



HUDSON RIVER
 Cary gets study grant **A3**



MILLERTON
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COMPASS
 Tribute to Wanda Landowska; And More **B1-4**

FALL CAR CARE
 Special banner Page **A2**



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

First day

A day resplendent with firsts, new Principal Amanda Coppola celebrated her first first day of school at Webutuck Elementary by escorting students to the school's entrance on their first day of school Thursday, Sept. 5. With six years of experience in the district, Coppola was appointed to her new post in July. Her enthusiasm is apparent.

State awards Millerton \$6.385 million funding for pool at Eddie Collins

By **JOHN COSTON**
 johnc@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The NY SWIMS capital grant program awarded \$6.385 million to the village to build a community pool, a bathhouse, community room and septic system at Eddie Collins Memorial Park.

The announcement came from Gov. Kathy's Hochul's office on the eve of Labor Day, along with \$38 million in grants to Dutchess County and towns and cities in the

Mid-Hudson region.

"It's incredible for us to receive this," Mayor Jenn Najdek said. "To be in the right place at the right time, and to be in good standing with grants."

The mayor said she hopes that there may be a groundbreaking in the fall of 2025.

"It wouldn't be possible without the incredible group of volunteers," Najdek said.

The Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization Committee includes: Stephen Waite, chair, Jeanne

Vanecko, vice chair, Edith Greenwood, treasurer, Jennifer Dowley and Greg Swinehart. Mayor Najdek is the village liaison to the committee.

Najdek also thanked Anna Clune, who wrote the grant for the village.

"The grant award is exciting news for Millerton and its residents. Anna did a fabulous job writing the application.

"I spent a lot of time at the old

See **POOL**, PAGE **A8**

Amenia considers new sign, trail to train, and a cannabis law

By **LEILA HAWKEN**
 Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Progress was made on a variety of topics at the regular meeting of the Town Board on Thursday, Sept. 5, including installation of an electronic information sign at the Town Hall, concern about maintenance of the trail to the train in Wassaic, and drafting of a law to govern local cannabis sales.

In a continuing effort toward improved information access for residents, the board discussed in-

stallation of an internally lit LED sign to be installed at the Town Hall. Easily visible to passing motorists, the new sign will carry announcement, upcoming meetings and town events.

Town Supervisor Leo Blackman said that he had heard from residents with concerns that they are not informed about what is happening in the community. He also noted that the town has immunity from zoning regulations, allowing the town to move ahead on plans for an electronic sign to hold mes-

sages that will be able to be posted by remote computer.

"Because it's the town, we need to get messages out to residents," Blackman said.

Councilman Brad Rebillard agreed, feeling that the sign is a public service.

During public comment, resident Tonia Shoumatoff of Wassaic raised two issues of needed maintenance, the first describing urgent action needed along the boardwalk

See **TOWN BOARD**, PAGE **A8**

Dutchess Comptroller releases Q2 ARPA spending report

By **NATHAN MILLER**
 nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

POUGHKEEPSIE — Dutchess County Comptroller Gregg Pulver released the county ARPA spending report for the second quarter of 2024 Friday, Aug. 30.

As of June 30, Dutchess County has spent a little over \$31 million in ARPA funds. The county has received over \$57 million since fund disbursement began in 2021.

The county spent \$1 million in quarter 2 of 2024, spread out over several infrastructure projects. Among those projects was a splash pad at Wilcox Memorial Park west of Pine Plains, antenna support towers for the county's public safety ra-

dio system, buildings to house radio equipment used by the Department of Emergency Response and planning, design and construction administration for the Youth Opportunity Center in Poughkeepsie.

Dutchess County Executives updated the ARPA fund spending plan in June 2024, choosing to allocate all remaining funds to education in the county, focusing mainly on Dutchess County Community College. The county will use the remaining \$25 million to fund its contribution to the community college, chargeback costs paid to other community colleges and costs paid toward the New York State-mandated pre-school education program.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Habitat House groundbreaking

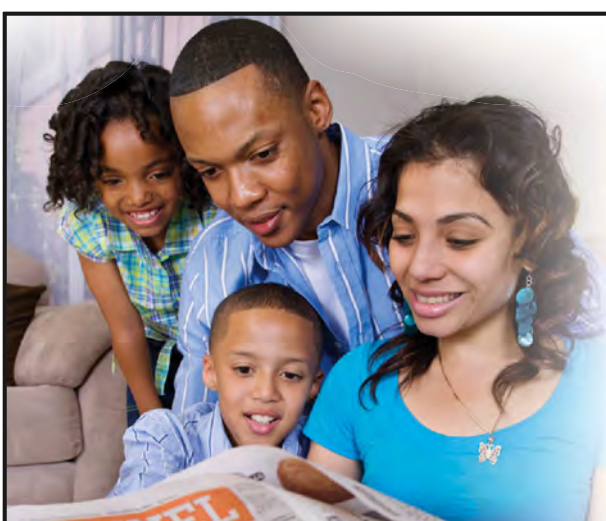
Habitat for Humanity broke ground Wednesday, Sept. 4, for a house to be built on Rudd Pond Road. From left, Pete Carr, Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County board chair, Anthony Macagnone, home buyer, Habitat CEO Maureen Lashlee, State Rep. Didi Barrett (D-106), North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan, Sue Serino, Dutchess County Executive, Gregg Pulver, Dutchess County Comptroller and Pastor Heidi Truax of Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock, Conn.



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OPINION
 Big Win, Columns, Letter **A5**



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OUR TOWNS

Millerton ZBA's consideration of 7-9 Main St. project continues

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) continued its ongoing review of an application for variances for a building at 7-9 Main Street that would add residential units to an already nonconforming building and put more pressure on village parking.

The ZBA met on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at Village Hall.

The application for two variances — on for a density increase and another for additional parking — has been studied by the ZBA for months after it was denied by the Planning Board in March of 2023 on size and parking issues after a year of deliberation.

Under Millerton zoning, a minimum of 5,000 square feet of lot area is required per dwelling unit, yet the building permit called for 636 square feet per unit. Second, under zoning, 1.5 parking spaces per dwelling unit are required, thus a proposed additional 6 units (to 12) would call for 9 additional spaces, yet none

were proposed in the application.

Following the Planning Board's denial, the ZBA held a public hearing on the application from Gvkgne Realty over the summer when residents and businesses expressed concerns and complaints about the lack of parking that the village already faces as well as specific problems related to parking on village streets.

Residents also addressed the nonconforming status of the existing units at the hearings. During the initial public hearing in May, one resident pointed to an inequity by observing that she was prevented from creating multiple dwelling units on South Center Street because of the Zoning Code's parking requirements.

The ZBA's discussion at last week's meeting raised issues such as the fact that the building has failed a fire inspection, that there are holes in walls and that the stairs need work. The new owner has stated plans to renovate the building, and while ZBA members commented that there is no guarantee that



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

7-9 Main Street

approving a variance would result in physical improvements, there was consensus that the would prefer to see the building maintained and put in good working order.

ZBA members noted that parking remains a big problem aside from the request in this application.

"We are maxed out before we even get started," said Debra Brooks, ZBA chair.

New board member Kelly Kilmer chimed: "How do we give people parking spaces that we don't have?"

Parking is permitted for up

to two hours during the day in front of the building. In winter months, there are restrictions on streets imposed by snow plowing requirements. One option mentioned during the meeting was parking on Century Boulevard, which is several blocks from the building.

The panel, which also includes members Suzanne Stevens, Ed Stillman and Claire Goodman, set its next meeting for Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall on North Elm Avenue to continue the ongoing review.

Amenia wastewater panel considers system for distributing costs among users

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Preparing for a scheduled meeting with Loberge Group Engineering of Albany, the Wastewater Committee discussed details of a possible system for distributing costs among potential users at their meeting on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The cost distribution system, termed Benefit units, was included in the Map, Plan and Report document of 2009 prepared by Morris

Associates, Engineering Consultants. Loberge is expected to produce a Map, Plan and Report document, but key to that report is an agreed-upon system for spreading costs among users.

Wastewater Committee chairman Charlie Miller reported that the goal is to have Loberge's MPR in hand by mid-autumn, so that a petition drive can begin. Results of the petition drive will allow the creation of a wastewater district, an essential step before major infrastructure

funding applications can be submitted.

During discussion, the committee agreed to the Benefit Unit system of cost dispersal as described by Morris Associates' 2009 report. Under the system, Miller explained, a single-family home, zoned residential, would be defined as one benefit unit. A two-family home would have two benefit units, and so on. An undeveloped lot with up to three residential parcels, would be defined as one benefit unit.

Commercially zoned units would be assessed at one benefit unit for each 165 gallons of average daily flow.

Committee member Shannon Roback expressed concern that the added costs might result in landlords increasing rents for their tenants.

NECC calls on Millerton residents to help tend the playground on Sept. 14

MILLERTON — North East Community Center is calling on volunteers to help tend its playground Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

NECC will provide tools for volunteers but the organization says ev-

eryone should bring their own gloves. Anyone under 18 years old must be joined by an adult.

More information can be found on NECC's website, www.neccmillerton.org, or by contacting paul@neccmillerton.org.

Healthy aging talk at Millerton library Sept. 13

MILLERTON — Healthy aging will be the topic of a presentation by Millerton practicing neuropsychologist Dr. Paul Gunser, a former attending psychologist at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers, New York, when he speaks on Friday, Sept. 13 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex at 28 Century Blvd., Millerton.

Gunser, according to Library Director Rhianon Leo-Jameson, is also a volunteer member of the

Reserve Corps of Dutchess County. She says his focus will be "keeping the brain sharp" with the goal of "possibly slowing down the progress of dementia" along with a discussion of the way in which the "fascinating topic" of neuro-feedback may have a positive impact. Registration is required either by a link at www.nemillertonlibrary.org or through the Library's main desk at 75 Main St. Call 518-789-3340 for more information.

Amenia Fire Co. pancake breakfast returns Sept. 15

AMENIA — The Amenia Fire Company will be holding its first monthly Pancake Breakfast of the season at the Firehouse on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 7:30 to 11 a.m.

It is all you can eat with a menu of pancakes, French toast, eggs and

omelettes, home fries, bacon, sausage and beverages. You can eat in or take out.

The firehouse is located at 36 Mechanic Street, Amenia. Adults are \$12.00, Seniors/Under 12 are \$11.00. For information call 845-373-8352.

Send news items and briefs to editor@millertonnews.com

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY DAVID FISCHER

Cary researchers will collect data on invasive mussels, water quality and more to support fisheries and inform management decisions on the Hudson River.

Cary to monitor Hudson River's health with grant

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research has awarded \$1.7 million to Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies to monitor Hudson River ecosystems for three years.

Cary's Chris Solomon, an aquatic ecologist, will work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to lead a study of the lower food web in the river — the web of plants and small animals that species, such as striped bass, feed on.

Monthly monitoring will begin in January. The team will collect data on water quality, along with information about the biomass and abundance of small plants and animals — phytoplankton, zooplankton, bivalves, and other invertebrates.

Solomon said the survey will build on historical data, including data from the DEC, Stony Brook University, and more than 30 years of research by Cary Institute scientists.

The years of research make "it a uniquely well studied, large river ecosystem" that has been supported by the federal government and by foundations like Cary and others.

The Hudson River estuary is diverse and features fresh water as well as sea water. The study will focus on an approximate 150-mile stretch from Lower Manhattan to Troy.

"We're excited to be working with our partners in the Hudson research and management community to help sustain the history and imagine the future of ecosystem monitoring in this iconic river estuary," said Solomon.

"These (lower food web) organisms are critical food for fish like striped bass," said Solomon. "They support the river's fisheries, and they control how the ecosystem works in a lot of really fundamental ways."

Understanding trends in these species at the base of the food web will help in anticipating changes in fish abundance, so managers can adjust harvest levels accordingly. Solomon cited a few species found in the river, including Atlantic sturgeon, eel, herring, shad.

Data from the survey may also help to reveal how changes in temperature, precipitation, and sea level due to climate change will alter Hudson ecosystems and water quality, with important implications for communities that rely on the river for drinking water and recreation.

Solomon said a half dozen or more communities rely on the Hudson for a drinking water supply.

In addition, the survey will

keep tabs on invasive zebra and quagga mussels and their impacts on the river ecosystem, and may help provide early warning if other invasive species arrive.

"The Hudson River Foundation is pleased to work with Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies on this new three-year survey to monitor the Hudson River's lower food web," said Jim Lodge, senior scientist at the Hudson River Foundation. "This work builds on the pioneering work of Cary's long-term monitoring of the freshwater Hudson and will provide critical new insights and understanding of the Hudson River ecosystem from Lower Manhattan to Troy."

Cary's Heather Malcolm and David Fisher will lead the field work for the Interim Lower Food Web Survey. Partners at Upstate Freshwater Institute will analyze the water chemistry samples, and scuba divers from Seaway Dive and Salvage will collect rock and sediment samples from the riverbed.

"The Hudson River estuary is a vital resource for New York, and one that's really intertwined with our culture and way of life," said Solomon.



PHOTOS BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Above: Rock Steady farmers Rica Bryan, co-owner, Harvest & Distribution Manager and Ris Lansing, Wash Pack Lead and Farm Team member.

At left: Susuyu Lassa from Grafton, New York, getting a haircut on the porch by Karen B.

Rock Steady Farm holds block party

MILLERTON — Rock Steady Farm on Kaye Road was the site of the Farm Block Party on Saturday, Sept. 7.

It was a family-friendly day of community celebration, featuring live music, local vendors, and a spotlight on the Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (QT+BIPOC) farmers

who are helping to shape our region's food system.

The vibrant celebration was cohosted by Rock Steady Farm and Catalyst Collaborative Farm in collaboration with Farm School NYC. The three entities have a long relationship history with one another and a shared interest in connecting their expansive communities.

There were 30 unique vendors from within the local community with offerings of pottery, herbs, teas, cakes, cookies, books, clothing, art, and so much more.

Live music added to the grooving celebration with the traditional afro-Colombian group Tambacum, and local artist Vemilo. There were healing arts in the yurt

at The Watershed Center, a social justice retreat center, as well as arts and crafts activities on the lawn, haircuts on the porch, and even an on-site tattoo artist.

All ticket proceeds went toward supporting Rock Steady Farm's farmer training program, Pollinate alumni, and Catalyst Collaborative Farm.

Columbia County deputies save man from burning building in Copake

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

COPAKE — Two Columbia County deputies rescued a man from a structure fire in Copake in the early morning Sunday, Aug. 18.

Around 2 a.m., Deputy Timothy Gladwin and Deputy Cody Falkner responded to a fire at an apartment building on County Route 7A. One of the ground-level apartments in the two story structure was engulfed when deputies arrived.

A tenant told the deputies they believed someone was still in one of the upstairs apartments, so the deputies sprang into action to retrieve

the missing person.

Upon entering the apartment, the deputies found a single person sleeping in his bedroom. The deputies helped the man out of his apartment and down the

stairs to safety.

Sheriff Donald Krapf said in a release that the two deputies' quick action prevented loss of life and serious injury.

"This was outstanding police work, and without a

doubt, these men are heroes," Krapf said. "They exemplify what it is to be a deputy sheriff. I am exceptionally proud to have them as members of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office."

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of formation of 27 Merritt Avenue LLC (the "LLC"). Arts. of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on August 2, 2024. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy to: The LLC c/o 31 Stissing Lane, Stanfordville, NY, 12581, USA. Purpose: any lawful activity.

- 08-15-24
- 08-22-24
- 08-29-24
- 09-05-24
- 09-12-24
- 09-19-24

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of FJR TRANSPORT LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 7/30/24. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: PO BOX 836, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: transport of goods.

- 08-22-24
- 08-29-24
- 09-05-24
- 09-12-24
- 09-19-24
- 09-26-24

Legal Notice

Notice of Filing of Application for Authority of Foreign LLC. Mirbeau of Beacon LLC (LLC) filed App. Of Auth. With Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/18/2022. Jurisdiction of Organization: Delaware. Date of Organization: 1/20/2022. Office location: Dutchess County. Principal business location: c/o Mirbeau of Beacon LLC, 433 Broadway, Suite 203, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

- 08-22-24
- 08-29-24
- 09-05-24
- 09-12-24
- 09-19-24
- 09-26-24

Legal Notice

The Union Cemetery Association will hold its annual meeting on Sept. 14, 2023, at St. Thomas Church, 40 Leedsville Rd., Amenia, NY from Noon to 1:30 PM. If attending, please bring a couple of dollars to give to the Church's Food Pantry. If you have family in the Cemetery, we are always looking for new Board members. Also if you wish to donate to help support the Cemetery, you can send a check made out to Union Cemetery Association and mail it to Union Cemetery Association, % Gail Seymour, 16 Townsend Blvd., Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. Call Gail with any questions at 845-454-6641.

- 08-29-24
- 09-05-24
- 09-12-24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7:30 PM or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Town Hall, 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York, on the application of John Kevin Webb, contract vendee of a 0.98 Acre parcel to be subdivided from tax parcel # 7171-00-232833, and NML Farm LLC, owner of the parcel, for variances of Section 98-14 D(5) of the Zoning Law of the Town of North East requesting reductions in the required rear yard setbacks and a variance of Section 98-14D(6) of the Zoning Law of the Town of North East requesting a reduction in the required side yard setback. The parcel is located at 144 Skunks Misery Road in the A5A Zoning District of the Town of North East.

The above application is open for inspection at the Town Hall.

Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person or by attorney or other representative. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing. Dated: September 9, 2024.

Julie Schroeder
Chairman,
Zoning Board of Appeals
09-12-24

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to millertonnews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

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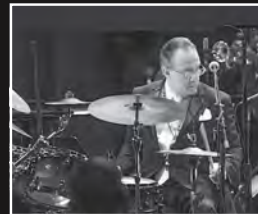
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EDITORIAL

Big win for Millerton

Millerton can celebrate the news that sometime in the near future it will again have a community swimming pool. Just before Labor Day Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the NY SWIMS capital grant program awarded \$6.385 million to the village to build a community pool, a bathhouse, community room and septic system at Eddie Collins Memorial Park. (See story on Page A1.)

Mayor Jenn Najdek was thrilled. Town of North East Supervisor Chris Kennan said that community leaders in the region were a little surprised and curious when the news broke. Mayor Najdek thanked the many volunteers who have been planning and working on this project for years.

Stephen Waite, chair of the Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization Committee said: "I'm grateful for the support from our leaders and donors and extremely proud of the work done by the Committee."

Those committee members include Jeanne Vanecko, vice chair, Edith Greenwood, treasurer, Jennifer Dowley and Greg Swinehart. Mayor Najdek is the village liaison to the committee.

A Steering Committee helps to fundraise, provide advice and support and serves as ambassadors for the project. The Steering Committee includes: Susan Bang, Rob Cooper, Tammy Cooper, John Crawford, Wendy Curtis, Sara Doar, Lisa Hermann, Cathy Fenn, Joe Frydl, Claire Goodman, Julie Schroeder, John Scutieri and Betsy Trotta.

We all should be thankful for these volunteers who have given their time and energy for a community project that will serve all age groups and help make memories for children that will last a lifetime. Stephen Waite recalls: "I spent a lot of time at the old Denney Pool as a kid and made many friends there, some I still keep in contact with."

Mayor Najdek also thanked Millerton's Anna Clune, who wrote the successful grant application for the village. And Najdek also noted that it mattered that the village was in good standing with its grants.

Hopes were high that the grant for the pool would be forthcoming after a visit in late July by Carl Heastie, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and State Rep. Didi Barrett (D-106). Heastie and Barrett stood together in the park to announce that funding for the Phase 2 renovation would be ensured.

Weeks later that assurance now has become a certainty.

The NY SWIMS capital grants are funded in the 2025 state budget. The first round of funding totaled \$90 million, of which \$38 million was for grants to Dutchess County and towns and cities in the Mid-Hudson region.

Hochul said of the new \$150 million program: "We're making sure that all New Yorkers know how to swim through the largest statewide investment in swimming since the New Deal."

We salute the Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization Committee and its Steering Committee members for all their selfless volunteer service to make it possible for Millerton to once again have a community pool. Imagine what it will mean for the children who attend summer camp in the park in coming years.

My take on assassination attempt

This old veteran has flirted with death on a number of occasions during my life and I absolutely believe it was God's will that kept me alive. There is no other earthly explanation. Why? I don't know, perhaps to occupy my time these days helping those in need, supporting local organizations and a few incredible others nationally, embracing and protecting family and close friends or just writing these monthly articles to the delight or chagrin of you readers.

Reflecting, I put myself in former President Trump's shoes after his attempted assassination. Why was he spared? The sloppy why, how, shoulda/woulda/coulda and ifs remain. I personally believe Trump was spared to save this nation from self-destruction.

Despite all the government, institutional, political, judicial and assassination attempts to bring him down he has stood strong. Why? Trump is not a personable guy, far from it, though he sure knows a thing or two about leadership, for-

VETERAN'S CORNER

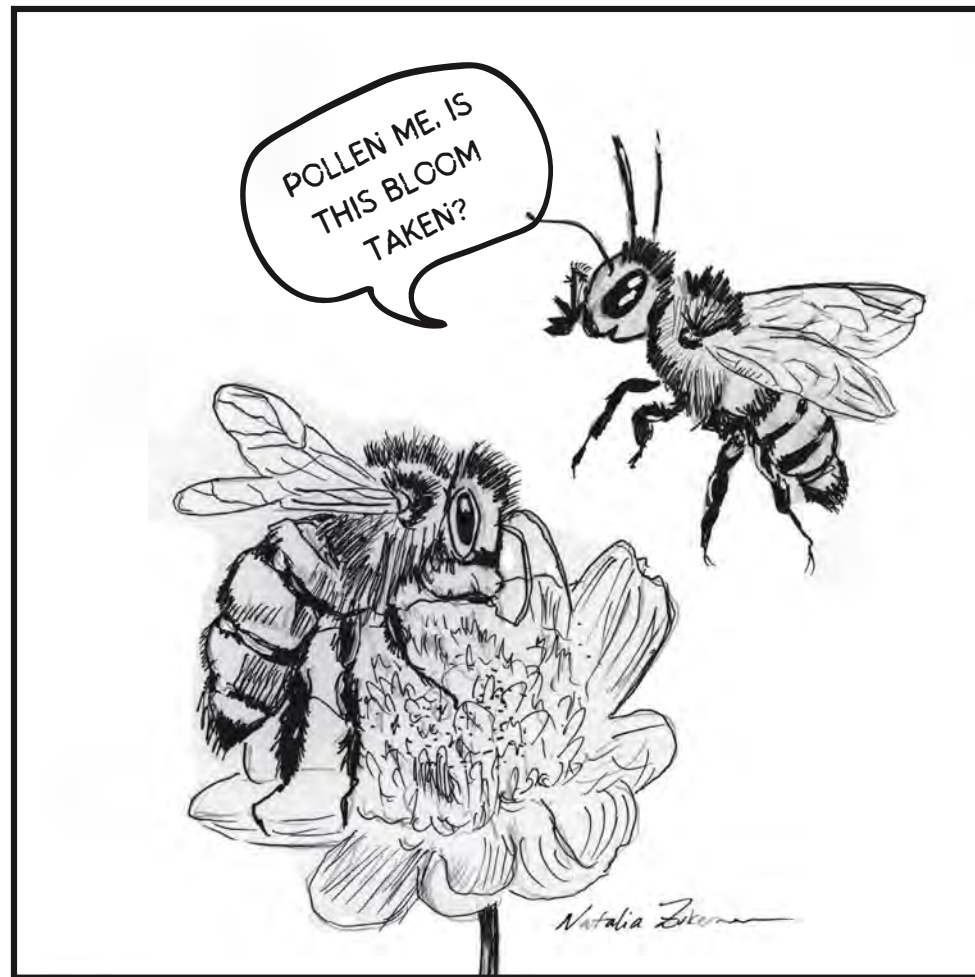
Larry Conklin

eign and domestic policy, national and border security, supporting our first responders, economic common sense and he loves this country. Simple — use your own home stored energy instead of buying it from our enemies thereby reducing price which in turn reduces all consumer prices, i.e., electricity, heating, driving, food, insurance, rent — just surviving. May common sense and concern for the welfare and future of this country prevail and guide all of us in making righteous and courageous decisions this November when we vote for

our and our children's futures. Respect differences of opinion and don't allow politics destroy one single friendship. May this country persevere under freedom's watch and may our children grow into adulthood proud of this country's past and future.

This is the last time I'll dabble in politics this year. Thank you for your patience and understanding but I love this country too much not to give it one last shot. God bless you patriotic readers and your families. Enjoy the rest of summer and embrace this coming fall.

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.



The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Millerton News and the News does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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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@millertonnews.com. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

Dialing without operator; inflation at Millerton Super — eggs 69 cents a dozen; Bruno goes to DC

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

September 14, 1933

'Scientific Displays Inspiring at Fair'; The scientific displays at the Century of Progress Exposition are most inspiring. The Hall of Science is magnificent in its architecture and one could spend many hours poring over the minute and explicit demonstrations.

The Electrical, Radio and Edison Memorial Buildings are more that I found of great consequence ... In the Radio Building the outstanding feature was the "Bird Cage," where one saw acoustical illusions demonstrated. Holding ear phones to your ears you heard plain speech inverted so that it became unintelligible when received over an ordinary radio set... This display is one of many of the Bell Telephone Company's. They show how the dial system works without the aid of an operator. A visitor may call a friend in any large city in the world and the speed with which the call is put through is shown by the means of a moving light on a huge map...

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Millerton News

September 12, 1974

'School Renovation Bond Set for Special Election'; The Webutuck Board of Education adopted resolutions proposing the reconstruction of the Millerton and Amenia elementary schools for \$426,000 and the construction of a high school septic system for \$75,000 at its meeting on Monday night...

[AD] Stop Inflation Shop at Millerton Super
Eggs 69 cents Doz.
Milk 2 1/2 Gals 1.19
Orange Juice 12 oz. 3 for 1.00

September 9, 1999

'More Fresh Produce In the Hudson Valley'; Fresh, local produce is available this week in the Hudson Valley, including apples, melons, peaches, pears, beets, cabbage, corn, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes and much, much more. Support your local economy and neighbors by buying locally grown food that is fresher and tastes great.

'Bruno Goes to Conference in DC'; Millerton - Bethann Bruno of this village has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference from Oct. 19 to 24, in Washington, D.C. The Conference is a leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Miss Bruno will

be among 350 outstanding National Scholars attending the conference from across the country.

The theme of the conference is "The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today." Throughout the six-day event, Miss Bruno will interact with key leaders and news makers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps. Highlights of the program include welcoming remarks from the floor of the United States House of Representatives and a panel discussion with prominent journalists at the National Press Club. Miss Bruno will also meet with her senators and representatives or an appointed member of their staff to discuss important issues facing Millerton and the nation. ...

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In support of Pat Ryan for Congress

I write in support of Pat Ryan for Congress. As a West Point graduate, Pat embraces that Academy's honor code, with its emphasis on honesty and integrity. His campaign focuses on, among other things, the importance of voting rights and other civil rights such as a woman's right to make her own health care decisions.

Pat's opponent's values and views are in sharp contrast to Pat's. Alison Esposito views Donald Trump's endorsement as "a signature milestone in her campaign." Clearly, Esposito is undisturbed by Trump's blatant disrespect for women and, although she now — like Trump — states that she is opposed to a nationwide abortion ban, in 2022 during her unsuccessful campaign for Lt. Governor, she stated that she would vote for legislation "to protect innocent human life from conception ..." I think that we can trust her word on the subject of abortion rights just about as much as we can trust Trump's.

Esposito's honesty and integrity are open to serious question. A recent article in the Poughkeepsie Journal (Aug. 26, '24) disclosed that in 2019 New York City agreed to settle a lawsuit alleging that then-police officer Esposito abused and maliciously arrested a 16-year-old girl whose family's apartment Esposito and fellow officers barged into

without a warrant. The complaint against Esposito stated, among other things, that she had dragged the girl by her hair while she was handcuffed. While Esposito denied the allegations, the City agreed to pay the girl \$25,000 to settle the lawsuit. In my experience as a lawyer and mediator who handled civil rights cases in Manhattan federal court, the

City does not pay — especially to the tune of \$25,000 — for meritless lawsuits against police officers.

Voters have a choice: an honorable Congressional representative who supports civil rights or a challenger whose personal record of civil rights bears a shameful stain.

Amy Rothstein
Pine Plains

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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YOUR NEWS

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OUR TOWNS

Copake plans open meeting Sept. 14 to air ideas for NYS grant

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

COPAKE — As Copake citizens gather at an open meeting at the Town Hall at 230 Mountainview Road, on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., they will be doing so with hope to fine tune a proposal which could bring a \$4.5 million grant to revitalize the community.

Town Supervisor Richard Wolf said the town is vying for one of two grants from the state's NY Forward program which is designed to help small towns improve in a number of ways.

Copake was not successful when it applied for last year's program, but Wolf feels that although it is a challenge, this year, "We are likely to have a good shot."

With a due date of Oct. 18 for proposal submission to the state, he says "preparation time is very short, so we're busy at work on getting this organized."

As this is the second time

around for Copake, Wolf says, "We have a good idea of some of the proposals that we want to do, assuming that the folks who were involved in them last time around are again preparing to participate, so we have a good base of things we intend to do. What we're hoping that we'll hear at the first meeting is support for those ideas as well as some new ones."

The town has set a deadline of Sunday, Sept. 15, the day after the meeting as a deadline for new proposals so, "we can get those ideas in so we have some time to develop them."

He explained, "What we are looking for are quality proposals that can have the most important impact on what they call 'placemaking,' which means sort of strengthening the 'downtown'... to make it easier for pedestrians to transverse it and to make it more appealing for people to come town and to be pedestrians in it."

With the ultimate aim of

stimulating economic growth by creating jobs and affordable housing, Wolf made it very clear that this grant would have an impact on the entire area, and so he is hoping as many residents as possible become involved.

According to the state's description of NY Forward, the program for which Copake is applying, was "not designed to fund one large, expensive project. Rather, NY Forward applicants should develop a full suite of synergistic projects...that may include one or two substantial anchor projects supplemented by a variety of smaller supportive projects."

Wolf says the town is hoping to gain as much support as possible for the proposal by both this meeting and a second one which is as yet unscheduled.

Extensive information, as well as a link to submit proposals and to complete a survey is available at copakewaterfronts.com/ny-forward.



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA VALENTINE

Oldtone fun

Dancing under the tent and under the sun at the Oldtone Festival in Hillsdale from Sept. 5 through 8 at Cool Whisper Farm. Folk music filled the weekend, which included a riotous pie-eating contest.



Dutchess County Board of Elections

Early voting deadlines approach

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to the Millerton News

POUGHKEEPSIE — Running a "free and fair" election, ensuring that as many people as possible vote, and making sure every vote counts and is counted, are the goals of the Dutchess County Board of Elections according to Commissioner Hannah Black.

She says that in order to accomplish it all, New York provides a number of ways to register and vote in the upcoming Nov. 5 election.

In addition to traditional voting at precinct sites, New York residents may opt for early voting at 8 locations, early voting by mail, or two types of absentee voting with ballots either mailed or delivered to a polling location or the Board of Elections at 112 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie.

Details regarding every aspect of the election are available online at elections.dutchessny.gov. Black emphasizes that the staff at the Board are always willing to answer questions either in person or by phone at 845-486-2473.

Although there are currently a number of organizations and sites designed to distribute information or even applications or ballots to voters, Black cautions against relying on any other than official Dutchess County or state sites.

Voter registration

No matter the method of voting, the first step in participation is Registration. If a potential voter is not certain if they are registered, they may check their status through the above site by selecting "Am I Registered to Vote?" Providing name, date of birth and zip code will confirm registration and current polling location as well as providing other options.

If a voter is not listed, Black says registration may be accomplished either by picking up or downloading the proper form, filling it out and returning it according to

directions included. Potential voters may also register through the online portal at elections.ny.gov/voter-registration-process. The portal will require a New York State ID, which may be obtained through that site.

Registration must be "received at least 10 days before the next election," according to site.

A signature, which is necessary for verification when voting by any means, can be included when the registration form is mailed or delivered or by taking a photo of the signature and submitting it through the portal.

Early voting

Once registered, voters may opt for in person early voting which will run Sunday, Oct. 27 through Sunday, Nov. 3. Black says this year there will be twice as many sites as there were in 2016, in hopes of shorter lines. Dutchess County residents may vote at any of the locations by giving their name, address and signature. Most regular polling places will not be open for Early Voting. Times and locations are listed at elections.dutchessny.gov/early-voting/.

To request a ballot for early voting by mail, go to ballotapplication.elections.ny.gov/home/earlymail. That registration will apply only to the upcoming Nov. 5 election. No reason need be given in order to receive that ballot.

Absentee voting

Voters may also opt for absentee ballots for any of a number of reasons including absence, illness, a disability, or residence in a nursing home, veterans facility, or even prison if the crime is not a felony. Two types of absentee ballots are available: temporary or permanent. Ballots are automatically sent to the permanent registrants as long as that status is not changed.

Black cautions, however, that if a voter is registered for a permanent absentee ballot, they should not request nor

use another application or ballot for early vote by mail, some of which are being distributed by various organizations, because use of that ballot may remove the voter from the permanent absentee ballot request roll.

Deadlines

No matter what form of voting is chosen, time is of the essence. If deadlines are not met, ballots will not be counted.

According to the state election website, applications for early mail ballots must be received by the board by Oct. 26, "no later than 10 days before the election." In person applications are due "no later than the day before the election."

She says ballots, which are in the process of being prepared, will be mailed out beginning on Sept. 20. If a ballot is not received within a few weeks of submitting an application, the voter should contact the board.

Ballots may be requested and returned at any time which meets deadlines but she suggests, "The sooner the

better." Election day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, is the last day to either deliver a ballot to any poll site or have it postmarked.

Instructions for returning ballots, including a date and signature and the proper use of the envelopes provided is critical. If any error is noted, the Board will attempt to "cure" the problem by contacting the voter by phone, email, text or mail so the ballot may be corrected and the vote may be registered.

She says anyone who has any questions or concerns should call the Board of Elections at 845-486-2473.

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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

July real estate transfers in Amenia

By **CHRISTINE BATES**
Special to the Millerton News



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The house at 19 Yellow City Road is situated well off the road on 3.57 acres. The three bedroom home sold for \$499,000 in July, the most expensive single family residence excluding Silo Ridge.

Ridge sold for \$6,000,000.

22 Roundabout Way at Silo Ridge sold for \$2,605,309.

378 Old Route 22 — 3 bedroom/2 bath house on one acre sold for \$400,000.

19 Yellow City Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath house on 3.57 acres sold for \$499,000.

128 Mygatt Road — 2 bedroom/1 bath house sold for \$295,000.

36 Furnace Bank Road — the former Union Society of Amenia sold this church on .12 acres for \$20,000 to Wassaic Project Inc.

* *Town of Amenia real estate sales recorded between July 1, 2024, and July 31, 2024 sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency. Information on active listings taken from First Key MLS. Parcel numbers refer to parcel designation by Dutchess County and may be accessed on Dutchess Parcel Access. Only transfers with consideration are included. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.*

AMENIA — July was a busy month in Amenia with four purchases by Laurelbrooke Heifer LLC, two multi-million dollar transfers at Silo Ridge and five sales of single family residences below \$500,000. According to OneKey MLS there are 16 homes for sale with eight under \$500,000 and five over \$1 million. There are seven rental homes but none for less than \$3,500.

Laurelbrooke LLC purchased the four properties below in the month of July.

- 24.5 acres of agricultural land at 98 Leedsville Road.
- A single-family home at 89 Leedsville Road on 1.8 acres for \$246,781.
- Parcel number 494592 on Leedsville Road of 8.06 acres in 2 parcels for \$4,548,507.
- Parcel # 942880 on Depot Hill Road of 40 acres for \$118,476.

Other Amenia July Transfers

405 Pheasant Run — 3 bedroom/3 bath townhouse in Silo

Neighbors voice concerns over Wake Robin expansion

By **PATRICK L. SULLIVAN**

patrick@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY, Conn. — Public comment was uniformly negative at the first session of the Planning and Zoning Commission's public hearing on the renovation and expansion of the Wake Robin Inn, held online on Tuesday, Sept. 3.

The hearing was continued to Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m. (online only).

The plans include renovations to the existing Inn, removal of existing detached motel buildings in favor of a new events barn, 12 new guest cottages, renovation of one existing cottage, a new spa/gym building and associated amenities, landscaping and buffer enhancements, removal and restoration of former inground pool, removal of the existing main structure at 53 Wells Hill Road in favor of a new pool house, inground pool, renovation of one existing garage for storage on the Wells Hill property, one new storage shed on the Inn property and associated walkway, driveway and parking improvements throughout the property.

Mark Arrigoni of SLR Consulting in Cheshire handled the bulk of the presentation.

He began by noting there are two parcels involved: The existing Wake Robin Inn at 11.3 acres, and 53 Wells Hill Road, currently a residential parcel at 2.3 acres.

Plus AT&T's contractor is planning to begin construction on a cellphone tower on a leased portion of the Wake Robin property Nov. 1, Arrigoni said.

Steven Cohen of Aradev LLC gave an overview of the plan for the Wake Robin, saying the intention is to bring it "back to what it was many years ago," a full resort with numerous recreational activities.

The plan is to expand the hotel to 71 rooms, add 12 new guest cottages built above ground and under the tree

canopy as much as possible, a new spa and gym building, a new pool with an associated bar, and an events barn.

Arrigoni said he is in the process of responding to a third party engineering study of the plan. The applicant is also currently before the Salisbury Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

During public comment many concerns were raised. They included: Water flowing off the inn property into neighboring properties on Sharon Road; light pollution; noise, especially if events go as far into the evening as 2 a.m. (despite the applicant's assurance that all activities will be moved inside by 9 p.m.).

The Wells Hill Road neighbors were particularly vocal about the idea of a pool and gym plus parking interfering with their neighborhood's quiet nature, both visually and aurally.

Angela Cruger said that she had only received notice of the hearing in late August, and had hired an attorney. She said she did not have time to study and prepare for the hearing.

P&Z chair Michael Kl-emens assured Cruger (and her attorney) that the hearing would be continued and that

extending the deadline for closing a hearing is routine.

Klemens asked the commission if a third party should be hired to do a peer review on the applicant's traffic study, and the commission agreed.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Aug. 28 to Sept. 4.

Aug. 30 — Deputies responded to 103 Church St. in the Village of Millbrook for report of a possible domestic incident. Investigation confirmed a boyfriend/girlfriend domestic had occurred. Mat-



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Showing off her finished beaded lanyard designed to hold her library card, Riley Pizzuto of Millbrook was pleased to have participated in the craft session at Millbrook Library on Wednesday, Sept. 4. The crafting hour celebrated National Library Card Month.

Library cards and lanyards at the Millbrook Library

By **LEILA HAWKEN**
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — One of a continuing series of crafting sessions at the Millbrook Library, a children's craft hour on Wednesday, Sept. 4 sought to teach children the art of creating beaded lanyards that could be simply decorative or have an added advantage of holding a library card. The event was in observance of National Library Card Month.

Having wrapped up her first day of school as a fifth-grade student at Alden Place Elementary School in Millbrook, Riley Pizzuto partici-

pated in the craft hour at the library, one of her favorite places to visit.

The craft hour was led by Kate Anderson, Children's Literacy Coordinator at the library since July, 2022. She provided instruction and encouragement, although Riley was adept at selecting just the right beads for what she envisioned.

"I love new things," Riley said, adding that she has five new paintings at home waiting to be hung and even has a devoted crafting area at home.

Assessing that she had "a great first day at school," Riley responded to a question about whether she is the smartest student in her class.

"It depends on who's ask-

ing," she said.

Library Director Courtney Tsahalos spoke of the expanding importance of libraries within their communities in terms of the variety of services provided to visitors.

"A library card is one of the most valuable things a person can have, not just for books these days, but for programs and services," Tsahalos said. "Some of the most important people in my life were librarians," she added.

Anderson said that the crafting hours offering useful and easy crafts for all ages are scheduled for every Wednesday after school, beginning at 4 p.m. For a list of sessions, go to www.millbrooklibrary.org.

ter resolved without further police intervention.

Aug. 31 — Deputies responded to Berkshire Apartments, 214 Sinpatch Road in the Town of Amenia for reported boyfriend/girlfriend domestic. Investigation revealed that the male half has fled the scene prior to deputies arrival. Investigation is on-going at this time.

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POOL *Continued from Page A1*

Denney Pool as a kid and made many friends there, some I still keep in contact with.

"The pool served the community well for 50 years until closing in 2016. It's taken eight long years, but I'm pleased that people will once again be swimming in Millerton in the not-too-distant future.

"I'm grateful for the support from our leaders and donors and extremely proud of the work done by the Committee," Waite said.

The NY SWIMS grant program was included in the 2025 New York state budget. In May, Village trustees voted to apply for a \$6.385 million grant. The first round of applications for municipal swimming facilities were due in July.

The Village also has applied for a \$675,000 grant through New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and has yet to hear news about that application.

The latest news follows a Millerton visit in late July by Carl Heastie, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and State Rep. Didi Barrett (D-106) to announce that the Phase 2 renovation of the park will have its funding ensured.

The pool will be ADA-compliant like the rest of the park.

"This will make the entirety of park accessible," said Mayor Najdek.

Under the NY SWIMS program, grants are offered to "to acquire, design, construct or reconstruct facilities, provide major renovations, improvements, and modernization or rehabilitation of swimming facilities."

Municipalities are expected to cover 20% of the project cost.

"We will be able to use all of our other grant funding sources as matches, as a 20% percent match... if we receive the other (grant) that we ap-

plied for that could be used as a match, and as promised, if we get any money from the speaker, we can use that as a match too," Najdek said at a Village Board meeting Monday, Sept. 9.

"I think we may have to talk about personnel, as far as potentially bringing someone in between five and ten hours a week in this office or as a subcontractor to do grant administration for this is a much larger grant than we've ever had," the mayor added.

The park's first swimming pool was installed in 1966 in the rear southwestern corner of the park. Over time, the high water table lifted and cracked the pool. Groundwater infiltration prevented the pool's water from heating up even on hot summer days. Repairs were attempted but fewer and fewer people came to swim, and Millerton's summer camp was moved to Rudd Pond in 2015.

Last summer the park's revitalization committee presented the Phase 2 plans. Construction on Phase 1 — regrading of the park, a new entrance and paved parking areas, a soccer field, accessible playground upgrades, new basketball courts and pavilion improvements—was completed in 2022.

Other big NY SWIMS grants among the 11 announced over Labor Day for the Mid-Hudson region include:

Dutchess County — (\$10 million) Youth Opportunity Union Aquatic Center: Dutchess County will construct the Youth Opportunity Union Aquatic Center, comprised of an eight-lane lap pool, a two-lane family and therapy pool, and locker rooms.

City of Kingston — (\$3,343,345) Kingston Point Beach Swimming Facilities:

The City of Kingston will implement a design of multi-tiered raised terraces to connect upland areas on either side of the existing beach to provide flood mitigation and protect the interior of Kingston Point against sea level rise.

City of Newburgh — (\$8 million) Delano Hitch Aquatics Center: The City of Newburgh will construct a new aquatic center to replace the pool complex originally constructed in 1920.

Right, Stephen Waite, chair of the Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization Committee, with Jeanne Vanecko, vice chair, at a public meeting on Aug. 17, 2023, about phase two of the park's redesign.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES



PHOTO SUBMITTED

An artist's rendering of the what a swimming pool and poolhouse in Eddie Collins Park in Millerton could look like.

TOWN BOARD *Continued from Page A1*

of the Trail to the Train and the other concerning the trails around the retired landfill property.

Warped wooden handrails along the boardwalk have separated from the guard rails creating a hazard, said Shoumatoff who served as chairwoman of the Trail to Train Committee. She also said that vegetation has overgrown the boardwalk in places, damag-

ing the wood underneath. Feeling that maintenance is likely to be a town responsibility, she asked that the Town Board take necessary action.

Blackman agreed to research the issues raised by Shoumatoff and report back at a future meeting. Rebillard confirmed that snow removal along the trail to train boardwalk is the town's responsibility and town Finance Director

Charlie Miller also confirmed that the town is responsible for boardwalk maintenance, suggesting that snowplowing may have contributed to wood surface damage.

Reminding the Town Board that Thomas Young Park and walking trails around the decommissioned town landfill were to be kept open to the public for recreation, Shoumatoff said that the gate is now locked and the park and trails inaccessible, although there is what she termed a "nice parking area." She noted that the Town of Sharon is charged with maintenance and mowing of the landfill expanse in perpetuity, and asked how their maintenance crews are managing access.

Having reviewed maps showing areas where a cannabis dispensary could be allowed while meeting all requirements for distance from parks, schools, and churches, the board continued discussion of the drafting of a law

by the board attorney. The drafted wording would then be passed on to the Planning Board for their review.

Blackman noted that the Planning Board will be likely to consider its regulations about agricultural growers allowed to have a farm stand that sells cannabis. He also asked about parking requirements.

Councilmember Paul Winters responded that New York state regulations governing cannabis sales fully specify parking arrangements.

Board attorney Ian Lindars agreed to draft a local dispensary law for consideration at the next Town Board meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19.

Resident Judy Moran suggested that the Town Board implement a second "Public Comment" segment near the end of each meeting to allow residents in attendance to comment on what was discussed. Blackman and the board seemed amenable to the idea.

NBT Bancorp announces merger with Evans Bancorp in western New York

By **JOHN COSTON**
Johnc@millertonnews.com

NBT Bancorp, Inc. and Evans Bancorp, Inc., have announced plans to merge Evans, a western New York bank, into NBT.

The announcement was made after the close of the market on Monday, Sept. 9.

Evans, which is headquartered in Williamsville, New York, in Erie County had assets of \$2.2 billion as of June 30 with 18 locations in the Buffalo and Rochester markets. NBT's assets as of June 30 totaled \$13.5 billion, and the bank has 154 locations in seven Northeastern states.

"The combined organization will have the highest deposit market share in Upstate New York for any bank with assets under \$100 billion and will result in a network of over 170 locations from Buffalo, New York, to Portland,

Maine," the two banks said in a statement.

NBT President and Chief Executive Officer Scott A. Kingsley said, "Adding the greater Buffalo and Rochester communities to the markets served by NBT is a natural geographic extension of our footprint in Upstate New York where we have been very active and successful for nearly 170 years."

In August 2023, NBT completed a merger with Salisbury Bank and Trust. The merger ended an almost 100-year era for the Salisbury Bank and Trust nameplate. In 1925, the Salisbury Savings Society, dating to 1848 in Lakeville, Connecticut, merged with the Robbins Burrall Trust Co. to form SBT.

NBT's primary subsidiary, NBT Bank, has 107 locations in Upstate New York, stretching west to east from Syracuse

to the Capital District and north to south from Plattsburgh to Binghamton and the Hudson Valley.

According to a statement from both banks, NBT will acquire 100% of the outstanding shares of Evans in exchange for common shares of NBT. The exchange ratio will be fixed at 0.91 NBT shares for each share of Evans, resulting in an aggregate transaction value of approximately \$236 million based on NBT's closing stock price of \$46.28 on September 6, 2024. The merger was unanimously

approved by the Boards of Directors of both companies.

"We are very excited to be joining the NBT family and bringing the next generation of community banking to Buffalo, Rochester and the Finger Lakes," said David J. Nasca, Evans President and Chief Executive Officer.

The merger is expected to close in the second quarter of 2025, subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions, including approval by the shareholders of Evans and the receipt of required regulatory approvals.

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Art by Kathy Kulig




COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

MUSIC: ROBIN RORABACK

Crescendo's upcoming tribute to Wanda Landowska

On Sept. 14, Crescendo, the award-winning music program based in Lakeville, will present a harpsichord solo recital by Kenneth Weiss in honor of world-renowned harpsichordist Wanda Landowska. Landowska lived in Lakeville from 1941 to 1959. Weiss is a professor at the Paris Conservatoire and has taught at Julliard. Born in New York, he now resides in Europe.

Weiss will play selections from "A Treasury of Harpsichord Music." It includes works by Baroque composers such as Bach, Mozart, and Handel. It was recorded by Landowska at her Lakeville home, at 63 Millerton Road, which overlooks Lakeville Lake. Weiss said, "I am honored and excited to play in Lakeville, where Wanda Landowska lived." Landowska fled Nazi Germany in 1941 with two of her students one of whom was Denise Restout, who later became her companion of many years, and a harpsichord in a box. They landed in New York. Landowski performed the Goldberg Variations of Johann Sebastian Bach at New York Town Hall to "Incredible success." She then looked around for a place to live and found Lakeville where she resided until her death in 1959.

Kenneth Weiss made "a pilgrimage" to Lakeville in the 1980's. "Madame Restout received us in the kitchen of the home she shared with Landowska. From the two Pleyel Harpsichords to Landowska concert gowns on display it felt as if Landowska had just stepped out."

Wanda Landowska was a child prodigy. Christine Gevert, Founding Artistic Director of Crescendo said that Landowska "went way beyond the harpsichord to other instruments."

Landowska commissioned music from composers and wrote some of her own. She also had harpsichords built to order. She founded a music school in Paris where she "invited her students to come and stay on the property as if they were her own children." She often became a lifelong mentor to students.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Kenneth Weiss (above) will play a solo recital performance in honor of Wanda Landowska, a harpsichord virtuoso, who lived in Lakeville for many years. Below, Madame Wanda Landowska, world famous harpsichordist and resident of Lakeville from 1941 until her death in 1959, will be honored in a concert presented by Crescendo and featuring a performance by Kenneth Weiss, renowned harpsichord soloist and professor at the Paris Conservatoire.

Landowska also authored many articles, some of which were translated from Polish and French and made into a book by her life partner Denise Restout who was left to take care of Landowska's legacy when she died. Most of Landowska's papers are in the Smithsonian, unfortunately still boxed up.

One reason for Landowska's fame was that "she changed the course of music and how people perceived and enjoyed it." She had a Bauhaus architect, Jean-Charles Moreux, design a concert hall, near Paris in the 1920's, which was filled with light, in contrast to most darkened theaters. She had a low stage built so she could be close to the audience and would bring a carpet and lamp from home "to create ambience" said Gevert. Landowska had a "Holistic concept and made performances more attractive and accessible. She was one of the first performers to talk to the audience."

The concert will be at the Lakeville Methodist Church at 6 p.m. on Sept. 14. It is presented with special support by Leszek Wojcik, famed Carnegie Hall recording engineer who lives in Lakeville. Wojcik "understands the importance of Landowska's legacy," said Gevert, and works with Crescendo to preserve it.

Tickets are available at www.crescendomusic.org or at the door, first come, first serve, forty-five minutes before the concert. Prices are forty dollars for general




seats, ten dollars for youths or seventy-five for an up-close seat.

Support for the concert has also been provided to Crescendo by the Connecticut State

Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature, and NBT Bank.

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FLORENCE & THE UFFIZI GALLERY	Tuesday, Sep. 17 @ 6:30 PM

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PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

The live audience at Music Mountain takes in a silent film Sept. 7.

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Silent cinema, live magic

On Saturday, Sept. 7, Gordon Hall at Music Mountain was transformed into a time machine, transporting the audience for a 1920's spectacular of silent films and live music. Featuring internationally acclaimed silent film musicians Donald Sosin and Joanna Seaton, the evening began with a singalong of songs by Gershwin, Irving Berlin and more. Lyrics for favorites like "Ain't We Got Fun," "Yes Sir That's My Baby," and "Ain't Misbehavin'" were projected on the screen and Sosin and Seaton lead the crowd with an easeful joy. The couple then retreated to the side of the stage where they provided the live and improvised score for Buster Keaton's 1922 short, "Cops," and his 1924 comedy, "Sher-

lock Jr." Joanna Seaton and Donald Sosin, a husband-and-wife duo, have crafted a singular career, captivating audiences at some of the world's most prestigious film festivals—New York, TriBeCa, San Francisco, Seattle, Denver, Telluride, and Yorkshire among them. Their performances have graced venerable institutions like MoMA, Film at Lincoln Center, the AFI Silver Theatre, and Moscow's celebrated Lumière Gallery. Their melodic journey has taken them to far-flung locales such as the Thailand Silent Film Festival and the Jecheon International Music and Film Festival in South Korea. Notably, Seaton and Sosin have become a fixture at Ita-

Continued on next page

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
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Kent Tritile of the New York Philharmonic and acclaimed New York cellist, Arthur Fiacco, will perform classical and modern works in the intimate setting of The Smithfield Church.

 The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
 656 Smithfield Valley Road, Amenia NY 12501
TheSmithfieldChurch.org
 Suggested Donation at the door: \$25, to benefit The Oratorio Society of New York, All are welcome. Reception to follow. Handicapped accessible.

COMPASS

FILM: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Desperately seeking Susan Seidelman

On Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m., Haystack Book Talks will present a special evening with director Susan Seidelman, author of “Desperately Seeking Something: A Memoir About Movies, Mothers, and Material Girls.” Part of the Haystack Book Festival run by Michael Selleck, the event will take place at the Norfolk Library, featuring a conversation with Mark Erder after a screening of the 1984 classic, “Desperately Seeking Susan.”

Susan Seidelman’s fearless debut film, “Smithereens,” premiered in 1982 and was the first American indie film to ever compete at Cannes. Then came “Desperately Seeking Susan,” a smash hit that not only solidified her place in Hollywood but helped launch Madonna’s career. Her films, blending classic Hollywood storytelling with New York’s downtown energy, feature unconventional women navigating unique lives. Seidelman continued to shape pop culture into the ’90s, directing the pilot for “Sex and the City.” Four decades later, Seidelman’s stories are still as sharp, funny, and insightful as ever.

Interview

Natalia Zukerman:

How has it been for you watching the film all these years later?

Susan Seidelman:

It’s been interesting to watch it with multi-generational audiences. You never know whether something’s going to pass the test of time, but I think it does.

NZ: You write in the opening of your memoir, “If how one sees the world is a reflection of who they are (and I believe it is), then you can look at the world reflected in any of my films and see little pieces of me. Like Where’s Waldo? I’m hidden somewhere in each of them.” So where are you hidden in “Desperately Seeking Susan?”

SS: Well, I’m not so hidden in that. I’m a little bit of both characters, really. I mean, I was a girl who grew up in the suburbs, but I was also that rebellious girl from the suburbs who moved to New York City to live a different kind of life. It’s really about wanting to be your authentic self, that within all of us, there’s this other person that we sometimes want to let out.

NZ: Was there pressure for you to top the success of “Susan”?



Top right, Susan Seidelman on set. Left, the cover art for Seidelman’s memoir “Desperately Seeking Something.”

SS: You know, no one expected this movie to be successful. It was made for \$5 million, which for a studio movie was low. We shot it in New York, and the studio in LA kind of thought, “Oh, it’s just a little bit of money, we’ll leave them alone.” And then surprisingly, Madonna became such a superstar at the exact moment that we were making the movie. That was something that we couldn’t have planned any better. So, suddenly the film got way more attention critically as well as commercially than we ever expected. I knew that at some point, people were



PHOTOS PROVIDED

gets to program. It’s sort of a Pygmalion story. She creates what she thinks is the perfect man, and then she falls in love with her creation.

NZ: Tell me about “Sex and The City.” How did that come about?

SS: That came about because Darren Star was a fan of “Desperately Seeking Susan” and a few of my other movies that are about New York City as much as they are about the characters. He wanted “Sex and The City” to be about the women, but to also be about the city. So, he contacted me, which was interesting because I never really wanted to work in television. Back then, it was kind of like the ugly stepsister to the movie business. I mean, it was great for writers because there was some wonderful writing going on. But by the mid late 90s, HBO and Showtime really reinvented television and suddenly TV didn’t look like TV

anymore — the language was bolder, the themes were more adult. So, when I got the script and I first heard it was going to be a pilot for a TV series, I was not that excited about it. And then I read the pilot, and I thought, ‘Wow, this is pretty amazing.’ The writing was smart, and it was about women in their mid 30s, and there weren’t that many shows that starred women of that age at that time.

NZ: So how old are you now, may I ask?

SS: 71

NZ: Incredible. And how do you feel?

SS: I feel good. I mean, I think another factor of why I wanted to write this book was because suddenly I felt I was old enough to kind of look back on my career with enough objectivity, with a filter of time, and with enough to say about it and maybe enough distance. And I can’t believe it’s been more than 40 years now. You know, I didn’t want to tell tales out of school or be snarky or vindictive. It wasn’t about airing dirty laundry or anything. I wanted to tell my story from the inside out. I mean after 40 years of reading other reviewers or people writing about what they thought I was doing or thought my motivation was, I thought it was time to do it myself.

...Music Mountain

Continued from previous page

ly’s renowned silent film festivals in Bologna and Pordenone, where they perform annually.

In addition to their festival appearances, they have brought their artistry to Yale, Harvard, Brown, Cornell, and Emory Universities, where they are frequently invited to present workshops on silent film scoring and songwriting. Their contributions to silent cinema are further immortalized in over sixty-five DVD scores for silent films, released by Criterion, Kino, Mile-

stone, Flicker Alley, and other prominent labels.

Seaton, a Manhattan native with a degree in Theatre Arts from Cornell University, has been lauded by The New York Times as a “silvery soprano.” Her theatrical résumé spans more than eighty Off-Broadway, regional, and stock productions, and her vocal prowess has earned her a collaboration with jazz legend Dick Hyman at the 92nd Street Y. Sosin, originally from Rye, New York, and Munich, studied composition at the

University of Michigan and Columbia University before spending years on Broadway. His compositions have been featured on PBS and TCM, as well as providing the sonic backdrop for network soap operas and contemporary films.

The duo delivered a raucous, high-energy score for the two Buster Keaton films, bringing an infectious spontaneity to every note. Remarkably, as they reminded the audience, Seaton and Sosin were improvising the entire performance, yet their music perfectly matched Keaton’s subtle wit, wild gags, and iconic physical comedy. Percussion, sound effects, and melody wove together effortlessly, amplifying

the humor on screen and transforming the viewing into a riotous, laugh-out-loud experience. Their playful synergy with Keaton’s films made the music feel like an integral part of the action, rather than mere accompaniment.

The couple currently reside in Lakeville, where their shared love for film and music continues to enrich both their own lives and provide wonderful entertainment for the wider community.

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MUSIC: LEILA HAWKEN

Annual Tritle organ concert at Smithfield

An anticipated fall favorite event at The Smithfield Church is the now-annual virtuoso organ performance by Kent Tritle, organist for the New York Philharmonic, this year to be joined by Arthur Fiacco, Jr. on Cello. The concert will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 3:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Oratorio Society of New York where Tritle serves

as Music Director. For the past ten years, Tritle has performed an annual concert on the Smithfield Church's historic tracker organ, a favorite of his. The program will include a variety of selections, from classical to modern, along with Tritle's incomparable commentary on each. Selections will include organ solos and duets with cello,

interpreting the works of Bach, Vivaldi and Mendelssohn, with two works by modern composers. Tritle serves as the music director for several award-winning choral ensembles, including Musica Sacra and the Oratorio Society of New York, while also serving as Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John

the Divine. For the Smithfield concert, Tritle will be joined by Arthur Fiacco, Jr. with whom he has performed many times, usually with Tritle serving as conductor and Fiacco leading the orchestra's cello section. It is rare to hear the two in a duet setting.

In addition to sitting as principal cellist of the organizations conducted by Tritle, Fiacco is also a member of the Orchestra of St. Luke's. He has performed at renowned music festivals, including Caramoor, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Mostly Mozart, Marlboro, Music Mountain and Lincoln Center Festivals. He has appeared with Broadway's Patti LuPone as a soloist, harpsichordist Igor Kipnis, Meredith Monk and the Mark Morris Dance



PHOTO BY JOSHUA SMITTH

Kent Tritle at the organ of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC.

ART: MIKE COBB

Fine Art Festival coming to Sharon

The Voice of Art's (TVOA) Fine Art Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Sharon town green. It is free and open to the public.

The festival features both fine art and functional art including paintings, mixed media, photography, glass, wood works, metal, fiber art, jewelry, and more with artists from across the northeastern states. There is also a raffle that supports The Voice of Art's Fine Art Festival and local businesses.

TVOA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) visual art organization founded in 2017 dedicated to creating art experiences that enrich the lives of residents throughout the state of Connecticut. Their current vision is "to provide meaningful integration of arts and cultural community-building activities for residents of the Litchfield community."

TVOA is expanding its educational and health-related studio art program for residents of the Litchfield community and aims to reach a wider and diverse audience through such activities as classes, workshops, and outreach programs for community, all with the goal of inspiring and educating.

The organization also aims to provide opportunities for new viewers to experience high-level artworks by emerging and established artists through accessible exhibitions of their work, both in TVOA's virtual gallery and in venues provided by multiple business communities.

About the process of selecting artists, VOA director Hannah Jung stated, "We have a jury committee that reviews submitted online applications which include images of four original artworks. We judge and select artists based on their artistic merit and excellence of artwork. Artists should be at least 18 years of age and the original creator of the artwork. The Fine Art Festival is open to visitors of all ages. As such, we ask that displayed artwork be

suitable for viewing by all ages."

The Fine Art Festival coming up in late September differs slightly from the Litchfield Art Festival which took place in May. Jung explained, "We changed the name from 'Litchfield' to 'TVOA's Fine Art Festival' to avoid any confusion caused by 'Litchfield' as most people assume the town, not the county. In terms of the quality or characteristics of the show, these two are the same show. We simply offer two shows in spring and fall so that the com-

munity has more chances to experience fine art events and meet various artists. Some artists are returning, and some are new participants."

"At every event, we are pleased to hear from our attendees that our show displays high-quality fine artwork - mainly paintings and mixed media rather than crafts - presented by the artists from multiple states in the northeast. Our festival attendees very much appreciate the quality and the uniqueness of our show," Jung added.

Group.

Fiacco's cello was crafted in 1730 by Venetian master Carlo Tononi.

The suggested donation at the door is \$25.00.

A reception with the musicians will follow the concert. The Smithfield Church, located at 656 Smithfield Valley Road in Amenia, is handicapped accessible.

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COMPASS TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com

SEPTEMBER 12

Local Author: Tracy O'Neill, Woman of Interest: A Memoir
Oblong Rhinebeck, 6422 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck, N.Y. oblongbooks.com
Join Tracy O'Neill, in conversation with Jonathan Lee, as she discusses her memoir about finding her birth mother and discovering self-knowledge. FREE. Registration Requested.

SEPTEMBER 13

Community Pot Luck Supper and Concert
Sharon United Methodist Church, 112 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn.
The Sharon United Methodist Church is sponsoring a Community Pot Luck Supper on Friday, Sept. 13, at 6 p.m. at 112 Upper Main St. in the church basement. Then at 7 p.m. a free guitar concert will take place in the church sanctuary. If you are able, please bring a dish to share, (main - side dish - dessert) and enjoy an evening of fellowship with friends and neighbors. All are welcome.

Amanda Bellows, The Explorers: A New History of America in Ten Expeditions

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. thecenteronmain.org
Explore American history through ten unique adventurers with Amanda Bellows at Center on Main in Falls Village Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. FREE. Registration Required.

Art at Trinity Fall Juried Show Opening Reception and Awards

Trinity Episcopal Church, 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lakeville, Conn. 06039, 860-435-2627 trinitylimerock.org
On Friday, Sept. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. there will be an opening reception and awards presentation for the Art at Trinity Juried Show, which will run from Sept. 14 to 15 and 21 to 22 from noon to 4 p.m. The show will include fine art, small works and unframed art.

Wine Dinner and Auction

White Hart Inn, 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury, Conn. winedinnerandauction.com
Tickets are on sale for the sixth annual Wine Dinner and Auction at the White Hart on Friday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. The event raises funds to send HVRHS students to Italy/Germany and to Thailand. The evening includes a four-course dinner and both a live and silent auction under a tent on the Green. Actor Sam Waterston will attend and speak to show his support for the program. Tickets are \$100 each. To buy tickets, become a sponsor or donate an item for the auction, visit winedinnerandauction.com or call/text Lia at (860) 248-0269.

SEPTEMBER 14

Meet the Filmmakers: When My Sleeping Dragon Woke + Q&A
The Moviehouse, 48 Main Street, Millerton, N.Y.
Veteran actor and TONY-nominated playwright Sharon Washington commits to writing a play about her fairytale childhood living inside the St. Agnes Branch of the New York Public Library, but there's an unforeseen cost - waking the family dragon she thought she'd silenced decades ago.
Tickets \$18 / Superstar Members \$16

Charity Tennis Match

Sharon Country Club, 2 Golf Club Rd. Sharon, Conn. www.littleguild.org
The Little Guild's charity doubles tennis exhibition takes place Sept. 14 at 3 p.m. on the Sharon Country Club courts. Top players in the Northwest Corner will participate including Jeff Kivitz, John Lippert, Dustin Parente, and Guillermo Garcia Rincon. Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door. Light refreshments will be served.

Last week's Word

S	H	O	C	K
B	O	R	E	D
R	O	B	I	N
A	R	B	O	R
L	A	B	O	R

Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters. Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week. Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place. Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the Word of the Week.

- Prepared for action.
- Tough exterior of bread.
- Waist-hanging garment.
- Little in length or height.
- Athletics in full swing.

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL



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SEPTEMBER 15

Sunday Morning Meditation with Kathy Voldstad

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Join Kathy Voldstad on Sept. 15, 9 to 10 a.m., for Sunday Morning Meditation at the Scoville Library. This session is in a hybrid format, meeting in-person and online simultaneously. For more information and to register, please visit scovillelibrary.org.

Election Film Series

Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass. thetriplex.org

Triplex Cinema's election series kicks off on Sept. 15 with "Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way" a documentary about Geraldine Ferraro, directed and produced by Donna Zaccaro, Gerry's daughter. Donna will introduce the film and then following the film will participate in a talkback with Letty Cottin Pogrebin.

SEPTEMBER 18

Medicare Info Session

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn douglaslibrarycanaan.org

Join the Western CT Area Agency on Aging at the Douglas Library on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. to learn about the importance of preparing

for Medicare Open Enrollment, cost savings opportunities with Medicare and Medicare scams. WCAA helps Medicare Beneficiaries take charge of their healthcare benefits for 2025 by reviewing your current healthcare benefits and any changes that may affect them. Call the library at (860) 824-7863 if you plan to attend.

Peggy: A Tribute to Rebecca Godfrey

Oblong Rhinebeck, 6422 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck, N.Y. oblongbooks.com

Join Jenny Offill, Samantha Hunt, and Gary Shteyngart to celebrate the life and work of Rebecca Godfrey. FREE. Registration Required.

SEPTEMBER 19

Classical Guitar Class Informational Meeting

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Join us on Thursday, Sept. 19, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., for an informational meeting about our

upcoming Classical Guitar Class for absolute beginners (ages 16 and up). Meet guitar teacher Matthew Pearson, enjoy a brief recital and refreshments, and ask questions. Registration is requested. Please visit scovillelibrary.org.

Dinaw Mengestu, Someone Like Us: A Novel

Oblong Rhinebeck, 6422 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck, N.Y. oblongbooks.com

Dinaw Mengestu discusses his latest novel about family history, loss, and home. FREE. Registration Requested.

SEPTEMBER 20

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Join Sally Van Doren on Friday, Sept. 20, 4 to 5 p.m. for an immersive experience of reading, listening to, and writing poetry a supportive environment. Well-chosen prompts unlock the imagination to help you write. Registration is required. Please visit www.scovillelibrary.org.

Poetry Discussion Group with Mark Scarbrough

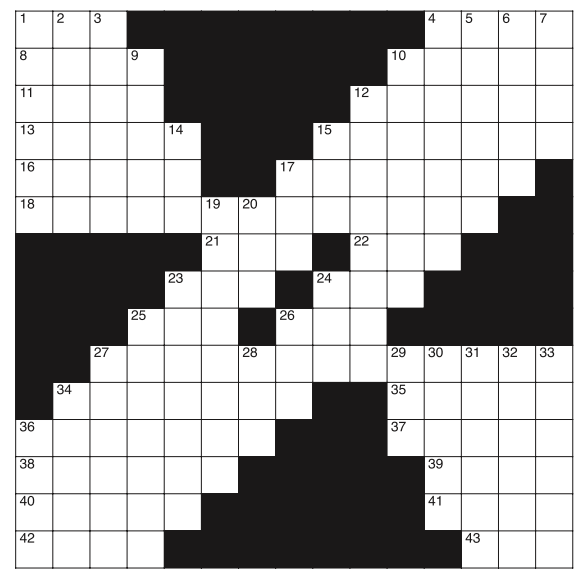
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Join Mark Scarbrough on Friday, Sept. 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for an informal discussion of Mark Doty's 2015 poetry collection, Deep Lane. No poetry training is needed - just read the poems and be ready to discuss. Please register at www.scovillelibrary.org.

Brain Teasers

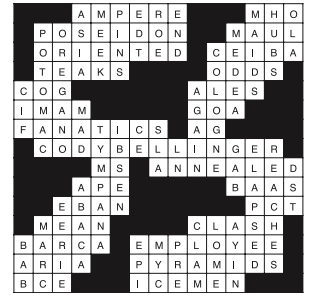
CLUES ACROSS

- Engine additive
- A type of test
- Curtail
- Irish surname
- The opposite of good
- Got rid of
- Central parts of a church building
- Stylistically
- Instestinal
- Negative potential outcomes
- Lived up to a standard
- Snag
- Time units (abbr.)
- Ad __
- "Partridge" actress Susan
- For each
- __ Paulo, city
- League titles
- More intensely black
- Slang for lovely
- Petrarch is known for them
- Old Eurasian wheat
- Body part
- Swedish rock group
- They're worth avoiding
- Rising and falling of the voice
- Wings
- Enzyme import for respiration



- Respected group of people
- Trigraph
- Prosecutors
- Assign a nickname
- Huge size
- Partner to cheese
- Fastballs
- Principle underlying the universe
- Distinct units of sound
- Title of respect
- Against
- Foot (Latin)
- One point east of due south
- Concerning the blood
- Type of pentameter
- North American peoples
- Layers of rock
- Georges __, French philosopher
- Lengthy tale

Sept. 5 Solution



Sudoku

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

Sept. 5 Solution

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

Level: Intermediate



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Equus Effect: healing with horses

By SAVA MARINKOVIC
Special to The Millerton News

SHARON, Conn. — Every day, approximately 20 United States military veterans take their own lives. It was an awareness of this statistic that led Jane Strong and David Sonatore to found the Equus Effect, an equine experiential learning and coaching facility in Sharon, in 2012.

Since then, over 1800 veterans, first responders, and others who live or work in high-stress environments have moved through the Equus Effect's curriculum, acquiring — through contact with horses — the tools to improve communication and compassion, and to navigate the challenges, subtleties, and nuanced relationships of civilian life.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, supporters of the Equus Effect gathered under its round pen's rainy eaves to learn and observe just why horses are uniquely suited to this restorative work.

"A relationship with a horse is based purely on trust," said Strong, lead program facilitator and a former competitive rider, "they ask us to engage all our senses and be totally present." The horse, a prey animal, is profoundly attuned to the emotional and nervous energy of its surroundings as a matter of survival; it is also expressive, honest, and unselfconscious.

Right, David Sonatore (on stage, left), Jane Strong (stage, right), and veteran and first responder program graduates, wearing sashes.

When in conversation with a human, a horse asks for the same in return. Approaching a horse, one's outward and inner aspects must be congruent in order not to unnerve the animal. "You can't hide behind a mask," said Strong, explaining that this need for transparency helps people overcome the fear and stigma that cause emotional repression.

Further, work with horses engages the entire body, revealing where trauma might appear stuck. "Our limbic systems work outside time," said Strong, locating the primitive, lower-order parts of the brain responsible for emotional processing. "So there's no 'talking you out' of trauma." Instead, work with horses helps those "stuck" with trauma to "move through it and release it through action."

Huddled around the pen, attendees of the Fall Event were walked through some of these actions and their benefits by program facilitators, alongside horses Dutch, Tango, Lance, and Babe.

Using only body language — such as posture, purposeful eye contact, and controlled breathing — fa-

ilitators asked horses to back up, move forward, and walk circles. With patience, and applying the principle of "minimum essential pressure," horses were coaxed into collaboration with the facilitators, showcasing the massive mammals' capacity for empathy, partnership, and quiet understanding. In addition to their emotional grounding effect, these exercises help participants build tools for the maintenance of fair, trust-based relationships with other people.

"The connection is deep, almost spiritual," said 2022 program participant Peter Gworek, a military veteran. "The horses teach you how to manage your energy, connect with your inner self, and be calm." Also a 2022 alum, veteran Melodie Wilson said that when one is handling a horse,

"you can't think of anything else — you slow down, learn to be more understanding."

Ultimately, understanding — of oneself and of others

— is the key to bridging the divide that Strong says exists between veterans and civilians. Working within that gap are horses, our companions

of nearly 6,000 years, who Sonatore points out "might just save the life of someone you one day need to save yours."



Jane Strong conducting exercises with horse Dutch.

PHOTOS BY SAVA MARINKOVIC

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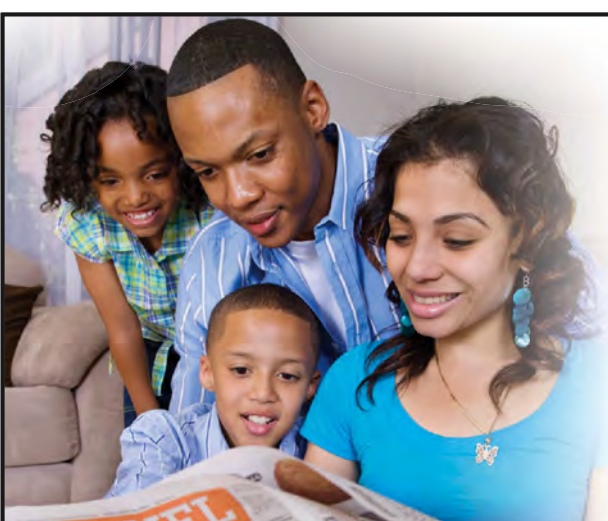
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