

DUTCHESS COUNTY
Women's safety seminar **A2**



VETERAN'S CORNER
April's rebirth **A5**



COMPASS
Fresh perspectives; New ground to cover; And more **B1-4**



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Play ball!

Webutuck Little League players read the Little League Pledge on Saturday, April 6 at Eddie Collins Park before the Opening Day fun started...For story and photos, turn to page A6.

School-to-work apprenticeship

By NATALIA ZUKERMAN
nataliaz@millertonnews.com

career fields while gaining transferable skills to shape not just careers, but lives.

With funding from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, North East Community Center's (NECC) School-to-Work Apprenticeship Program supports young adults navigating the delicate transition from adolescence to adulthood.

The School to Work program began in 2022 under the Teen Programs umbrella, one of the longest running programs at the NECC, which serves students aged 14 through 17.

Webutuck, Dover Plains, Pine Plains, and Millbrook Public School students (and recent graduates) are paired with local trades and businesses during their junior and senior years of high school, giving students an invaluable opportunity to explore a diversity of

Also in partnership with local businesses, the Teen Program gives many of these teenagers their first work experience, paying each for up to 160 hours. It is a year-round program with additional funding for summer placements.

Teen Program Director Mer-
See APPRENTICING, PAGE A8

Amenia Town Board hears plans for new Town Garage

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — The old Town Garage in Wassaic, built before 1955, is showing its age and inability to meet the town's modern needs, according to a special report to the Town Board at its regular meeting on Thursday, April 4.

Flanked by images of the old garage and conceptual design plans for a new structure, Budget

Officer Charlie Miller reported on the shortcomings of the old and the design features of a new expanded facility.

"The highway garage is falling apart," Miller said of the old structure that was constructed on an old landfill near Wassaic Park. He described walls separated from the roof and inadequate room for indoor parking as vehicles have grown larger. The salt shed structure abuts Wassaic Creek. The

total area of the site has only 2.5 acres of usable land.

The new site along Route 22, not far from the old location, measures 5 acres. The conceptual design plans show a 13,000 square foot garage with six bays for trucks and equipment. A covered salt shed stands nearby in the drawings.

The total projected cost for the

See GARAGE, PAGE A8



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Hecate Energy's Matt Levin, center, discusses detail of the Shepherd's Run project with Copake residents who attended an open house on Wednesday, April 3 in Hillsdale.

Hecate talks solar at Hillsdale meetings

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

HILLSDALE — Hecate Energy LLC held two open houses at the Hillsdale Fire Company on Wednesday, April 3 to present details of its upcoming application for a 42 megawatt (MW) solar farm in Copake.

Hecate officials said they expect to submit a permit application to the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) in early June. In February, Hecate's application for a 60MW solar farm

was denied by ORES after the company lost control of 60 acres initially slated as part of the project.

Close to 100 people came to the afternoon and evening sessions to talk to several Hecate project staff and view a roomful of large placard displays of the project.

Matt Levin, the project director, noted that the turnout was encouraging despite the windy and stormy weather that had started to cover roads with icy slush by evening.

See HECATE, PAGE A8

Bank of Millbrook eyes North East site

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — The Town of North East is abuzz with the probability that The Bank of Millbrook is in talks to open a branch locally.

George Whalen III, president of the Bank of Millbrook, was introduced around at the Millerton Fire Company pancake breakfast on Sunday morning, April 7, by Town of North East Supervisor

See BANK, PAGE A8



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The Bank of Millbrook may be opening a Town of North East branch on Route 44 at the location of Elizabeth's Jewelry and Fine Gifts, according to bank president George Whalen III.



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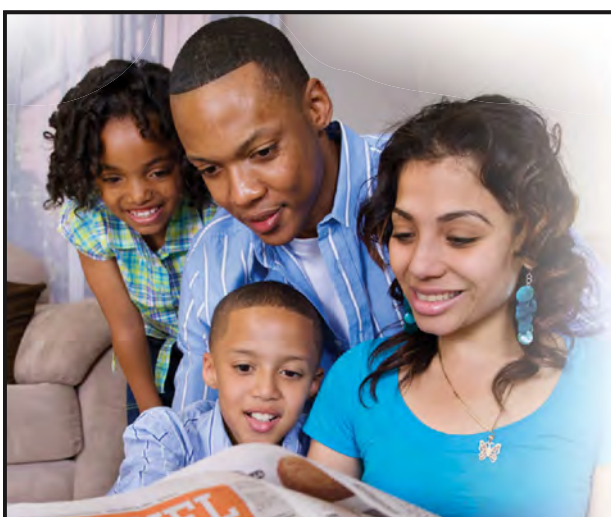
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OPINION
Columns,
Letters **A5**

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OUR TOWNS

Amenia wastewater panel discusses funding strategy

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Working to develop a logical timetable for planning and funding of a wastewater project for the town, the Wastewater Committee discussed the next steps at its regular meeting on Thursday, April 4.

Committee chairman Charlie Miller reported those planned steps to the Town Board at its regular meeting later in the evening.

Essential to the planning

process for the wastewater project is funding application strategy. Miller described the work of the state Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) through which federal funding is channeled to a local wastewater project.

Miller reported the results of a recent telephone meeting with the EFC during which he and local town officials, including Town Supervisor Leo Blackman had sought information on the process of successfully applying for maximum federal funding.

“We need a higher score,” Miller said of the importance of documented surface water contamination caused by failed or failing septic systems locally and a demonstrable adverse effect on local streams and waterways.

The EFC relies on test results prepared by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), but the DEP only conducts testing during even-numbered years, and two years’ worth of sampling is needed. Surface water testing currently underway

through the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) can also be helpful.

Miller reported to the Town Board that early results of HVA testing has shown the presence of the E. coli bacterium in surface waterways, indicating the likely presence of failed or failing septic systems.

Committee member Shannon Roback suggested that additional sampling might be advisable to strengthen any funding application, that if successful can fund up to 75% of project costs.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

3440 Route 44

Built in 1750, this 5 bedroom home with an in-ground pool on 3.63 acres standing at the entrance to the Village of Millbrook was sold for \$985,000. It was originally listed at \$1,495,000 in February 2023.

Recent property sales in the Village of Millbrook

In the first two months of the year four single family residences were recorded as sold in the Village of Millbrook, continuing the trend of solid prices for village residences. Currently there is only one house listed for sale in the village while higher priced homes are adding to the inventory in the Town of Washington that surrounds the village where there are seven properties listed between \$5,000,000 and \$28,000,000 on the market.

JANUARY 2024 RECORDED SALES
3440 Route 44, a 5 bedroom/5 bath house with in-ground pool on 3.63 acres sold for \$985,000. See photo.
39 Merritt Avenue, a 1,350 square foot 2 bedroom/1.5

bath house on .23 acres sold for \$712,000.

27 Millbrook Hollow Lane, a 1,199 square foot home with 2 bedrooms/3 bath sold for \$580,000.

FEBRUARY 2024 RECORDED SALES
3241 Sharon Turnpike, a 4 bedroom/2.5 bath on .62 acres sold for \$492,500.

* Village of Millbrook real estate sales recorded as sold between January 1, 2024 and February 29, 2024, sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency with property details from Dutchess Parcel Access. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

Amenia clean-up day April 27

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — The annual town clean-up day will be held on Saturday, April 27, beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until noon. The event represents volun-

teerism at its best, as residents come together to aid in tidying the town for all to enjoy.

Fans of picking up litter will meet at either of two starting locations to get free trash bags and indicate an intended target area whether a

local roadway or a portion of the rail trail, both likely sites for trash deposits. The initial meeting places are at the Bank of Millbrook (Fountain Square) in Amenia or Borden Park across from the Maxon Mill (Wassaic Project) in Wassaic.

Filled bags and large items can be scheduled for pick-up by contacting Vicki Doyle at (845) 489-7826.

The event is being organized by the Amenia Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and the Enhancement Committee.

Millbrook Spring Sale April 20-21

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

MILLBROOK — The annual Millbrook Neighborhood Spring Sale will be bursting with bargains and neighborliness on Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21, as a vast array of vendors and activities will be dotted along Franklin Avenue and its environs.

The event will happen rain or shine throughout the town’s commercial spaces and beyond. Hours on both days are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The

advantage is that visitors can park once and explore.

The sale has already drawn 30 vendors, some of whom will be found in more than one location, for maximum visibility. In every location, though, there will be abundant enthusiasm and lots of interesting things to see and experience.

Grace Church on Franklin Avenue is offering their annual “Whale of a Sale,” likely to be large with huge bargains.

Lively music along Franklin Avenue will be provided by Grampa Joe’s Washboard

Band, on Saturday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Merritt Bookstore on Front Street will feature a book launch and signing by author Michael Korda, formerly editor-in-chief at Simon and Schuster, introducing his latest work, “Muse of Fire.” That event will occur on Saturday, between 2:30 and 4 p.m. at the bookstore.

For car buffs, the first annual car show, titled “Angels of Light,” will be welcoming visitors on the Village Green on Saturday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Brit Breads will be at an as yet undisclosed location along Franklin Avenue, although it should be hard to miss them as they dispense sausage rolls, lemon cake, Danish pastries, and their specialty Raclette cheese on sourdough.

Soaps and aromatics by Sandra will offer specialty soaps and candles.

Carson Power land clearing will await end of bat roosting

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The winter season is behind us and Carson Power LLC, which is proposing to build a 10MW solar farm at Pulvers Corners, will hold off on any land clearing until November as part of its agreement with the town to protect the northern long-eared bat.

Carson Power is required by its agreement with the town to limit tree-clearing activity to the winter season, when the bats hibernate.

“We did not proceed with any tree clearing during this winter season, which concluded on 3/31,” Andrew Gordon, director of development at Carson, said in an email. “We are honoring the winter tree clearing periods as we committed to during our application.

“We will mobilize on site for an 11/1 start,” he added.

The northern long-eared bat is listed as a threatened species that is in danger of becoming an endangered species. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the numbers of these bats have declined by up to 99 percent

in the Northeast, based on hibernation counts.

Evaluations made last year when Carson was before the town Planning Board concluded that avoiding tree-clearing during the roosting period would not pose a problem.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that “take” of the bat is “not reasonably certain to occur” given the conservation measure to limit tree removal between Nov. 1 and March 31.

A senior wildlife biologist at the Fish and Wildlife Division of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) concurred.

“If tree removal takes place between November 1st and March 31st, the Depart-

ment can...determine that the proposed activity is not likely to result in the incidental taking of Northern long-eared bats,” wrote the DEC’s Lisa Masi. last year in May.

The town’s approval of the Carson Power project currently is before a New York State Supreme Court judge in Putnam County.

Judge Anthony R. Molé has set oral arguments to be held in the court house in Carmel on May 3 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 306. A group of residents is seeking a reversal of the town’s approval of the project.

The group, Preserve Pine Plains, filed an Article 78 action against the town Planning Board and certain property owners and developers of the project.

MRC holds women’s safety seminar

By ELIZABETH BEGGAN
Special to The Millerton News

POUGHKEEPSIE —The Dutchess County Medical Reserve Corps hosted its annual women’s safety night on March 19 at the county’s Department of Emergency Response campus.

The seminar was filled with women ranging from the ages to 19-60, eager to learn about the importance of self defense. Female Poughkeepsie police officers Kristen Norbom and Det. Lindsay Chomicki. Amanda Snyder directed the event with slides and videos to go along with the lecture.

The officers introduced themselves and proceeded to make everyone comfortable, aiming for an atmosphere where learners felt confident in asking concerns and questions.

They started off with their training goals:

—Know the important role your instincts and gut reactions play;

—Discover potentially dangerous situations and know how to avoid them;

—Learn how to make a safety plan, and to decrease the odds of becoming a victim.

“There are no fair fights when it comes to safety,” said Norbom, following the showing of a slide of a woman screaming and kicking to escape a situation.

With these police officers teaching the seminar, the women in the audience asked questions about what to do, how to react to situations along with other comments and concerns.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH BEGGAN

Poughkeepsie Police Officer Kristen Norbom was part of a Dutchess County women’s safety seminar on March 19.

The MRC is part of a national network of volunteers who support public health infrastructure, preparedness, and response in their local communities.

“About 3 years ago we started them (the seminars), on a need basis but requests have been through the roof, it depends on the MRC seeing a need for it is usually how we base these seminars,” said detective Chomicki. “These events are important because it’s getting people back into the mindset of knowing their surroundings,” she said. Chomicki currently is working with the department to spread the seminars to high schoolers and freshman in college.

College safety with the nightlife culture (especially

in the town of Poughkeepsie) has been a problem that needs to be addressed.

Pat D’Antono said “this was definitely a positive thing to come to, I learned a bunch of little things that could help me in the long run.”

The women in attendance seemed to find a common bond, even as strangers. They shared stories about different situations, and answered each other’s questions, at times also sharing laughs.

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Check them out inside.
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This week I would like to name the 7 aid workers of the World Central Kitchen who were delivering food in Gaza and who were killed systematically by missiles fired by an IDF drone in a non-combat corridor. All were true humanitarians who left the safety of their homes to work in a war zone to help others. They were an international team trying to make a difference and it seems to be important to remember them: Jacob Flickinger, US/Canadian, John Chapman, James Henderson and James Kirby, all Brits, Saifeddin Abutaha, Palestinian, Damian Sobol, Polish and Zomi Frankcom, Australian. They represent our finest qualities in the service of others. WCK will continue to provide assistance in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine and worldwide. WCK certainly deserves our support. For more info, please visit: wck.org/

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ADVERTISEMENT

Millerton-Amenia Earth Day set April 20

The towns of Amenia and Millerton will celebrate Earth Day at the Amenia Town Hall Gym on Saturday, April 20 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Art displays by Webutuck students, native-plant seed

giveaways and a seed swap hosted by Amenia Library, plus a display of the newest high efficiency vehicles and bicycles will entertain the adults, while games and a Creation Station with arts and crafts

presented by the Webutuck Student Council and zine making with Millerton artist Deborah Maier entertain the youth among us. Live music and food from Four Brothers Pizza and Blackbird Cafe can be enjoyed by all.

Over 20 organizations, including Trout Unlimited, Dutchess Land Conservancy, the Housatonic Valley Association, Cary Institute, and American Farmland Trust will be on site to answer questions and talk about the latest innovations in electric vehicles, home efficiency, composting, environmental conservation and more.

Empire Solar will demonstrate their home solar panels and provide information

about the savings that can be gained by going solar; Amenia Garden Club, Homegrown National Park and NoMoreInvasivePlants will share information about invasive species eradication and the benefits of growing native plants at home; NYSERDA will share information about state incentives to help residents decrease their carbon footprints; McEnroe Farms will have info about composting; and the Amenia CAC will have a raffle for a free home composter donated by HG Page.

The effort is being hosted jointly by volunteers from Millerton's Climate Smart Community Task Force and Amenia's Climate Smart Task Force/CAC.

Farmers Market April 13 and 27 and Earth Day!

MILLERTON — The Winter Season of the Millerton Farmers Market will continue on Saturday April 13 and 27 — and with a Special Earth Day Market on April 20.

The market is sponsored by the Northeast

Community Association. According to NECC, SNAP/EBT users can continue to get up to \$30 free as a match from the Market Match program with Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, a supporter.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Millbrook's Grace Church hosts Great Whale of Rummage Sale April 19-21

MILLBROOK — On Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grace Church will host the Great Whale of a Weekend Rummage Sale.

Hundreds of quality items will be offered at prices to sell quickly. Items will include clean clothing, children's toys, books, puzzles, games, household items, glassware, sports gear, furniture, jewelry, linens, bedding, and collectibles. All items must go. 5\$ bag sale on

Sunday. Handicap accessible.

Funds raised by the rummage sale will be used to further Grace Church community outreach programs. The Grace Church Parish Hall is located at 3328 Franklin Street, Millbrook, NY (opposite the Millbrook Bandshell). For more information call the office at (845) 677-3064, visit the website at www.gracemillbrook.org. If you would like to donate items please contact the church office.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, on Monday, May 7, 2024 at 6:30 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2024-2025 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2024-2025 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective April 30, 2024, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library. A report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value of the final assessment roll or rolls used in that budgetary process is exempt from taxation, shall be annexed to the budget document.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at the Webutuck High School gym, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect two (2) members to the Board of Education: one seat (1) is for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2027 to fill the vacant

seat of incumbent board member Joanne Boyd; one (1) is to fill the vacant seat that was occupied by Rick Keller Coffey (who resigned 1/22/24) commencing on May 21, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

B. 2024-2025 Northeast (Webutuck) CSD Budget

To adopt the annual budget of the North East (Webutuck) Central School District for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property on the District.

C. 2024 - 2025 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

SHALL the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire two (2) 2024 Chevy Type A 20- passenger school buses and one (1) 2024 Chevy Silverado 2500 transportation vehicle, at a cost not to exceed \$222,238, which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefor, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District and/or enter into installment purchase agreements at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$222,238, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

D. Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$4,500,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to finance the cost of installation of air conditioning in the classrooms of Eugene Brooks Intermediate School and Webutuck High School?

E. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York. The election and budget vote shall be by machine, early voting or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as

long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with Clerk of the District no later than Monday, April 22, 2025, by 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, in the form and manner prescribed by Section 2018 of the Education Law. Vacancies on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices; candidates run at-large for the vacant seats. Such petitions must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the School District, shall state the residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. The petition shall also describe the length of the term of the office and contain the name of the last incumbent. Petition forms may be picked up on any school day at the Office of the District Clerk, at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. or on the district's website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2024.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that early mail ballots and absentee

ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for early mail and absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hours, or on the district's website at www.webutuckschools.org but may not be returned to the District clerk any earlier than April 21, 2024, and must be returned to the District Clerk by May 14, 2024 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 20, 2024, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Early mail and absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 21, 2024.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these should be directed to the District Clerk.

A list of all persons to whom early mail ballots and absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge to the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls. A challenge to an early mail voter may not be made on the basis that the voter should have applied for an absentee ballot.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter

must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than twenty-five (25) days before the vote, April 26, 2024. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 P.M. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law §§ 2035, 2008, any referendum or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 22, 2024; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of the candidate, and the name and residence of each signer. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter
Clerk of the Board
Northeast (Webutuck)
Central School District
194 Haight Road,
P.O. Box 405
Amenia, NY 12501
04-11-24

PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pine Plains Town Board will hold a public hearing on the adoption of a for the Extending a Local Law No. 3 of 2023 which Enacted an Eight Month Moratorium on the Processing and Approval of New Applications for Tier 3 Solar Facilities for a Period of Six Additional Months on April 18, 2024, at 7:15

p.m. at the Pine Plains Town Hall, located at 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York. A copy of the proposed Local Law is available for inspection on the Town's official website and at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. Any person desiring to be heard on the adoption of said Resolution shall be given an opportunity to do so. Dated: March 21, 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD.
MADELIN DAFOE,
Town Clerk
04-11-24

PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pine Plains Town Board will hold a public hearing on the adoption of a for the Removal of the Current Conservation Council Members from the Conservation Advisory Council on April 18, 2024, at 7:05 p.m. at the Pine Plains Town Hall, located at 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York. A copy of the proposed Resolution is available for inspection on the Town's official website and at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. Any person desiring to be heard on the adoption of said Resolution shall be given an opportunity to do so. Dated: March 21, 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE PINE PLAINS TOWN BOARD.
MADELIN DAFOE,
Town Clerk
04-11-24

OPEN VOLUNTEER POSITION

TOWN OF AMENIA is seeking applications for the following Volunteer Positions

Recreation Commission Member

Water District

Wastewater Committee

Ethics Board

Town residency required for the volunteer positions.

Letter of Interest and Resume may be submitted via email to dmlingner@ameniany.gov via mail to Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, 4988

Route 22 Amenia NY 12501. Application deadline April 18th at Noon.

04-11-24

OBITUARIES

Craig Kardon

MILLERTON — Craig Kardon, 58, passed away at his residence on Feb. 13, 2024 in Largo, Florida. He was born in the Bronx, New York, on May 14, 1965. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Milton and Pauline Kardon, Uncle Alan Kardon, and long term significant other, Christine Smith. He is survived by parents, Paul and Anna Christina Kardon, sister Gabrielle Kardon, daughter Krista Kardon-Thompson, son-in-law Hunter and grandson Bryce Thompson.



Career, Craigscreations. Craig decided to seek his dream of creating abstract paintings while driving for Uber/Lyft. He created designs with oil paints on canvas's to which he showcased at art shows and through social media. This past year Craig developed Craigscreations, an online store with his designs on various household items and clothes. He wanted nothing more than to share his passion with everyone through his work.

He resided in Poughkeepsie, Millerton, and Lakeland, Florida. Craig graduated from Indian Mountain School, Lakeville, (1980); Loomis Chaffee, Windsor, Connecticut (1983); and received his Bachelor of Arts from SUNY New Paltz, New York (1990). Craig was an athlete who excelled in baseball throughout grade school into college. He was an avid sports fan. He owned Doc's Place, a sports bar in Lakeland, Florida for 18 years. Craig also worked in real estate.

A celebration of life will take place on April 20, 2024 at 1 p.m. The location will be 6816 East Road, Lakeland Florida, 33809.

Contributions can be made in memory of Craig to Indian Mountain School: <https://www.indianmountain.org/giving> or by mail: Indian Mountain School, 211 Indian Mountain Road, Lakeville, CT 06039. Attention: Advancement Department.

Make checks payable to Indian Mountain School, and include in memo "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" Craig Kardon, Class of 1980. Any questions regarding this process, please contact Donna Stoetznier, Advancement Associate, 860-435-0871 ext. 155.

Vilma Bernardon Bruno

MILLERTON — Vilma Bernardon Bruno, 91, a thirty-one year resident of Millerton, formerly of New Hyde Park, New York, died peacefully on Monday, April 8, 2024, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon.



Born Feb. 26, 1933, in New York City she was the daughter of the late Dominick and Mary (Biasotti) Bernardon. She was a graduate of New York City Public Schools. On Feb. 16, 1952, in East Elmhurst, New York, she married John Anthony Bruno. Their marriage lasted 63 years. Mr. Bruno passed away on Dec. 11, 2015.

Rosie, Jake, Ethan, Dillon, Maddie, Natalie, Hallie and Julian. In addition to her parents and husband, Vilma was also predeceased by her daughter-in-law, Maddie Bruno, a granddaughter, Alyssa Bruno, a nephew, Andrew Bruno and her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Anthony and Emma Bruno.

Vilma enjoyed sewing, crocheting, word search puzzles, gardening and jig-saw puzzles. In her spare time she was also an avid reader and a wonderful cook, she especially loved making and eating delicious donuts.

Calling hours will take place on Friday, April 12, 2024, from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Vilma is survived by three children, John Bruno and his wife Robin of Livingston, William Bruno of Massapequa and Lisa Napolitano and her husband Joseph of Millerton; eight grandchildren, Christa, Erin, Bethann, Johnny, Joe, Vicky, Gina and Joey; ten great grandchildren, Lily, Emma,

Anthony and Emma Bruno. Calling hours will take place on Friday, April 12, 2024, at 8:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. A committal service will be offered on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, NY. Rev. Robert K. Wilson will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, a floral tribute to the service or to plant a tree in Vilma's memory, visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

In Remembrance

Back in the 1970's, a visit to the Sharon Audubon Center made an impression on me that lasted a lifetime. As an eager young naturalist, I attended the Sharon Audubon Festival, a two-day feast of presentations and field walks by experts in plants, insects, birds, and other branches of natural history. In session after session, we were hosed with fascinating information. I lapped it all up, but one experience stood out: a walk led by the Director, Bob Moeller, along the Borland Trail. It was unhurried and very quiet. Bob simply stopped at intervals and read short passages from the nature writing of Hal Borland, for whom the trail is named. Bob's demeanor invited us to relax, listen, observe, and reflect in the same way that Hal might have done in the same place. We tapped our own awareness rather than tracking someone else's. I never forgot it.

Almost forty years later I became, in turn, a Director of the Sharon Audubon Center. On my first day, I opened a closet door and

found a yellowed, typewritten sheet tacked to the inside with instructions from Bob about how to prepare a mammal skull. The instructions were simple, clear, and ended with "That's about it." It was like hearing his voice all over again.

With Bob's passing, tributes have come into Sharon Audubon from former interns and staff, now conservation professionals themselves, who had the privilege of working with him here. All credit him with influencing their careers. Scott Heth, one of Bob's successors as Center Director, recalls: "Bob mentored countless young naturalists. He encouraged people to do the work to find the answers to questions. I have fond memories of walking the woods with Bob when I was very young...I knew then that I wanted to do what he did." Former intern (now Ph.D) Sandy DeSimone wrote from California: "I loved his teaching style, based in nature education theory that was so far removed from the canned nature walks I had

been on in the past. Bob was undoubtedly one of the strongest influences on my career path." Corky Potter went from working with Bob to founding Shaver's Creek Environmental Center at Penn State. Its entrance has the motto "Keep on Discovering," inspired by Bob's way of "not telling, but of asking questions to unfold the essence of the world around us." Art Gingert of West Cornwall recalls "Bob was magnificently trained as an old school naturalist... but the best thing is that he was a superb teacher, always making time—often on the spot—to listen, entertain a query and then graciously share his knowledge." Rock Moeslein in Virginia recalls that Bob taught "the importance of appreciating volunteers and people for all that they brought to the Center and the community." (Amen to that!) He adds that the mentoring went on for another 48 years! Tom Mullin, writing from Maine, noted that

in addition to leadership at Sharon Audubon, Bob "went on to have instrumental leadership for the region...the memory of his kindness and vision are ones that I recall with deep fondness." Tom recalls other things too: "I have some wicked funny stories of Bob. I am sure many of us do. I hope I can make the Celebration of Life planned for later in the year." Hope you do, Tom!

Without doubt, this is just a small sample of the impact Bob Moeller had on a generation of naturalists, scientists, and conservationists. He put Sharon Audubon on the national map as a source of excellence. As we welcome this year's interns, just starting their own careers, we're humbled and inspired by the challenge of living up to Bob's example.

Maybe we'll take them for a walk on the Borland Trail.
Eileen Fielding
Director,
Sharon Audubon Center

Initiatives tackle transportation barriers in rural CT

By RILEY KLEIN
rileyk@lakevillejournal.com

GOSHEN, Conn. — With or without a car, getting around the Northwest Corner can be a challenge.

At its April 4 meeting, Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) heard presentations on how to improve road safety, comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, and increase senior transportation options in the rural Connecticut.

University of Connecticut's Safety Circuit Rider Program tracks road safety data and compiles reports through the Training and Technical Assistance Center. Safety Technical Associate Jason Hughes provided a summary on how municipalities can take advantage of these resources to make safety improvements.

In addition to traffic reports, towns can receive free rental equipment to improve road safety including radar guns, speed feedback signs, pavement marking reflectors, and range finders.

Training sessions are held regularly to educate municipalities on best practices.

"Let my team help your team," said Hughes.

The next course to educate town employees will be held April 25 in Bristol and will focus on ADA policies, self-assessments, and transition plans.

Department of Transportation (DOT) ADA Coordinating Engineer Katherine Hedberg reviewed municipal requirements when it comes to ADA compliance.

Hedberg's presentation showed that per U.S. Census Bureau data, more than 26% of Connecticut adults 18+ live with a disability.

There are seven items that need to be in compliance for public entities with more than 50 employees (including school staff): Designation of an ADA Coordinator; Accessibility to public services; Provide public notice of accessibility; Adopt a grievance procedure; Conduct a self-evaluation; Make evaluations publicly available; Develop a

transition plan to come into compliance.

Falls Village, the one town in COG with less than 50 town employees, is not required to designate an ADA Coordinator, adopt a grievance policy, make self-evaluations publicly available, or develop a transition plan. These steps are recommended by DOT.

DOT's goal is to make all town and state sidewalks ADA compliant with curb ramps by 2034.

"When alterations happen to roadways, such as resurfacing, curb ramps are required to be updated at that time," said Hedberg. She added that bus stops, parking, push buttons for road crossings and sidewalks must also be in compliance, or noted on a transition plan.

At the April 4 meeting, Hedberg noted that seven COG towns have yet to designate an ADA Coordinator and eight COG towns have not completed self-assessments.

Municipalities can access sample transition plans and self-assessments through DOT, and more information will be provided at the April 25 training in Bristol.

For senior transportation services, DOT's Richard Nakatsuka shared information on a grant matching program to offer rides to the elderly. Each year, up to \$5 million is allocated at the state level for this purpose, and towns are eligible for funding based on the percentage of senior residents and total land area.

Combined, COG towns can receive up to \$506,688 in matching funds to put toward elderly dial-a-ride transportation. The funds are intended to be used for day-to-day operations including driver salaries, gas expenses, and vehicle upkeep.

Nakatsuka said town can apply individually, jointly, or through the COG.

"We really want the COGs to work with towns to... look at potential opportunities for coordinating service," said Nakatsuka.

The deadline to apply for funding for the next fiscal year is May 15.

Worship Services

Week of April 14, 2023

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming
www.salisburyucc.org
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!
(860) 435-2442

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Rev. Paul Christopherson
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
In-Person and on YouTube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
Offering companionship along the Way
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
Misa en español al mediodía (12 pm) el último sábado de mes
The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera
trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232
FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
The next meeting will be Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. Proposed Revision of UU principles
For information, contact Jo Loi at joikiuloi@gmail.com
All are Welcome

Congregation Beth David
A reform Jewish Synagogue
3344 East Main St., Amenia
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

Chabad of Northwest CT
On the Green
69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759
chabadNW.org
860.567.3377 | office@chabadNW.org
Rabbi Joseph & Mina Eisenbach
A home away from home, a gathering place where unity is paramount.
We are here for you, welcome to the family!
WINTER SCHEDULE
Sunday 10:30 AM - Hebrew School
Wednesday 8:00 PM - Parsha In My Life
How The Weekly Portion Relates to ME!
Thursday 11:30 AM - Women's Tea & Torah
Saturday 9:30 AM - Shabbat Services
Followed by a Congregational Kiddush
Children's Camp | Jewish Newspaper
Smiles on Seniors | CTeen | YIP

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH
Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk
St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
Wednesday 6pm
St. Joseph Chapel or Church
Thursday 8am
Immaculate Conception Church
Friday 8am
Church of St. Mary
ALL ARE WELCOME!
For information, please call 860-824-7078

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

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Worship Sunday, 10 am
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Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
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The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd.
Route 83, Amenia, NY
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www.thsmithfieldchurch.org
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The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m.
Trinity Retreat Center Chapel
Lower River Road, West Cornwall

Canaan United Methodist Church
2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT
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canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

Sharon Congregational
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website
sharoncongregationalchurch.org
for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Promised Land Baptist Church
29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT
Where you will find: A Warm Welcome!
Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!
Sunday School - 10am
Sunday Worship - 11am
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM
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VISITORS WELCOME!
www.promisedlandbaptist.org

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
315 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Special Services Online
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1540 | allsaintsofamerica.us



PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

Totality

THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

April's rebirth

Like a soothing whisper offering relief from a bad dream, so does April lend relief from the last lingering grasp of winter by offering up rebirth of life, colors and opportunity. Climate makes a welcome tranquil debut with longer days and more sunshine.

Birds, buds and blooms appear and morph to ever increasing colorful maturity. Lawns turn from a dusky brown to lush green. Birds dance their mating rituals wearing their colorful plumage and seeking nesting sites. Maples still drip some sap providing birds and small mammals a sweet treat. Deer find bountiful nourishment for their soon to be born fawns. Bears have emerged from hibernating and roaming for food sources to replenish lost winter fat reserves. Sows could be accompanied by winter born cubs. Don't get between Mama Bear and her babies or feed the bears. You may be sorry. Coyotes will be having their litters within the next month. Tom turkeys are gallantly strutting to attract their girl friends and hens are seeking out ground nesting sites. Some geese and ducks are already nesting and will soon be trailed by the little ones.

April, a time that soothes the soul and reminds me of many 'must-do' chores. Gotta clean and clear the lawn for mowing, prepare and till the vegetable garden for planting, clean and nourish our too many flower beds and trees and order and stack fire wood.

My thoughts turn to fish and game: Gotta clean fly lines, swapping out equipment

VETERAN'S CORNER

Larry Conklin

and accessories while looking forward to a couple firm-fleshed trout for dinner. My turkey gun is to receive another light cleaning and yearly patterning to assure accuracy prior to the NYS May 1st season opener when I look forward to a month of dueling with Toms.

Perhaps even being given the rare opportunity to see a doe giving birth. I purchased a new hunting ladder stand during the winter to be placed before increasing foliage decreases optimum line of sight.

These are great days to increase outdoor exercise and activity thereby improving your physical and mental health while getting a free shot of Mother Nature's vitamin D. I'm looking forward to the last seasonal breakfasts by American Legion Millerton Post 178 and the Millerton Fire Department. Always filling and yummy and a great chance to reunite with friends.

April, so much awaits us in the months ahead, so much to do. God bless you patriotic readers and your families. Enjoy the improved weather to the fullest and please say a little prayer for the health and safety of those protecting our freedoms and safely. Til next time.

Town of North East resident Larry Conklin is a Vietnam veteran and a member of both the Millerton American Legion Post 178 and the VFW Post 6851 in North Canaan, Conn.



Thelonious Chipmunk & The Rooftop Ramblers

Cedars to Chicago; no 'TV Week' and an egg hunt

The following excerpts from *The Millerton News* were compiled by Kathleen Spahn, Vivian Sukenik, Nancy Vialpando and Rhiannon Leo-Jameson of the North East-Millerton Library.

91 years ago: April 13, 1933

'About Millerton': Miss Violet Pulver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Pulver, has just written a one-act play entitled "Why Mothers Get Gray", to be presented by the members of Stockbridge Grange on April 27. Miss Pulver is a senior at Williams High school at Stockbridge, Mass.

Little Barbara DeWitt had been ill at her home with ear trouble.

Truckloads of the new beer arrived in town on Friday.

'Dover Plains Trees Leave for Chicago': Foresters from Danbury, Conn., have been chopping down trees on the property owned by Alfred Guifert, and it is rumored that fifty carloads of these cedar trees will be shipped to the Chicago World's Fair.

'About Millerton': Miss Pearl Wheeler caught a native trout weighing 1 pound, 3 ounces in Webotuck [sic] Creek on Sunday.

Ken and Hiram Brown brought in a nice mess of trout on Saturday.

50 years ago: April 11, 1974

'Millerton Brush Fire Scorches 150 Acres': Volun-

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

teer firemen from Millerton and Amenia were called out Sunday afternoon to extinguish a large brush fire on top of Reservoir Hill behind the Millerton Gun Club on Route 22, Millerton. The fire, described as the largest one this year, was first reported shortly after 4 p.m. Sunday, and charred approximately 50 acres before it was brought under control some two hours later.

'Historical Society to Restore Jail': The Historical Society of the North East plans to restore the old jail behind J.B. Reed's in Millerton. The jail was given to the society by Community Service of Lakeville. It is estimated that the structure was built prior to 1880. A committee headed by Chet Eisenhith, and including Stan Smith and Herman Gray [...] accepted the donation [...]

25 years ago: April 8, 1999

'No-TV Week Celebrated Locally': MILLERTON - Oblong Book and Music and the North East Community Center will host a community wide celebration of National TV Turn-Off Week April 24. The event will be sponsored jointly by the Partners for

Preschool Enrichment Program of the North East Community Center and Oblong.

National TV Turn-Off Week has been held every April for the past five years and is sponsored by TV Free America of Washington, D.C.

'Bunny, Hayrides and Hot-dogs Highlight Egg Hunt in Millerton': Four hay wagons full of children eager to begin the annual Easter egg hunt rode through the village last Saturday. The event, sponsored by the Millerton Fire Department, the Millerton Gun Club, Burger King, and the Round Tuit, attracted a large crowd. Everyone enjoyed the festivities, especially the wagon rides. The Easter Bunny handed out candy at the fire house [sic], before the wagon caravan snaked through the streets to an enthusiastic response from passersby.

Once the caravan arrived at the Millerton Gun Club, the massive egg hunt began. Everyone was treated to a hot dog and refreshments.

Golden Egg prize winners were Spencer Tanner, Justin Katan, Maddie McAvoy and Miranda Murphy.

'Chamber of Commerce Reviving in Millerton?': The Millerton-North East Cham-

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Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millerton-news.com. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

ber of Commerce could be revived, according to the manager of the Millerton Antique Center, Stuart Miller. Mr. Miller told the village board Monday a group of merchants is beginning to reorganize the chamber, which has been relatively inactive in the last couple of years.

"We are very active," Mr. Miller said. "We are reorganizing."

Mr. Miller also said a predominance of merchants were opposed to a strict enforcement of two-hour parking limits in the village. According to businesswoman Marti Steed, the first meeting of the new chamber is tentatively set for April 20 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Manna Dew Café.

'Schroeder to Leave DC Politics': Harry Schroeder, who announced his retirement from the Dutchess County Legislators this week after a 20-year stint, is a lot like Harry Truman.

They Both Have Recognized the sovereignty of the people in a democracy, and have been known to have a way with words. In his retirement announcement, Mr. Schroeder said he could "now spend more time with my cows and grandcalves [sic] and perhaps less time with my tongue in cheek."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Looking at North East's LED sign issue

Thank you for calling attention to the LED sign problem that the Town has been facing for several years now.

The News called the Webotuck sign an "Electronic Messaging Display," which is not accurate. This sign is an LED sign, just like the sign in front of the Legion post. Both of these signs are capable of, and do, display multiple colors and animated images. The photo of the school sign

showing sedate white on black words is not what I saw when the sign first appeared and the only thing keeping the bright colors from reappearing is will power.

While there are some vocal proponents for changing the town's zoning to permit LED signs, or to rebrand them as EMDs, many in our community find these signs to be distracting and unattractive, causing dangerous

glare at night. I'm one of them.

Before the Town's officials consider allowing LED signs, I hope that they'll consider why our commercial districts have fared so poorly in recent years. As the Boulevard (Route 44 heading East) has deteriorated over time prospective business owners looked around and decided to set up shop elsewhere. A proliferation of LED signs will

make revitalizing these areas an even tougher job.

The News correctly pointed out that it's impossible to regulate sign content. In today's politically charged environment, do we really want to encourage signs that can advertise a two-for-one special at one moment, followed by a four-letter diatribe the next?

Bill Kish

North East

Questioning judicial training in abuse cases

Upon reading the article about domestic abuse in The Lakeville Journal, April 4, I began to wonder what, if any, kind of training and education a judge receives before he begins his tenure. I am referring to a domestic violence case from September, 2017.

It is shameful that the judge in this case (Edward McLoughlin) with his level of education and work ex-

perience, was so ignorant regarding domestic abuse. Hypothetically speaking, if a daughter of his had been a victim of domestic abuse, I'm sure he would have become very informed on the topic of DV. He would have learned that the most dangerous time for a woman living in a DV situation, is right before she leaves her abuser. Thus, a woman just can't just up and leave whenever she wants to.

His finding that Nikki Addimando did not meet the requirements of a reduced sentence, is pathetic and laughable. But, Addimando was not laughing.

Those who are in power, police, judges, and politicians, to name a few, must be educated and exposed to the true root of why women stay with their abuser. When the abuser and the victim end up in a courtroom, it is even

more imperative that those who are making life altering decisions, be thoroughly appraised of the multiple causes for a woman to stay with her abuser.

Until the denial, naivete and apathy ends, which afflict many court cases involving DV, relief and healing for the victims of DV will be little if any at all.

Laura J. Kisatsky
Cornwall, Conn.

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Please donate to The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News at LakevilleJournalFoundation.org/donate or by mail
PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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SPORTS

Little League's field day at Eddie Collins Park

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The first pitch of the Little League season was thrown on Saturday, April 6 at Eddie Collins Park, but the games would have to wait until Saturday, April 13.

The Webutuck Little League held Opening Day ceremonies at the village park from noon to 3 p.m. with players and parents pumping up the anticipation of another ball season on the newly renovated field.

Games again this year will be played in Millerton and at Amenia's Beekman Park. Nearly 100 players have signed up for all the divisions, close to last year's number.

Saturday's ceremony kicked off with a parade from the Millerton Fire Department on Century Boulevard to the park, passing along Main Street with players waving from a hay wagon float.

"What's going on?" the cashier at Agway asked. Another stroller on Main Street in front of Harney & Sons asked the same question.

The answer "a Little League parade" prompted immediate and knowing smiles.

The parade was over almost as soon as it got underway.

Once at the park, coaches and parents corralled the excited Little Leaguers to the infield diamond where they lined up by division from third base to home plate and then on to first base.

Webutuck Little League President DJ Reilly took the mound and directed attention



Webutuck Little Leaguers and coaches — and the Renegades mascot — have been preparing for opening game day to come Saturday, April 13. This season approximately 100 players have signed up for all divisions.

to the American flag while the national anthem was sung. Reilly then asked the the players to recite the Little League pledge, followed by the Volunteer Parent pledge.

Millerton Mayor Jenn Nadjek addressed the players, parents and coaches, thanking everyone for their continued support of the Little League program.

Next up, "Rascal," the mascot for the Hudson Valley Renegades, walked on the mound and threw the first pitch of the 2024 season to catcher Jay Muldoon. The Renegades are a Minor League team based in Fishkill and affiliated with the New York Yankees.

With official business completed, the players were released to find food and drink

and bounce houses. Later, a sound system filled the air.

The baseball gods were smiling on everyone on this 39-degree Saturday turned in to a sunny afternoon.

The Village of Millerton Police Department distributed free bicycle helmets to children. The program is part of a New York State safety initiative.

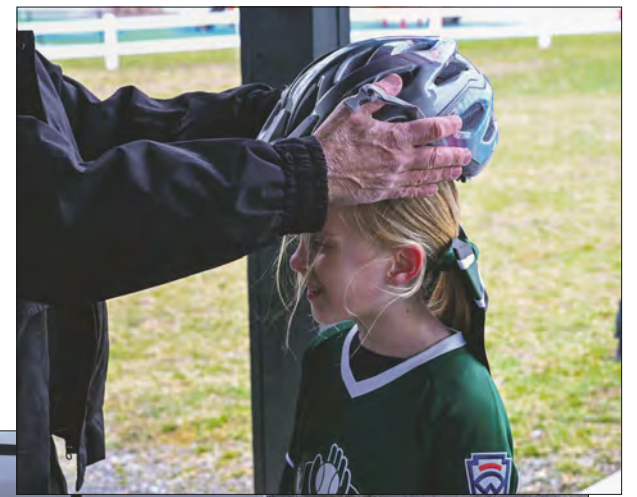
Sgt. David Rudin fitted a new helmet on Lillian Perusse, 8, of Millerton. Village Chief Joseph Olenik and State Police Trooper J.C. Cruz were on hand to assist at more players lined up for the free helmets.

Game schedules will be announced.

For more information, contact webutucklittleleague@gmail.com or visit its Facebook page.



Above, Village of Millerton Mayor Jenn Nadjek salutes the players, parents and coaches. Right, Sgt. David Rudin fits a free helmet on Lillian Perusse, 8, of Millerton as part of a program providing helmets under a New York State safety initiative.



Players rode through the Village on Saturday en route to Eddie Collins Park.



Children in stocking feet at play on a giant-sized bounce house that kept everyone doing it again and again.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Young Eagles aviation June 1

NORTH CANAAN —Triumph Airfield will offer flights to children aged 8 to 17 at the Young Eagles Rally on Saturday, June 1.

The Young Eagles program is an initiative of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) to promote careers in flight to the next generation of pilots. This free event requires parental approval.

From 9 a.m. to noon, EAA Chapter 1097 will offer 15-minute flights with certified pilots. Soaring above the Berkshires, boys and girls will learn about how airplanes operate from the co-pilot chair.

For more information or to register, visit www.EAA1097.org or call Billy Segalla at 860-248-0800.

Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

Remember

LJMN Media offers free online subscriptions to our websites, www.lakevillejournal.com and www.millertonnews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

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NECC food pantry report; teen summer internships

MILLERTON — The North East Community Center reports in its April newsletter that its food pantry remains a vital and busy service as some residents struggle with seasonal work shortages along with high food, utility and housing costs.

“We’re so grateful to our dedicated crew of community members who make weekly

pantry service possible and drive home delivered groceries to seniors and homebound residents,” the newsletter states.

NECC also reports that some farms associated with the center are starting to plant seedlings for NECC gardens. The NECC also issued a call for its Food Futures summer internship program, ad-

ressing Webutuck teens who might want to work this summer.

“Teens work at the local farms and gardens that supply food to our food access programs, help run the food pantry, cook in our food service kitchen and attend skill-building and educational workshops throughout the summer,” NECC said.

Pine Plains flea market starts April 13

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — Willow Roots in Pine Plains has sprouted another branch on the family tree as the organization has joined with the town’s First United Presbyterian Church to relocate and expand the flea market originally run by the town.

According to Lisa Zayas, co-founder of Willow Roots, starting on Saturday, April 13, the market will now be located at the church at 3039 Church Street, and will be open every weekend through September from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. rather than every other weekend which had been the case.

She believes the consistency will encourage more customers who otherwise might not make a visit part of their regular schedule.

Following that same idea, she says the 30 to 35 outdoor

and eight indoor vendor spots will be located in the same locations each week which will allow someone who might want to make a single purchase to quickly find what is needed while still encouraging others to enjoy browsing the offerings.

Vendors, who may rent a spot for a \$10 fee which will be divided between the church and Willow Roots, will be allowed to pick their spots. Zayas says they may locate next to friends - old and new - with whom they will therefore be able to spend a pleasant Saturday, “whether they sell something or not.”

The plan is designed to encourage the sense of “family” which is at the base of the grassroots food pantry which began on the Zayas’ front porch in June, 2019 and has since evolved into several other programs serving the community.

She said most of the ven-

dors are local, with some being what she terms, “Attic People,” who have beautiful items family members no longer want but which will be treasured by others. There are also small business people and talented crafters with a variety of items as well as gently used clothing and other items. Food, including free coffee for vendors, will also be available as will indoor bathroom facilities.

Following up further on the “family” idea, she says the vendors will be responsible for the success of the new venture as they help one another and take on responsibility for the project including weekly set-up and cleaning of the used church facilities.

Lisa Marie Agnelli, Stacy McGill and Christina Brody are in charge of the program which still has spots for more vendors. For further information, contact willowrootsvendors@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Losing a limb

Security employee charged in drug sale

POUGHKEEPSIE — An employee at the Homeless Shelter located at the former Dutchess County Jail has been arrested and charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance, 3rd degree, a Class B felony, following an investigation that began after shelter residents alerted authorities.

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force began investigating the sale of cocaine at

the shelter in early February after residents alerted Drug Task Force Agents that a security employee was allegedly selling dangerous drugs inside the Homeless Shelter.

An investigation began immediately and agents purchased cocaine on multiple occasions from Marlene Sosa, age 32, of Poughkeepsie at or near the Homeless Shelter while she was working property security for a contracted agency.

On Thursday, April 4, Drug Task Force Agents with the assistance of the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Bureau took Sosa into custody inside the shelter.

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force warns the public that cocaine is often mixed with fentanyl, a dangerous drug that is the leading cause of overdose deaths in Dutchess County.

SHERIFF’S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Harlem Valley Area activity report 3/29 through 4/04

03/31 — Deputies responded to the area of 3078 Route 22 in the Town of Dover for a reported single car Property Damage Automobile Accident. The involved vehicle was determined to be the subject an erratic vehicle complaint reported to 911 just prior to this accident. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Andre J Cotto (age 33) for Driving While Intoxicated. Cotto to appear in the Town of Dover Court at a later date.

04/01 — Deputies re-

sponded to High Meadows Trailer Park in the Town of Dover for a reported Domestic Dispute reported to 911. Investigation confirmed a verbal domestic dispute at that location. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

04/03 — Deputies responded to Route 199 and Lake Road in the Town of Pine Plains for a Disabled Vehicle and stranded motorist. Investigation at the scene resulted in the arrest of James Colonna (age 29) for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree. Additionally, it was discovered that Colonna was

wanted by the New York State Police for outstanding warrants they held for his arrest. Colonna was turned over to the NYSP.

PLEASE NOTE: All subjects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office tip line at 845 605 CLUE (2583) or Email dc-sotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.


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from
The Lakeville Journal & The Millerton News




Each week, discover the activities unique to our special region:
Festivals | Farmer’s Markets | Exhibits
Hiking Trails | Food | Openings
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Curated by
Natalia Zukerman
Engagement Editor



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Your Essential Guide to Events, Activities, and Entertainment in the Tri-State Region of Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts


Forward To A Friend

Forward

March 21, 2024



Book Binding, Games & Ritual



Natalia Zukerman is thrilled to be the new Engagement Editor at the Millerton News and...

This Weekend
Amidst the delicate balance of seasonal transition, seekers of fun, mindfulness and creativity will find plenty to do this weekend.

On Saturday morning, March 23rd at Skyrise Farm (exact address provided at check-out) in Millerton, Vibrational Designer Sarah Rigano of FORM + LIGHT and guest teacher Erika Halwell invite participants to “THE DEEPENING,” an immersive morning practice suffused with the essence of early spring. Grounded in

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APPRENTICING *Continued from Page A1*

edith Hamilton explained, "It's the hope that our Teen Jobs youth will transition into School to Work as they gather more skills and are more aware of what they're interested in."

The School to Work Coordinator, Katie Cariello said, "School to Work is for folks who are mainly between 16 to 23 who are looking to enter the workforce after graduating high school. Or maybe they tried higher education and realized it wasn't for them, or maybe they're still in that middle area of trying to decide what they want to do next." Cariello works closely with all these individuals, helping them to build their resumes and hone their interview skills while giving them space to focus on their interests.

Shannon, a student at Dover Plains High School, has been an intern at the Dover Library since mid-January. A self-proclaimed shy person, Shannon reflected, "It's hard for me to get out there and this has been really helpful." Amy Smith, the Director of the Dover Plains Library added supportively, "I was also very shy when I started, but one of the nice things about this work is you have kind of a scripted interaction, so it allows you practice speaking to strangers...which is weird," she laughed.

Smith also underscored the program's transformative potential saying, "One of the things I think that's interesting about library work is that a lot of the skills are really customer service, and then a whole bunch are sort



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

In the children's section at The Dover Plains Library, from left to right, Amy Smith (Director of Dover Plains Library), Meredith Hamilton (Teen Program Director), Katie Cariello (School to Work Coordinator), and Shannon (student intern).

of office, clerical related. So, there's a whole lot of transferable skills."

Shannon drives her own car to her job at the library but the NECC's Transportation program also helps individuals without access to transportation. Trying to find businesses to participate in the program that are on the school bus route, however, is also a priority as the new program continues to take shape.

Outreach for the program has taken the form of "a lot of cold calling," said Cariello, as well as newsletters, word of mouth, and an online form for any business currently hiring.

The NECC also works closely with Dutchess BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) who do a lot of trade programming. Students can go during their school day to learn about plumbing, HVAC, cu-

linary arts, nursing, security, cosmetology and more. "It's a lot of hands-on learning," said Cariello. Just a few of the businesses participating in the program so far are Amenia Parks and Recreation, AFI Glass & Architectural Metal, Inc, and Wethersfield Estate & Garden with more being added in the summer.

Meredith Hamilton shared, "We're asking a lot of business, but we're also showing them that we have youth that are ready and able to work, and we really want to support them." She continued, "Our main goal is matching youth with a business and having it be the experience they're looking for and a career that they want to pursue." Cariello added, "We want to show the businesses that we are here to support them as well, that we are willing to do some of the financial backing if it means

they can be a mentor and give this young person a real glimpse into what a particular field could look like for them.

"But," she added, "sometimes students try working somewhere and realize it's not an avenue they want to pursue. And so," she continued, "they had a safe space in order to try it."

Safety, access, and support are just a few of the gifts of this program. And, Smith adds, "No matter where Shannon goes next, she has a reference. As a young person, finding a reference that isn't related to you or like a neighbor or whatever can be really hard. So that's part of the beauty of this program. It sets people up."

To find out more about the School to Work or Teen Jobs program, visit www.neccmillerton.org or email teamprograms@neccmillerton.org

BANK *Continued from Page A1*

Chris Kennan. Kennan commented he "wished more business people would reach out to residents of our community. I'm happy that they want to come to our town." Asked for specifics about the purchase of property in town he replied, "It's really premature. The bank hasn't bought anything."

Whalen himself was more forthcoming when questioned. "Yes, we have applied for approval to open a branch on Route 44 with the New York State Department of Financial Services which regulates state-chartered banks like ours.

We're not sure how long it will take to secure permission. When we moved from the parking lot at Fresh Town in Amenia to our new branch at the light it took them about 30 days."

Whalen confirmed that the bank is in the process of preparing a site plan to present to the Planning Board which will include a drive through window and will be meeting

with architects to modify the interior.

"The bank has been looking at Millerton for some time but with the acquisition of Salisbury Bank by NBT it seemed like the right time to move forward. It's a beautiful, light filled building."

Regarding the possible sale of her building Elizabeth Trotta, said only, "There are two parties involved in negotiations with lots of boxes that need to be checked. I will not be closing my business, but I may relocate. I love Millerton."

The 2,479 square foot store on one acre was built in 2007 and comes complete with a sprinkler system, village water, and even a safe. When the Bank of Millbrook opens in the Town of North East consumers will have two banks to choose from and the Bank of Millbrook will expand its branch network which now includes, in addition to their Village of Millbrook headquarters, locations in Pine Plains, Amenia and Stanford.

Artifacts relocate to Salisbury Town Hall

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

patrick@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY, Conn. — A crowd of 30 or so people piled into the newly-painted Town Hall Friday, April 5 for a noon-time ribbon cutting for two items of historical interest.

They were a sign from the old Farnam Tavern in Lakeville, and the Salisbury Bicentennial Quilt, which are now hanging opposite each other on the walls going up the staircase in the center of the building.

Rich Reifsnnyder related how the Salisbury Association Historical Society learned that the Farnam Tavern sign was up for auction in November 2021, and after determining it was the genuine article, went ahead and bought it.

With a grant from the Anne and Rollin Bates Foundation, the sign received the attention of conservator John Lippert.

The Salisbury Association's Sarah Morrison thanked Lippert, who was present, for fitting the relatively small project into his schedule.

Next up was how to hang the heavy sign.

That required the expertise of blacksmith Will Trowbridge of Sharon, who designed and created the hanging hardware



PHOTO BY...

This restored sign is now on display at Town Hall in Salisbury.

for the sign and for the quilt.

Also involved: First Selectman Curtis Rand and Building Inspector Michael Carbone for providing the space and determining it was structurally sound and Kevin Wiggins and Janet Manko for reinforcing the walls and installing the items.

The quilt was created in 1976 by a group of Salisbury women under the direction of Mrs. David Luria to celebrate the country's bicentennial. It features scenes from around town, including the ski jumps, the old Barnett's store, and the Scoville Memorial Library.

Salisbury Association President Jeanette Weber said it was time to get the quilt in the public eye, since the country will be celebrating its 250th birthday in 2026.

HECATE *Continued from Page A1*

Levin explained that the choice of location in Hillsdale was made partly because it is closer to the residents who live nearest to the proposed project at the intersection of Routes 7 and 23 in Copake.

"The 60-day statutory clock to submit the application suggests we'll file in early June," Levin said.

Residents looked over brochures that provided an overview of the project and asked the Hecate staff questions.

Some wanted to know "Why here?"

Diane Sullivan, a senior vice president for environment and permitting, explained that reasons behind

the selection included landowners who were interested, along with the advantage of being close to a New York State Electric and Gas transmission line.

Others stared at the big poster maps on display and complained that the areas where solar panels will be installed should have been better highlighted.

The Shepherd's Run solar farm was first proposed to the Town of Copake in 2017 and called for the project to sit on 500 acres. Over the life of the planning, the land area of the project has been reduced. The current plan calls for a footprint of 215 acres with seven

fenced-in areas totaling 175 acres.

Hecate pointed out that the 175-acre fenced in area now represents 35% of the original plan. Fenced-in areas house solar panels, inverters, transformers and other facility equipment, according to Hecate.

The company, based in Chicago, has other projects in the works in New York State. In Genesee County in the towns of Elba and East Oakfield, the Cider Run project is expected to encompass at least 2,800 acres straddling a transmission line and will produce 500MW. The project has been permitted.

Another project, the Coeymans Solar Farm, is a 40MW array that will soon come online in Coeymans south of Albany. Sheep grazing, which is part of the plan for Shepherd's Run, occurs at Coeymans.

A third project in Coxsackie, also south of Albany, called the Greene County Solar Facility has been granted state approval.

Under New York law, projects that aim to produce more than 25MW of alternative energy must obtain approval from the state and that approval is dependent upon opportunities for local input, including a provision for host community benefits.

GARAGE *Continued from Page A1*



COURTESY OF LABELLA ASSOCIATES

Conceptual rendering of the design for a new Amenia Town Garage calls for six bays for trucks and equipment.

new Town Garage is estimated at \$6.3 million, Miller said.

"The more you put things off, the more costly they become," Miller added, suggesting using undesignated ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for initial phases.

Miller said that by early summer or perhaps the fall, the town should be prepared

to send the engineering aspect out for bid, and ARPA funds could begin paying for that work.

"Several grant opportunities exist to help with costs," Miller noted, expecting that bonding would be needed for the project at an estimated \$5.1 million.

Three currently bonded

projects are nearing the end of their bonding: the landfill, the rail trail and the heating system at the Town Hall, Miller noted, lessening the impact of bonding for a town garage.

"These projects will end before this project would begin," Miller said.

To acquaint residents with

the deteriorated conditions and cramped quarters within the old town garage property, an open house is planned for Saturday, May 4 giving visitors a chance to see for themselves.

For more information about plans for the new Town Garage, go to ameniany.gov/ highway.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Walking among the 'Herd'

'Herd,' a film by Michel Negreponte, will be screening at The Norfolk Library on Saturday April 13 at 5:30 p.m. This mesmerizing documentary investigates the relationship between humans and other sentient beings by following a herd of shaggy Belted Galloway cattle through a little more than a year of their lives.

Negreponte and his wife have had a second home just outside of Livingston Manor, in the southwest corner of the Catskills, for many years. Like many during the pandemic, they moved up north for what they thought would be a few weeks, and now seldom return to their city dwelling. Adjacent to their property is a privately owned farm and when a herd of Belted Galloways arrived, Negreponte realized the subject of his new film.

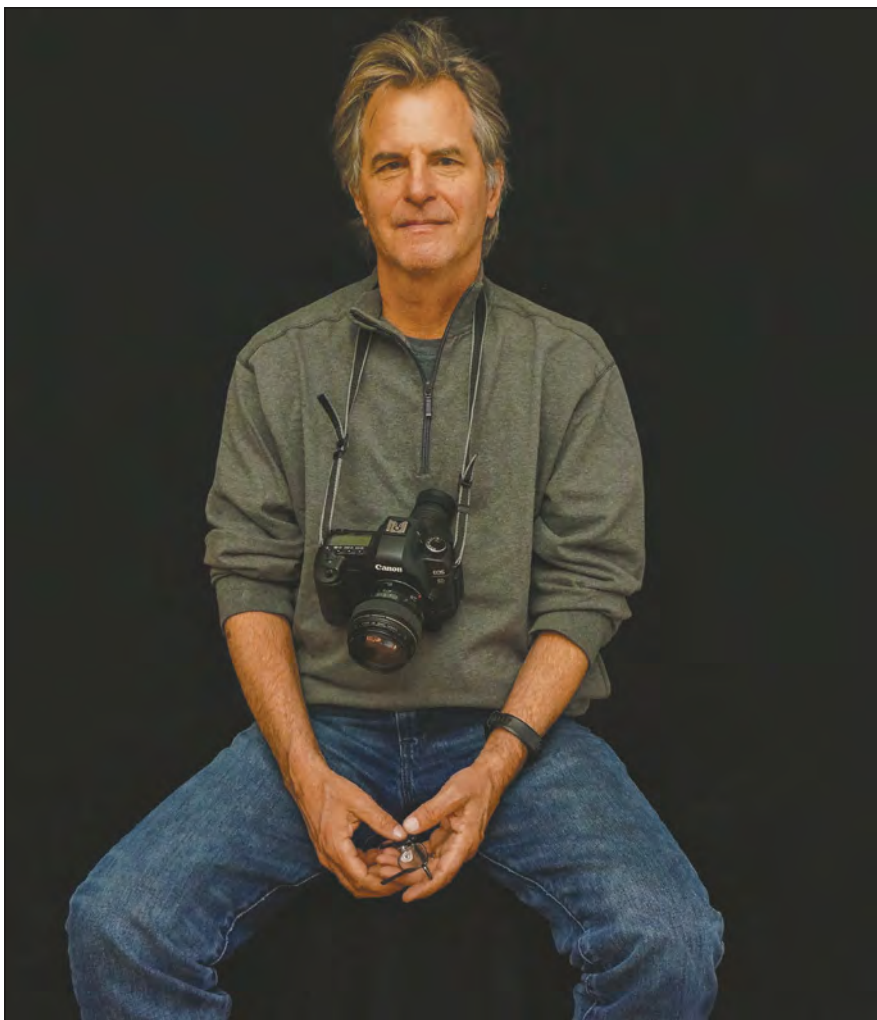
"You know, I've never made a nature documentary," Negreponte shared. "That's not really my thing, but once I found myself in upstate New York during the pandemic, I made several short films about the environment, about the land around me. They were mini essays, meditations. One of them was about my dog. That kind of led me into this longer project, which I also call an essay film. I'd like to say it's a personal essay film, and a meditation."

Early in the film, with the background of a heartbeat as soundtrack, a quote comes across the screen explaining, "Cows are adagio. 65 to 75 beats per minute." This delib-

erate slowing down of pace lends a quiet to the narrative and allows for profound reflections on themes of motherhood, community, and humanity's place in the natural world. "I think that the subject matter and the cows asked for a particularly delicate and peaceful approach. That is their temperament and their pace, and I certainly appreciate the vibe they give out," Negreponte added.

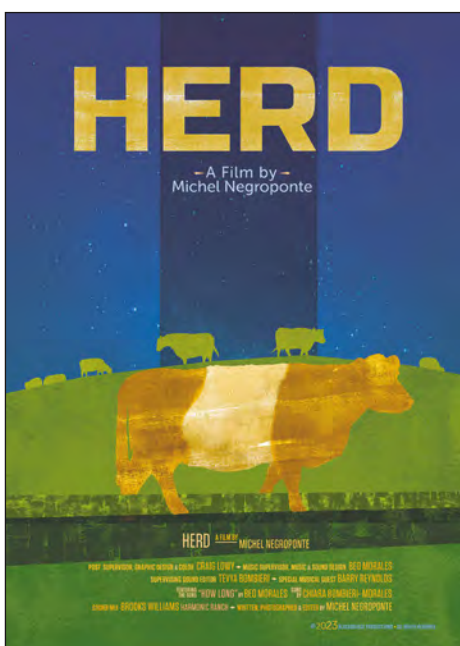
Shot throughout 2022, the film is chronological, following the herd through an erratic winter and the seasons of birth and death.

"It's a very organic process," said Negreponte of his technique of editing while filming. "It's a process that I've developed over many years of



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Michel Negreponte



making films and it suits the way I work."

Using one camera, long shots linger on the lumbering giants as they navigate harsh weather, calve their young, protect, fight, and play with one another. Negreponte filmed parts of his own body in moments,

"breaking the fourth wall," as he explained, a technique that adds to the intimacy.

Throughout the film, there are other clips interspersed that Negreponte calls, "archival sections," though not all the footage is historical. There are images of Hitler juxtaposed with images of Ghandi. The

Continued on next page



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Diego Ongaro

FILM: MIKE COBB

Fresh perspectives in Norfolk Library film series

Parisian filmmaker Diego Ongaro, who has been living in Norfolk for the past 20 years, has composed a collection of films for viewing based on his unique taste.

The series, titled "Visions of Europe," began over the winter at the Norfolk Library with a focus on under-the-radar contemporary films with unique voices, highlighting the creative richness and vitality of the European film landscape.

Ongaro has made two films himself. His second feature film "Down with the King" tells the story of a rapper who has come to recoup from career challenges on a farm in the Berkshires. Filmed on location in southwestern Massachusetts, it's a beautiful movie with bucolic landscapes and moving performances by lead actor Freddie Gibbs.

The film premiered at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival (ACID section), won the top prize at the Deauville Film Festival, was released worldwide by Sony Pictures in 2022, and is currently available for viewing on Netflix. Prior to that, Ongaro's first feature film "Bob and the Trees" had its world premiere at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. Ongaro directed more than a hundred children's programs for French Television in his early 20s and wrote and directed four acclaimed short films.

When asked how the idea for the series came about, Ongaro said, "Last year at the Norfolk Library I did a film series on the Berlin School, and the year before that it was on the French New Wave. I wanted to continue this cycle and offer a window on the cinema

that I like."

"Growing up in Paris, I've always had a diverse taste in cinema, watching American and French films, but also films from all over the world that allowed me to travel to places I'll most likely never see. It was refreshing to see these stories anchored in different cultures. Now that I've been living away from native France for about 20 years, I gravitate mostly towards European cinema, probably seeking a culture and sensibility that I miss. A lot of these European films are incredible, offering complex characters and stories, unlike most of the American fare nowadays," he adds.

The next and last installment happens Friday, April 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and features "Swagger" by Olivier Babinet.

So how did Ongaro curate the films for this series?

"I like to share films that reflect my sensibility as a filmmaker and that most people haven't seen. I've traveled to a lot of film festivals over the years where I got to see many films. I try to find themes within the films that have stuck with me. I like to think of it as a cine club. This year, the three films are all very different from each other, but each have a unique voice and form: a nuanced drama on the Baltic Sea titled 'Afire' by Christian Petzold, a hilarious nonsensical comedy called 'Keep An Eye Out' by Quentin Dupieux, and a gripping and wonderfully original documentary on teenagers going to school in a difficult projects in France called 'Swagger'

Continued on next page

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COMPASS

New ground to cover and plenty of groundcover

It is still too early to sow seeds outside, except for peas, both the edible and floral kind. I have transplanted a few shrubs and a dogwood tree that was root pruned in the fall. I have also moved a few hellebores that seeded in the near woods back into their garden beds near the house; they seem not to mind the few frosty mornings we have recently had. In years past I would have been cleaning up the plant beds but I now know better and will wait at least six weeks more. I have instead found the most perfect time-consuming activity for early spring: teasing out Vinca minor, also known as periwinkle and myrtle, from the ground in places it was never meant to be.

Planting the stuff in the first place is my biggest ever garden regret. It was recommended to me as a groundcover that would hold together a hillside, bare after a removal of invasive plants save for a dozen or so trees. And here we are,



twelve years later; there is vinca everywhere. It blankets the hillside and has crept over the top into the woods. It has made its way left and right. I am convinced that vinca is the plastic of the plant world. The stuff won't die. (The name Vinca comes from the Latin 'vincire' which means 'to bind or fetter'.) Last year I pulled a bunch and left it strewn on the roof of the root cellar for 6 months and the leaves were still green.

Disposal is by bonfire, the least desirable method, but in this case the only way of ensuring it does not return.

2024 will be the year I begin to take it out, with sporadic help from hired hands. While they tackle larger areas of the offending plant, I have started from the fringes of the woodland interior

and am working outward. Frankly it is not as boring from here as the vinca is less packed into the soil. It is an oddly satisfying task; this has to do with the vine-like nature of the plant. There is a knobby bit tethered to the soil by its roots; once this is lifted up (I use fingers but Norm, who is working in denser beds of the stuff, uses a hori knife) the vine runs to its next root knob about a foot or two away. It feels as if you have progressed quite a bit for one big tug. The same technique can be used on Glechoma, or ground ivy, although the vines are far thinner than those of vinca. I should be working on this well into the next decade.

While nurseries and garden centers continue to push vinca, there are native groundcovers that look great and can help to restore native habitats. Michele Palustra runs Linder Nursery, a small outfit in Sharon that prioritizes local ecotypes of natives, meaning that

she collects the seed herself from surrounding property, ensuring that the plants growing from them will serve local insects well. Spreading Jacob's Ladder, Polemonium reptans, works in moderately shady circumstances, with its dense and deep green set of leaves and a truly beautiful pale purple or white flower. This plant comes to New England from south and west of the US but is hardy to zone 5. One of Michele's favorites is native Allegheny pachysandra, Pachysandra procumbens.

Unlike the ever-present non-native Japanese pachysandra terminalis which is dying off thanks to Volutella blight, native pachysandra has a more delicate leaf and a showier flower. It is slower to spread than is the Japanese version but the use case is similar; as an underplanting around tree bases and to fill in around plantings in garden beds. I have recommended tiarella cordifolia as a pachysandra replacement for these purposes and suggest pairing either with a native fern such lady fern or maidenhair fern. Native ginger, asarum canadense, and the 200 or so native species of viola, or violet, work beau-

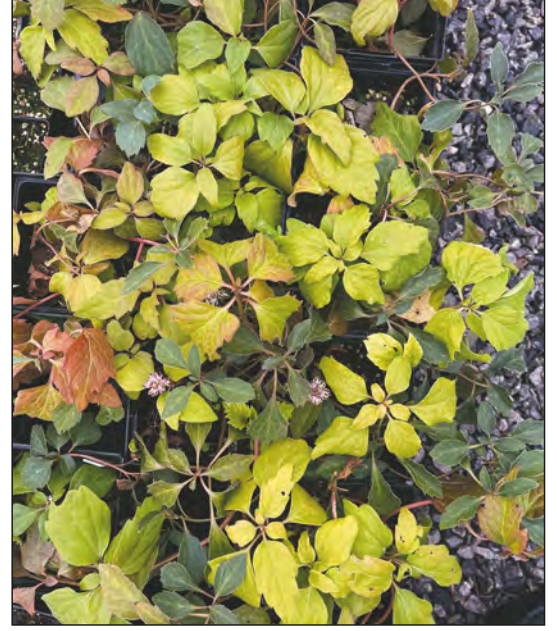


PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON
Young native pachysandra from Linder Nursery shows a variety of color and delicate flowers.

tifully for groundcover; the former is excellent on hillsides where you can better see the shy burgundy colored flower, the latter spreads quickly which is a bonus and all sorts of insects feed on its flowers. Try to get the straight species of these native plants rather than a cultivar of them which may not benefit the habitat as well (this fascinating topic will be covered in the next installment of The Ungardener.)

I have purchased 50 plugs of Pennsylvania sedge, Carex pennsylvanica, from the online consolidator Izel Native Plants to plant under cherry trees that have resisted any past attempts

to have a downstairs neighbor. I also want to explore ways to encourage the growth of native moss which also makes an excellent groundcover.

Linder Nursery, along with Tiny Meadow Farm, are having a pop-up spring sale in Sharon that I encourage you to visit. They will be selling truly gorgeous native plants including groundcovers.

This will take place Sunday, April 28 from 10-6 at Linder Nursery, 60 Knibloe Hill Road in Sharon. www.tinymeadowfarm.com/events/spring-sharon-plant-sale.

Dee Salomon "ungardens" in Litchfield County.

...Herd

hunting and eventual extinction of wild Buffalo in the American West, and images showing reverence for cows in ancient cultures. From the horrors of industrial farming and animal exploitation to the clear communication and collective consciousness present, "Herd" confronts the viewer with human-

ity's capacity for both cruelty and compassion. By inviting audiences to slow down and reconnect with the natural world, "Herd" serves as a timely reminder of the interconnectedness of all living beings. Negreonte shared, "I can't help but think that people may think twice about their eating habits.

Continued from previous page

I certainly think we can do better and adjust our diets so we're less cruel to the animals around us."

The owners of the farm have decided that the cattle are now pets, due in large part to the effect that "Herd" has had on them. The cows will now be used primarily to fertilize the fields.

...Norfolk film

by Olivier Babinet," he said. There were many films that didn't make the cut due to time constraints, but Ongaro also recommends, "Reality" and "Yannick" by Quentin Dupieux as well as "Jericho," "Barbara," "Undine" by Christian Petzold." As to what the audi-

ence can expect from the evening, Ongaro says, "It's a casual affair. I give an introduction to the film with some backstory and context, talk about the filmmaker, the actors, and then we watch the film. We don't do question and answer after, we don't really have time for that, but people

Continued from previous page

linger and talk about what they have just watched. People come to me with questions or to hear my take on an ending, a character. It's fun to see how engaged people are after each screening."

Screenings are free. Register on www.norfolklibrary.org.

FILM: ED FERMAN

Classic cult TV: Worth a new look?

A classic cult show does something new or pushes boundaries, has a dedicated but limited audience, and usually has a short run. You see "Game of Thrones" on lists of cult shows, but in my view it doesn't come close. Its followers are fanatical and even have their rituals and lexicon, but it ran for eight years, and its audience ran in the tens of millions.

Firefly
"Firefly" (2002) is a much better example. Its cancellation by Fox

after 11 episodes generated a huge fan uprising. You can see fandom at work in the Wikipedia entry, which runs longer than the one on Pearl Harbor and expounds on every detail, e.g. why the characters curse in Chinese. TV critic Emily Nussbaum called it a "character-rich, sci-fi western comedy drama with existential underpinnings."

I'd give it passing marks for special effects, action, and humor, but is it worth watching? Here's a scene from Ep-

isode One. Captain Mal Reynolds and the crew of his spaceship undergo a gunfight (on horseback), escape to their ship only to be pursued by Reavers (savage, half-human space pirates). "What happens if they board us?" the ship's whore asks the pilot. "They rape us to death, eat our flesh and sew our skin into their clothing," she replies. This sent me back to age 14, when I read a story titled, I think, "Serena and the

Continued on page B4

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FOOD: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Matza Lasagne by 'The Cook and the Rabbi'

Culinary craftsmanship intersects with spiritual insights in the wonderfully collaborative book, "The Cook and the Rabbi." On April 14 at Oblong Books in Rhinebeck (6422 Montgomery Street), the cook, Susan Simon, and the rabbi, Zoe B. Zak, will lead a conversation about food, tradition, holidays, resilience and what to cook this Passover.

Passover, marked by the traditional seder meal, holds profound significance within Jewish culture and for many carries extra meaning this year at a time of great conflict. The word seder, meaning "order" in Hebrew, unfolds in a 15-step progression intertwining prayers, blessings, stories, and songs that narrate the ancient saga of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery. It's a narrative that has endured for over two millennia, evolving with time yet retaining its essence, a theme echoed beautifully in "The Cook and the Rabbi."

Part liturgy, part folk

art, part narrative, "The Cook and the Rabbi" is a testament to the adaptability of Jewish traditions. In the introduction, Rabbi Zak articulated, "My prayer has been to reveal a glimpse of the hidden sparks of each holiday and their connection to one another."

Zak has served as the rabbi of Temple Israel of Catskill since 2012. Simon, the chef and visual artist behind the book, approached Zak with her literary agent after attending one of her services at Temple Israel with the idea for the book. Their collaborative effort is imbued with history and reverence for tradition while expanding meaning, creating an invitation to make the holidays deeply personal. With Passover in particular, Zak wrote: "Some of us long for our childhood and devote ourselves to re-creating those experiences, whereas others are determined to create something different for themselves, their families, and friends."

From "The Cook and the Rabbi"
Matza Lasagne with Spinach and Roasted Butternut Squash

Is there anyone who doesn't love lasagne with its layers of oozing ingredients complementing one other as they attach themselves to your fork? Here's a recipe that uses sheets of matza instead of pasta, letting you keep up with your lasagne cravings, even during Passover. I used butternut squash for one of the layers as it can be found almost year-round. The flavor of squash diminishes over time—so, you might want to freeze it, peeled and cut into chunks, when it's freshly harvested. Roasting is a good method to coax flavor out of even the most recalcitrant squash.

Serves 8

- One 1½-pound butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into 1½-inch chunks
- ½ cup olive oil, plus some for pan and drizzling
- Flaky salt

- 8 ounces spinach, tough stems removed, rinsed
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped garlic
- ¼ teaspoon Aleppo pepper flakes
- One 28-ounce can peeled plum tomatoes (choose the best quality because they're likely to be preserved in a thick sauce; if the sauce is watery, thicken with a tablespoon of tomato paste)
- 1 pound whole-milk ricotta
- ¼ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- A few grinds of black pepper
- 6 matzas
- ½ cup grated Parmesan
- Leaves from 6 flat-leaf parsley sprigs

Heat the oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet or jelly-roll pan with parchment paper.

Arrange the butternut squash chunks, in a single layer, in the pan. Moisten with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil and sprinkle with a

pinch of flaky salt. Bake, occasionally flipping the chunks, until all sides are golden, about 30 minutes. Remove from the oven but don't turn the oven off. Mash the roasted squash and set aside.

Heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, add the still wet spinach and a pinch of salt. Toss to completely coat the spinach. Lower the heat to medium-low and cook until just wilted, 5 to 8 minutes. Remove from the heat and set aside.

Place the remaining 5 tablespoons of olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion, garlic, and Aleppo pepper flakes to the pan and sauté until the onion is translucent. Use your hands to crush the tomatoes into the pan. Add all of the can's sauce. Simmer for 20 minutes.

While the sauce is simmering, place the ricotta in a medium bowl. Coarsely chop the cooked spinach and add to the bowl along with

the nutmeg, black pepper, and a pinch of salt. Thoroughly combine.

Use a teaspoon of olive oil to lightly oil a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Assemble the lasagne: Cover the bottom of the dish with 1½ matzas. Spread the mashed squash over the top. Cover the squash with a thin layer of tomato sauce. Cover the sauce with 1½ matzas. Spread the spinach mixture over the top. Cover that with a thin layer of tomato sauce, and then cover it with 1½ matzas. Cover this matza layer with half of the remaining tomato sauce. Cover the top of the sauce with 1½ matzas. Evenly spread the remaining sauce over the top. Sprinkle the Parmesan over the sauce. Sprinkle the parsley leaves on top of the Parmesan. Drizzle olive oil over the top.

Bake in the already heated oven until the top is golden and the sides are bubbling. The top of the lasagne should be crunchy—a perfect foil for the almost mousse-like filling.

ART: JEFF JOYCE

Kozik presents work at Kenise Barns

The Ontario outdoorsman and painter Tom Thomson (1877-1917) captured the essence of the far North American landscape in a series of small paintings on wood panels—executed so well that in the century since his early death (in a canoe accident) he has become the de facto Painter Laureate of Canada. A great part of his achievement is due to his skillful use of the discrete brushstroke, deliberately placed in pitch-perfect colors, likely out of a necessity for immediacy, as his landscapes were painted on location. The 'discrete brushstroke' as an idea appeared in 19th Century French painting (Manet and the Impressionists), liberating the art form from descriptive modeling and making the mark a gesture unto itself. This freedom opened the door to Modernism, culminat-

ing in such a painter as Ellsworth Kelly: color and gesture simultaneously made manifest in pure form.

KK Kozik employs the discrete brushstroke with impressive results, building her images out of patterns and 'tiles' of complex tertiary colors (vanilla yellows, resonant mauves and pinks, deep blues and sagey greens). Aspects of her carefully structured images appear as friezes composed of blips and chunks of color, reading as vegetation or light moving on the water's surface in a dizzy fracture. Psychedelic.

Much as Tom Thomson did in his paintings of Ontario, Kozik internalizes familiar views of our New England landscape and converts them, using her logic of design and touch, into mythic states of being. In one of her small landscape views, Kozik channels Irish painter

Paul Henry's sculpted clouds—and reminds us that any landscape painter of merit needs to capture the spirit of place.

Even though Kozik is a sophisticated painter there remains in her work a childlike sense of wonder. These paintings are devoid of the cynical skepticism and irony that pervade much of contemporary painting, and that is a very good thing. In one of her night skies the stars are silver appliqué attached to the surface of the painting, much the way a middle school girl would do in an art project. Wonderful. Kozik's work proclaims that this sweet 'island' floating in space which we inhabit and the fact we even exist, is indeed a miracle.

Kozik's show, titled "Miracle Island," will be on display at Kenise Barns in Kent through May 12.

Trip to the Goodspeed Opera House on May 1

The area Parks and Recreation departments have joined forces to offer a day trip to the historic Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam to see the original production of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."

Bus transportation leaves from Foote Field in Cornwall at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1. The trip includes lunch at the Gelston House Restaurant at noon prior to the 2 p.m. show. The cost is \$100 each. Seats are limited.

Call 860-364-1400 or email sharon.rec.ctr@snet.net for further information or to reserve your seat.

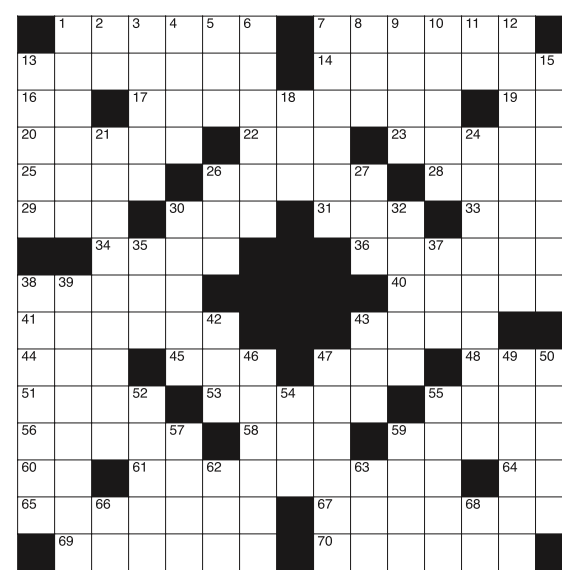
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Island nation
7. Platforms
13. Project plan
14. French fishing port
16. South Dakota
17. Oakland's baseball team
19. Military policeman
20. Ornamental stone
22. Garland
23. Process that produces ammonia
25. Mousses
26. Music notation "dal"
28. Fail to win
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Not near
31. Some cars still need it
33. Lizard genus
34. An idiot (Brit.)
36. Postponed
38. African country
40. Gazes unpleasantly
41. In a way, traveled
43. Ukraine's capital
44. Appropriate
45. Dash
47. Twitch
48. Swiss river
51. Data file with computer animations
53. City in S. Korea
55. Particular region
56. They have eyes and noses
58. Tear
59. Large Madagascar lemur
60. Not out
61. Ornamental saddle covering
64. A driver's license is one
65. Latin term for charity
67. Rechristens
69. Objects from an earlier time
70. Hindu male religious teachers

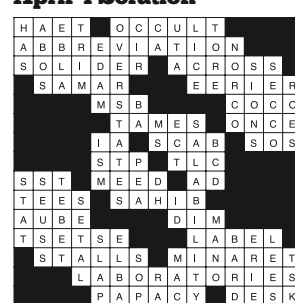
CLUES DOWN

1. Used as a weapon
2. Yukon Territory
3. Makes a map of
4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
5. Unnilhexium
6. Merchant
7. Playing the field
8. Folk singer DiFranco

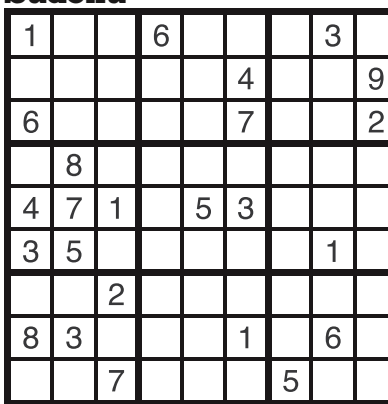


9. Something to scratch
10. Mexican agave
11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
12. Session
13. North American people
15. Ranches
18. Electroencephalograph
21. A type of compound
24. Avenue
26. High schoolers' test
27. A type of meal
30. Gradually disappeared
32. Ancient Frankish law code
35. Popular pickup truck
37. Buzzing insect
38. Deal illegally
39. Lying in the same plane
42. Obstruct
43. Related
46. Challenge aggressively
47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
49. Bird's nests
50. Forays
52. ___ B. de Mille, filmmaker
54. Title of respect
55. One-time name of Vietnam
57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
59. Private school in New York
62. Political action committee
63. A way to fashion
66. Email reply
68. "The Great Lake State"

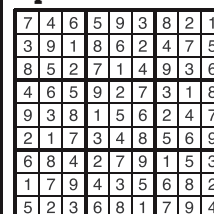
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- Assists in planning, overseeing and/or accomplishing special campus events, testing, and/or projects, as assigned.
- Maintain up to date records for preventative maintenance contracts.
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- Maintain up to date fuel and propane usage for call campus buildings.
- Keep Director of Physical Plant informed daily of significant events.
- Maintain accurate usage record and inventory control of fuel supplies.
- Work closely with Custodial Supervisor.
- Process monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to various agencies.
- Coordinate schedules and appointments.
- Maintain school owned vehicle logs for mileage, registration and N.Y.S. inspection.
- Maintain certificates of insurance and vendor's & contractor's worker's comp certificates.
- Other duties as assigned.

Education and Qualification Requirements

- Associates degree in a related field preferred.
- Two years of administrative experience required.
- Experience in a relevant field is preferred.
- Must have excellent interpersonal skills.
- Must have strong oral and written communication skills.
- Must have strong computer skills.
- Must have a clean and valid driver's license.

For a complete job description, including the essential functions and physical requirements, please visit the employment section of our website: www.millbrook.org.

The hourly rate for this position ranges from \$20.00 to \$24.00 per hour. When determining placement in the salary range, Millbrook School considers relevant experience and other factors permitted by law.

Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to **Patti Starzyk, Human Resources at pstarzyk@millbrook.org or send to 131 Millbrook School Road, Millbrook, NY 12545.**

As an equal opportunity employer, Millbrook School does not discriminate in hiring or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, citizenship status, sex, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law. Moreover, Millbrook School recognizes the value of a diverse faculty and staff, and actively seeks candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds.

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