Friday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 31, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., with the original black-and-white film of "Frankenstein" from 1931 starring Boris Karloff and then the 1940 science fiction thriller "The Devil Bat," starring Bela Lugosi.

Go to [www.mahaiwe.org](http://www.mahaiwe.org) or call 413-528-0100 during box office hours (Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.).

### COMING UP AT THE CENTER

Screenings are outdoors, on the side of a barn and 40-feet wide, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 and 8:30 p.m.

The double features this weekend, Oct. 16 and 17, are "The Invisible Man" at 7 p.m. and "The Werewolf of London" at 8:30 p.m.

On Oct. 23 and 24, it will be "The Wolfman" at 7 p.m. and "Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman" at 8:30 p.m.

On Oct. 30 and 31, it's "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" at 7 p.m. and "Creature from the Black Lagoon" at 8:30 p.m. On Halloween, Oct. 31, each car will be given a bag of treats.

Go to [www.centerforperformingarts.showare.com](http://www.centerforperformingarts.showare.com) or call 845-876-3080.

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## FILLING IN THE MISSING NOTES WITH CRESCENDO

Listening to music is in itself a pleasant experience, but that experience becomes infinitely richer if you have some knowledge about what you're listening to and how it came to be.

Crescendo is a music and performing arts organization that is based at Trinity Church in Lime Rock, Conn. This year, because of COVID-19, all of the group's performances will be online, beginning this month with weekly dialogues and music from Crescendo Founding Artistic Director Christine Gevert and distinguished scholars and performers. The talks will give background and context to the works the group presents.

Then more than 60 performers from the U.S., Europe and Latin America

will come together for a Virtual Christmas Concert on Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. Taking part in the concert will be the Crescendo Chorus and Vocal Ensemble, soloists, Period Instrument Orchestra and Andean Instruments. Together they will perform excerpts of Johann Sebastian Bach's Christmas Oratorio BWV 248, works from the Colonial Latin American Baroque, 20th-century Argentinian music, and Gospel/Spiritual-based works.

To view the videos and get updates, go to [www.worldclassmusic.org](http://www.worldclassmusic.org). Coming up on Friday, Oct. 23, the topic is "Fun facts about the Baroque trumpet," with Christopher Belluscio.

— Cynthia Hochswender

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## LEARN TO MAKE A HOLIDAY WREATH, ONLINE

It's only October but it's not too early to start thinking about holiday wreaths. Connecticut Landmarks is offering a step-by-step evergreen wreath workshop, on video.

All of the necessary supplies to make an evergreen wreath with a decorative bow will be available for pick-up at several participating sites. Wreath kits include greens, a 12-inch wire wreath ring, wire, red bow, a link to the on-demand tutorial and written instructions.

In addition to the provided materials, a pair of gardening gloves and clippers are recommended for a more comfortable crafting experience. If participants wish to forage for pine cones, holly and other natural materials from their yard or garden (or purchase additional decorations), the how-to video will cover how

to add them to the completed wreath.

Once assembled, the wreaths will be approximately 24 inches in diameter. A live Zoom session will be available by appointment for additional troubleshooting.

The cost is \$45 per wreath kit (\$35 for members). Registration is due at [www.ctl-wreath-making.eventbrite.com](http://www.ctl-wreath-making.eventbrite.com) by Sunday, Nov. 15. The nearest pick-up site (on Friday, Nov. 27, 2 to 4 p.m.) is the Bellamy-Ferri-day House & Garden in Bethlehem, Conn.

For best results, greens should be assembled by Dec. 11. Completed wreaths can be shared on social media by using the hashtag #CTLWreathMaking. The wreath with the most "likes" by Tuesday, Dec. 15, at noon will win a prize.

To learn more, go to [www.ctlandmarks.org](http://www.ctlandmarks.org).

## CLAY WAY STUDIO TOUR IS ON OCT. 17 & 18

The fourth annual Clay Way Studio Tour of artists who do ceramics and pottery in the Tri-state region will be held this year on the weekend of Oct. 17 and 18.

As always, some artists will show their

work in the studios of other artists, so that there will be a total of 15 artists and nine studios in two states.

The tour is free and self-guided, so visit the website at [www.clayway.net](http://www.clayway.net) to see the map.

## PHOTOGRAPHY: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

### How we Survived the Quarantine — in Portraits

Cornwall's Lazlo Gyorsok spent the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic visiting (with masks and social distance) people in Cornwall, Conn., and seeing how they were spending time during the quarantine. The result is a collection of portraits called "While We Were Home," now on display at the Cornwall Library in Cornwall.

The photos can also be soon "virtually" at <http://lazlo.us/home>. You don't need to know any of the people in the images to understand what they're about; you see a little bit of all the characters who inhabit our part of the world.

There are young farmers with big smiles, full of hope and aspiration; refugees from city life, adapting to wearing blue jeans every day as their new uniform, looking for a quieter life closer to the earth; there are men with big beards; older women who are still beautiful in spite of (or because of) a light reliance on cosmetics; confident

youngsters; and dogs (lots of dogs).

The subjects of the photos are identified but there isn't any running text. Gyorsok's wife, Christina, summed up what people told her husband as he photographed them: "While we were home, we made music and art, walked with or without our furry friends, biked, spent more time with our families, honored our fallen soldiers, farmed, welcomed newcomers, worshiped, volunteered to feed our neighbors, sacrificed our safety to do essential jobs, spent more time outdoors and found new ways to care for each other. While we were home, we did what we do best: We did 'Cornwall.'"

The library show will remain up until Nov. 14. Any of the pictures can be purchased, framed, at the Housatonic Fine Art and Framing shop in Cornwall Bridge for \$125; of that, \$25 will be donated to the Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund.

For information on hours and COVID-19 protocols, go to [www.cornwalllibrary.org](http://www.cornwalllibrary.org).

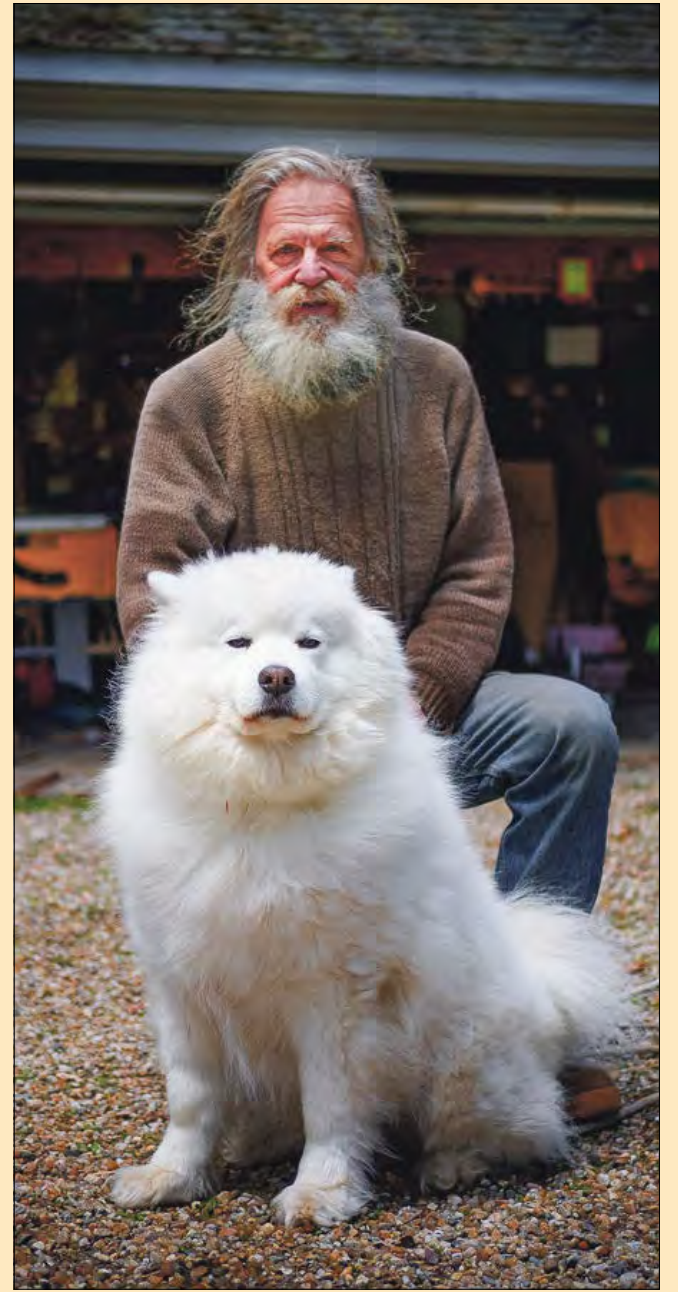


PHOTO BY LAZLO GYORSOK

This photo of Richard Manyak is part of a collection of portraits by Lazlo Gyorsok now on display at the library in Cornwall, Conn.

## ... dining and rare waterfowl Continued from previous page

very quiet, low-key preserve, probably not a great place for kids who want to run energetically and chase the swans. Although it's not stated explicitly, this is also not someplace you'll want to bring your dog.

You can only visit on your own until the end of November, but you can arrange tours all year. You can also organize a special raptor tour, with Ocam-

po himself; the website offers information on the different raptor opportunities, but for one of them, visitors can have a raptor land on their arm, which I think would be about the most thrilling and terrifying experience ever.

The Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy is in Litchfield, Conn., on Duck Pond Road. Within an easy 10 minute drive are several culinary stops that will round out your visit and make it completely worth it to take a day trip to Litchfield:

- Thorncrest Farm and Milk House Chocolates, 280 Town Hill Road in Goshen, Conn.; [www.milkhousechocolates.net](http://www.milkhousechocolates.net). Handmade chocolates, created with milk from the

cows on the (exquisitely clean) farm.

- Dutch Epicure, 491 Bantam Road, Litchfield, [www.dutchepicure.com](http://www.dutchepicure.com). A second-generation shop that is like a treasure trove of delicious baked goods, soups and curries, and European preserved goods (from pasta to jams) — and 30 varieties of licorice.

- The three Arethusa emporia, which include the ice cream and cheese shop, the sandwich and coffee shop (Arethusa a mano) and the luxury restaurant (Arethusa a tavola). All are within steps of each other.

- The sandwich shop is at 833 Bantam Road; you can park there, put in the order for your glorious sandwich, and while you

wait you can walk next door to buy some loaves of exquisite, freshly baked bread from Bantam Bread, 853 Bantam Road, [www.bantambread.com](http://www.bantambread.com).

- For an old-school coffee house meal, you can go instead to the famous Patty's, which is next door to Dutch Epicure and, for now at least, has outdoor dining under tents. Patty's Restaurant is at 499 Bantam Road, [www.pattys-litchfield.com](http://www.pattys-litchfield.com).

- And if a visit to Ripley inspires you to seek out other nature preserves in the area, you will pass by the White Memorial Conservation Center as you leave Ripley and head to the more epicurean sites on this list. [www.whitememorialcc.org](http://www.whitememorialcc.org).



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

After working up an appetite on a tour of the Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield, Conn., get lunch and treats at some excellent area shops and restaurants, including Dutch Epicure, which carries 30 types of licorice (among other rare delights).

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EDITORIAL

# Next steps for local journalism

As promised last week, here is more on the way this newspaper will continue to find ways to maintain a viable business model for local journalism. As noted, this is the first week the Lakeville Journal Company is instituting a price increase for single copy sales at dealers, as well as for print and online subscriptions. During the COVID-19 pandemic changes, in a cost-saving measure, we took the opportunity to shutter our Millerton News office, now operating both The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News from our Falls Village office, and remotely. The world has changed since March, and in order to stay up and running, every business, large or small, has to change as well.

Another way we have targeted to save money is by changing printers this week, from our longtime partners at Trumbull Printing in Trumbull, Conn., to The Berkshire Eagle, New England Newspapers, in Pittsfield, Mass. Sometimes change needs to happen in order to minimize costs and maximize efficiency, and that is what we hope will come of this move. It is also a way we can support the local, independent journalism that is happening now at the Eagle and their other New England Newspapers.

One of the things that makes The Lakeville Journal Company unique is not just that it's a provider of local journalism, but also that it's independently owned. Most of the local media in our region was bought by large corporate owners over the past decades, and it was not easy for this little media company to retain its individuality. It is owned by a board who cares deeply about keeping local journalism alive, and independent. In fact, if you look through the newspaper this week, you will find them listed in the statement of ownership required by the U.S. Postal Service to be run for the public to see every October. Only gratitude to our owners on behalf of those who work at the company and our readers. If it weren't for their dedication to this cause, it's very likely this local media would either no longer be around, or would be owned by a large corporate entity and look very different than it does now.

Our commitment is to provide the best coverage we can for our communities during this time of massive change. Last year at this time, we did a survey of our readers and established a for-profit membership model that was very successful, from our point of view. This year, as we analyze the way to survive through 2021 and beyond, we will maintain that basic model, calling it a contributors' model, while still having people on our board and advisory board looking into options for a possible nonprofit arm of the company. Please take note of an inserted letter and return envelope in the newspapers Oct. 22, which is from our ownership on the planning and needs as we continue through our 124th year in business.

And thank you for your support of local journalism. It is readers like you who have kept us going for 124 years.

## 'My opinion should be just as respected as yours'

To Mr Klein, in response to your letter to the editor of Oct. 8, maybe I am, in some people's eyes, bigoted, prejudiced, biased or whatever else you'd like to label me. I believe, if you want to live in the United States, live with our freedoms and the rights our forefathers fought for, then please, please respect my rights and try not to shove your thoughts, beliefs and criticisms down my throat through the protests, riots and destruction of property that some or all of these groups are perpetuating against these victims, our own people, who really have done nothing to these rioters. No other word fits better than victims.

We all have choices to make. We all have opinions that disagree with others. When those disagreements turn violent then everyone loses.

My opinion should be just as respected as yours. I don't impose my opinion on anyone unless they ask for it. When asked, I will tell you exactly my opinion on any given subject. Again, that's my right. If it doesn't agree with you and you think I'm a weak individual and you begin to scream and shout obscenities, assault me or mine for not agreeing with you, then I have an issue.

The mainstream media has slanted the news, the Democrats

have shown that defunding the police, allowing the riots and destruction against American citizens and business owners is perfectly fine. The Democrats endorsed bail reforms that have released perpetual offenders over and over to commit more crimes. We are letting prisoners out of prison because they may catch COVID. Isn't it more of a risk that they'll re-offend than them catching COVID? I could go on and on.

If you need to put a label on me, then so be it. BUT, if you pin a label on me then you need to look in the mirror and decide what label you need on your chest.

I am an American through and through and I believe if someone doesn't like it here in the USA then there are jets leaving from every airport hour by hour. If it's so bad here, grab a flight and go. If you came here from another country that you didn't like and are now trying to change our country to yours, why did you leave your home country? Seems simple enough. Think about it.

I'd like to say thank you to The Millerton News for printing my letter of Oct. 1 without editing or deleting. I've gained respect for your newspaper and your opinions.

Ron Murphy

Millerton



## 'A matter of time' before someone gets killed

We have written to the Amenia town supervisor about a serious road hazard in our town that we hope that the town can correct. It would be most helpful if others who are concerned about this problem would add their voice to ours in urging the town to act.

The intersection of New York Route 343 and Yellow City Road is extremely dangerous. To make a left turn onto Yellow City Road after coming from the east along Route 343 is taking one's life into one's hands. In the one month that we have been living in our newly purchased house in the Troutbeck community, there have been four times when we have come close to being hit by a fast-moving car coming from the west on Route 343, around a blind curve, as we turned left onto Yellow City Road, extremely cautiously, to get home.

Two things need to be done, as soon as possible: First, the branches along Route 343, opposite the entrance to Yellow City Road, need to be cut back. They make visibility around the curve, which would be poor in any case, even worse. Second,

and much more important, the signage along Route 343, in both directions, needs to be improved. For cars driving west, toward the center of Amenia, there is only an inconspicuous marker of an upcoming intersection. For cars coming east, away from the center of Amenia, there is no marker whatsoever warning of an intersection. It is these cars that are most at risk of hitting a car turning left onto Yellow City Road. It is critical that cars driving in both directions be warned by prominent caution signs.

This problem is an emergency, which requires immediate action. If the town can solve it, it should do so promptly. If the town does not have the necessary authority, town officials should do whatever they can to get the county and/or the state to fix the problem.

We can not overstate the urgency of this matter. We are afraid that if remedial action is not taken soon it is only a matter of time until someone is seriously injured or killed.

Cavin P. Leeman and Diane L. Zimmerman  
Amenia

## A letter of support for North East incumbent George Kaye

In these politically turbulent times, it is very important to have a voice of reason and experience representing us on the North East Town Board. We need to re-elect George Kaye to the Town Board for the remainder of town Supervisor Chris Kennan's vacated Town Council position.

As a former town supervisor and town councilman, I always depended on George Kaye for advice and counsel. His knowledge and advice were so important to me and the Town Board.

As supervisor, George's strong background in project

development led the Town Board in selecting and securing property for the shared Town/Village Highway Complex. His experience also was invaluable in working with Dutchess County in securing grant monies to start and to continue with this needed project.

The Town of North East needs to keep George Kaye on the Town Board! VOTE for George Kaye for town councilman!

John Merwin  
Former town supervisor and town councilman  
North East

## OK, let's focus on character

In response to Larry Conklin's letter in the Oct. 1 paper. Larry states, "Don't focus on characteristics, but instead on the character."

Mr. Trump professes to be a law and order person. I watched the first presidential debate on Tuesday, Sept. 29. All three participants knew and agreed to the rules, including not to interrupt. Mr. Trump interrupted 73 times. These interruptions included moderator, Chris Wallace, who was trying to maintain a presence of civility and decorum during the debate. Did this lead to order? No! It escalated to a level where only 19% of viewers found the debate helpful.

Mr. Trump's family attended the debate. They refused to have their temperatures taken and removed their masks once seated, flaunting the agreed upon rule.

Are they above law and order? It appears so.

Larry, you are a veteran who proudly served our country and you write the opinion column, Veteran's Corner, for this paper. If Mr. Trump is a man of character, how can you accept him calling our war hero, the late Senator John McCain, a "loser," and how can you accept him allegedly calling soldiers such as you, "suckers" for not avoiding the draft as he did?

You denigrate the "non-journalistic media coverage." When I started teaching, a revered teacher, Violet Simmons, suggested that I read The New York Times. I still do. Do you have a better paper than the one suggested by the highly respected Miss Simmons?

Roger Noel Price  
Millerton

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Barrett knows Millerton

As Mayor of the Village of Millerton and Supervisor of the Town of North East, we have each appreciated the care, the resourcefulness and the hard work that our Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106) has brought to the job.

Didi knows Millerton. She is a frequent visitor to our town, and has hosted numerous "Meet your Assemblymember" events at Irving Farm coffeehouse. She has shown a real concern for our issues, whether the need for a new grocery market, the lack of affordable housing or what could be done to help bring us a much-needed wastewater system, and she has delivered in so many ways. Courtesy of Didi Barrett, we will soon have

new solar crosswalk signs with warning lights in the Village. Didi arranged for Rudd Pond to get a new weed-harvester when the last one wore out, helping to keep Rudd Pond swimmable and boat-able. Didi is also working hard to help us finance our joint Village-Town Highway Garage.

We are lucky to have Didi Barrett representing us in the New York State Assembly. We are happy to support her and we encourage you to support her as well.

Debbie Middlebrook  
Mayor  
Village of Millerton  
Chris Kennan  
Supervisor  
Town of North East

## I believe that this paper is fair and balanced

I disagree with Mr. Chamberlain's assessment in his letter to the editor that ran on Oct. 1 that your newspaper's reporting gives preference to liberal opinions vs. conservative.

I find liberals tend to be more aggressively opinionated until challenged. Conservatives are more reluctant to voice their opinions. That is until recently.

Times are a changin', as noted in your Oct. 1 publication.

Editor Whitney Joseph has always been fair and direct with me, and I call it like it is. Keep up your good work, as usual. Let's pray for more hope and tolerance.

Larry Conklin  
Millerton

Editor's note: Larry Conklin writes the monthly opinion column, Veteran's Corner, for The Millerton News.

## 'Our last best hope for a peaceful transition of power'

We are a married couple in our 70s with children and grandchildren. We are deeply concerned for the future of our democracy. We are sending this letter to every National Guard Commanding Officer and to the top official of every State Police or Public Safety Department in the United States. We appreciate you taking a brief moment to read this.

"We, the people" are on our nation's continued journey to "form a more perfect Union" for the common good as is stated in the preamble to the Constitution. We, the undersigned, suggest that a review of your command responsibilities implores YOU to reassert a moral compass a la great leaders who've come before. Because if the s--t hits the fan or there is some ver-

sion of dystopia or if civil unrest materializes, we, the people, are relying on you!

We urge YOU to be prepared to be righteous Peacekeepers!

Early preparation, training and planning can build command controls that serve the whole of the people of this country. Violent agitation — be it the extremists, foreign governments or rogue players — makes YOU our last best hope for a peaceful transition of power.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would post this letter and make it available to your entire department.

With trust in you and great appreciation.

Arthur Moshlak & Lauren Astor  
Millerton

## Thank you for taking care of illegal helicopters

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote to express my frustration with the Amenia Town Board and building inspector for failing to address illegal helicopter landings in our town.

I understand that the property owner has now been served with a cease and desist letter.

I want to thank the board and the building inspector for addressing this dangerous and illegal activity.

I'm sure all of my neighbors will join with me in expressing our gratitude.

Kenneth Monteiro  
Wassaic

Another letter appears on the next page.

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support Jessica Segal for judge

I write in support of Jessica Segal for judge of the Dutchess County Court, which has jurisdiction over criminal cases. Ms. Segal's qualifications are excellent: 17 years as a Dutchess County assistant district attorney handling both appeals and trials, and three years as a defense attorney. As a former appellate attorney myself, I know how valuable appellate experience is. Together with Ms. Segal's trial experience, this means that she is intimately familiar with the way trials should be conducted. Her experience as a prosecutor was enriched when she entered private practice and began representing criminal defendants. Having seen trial work from both sides — prosecution and defense — Ms. Segal is particularly knowledgeable about the criminal justice system. This broad experience makes her particularly well-suited to serve as a judge hearing criminal cases. The ability to see both sides of a case is an essential qualification

for a judge. Also impressive is the compassion Ms. Segal has expressed for crime victims as well as defendants. As for crime victims, she has said, "There's a real human connection to bearing witness to someone's most tragic day of their life. I found it very rewarding to help people through that traumatic process, and to be a voice for them when they couldn't find the right words." As a defense lawyer she "saw a lack of regard for treating people with fairness and dignity. [People] were just a number, every case was just a number to push through the system." Peter Forman, on the other hand, seems to lack a sense of fairness and respect for the rights of others. He demonstrated this in challenging absentee ballots in the Independence Party's primary in June. He brought a lawsuit to challenge absentee ballots on vari-

ous grounds, including the argument that those who were afraid to go to the polls because of the COVID pandemic should not be able to vote by absentee ballot, nor should people hospitalized or at home caring for a sick or disabled person. Evidently, he did not want everyone to be able to cast a vote during these difficult times. Fortunately, the court ruled against him. There is also a practical reason not to re-elect Judge Forman: At the age of 65, he can remain on the bench for only five more years — half of a county judge's 10-year term. I'm older myself and have no bias against older judges, but 70 is the mandatory retirement age. Jessica Segal can serve out a full 10-year term and she brings a fresh perspective as an experienced prosecutor and defense attorney.

Amy Rothstein

Pine Plains

More letters on previous page.

Catch Sunday Night Football at Four Brothers Drive-In

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — From screening family favorites and "Throwback Thursday" films to drawing spectators together for a night of unforgettable entertainment, the Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre has been pulling out all the stops these last few months to keep the community entertained throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Just in time for the fall sports season, the drive-in has taken it a step further by streaming Sunday Night Football on its main screen. "We've always had the mindset that it's not just a theater for movies," said John Stefanopoulos, one of the owners of the Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre. "We have the screen — it's a tool to bring people together." Now that football fans are tuning in to catch the big game each week, Stefanopoulos pointed out that since sports are being viewed either on TV or on smaller screens, "we thought, what better way than

to have it on a big screen?" Starting Monday, Sept. 21, Stefanopoulos said the drive-in began selecting a couple of football teams to stream on the theater's movie screen. In lieu of purchasing a ticket, spectators only need to buy food in order to gain admission and reserve a spot at the drive-in. Stefanopoulos noted that while viewers can show up to the drive-in, they can't guarantee a spot. For food, football fans have their choice of two food packages, a food voucher or ordering food online. Priced at \$37, Food Package #1 includes a large one-topping pizza, a dozen wings and a 2-liter soda while Food Package #2 includes a large one-topping pizza, a large Greek salad, a dozen wings, a garlic bread and two 2-liter sodas for \$59. For the \$40 food voucher, spectators can come in and apply this credit toward their food order, spending a minimum of \$40. Also for a minimum of \$40, spectators can order online at www.playeatdrink.com and

their food will be ready by the time the game begins. With gates opening at 6 p.m., sports fans are encouraged to arrive early for the best parking and viewing. Following a live broadcast beforehand, the games will start around 8 p.m. While the theater's owners entertained the idea of hosting Monday Night Football on top of Sunday Night Football, they ultimately decided to stream football only on Sunday nights. Excited by the prospect of hosting another form of entertainment at the drive-in, Stefanopoulos said they're hoping to offer the sports viewing for as long as they can. "I think it brings people together," he said. "That's the goal the theater's always had: To be able to find ways to bring people together safely, responsibly and in an entertaining way." For game announcements and other details, go to the Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre website at www.playeatdrink.com.

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