

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

Thursday, June 4, 2020

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Located at 17 John St. in Millerton, Gilded Moon Framing owners Paul and Jill Choma paid homage to the reopening of small businesses in New York state with a sign stating, "We are Small Business."

Businesses rejoice in reopening their doors

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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HARLEM VALLEY — Heeding the guidelines issued by New York state and taking the necessary precautions for keeping themselves and their customers safe, local businesses across the region are taking the first steps to reopening their doors to the public. Though it's clear they'll be operating under a new normal, businesses are doing their utmost to stay safe while trying to resume operations and regain some of the revenues they've lost since being shut down by Governor Andrew Cuomo's New York State on PAUSE Executive Order issued in March to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

Prepared to offer local business owners guidance for reopening their doors and retaining customers at this time, the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation held a "Back to Business: Ready for the Big Comeback!" webinar in May. To learn more about the webinar, go to www.tricornernews.com for the full story.

To help protect New Yorkers and continue to slow the spread of COVID-19, Cuomo issued another Executive Order on May 28, to allow business owners to deny entry to anyone who refuses to wear a face mask or other face covering in their business.

"When we're talking about reopening stores and places of business, we're giving the store owners the right to say 'If you're not wearing a mask, you can't come in.'" Cuomo said. "That store



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Located at 22 Main St. in Millerton, T-Shirt Farm promoted its new curbside service and reminded customers that masks are required to enter the store.

owner has a right to protect themselves; that store owner has a right to protect the other patrons in that store. You don't want to wear a mask, fine, but you don't have a right to go into that store if that store owner doesn't want you to."

Rest assured, store owners across the Harlem Valley have been heeding that warning by making sure their employees and patrons are wearing masks and by exercising the proper health and safety protocols.

Take, for instance, the Millbrook Antiques Center, which reopened to the public on Saturday, May 30. Six to

See **BUSINESSES REOPEN A7**

Mail in those absentee ballots!

Vote on school district budgets, BOE elections by June 9, by mail

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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HARLEM VALLEY — School districts throughout the region are keeping their fingers crossed that residents have been reading their mail — because that's the only way qualified voters would have received the absentee ballots needed to participate in their local Boards of Education (BOE) elections and district budget votes.

This year, because of the coronavirus pandemic, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order that delayed

school board elections and budget votes across the state until Tuesday, June 9. They were originally set for May 19, but concerns about spreading COVID-19 at polling places, where social distancing would be understandably difficult, compelled the governor to rethink things. He decided that, for the first time, New York would conduct all school board elections and budget votes via mail and all qualified voters would be sent an absentee ballot with return postage paid. The Executive Order also delays local special district and village elections until Sept. 15.

"We've made great progress to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, but we still don't know when this pandemic will end and we don't want to undo all the work we've already done to flatten the curve," Cuomo said on May 1, when he announced his decision. "We don't want to put New Yorkers in a situation where they are possibly putting their health at risk, so we are delaying school board elections and conducting them by mail and delaying all local special district and village elections to help

See **BOE ELECTIONS, A7**

State's Democratic presidential primary reinstated for June 23

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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NEW YORK STATE — Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order earlier this spring to mandate that all registered voters receive a postage-paid application for an absentee ballot so they can still vote during the coronavirus pandemic.

At a press conference held on April 24, Cuomo acknowledged that while there have been elections held in midst of the pandemic, it made no sense that people should have to put their lives at risk and violate social distancing in order to vote.

After issuing an Executive Order

to allow all New Yorkers to vote via absentee ballots in the primaries on Tuesday, June 23, he announced that he was issuing an Executive Order to ensure every New York voter would automatically receive a postage-paid application to receive a ballot.

Agreeing wholeheartedly with Cuomo's decision to mandate that the Dutchess County Board of Elections (DCBOE) send out absentee ballot applications to voters, DCBOE Commissioner Beth Soto said, "Our priority right now is the safety of our voters and our election workers."

The New York State Board of Elections initially canceled the Democratic presidential primary on April 27 to

protect voters and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Yet little did the board know the decision to cancel the presidential primary would create tension among voters, who would call for its reinstatement.

Those supporting Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign were particularly upset with the decision. It was just around that time that Sanders decided to suspend his campaign, resulting in former Vice President Joe Biden stepping forward as the presumptive Democratic nominee.

In a court order filed against the

See **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, A7**

Court rejects petition as 'invalid'

12 North Main St. could be future Pine Plains Town Hall, plus parking

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — In making an offer on the property at 12 North Main St. this past February, the Pine Plains Town Board seized a rare opportunity to make headway on the town's long-standing goal of revitalizing its downtown. While the board received several shows of support on the buy, it also contended with a recent petition for a referendum vote on the purchase during a permissive referendum period. Between the onset of the coronavirus

pandemic and bringing the petition to the Dutchess County Court, the board made itself available to the community to explain the significance of this purchase and how it will pave the way for a more vibrant town.

As reflected in its Comprehensive Plan — both in the original 2004 version and the newly updated 2019 version — the town has had its heart set on enhancing its downtown area for several years. Along with improving public infrastructure, town leaders have envisioned moving Town Hall from its current location at 3284 Route

199 to the center of town to make it "more accessible to residents" and "help concentrate communal activity in the hamlet center and contribute to the vibrancy of Pine Plains," according to the Town of Pine Plains 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

To fulfill this goal, the town purchased a parcel at 8 North Main St. back in August of 2019. The property at 12 North Main St. became available for purchase that October. As written in the board's application to the Supreme

See **12 NORTH MAIN ST., A7**



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OPINION

Vote By Mail, Or Don't Vote At All In This Year's School District Vote; Columns; Letters **A6**

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OBITUARIES

Raymond Ivan Butler

WASSAIC — Raymond Ivan Butler, 64, a lifelong area resident, died unexpectedly on Sunday, May 31, 2020.

Ray worked as a custodian at Millbrook Central School District for the past 23 years; prior to that he worked for the Taconic DDSO in Wassaic for 15 years.

Born Sept. 5, 1955, in Great Barrington, he was the son of the late Bonnie May (Johnson) and Raymond Irving Butler.

Ray attended Webutuck High School and was a longtime member of the CSEA.

He was an avid Elvis Presley fan and a movie buff. He enjoyed spending time with his family and making people laugh. His laughter will be fondly remembered echoing down the hallways of Millbrook School.

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

Ray is survived by his two sons, Sherman Lawson III of Clinton Corners, N.Y., and Tyrone "Ty" Lawson of Millerton; his brother, Bobby Henry; four sisters, Natalie



Butler, Frances Tratnack, Billy-Jo Clement and Lori Ann Butler; two grandchildren, Kaylin Spadaccini and Jayden Washington; two dear friends, Michael and Debbie; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by two sisters, Bonnie May Butler and Doris Butler.

Calling hours will be on Friday, June 5, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton.

Graveside services and burial will take place on Saturday, June 6, at 11 a.m. at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating.

All New York state and CDC mandates will be in effect, to include the use of a facial covering and social distancing. Please be respectful and courteous.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, P.O. Box 266, Lagrangeville, NY 12540. To send an online condolence, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Timothy A. Williams Jr.

KENT — Timothy A. Williams Jr., 42, of New Preston, Conn., was taken from his family far too soon, and didn't get the chance to say a proper goodbye on May 23, 2020, but the time they shared together will last forever.

Timothy was born Nov. 9, 1977, in New Haven, Conn., the son of Joan (Glass) and Timothy A. Williams Sr.

"T" as he was often called, was a loved son, strong partner, needed friend and a cherished father of three. He was raised in Kent and was a graduate of Oliver Wolcott Tech. He worked for 25 years as a mechanic at Connecticut Auto Repair (CARS) in New Milford, Conn., and just last year started working with his father in his landscaping business.

"T" loved sharing his favorite activities with his family and friends like fishing, hunting, shed hunting, hiking, mushroom foraging, darts, horseshoes, cornhole, gardening and so much more.

He always had a smile on his face and would give an arm and a leg for anyone in need. He was a talented mechanic, respected outdoorsman, and always worked harder than he had to.

Besides his parents, he's survived by his fiancée, Sandra La-Place of New Preston; his children, Gunner Williams of Newtown, Conn., Carter Williams of New Preston and Ellie Williams of Newtown; his sister, Samantha Williams and her fiancé, Matt Steves, of Fort Edward, N.Y.; his grandmother, Lois Colby of Bristol, Conn.; his



nephews, Bailey Doyen and Gage Steves of Fort Edward and Joshua and Jacob Liska of Newtown; a niece, Sarah Liska of Newtown; his uncles, Earl Glass of West Virginia, Floyd Williams of Washington, Conn., Gerald Williams of Torrington and Thomas Williams of Bristol, Conn.; his aunts, Darla Bennett and her husband, Joe, of Missouri, Sharon Rosa and her husband, Vincent, of Maine and Melinda Schipul of New Milford; and his lifelong friend, Jay Ward Jr. of Torrington. Many cousins and numerous friends will also carry his legacy.

There will be a celebration of life at a later date.

To send the family an online condolence, kindly visit www.thurstonrowefuneralhome.com.

Eleanor Mary (Richardson) Currier

Eleanor Mary (Richardson) Currier passed away in her 92nd year of life on April 27, 2020.

She was born in Fayston, Vt., on Sept. 13, 1928, to Bernice (Macomber) and James Cameron.

Married to Rudolph C. Richardson on March 18, 1949, she leaves his five children, Shirley Bronson of Lampassas, Texas, Sheila Breen of Millerton, Stuart Richardson of New Lebanon, N.Y., Steven Richardson of Wassaic and



Eleanor Campbell of Wingdale, and their surviving families. Two siblings survive, Jean Tourville Nadeau of Essex Junction, Vt., and Edith St. Onge Hebard of Glover, Vt. She was predeceased by twin sisters Evelyn Huard and Geraldine Kota as well as her two husbands, her parents and two granddaughters.

All services are private. Local arrangements are being handled by the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

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Week of June 7, 2020

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sharonumc5634@att.net

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484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock
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Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page
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Rev. Heidi Truax
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
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Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
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10 AM - Sacred Heart

SPORTS

A fisherman's journal amid a pandemic

The gist of fishing right now is: There are three brook trout streams in nearby Connecticut, the Blackberry and the Furnace Brook in North Canaan and the Housatonic, all within 20 miles of Lakeville (staying in-state).

I can avoid other people quite easily on any of these bodies of water. I've been doing it for decades, never mind pandemics.

The Farmington is only 20-odd miles away but it's just far enough that if anything should happen, such as spraining an ankle or the car breaking down, I would have to holler for help and thus risk exposure and/or exposing someone else. It's also crowded, perhaps more so than usual.

So no. Staying put means fishing nearby.

I've been keeping a pandemic fishing journal. Here are some recent entries:

Last bit of April to May 2: Rain. Endless rain. Had a decent Blackberry day in there, and a decent Secret Stream day, but from the evening of Thursday, April 30, into the next morning, May 1, it rained hard. (Which was good because I was worried about the crops.)

The Housatonic was up well over 3,000 cubic feet per second, and the tributaries were pretty much blown out. Managed one little brookie in the raging torrent at the falls on Mount Riga before calling it quits and trudging home to watch (i.e. nap through) the "Ancient Aliens" marathon on television.

May 5: Spring arrived for a couple of days but everything, I mean everything, was too high to fish. Yesterday the Blackberry was still a tad high but clear. My buddy Dave was there experimenting with Euronymphing and catching some fish. I managed several with a shorter rod and a Tenkara rod. One streambred 17-inch rainbow was in the mix of stockers.

May 6: Cold and awful and I was nailing fish right and left on the Blackberry downstream of the old iron furnace — including three hefty rainbows who got the "compassionate release" treatment, meaning I couldn't seal the deal with the Tenkara rod (a cheapie called Galaxy Ray). That's what you get for fishing heavy flies downstream with a rod that has no reel.

May 8: Chilly and very slow. Explored the Whiting River in North Canaan, nothing doing; ditto the upper stretch of the Blackberry, where you have to walk around a corn field to get at the stream.

There are two deep chutes next to some riprap where I have plucked some nice fish in previous years but nothing today. Went back to "old familiar" and hiked up a very pretty stocked brookie



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A stocked brown trout from the Blackberry River in North Canaan, Conn. The state has stocked the stream several times in recent months.

TANGLED LINES

Patrick L. Sullivan

and a couple of rainbows, out of the pool right below the furnace dam. One of them had the sporting attitude and jumped a couple times. All this with a Dragontail zoom rod, which has become my go-to for fixed-line fishing.

May 9: Woke up to a dusting of snow. Apocalyptic thoughts ensued.

May 10: Cold, windy, intermittent sun and the dulcet tone of a chainsaw and leaf blower ringing in my ears. Caught one Basic Blackberry Bow, tickled a brown, and gave it up after a couple hours.

I am thoroughly sick of the Blackberry.
May 17: Yesterday I took the first serious 2020 foray into the Wachocastinook (aka Riga) Brook, a Class I wild trout stream in Salisbury.

By "serious" I mean clambering in there to the point you either

have to keep going upstream until you hit a) an old logging road or b) continue upstream to the falls in order to get out of there.

Or you get to the Point of No Return and, well, return.

I started about 10 a.m. and fished mostly unsuccessfully until about noon, when the switch was flipped and they started hitting things: Deer Hair Sedge and the more traditional and bulkier Elk Hair caddis dries; assorted soft-hackle wets, traditional and kebari; smallish but heavy nymphs, particularly a size 16 Rainbow Warrior.

As per usual the fish were small, nothing topping 8 inches. All wild browns and brookies.

Unhappily the Canon point-and-shoot camera decided to die again. It got dunked earlier this spring and I gave it the bag of rice treatment, and for a while it worked. But it has apparently relapsed and sits, mute and unblinking, on the kitchen counter, awaiting disposal.

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Webutuck BOE election has four candidates vie for three seats

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Come Tuesday, June 9, voters residing in the Webutuck Central School District will have had the chance to mail in (or drop off outside the district office Monday, June 8, from noon to 7 p.m. or Tuesday, June 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) their absentee ballots for their picks on the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE).

Running are two incumbents, BOE President Judy Moran and Christopher Lounsbury, and newcomers Jay Newman and Henry Pollinger, to fill three open seats. Those elected will serve three-year terms, from Wednesday, July 1 through June 30, 2023.

Judy Moran
Serving on the BOE since 2011, Judy Moran has had the privilege of leading the school board on an array of initiatives geared toward improving the district and offering more opportunities to its students. Along with overseeing improvements to the district's septic system, she shared how she's looking forward to watching it move forward with the creation of an in-school based health clinic, which she believes will be "a huge plus to our school community."

In addition to her previous BOE experience, Moran said she feels she can bring her unique expertise in the financial and legal

fields to the table as well as her training with the New York State School Board Association. Having watched her own children graduate from the Webutuck district, her desire to ensure the community's children receive the best education possible has remained intact throughout the years.

When asked about her motivation to run for another term, Moran said, "We're not done and quite honestly, this is the best board I have ever served with. I think everyone is interested in doing the right thing and is interested for the right reasons — for the kids — and I like working with these people. I think we're a great team and I would like to see things both get finished and be improved."

Christopher Lounsbury
Presenting his candidacy at the Webutuck BOE meeting on Tuesday, May 26, Christopher Lounsbury said he was looking forward to running for his second term on the board. Coming up at the end of his first term, he shared how he's enjoyed it immensely and reflected on the knowledge he's gained about how a school district is run and how the community and school district can work together to make the community better.

"I'm looking forward to another three years," Lounsbury said at that time.

Lounsbury could not be

reached by The Millerton News for further comment prior to press time on Tuesday, June 2.

Jay Newman
A first-time candidate for the BOE, Jay Newman seized the opportunity to get better acquainted with the Webutuck school district and its operations by running for the school board this year.

"When I retired, I was hoping to find a way to participate more deeply in this community, which we love," the Millerton resident told the BOE at the May 26 meeting, "and when this opportunity presented itself, I decided I'd take a shot at it."

The first five years of Newman's career were spent in the law field in New York City, and the other 35 years were dedicated to business with 20 years spent at the investment management firm, Elliott Management Corporation. During the course of his business career, Newman said he's dealt with a lot of counties and believes the skills he acquired in that time could be put to good use in assisting the BOE.

If elected, Newman hopes his prior experiences will be helpful in terms of planning for future distance learning opportunities, now more important than ever in the age of the coronavirus pandemic. However, he stressed how important it is for new school board members to take time to learn about how a school district works. To that end, he said he

thinks his job for the first part of his term will be to figure out how Webutuck operates, what the district's needs and challenges are and where his skills could best be used.

Henry Pollinger
A write-in candidate for this year's BOE election, Amenia resident Henry Pollinger's involvement with the Webutuck school district community began with his student days at Webutuck and evolved throughout his teaching English Language Arts (ELA) at Eugene Brooks Intermediate School and Webutuck High School.

Holding one Master's degree in curriculum, instruction and assessment and another in educational leadership, Pollinger taught at the now-closed Amenia school for dyslexic children, Kildonan School, for three years; served as the assistant principal and principal at Ulster County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) for two years; and taught ELA at Webutuck for nine years.

Reminiscing about his teaching days at Webutuck, Pollinger vividly remembers the supportive community of students, families and teachers and how the district collaborated to overcome any challenges it encountered. Hoping to establish a relationship with the district's families and students, he expressed his interest in identifying new chal-

lenges the district may be facing. "I also think it's important to make sure people know the positive things that are going on," Pollinger said. "It's a balance in recognizing and finding solutions to challenges and letting people know of the good things going

on — being part of the solution rather than the problem." Additionally, if elected to the BOE, Pollinger said he's interested in exploring the challenge of creating a transition plan from online learning to in-person learning.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Party on the go

Unable to gather in her office for the traditional pizza party to celebrate the academic achievements of those students earning a place on the Principal's Honor Roll, Webutuck High School Principal Katy McEnroe made surprise visits to the students' homes on Thursday, May 7. Among the students who achieved this honor for the third marking period, McEnroe recognized Morgan Sprague, Jordyn Thorne, Carrissa Whitehead, Cassandra Crum, Hope Johnson, Kunsanz Sherpa, Cadence Shufelt, Amy Hayes and Disha Patel. Out of the nine students, McEnroe surprised six students at home and presented each student with a certificate, a bag of candy and a slice of pizza. The remaining three students were not home when McEnroe visited their residences. She congratulated all for their achievements.

School board hears feedback on 2020-21 budget at public hearing

By KAITLIN LYLE
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WEBUTUCK — Moving ahead with the next step in the 2020-21 school budget process, the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) held a virtual public hearing on the fiscal plan on Tuesday, May 26.

Both the public hearing and board meeting were held via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing regulations. Once BOE President Judy Moran opened the hearing, Business Administrator Robert Farrier gave an overview of the 2020-21 budget.

Farrier explained that the BOE's directive for this year's budget was to "support the academic program of our students while recognizing the impact on taxpayers."

Totalling \$23,909,545, Farrier said the proposed budget for the 2020-21 school year included a year-to-year increase of 1.99%. With the rollover items the school district is contending with — such as healthcare costs, increased special education costs and other personnel costs — he said it stayed within that 1.99% by looking at savings and not adding any additional staff.

Regarding additions to the budget, Farrier said there was one student with disabilities teacher, which the district was able to acquire due to the reduction of a family and consumer science teacher. At the end of the day, he said the number of teachers remained the same.

Farrier said the budget continues to support academic and extracurricular programs as well as college level courses, which will allow students to graduate with the possibility of one year of college credit.

The budget also supports additional courses — including computer science, entrepreneurship and advanced biology — and offers a commitment to an instructional technology initiative that will allow students a one-to-one technology device.

Reviewing the calculation of the 2020-21 levy, Farrier took into account the total budget amount as well as the \$6,207,036 reduction in state aid; the \$202,000 reduction in other revenue; and the \$1,900,000 reduction in the fund balance. There were no other additions or reductions. Overall, the total levy for 2020-21 came to \$15,600,509 or 5.99%.

Farrier said the 5.99% would allow the district to keep all services the same.

With this proposed levy, the tax rate will be \$11.56 per \$1,000. Regarding the estimated tax increase for homeowners in the towns of North East, Millerton and Amenia, based on the 2020 tentative tax rolls, the tax increase will be \$38 annually or \$3.16 monthly for a home assessed at \$100,000; \$76 annually or \$6.33 monthly for a home assessed at \$200,000; and \$114 annually or \$9.50 monthly for a home assessed at \$300,000. Farrier noted that this tax levy increase qualifies homeowners for the New York State Property Tax Relief Reimbursement. All qualified and eligible Basic and Enhanced STAR recipients will continue to receive exemptions.

In the event that the 2020-21 school district budget doesn't pass by a 50% plus-1 simple majority vote, Farrier said the BOE would have the option of putting a second vote out that could be the same, less or more than what was presented in the first budget. The BOE could also decide to go to a contingency budget. If the second budget doesn't pass, the BOE would automatically adopt a contingency budget, which means there would be a further reduction of \$415,413 to be at a 0% tax levy increase.

Among the items to be considered for reduction in the contingency budget, the BOE would have to consider cutting the school resource officer (SRO), a music teacher, an art teacher, a physical education teacher, a so-

cial studies teacher, an elementary teacher for grades kindergarten through sixth, field trips, junior varsity sports and instructional leads.

"Really, when you go to that component, you really have to look at all avenues and make sure that you are putting your dollars where you need to in terms of maximizing the educational opportunities you have serving that 0% increase," Farrier said.

In addition to the approval of the 2020-21 school district budget, voters are being asked to vote in the election of three BOE members. For more information on this year's BOE elections, find candidate profiles throughout this week's Millerton News.

Aware of the academic requirements for intermediate school students, BOE candidate Henry Pollinger asked how students will be able to satisfy their Family & Consumer Science requirement with the elimination of a Family & Consumer Science teacher. Castellani said the district will have an elementary school teacher teach one section of the Family & Consumer Science content area as well as other electives.

Addressing a question about how the ballots will be counted this year, Farrier said there will be an election supervisor who will receive the ballots and the ballots will be opened within the public's view.

Moran also expressed concern about the roughly 60 Amenia residents who receive their mail through P.O. Boxes, rather than

at their physical address, which is where ballots have been mailed. She suggested any resident who has not received a ballot reach out to District Clerk Tracy Trotter immediately at 845-373-4100 or at tracy.trotter@webutuck.org. For more on the 2020 school district vote and BOE elections, see the this week's front page.



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Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Swiss shoe company
5. ___ Caesar, comedian
8. ___ and flow
11. Horselfly
13. Egyptian pharaoh
14. African nation
15. Tony-winning actress Daisy
16. Initial public offering
17. Long-winding ridge
18. Guinea peoples
20. Fellow
21. About aviation
22. Able to make amends
25. Easy to perceive
30. Cut off
31. Northeast Thai language
32. Earthy pigment
33. Water nymphs
38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
41. Those who deal
43. Apply a new fabric
45. Confusions
48. "To ___ his own"
49. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
50. Heavy cavalry sword
55. Partner to pain
56. A type of savings account
57. In a way, felt pain
59. Wide-beamed sailing dinghy
60. Consume
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Body part
63. Midway between south and southeast
64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

1. Indicates a certain time (abbr.)
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Central American lizard
4. Muslim military commanders
5. One who takes to the seas
6. Select jury
7. Parts of the small intestine
8. Painter's accessory
9. Honk
10. Ballpoint pen
12. Large, dark antelope
14. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
19. Exhausts
23. ___-bo: exercise system
24. Not written in any key or mode
25. Chinese principle underlying the universe

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| 63 | | | | | | | | | 64 |

26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

27. Powdery, post-burning residue

28. Company that rings receipts

29. Rugged mountain range

34. Commercials

35. NY football player

36. A form of be

37. Soviet Socialist Republic

39. Kindnesses

40. Natural electrical phenomenon

41. Your

42. Diana __, singer

44. Upper surface of the mouth

45. National capital

46. Fluid in Greek mythology

47. Renowned jazz trumpeter

48. Freedom from difficulty

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. Revolutionaries

58. Criticize

May 28 Solution

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Sudoku

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Level: Intermediate


May 28 Solution

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| 4 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 |



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PINE PLAINS

Incumbents seek additional BOE terms in uncontested races

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — In addition to voting on the 2020-21 school district budget and a bus purchase proposition, voters living in the Pine Plains Central School District will be asked to cast their ballot for their choice of Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) candidates on Tuesday, June 9.

For this year's election, voters will be asked to vote on two BOE members to fill the two open seats on the school board. If elected, the members will each serve a three-year term, starting Wednesday, July 1, and ending June 30, 2023. This year's election features two incumbent

candidates: Heidi Johnson and James Griffin.

Heidi Johnson

Finishing up her second term, Heidi Johnson has been given the opportunity to witness great progress taking place in the Pine Plains Central School District during her time on the BOE, from the improvements made to the district's academic performance to the increased outreach to students who are struggling. She also praised the implementation of the district's one-to-one laptop initiative as well as its continuation of its solid financial status.

Among her reasons for running for a third term, Johnson highlighted the major changes expected to take place in New

York school districts in the coming years due to the coronavirus pandemic and the uncertainty of state aid. Anticipating financial pressures, she said it's become even more imperative for the district to find creative ways of maintaining its existing programs without having a massive effect on the tax rate. Governor Andrew Cuomo has warned that if the state does not receive additional federal funding from Washington, there could be a 20% decrease in state education aid next year.

Holding faith in the BOE's ability to rise to the challenges to come, Johnson said, "I think together with the administration that we can face the challenges in

the years ahead."

In addition to her work on the BOE, Johnson serves on the board's Policy Committee, a role she enjoys and credits as the "heart of what the board does."

James Griffin

Also running for his third term on the BOE, James Griffin has seen his fair share of progress in the Pine Plains Central School District during his time as a school board member. Among the accomplishments he is particularly proud to have overseen, he praised the school district's one-to-one initiative, especially now that students are continuing their education through the district's distance learning program during the COVID-19 pandemic, which

has forced the governor to shut down schools statewide for the remainder of the academic year.

When asked about what motivated him to run for another term, Griffin said, "I think we still have a lot more work to do and I'm happy to continue to do my community service as part of the school board."

Like Johnson, Griffin shared how he's looking forward to keeping the district as stable as possible with the challenges that lie ahead. Though COVID-19 took everyone by surprise, he praised the district's ability to rise to the challenge and ensure that the students would be taken care of when the schools closed. "I think our biggest accom-

plishment if we do some things right is to serve our community, our students, our parents with as little disruption as possible to keep the learning environment as smooth and as least restrictive as possible," Griffin said.

Voters must cast their ballots by mail this year due to the coronavirus pandemic canceling in-person voting. All qualified voters should have received their return postage paid ballots in the mail already; if not, contact the district clerk immediately at the district office, at 518-398-7181. For more information, go to www.ppcsd.org, and make sure to read this week's front page article on BOE elections and budget votes across the Harlem Valley.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Off duty

Normally a place for families to cool off on hot summer days, the lifeguard stand at the Pine Plains Beach stood empty at the start of June as the beach has yet to reopen to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has shut down much of the country, and the state. New York's Hudson Valley has reopened for Phase One, but that hasn't included all parks and beaches just yet.

BOE holds public hearing on 2020-21 budget

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — With the school district's annual budget vote just around the corner, the Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) offered the public a chance to ask questions about the already-adopted 2020-21 budget at a virtual public hearing held on Wednesday, May 27.

The BOE adopted the 2020-21 school district budget during its virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 28. Beginning at 7 p.m. last Wednesday evening, the public hearing was organized via video conference and led by Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck.

Goldbeck reported that the budget for the 2020-21 school year was calculated at \$33,525,450, marking a year-to-year increase of 1.81% or \$596,572. The adopted budget features a tax levy limit of \$24,189,676 (indicating an increase of 2.43% or \$574,104 from last year) and a total of \$6,830,176 in state aid (indicating a decrease of 9.91% or \$751,014). Goldbeck notified the BOE that the amount set aside for state aid includes a reduction of \$760,000 due to anticipated mid-year cuts.

Goldbeck reported that the 2020-21 budget "enables the district to maintain and expand all programs while ensuring the overall health and safety of students and staff." Among its priorities, he said the budget seeks to support academics in grades K through 12; a full-day pre-k program; the agriculture pro-

gram; the one-to-one computer initiative in pre-k through 12th grade; the athletics program and extracurricular activities; and academic intervention and special education services.

Reviewing the budget's three main components, Goldbeck explained that 79.5% of the budget was set aside for program costs while 11.3% of the budget went toward administrative costs and 9.2% of the budget went toward capital costs. Overall, the budget's administrative component totaled \$3,793,556; the program component totaled \$26,661,577; and the capital component totaled \$3,070,317. Offering a comparison between the 2020-21 budget and the current 2019-20 budget, Goldbeck guided the BOE through the various additions, reductions, increases and decreases featured in this year's adopted budget.

Breaking down the budget by areas of expenditures, 44.8% of the budget was directed into salaries while 33.8% of the budget went toward benefits. The remaining 21.4%, Goldbeck said, went into everything else, including materials and supplies, tuitions, heat and utilities, Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) programs and services and other similar items.

Goldbeck presented the BOE with a revenue budget comparison, pointing out the 9.91% decrease (or \$751,014) in state aid based on the April 2020 legislative budget and the 7.59% decrease (or \$30,000) in non-tax revenue. Acknowledging that the 2020-21 school year marks

the ninth year of the New York State Property Tax Cap Law, he said the allowable levy limit for the 2020-21 fiscal year was calculated at \$2.43%. Since the budget's proposed levy of \$24,189,676 falls within the tax levy limit, a simple majority is required to pass the budget. Goldbeck also mentioned that taxpayers who qualify will receive the property tax rebate from the state.

Looking at the estimated 2020-21 true value tax rate, Goldbeck said that under the proposed levy and based on the 2019-20 assessment data, the projected true value tax rate is \$13.63 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a home assessed at \$100,000, a district taxpayer can expect to pay \$1,363 in school taxes for the 2020-21 fiscal year, marking a \$32 increase from the 2019-20 school year.

Yet Goldbeck acknowledged that there are still budget factors to consider, such as unsettled support staff contracts, costs for students with special needs, extended school year and reopening costs and revised voting protocols for 2020. He reminded the BOE that transportation costs could change significantly as could heating fuel prices and usage. There are also revenue issues to consider, including anticipated cuts in state aid, federal grant allocations and the use of the district's fund balance to balance the budget.

Voters will also be asked to cast their ballots for a bus purchase proposition and the election of two BOE members this year. The bus purchase proposition entails the purchase of four

35-passenger or larger school buses (including cameras and other necessary equipment) at a maximum estimated cost of \$62,110 each for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$248,440. Goldbeck pointed out that using the year-end fund balance in lieu of borrowing will save the district approximately \$20,000 in avoided financing costs and "eliminate the need to budget debt service of \$54,000 per year for five years beginning with the 2021-22 fiscal year."

Incumbent candidates James Griffin and Heidi Johnson are running uncontested in this year's BOE election. For more, read their profiles on this page.

Should anyone have questions about the budget, Goldbeck advised they reach out to Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler at 518-398-7181, ext. 1401 or m.handler@ppcsd.org.

For questions related to this year's mail-in voting procedures and absentee ballots, residents should get in contact with the district clerk at 518-398-7181, ext. 1408 or at j.tomaine@ppcsd.org.

Throughout the hearing, there were no comments or questions from the public.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

AREA IN BRIEF

Strawberry Festival June 20 at The Grange

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 20, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, at 5 p.m. Dinners will be take out only.

The menu will include classic picnic food: hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, Italian pasta salad, baked beans and homemade strawberry shortcake for dessert made with hand-picked local strawberries and homemade ice cream and biscuits.

A donation of \$15 per dinner is requested. For contact-less pick-up, drive to the back of the hall, pay, get the food through the car window and take it home to enjoy. All Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Guidelines will be followed including face masks, gloves and social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For reservations (which are a must as the Grange may run out of dinners), call Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869.

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For landowners with woodlands, the CT Forest and Parks Association has partnered with UCONN, CTDEEP and the Great Mountain Forest to host a 3 day educational seminar called the Covert Project on how to manage a healthy forest. Each September, 30 people go through the intensive outdoor classroom instruction on how to make your woodlands both profitable and more supportive of wildlife. The participants are also connected to the various CT organizations and professionals who will support them as they return to their own woodlands to manage. For more information on this excellent program, please go to this link: www.ctwoodlands.org/environmental-education/connecticut-coverts-cooperators

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Weekdays at the Library – on Zoom

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June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Crafternoon
Knitting together

TUESDAY • 7 PM
June 2
HLS Book Group
An American Marriage by Tayari Jones

WEDNESDAY • 10 AM
June 17
American History Book Club
A Clearing in the Distance by W. Rybczynski

Email programs@hotchkisslibrary.org for links

Special Events

Virtual Book Signing 2.0

FRIDAY • 7 PM
June 12
David Kamp
Sunny Days: The Children's Television Revolution That Changed America

FRIDAY • 7 PM
June 26
Michael Isikoff
Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War On America and the Election of Donald Trump

Sneak Peek at More Events

FRIDAY • 7 PM
July 10
Jerry Mitchell
Race Against Time

FRIDAY • 7 PM
July 31
Amity Gaige
Sea Wife: A Novel

FRIDAY • 7 PM
August 14
Elisa and Robert Bildner
The Berkshires Farm Table Cookbook

Tickets Available for Purchase at: <http://hotchkisslibrary.eventbrite.com>

Kids' Programs with Mrs. Sam

TUESDAY • 3:30 PM
June 2
Let's learn About Artists: Matisse
Facebook

WEDNESDAY • 3:30 PM
June 3
Story Craft! Hot Air Balloons!
Facebook

SATURDAY • 10:30 AM
June 6
Anansi Brunch Bunch!
Facebook

MONDAY • 5:30 PM
June 8
Tween Choose Your Own Adventure
Zoom

TUESDAY • 3:30 PM
June 16
STEAM TEAM! Coding!
Zoom

SATURDAY • 10:30 AM
June 20
Cinderella Brunch Bunch!
Zoom

TUESDAY • 3:30 PM
June 23
"Imagine Your Story!"
Summer Reading Program Begins!
Fairy Tale Mad Lib Event
Zoom

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One incumbent, one newcomer run for two open BOE seats

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Voting on the 2020-21 Millbrook Central School District budget and on the election of two candidates to the Millbrook Board of Education (BOE) will take place on Tuesday, June 9.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, voting will be done remotely. Each qualified voter will receive a mail-in ballot from the district. No in-person voting will be allowed. Voters who are not registered can register with the Dutchess County Board of Elections by mail or remotely through the Department of Motor Vehicles website at www.dmv.ny.gov/more+info/electronic-voter-registration-application.

Howard Shapiro

Two seats are open on the

Millbrook BOE, and two candidates have thrown their hats into the ring. The incumbent, Howard Shapiro, is currently the vice president of the board. He ran for the first time in the 2017 election; he won and proved to be a tireless worker for the board. Having enjoyed success on the BOE has whetted his appetite for another term.

"I request your vote to return me for another three-year term on the Millbrook school board," said Shapiro. "During my first term on the board I have saved the district over \$30,000. I was able to locate these savings by my in-depth review of district contracts. These savings to our taxpayers were able to be used to further the education of our students. In September, my fellow board members elected me to the position of school board

vice president."

Early in May, Shapiro was presented with the Board Mastery Award by the New York State School Boards Association. He said he believes in thinking outside the box, approaching problems by being innovative and squeezing every penny out of tax dollars to provide an excellent education for the children.

Shapiro has lived in the Millbrook district for close to 35 years and has a son who is a student in the district. He attended school board meetings before running for a seat in 2017 and decided to run because he had a diverse background that he believed would allow him to work well with BOE. He also believes that creativity has a role in bureaucracy; he doesn't like to hear that something can't be done, and likes to see creativity and innovation

in action.

Chris Rosenbergen

The other candidate, Chris Rosenbergen, a newcomer to the board may still be known to many in the district because of his work on the Millbrook Educational Foundation (MEF), where he served as chairman for the past few years.

"This has been such a rewarding experience being able to give back to a district that has given my two beautiful daughters so much," he said. "As I've built relationships throughout the district and learned more about what's needed, I've decided to run for

the BOE."

Rosenbergen believes that education should be "not only for the mind but also for the hands and heart. The students of Millbrook are amazing and deserve the best learning options, best safety available, a great support system and top-notch educators."

Rosenbergen has worked in the financial field for the past 25 years and is currently the first vice president of retail lending and financial services at Ulster Savings Bank. Aside from the MEF, he has served on the boards of United Way and the American Bankers Association. He said he feels that

his past experiences have taught him how to work well with others to get things done, and his past successes have been due to having an open mind and to being a good listener.

"I enjoy being a father," he said. "I made a commitment early in my children's lives to be as involved as I could get so that they would have the best education they could possibly have. I believe I could bring great value to the BOE or I would not be running. I hope you will grant me this wonderful opportunity to join the board so I can use my background to fix what's broken and enhance what is not."

Proposed 2020-21 BOE budget breakdown

School district budget vote June 9

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) Board of Education (BOE) met on Tuesday, May 19, via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing regulations. It also held a virtual public hearing that night that was live-streamed via YouTube on the 2020-21 district budget; questions about the fiscal document from the community were submitted to the district office prior to the hearing.

BOE President Perry Hartswick swiftly opened the meeting and approved the consent agenda. The minutes of the March 5 meeting were also accepted.

There were amendments made to the BOE meeting schedule and the BOE budget calendar for 2020-21. These changes were necessary due to COVID 19; the meetings will continue to be held on Tuesday evenings.

The total general fund budget amount for 2020-21 is \$30,980,759 (compared to 2019-20's total of \$29,999,745), with the cost for total instruction for the next academic year calculated at \$15,368,854 and total pupil transportation calculated at \$2,396,085. Total debt service for 2020-21 is calculated at \$1,873,150; the total salaries line for regular school comes to \$6,951,333 while the total chief school administration budget line comes to \$267,119.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Laura Mitchell, a motion to adopt the budget was approved by the BOE.

Details of the budget can be found on the district website, www.millbrookcsd.org. According to the website, "New York state mandates that schools release their proposed budget in a three component format."

The breakdown of those three components is as follows:

Program Component

• \$22,549,936, which accounts for approximately 72.79% of the district's total budget.

"The Program Component includes expenses associated with: All salaries and benefits of instructional staff [classroom teaching personnel — teachers and teacher aides]; instructional supplies and materials and all instructional services [BOCES programs and programs for students with disabilities]; interscholastic sports and extracurricular programs; transportation [First Student contract]; curriculum and instruction planning and development, and student-testing services; library-media services, computer assisted instruction, guidance services, health services, psychological services, academic intervention services and summer school."

Administrative Component

• \$3,932,439, which accounts for approximately 12.69% of the district's total budget.

"The Administrative Component includes expenses associated with: All salaries and benefits of custodial, maintenance and Buildings and Grounds staff; Supplies and materials for custodial, maintenance, and Buildings and Grounds staff; bonds, capital and lease expenses associated with district facilities; court judgments, tax certiorari proceedings and court orders/claims; utilities and rental costs; maintenance and improvements costs for all district facilities."

ent includes expenses associated with: All salaries and benefits of school and Central/District Office administration and staff; supplies and materials for school administrators, Central/District Office staff and Board of Education; payroll, human resources, benefits and central data processing; auditing, legal services, tax collection, purchasing and public information services."

Capital Component

• \$4,498,384, which accounts for approximately 14.52% of the district's total budget.

"The Capital Component includes expenses associated with: All salaries and benefits of custodial, maintenance and Buildings and Grounds staff; Supplies and materials for custodial, maintenance, and Buildings and Grounds staff; bonds, capital and lease expenses associated with district facilities; court judgments, tax certiorari proceedings and court orders/claims; utilities and rental costs; maintenance and improvements costs for all district facilities."

The board also approved the 2020-21 Property Tax Report Card at its virtual meeting.

Voting on the 2020-21 budget and for the two open positions on the BOE will take place on Tuesday, June 9; ballots were sent out by mail to eligible voters already; no in-person voting will take place due to the pandemic; qualified voters should check with the district clerk if they have not received a ballot yet.

Fire destroys local family's home

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

SALT POINT — A fire tore through a home on Route 82 in Salt Point on Thursday night, May 28. The Millbrook fire department responded at 8:43 p.m. after a call was received stating that the rear of the structure was ablaze. It was initially reported that all occupants were out of the building, but resident Lisa Conger reportedly went back into the house several times attempting to rescue the family's dogs, two of which perished in the fire. She was hospitalized with smoke inhalation and burns to her face.

Fire Chief Ted Bownas reported that the fire was well advanced upon his crew's arrival and firefighters were hampered in their attempts to extinguish the flames due to a lack of water supply in the immediate area.

A second call went out and

other area fire departments responded, with an engine from Union Vale covering the Millbrook station. Two tankers positioned on Hibernia Road and Jameson Hill Road aided with supplying more water.

The fire was under control by 11 p.m. and emergency personnel and firefighting equipment were out of the area by 1:30 a.m., according to Chief Bownas. Support came from Amenia, East Clinton, Dover, Pleasant Valley, Stanfordville and LaGrange; also assisting at the fire were Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) and the Dutchess County Fire Investigation Division.

The Conger family, including Charlie, his wife, Lisa, and their daughter, Hailey, had lived in their home since it was built, moving in on Feb. 14, 2004. Aside from losing two of their beloved dogs, Haddie and Mac, they also lost all of their worldly posses-

sions, escaping with only the clothes they wore on their backs.

Neighbors and friends, in fact the entire community, have responded quickly to help this family in need. People have been donating clothes for them to wear, offering to help take care of their remaining dogs, and friends are providing them a place to stay. A gofundme page, managed by Allison Ret, has been set up; as of 9 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, \$42,275 had been raised, far exceeding the initial goal of \$25,000. The fundraising page can be found on [mostlymillbrook/facebook](https://www.gofundme.com/c/millbrook-fire). Donations have ranged in amounts from anywhere between \$25 to several hundred dollars.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined. The Congers clearly face a long period of sorrow and adjustment, but also of hope in knowing the Millbrook community will be behind them 100% on their road to recovery.

We salute the dedication, compassion and commitment of every Noble team member and healthcare workers across the region

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF AMENIA ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AREA VARIANCE RELATED TO PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4754 ROUTE 44

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 121-59(G) of the Town of Amenia Zoning Code, a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of the Town of Amenia, New York, on June 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM. The public hearing will be conducted remotely via Zoom in accordance with Executive Order 202.1 and subsequent Executive Orders of Governor Andrew Cuomo. To participate in this public hearing, please send an email to smetcalf@ameniany.gov and instructions will be provided. The following matter is scheduled for a public hearing:

Applicant, Tamarack Preserve Ltd., seeks an area variance to allow an addition to an existing structure that will result in a total building footprint of 6,533 SF on property owned by Turkey Hollow Inc, located on Tax Parcel # 132000-7066-00-345640 at 4754 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545. Within the Rural Agricultural "RA" zoning district that the parcel is a part of, the maximum building footprint is 6,000 SF. Applicant

is proposing to expand its existing Clubhouse Building in order to provide a new larger more modern kitchen and an additional dining room for its members.

The proposed addition will provide an additional 1,541 SF of enclosed dining/kitchen space, while the proposed outdoor porch will create 265 SF of space, generating a total of 1,806 SF of additional building footprint. The existing building currently has a footprint of 4,727 SF, which combined, brings the total building footprint to 6,533 SF.

A copy of the application is on file in the Amenia Town Clerk's Office for public viewing and inspection during normal business hours. The Application can also be viewed and downloaded from the Town's official website at www.ameniany.gov.

At the public hearing noticed herein, the ZBA will hear all persons interested in the application. Persons may appear at the hearing remotely via Zoom on their own behalf or by agent and may also submit written comments to the ZBA prior to or at such hearing. Dated: June 4, 2020.

John T. Metcalfe, Chairman
Town of Amenia Zoning Board Appeals
06-04-20

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning Board of the Town of North East on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 via Zoom at 5:40 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the application of Larry Wentz for a Minor Subdivision on Tax Parcel #: 7269-00-642703. The parcel is located at 95 Taylor Road, Millerton, NY 12546.

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

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

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the above notice is subject to current and new Executive Orders by the Governor of the State of New York relating to open meetings. Dated: May 27, 2020.

Dale Culver
Planning Board
06-04-20

Fifteen years goes by in a flash

We're pleased to let you know that the Bank of Millbrook is now offering a 15-year, fixed-rate mortgage. It's a terrific option to get your house paid off faster at a secured rate and to save money at the same time.

David Fountain
Vice President, Loan Officer

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EDITORIAL

Vote by mail, or don't vote at all in this year's school district vote

Getting out the vote is not always the easiest task for people. It seems that some voters need a little nudge, a little push, to head to the polls. We get that, even if we don't understand why, exactly. Let's just put it down to human nature. Procrastination, possibly.

For the 2020 election cycle, we find ourselves in the middle of a global health pandemic. The coronavirus has understandably changed voting protocols in many locales around the world, including right here in New York state. Officials have been trying to figure out how to keep voters from spreading and/or contracting the deadly respiratory disease while at polling places, where social distancing would understandably be difficult, while still protecting our constitutional right to vote.

Governor Andrew Cuomo previously issued an Executive Order that rescheduled school board elections and budget votes in New York for Tuesday, June 9, instead of the original date of Tuesday, May 19 — allowing him more time to figure out the best approach while hoping to flatten the curve. He decided that, for the first time, New York would conduct all school board elections and budget votes via mail and all qualified voters would be sent an absentee ballot with return postage paid.

We think that, considering the grave risks associated with going out in public right now, the governor made a very wise decision. It should not be a life or death decision to cast one's vote in a Board of Education (BOE) election or for their school district's budget. And mingling in a school building with other district voters, gathering around voting machines and chatting with election inspectors, is certainly not the proper way to maintain safe social distancing during a pandemic.

Yes, these are very important decisions that affect our everyday lives and those of our children, our families and our neighbors that we are talking about. We should absolutely participate in the process — do our research, ask the right questions, look at the numbers, weigh the pros and cons and consider the tax implications — after all, those of us who own property pay school taxes. And if you want a say in how your school district makes the decisions that affects how it budgets, which affects how it taxes, this is the time to weigh in. (As is your BOE's budget process, which includes a public hearing, all of which is open to the public. This year, much of the process was done virtually, mostly via Zoom, due to the health crisis.)

Understand, if a school district's budget doesn't get passed in the first go-around with a 50% plus-1 simple majority vote, the school board has the option of putting out a fiscal plan that could be the same, less or more than what was presented in the first budget for a second vote. The BOE could also decide to go to a contingency budget. If the second budget doesn't pass, the Board of Ed would automatically adopt a contingency budget, which means there would be a further reduction, to meet a 0% tax levy increase.

And that contingency budget could be pretty meager. Extremely meager. It has the potential to be much less appealing than the original budget that voters rejected the first time. Just keep that in mind.

The point is that the responsibility is on the voting public to ensure the budget passes — if it's acceptable — or doesn't, and to see that the best BOE candidates are elected on Election Day — even if it's a different kind of Election Day than we're used to.

That means, this year, despite the coronavirus (or maybe because of it), the onus is upon each and every qualified voter to take the initiative to mail in his or her ballot to his or her school district office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, Election Day.

If, for some reason, you have not yet received your ballot in the mail, check with your school district clerk immediately. For details, read this week's front page or go to your school district's website.

And look for profiles on the many Harlem Valley candidates running in this year's BOE elections throughout this week's Millerton News. Do your part to be an informed voter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rail Trail user's car towed, now wants to warn others

I am a 64 year old woman and have had a very unpleasant encounter while visiting the Rail Trail in the Hillsdale/Copake area. I parked alongside some woods on Underhill Road about 5 yards from where the Rail Trail crosses. I figured it was a safe place to park, very little traffic and safely 12 feet from a sign that marked an upcoming curve.

To my shock, I came back tired and thirsty from my walk to find my car gone. I first thought in my panic that I forgot where I parked my car, then I saw the drag marks from the tires in the dirt at the side of the road. That's when my heart sunk and I thought my car was stolen. Who would steal a Hyundai, I thought, but I was so tired and confused I couldn't think straight.

No one I called to help me was home, so I had to walk another mile to the police/sheriff station and wait for them to arrive. The officer (Leonard) found out that a homeowner near where I parked had it towed. I then had to walk another 1/4 mile to the garage

where it was towed since the officer would not drive me.

He was kind enough to escort me back to the scene near 50 Underhill Road and told me he wasn't sure it was town property where I parked and that it was a civil matter. Since then I have found no agency that could tell me if the car was parked on private or public land except one kind deputy clerk who thought it might be 25 feet from the center of the road.

I'm still feeling assaulted and confused by this experience and am hoping you will print part or all of this letter to keep other people from having this experience and facilitating proper signage so the public will know where not to park.

I was parked 17 feet 8 inches from the center of the road. If anyone has any knowledge of the distance from the center of the road onto the berm that is town property, I would greatly appreciate it.

Barbara Ray
Copake



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A thank you from Ancram Fire Chief David Boice

I would like to thank everyone who came out to watch the Memorial Day Morale Drive, as well as all the people who were involved in organizing and participating in the Morale Drive.

The organizers and participants of the Morale Drive believed our communities needed this celebration to hopefully bring back some semblance of normalcy.

We did not realize how much it would mean to all of the people involved as well as to our veterans — and we all wanted to say a great thank you to everyone who watched.

Best wishes to all for a safe summer.

David Boice
Ancram Fire Chief

Ancram

S. David Freeman: Seven decades of participating in power for all of us

If the planet Earth were animate, it would have shuddered at the news that S. David Freeman passed away May 12. Freeman was that important to Earth's future. In his 94th year, he inspired all he met with his burning passion, relentless energy and keen intellect.

Freeman, an engineer and a lawyer, knew where decisions were being made or ignored regarding our energy future. He mocked the foolish embrace of fossil fuels and warned all who would listen about the deadly impact of coal, oil and natural gas consumption on our environment. This humble son of an immigrant umbrella repair man made the most of his formidable talents over seven decades and helped steer mankind toward renewables and energy efficiency. Freeman worked to prevent the perilous use of fossil and nuclear fuels.

Freeman was one of the first environmentalists to warn us of the dangers posed by fossil fuels and he was one of the first to offer practical remedies. He started his career in the 1950s as an engineer with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) before holding a series of positions with the Federal Power Commission (FPC) and the Johnson White House. In 1974 Freeman authored the Ford Foundation's groundbreaking report, "A Time to Choose: America's Energy Future." He was an adviser to President Jimmy Carter, who appointed him chairman of the giant TVA in 1978.

At the TVA, Freeman managed with a no-nonsense, down-to-earth, results-focused approach to reform. Using what he learned at TVA, Freeman became known for turning around hidebound giant utilities that were unable to process evidence contrary to their wasteful ways and environmental destructiveness. The tenacious Tennessee had no patience for self-serving talk that avoided obvious solutions. Freeman was a serious advocate who used humor, wit and charm to make his case in the court of public opinion and the corridors of power. "Mother Nature doesn't care what we say, Mother Nature only cares about what we do," he would remind bluffers.

Freeman shut down or suspended construction of half a dozen nuclear reactors at the TVA, scoring them as dangerous, uneconomical and unnecessary. He liked "free" sources of energy, such as solar and wind, instead of lethal coal, gas, oil and uranium that had to be ripped perilously from the bowels of the Earth. As for vast opportunities afforded by energy efficient sources, he paraphrased Benjamin Franklin,

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Ralph Nader

saying a megawatt of energy that isn't wasted is a megawatt you don't have to produce.

In between his clearheaded impact on conferences around the world, advising presidents, governors, members of Congress and parliaments, and many cogent writings, Freeman ran three other giant utilities (other than TVA, Freeman ran utilities in California, Texas and New York). At Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), he implemented a public vote against the troubled Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station, replacing its energy with conservation and renewables.

In the decades I knew David, he always made the changes he implemented look easy because he so deftly and honestly used evidence, facts and economics — sometimes to rectify his previous positions. He used his knowledge to serve the public that was too often shoved aside by bureaucratic and corporate vested interests.

Freeman had that unparalleled combination of managerial experience, scholarly knowledge and programmatic urgency in confronting the climate crisis. We would invite him for brown-bag lunches with younger leaders working on energy transition. He would "out-urgent" them, mocking dilatory cap-and-trade ideas while demanding mandatory reduction in fossil fuels and ending nuclear power, and replacing them with job-producing energy conservation, retrofitting homes and buildings as solar and wind ramp up. Freeman said, "We need to pass a law that says that every utility in this country must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 5% of 2020 emissions every year, starting now, and until we get down to zero."

You may be wondering why you haven't seen Freeman on TV or read about his urgent proposals, as a doer, covering the crisis of climate and regular air water soil safeguards from ruinous extractive fuels.

Certainly, the mass media devoted many hours and pages to these subjects, interviewing far lesser and often conflicted people on NPR, PBS, commercial networks and major newspapers. I made many calls to energy and environmental reporters about David's availability, but to no avail.

Was it ageism? Which is ram-

If pandemic weren't enough: USA sliding to a war footing

The very backbone of any global possibility of peace is arms' control. In the past 100 years, every world war has started with adversaries (not enemies yet) secretly building up arms and weapon development. Flying machines in WWI and then German battleships and bombers in WWII. We came close with the Cuban Missile Crisis and outer space weaponization and, yes, the collapse of the USSR could have gone either way, especially with President Reagan threatening a "Star Wars" program (that thankfully never left the drawing board).

Here's a simple fact: If we had the U2 Spy Plane in 1938, Germany could never have built the Tirpitz or Bismarck battleships, never could have built factories to make thousands of bombers. They would have been "seen" and stopped, early, before they could become a force diplomatic words alone (let alone worthless paper treaties) could not thwart.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was averted by a series of U2 black and white photographs. It was that simple. The White House decisions taken were not simple, but the proof, evidence, was basically a Kodak under a spy plane. Before the USA and USSR and 34 countries decided to de-escalate tensions by agreeing to an Open Skies policy in 1992 — meaning we can overfly you and you can overfly us to see and check what's going on — only spies and spying would provide critical adversary intel.

Aircraft with four types of

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

sensors — optical panoramic and framing cameras, real-time video cameras, infrared line-scanners and sideways-looking synthetic aperture radar — may make observations anywhere over a country's national territory. Treaty rules say that the flight may only be restricted for reasons of flight safety, not for reasons of national security.

So, what's happened now that has me worried? The United States, at the executive order from the White House, has decided to abandon the Open Skies Treaty. In a statement put out by the administration, they claim that it was "no longer in the United States' best interest to remain a party to this Treaty when Russia does not uphold its commitments." Meaning? Russia may be cheating near St. Petersburg and, if they cheat, we'll simply stop acting under the treaty and withdraw their right to observe us and, by return, we lose the right to observe them. In short, the closed society of Russia and now China will become a dangerous, unknown, weapons' builder as it was during the time of Gary Powers and the U2 shoot down.

Interestingly, 33 countries have said they think this is a dangerous escalation of the risk of war — including Russia — all of whom plan to keep the Open Skies treaty. All the European, NATO, allies overfly most of Russia regularly and share intel with the Pentagon. So, what was the real reason for the U.S. to drop out? The administration wants to stop them overflying us. We may be weaponizing without public awareness. And, indeed, with the new Space Force, which is a military endeavor, weapons systems and capabilities are under development.

On March 13, the Space Force received its first "counterforce" weapon: The Counter Communications System Block 10.2, which jams selected satellite communications. "CCS is the only offensive system in the United States Space Force arsenal," said Lt. Col. Steve Brogan, in the Space Force's Space and Missile Systems Center Special Programs Directorate. "This upgrade puts the 'force' in Space Force and is critical for space as a warfighting domain."

In development since 2014, you just know they have dozens more closed skies' weapons in line for deployment.

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

"You have the right to be involved. You have something important to contribute, and you have to take the risk to contribute it."
Mae Jemison

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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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BUSINESSES REOPEN *Continued from Page A1*

8 feet markers have been placed on the floor to keep people from mingling, and customers have been asked to proceed in a clockwise fashion throughout the store to avoid passing each other; signs have also been installed to have customers move in a single direction. A plexiglass shield has been installed at the front counter and hand sanitizer is available at the front of the store. Millbrook Antiques Center owner Tom McGeady said the door and hand rails out front will be cleaned with a sanitizing wipe each time someone comes out of the store, and the store itself will be cleaned top to bottom each day.

As far as masks are concerned, McGeady said every customer is required to wear one. If patrons don't have a mask, the store will supply one; if they won't wear one, they will be refused entry. In terms of the number of employees working at the store, McGeady said he'll be the only one operating the store until the state reaches Phase Two of reopening the economy.

When asked if he had any concerns about reopening, McGeady said, "I think we put everything in place that we could. I suppose there's always that element of concern, but we have to open or close for good — that's what we're coming down to."

In the village of Millerton, Elizabeth's Jewelry and Fine Gifts reopened on Wednesday, May 29, for curbside pickup and drop off services. In addition to installing Plexiglas shields to create a barrier between the employee and customer at the register, a hand sanitizing station has been installed in the store and seating

areas have been set up outside the business and on opposite ends of the store. Customers looking to drop off and pick up their jewelry for repairs have been asked to bring in their items in plastic bags.

When asked how business has been going so far, owner Elizabeth Trotta said the store's received mostly drop offs for watch batteries and repairs. Seeing as the store's received about four or five customers a day, business has been very slow to start. Though the store's hours of operation have been reduced for its opening week, Trotta said she expects to expand the hours weekly. She has also reduced the workforce for the time being.

Her other business in Millerton, Trotta's Fine Wine & Spirits, also reopened on Thursday, May 29, with safety procedures similar to those implemented at Elizabeth's Jewelry and Fine Gifts. To minimize contact among patrons, the store now has a self-serve station for people to pack their liquor, though Trotta said they can also use the store's monitor to tell employees what they want to purchase.

"Of course, we have concerns," Trotta said, "and that's why we're being so vigilant to protect ourselves and protect customers. Everyone's health is our number one priority and we find that our customers have different levels of comfort coming into the store, so we're trying to offer zero contact and minimum contact opportunities, but I feel with the decline of COVID-19 cases in our area that if we move slowly, we can monitor and make changes as necessary."

Operating as an essential business in the hamlet of Wassaic, Jack's Auto Service was fortunate to keep its doors open during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. With regard to keeping their employees and customers safe during the outbreak, Jack's co-owner Linda Gregory said that the shop has been following the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "along with a few extras." Each car that comes into the shop is wiped down and sprayed with Lysol, and employees make sure to wear gloves on the job. Gregory has observed more people dropping off their vehicles, paying over the phone and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when they drop off their vehicle at the shop.

"We're living in such a tumultuous time," Gregory said. "There's no way to predict what's going to happen for the end of 2020. All we can do is pivot and do what we need to do to make sure the customer is taken care of."

After closing its doors around the end of March in response to COVID-19, Pine Plains Eques-

trian recently started allowing clients back onto the premises on Sunday, May 24. Keeping its hours of operation and number of employees intact, the equestrian facility has since been able to offer some outside lessons, though those lessons have been predominantly limited to the facility's boarders due to restrictions on the number of people allowed at the facility. Right now, only two riders are allowed on site per hour and they are required to ride separately during lessons. Bathrooms have been labeled as hygiene stations where visitors can wash their hands when they enter and before they leave the facility. Protecting themselves and their clients by wearing face masks, employees make sure to keep a distance from one another.

Regarding the pandemic's impact on business, Pamela Lyons, the farm manager and trainer at Pine Plains Equestrian, said it changed slightly "in the sense that we weren't able to let anyone in for so long, but it's been a nice opportunity to make improvements to our facility and now we're back to where we

were except we need to keep it quieter." If anything, she said it's been a struggle to get the horses prepared for sales since the facility's horse show season has been pushed back significantly.

"I think everything will be able to return to normal in a slightly more cautious way," Lyons said.

Yet even with all of the businesses that are slowly finding their way through this new normal, there are still many working to acclimate to the current climate before they officially reopen. Though she initially intended to reopen her store on Friday, May 15, Charlotte Merwin of Merwin Farm & Home in Millerton said she decided to delay her reopening, until Thursday, June 4, though she's very much looking forward to that day.

"It's time to let life start again," Merwin said. "I just hope the best for everyone in our village and that everyone comes out to support us and make an effort for those who are struggling."

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro also stressed the importance of supporting

"our neighborhood businesses" in the reopening process during his Facebook Live Town Hall on Thursday, May 29.

"They need our help more than ever and we need to be a hero to them," Molinaro said.

After reviewing the latest COVID-19 data, Cuomo announced on Friday, May 29, that five regions in New York — including Central New York, the Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country and Southern Tier — were allowed to enter Phase Two of reopening that day. According to his website at www.governor.ny.gov, Phase Two industries include "office-based workers, real estate services, in-store retail shopping and some barbershop services."

Assuming they keep the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and new admissions down and don't see an increase in the severity of coronavirus cases, Molinaro reported during his recent Town Hall that Dutchess County and the Mid-Hudson Region will be transitioning to the next incremental step — Phase Two — which is expected to begin on Tuesday, June 9.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY *Continued from Page A1*

New York State Board of Elections and its officials on Tuesday, May 5, Andrew Yang, a Democratic Party presidential candidate who also suspended his campaign, and seven of his pledged delegates, alleged that their constitutional rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments were violated when "their names were removed from the New York Democratic presidential primary ballot and the primary was canceled."

According to the order, the plaintiffs moved for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction from canceling the 2020 Democrat-

ic primary and directing the "reinstatement" of "all duly qualified candidates."

The court order stated that "there's a strong public interest in permitting the presidential primary to proceed with the full roster of candidates."

A preliminary injunction was granted and the state Board of Elections was ordered to reinstate the Democratic presidential primary for Tuesday, June 23.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit officially ruled on the matter on Tuesday, May 19, ruling that the presidential primary may proceed with its June 23 date.

BOE ELECTIONS *Continued from Page A1*

limit any unnecessary exposure to this virus among both voters and poll workers."

Election Day is just around the corner, which means qualified voters should check with their school district clerks if they have not yet received their ballots in the mail. According to school districts in the region, including the North East (Webutuck), Pine Plains and Millbrook Central School Districts, which posted details of their 2020-21 school budgets, the upcoming vote and the BOE elections on their respective websites, ballots were mailed out by the last week in May, and must be completed and returned to district clerks no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9. The Webutuck district will provide a ballot drop off box outside its district office at Webutuck High School on Monday, June 8, from noon to 7 p.m. and on Tuesday, June 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A qualified voter is defined by the Board of Elections as one who is:

- A citizen of the United States of America;
- Eighteen years of age or older;
- A resident within the school

district for a period of 30 days preceding the annual vote and election; and

- Not otherwise disqualified under the Election Law.

The Pine Plains district stressed online that "there will be no in-person voting permitted," adding, "no absentee ballot application is required."

To confirm that one's name is on the school district's roll, contact the district clerk as soon as possible.

In the Webutuck district, contact District Clerk Tracy Trotter at tracy.trotter@webutuck.org or by phone at 845-373-4100, ext. 5506.

In the Pine Plains district, contact District Clerk Julia Tomaine at j.tomaine@ppcsd.org or by phone at 518-398-7181, ext. 1408.

In the Millbrook district, contact District Clerk Cheryl Sprague at cheryl.sprague@millbrookcsd.org or by phone at 845-677-4200, ext. 1100.

For additional information voters can also go online; the Webutuck website is at www.webutuckschools.org; the Pine Plains website is at www.ppcsd.org; and the Millbrook website is at www.millbrookcsd.org.

12 NORTH MAIN ST. *Continued from Page A1*

Court of the State of New York County of Dutchess, Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud explained that since the 12 North Main St. property is adjacent to 8 North Main St., both properties are located next to the municipal parking lot and the town's historic Graham-Brush House and is "a mere 50 feet from the hamlet's main intersection."

Envisioning the property's purchase as a multi-purpose opportunity to improve the town's infrastructure and facilities, Cloud elaborated via the application that, after being purchased and cleaned up, the site could be used to expand public parking to support the hamlet. In an interview with The Millerton News, she said that owning the two pieces of real estate next to the municipal parking lot is key to its revitalization. Looking at the future, she said the land could be used to construct "a Town Hall large enough to accommodate town offices and meeting rooms, as well as Town Court and State Police functions."

"I think that it will put a beautiful Town Hall in the middle of town where people will be able to see and use it more," agreed Councilman Matthew Zick. "I just think it's a good idea."

Owned by Andrea Replansky, the wife of Attorney to the Town Warren Replansky, the property at 12 North Main St. had been appraised at \$232,600 by its seller, Pine Ridge Properties LLC. Over the course of various sessions, the board was able to get the price down to \$100,000. After negotiating the price, the town hired Gary Murphy as its lawyer for handling the contact.

The board unanimously agreed to make an offer of \$100,000 for the property at its Feb. 20 meeting. Pine Ridge Properties LLC accepted the offer and sent the contract for the board to review at its April 13 workshop meeting. Immediately recognizing the rare opportunity to purchase key real estate at a reasonable price, the board voted to go forward with the contract



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Identified as key real estate for the town's revitalization plans, the Pine Plains Town Board unanimously agreed to make an offer of \$100,000 for the property at 12 North Main St. this past February.

at its April 16 meeting. Cloud was also pleased to report the town's negotiation for a 2% interest rate through a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN).

"When 12 North Main St. quickly became available to us, we thought it was an opportunity because we'd be able to build Town Hall and enhance town parking," said Deputy Supervisor Don Bartles. "I've been in favor of it, especially when the opportunity to purchase 12 North Main became available at a reasonable price."

"Once again, we will never be in a place historically to buy something like this at a price with that interest rate again in our lifetimes," Cloud said.

Yet the board's excitement to move forward was soon diminished by the arrival of an email in late April that claimed to be a "petition" to call for a referendum on the purchase of 12 Main St. At that time, the board was in a permissive referendum period, which is required on a Town Board motion when bonding a purchase of property. During a permissive referendum period, the public has 30 days to ask for a referendum on an issue by submitting a petition.

However, in lieu of a traditional hand-written petition, the board instead received an online document with 190 names typed on it, of which on the face of it

were a number of names of people who are not Pine Plains residents, names that were signed with only first names or names of known children, according to comments from both Zick and Cloud. Cloud added she has now spoken with a few people whose names are on the petition despite saying that "they did not sign it." Additionally, the document did not contain any addresses or actual signatures, as required by law.

Though she assured the community in one of her recent newsletters that the Town Board is sensitive to any concerns the community may have, Cloud said "it would have been wholly irresponsible to accept this document as a real legal petition necessitating the instigation of a referendum, which is a very costly undertaking for a town."

Nevertheless, she said on a later date, "We wanted to take

it seriously because we wanted to listen to the fact that people wanted to talk about it."

Hiring a lawyer to handle its case, the board brought the document to the attention of the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Dutchess. The document was ruled by the court as invalid, given its lack of actual signatures and authentication of signatures; its failure to articulate a purpose for the petition; and the respondent's "little effort to oppose this motion," even during the pandemic.

"The respondent made very little effort to conform with the formalities of a petition, and specifically failed to articulate a purpose for the petition, so that the town or anyone else would know why a referendum was wanted..." stated Judge Hal Greenwald.

Cloud shared plans to purchase the property as soon as the pandemic is over and the property's tenants have vacated. In the meantime, residents have been encouraged to attend virtual Town Board meetings by going onto the "Town of Pine Plains" YouTube channel. Cloud mentioned that the town is in the process of creating a page on its website to address current projects; once that page is finished, residents can go to www.pineplains-ny.gov for more information about the purchase.


"At this point, we're going to make sure people understand what's going on, the history of this decision and what is at stake and that the town can handle it financially," Cloud said.



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

June 4-10, 2020

POETRY: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Poets Find Words for What We Are Feeling Now

Sometimes you ask a question that seems simple enough and you are surprised by a response that comes at you big and powerful like a tsunami wave.

That's more or less what happened when Millerton, N.Y., resident Alice Quinn checked in with the many poets in her contacts list and asked them what they're doing during the pandemic. The response was, Quinn said, overwhelming.

She quickly realized that America's poets had something to say that American poetry fans would like to hear. She reached out to her contacts at the prestigious Knopf publishing house (where she was an editor for a decade, before going to The New Yorker and then the Poetry Society of America) and they immediately said yes.

In what must be one of the fastest turnarounds in publishing history, "Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic" was put together in 40 days, like the Biblical flood, beginning March 27. An electronic version will be available on June 9, a hardcover print

edition will be released in November.

The poems are collected from all over the United States, with work from poets that even prose fans will recognize, including Susan Minot and former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins.

Susan Kinsolving, who is poet in residence at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Conn., is featured in the book. She will be one of five poets to take part in a special Zoom reading, sponsored by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn.

The reading will be held on Tuesday, June 16, from 7 to 8 p.m. Quinn will host Kinsolving, Collins (who was poet laureate from 2001-03), Major Jackson, Didi Jackson and Fanny Howe.

Hotchkiss Library Executive Director Gretchen Hachmeister said this one-time-only event is free, but donations are encouraged to benefit both Sharon Hospital's fund for healthcare workers and the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, which is the town's own public library.

Online attendance space is limited to 100; for more information, go to the library website at www.hotchkisslibrary.org.

My Heart Cannot Accept It All

By Susan Kinsolving

Forgive yourself for thinking small
for cooking soups, ignoring blight.
The mind cannot contain it all

despite intent and wherewithal;
it's little stuff that brings delight:
a book, a drink. Keep thinking small.

A bubble bath? An odd phone call?
(Resisting all those gigabytes!)
Your mind will not embrace it all.

Quarantine is one long haul
as days grow long, so do the nights.
Forgive yourself for thinking small:

popcorn, TV, more alcohol?
There's no need to be contrite.
My mind cannot believe it all,

this vast and shocking viral sprawl,
infections with no end in sight.
Forgive me please. I'm thinking small.

My heart cannot accept it all.

From "Together in a Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond to the Pandemic," edited by Alice Quinn, Knopf, 2020

SINATRA: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Frank's Life — You Can't Deny It ...

Tom Santopietro returns to Kent (in a virtual fashion) for a Zoom talk hosted by the Kent Memorial Library in Kent, Conn., on Thursday, June 4, at 7 p.m. about Frank Sinatra's music and movies.

A journalist, Santopietro has also spent much of his life managing Broadway shows. He is uniquely able to write with an insider's insights on theater, as he has done in his books on Barbara Cook, Doris Day, "The Sound of Music" and, most recently, choreography, in

his book "Dancing Man: A Broadway Choreographer's Journey," written with and about Bob Avian (a Kent resident and close friend of Santopietro).

Frank Sinatra is a particular favorite of Santopietro's, whose third book was "Sinatra in Hollywood." In his Zoom talk, he said in an email interview last week, "I'm going to talk about Frank as both singer and actor — and about his personal life.

"I'm not going to play recordings because Zoom is visual, but I am going to show two different film clips, from 'Pal Joey' and 'From Here to Eternity.'"

The presentation (which was organized by Santopietro's childhood friend Lucy Pierpont, who does marketing and events for the Kent Memorial Library) should be about 35 or 40 minutes long, and then Santopietro will answer questions and people can share their own



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

THEATER:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Show Goes On, at Sharon Playhouse

As COVID-19 concerns continue, Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., has decided to move its 2020 season forward by one year, to 2021.

The original Playhouse plan (before the coronavirus) had been to open the 2020 season with "Singin' in the Rain" on June 12 and continue with "Brigadoon" (July 10), "Mamma Mia" (July 31), "Million Dollar Quartet" (Aug. 21) and Divas Go Hollywood (to end the season with a big bang of music and fun).

Managing Director Robert Levinstein and Artistic Director Alan M-L Wager had announced in April that they would delay this summer's Playhouse season, and open with "Mamma Mia," based on the songs of the Swedish pop group ABBA, on Aug. 7.

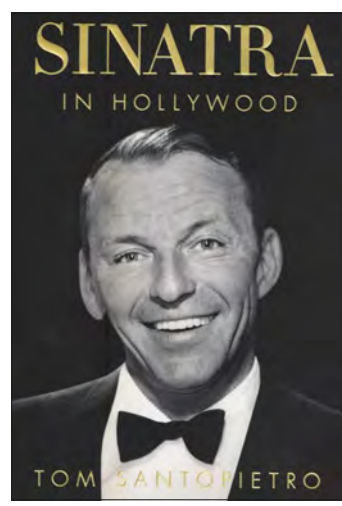
Last week, Levinstein and Wager sent out a video by email saying, "We had hoped to still offer 'Mamma Mia,' 'Million Dollar Quartet' and 'Divas Go Hollywood' this year, but with all that's going on, we thought it safer and more practical to move everything to next year.

"However, this does NOT mean that the Sharon Playhouse will be dark this summer. We are still planning on opening our Patio Bar in July, to offer the community a place to come and socialize with social distancing, food trucks and entertainment.

"We will be literally 'thinking outside of the Bok' and turning our parking lot into a drive-in theater with live entertainment — specifically, concerts and possibly a laser show; we're still working out the possibilities.

"The Bok Gallery space itself is also an option for live entertainment with social distancing procedures."

To keep up to date as Playhouse plans come together, subscribe to the Sharon Playhouse on Facebook or Instagram, and go to the theater's website at www.sharonplayhouse.org for more information, to purchase tickets and/or make a donation.



Tom Santopietro will talk about Frank Sinatra's life and career as both singer and actor, on June 4.

stories about how their lives intersected with Ol' Blue Eyes.

To sign up for the Zoom, go to the library website at www.kentmemoriallibrary.org, click on "events and exhibits" at the top of the home page, then find June 4 on the calendar and click on "A Fun Talk About the Great Frank Sinatra."

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Thank you to all who have contributed and become members. Your response has heartened us in continuing our mission to serve our communities, as published every week in The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News: Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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Slave grave follow up

The plot thickens in story of local slave's burial

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Who knew rumors of inappropriate treatment of the remains of a former slave and others at the North East Center Burying Ground could be true?

Local history buff Bernie Silvernail knew — or at least he suspected. And so two years ago, in the early morning hours of Memorial Day, 2018, when a number of local leaders took part in the Millerton American Legion Post 178's annual tradition of paying homage to local veterans at area cemeteries, Silvernail raised the issue with Dutchess County Legislator Gregg Pulver (R-19).

While at the small cemetery, Silvernail showed Pulver a stone placed by "Friends" for Thomas Stansbury (1824-1899) that indicated Stansbury was born a slave.

Questions arose because a small stone fence seemed to isolate several graves from those in what seemed to be the cemetery proper. Those included that of Stansbury, whom North East Historical Society researcher Betsy Strauss said was noted in Census information as being born either in Maryland or Africa.

Silvernail urged Pulver to help investigate the situation, who did exactly that, aided by the diligent efforts of a small group of community experts including Strauss.

According to Pulver, volunteers at the Chase Land Surveyors of neighboring Pine Plains resolved the controversy after surveying the property and determining that some of the graves, including Stansbury's, are actually located outside the confines of the cemetery proper in a small adjacent area owned by heirs of the original property.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

A headstone at the North East Center Burying Ground in Millerton was placed by "Friends" of former slave Thomas Stansbury (1824-1899) outside the stone wall of the cemetery proper.

Pulver — a Pine Plains resident and farmer — then began wearing his private citizen rather than his legislator's hat — and started working with a pro bono lawyer to complete the sale of the landlocked property to the Cemetery Association so that the land would become part of the hallowed ground.

He learned that the owners of the tract had actually kept the section separate when other portions of the estate had been sold because they were aware of the graves and had wanted to preserve them. The heir is now pleased to make the sale, which is on hold due to complications caused by COVID-19 restrictions. Pulver said, however, the necessary funds amounting to less than \$2,000 have been donated by an anonymous source, so the issue should soon be resolved.

Pulver admits he was actually surprised by the outcome of the

survey. "It turned into more of a mystery than I thought," he acknowledged.

Although the initial question of the grave's location has been otherwise resolved, Pulver and his group of volunteers will continue to try to uncover answers to other questions, such as who else may be buried in the area in question, why they were buried there and if a clergyman will be needed to provide any resolution.

Meanwhile, Pulver said, "We're making sure that whatever we have to do," will be done.

Once the property has been transferred and restrictions lifted, he plans to call on volunteers such as a sports team or a Scouting group to clean up the area and provide the respect that is due.

"Rest assured," Pulver concluded, "I've had a lot of interest in people wanting to help. It's a wrong made right."

Give blood, save a life, at Millerton library blood drive June 18

MILLERTON — A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the NorthEast-Millerton Library on Thursday, June 18, from 3 to 7 p.m. Blood donations are needed now

more than ever, especially as hospitals deal with blood shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic. Go to www.redcrossblood.org/give.

Library continues to offer virtual visits, online activities

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Keeping families engaged during this time of social distancing, the NorthEast-Millerton Library has many community programs online. Additionally, while the library building at 75 Main St. may be closed to the public until further notice, NorthEast-Millerton Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson remains available to the local community as a point of contact.

Ever since the library closed in response to the coronavirus pandemic in March, Leo-Jameson said it has had to rethink all programs previously listed on its calendar. Since then, the library has put together a number of online activities for families to access from the comfort and safety of their homes during the pandemic.

And while County Executive Marc Molinaro's office announced at the end of May that municipal libraries can reopen in Dutchess County, Leo-Jameson said following that announcement that "As of right now all I can say is that we have no date set [to reopen] but when we do open, we will be offering curbside pickup."

The library, meanwhile, has moved its Story Hour program online for families to find either on Facebook

Live or through the library's meeting software. The virtual Story Hours on Facebook can be found under the "NorthEast-Millerton Library" Facebook page on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. A Stay at Home Story Time is planned for this Saturday, June 6, at 11 a.m. Join Miss Kristin on Go To Meeting; email kmcclune@nemillertonlibrary.org for the link.

Led by NorthEast-Millerton Library Youth Services Coordinator Kristin McClune, families can also take part in Virtual Circle Time on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Join in via Go to Meeting for stories, songs and fun with friends. Email Miss Kristin for the link to join.

There's also a Lego Challenge: Lego Animals, for local children to take part in. The question is, "Do you like to build with Legos?" If so, build an animal out of Legos of any kind this week at home and send it to the library to post on its Instagram and Facebook pages. Real, mythical and imaginary animals are welcome. Send creations to kmcclune@nemillertonlibrary.org.

If the library remains closed much longer, Leo-Jameson said, they'll be adding more programs for families and their children.

Meanwhile, the library has continued to cater to the interests of community members who had regularly gathered there for weekly group programming, such as the Knitting and Craft Group. At this time, resi-

dents can access the online version of the Knitting and Craft Group on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. online at <https://www.gotomeet.me/NEMillertonLibrary> or by dialing 1-571-317-3112, followed by access code 310-897-565.

For those who miss the joy of stopping by the library for a visit, the library offers virtual visits every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to noon and every Friday from 1 to 2 p.m., using the same link and telephone number as the one used for the Knitting and Craft Group.

Whether accessing the library's databases, helping with tech-related questions or just saying "hi," Leo-Jameson is ready to help.

"I've had people actually call in and ask how to use Zoom," she said. "I've filled in some tech questions for how to access Hoopla, Canopy and the video streaming databases."

Along with its digital resources, Leo-Jameson added that residents can go on the library's website at www.nemillertonlibrary.org and click on the "Get a Library Card" tab to fill out a form for a temporary library card so they can have access to the library's e-resources.

The library will open on June 18 for an important blood drive, from 3 to 7 p.m.

For library updates, go to www.nemillertonlibrary.org.

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