

# The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs



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Thursday, May 28, 2020

Volume 89 Number 18 • 24 Pages in 2 Sections

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Wild Hive Farm Flour;  
And More **A9-10**

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PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, Mark Boissey, of the U.S. Naval Reserves; Jonathan Ialongo, a U.S. Air Force veteran who served two tours in Afghanistan; and Dani Masterson, a National Bugler from Wappingers Falls; stood in front of the Millbrook firehouse on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

## Memorial Day 2020

# Honoring fallen heroes amid a global pandemic

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
editor@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Dutchess County commemorated Memorial Day with a vehicle convoy that drove from Poughkeepsie to Wappingers to Fishkill to Beekman to Pawling to Dover to Amenia to Millerton to Pine Plains to Milan to Red Hook, back to Poughkeepsie through Rhinebeck and Hyde Park, all to honor this nation's fallen heroes.

It was a decidedly different kind of celebration of those who sacrificed their lifeblood for this country, which is today fighting a different kind of enemy — the coronavirus — which has killed almost 100,000 in the U.S. and 348,528 worldwide as of presstime on Tuesday, May 26.

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and Director of the Dutchess County Division of Veterans' Services Marc Coviello organized the convoy of police, fire and local municipality vehicles that traveled throughout the county on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. Typically, cities, towns and villages as well as American Legions and VFWs hold their own celebrations to honor veterans who died in service, but this year, with the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing regulations, it was not deemed wise to do so and most Memorial Day commemorations were canceled or closed to the public. The governor did allow gatherings of 10 people or less.

Yet Molinaro wanted to mark the

See MEMORIAL DAY, A8



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

This U.S. Army vehicle was part of the Dutchess County Memorial Day Convoy, pictured here leaving the War Memorial on Main Street in Poughkeepsie on Monday, May 25.

## Governor's COVID-19 metrics met

# Columbia County, Dutchess relieved to reopen for phase one

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
editor@millertonnews.com

HARLEM VALLEY — New York's Capital Region, including Columbia County, was given Governor Andrew Cuomo's go-ahead to reopen on Wednesday, May 20, at a time when much of downstate was still dealing with the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic. That was because the Capital Region finally hired enough contact tracers to meet all of the governor's benchmarks to start the first phase

of reopening the economy, beginning with construction, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, wholesale trade and retail business with delivery and curb-side pick-up only.

Dutchess County followed suit on Tuesday, May 26, as on Saturday, May 23, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said the Mid-Hudson Region had "successfully met all of the health metrics to reopen," with the balance of volunteer contact tracers finishing online training this weekend.

"Governor Cuomo has given us the green light for Restarting Dutchess on Tuesday," confirmed Molinaro.

On the 23rd, Cuomo addressed the reopening of the Mid-Hudson Valley Region at his daily press conference.

"In all these admonitions, all these pleas, the good news is remember it is working. What we are doing is working. You look at the New York curve, you look at how low it is, you look at the number of deaths, look at the de-

See REOPENING, A8

# Antibody tests at Sharon Hospital

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS  
Special to The Millerton News

SHARON, Conn. — As society slowly emerges from the COVID-19 quarantine, the question on the minds of many people has shifted from "Do I have the virus?" to "Did I have the virus?" — and therefore, do I have immunity from reinfection?

Even as antibody tests become available, uncertainty surrounds the issue, including how much protection is offered even if someone tests positive for COVID-19 antibodies.

"Right now, no one knows what the presence of antibodies really means,"

said Dr. Mark Hirko, president of Sharon Hospital, where FDA-approved serological, or antibody testing, is now offered.

"Are they safe from reinfection? Safe from not being contagious?"

Currently, he said, there are no clear answers. Even if antibodies were found to provide immunity, Hirko said, it is not known how long that protection would last.

Antibodies are proteins made in response to infections, such as COVID-19. They can be found in the blood of people who are tested after infection, showing that they have had an immune response to the coronavirus.

But some health professionals, and the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC), caution that rushing out to get tested for antibodies is not advisable, as the test has limitations.

"This test is not currently designed for individual use... to test people who want to know if they have been previously infected with SARS-CoV-2," according to the CDC. Rather, the serologic test has been "designed and validated for broad-based surveillance and research purposes, to provide information needed to guide the response to the pandemic, and protect

See ANTIBODY TEST, A8

To read "Field hospital is gone, elective surgeries return," go to [www.tricornernews.com](http://www.tricornernews.com)

# Webutuck school district awarded \$100K for health clinic on campus

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Amid the current global health crisis, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District was able to progress with its plans for an in-school based health clinic by securing a \$100,000 grant from the Foundation for Community Health, a private, not-for-profit foundation in Sharon, Conn., focused on improving the health and well-being of the residents of the Harlem Valley and the northwest corner of Connecticut through grants, research, technical assistance and advocacy.

The idea for establishing the clinic at Webutuck was first proposed last spring when Charles Davis, a nurse at Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, approached Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani to discuss the benefits of such a facility. Davis said students would benefit from having their primary healthcare needs taken care of with no out-of-pocket expenses.

If approved, Webutuck would be the first school district in the Harlem Valley to have an in-school based health clinic in place. To date, the Pine Plains Central School District, the Millbrook Central School District and

the Dover Union Free School District are all without their own health clinics on campus.

Impressed by the idea, Castellani asked Davis to develop a proposal to present to the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE). While the district was on summer vacation, Davis spent the time conducting additional research into in-school based health centers, during which time he learned that in order to offer such a program, school districts are required under state regulations to have a viable collaborator. By the start of the 2019-20 school year,

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## OPINION

Some Delays Cost Thousands Of Lives, Let's Hope Future Actions Save Others; Columns; Letters **A7**



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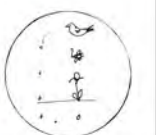
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**MILLERTON IN BRIEF**

**NECC Farmers Market open for business**

The North East Community Center's (NECC) Farmers Market takes place every Saturday at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Main Street, outside of the Millerton Methodist Church.

The Farmers Market asks all customers to please send only one adult family member into the market area, avoid loitering and follow guidelines

for social distancing as indicated by signs to keep everyone safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

For more information, contact market manager John Nowak at john@neccmillerton.org or call 518-407-7030.

Follow the market on Facebook @MillertonFarmersMarket and on Instagram @neccmillertonfmkt.

**NECC helps transport those in need**

The North East Community Center's (NECC) transportation program continues to operate for seniors and families and individuals who need transportation to access pharmacy, food and other emergency supply outlets during the coronavirus pandemic.

The center is currently transporting only one person per vehicle and reminds clients that NECC is unable to let anyone with a contagious illness or signs of the virus ac-

cess the service. Anyone who is ill should contact their physician directly to seek guidance.

Please check online, at www.neccmillerton.org, or call the program contact with further questions.

NECC is currently closed during the pandemic. However, it continues to operate remotely.

To contact NECC, call 518-789-4259 or go to www.neccmillerton.org.

**Virtually visit the Millerton library**

Visit the NorthEast-Millerton Library virtually every Wednesday, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and every Friday, from 1 to 2 p.m., while the library is closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Need help with the library's databases, have questions that need answers, or just want to

say "hi?" Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson will be there to chat.

Call 571-317-3112 and use the access code 310-897-565 to join in. New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: www.global.gotomeeting.com/install/310897565.

**Little Free Library Food Pantry**

Take what you need, and give what you can.

The NorthEast-Millerton Library has temporarily repurposed its tiny library on Main Street to hold shelf stable food items for anyone who needs them.

There are a few items in there now, but the mini-pan-

try could definitely use some more. Please make sure to leave items that are unopened and undamaged so that they can best be used by those who need them.

Please be mindful of the space and if the tiny library is full, don't leave donations on the ground.

Send news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

# Pollinator garden to provide safe space for the birds, the bees and the butterflies

By WHITNEY JOSEPH  
editor@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Thanks to the efforts of some very determined and energetic volunteers, the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) of the town of North East, Dr. Kristie Schmidt and a host of others, the village of Millerton will soon be blessed with a new community pollinator garden on Century Boulevard.

CAC member Mary Lynn Kalogeras brainstormed the idea after attending several of local farmers markets with CAC Chairwoman Dianne Engleke to share information about pollinators, and the desperate situation bees are facing right now. But, with the coming of the coronavirus pandemic, Kalogeras said her kids were going to "kill her" if the 77 year old kept going out to educate people in the midst of a health crisis — putting herself at risk — prompting her to come up with another idea. The solution? To plant the town's own volunteer pollinator garden.

The idea was further promoted when Schmidt agreed to donate the front lawn of her Century Boulevard office for the project for a garden plot that measures 20 feet by 30 feet. It's an ideal location, situated right next to the Millerton Post Office and the North East Town Hall.

"I thought, wouldn't it be great to have a garden in the village, where people could walk down and learn [about pollination]," said Kalogeras, who added there should be more than 50 native plants donated to the garden by the time it's finished. "It will be gorgeous when it's done. It will be full of flowers... The bees we're trying to attract are solitary bees, about as big as your pinky nail. They're native. Honey bees are not native to this country."

And that's key to the new community garden, which focuses on native plants as well as native bees, butterflies, caterpillars and birds. Kalogeras said in addition to getting the planting materials donated, including mulch and compost from



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Volunteers have been working diligently at the new pollinator garden on Century Boulevard, which was started by North East Conservation Advisory Council member Mary Lynn Kalogeras.

places like McEnroe Organic Farm and Agway in Millerton, other local businesses have donated supplies. She hopes more will do so. She's also hoping informational signs will be donated, so they can be posted throughout the garden to educate visitors about the role pollinators play in the food supply chain — something she's been thinking an awful lot about these days.

"We don't have a food source without pollination, in terms of vegetables and fruits," she said, crediting bees, "and they're involved in wheat production and oats and all the grains, too. That's one reason why people are so frantic about the loss of honeybees, which is obvious. What is not obvious, is you put up parking lots in spaces, covered by

concrete, they risk being lost. They've established these long relationships with native plants, which is what butterflies like; it's what bees like, what birds like, and that's important."

North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan commended Kalogeras and her initiative. She presented the project to the Town Board at its Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 14.

"I think it's wonderful and the goal is really that it should be educational, that's why it is being done there, right next to the post office, so people can understand better the role of pollinators to our local environment," said Kennan. "It is a project of the [town] CAC, but it's in the village, so it's a great location." The supervisor added that

"Councilwoman Lana Morrison volunteered to help with it," and depending on how many others volunteer, the work should finish soon, especially as "landscaping and garden work have been permitted by the state, even up to now, to some degree, and there will be more of that permitted as we move into phase one of the reopening."

On Thursday, May 21, Kalogeras noted that in addition to Morrison, Deputy Supervisor Ralph Fedele also volunteered. The two Town Board members were out that day, doing the grueling work of removing sod and carting it away — then covering the ground with compost. For herself, Morrison and the 88 year old Fedele, she said it was "hard work," but done fairly smoothly.

"It's been rough, but I think once you get something started, people are used to doing things for the town," she said. "This will hopefully get everybody started... Planting is the fun part."

It seems that it has encouraged others. There have been so many people stopping by to ask about the project and offer their help, in fact, that Kalogeras is no longer soliciting volunteers, though she's not turning them down, either. She said the town has reminded her that all volunteers must respect social distancing guidelines while working in the garden, which also lessens the number of people who can work at one time.

Kalogeras said there's still time to volunteer, though, especially as there has been some delay in getting the native plants, which has postponed the original planting schedule. To find out about volunteering, email Kalogeras at marylynnk@gmail.com. To learn more about Millerton's pollinator garden, go to https://millertonnewyork.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/PollinatorGarden.pdf. And to read more about the joy of gardening in the Tri-State Region, pick up this year's Towns & Villages special supplement, published by The Lakeville Journal Co. on May 21, 2020.



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# AMENIA/DOVER



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Dover High School faculty members Susan Forbes and Tessa Odell readied themselves for the Dover High School senior parade while the Dover Dragon made himself comfortable on the back of their SUV.

## Dover Dragons Class of 2020 honored with graduation parade

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

DOVER PLAINS — In a joint effort to give this year's graduating seniors one last hurrah before graduation, the Dover High School faculty banded together to organize a parade to the homes of the members of the Class of 2020 on Friday afternoon, May 22.

Organized by Dover High School faculty members Emily Krieger and Amanda Davies-Bogin, the idea for the parade sparked during a brainstorming session among the staff held virtually on Google Meet. Along with decorating their own cars for the parade, the faculty reached out to Dover's J.H. Ketchum Hose Company, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the New York State Police to have them participate.

Totalling 111 graduating seniors, the plan was to drive to each stu-

dent's home and present them with their own Class of 2020 lawn sign, a senior T-Shirt and other goodies. Dover High School Principal Eugenia Angelis also presented them with their caps and gowns. Though the students were instructed to be at home that Friday, they were otherwise unaware of the parade of decorated cars, school buses and firetrucks headed their way.

"I think they missed out on so much and this is one way to honor them and give them an experience we hope they'll really remember," said Dover Union Free School District Assistant Superintendent Donna Basting just hours before the parade.

District Registrar Robin Conklin agreed that the parade was a much-needed boost for the Class of 2020, which she said has been through a lot this year with the COVID-19 pandemic shutting

down schools statewide and canceling traditional graduation plans.

"So, it's nice," said Conklin, who was also on school grounds Friday morning making preparations for the parade.

Starting at 11 a.m. on Friday morning, the faculty gathered in the parking lot in front of Dover High School to decorate their vehicles for the parade. Before long, there were rows of automobiles decorated with balloons, signs, banners and even an inflatable dragon — the school's mascot — most of which were in the dressed in the orange and black school colors. Teachers sketched congratulatory messages in washable marker on the windows of their cars, while others set up the students' photos on the school lawn. Trailing behind the vehicles on a string, a clatter arose from the dozens of cans teachers festively fastened to their car bumpers.

By noon, all of the finishing touches were in place, and the teachers hopped in their vehicles and readied themselves for the signal to start. Led by a school bus bearing an enormous congratulatory banner, everyone made their way down the long campus driveway and headed out on the open road in the direction of the seniors' homes, scattered throughout Dover Plains, Wingdale, with some even residing in Wassaic and Millbrook, raising a cacophony of honking along the way.

According to Angelis, this year's graduation will be a hybrid between a virtual ceremony and a drive-in theater experience held on the high school campus on Saturday, June 27.

## Webutuck Board of Ed OKs 2020-21 school district budget

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — In what turned out to be a short but productive meeting, the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) approved the proposed school district budget for the 2020-21 school year and set the date for the mandated public hearing during the board's virtual meeting on Thursday, May 14.

In the months following the coronavirus outbreak, school districts across the state have had to adjust to a series of significant changes, from the postponement of the school board elections to schools being closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. On top of adapting to these changes, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District has had some concerns about the approval of the proposed school district budget for the 2020-21 school year. In an earlier interview with The Millerton News, Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani explained that without its approval, there would be a reduction in programs that would lead to a reduction in the district's workforce.

Along with the budget's ap-

proval, Castellani stressed the importance of making sure residents contact the school district to obtain a ballot so they can vote on the 2020-21 budget and in the BOE election.

"We need to make sure that people request a ballot if they're interested in having a vote," Castellani said hours before the recent BOE meeting. "We'd like to make sure everyone has a vote."

The BOE meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Webutuck BOE President Judy Moran moved to direct District Clerk Tracy Trotter to notify voters the public hearing on the budget will be Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. Moran also announced that this year's school district election and vote on the budget will be held on Tuesday, June 9.

Totalling \$23,909,545, the BOE approved the 2020-21 school district budget. The budget's anticipated revenue (exclusive of taxes) has been calculated at \$8,309,036 and the amount to be raised by taxes has been calculated at \$15,600,509.

Voters with questions related to their eligibility can reach out to Trotter via email at [tracy.trotter@webutuck.org](mailto:tracy.trotter@webutuck.org). Castellani clarified that qualified voters

on the most recent poll list will automatically receive an absentee ballot. For qualified voters who aren't on the most recent poll list, he advised they contact Trotter via email. He recommended that community members shouldn't wait to check to see if they are on the poll list; they should be proactive and contact Trotter so that she can cross-check the list.

"It's important that people let us know if they need a ballot to vote and contact either my email or Tracy's," Castellani emphasized.

Regarding the 2020-21 budget, Castellani reported on a later date that this budget has a budget-to-budget increase of 1.99% from last year and its levy is 5.99%, which he said is below what the district is allowed. He added that this budget also qualifies homeowners for the tax reimbursement. Castellani said that for a home with an assessed value of \$200,000, there is a \$6.32 increase per month — in essence, he said the value is \$173.50 less than it was two years ago.

For more information about this year's school district vote, contact Castellani at [raymond.castellani@webutuck.org](mailto:raymond.castellani@webutuck.org) or Trotter at [tracy.trotter@webutuck.org](mailto:tracy.trotter@webutuck.org).

### SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight

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## Recipes being sought: Share!

TRI-STATE REGION — During the COVID-19 quarantine, most nonprofit organizations have had to cancel their annual (and much loved) fundraising meals, from pancake breakfasts to chili suppers.

This is not only a loss to the community, it is also a loss to the nonprofits, which count on the funds those meals provide.

The Lakeville Journal Co. is preparing a special issue of Compass arts and entertainment that will be included with our issue of July 2. In that issue we will include recipes from some of our local organizations for their ham or lasagna or corned beef or roast beef or cakes or cookies or pies.

We are now collecting those recipes from any nonprofits that would like to participate. We will publish them with a couple sentences explaining what that organization does for the community.

And we will remind our readers that the \$5 or \$10 or \$20 they spend on a meal at the firehouse or the legion hall is meaningful even in normal times; and is even more meaningful at this time. We hope that seeing these delicious reminders of those favorite community meals will not only spark some nice memories, but will also

encourage community members to make donations large or small to the nonprofits that work so hard to keep our communities intact.

Any nonprofits and their donor cook/bakers are asked to send in their recipes by Wednesday, June 3, to [cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com). If you do not get confirmation, check back with us, we might not have received it. If you have a lovely photo of the finished food, please feel free to share it.

Restaurants are also invited to send in a recipe for a dish that is served at a fundraising event each year, such as the chicken pot pie dinner at The White Hart for the Salisbury Winter Sports Association.

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PINE PLAINS

# Community mourns loss of Stissing student Danny Hegarty

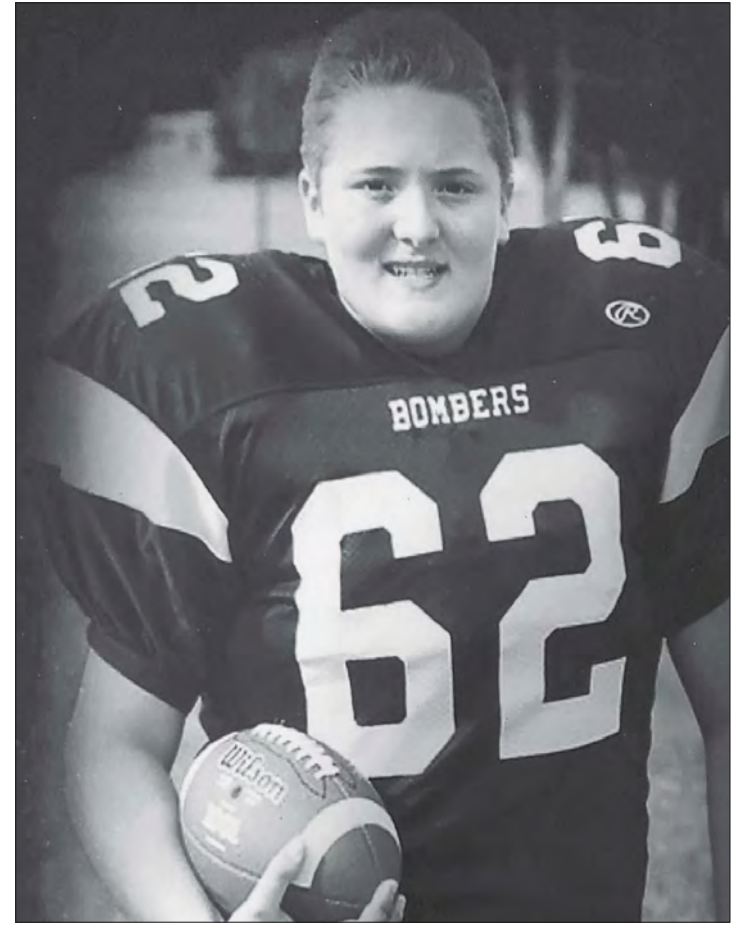
BY KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — In the midst of these already challenging times, the Pine Plains community was heartbroken to learn that Danny Hegarty, 18, of Clinton Corners, had passed away on Wednesday, March 25, following a grueling battle with the side effects of his leukemia treatments. Those who had the privilege of meeting Danny will attest that it was rare to find him without a smile on his face. Envisioning grand plans for the world and ideas for making it a better place, he led a brief but remarkable life. Where most children would turn the television on to "Spongebob Squarepants," Danny's mother, Maria Hegarty, said her son watched the news; where most teenagers would be ready at a moment's notice to exchange their devices for the latest version, she said Danny hated modern technology. A unique young man through and through, Danny enjoyed football, followed the stock market and carried a deep appreciation for music. "He was like an old soul in a

young body," she marveled. Above all, she recalled Danny's natural ability to find the fun in life and to make others happy, a quality that remained intact throughout his diagnosis and treatments. "He was very unique," Hegarty said. "There's not one word I can pick to describe him: He'd enter a room and he'd light it up... He was so much fun and funny and even on a bad day, he would turn it all around because he was so hysterical and he always wanted people happy." A graduate of the Stissing Mountain Class of 2019, Danny's kindness, humor and dedication to his studies will be remembered by his teachers and classmates. Even after he received his leukemia diagnosis at the age of 15, he continued both his pursuit of living life to the fullest and his focus on his studies, even taking his schoolwork with him during his time in the hospital. "He was a fighter in every sense of the word," recalled Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School Principal Tara Grieb. "Sadly, due to his illness, he missed much of his high

school years. He joined us when he could." Though he was able to attend his junior prom, Danny's health eventually made it difficult for him to keep up with the curriculum and he was unable to graduate alongside his classmates. Yet his message about appreciating the little things in life and maintaining a fighting spirit has stayed with Grieb. "His spirit will always be with us while his presence will be sorely missed," she said. Keeping a positive spirit throughout his ordeal, Danny went into remission in 2016 following a bone marrow transplant that he received, thanks to a bone marrow donation from his sister, Krystal. A staunch believer in service to his country, Hegarty said her son's Make A Wish was to meet President Donald Trump, a wish his family found a way to fulfill this past summer. However, the visit to the White House was cut short due to illness. Though Danny was deemed cancer-free, Hegarty explained that it was the treatments he endured that destroyed his internal organs and caused him to become sick again.

Having never left her son's side during the five years of his treatment, Hegarty recalled every moment of the hell her son endured prior to his passing. Addressing his wound care and taking on the role of her son's nurse and guardian angel during his sickness, she recounted that, even with everything that was happening to him, Danny remained in good spirits and never cried. In the adult intensive care unit section of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, Danny was officially taken off life support on Wednesday, March 25. Saying that her son has taught her much about life, Hegarty will always remember his love of life and his insistence on living every day to the fullest and make as many people happy as possible. "If he made one person a day in his life happy, that was his goal," she said. "He never wanted anybody sad ever. He loved his life and he took advantage of his life every single day. The only thing he didn't get to do is to thank everyone who helped him along the way."



A graduate of the Stissing Mountain Class of '19, Danny Hegarty, 18, of Clinton Corners, passed away on Wednesday, March 25, as a result of the side effects of his leukemia treatments.

# BOE reviews the end of the year, internet access, appointments

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — With a few weeks left until the school district budget vote and Board of Education (BOE) election, the Pine Plains BOE focused its discussion on school district business at its recent meeting on Wednesday, May 20.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the meeting was held via video conference due to social distancing rules in the days of the coronavirus pandemic. With the exception of BOE President Chip Couse, all BOE members were present along with Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler; Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Timm; Director of Pupil Personnel Services Janine Babcock; Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center Principal Julie Roberts; and Cold Spring Early Learning Center Principal Gian Starr. In Couse's absence, BOE Vice President Anne Arent ran the meeting.

Under the administrators' reports, the BOE reviewed end-of-the-year plans and discussed arrangements for families and students to pick up their belongings left in schools when the governor shut them down due to the pandemic. In lieu of gathering in-person for the traditional moving up ceremonies, there has been talk about hosting a drive-by event for the fifth-graders at Seymour Smith and a virtual bubble event for the first-graders at Cold Spring.

Handler then discussed what he believes is the biggest barrier to virtual learning: internet access. As estimated in a survey conducted by Timm, Handler said roughly 10% of households in the district don't have internet access or adequate access. Though the

district has done a lot of copying of hard copy instructional materials, Handler said it isn't as effective as online learning. "Particularly if we go to more synchronous online learning, the internet becomes a real critical thing," Handler said. Though he recognized New York State Assemblymember Didi Barrett's (D-106) help in trying to get the free internet access for students, Handler said this is still a work in progress. Additionally, he said the district is looking at what can be done to get internet to students who don't have it.

Based on what Director of Technology Richard Harlin has determined from reviewing all area internet providers located in the district, Handler said Verizon will offer a WiFi hotspot free of charge and unlimited data for \$40 a month, though he said this begs the question of who will pay for it. As a possible partial solution, Handler said Spectrum has a \$15 a month plan for students on free and reduced lunch plans,

though he noted that Spectrum doesn't provide coverage for the entire school district. Meanwhile, T-Mobile will supply a WiFi hotspot and unlimited data for \$20 a month, though the district would need to commit to the plan for one year. Handler said T-Mobile will send Harlin a trial phone to use in various locales in the districts to determine the provider's reliability.

"We have three weeks to go in the school year," Handler said. "We know we have some kids that are going to have to do credit recovery at the high school in order to stay on the graduation path, so they may be needing something this summer."

"Summer school is a big question mark," he added. "We don't even know if it's going to be virtual, in-person or whatever. In any case, we're doing... a lot of this planning for September because we know whether we're 100% virtual or partially virtual or whatever, we better have a plan in place to supply internet for all

of our kids. It becomes an equity thing: no kid should be disadvantaged because they're in a place where they can't get internet or can't afford internet."

Handler said the BOE should think about whether it is willing, particularly for people who show financial need, to pick up all or part of the cost. Timm also reminded the BOE that along with providing students with internet access, it should consider monitoring how it's being used.

The BOE then authorized the terms of a memorandum of agreement signed by Handler and the president of the Pine Plains Federation of Educators, Inc., dated Friday, May 15.

Next, the BOE appointed Renee Shea as a typist for a 26-week probationary period at a rate of \$18.57, starting Monday, June 1.

For the upcoming 2020 annual meeting and election ballot count on Tuesday, June 9, the

BOE appointed Linda Rosato as chairperson; Frank Nannetti, Patricia Nannetti, Rose Diaz, Helene Sellerberg, Debbie Demchuk, Jean Osofsky, Joan Taylor, Anne Noone and Abigail Audenino as vote tellers; and Patricia Audenino, Laura Rafferty and Maria Hutman as vote tellers and volunteers. The board also authorized District Clerk Julia Tomaine to make any substitutes if necessary. Moving forward with the fall coaching staff appointments for 2020-21, the BOE appointed Rob Scott as head coach and Michael Cooper, Steve Huber, Travis MacDonald and Jeremy Weber as assistant coaches for the Pine

Plains football team. For its boys soccer team, Steve Sandman was appointed head coach while Marco Reyes was appointed modified coach; for its girls soccer team, James Wiley was appointed head coach while John Blackburn was appointed assistant coach.

For the cross country team, Stephanie Rhoades was appointed head coach. For the volleyball team, Erin Doyle and Corrina Burton were appointed co-head coaches while Larry Strickland was appointed the modified coach. For the field hockey team, Deb Beam was appointed head coach while Kerri Seidel was appointed modified coach.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION - \*COVID-19 UPDATE\*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing of the qualified voters of the Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District will be held May 26, 2020. Copies of the budget and the text of any proposition that will be presented to the voters will be available for review by any qualified voter beginning on May 26, 2020 upon request by email to the District Clerk at [tracy.trotter@webutuck.org](mailto:tracy.trotter@webutuck.org).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the annual meeting of the qualified voters of the Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, to vote by absentee ballot exclusively upon the following items:

1. Shall the 2020-2021 Budget as adopted by the Board of Education in the amount of \$23,909,545, with anticipated revenue exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$8,309,036 and the amount to be raised through taxes of \$15,600,509, be approved?
2. To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education, for three-year terms, commencing July 1, 2020 and expiring on June 30, 2023.
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for the 2020-2021 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any taxpayer in the District during the fourteen (14) days

immediately preceding June 9, 2020 via email request.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election by absentee ballot exclusively due to the prevalence and community spread of COVID-19, that the potential for contraction of the COVID-19 virus shall be deemed temporary illness for all qualified voters. All qualified voters shall receive an absentee ballot with a postage paid return envelope. Completed ballots must be mailed and received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election and (4) not otherwise disqualified under the Election Law. Anyone who meets the definition of a "qualified voter", but does not believe (s)he will be on the School District's poll list, which contains the names of residents who voted in previous elections, please contact the District Clerk by email at [tracy.trotter@webutuck.org](mailto:tracy.trotter@webutuck.org) as soon as possible to ensure timely receipt of the absentee ballot for the 2020 annual meeting/election.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these rights should be directed to the Clerk of the Board. All completed ballots shall be mailed to the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available upon request to the District Clerk on each of the five days prior to the day of the election, except Saturday or Sunday, and the day set for the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law §§ 2035, 2008, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before May 8, 2020; must be typed or printed in the English language. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF DUTCHESS STATE OF NEW YORK.

Therese M. Trotter  
Webutuck Central School District  
Clerk of the Board  
Amenia, NY 12501  
@LEGALS2: <R>05-28-20

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For landowners with pastures and hay fields, this is a critical time for the wildlife that depend on this eco system. There are many endangered ground nesting birds that need to have the fields undisturbed during the time they are sitting on their eggs and rearing their young. These birds include the Meadowlark, the Upland Sandpiper and Bobolink to mention a few. In addition the unmowed fields provide cover for young animals like fawns who simply cannot get out of the way of mowers. So the Mass Audubon has come out with a great handbook for landowners to guide them in the best practices to promote wildlife and the health of their fields. One of the prime recommendations is to not mow the fields from May 15th to Aug 15th. For further reading, please go to: [www.massaudubon.org/content/download/19413/274073/file/Best-Management-Practices\\_Grasslands.pdf](http://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/19413/274073/file/Best-Management-Practices_Grasslands.pdf)



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# MILLBROOK

## Millbrook honors fallen heroes, despite pandemic

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — On a day over-cast and cool, a small group of people gathered at the Village Green to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in the line of duty. Around noon, cars followed the five Millbrook firetrucks, beeping their horns as they passed. It was not like other Memorial Day celebrations, COVID-19 had changed that, with Governor Andrew Cuomo barring gatherings of more than 10.

The flag flew at half-mast; there was no large crowd. In a short address, Washington town Supervisor Gary Ciferri mentioned the victims of the pandemic as well as those of veterans lost.

"This is normally a pretty big deal, but the main thought of Memorial Day remains and doesn't

diminish the service of those who made the ultimate sacrifice," he said before the service. "As a combat vet [of Vietnam] who came back unscathed, this is a special time to remember those who didn't. We can't forget those behind the occasion."

Mark Boissey, who is in the U.S. Naval Reserves and is currently seeking a commission as an officer in the Navy, related that he was away last year, and missed the Millbrook tributes.

"Memorial Day is so important, especially to those who have served," he said. "It was heartbreaking to think that it wouldn't be observed. In spite of the pandemic, we wanted some observance of the day."

He discussed it with close friend Jonathan Ialongo, an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and together they reached out to

From left, Air Force 105 Air Wing Division Former Tech Jeff Moseman; Naval Reserve member Marc Boissey, who serves in a mobile combat unit known as the Seabees; Jonathan Ialongo, an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who served two tours of duty in Afghanistan; and Washington town Supervisor Gary Ciferri, also a Vietnam veteran.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

the community.

"This will be different, much smaller, and we want to maintain the social distancing and all, but we still need to honor and do whatever we can to pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much for us," Ialongo agreed.

## Town Board discusses Recreation Department move, zoning, solar field at Cary Institute

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE  
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — Town Supervisor Gary Ciferri called a virtual Zoom meeting to order at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, and roll call was called by Town Clerk Mary Alex. The Washington Town Board met virtually to follow social distancing rules in the days of the coronavirus pandemic, per the governor's orders.

John Penny, the Dutchess County chair of the Complete Count Committee, spoke on the need for correct and inclusive Census counts in regard to fulfilling community needs for grants, funding, aid and various programs. Incomplete counts can cost communities in many ways, but especially in acquiring funding and support for programs. Penny assured the public that information is not shared with other entities, and that the Census is completely confidential.

It was announced that the Town of Washington Recreation Department is now located in Town Hall rather than in Village Hall, where it has long resided.

There were some department reports that were given to the town clerk and will be reflected in the official minutes of the meeting, which will be posted on the town website at a later date.

An e-mail from resident Susan Nestle was read by Ciferri regarding poor internet service in the area; there was a request to send the e-mail to the cable franchise and to Governor Andrew Cu-

mo's Task Force.

A COVID-19 update included information that the Highway Department and Transfer Station are considered essential services and the employees are working from their base locations.

The Town Hall is still closed to the public but town workers are providing services via phone, e-mail and are arranging licenses and permits to be picked up outside. Employees are working rotating shifts in the office and are also working from home.

Ciferri noted that the reopening of the town of Washington will have a phase two: service and professional businesses, on or about June 1, with limited assigned staff and hours, and continued limited access to Town Hall.

Tax collection ends June 1, then the reconciliation with the county will occur.

Councilman Al DeBonis reported on the May 5 meeting of the Planning and Zoning Boards. He said Millbrook Winery, Inc. is asking for a special permit to erect a temporary modular housing unit to house employees of the vineyard from April through November. The permit request needs to be filled in more completely and a few questions need to be answered but DeBonis said it will be temporary and will not be seen from the road.

Also, DeBonis reported on the Keller LLC-Michael DeBartolo line revision, which will convey two lots of 9.5 acres to DeBartolo, who will combine 9.5 acres

with two lots he already owns. The property is zoned in the R-5 District.

DeBonis then reported on a sign issue. Global Self Storage reportedly has three signs erected on its property, but the sign law limits two. However, the councilman said one sign is temporary and is there just for the business' grand opening in June; it will be removed after that. A second sign is over-sized. The business said it is willing to re-size the sign to the proper dimensions; the third sign, which contains the business' logo, will be allowed because when the grand opening sign is removed the sign with the logo will remain as one of the two allowable signs.

Resident Maryann Hegel asked for a wetlands permit to create a pond on the lower front corner of her property in an existing field that has been maintained and surrounded with new tree plantings. The property is in the R-10 Zone. If the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) allows it, the town is fine with it, agreed the board. A neighbor has a similar pond on their property.

Oak Summit Farm LLC and Millprop I LLC and Millprop III LLC are asking for lot line revisions. They are proposing to convey from the 93.33 acres of vacant land owned by the first party located on Altamont Road and Oak Summit Road a 24.55 acre parcel that will be joined with lands of Millprop III LLC. Millprop III LLC has a 9.58 acre parcel that will become part and parcel of land of Millprop I LLC.

Also, Millprop I LLC is proposing to convey a 4.36 acre parcel from their 108.8 acre parcel that will be merged with the 20.90 acre parcel of Oak Summit. This was brought to the committee by Brian Houston, L.S. The committee felt the land assessor should be dispatched to check the properties against land cards, but the deal would enable a driveway to occur, which is pending. No public hearing would need to be called, agreed the board.

Finally, DeBonis talked about the solar field erected by YSG across the highway from and by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies on Route 44. Originally in the proposal YSG, which is working with the Cary and supplying Cary with energy, would

build a berm, plant trees and hide the solar panels from view of the road. The initial tree plantings have yielded small trees thus far, and several of those have died. The panels are very visible from the road, and DeBonis and others want this rectified. Further research will be conducted, and the Town Board will be in touch with both the Cary and YSG; the initial agreement for the panels and solar panel use covers a 20-year time period, and it is not known how and/or when these panels will be removed or reach the end of their "life."

The meeting ended at about 8:50 p.m. to allow for an attorney-privileged meeting. The next meeting is expected to be held on Thursday, June 11.

### Reporter's note

In a recent article in The Millerton News, the Millbrook Educational Foundation (MEF) was mentioned for having donated 200 \$50 gift certificates to Millbrook Central School District students and their families.

Marona's Market was mentioned as one of the businesses from which the cards were purchased, but cards were also purchased at Nooch's Pub & Grill, Maura's Kitchen, the Millbrook Deli and the Millbrook Diner.

Representatives from MEF said they wanted to support several local businesses and wished they could have bought even more gift certificates.

We regret the omission.

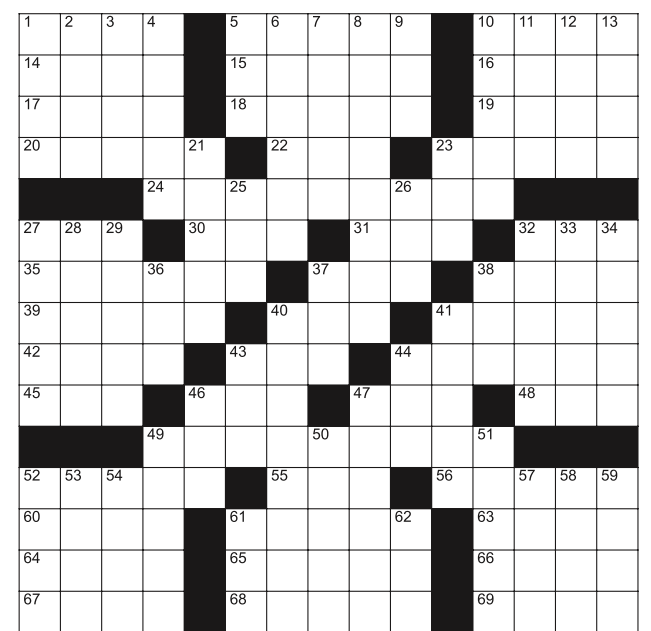
## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Common request
- Department in France
- Fungi cells
- Famed inventor
- Hillsides
- Cold wind
- La Tar Pits, Hollywood
- Resembling a doddering old woman
- Geological periods
- Assists
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Jewish spiritual leader
- English soccer club
- Body art
- No (Scottish)
- Clumsy person
- Swiss river
- Belittled
- Luxury car
- Single sheet of glass in a window
- Monetary units
- Supervises flying
- Indian term of respect
- Breezed through
- The bill in a restaurant
- Flower cluster
- Moved quickly
- Shooters need to do it
- High schoolers' test
- Split pulses
- Salts
- Breaking Bad actor Paul
- Set ablaze
- Semitic Sun god
- Nervous system cells
- Tourist destination Buenos
- A way to bind
- Behave uncontrollably
- Feels concern
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Subway dwellers
- Astrological aspect
- You may take one

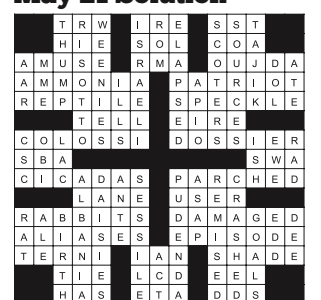
### CLUES DOWN

- Swedish rock group
- Serbian
- Away from wind
- Actor Oliver
- Helps little firms
- Intricately decorative
- American state
- Type of tumor
- Midway between east and southeast
- On a line at right angles to a ship's length
- Fruit of the service tree
- Grouch
- Romanian city
- Units of loudness
- British Air Aces

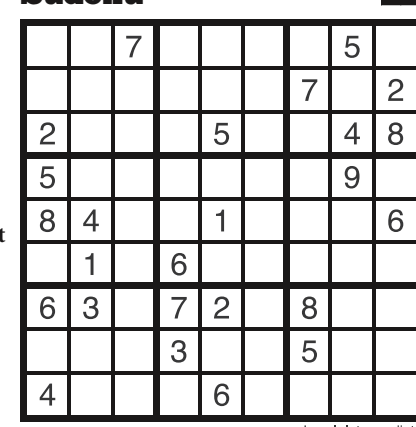


- Small amount
- Hem's partner
- Turkic people
- Member of the banana family
- Liam Neeson franchise
- Expressed pleasure
- Inward-directed part of psyche
- Insurgent
- Unhappy
- Gateway (Arabic)
- Fundraising political group (abbr.)
- Well-known
- Satisfies
- ' death do us part
- Jailhouse informant
- French river
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- Drenches
- Clouds
- Companies need to make them
- Created from seaweed
- One's school: mater
- A type of act
- Member of Russian people
- Neutralizes alkalis
- Monetary unit
- Play a role
- Midway between south and southeast

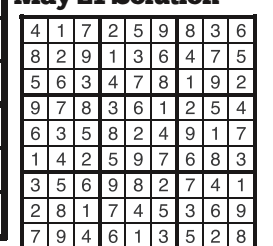
### May 21 Solution



### Sudoku



### May 21 Solution



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**REOPENING** *Continued from Page A1*

cline," the governor said. "Compare with the rest of the nation where you still see the rest of the nation's curve going up. So it is working. And what are we doing? It is the social acceptance and culture of being New York tough, which is smart, smart. Smart is get the test. Smart is protect yourself. Smart is risk, reward. Don't put yourself in a situation where it's not worth it." Two weeks ago, Cuomo approved the reopening of other regions in the state, including Western New York, Central New York, the North Country, the Finger Lakes, the Southern Tier and the Mohawk Valley Regions.

The Mid-Hudson Valley Region includes Ulster, Dutchess, Sullivan, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties. The Capital Region is defined as Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington Counties. Local towns in Columbia County include Ancram, Ancramdale, Copake, Copake Falls, Craryville, Elizaville and Hillsdale. Long Island is expected to reopen Wednesday, if it meets all the metrics. New York City remains the last region in the state to reopen. It was meeting the seventh metric that had delayed the Capital Region's reopening, as well

as stymied the Mid-Hudson Region — the hiring and training of contact tracers. Cuomo appointed former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to put together "an army" of contact tracers to identify all New Yorkers who have been in close contact with COVID-positive patients, to then be tested and potentially quarantined to prevent further spread of the disease. Earlier this month, Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell addressed the essential workers who have been manning the frontlines while non-essential businesses have remained closed in the state. Murell acknowledged how difficult it's been — and anticipated his county's economy reopening.

"We thank them for everything they do in the face of this terrible virus," he said. "We all look forward to the day when our everyday lives return to what we think of as normal." Molinaro, too, said he is excited to get Dutchess County back to business, and on the 23rd he thanked all county residents for doing their part to move toward reopening, adding they can't let up on taking preventative measures. "We now begin a new chapter," stated the county executive. "The work we all do going forward will determine our course forward. Businesses will be slowly reopening with strict

health and safety plans in place that must be followed. Public health teams will be watching all of the data closely to protect our community health. Individuals must maintain their vigilance in protecting themselves and their families — wear face coverings when going out, maintain social distancing and wash your hands. Continuing to make smart choices will protect our community." North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan addressed the governor's decision to reopen the Mid Hudson Valley Region in an email sent out on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. "There is some important news," he wrote, "Good and bad. The bad news is that this horrendous COVID-19 pandemic is still very much with us, and will be, to a greater or lesser degree, for a long time. The good news? We were just notified by Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro that we [Dutchess County and six surrounding counties] will begin phase one of reopening our economy this coming Tuesday, May 26. YAY!!

"For a community which has been lumped in with more densely populated parts of this county, and of other counties, this is welcome news," Kennan added. "For businesses which have remained shuttered for over two months, this is such welcome news. For all of you who have been helping others, making masks, making and

servicing and delivering food, working as first responders on the frontlines of health care, or serving our community and country in so many other ways, thank you! [But please don't stop!] For all those who have patiently remained house-bound, or mostly house-bound, and who have been diligently wearing masks in public and observing strict social distancing, this is welcome news." The town supervisor stressed that the region's reopening does not mean residents should relax taking safety measures — there's still a health crisis and people are still at risk of infection. He added that the North East/Millerton community has been especially effective at staying healthy during the pandemic.

"[This] does not mean that we should stop being vigilant about our own health, the health of those we love and the health of our friends and neighbors," he stated. "It is not a reason to stop wearing masks in public. And we need to continue to practice social distancing, as it is these practices that have helped our North East community have the lowest recorded rate of COVID-19 infection in all of Dutchess County." Back on Wednesday, May 20, during his online COVID-19 Town Hall, Molinaro said Dutchess County had met all of the governor's metrics to reopen — though not all counties in the Mid-Hudson Valley Region had done the same, as required for an entire region to reopen.

According to Molinaro's office, one "impediment" to the region's approval to reopen was the change made to the requirement for contact tracers. "While Dutchess County meets the state-mandated metric of 30 contact tracers per 100,000 population, with more than 90 contact tracers; the Mid-Hudson Regional Control Room announced yesterday the number of contact tracers for the region would now be based on infection rate, rather than population — and more than 1,800 contact tracers are needed region-wide. Dutchess County's required number of contact tracers is now 250." At the time, Molinaro's office

said the county was bringing more contact tracer volunteers on board, which it did this past weekend. As of presstime on Tuesday, May 26, more than 26,933 Dutchess County residents had been tested for COVID-19, with 3,825 testing positive and 138 county-wide deaths reported; 2,128 Dutchess County residents have recovered from the coronavirus. The statewide total of COVID-positive patients was nearly 360,000 as of the 26th, with 23,282 deaths reported. Following the latest guidance from Empire State Development, Molinaro stated that many Dutchess County businesses and low-risk activities are now permitted to resume, including:

- Socially distant religious services with 10 or fewer worshippers or in-vehicle services held at drive-in theaters or parking lots;
  - Municipal libraries;
  - Retail businesses (delivery and curb-side pick-up only);
  - Single student horseback riding;
  - Hunting and fishing clubs;
  - Acupuncture, when prescribed by a medical professional;
  - Pet grooming to ensure the health and well-being of the animal;
  - Auto maintenance;
  - Landscaping, gardening and horticulture;
  - Low-risk, outdoor activities including tennis, non-motorized boat use and rentals;
  - Golf and driving ranges, except miniature golf;
  - Drive-in movie theaters.
- After phase one of reopening is complete in a given region, the governor said he plans to wait at least two weeks before proceeding to phase two of reopening in that region, and may delay the next phase even longer if the area sees an uptick in infection rates. Phase two of reopening includes: Administrative support, professional services, real estate and retail. Phase three of reopening includes: Restaurants and food services. Phase four of reopening includes: Arts, education, entertainment and recreation.

**MEMORIAL DAY** *Continued from Page A1*

importance of the occasion. "Generations of brave men and women have protected this great nation, far too many of whom made the supreme sacrifice in defense of our country," he stated last week when the convoy was announced. "Just because we are physically distancing ourselves from one another during these strange times, doesn't mean we can't honor these courageous servicemembers who died to keep America safe. Nothing will stop us from honoring their legacies this Memorial Day." On the 25th, wreaths were

laid at the Dutchess County War Memorial, and vehicles driven by Dutchess County Sheriff's deputies in the convoy were decorated by local artist Leah Eddington for the occasion. Residents were asked to refrain from gathering in large group settings to watch the convoy. Instead, to show support, they were encouraged to hang American flags along the route, posted on the county website at [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov), and children were encouraged to display paintings and drawings of flags in their windows or on their driveways.

**ANTIBODY TEST** *Continued from Page A1*

the public's health." **Not all tests are alike** Sharon Hospital, said Hirko, "is the only hospital in the Nuvance Health system offering the antibody test," which aids physicians in determining who may be eligible to donate a part of their blood, called convalescent plasma, which may serve as a possible treatment for those who are most seriously ill from the virus. Although a number of commercially manufactured antibody tests that check for the coronavirus are available through health-care providers and commercial laboratories, Hirko said Sharon Hospital is "using the test that received FDA approval," as are other hospitals. The test requires a blood draw, as opposed to other methods that may use a sample of blood taken from a finger prick or a swab test. There are hundreds of antibody tests out there that you can

order online, Hirko cautioned, "but it is unknown as to the FDA approval status of the myriad of testing equipment available on the internet." As Connecticut and New York navigate their initial phase of reopening businesses, and in response to individuals and employers who see antibody testing as part of reentry into society, several statewide urgent care clinics have reported they are also offering antibody testing. **False sense of security** Hirko said that unlike the nasopharyngeal tests used to diagnose COVID-19, antibody tests at Sharon Hospital are not free of charge and might not be covered by insurance. A prescription is required; the patient must not have symptoms of the virus or if they suspect they have been exposed to the virus, they must wait 10 days before testing. The Sharon Hospital presi-

dent cautioned that while the antibody tests seem to be more reliable than the viral diagnostic tests, the hospital does not want to give people a false sense of security should they test positive for antibodies. "Nasal swabs have been very accurate. The Abbott rapid studies have a 12% to 48% false negative rate, which is not good, and this study [of the antibodies] is a lot more accurate — in the 90s and even higher," said Hirko. **Sailors reinfected?** Even so, Hirko offered this caveat, which he said is worrisome: The U.S. Navy has reported that five sailors from the virus-stricken USS Theodore Roosevelt who had recovered from COVID-19 and received two negative test results, recently tested positive for a second coronavirus infection. That brings the total of reported reinfected crew members to 13, according to the Navy. It remains

unclear whether the tests were faulty, or if the sailors were reinfected aboard the ship, docked in Guam. In a statement, the Food and Drug Administration said that, "At this time, it is unknown for how long antibodies persist following infection and if the presence of antibodies confers protective immunity." The hope is that ultimately the test will aid researchers in better understanding how widespread the coronavirus is. It is unlikely, said Hirko, that scientific research on antibodies will become available for at least one year to 18 months. "Right now, we are four months in with a brand new virus," said the hospital head. "It's hard to fathom, we have so many things to figure out. We don't know what the threshold is that would confer immunity. That is the great unknown."

**GRANT** *Continued from Page A1*

he had found such a collaborator in Open Door Family Medical Center. Davis proposed the idea to the BOE this past September, which shared Castellani's enthusiasm at the prospect of being able to offer immediate, accessible healthcare to students. The BOE encouraged Davis to return with a proposal. He did so in October, offering options for Open Door as the district's healthcare collaborator. Davis, Castellani and Webutuck Business Administrator Robert Farrier then secured Open Door as the healthcare provider of the district's proposed in-school based health center. Between January and March, the school district met with State Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106), State Senator Sue Serino (R-41), U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado (NY D-19) and Dutchess County Legislator Gregg Pulver (R-19) in an effort to garner support for the proposal. These meetings would later lead the district to reach out to the Berk-

shire Taconic Community Foundation in Sheffield, Mass., and then to the Foundation for Community Health. With the district's permission to move forward in applying for a grant, Webutuck Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer Eraca said she, Davis and Farrier completed a nearly 25-page grant application and submitted it to the Foundation for Community Health on Wednesday, April 15. She explained that the grant will allow for the construction and space modification for the health center's footprint on the Webutuck campus, which will meet the requirements set forth by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the New York State Department of Health. By Monday, May 4, the Foundation for Community Health awarded Webutuck a \$100,000 grant at its Board of Directors meeting; it notified the school district on Wednesday, May 6. Eraca shared the news about

the grant with the BOE at its virtual meeting on Monday, May 11. Overjoyed, she said she's now working on thank you notes to send out to the district's supporters. "It's exciting and it's a game changer for the district," Eraca said. Farrier announced that Webutuck has engaged CPL: Architecture — Engineering — Planning from Newburgh, to develop blueprints and specifications according to what Open Door Family Medical Center has seen at other in-school based health clinics in addition to the requirements from NYSED. At this time, Far-

rier said the blueprints are being developed and will be sent to NYSED for approval. Thanking the Foundation for Community Health for the grant, Castellani remarked on a later date that the foundation's grant to Webutuck "is something that is going to pay huge dividends for students in our community in regards to both physical and mental health. "This would be a difficult endeavor without their support," Castellani added. "I would like to thank Nurse Charlie, Dr. Eraca and Mr. Farrier for their hard work in getting that grant approved."

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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

May 28-June 3, 2020

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## A Little Horror To Brighten Up Your COVID-19 Crisis

Let's face it, this is a terrifying time: We are living in quarantine and trying to avoid infection from a potentially fatal disease.

Counter-intuitively, this might be the perfect time to check out two horror offerings from Netflix.

Some psychologists believe that watching horror can soothe viewers. There are many theories as to why, but one seems to be that watching terrifying events onscreen assures us that we're not alone, and helps us to externalize our inner fears.

### 'YOU' BRINGS HORROR AND LOVE

"You," a series now being offered exclusively on Netflix is ... well, it's a romantic tale about a serial killer.

Actor Penn Badgley plays Joe Goldberg, who finds a new woman to obsess over each season and woe to anyone who gets in their way of his romantic pursuits. Think of it as "Dexter" meets "The Philadelphia Story."

Joe is a New York bookstore owner who we come to sympathize with thanks to flashbacks to his childhood traumas and his own interior monologues. It also helps that his victims are pretty loathsome.

And, frankly, his unconditional commitment to the objects of his affection is endearing.

As you might expect, these are not traditional love stories — although critics of the show have said Joe is a traditionally manipulative narcissist and that the series is just a Bluebeard tale of cruelty and misogyny updated for the 21st century.

I think it's better than that, with layers of complexity added in alongside references to film classics (notably "The Philadelphia Story" — a clip from the film is even added in to one episode in season two).



PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Sophia Lillis stars in the Netflix series "I Am Not Okay with This."

So where's the horror? Well, try this. In season two, Joe is on the run from a revenge-seeking ex-girlfriend named Candace. He takes on a new identity that leads him to L.A., where he kidnaps a man named Will Bettelheim and assumes his identity. (Implausibly, Will is kept alive in a glass cage in a storage unit.)

Trouble is, the real Will owes some bad men a lot of money. Complications ensue. Joe does good things (such as defending his neighbor's increasingly imperiled young sister). He falls in love with a chef/heiress named Love Quinn (played with star-making intensity by Victoria Pedretti from "The Haunting of Hill House"). There is a pinky-chopping Mafioso. The gore factor rises, with appendages being taken hostage and body parts being fed through a meat grinder.

Strong, grounded performances make season two's increasingly outrageous plot twists credible.

### 'I AM NOT OKAY WITH THIS'

Elsewhere on Netflix, 17-year-old Syd Novak is suffering from the usual adolescent woes: acne, unrequited love, crazy hormones.

One thing that sets her apart from her high school

peers: She is learning to destroy and kill with her mind.

"I Am Not Okay with This" is a "Carrie"-like drama released in late February on Netflix. It is based on a 2018 graphic novel by Charles Forsman (who was the creator of "The End of the F\*\*\*ing World," which was also made into a television series).

Syd (played by Sophia Lillis) is a self-described "boring, 17-year-old white girl" who is in love with her best friend, Dina (Sofia Bryant). Unfortunately, Dina is dating golden boy Bradley Lewis (Richard Ellis). Eccentric neighbor Stanley Barber (Wyatt Oleff) is enlisted both as a heterosexual foil to match Dina's dating and later as a hapless but charming mentor to Syd and the budding superpowers she has to learn to control.

Syd's telekinesis is connected with rage and desire. There is also a mysterious presence that follows Syd, and that fades into black mist when anyone tries to look at it.

The producers of the Netflix hit "Stranger Things" were on board in the creation of this series, which will interest comic book fans with its superhero origin story; and which will appeal to film fans through rich cinematic moments

that borrow from teen classics such as "Pretty in Pink," "Heathers," "The Breakfast Club" and, of course, "Carrie."

The narrative is compelling; the characters are well-developed and are played with strength, energy and commitment by the show's young actors. The series also serves as a mini-reunion between Lillis and Oleff, who appeared in the horror films "It" and "It Chapter Two."

Mind-bending scenes aside, the show is also about friendship and surviving bad times. In seven episodes that approach a half-hour each, one can easily watch the "I Am Not Okay with This" in one sitting. It offers a brief but fruitful escape from the horrors of our outside world.

NF Ambery is an award-winning newspaper and magazine reporter published in *Genre*, *The New London Day*, *The Register Citizen*, *The Hartford Courant* and *New York Family* (where he was an editor).

ART FILMS: KAITLIN LYLE

## Intimate Talks With Artists, Directors

The screens are dark, the doors are closed and there's no popcorn for now at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., but owner and co-founder Carol Sadlon has been working hard to provide entertainment to her community, with "streaming" presentations of films, opera and more.

Now there are also intimate "Art Talks" hosted online by curator/consultant/studio artist Tony Carretta. In the first episode, on

May 19, Carretta spoke with director Halina Dryshka after a screening of her film, "Beyond the Visible: Hilma Af Klint."

In the second, on May 26, Carretta and artist/teacher Alexander Shundi discussed the film "Lucian Freud: A Self Portrait," about the painter considered one of the greatest portraitists (albeit an unconventional one) of the 20th century.

Coming up on Tuesday, June 2, at 1 p.m. Carretta and Phil Grabsky will talk

about his film, "Leonardo: The Works," about not just the genius of Da Vinci, but (especially) his art.

Participants are asked to stream the film first (the cost is \$12; a portion of the proceeds go to the theater if you link from The Moviehouse website).

The following Tuesday, June 9, at 2 p.m., Carretta will talk to Canadian documentary filmmaker Don Millar about his film "Botero," about the Colombian artist famed for his voluptuous portraits. Viewers meet Fernando Botero and take a tour of his studio. Particularly fascinating is the tour his children get of 50-year-old sketches by their father, found in a storage facility. Along the way there are family photos, colorful characters and a smattering of Pablo Picasso. Again, viewers are asked to stream the film beforehand.

For the links and more information, go to [www.themoviehouse.net](http://www.themoviehouse.net) and click on the poster on the home page for the film/talk you'd like to see.

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## A Transcendent Sense of Light, At Ober Gallery

A show of work by Lakeville, Conn., artist Karen LeSage opens on Friday, May 29, at the Ober Gallery in Kent Barns, 6 North Main St. in Kent, Conn.

LeSage has a devoted following; her last show at the gallery sold out.

Ober said he anticipates a similarly strong response to this new show, which will have about a dozen canvases. Some continue LeSage's study of color fields; others expand to include more nature imagery, with trees, landscapes.

All the paintings, though, "are about light and have this transcendent Rothko-like quality," Ober said.

This is the seventh solo show of LeSage's work at the gallery.

"I'm interested in three areas of work, for the most part," Ober said. "Russian art; young up-and-coming artists from, for example, Brooklyn; and local artists that I believe in."

Ober first saw LeSage's work when it was at an early stage, in a small exhibit in Salisbury.

"She has a vision," he said. In those early days it hadn't quite come together but, "I knew it would come into being — and it did. She has become the most important artist at Ober Gallery. Her work generates an excitement I have never seen, which makes her exhibits truly fun."

LeSage is a Connecticut native who has lived/worked/studied

in Boston and then New York City.

"I eventually began spending weekends in Litchfield County," she said. "When I moved here full-time, painting took over."

The landscape here inspires her, especially the Berkshire mountains.

"They provide color displays that change by the season, the day, the hour," she said.

"I am consistently pulled toward full abstraction, but am intrigued by walking the line between worlds. I consider myself a minimalist landscape painter with expressionist elements. In art and in life, I discover a quiet power when I eliminate the non-essential."

As she has become more confident (and successful) as an artist, she said that her process remains largely unchanged.

"No matter how much attention the work gets, my day is basically the same: Get up and go to the studio.

"But now I get to use better paints."

In-person visits can be made to the gallery on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Social distancing recommendations will be observed. Private viewings are by appointment; contact Ober at 860-488-1963 or [obergallery@gmail.com](mailto:obergallery@gmail.com).

A video virtual-tour of the exhibit and a detailed PDF of all the work is also available upon request.



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ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Mature but Hip and Refreshing Work at Kenise Barnes

A two-person show of work by a painter from Canada and a sculptor from Boulder, Colo., will open on June 6 at Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 7 Fulling Lane in Kent, Conn.

Works by Julie Maren are from her Biophilia and Monsoon series. Described as “meandering wall sculptures,” they are three-dimensional works that are joyful and delightful, with a smattering of nature in them.

Biophilia features acorn caps that have been glamorized with paint, glass, shards of minerals.

“Each cap sits on a copper pin that is installed at a 90 degree angle to the wall

in varying depths that create clusters of biomorphic patterns suggesting organisms, and the exuberance of new life,” according to the artist’s statement. In the Monsoon series “individual elements hang away from the wall on pins, creating a poetic rain of color and texture.”

Janna Watson, who lives and works in Toronto, Canada, paints on birch wood with thick and thin layers of pigment.

“Her painting process ends with the addition of deliberate scribbles of buttery oil stick — exclamation marks to finish her statement,” according to the

description from the gallery.

Kenise Barnes, who also has a gallery in Larchmont, N.Y., said, “We will open the two-person show on June 6 in the Kent gallery but there will be no public opening. We will allow visitors wearing masks into the gallery in the groups they arrive with; if it is a family group of two to five, for example, they may visit the gallery together.

“Otherwise we will stagger visitors; art is always a no-touch experience and I am the only staff member in the space so I feel confident that I can make safe decisions for myself and our visitors.”

Barnes represents primarily North American artists who are “mid-career or emerging,” she said.

Watson is “a young Canadian whose work gives a fresh voice to my program, which is heavy on American, especially Brooklyn, artists.

“Both Watson and Maren are young and I felt that the work was mature but hip and refreshing,” she said.

*The gallery’s hours are going to be Thursday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment; call 860-592-0220 or go to the website at [www.kbfa.com](http://www.kbfa.com) to learn more.*



“Julietta,” above, is one of a series of wall sculptures by Julie Maren at Kenise Barnes Fine Art in Kent, Conn. This 36 x 36 x 6 inch work is made of acorn tops that are bedazzled with paint, crystal, glass, brass and more. The show opens on June 6.

BAKING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

## Wild Hive Farm Flour Is Fresh, Local — and Available

Everyone is baking and that means there is no King Arthur flour to be found at any local stores or even at the King Arthur website.

But there’s plenty of flour at Wild Hive Farm Community Grain Project in Clinton Corners, N.Y., which has tons of it (literally).

“We have a grain bank with probably close to 40 tons of grains,” said Wild Hive founder Don Lewis in a phone interview on Wednesday, May 20. “We have a variety of wheats and rye and spelt and emmer.

“We’re not going to run out,” he promised.

Close readers will notice

that Lewis said he has grain not flour; there is also of course flour, but it is not milled until, more or less, it is needed.

All that grain was grown on the East Coast, from upper New York state down to Pennsylvania. Lewis coordinates wheat growers across the region and aggregates their grains, then mills them and sells them. His biggest customer is four of the Eat-ally food/restaurant/bakery extravaganzas.

Until COVID-19, Lewis said, “75% of our sales were to restaurants and bakeries. That’s almost all gone now,” with the quarantine.

Wild Hive is now selling

more to individual consumers, especially as home bakers begin seeking alternatives to the commercial flour they can no longer find at grocery stores and online. Selling at retail, of course, is slightly more work than selling to commercial clients; there is more individual packaging and it’s more complicated to organize deliveries and pick-ups.

It will be interesting to see what happens when Wild Hive’s commercial customers return, and have to compete for a finite supply of local grain with home bakers. Lewis feels confident that everyone can get what they need. He has plenty of

grain in storage, and unless there is a bad weather event there will be more new grain that can be milled starting in September.

Weather is, of course, always a concern, for any agricultural product. When Lewis started Wild Hive 20 years ago, he was hoping to work with grain farmers in a smaller geographic region. A century or more ago there were many grain farmers here, but by the year 2000 there really were none. Lewis helped start the local grain movement in this part of the world — and then found he needed to expand out.

“To be sustainable you have to be more regional,”

he said. “That way if there’s a really wet year in one place you can still get grain from another place.”

The Wild Hive flours are much more expensive than the average commercial brands, but they are lively, protein rich and very fresh (1.5 pounds is about \$10; 5 pounds is about \$22 to \$26, depending on what kind of flour you order).

They are so fresh, in fact, that Lewis says you should use them up within three to five months (freezing will add a couple months of life).

There are many flours to choose from at the website. For the average bread baker, the best choice is probably

the Hard Red Bread Flour 00, but if you call them they’ll advise you about what will work best for whatever you plan to bake.

You might have noticed that there isn’t much yeast available at your grocery store either; Wild Hive has a very vigorous and mature sourdough starter that Lewis brought back from a recent visit to Estonia. There is also a dried yeast for \$5 per bag.

You can pay \$11 to have your products shipped, or you can pay a \$1 processing fee and go to Clinton Corners and pick it up yourself.

*To learn more, go to [www.wildhivefarm.com](http://www.wildhivefarm.com) or call 845-266-0660.*

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From left, artists Philip Hamilton, Can Wang, Adriane Erdos, Mark DeGarmo, Gabriela Gullo and Ernesto Lehn had their original works featured in the Salon Performance Series' October performances this past fall. DeGarmo will broadcast his Salon Series May 29 and June 11.

## Virtual dance performances

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

NEW YORK CITY — Rising to the challenge of creating opportunities for artists to share and develop their work with audiences during the coronavirus pandemic, Mark DeGarmo Dance will be taking its Salon Performance Series online and broadcasting it via Zoom on Thursday, May 28 and Thursday, June 11.

Founded by internationally acclaimed choreographer and Pine Plains native Mark DeGarmo, Mark DeGarmo Dance began its Salon Performance Series in 2010 with the intent of providing "an opportunity to view and engage with original performing arts and dance works-in-progress of guest artists," according to a recent press release from the dance company. The series is typically held inside the Mark DeGarmo Dance Studio Theater 310 at The Clemente Center in New York City. Along with spotlighting diverse artists, performing arts and dance forms, this series also grants audiences an opportunity to engage in the development of these works-in-progress via audience feedback sessions.

This year's virtual series will showcase performances featuring Ilona Bito and Ara Fitzgerald on Thursday, May 28, and Callie Hatchett and José Rivera Jr. on Thursday, June 11. Both performance dates start at 7 p.m., and will include an audience feedback session curated and facilitated by DeGarmo, who resides in both NYC and Ancram.

"We're really excited about the opportunity to expand this programming beyond the people that we have been able to reach over the past year," DeGarmo said. "I think part of it is expanding and reaching new people, finding new connections for people that are interested in dance. It's a really exciting series because we've been attracting quite a diversity of dance forms."

When asked how effective he believes the series will be from a virtual platform, DeGarmo said his company has high hopes. Though they haven't hosted the series online before, he noted the success of the Virtual Dance for Dance program that was aired online in April due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I think we in the dance community have already started working in a virtual way," DeGarmo said, "and it's been very effective."

I think that our colleagues are really excited about trying to reach more people with the excitement that we felt about dance and dance performance, and this is a unique platform because it gives audiences a chance in a guided way to talk about what they're thinking and feeling from each of the performers' work.

"I can't wait to see how this works," he added. "I'm very intrigued by it and I think it will create new opportunities for the future."

DeGarmo noted this new way of organizing programs might lead to the company hosting virtual performance components along with its live performances once the company returns to its normal slate of events, post-pandemic.

Tickets for the Virtual Salon Performance Series can be purchased online at [www.sps2020.givesmart.com](http://www.sps2020.givesmart.com). Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$20, and spectators can make their purchase either via the website or by sending payment to Venmo at [Mark-DeGarmo-2](https://venmo.com/Mark-DeGarmo-2) or to PayPal at [paypal.me/markdegarmodance](https://paypal.me/markdegarmodance). The Zoom link can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/2123759214>. For details, go to [www.markdegarmo.org](http://www.markdegarmo.org).

## Help a Horse Day went off without a hitch

# Lucky Orphans has been staying connected during quarantine

By KAITLIN LYLE  
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

DOVER PLAINS — Though its facilities have closed to the public due to the coronavirus, Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue, located at 2699 Route 22, has remained steadfast in its mission to strengthen the connection between horses and humans. Among some of its more recent efforts, the sanctuary recently sold shirts and hoodies with the phrase "For The Horses — #essential" to both support its cause and to celebrate National Help a Horse Day at the end of last month.

Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue Farm and Programs Manager KarissaLee Thompson elaborated that Help a Horse Day was a nationally celebrated day encouraging horse lovers and advocates to raise awareness of horse rescues as well as the need for horse sanctuaries in the U.S. Falling on April 26 each year, she said that while it brings attention to horses as a whole, "it's meant to really bring a focus to those that are putting forth efforts to rescue horses and offer them a better life than they'd be living."

"Horses have been such a fundamental part of American society since we got our independence," Thompson remarked. "They've helped us work, they've been transportation, they've been really loyal devoted animals to us, so Help a Horse Day is to bring a focus to how important horses are and have been."

Citing numerous studies on the impact of horses on people's mental health, Thompson talked about Lucky Orphans' focus on the mental connection between horses and humans, highlighting the electromagnetic aura surrounding horses. When asked about Dutchess County's status as the largest horse populated coun-

ty in New York state, Thompson said the county's horse population has increased dramatically over the years to the point where there are now horses in every single town, city, hamlet and village in Dutchess County.

In light of the COVID-19 health crisis, Lucky Orphans had to modify its celebration of Help a Horse Day to a smaller scale. Rather than host an in-person event, the sanctuary celebrated the day on Facebook to reach the community and thank volunteers.

"Unfortunately, it wasn't as grand and amazing as we hoped, but we did the best that we could," Thompson said.

In terms of how the sanctuary has been coping during COVID-19, Thompson remarked that it has been an adaptation, given that the sanctuary is "100% donation, grant and sponsorship funded" and the organization is largely volunteer-based. At this time, she said there are only three team members on the farm at a time to tend to the sanctuary's 50 horses, two goats and one resident sheep.

As far as modifying its community outreach efforts, Lucky Orphans has been doing a number live programs on Facebook to give the community a chance to connect with the sanctuary and its herd. Thompson added that they've been doing coffee chats where people can call in and talk with the sanctuary's associates.

Unfortunately, the sanctuary has been hit hard financially by COVID-19. Considering the math, Thompson said every member of its herd costs \$18.55 per day — including grain, hay, dental care and other related needs — which means it costs \$928 to run the farm for one day and roughly \$360,000 a year to care for the herd. With its facilities closed until further notice,



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Though Help a Horse Day was done on a smaller scale due to COVID-19, Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue still thanked its dedicated volunteers for their commitment to the sanctuary and its herd in Dover Plains.

Thompson said COVID-19 has definitely affected the sanctuary's ability to fundraise.

Despite the financial burdens and other challenges posed by the pandemic, Lucky Orphans has chosen to focus on staying connected with the community throughout the quarantine.

"There's no doubt that circumstances in the world like this have an impact on mental health," Thompson said. "It's tough even for a very healthy person to go through this kind of thing... so once the world does open back up, we want to be that platform for healing and safety and just to reconnect with each other at the farm."

For more, go to [www.luckyorphanshorsescue.org](http://www.luckyorphanshorsescue.org).

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