



MILLERTON
 Parents band together **A6**



POUGHKEEPSIE
 Feedback for County Family Services **A3**



COMPASS
 A new home; And More **B1-4**

Millerton, Amenia and Dover face 'EMS crisis' as costs rise statewide

By COLLEEN FLYNN
 colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Northern Dutchess Paramedics' (NDP) five-year contract with the Town of North East, Dover and Amenia is coming to an end in December. The new proposed contract between the Town of North East and NDP increased by 71.5%. Over the past five years NDP increased its payments by two percent annually, making the new proposal a significant increase.

"With its population of around 3,000 people, the Town of North East has less than one call per day

See **NPD, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Northern Dutchess Paramedics Station Two is a few miles south of Millerton on Route 22. The ambulance averages less than one call per day in the town of North East.

Trustees pick LaBella for Eddie Collins park pool construction

By COLLEEN FLYNN
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MILLERTON — The Village of Millerton picked a contractor to begin Phase II of the Eddie Collins Memorial Park construction.

During the Village Trustees Meeting Monday, Oct. 7, the contractor LaBella was chosen to pro-

ceed with the park's new raising. Bidding for professional services opened on Thursday, Sept. 26 and the Village received three different proposals.

The firms' offers ranged from \$518,500 to \$705,500 for their services during Phase II. According to the Village's Mayor, Jenn Najdek, LaBella happened to be

the lowest bidder but money was not the only factor. Board members also considered who has been working with the Village.

LaBella was the prime contractor to help complete Phase I of the Eddie Collins Memorial Park project. The company and the Vil-

See **PARK, PAGE A8**

North East's new town garage gives fire dept. temporary relief

By COLLEEN FLYNN
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MILLERTON — The Town of North East held a board meeting Thursday, Oct. 10, discussing a fire department request to use space in the new garage while they are resurfacing the floors in the firehouse.

The department originally asked to use the old highway garage on South Center Street, however, because the fire engines are too large

they were unable to fit. "The nice thing is that they fit beautifully in the new highway garage," Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said. "I think this is one of the very good things that happens in this county, which is that towns can work together and share equipment that no town would need full time. And that's about what you've got going on up there. It is good to see that the town is using one of its facilities to help out one of our local entities."

The Community Revitalization Council passed a draft of neighboring towns about their housing opportunities, with opportunities that could come to the Town of North East.

"Hopefully we can share that in the very near future, but really positive opportunities that will be coming," councilwoman Megan Winkler said. "We have an opportunity to

See **TOWN BOARD, PAGE A8**

"The big problem is that there are no reliable treatments that have much impact on Long COVID."

Dr. James Shepherd, Sharon infectious disease specialist

COVID-19 vax rates concern health officials

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
 Special to The Millerton News

SALISBURY, Conn. — Kitty Kiefer couldn't catch a break last winter. But what the Salisbury selectman did catch was COVID-19, influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and a nasty cold.

"The whole winter I went from one disease to the next," recalled Kiefer, despite being current on her immunizations. Small children, she noted, "are walking Petri dishes."

While she failed to dodge a mélange of misery, she is optimistic that her updated flu and COVID shots, and one-time RSV jab, might have lessened the severity of her illnesses. So Kiefer plans to roll up her sleeve again this fall for her annual flu shot and COVID booster.

Health officials are hoping more people will follow suit, as staying up to date with recommended vaccines reduces the risk

of severe disease, hospitalization and death, and even a syndrome known as Long COVID.

With a summer surge of coronavirus in the rearview mirror, at least temporarily, and the official arrival this month of the 2024/2025 respiratory virus season, state and local health officials expressed concern about lagging immunization rates and COVID fatigue heading into fall, winter and the holidays.

"We want to make everybody aware that the Respiratory Viral Disease Season is definitely upon us and this is the time to get yourself protected from COVID, flu and RSV," said Dr. Manisha Juthani, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH).

She noted that everyone ages six months and older is eligible to receive the COVID and flu vaccines.

"I encourage everyone to re-

See **COVID, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Webutuck honors senior soccer players
 Coach Marco Reyes praised seniors Luis Cabrera, No. 18, and Ludin Tux, No. 11, for their leadership before the game against Millbrook High School Tuesday, Oct. 8. From left to right: Amparo Jimenez, Cabrera, Alfonso Cabrera, Tux and Coach Reyes.



CONTACT
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OPINION
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OUR TOWNS

Webutuck District's free and reduced lunch program benefits students and families

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — During Webutuck's Board of Education meeting on Monday, Oct. 7, board members detailed the fiscal challenges of feeding students.

"The cafeteria fund and our school lunch program has really always ran into deficit," Webutuck School Business Administrator Robert Farrier said. "Schools that generally are in the positive have a much more robust a la carte, where students are able to buy more things above their normal lunch. We don't have that here."

Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, giving the district serving sizes, calorie count and nutritional guidelines to follow. The law also mandates that the student must select a fruit or vegetable to go with their meal, or the student must pay for each item on their tray. Milk is the drink provided in the nutritional guidelines, and can not be replaced with another drink the student prefers. However, they may purchase another drink if desired.

"Once we went to the free and reduced, where all students get free lunch and breakfast, it has helped our lunch program," Farrier said. "We generally send \$150,000 from the general fund to the cafete-

ria fund. We did that, and we probably didn't need to send as much as we did, but we are starting to get to a point where we're going to break even. Our goal is to keep building up the lunch program."

Breakfast and lunch are served every day for free when students provide their assigned ID numbers and have

filled out an economic survey for the school year. Snacks and a la carte items from the cafeteria are not included in the lunch program, and the student must have money in their account or with them to purchase those kinds of food.

"I know no one likes to have rising prices, but, you know, our food costs have

gone up through the roof," Farrier said. "Orange juice has tripled in price from the start of school. We don't increase prices throughout the year, we just go with the flow."

According to Feeding America, in 2018 the child food insecure population in Dutchess County was 8,050, which is about 14.1%. Nearly

one in six children in the United States faced food insecurity in 2021, and currently 58% of New York state's population is below the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) threshold.

"Our ultimate goal is to feed as many students," said Farrier. "We don't want them to go home hungry."

Fun and frights galore to be found at seasonal Halloween celebrations

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to the Millerton News

With spooky season underway, there are hauntings galore through out the towns and villages. Most are free events open to all, but check for charges at some.

Amenia

Harvest Parade — Wassaic Elementary School grounds — costumes encouraged — during school hours — Thursday, Oct. 31. 845-373-4100 ext 1.

Night at the Zoo — Webutuck Elementary School — trip to the Millbrook Zoo, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Costumes encouraged.

Trunk or Treat - Eugene Brooks Elementary School gym — Friday, Oct. 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m., sponsored by PTA — party with pizza, dancing and games. Trucks line up behind the high school, not a drop off event.

Scavenger Hunt — Wed. Oct. 30, 5 p.m., Amenia Free Library, 3309 Route 343, 845-373-8273, amenialibrary.org.

Copake — Hillsdale

Pumpkin Painting — Rocliff Jansen Library — Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — hot cider and doughnuts — 9091 NY 22, Hillsdale. roejanlibrary.org

Trunk or Treat — Saturday, Oct. 26, lots open at 2 p.m. — Trunk or Treating 3 to 4 p.m. Copake Memorial Park, 305 Mountain View Road, Copake — For a spot call Liana at 518-755-8833 or Stephanie at 518-567-7970.

Millbrook

Kids' Crafts — The Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Wednesday, Oct. 23 and 30, 4 p.m. — 845-677-5127.

Candy Sharing for distribution to Village homes — drop off at Town of Washington Recreation, 10 Reservoir Dr.

Halloween in the Village — Elm Drive Elementary School — Thursday, Oct. 31, 2 p.m., Parade through Town.

Candy, hot chocolate and free books — Friends of the Millbrook Library — 3 Friendly Lane, Thursday, Oct.

31, 3 - 6 p.m., 845-677-5127.

Monster Mash Party — Screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show — Costumes encouraged — Adults only — Friday, Oct. 25, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., The Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Wed., Oct. 23 and 30, 4 p.m., 845-677-5127.

Parade and Trunk or Treat — Town of Washington Recreation Department, Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 p.m. — town park pool, 377 Route 44, Mabbettsville, 845-677-3419.

Millerton

Festival of Frights — Irondale School House — free food and Trunk or Treat — Railroad Plaza, Thursday, Oct. 31, 5 to 7 p.m., 16 Main St., 518-789-3340, millertonlibrary.org.

Pine Plains

Evergreen Cemetery Lantern Tour — Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. accessibility tour and 6, 6:30, 7, and 7: 30 p.m. — info@pineplainslibrary.org, 518-398-1927.

Stanford

Haunted Fortress of Stan-

ford — every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, until the end of October — Fri. and Sat., 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Sun., 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. — Old Town Highway Garage, 11 Creamery Road, townofstanford.org/advisory-committees/hauntedfortress/.

Trunk or Treat — Fri., Oct. 25, 5 - 7 p.m. Stanford Recreation Parking Lot, 11 Creamery Road, pre-register at townofstanford.org.

Boo Thru — Stissing Mountain High School — Saturday, Oct. 26, 4 to 7 p.m., 845-416-2537 or 619-857-7953

Wassaic

Haunted Mill — Wassaic Project — 4 to 7 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 25, 26, and 27; Maxon Mills, 37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, wassaicproject.org/events.

Monster's Ball — Wassaic Project — 7 p.m. to late Saturday, Oct. 26, The Lantern, 10 Main St., Wassaic, Costumes required. wassaicproject.org/events.

Webutuck Juniors and NECC throw Fall Festival

By COLLEEN FLYNN
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MILLERTON — A fall festival is being hosted at Eddie Collin's Memorial Park on Sunday, Oct. 27, from noon until 4 p.m.

Two Webutuck High School students are partnering with North East Community Center, Berkshire Taconic Foundation and Bard College to host a free event for

the surrounding community.

Juniors Zaina Aboueid and Angel Vazquez came up with the idea of a fall festival to create a memorable and free community event for everyone to celebrate. At the park there will be face painting, pumpkin painting, arts and crafts, games, giveaways and snacks.

The rain date for the fall festival will be Saturday, Nov. 2 at the same time.

Amenia Fire Company cancels October breakfast

AMENIA — The Amenia Fire Company has canceled its October pancake breakfast which was scheduled for

Sunday, Oct. 20.

The fire company still plans on hosting the next pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 17.

Sharon Hospital

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Feedback sought at public forum as part of a five-year improvement plan for County's Family Services

By KRISTA BRIGGS
Special to the Millerton News

POUGHKEEPSIE — On the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 2, the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) held an open forum at the Department of Mental Health to discuss a five-year Child and Family Services (CFS) Plan.

Fiscal and staffing challenges aside, the focus of DCFS remains on refining the five-year plan, meeting its targets and serving the county's most vulnerable residents, many of whom depend on these supports simply to survive.

The forum, which provided residents with detailed information on county services and programs for the domestic, physical and emotional wellbeing of children and adults in the county, also gave attendees the opportunity to weigh in on the plan, which runs from 2024 through 2029.

Dutchess County is obliged to provide a plan detailing social services offerings to New York State every five years, DCFS Commissioner Sabrina Jaar Marzouka said. The county works in conjunction with the state to identify programs for further develop-



PHOTO BY KRISTA BRIGGS

Sabrina Jaar Marzouka led the Oct. 2 Department of Community and Family Services Forum.

ment and improvement.

"We do not choose our goals," Marzouka said. "They are prescribed by the state. So they give us a handful to choose from, based on what we determine to be our needs and from our data."

The county can adjust goals as needed but must meet state requirements. These goals and their associated strategies are determined by research, data, and stakeholder meetings with companies, agencies, and individuals.

While DCFS team members tackled various components of the proposal's planning stages, the end-result is expected to be a cohesive plan

created by the state, county, and residents following public comment.

While programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), fall under the DCFS umbrella, the public session focused on three specific offerings — Child Protective Services, Preventive Services, and Adult Services.

Child Protective Services (CPS) seeks to ensure the safety of vulnerable children from suspected abuse, neglect or trafficking of minors. If confirmed, CPS may remove a child from the home. Its preference is for placement with relatives as opposed to foster care provided by strangers to maintain familial, environmental, and cultural ties.

"You don't want the child to lose that connection," Marzouka said. "Because that is their world."

To prevent family ties from being cut, even temporarily, Preventive Services strives to strengthen affected families through domestic monitoring, motivational interviews, parental training/retraining, and family team meetings — strategies designed to expedite foster care discharge

or circumvent foster care altogether.

Adult Services supports people in need of supervision (PINS) with a goal of preserving adult dignity. Currently, there are 30 adult guardian cases overseen by DCFS, a number which continues to climb.

Obstacles to the continuity of certain services remain.

Funding is a constant challenge. For example, childcare programs, the eligibility for which now includes working- and middle-class families, may run dry by 2025 unless the state provides relief.

Caseworker shortages present yet another challenge. To this end, the state has eased civil service requirements for positions such as social workers and case managers via NY HELPS, a program which may or may not be temporary.

According to Dutchess County's Human Resources Commissioner Steven Rector, while specific data on caseworker shortages hasn't been made available to his department yet, he concurs with Marzouka, who conveyed staff retention concerns.

"[These] titles are considered challenging to recruit for [and] with higher than average turnover," Rector said.



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

Library fundraiser

The NorthEast-Millerton Library did its part to keep unwanted items "out of the trash" with a yard sale in its front yard Memorial Garden at 75 Main St. on Saturday, Oct. 12. According to Library Board of Trustees President Debbie Ruppel, the fundraiser was spearheaded by Lisa Straus who organized the first one last Spring. The Library will continue its fundraising efforts with its annual Craft Fair which will return to the Annex on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will not be an election day bake sale this year, but edibles — as well as other hand made items — are being accepted for the Craft Fair. Call 518-789-3340 for details.

 **The MILLERTON NEWS**
www.facebook.com/themillertonnews

Long disputed Silo Ridge appraisals progress toward court resolution

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — A long history of litigation between Silo Ridge residents and the town is progressing toward a court resolution of disputed property assessments, as the Town Board acted on a resolution to hire a court-mandated independent assessor on behalf of the town. The action was taken at a Town Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 10, before the board continued annual review of the town's preliminary 2025 budget.

A ruling from the state Supreme Court ordered both the town and Silo Ridge to obtain what the court termed "trial-ready assessments" and exchange those assessments between one another in preparation for a court decision.

By unanimous vote, the Town Board agreed to hire Michael Bernholz of Hudson Valley Appraisal Corp. to conduct the appraisals and determine a market value.

"We have been sued by members of the Silo Ridge community over the past four years, paying high legal fees. The town assessor and the attorneys have been trying to reach an agreement," Town Supervisor Leo Blackman said. Currently, 88 cases are still active.

During discussion, councilmembers considered estimated total cost for the appraisals to run between \$32,000 and \$40,000. One Silo Ridge home will be selected for appraisal from each of the neighborhoods within the development.

Continued preliminary budget discussion

Review of the preliminary 2025 budget continued for the balance of the meeting.

The Recreation Department budget was amended following councilwoman Nicole Ahearn's comment calling for elimination of

the Summer Camp program for the coming year and instead hiring two part-time Recreation Supervisors. She noted that summer camp has experienced waning interest in past summers, with many local youngsters opting to attend other programs in the area.

Summarizing changes to the budget approved during the previous budget meeting on Thursday, Oct. 3, Finance Director Charlie Miller reported \$108,130 in increases to the budget and \$60,271 in reductions, for a resulting total increase amount of \$47,859, leading into this week's meeting.

"We don't have the volunteers we used to have," councilmember Paul Winters said, discussing the budget implications.

"If we want recreation ser-

vices, we will have to charge people to participate and the town will need to budget for that," Winters said.

By unanimous vote, the Town Board agree to forgo raises for 2025, keeping their stipends level.

Discussion turned to Building Inspector Mike Segelken's request for a truck to conduct town business. For several years, he has been using his personal vehicle.

"We need to invest in our community," Winters said, favoring the truck request.

A question to be considered, Miller said, is whether the expense will have a benefit to the community; will the truck improve service to residents? The consensus was that the truck would be additive to the town.

Councilwoman Rosanna Hamm noted the importance

of the health and safety of town employees.

The potential for vehicle sharing entered the discussion. Blackman suggested that if the town hires a deputy building inspector, the two positions could share the truck.

"But we have to justify the expense," said councilman Brad Rebillard, adding that a policy for the truck's use would need to be developed.

Once the Town Board completes its budget review process, the budget will be presented at a public hearing in November, giving residents an opportunity to offer comments.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice Notice of Formation of 2nd Quest CPG, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on August 8, 2024. Office location: 42 Maple St, Beacon, NY, 12508, Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 42 Maple St, Beacon, NY 12508. Purpose: training and support for incubating CPG companies.	Legal Notice Notice of Formation of Camp Melody LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY on 7/28/2024. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 50 Natures Way Clinton Corners, NY 12514. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
09-26-24	10-03-24
10-03-24	10-10-24
10-10-24	10-17-24
10-17-24	10-24-24
10-24-24	10-31-24
10-31-24	11-07-24

ELECT CHRIS MAYVILLE



For North East Town Board

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David D. Kirkpatrick

David D. Kirkpatrick is a writer for *The New Yorker* whose work includes coverage of American politics. He spent 22 years as a *New York Times* correspondent, where he reported on presidential elections and led coverage of the 2011 uprisings for democracy across the Middle East.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024 • 7:30 P.M.
Housatonic Valley Regional High School
Falls Village, CT



Admission free.
Please register for this event on the Salisbury Forum website. Find us on  

www.salisburyforum.org

OBITUARIES

Karen Blakey Fisher

CORNWALL - Karen Blakey Fisher, born on May 26, 1956, in Torrington, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Oct. 9, 2024, at Hartford Hospital, Hartford Connecticut. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, daughter and friend who touched



the lives of many with her infectious laughter and unwavering spirit.

Karen dedicated her life to her family and her passions. She and her husband, Gordon, spent countless hours nurturing their garden, sharing their love for flowers, and creating beautiful planters. An avid cook, she delighted in preparing meals for loved ones and cherished moments spent by the water, especially during family trips to Cape Cod. Karen was known for her adventurous spirit, often embarking on exciting outings with her daughter, Melissa, and granddaughter, Devyn. She had a remarkable ability to keep everyone entertained and was always the happiest person in the room.

Karen was a proud graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School and dedicated her professional

life to helping others. After working in home healthcare, she and her sister, Lori, opened an environmentally conscious product store in Torrington. Later, she ran a deli in Cornwall, managing it from start to finish with her characteristic flair.

She is survived by her husband, Gordon Fisher; daughter, Melissa Root; granddaughter, Devyn Root; father, Gerald Blakey; mother, Patricia Benedict Blakey; brother, David Blakey; sister, Lori Blakey-Welles and her husband, David Welles; and cousin, Pamela Blakey-Hart. Karen's legacy of love, laughter, and kindness will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Karen will be remembered by her family at a private burial service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the American Cancer Society, honoring Karen's compassionate spirit and her desire to help others. Her favorite quote, "What are they going to do, take away your birthday?" will always remind us to celebrate life, just as she did.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Deborah Barlow Merwin

MILLERTON — Deborah Barlow Merwin, 72, a thirty-seven-year resident of Millerton, and formerly a ten-year resident of Amenia, died peacefully on Monday, October 14, 2024 at her home in Millerton, surrounded by her loving family. Debbie had a decades long career



as a Medical Secretary for the Sharon Hospital in Sharon, and former Hudson River Community Health Center in Amenia, as well as others.

Born Aug. 19, 1952, in Brockport, New York, she was the daughter of Duane Barlow of Brockport and the late Patricia (Rayburn) Barlow. Following high school she attended Central City Business Institute in Syracuse. On Aug. 25, 1973, in Brockport, she married John M. Merwin, together sharing over 51 years of marriage. Mr. Merwin survives at their home in Millerton. The Merwin's were longtime members of the Congregational Church of Salisbury in Salisbury. Debbie's greatest joy was spending time with her beloved family and her adoring grandchildren.

In addition to her husband John, Debbie is survived by two daughters, Melissa A. Merwin of Meriden, Conn., and Sarah M. Thomen and her husband Corey of Falls

Village; two grandchildren, Ian and Gabriel Thomen of Falls Village; her brother, David Barlow and his wife Debra of Holley, New York; two sisters, Rebecca Conrow and her husband Thomas of Brockport and Cynthia Wilson and her husband Robert of Albion, New

York; her nieces and nephews, Spencer, Matthew, Joy, Jill, Andrew, Peter, Nicholas and Avery and several additional family members and close friends.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. Funeral services will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at the Congregation Church of Salisbury, 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068. A reception is Debbie's honor will follow in the fellowship hall at the Congregation Church of Salisbury. Burial will be private at Irontdale Cemetery in Millerton at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Red Cross. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Debbie's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

ELECTION 2024

Millbrook village trustees candidates lay out experience, goals

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — There are two seats on the board of Village Trustees up for grabs in the November election. The Millerton News asked all four candidates, two Democrats and two Republicans, what makes them right for the job. The following excerpts have been edited for clarity and conciseness.

Julia Bucklin, Democrat
Q: What is your professional background? If incumbent, how long in office?

I am a public high school social studies teacher. I have spent over 30 years with students teaching and learning. I hope to use my skills as a listener and an effective distiller of information in my role as trustee.

What would be your top priorities?

My priorities include writing grants to get important village projects funded by state and federal entities. This will help alleviate some of the burden on village taxpayers. Reaching 'bronze' certification as a Climate Smart Community will help us to achieve that goal and get funding for the work that needs to be done. The Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Millbrook has not been updated in almost 30 years. Having a clear set of objectives and goals to work toward will provide a road map for the future.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I am deeply committed to the idea of public service. I believe that being part of a community means participating in the good governance of that community. I have a strong work ethic and I'm a good listener. I look forward to conversations with residents of Millbrook and working with the other Village Trustees to work to keep Millbrook a truly special place to live.

Elizabeth Molella Socci, Republican
What is your professional background?

I have a deep connection to the Village of Millbrook, where I am a fourth-generation resident and have lived my entire life. My husband and I are raising our two daughters in the Village, teaching them the value of family and hometown traditions. I am a certified business education teacher. I hold an MBA, which has strengthened my ability in strategic planning and management. I have over twenty years of experience in property management, and, prior to teaching, I owned a business in Millbrook, which gave me a thorough understanding of the challenges small business owners face. I also have experience in marketing and inventory management, skills that help me analyze data, solve problems, and manage resources effectively.

What would be your top priorities?

My top priorities as a Village Trustee would be maintaining fiscal responsibility and upholding ethical standards, making certain that our resources are used responsibly, and that all decisions are made with transparency and integrity. I would focus on public safety by

ensuring strong support for the Millbrook Fire Department and emergency services, Police Department, Highway Department and water and sewer services. I am also committed to prioritizing our local veterans and supporting the VFW, ensuring that they receive the recognition and resources they deserve.

Why are you the best person for this job?

I feel that I am the best candidate for this position because I bring a unique combination of lifelong dedication to our Village, professional experience, and hometown values. My education, along with my experience as a business owner, teacher, and property manager, has given me the practical skills to make informed decisions, manage resources, and plan responsibly for the Village's future. I am passionate about preserving Millbrook's traditions, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and advocating for public safety and veterans, all while staying true to our hometown values.

Kay Vanderlyn, Republican
What is your professional background?

I hold a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture with a focus on urban planning & food systems. Since 2018, my husband and I have run Julien's in the Village. With no kitchen staff, we cook together every night for the community. I make all the sushi and more! I also handle all the accounting, ordering, design and management of the business. Thanks to the support of our wonderful village we were able to grow and expand, even through the lockdowns that hurt many businesses. In 2022, we opened Julien's Bar.

What would be your top priorities?

I am interested in developing more youth based programs in collaboration with the town. Our village hall and basketball courts are currently underutilized. I am a mother of five wonderful children and I know the challenges of long winters inside and filling long summer days outside with activities for the littles. This summer, my husband and I ran the snack bar at the Town Pool. It is an amazing space but also underutilized! Our neighboring Millerton just received a grant from NY SWIMS capital grant program for \$6.38 million to revitalize their pool [sic]*. I will seek out relevant grant programs and do the legwork needed to obtain them. The village and town have the infrastructure already in place — I am passionate about building upon and further developing what we already have to better the community for our children and the future of the village.

Why are you the best person for this job?

For the last seven years, I have held a seat on the Village of Millbrook Planning Board. I understand the impact that local government can have on a community. We chose to raise our children here & to build and grow our business here. We are deeply dedicated to this beautiful village and I am ready to take that dedication along with my resiliency & experience to work hard for the Village of Millbrook!

Shannon Mawson, Democrat
What is your professional background?

I am a fitness and wellness consultant and educator in South America and domestically. While living in Belize, I developed and secured funding for a non-profit animal shelter and initiated collaboration with US canine rescue organizations to home them in the states. In addition to my wellness career, I also created marketing tools for firms participating in apparel industry trade shows.

What would be your top priorities?

I will continue discussions with Town officials and potential funders to maintain the Town recreation program at Village Hall. As a Trustee I shall hold the line on Vil-

lage taxes and fees so we stay within the tax cap.

Why are you the best person for this job?

I have a long record of success as an entrepreneur because I have the discipline to budget, to listen closely to client needs and to tailor practical solutions for them. I collaborate with clients and colleagues to get things done. I will use these skills for our new government team develop timely, cost-effective methods and to promote responsive solutions to problems that Village residents deserve.

*There is not currently a pool at Eddie Collins Memorial Park in Millerton. The \$6 million NY SWIMS grant funding is for the construction of a brand new pool and pool house.

Worship Services Week of October 20, 2024	
Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.	
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>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 The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>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 860-824-7252</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, November 10 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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!</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanctumc@gmail.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>
<p>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 (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	
<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 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 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>	

Send obits to editor@lakevillejournal.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help support the NorthEast-Millerton Library proposition

On Nov. 5, the North-East-Millerton Library will be asking voters to vote on a proposition to secure \$50,000 of funding from the Town of North East. This is money that the library already receives from the town, so no new money is being requested, and no tax increase will be incurred by the residents.

The funding provided by the town is only used for operating expenses, which includes salaries, material and supplies, programming for all ages, maintenance and utilities.

To answer any questions you may have regarding the proposition, the library trustees will be holding two Open Houses. The first is scheduled

for Tuesday, Oct. 22, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by another on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please join us in the library to hear more, and see some of the wonderful things happening at the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

The proposition will be on the back of the ballot. It is important to reiterate that this is not a new tax. A "yes" vote will secure the money already given by the town.

The staff and trustees of the NorthEast-Millerton Library appreciate your continued support.

Debbie Ruppel
President,
Board of Trustees
Millerton



"Well, you might grow up to be a pie, a candle that no one actually uses, or a questionable seasonal beer flavor..."

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

We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Energizing the New York State Senate

New York needs more legislators like Michelle Hinchey. In just three years since she was first elected to the New York State Senate, she sponsored 82 bills that were signed into law. She is full of energy, demonstrates the integrity we need from all our elected officials, and has shown genuine sincerity in caring for all people in her district.

So many younger generation residents in our upstate communities have found it difficult to find meaningful jobs and careers that pay

wages sufficient to cover housing, food and other living expenses. As a result, it is often our best and brightest who move out of New York to find careers elsewhere. These younger generation residents need representatives who understand their dilemma and who have the intelligence, creativity and energy to do something about it. At just 36 years of age, Michelle Hinchey understands what younger residents need and want, has experience beyond her years to figure out solutions, and

has the passion and perseverance to get things done.

After only three years in the Senate, she has already been selected Chair of the Agriculture and Food Committee, and she serves as a member of 11 other committees. She already has sponsored legislation that addresses the accessibility and affordability of housing, cut middle class taxes, expanded the child tax credit, raised the minimum wage, makes it possible to address health-care deserts in pockets of our state, enhances availability of

reproductive healthcare, assists seniors on utility bills and rent stabilization, etc., etc. She also is the recipient of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Award from the New York Water Environment Association for her work to advance clean water initiatives and investments. That is only part of what she has done in only three years.

We not only need to ensure that Michelle Hinchey is re-elected, we need more senators like her.

Dean R. Nicyper
North East

Supporting Charlie Miller for Amenia Town Board

I am honored to run the vegetable garden at the food pantry at St. Thomas Church in Amenia. With the help of countless volunteers, we provide fresh vegetables to over 600 people every week. About five years ago I ask for volunteers to help spread compost on the garden beds. That's when I first saw Charlie Miller in action. He show ups with a big smile and boundless determination to get the job done. Since then he has installed additional irrigation throughout the garden, replaced broken system sections and helped on numer-

ous other projects. Charlie is the neighbor you call when you need someone to show up and get to work- he has always been there when the food pantry needs him. It is because of his dedication to our community that I am writing to express my strong support for Charlie Miller's campaign for a seat on the Amenia Town Board. Having lived in Wassaic for over 35 years, I have only see a few people who give as much volunteer time as Charlie does. I hope you will join me in supporting him.

Marsha Kaufman
Wassaic

Vote Charlie Miller for Amenia Town Board

I have been a resident of Amenia for 40 years and pride myself on being active in the community. I am a member of the Amenia Zoning Board of Appeals and the Amenia Wastewater Committee. I also serve as the Warden of the Vestry at St. Thomas Epis-

copal Church. It is through my role at the church that I first met Charlie Miller in 2018 when he joined me and our neighbors volunteering at the Food Pantry's Giving Garden. He was an enthusiastic member of the team, ready to do any chore, especially the heavy work. In 2020, we asked Charlie if he could design an irrigation system for 28 new raised beds in the Garden. He not only designed it; he donated the whole system and installed it! This story captures who Charlie is and what he accomplishes. He is an imaginative, hardworking, and a dedicated advocate for improving the lives of everyone in Amenia.

I state this with confidence because since working together in the Giving Garden I have served with Charlie on Amenia's Wastewater Committee. He joined in the fall of 2021 and in the summer of 2022, after I stepped down as chairman, he was elected to that role. He has been a

tireless leader - from working out the best layout for the proposed wastewater system, to rallying the community's support for its construction, to figuring out how to navigate the county and state departments to advance the prospects of the project. And most importantly, he has relentlessly researched how to assemble grants and no cost loans to keep costs down. Not supporting municipal wastewater in the Amenia Hamlet is writing off its residents, businesses and the revitalization of our downtown.

Charlie is focused on making Amenia a great place to live affordably, work and raise a family. He seeks to find ways to make it possible for kids who grew up here to stay here as adults. Another way Charlie works toward achiev-

ing these goals is through his chairmanship of the Amenia Housing Board. In this role he leads a group of residents who are working very hard to build affordable housing in Amenia. One more thing! Earlier this year he was appointed to be Amenia's Director of Finance, where he has worked to bring transparency to how our tax dollars are spent.

Charlie is the best candidate to fill the open position on the Town Board. He has proven this by his service and by his accomplishments as a leader on both the Housing Board and Wastewater Committee. Join me in voting for Charlie this November 5th.

One last point: Charlie has a great sense of humor, is a great cook and gardener.

Jim Wright
Amenia

Dan Aymar-Blair for Comptroller

I write to support Dan Aymar-Blair for Dutchess County Comptroller. Dan's commitment to public service is evident from the fact that he left positions in major private financial institutions to manage budgets for the New York City Department of Education. Since 2019 Dan has served on Beacon's City Council. Importantly, Dan has 20 years' experience in finance. By contrast Dan's opponent, Gregg Pulver, himself questioned whether he was appropriate for the position of Comptroller when he was appointed to fill that position after he lost his seat in the County Legislature. At that time, he told The New Pine Plains Herald that his experience was in governing, not accounting, and that he would have to rely on the Comptroller's staff to keep track of the numbers. As reported by The Daily Catch, he was "initially hesitant to commit to running for comptroller this year due to his lack of experience in an oversight role."

Here's an idea: how about we elect a Comptroller with a background in finance so that he can be relied upon to direct and supervise his staff?

Pulver's judgment in financial matters, even as a legislator, is open to serious question: he strongly (and, unfortunately, successfully) advocated that \$25 million in federal COVID relief funds be used for, of all things, major improvements to a minor

league baseball stadium. This was despite the absence of evidence that this huge investment in a private enterprise would be more beneficial to Dutchess residents than, for instance, improvements in health care, education, transportation and other basic services. He supported this huge investment in the baseball stadium because, he said, like planting crops, "you hope that the conditions are right to [be successful]... you gotta have a little faith."

Pulver's understanding of financial matters, however, was sufficient for him to de-

cide that it would be a good idea, as one of his last acts as a Dutchess County Legislator, to vote in favor of a 30% salary increase for the Comptroller — the job he was about to assume.

Dan Aymar-Blair's 20 years of experience in the private and public financial sectors makes him the far superior — and indeed an excellent — candidate for Comptroller. We deserve a Comptroller who has the experience to do the job with knowledge and integrity.

Amy Rothstein
Pine Plains

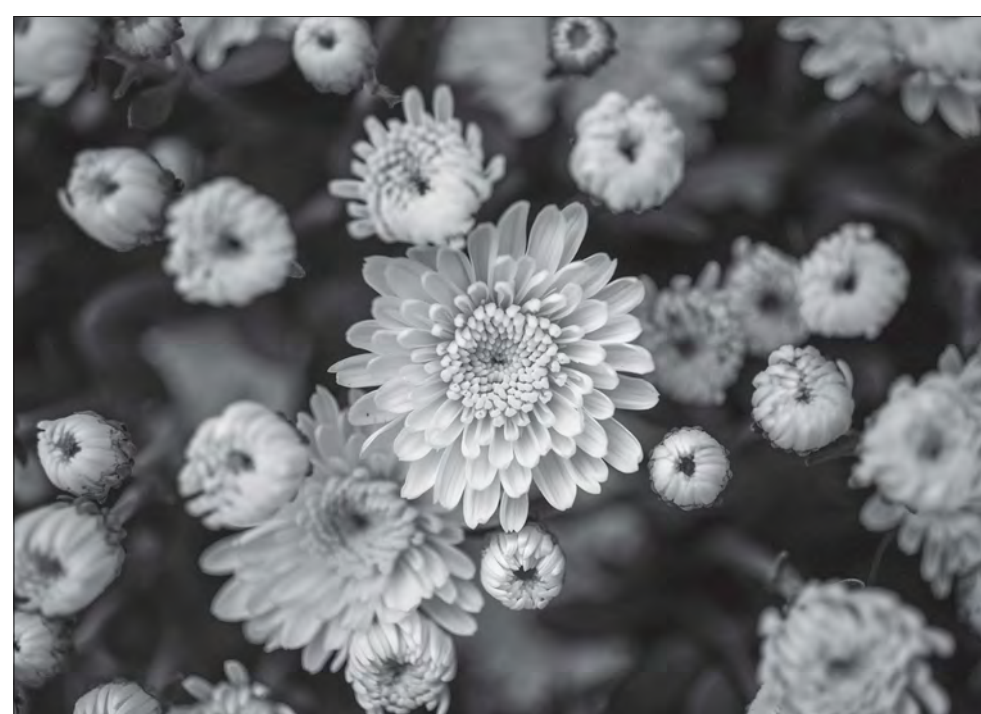


PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Fall display — Chrysanthemum

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OUR TOWNS

Millerton parents create 'neighborhood' — finding support and community

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — What began in the warmth of the NorthEast-Millerton Library as a small group of young parents exchanging information and ideas has grown into the internet equivalent of a friendly neighborhood with plenty of room to welcome newcomers.

Founded in conjunction with the now retired Youth Services Director Lynn Buckley, the informally named Millerton Parents Group, uses the messaging program WhatsApp instead of chats over backyard fences as they build community.

Anyone with the common interest of family is welcome to join, de facto leader of the group Kimberly Yarnell said. Through laughs she said that while there is no head, "I'm the bossy Mom in the group ... I try to synthesize group

communications, activities and opportunities to team up and meet up."

She says the group formed "after the height of the Pandemic when we were all kind of crawling out of our holes and sort of having gone through a shared experience, many of us with 3, 4 and 5 year olds. We emerged with a real hunger for connections in a way that wasn't really being serviced by the area."

Yarnell, who has "two great kids," 4 year old son Mathew and 1 year old daughter Margo said, "we can laugh about it now," but it was difficult, especially for those who gave birth during the Pandemic.

With access to the Library and support in developing programming, the group brought in speakers for topics of general interest such as sleep issues and doulas.

But as children and family sizes grew, crowded schedules evolved. It became difficult to

attend meetings, so connections moved to the internet where families now swap information on critical issues such as the best babysitters, pediatricians, dentists and the like.

They also provide support when someone has a sick child and set up play dates, walks on the Rail Trail and share information about interesting events. Each Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., interested members gather at Eddie Collins Memorial Park where they take turns bringing pizza and the children romp while the parents find adult companionship.

Recently, members looked "into their closets" to find outgrown clothing for it's second and hopefully continuing clothing swap. Because of scheduling conflicts at the Library where Buckley had helped to organize the initial event, the Northeast Community Center provided the

needed space for some 25 participants.

As can be the case with that sort of event, some items were not chosen, but following the spirit of reaching out, Yarnell said those were donated to Ben and Gracie's Thrift Shop in Poughkeepsie. The shop determined the value of the merchandise and presented vouchers in that amount to the Grace Smith House in Poughkeepsie which provides shelter and support for those facing domestic violence.

Yarnell says the vouchers, in turn, were given to residents who can gain a sense of "empowerment" as they are able to use them at the shop to make purchases for their own families instead of being handed a bag "of stuff" chosen by someone else.

Anyone interested in joining is welcome to email kimberlyyarnell@gmail.com for an invitation to the group's WhatsApp.



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY YARNELL

Families are welcome to join the informal Millerton Parents' Group through WhatsApp which keeps members active and connected through activities such as this DIY Oct. 9 Pizza Night at Eddie Collins Memorial Park. The weekly event included plenty of opportunities for chatting and playing for (left to right) Goldie Whalen-Smith, 3; Shaylyn Decker with daughter Summer Raue, 3; and Madeleine Stern with daughter Marion Greenleaf, 4.

Millbrook schedules two public forums on school capital projects referendum

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Having received conceptual planning describing a major capital project to include needed maintenance and upgrades, the Board of Education at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8, agreed to hold two public forums in advance of a mid-November referendum.

Postcards summarizing the project are being sent to all households to announce the forums planned for Wednesday, Oct. 30 and Wednesday,

Nov. 13 at the Middle School Auditorium, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The referendum to vote on the capital project is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 19, from noon until 9 p.m.

To view details of the plans for the capital project prepared by BBS Architects, go to the Millbrook Central School District website at: www.millbrookcsd.org.

As presented by BBS, the capital project is divided into three major partitions. The first would see improvements to HVAC systems in all schools within the Central

School District, supported by three bonding propositions.

The second would address building condition issues (maintenance and repairs) needed at Elm Drive and the Middle School, as well as Alden Place, supported by two bonding resolutions.

And the third would promote energy performance in all the schools, supported by three bonding propositions.

The total cost for all three partitions as now proposed

would be \$59,867,973, although some of the impact would be offset by available state funds and energy savings over time.

BBS engineers noted that state law requires that a school Building Condition Survey be completed every five years.

Existing HVAC systems are aging out, according to BBS, particularly at the Elm Drive School, where a "dedicated outdoor air system" is being proposed.

Webutuck plans Spanish heritage night on Oct. 18

AMENIA — A festive night on Friday, Oct. 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Webutuck High School will wrap up the District's celebration of Spanish Heritage month. Students, teachers, staff, and families will come together with crafts for children, posters, painting, music, a performance by high school students and food from different countries provided by families. The event is being organized

by Spanish teachers Nicole Charriez and Sarah Martin and staff member Katherine Cordova. In speaking of her own school days, Cordova says, "I remember my mom was never involved because of the whole language situation," a problem that continues to occur and which the district is aiming to alleviate. For more information, see webutuckschools.org or call (845) 373-4100.

Amenia Free Library accepting non-perishables for Food of Life pantry

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The Amenia Free Library has chosen the Food of Life/Comida de Vida Pantry at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Amenia Union, as their first ever recipient in the state wide library Great Give Back effort.

Hope Bruzzi, programming assistant, says the library decided to participate because, "We thought since our patrons always help us, it's time to give back to the community."

Starting at the beginning of the month and running through the end, Bruzzi says the drive is going well with their collection bin "slowly but surely filling up."

The Library is primarily focused on collecting diapers of

any size, unscented baby wipes, feminine hygiene items, dried black beans, canned vegetables and canned fruits, but Bruzzi says any non-perishable donations would be welcome.

The pantry is located on church grounds at 40 Leedsville Rd. in Amenia with distribution Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome during the 50 weeks it is open each year with no residency requirements.

According to their website, so far this year they have served total of 90,549 meals to 10,061 individuals including 2652 children.

For more information on the Library at 3309 Route 343, go to amenialibrary.org or call (845) 373-8273. For pantry details, go to stthomasamenia.com or call (845) 373-9161.

Planning starts for Millbrook 8th grade trip

MILLBROOK — Among the actions taken during the regular meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, Oct. 8, was the approval of plans for the Middle School's Eighth Grade class to visit Washington, D.C., in early April 2025, likely to be the peak of cherry blossom season.

Fundraising activities will begin soon and continue throughout the coming months.

The class itinerary may include visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institute, a dinner cruise

on the Potomac, the National Holocaust Museum, the Spy Museum and a variety of national monuments and federal buildings.

The cost for the trip is anticipated to be \$809 for the three-day, two-night experience. Use of an existing transportation fund would reduce the per-person cost to \$786.

A Zoom meeting for parents was scheduled to be hosted by trip organizer Worldstrides on Thursday, Oct. 10, with a trip deposit of \$99 due on Thursday, Oct. 17.

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ELECTION 2024

A look at local candidates

Nicole Ahearn seeks full term on Amenia's Town Board

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Republican Nicole Ahearn was appointed to the Amenia Town Board in 2024. The following excerpts have been selected and edited for ease of reading.

Q: What is your professional background?

A: I was appointed to the Town board in March 2024. Previously, I was the chairperson of the Recreation Commission and a part time building clerk. I have been a bus driver for Webutuck Schools for the last ten years and I have a strong background in customer service.

What would be your top priorities?

Highway garage construction is vital to the community and our employees. Amenia's crumbling infrastructure needs to be addressed follow-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nicole Ahearn

ing two water main breaks in the past eight months. Smart growth is also crucial for Amenia. We need to preserve Amenia's rural qualities while broadening the tax base through more housing options and other efforts to attract businesses of all kinds to our town. I also want better Town/school district coordination so we can be sure our students receive all the tools they need for quality

education. I will continue to work with our partners in county and state government to keep Amenia a safe place to live and raise a family.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I've lived in this area my whole life. My husband and I have six children in public schools here. I go to work in our school district every single day. As the only full-time resident in this race, I understand our community's needs. I am committed to keeping taxes low because I know it is tough raising a family these days. I'll make sure your government works for tax payers, not itself. I'll ensure we have the services and infrastructure necessary to keep Amenia a beautiful place to live, raise a family and possibly start a business. I'll never forget who I work for.

Charlie Miller challenges Ahearn for Town Board seat

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Charlie Miller is a Democrat, running against Nicole Ahearn for the seat she currently occupies on the Amenia Town Board. The following excerpts have been selected and edited for ease of reading.

Q: What is your professional background?

A: Over my 30+ year career, I've been responsible for operations, budgeting, project management, legal compliance, and contract negotiations. It's been an amazing ride with years as a chef, finance guy, animation studio manager, and now real estate broker. In all my jobs I've had to be a problem solver — assessing situations, collecting facts, getting everyone's input, forming a team, making plans to tackle the project, and then getting it done. I thrive on finding solutions and accomplishing what people say is impossible. I see things from all sides, know how to bring people together



PHOTO PROVIDED

Charlie Miller

and then work to find the best way forward.

What would be your top priorities?

My priorities are what Amenia's residents have spoken clearly on: housing everyone can afford; insuring everyone pays their fair share; spending tax dollars smartly (board members should know where every dollar of your money is going); new highway garage; revitalizing downtown and Beekman Park (I don't feel spending millions on Amenia Green is wise); supporting current and attracting new businesses (reliable drinking

water, municipal wastewater, off-street parking and traffic calming devices); recreational programming for all ages; and governmental transparency.

Why are you the best person for the job?

So many of my neighbors feel hopeless, that nothing will ever get done in Amenia — the most beautiful rural town you'll ever find, filled with hardworking folks. I've proven that if given the opportunity I can move things forward that have languished for years. As Chairman of the Amenia Housing Board we increased developer fees to \$2.3 million from \$610,000; and we have a 26+ single-family, for-sale workforce housing subdivision about to go before the planning board. Working with the Supervisor, I led the bidding process for a new Water Engineer, Highway Garage Engineer and Wastewater Engineer. As a fiscal conservative, I've identified wasteful spending and through new investment opportunities, earned \$120,000 for taxpayers this year.

Meet Peter Doro, Millbrook's sole mayoral candidate

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Republican Peter Doro is running unchallenged for Millbrook Village Mayor. The following excerpts have been edited from a longer conversation with the candidate for ease of reading.

Q: What is your professional background?

A: I am an attorney and have worked in financial services for my entire career. I also teach a law school course as an adjunct professor. In addition, I serve on the Town of Washington's Board of Assessment Review as well as the Dutchess County Planning Board.

I have been a member of the Village of Millbrook's Board of Trustees since 2022.

What would be your top priorities?

My top priorities include making sure the infrastructure projects that are currently in the pipeline are completed on-time and within budget, most notably replacing aged sidewalks, especially in the business district, and the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. I am very focused on



PHOTO PROVIDED

Peter Doro

expanding recreational activities, in conjunction with the Town of Washington. Increasing workforce housing is another area that I think that is ripe for action. Finally, the protection of our natural resources and our quaint village is of paramount importance to me.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I'm the only person running for this job, and am proud to be doing so,

but that's kind of sad if you ask me. I have seen "Save Democracy" signs lately — well, sometimes that requires more than just putting a sign up — it means showing up, getting involved. And I have been involved, especially since winning two elections in 2021 and 2022. I am a fourth-generation resident — I grew up in this Village. Learned to read at Elm Drive. Went to the after school program at the Village Hall. Became an Eagle Scout in the Thorne Building. And now my wife Jennifer and I are raising our two boys here. We understand how lucky we are to live in such a dynamic village. Preserving Millbrook as a haven for families and the middle class, while also supporting local businesses and fostering positive change, are some of the same things my grandfather stood for when he was mayor in the '70s. I plan to continue that work in the years to come.

Send news items and briefs to
editor@millertonnews.com

OUR TOWNS

Copake makes third attempt at NY Forward funding

By ROBIN RORABACK
Special to The Millerton News

COPAKE — Members of the New York Forward Advisory Committee held their second community meeting to discuss their progress and to invite public comment at Town Hall on Thursday, Oct. 10.

Margaret Irwin, lead consultant with River Street Planning and Development and one of the grant writers and consultants for the application, opened the meeting saying that this year they have "stronger projects" and "a shared vision and the backbone to succeed" in winning the grant. It is the third time they will try for the grant.

Irwin said there are twenty projects under consideration for the 20 page application. Important to the application are 39 proposed affordable housing units and a possibility of 174 new jobs in Copake.

The "Copake Spur" is a

key element to the revitalization plan. This is a foot trail that will connect the town of Copake to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

Included in the plan are three catalyst projects. One is the renovation of the historic Copake Grange. Repairs and upgrades are proposed for the whole building as well as the 94 seat theater.

The second catalyst will be improvements to Route 7A, with plans to reconstruct and pave 1.74 miles of road, add storm water drainage, curbing, sidewalks, and lighting to improve safety.

The third catalyst project is the Astor Court Gardens. A proposed agrotourism hotspot, the bed and breakfast will host wellness workshops, fitness classes, spa treatments, event space, a farm market and 24 rooms.

Other projects include restaurants, farm stores, renovation of the Copake schoolhouse and the Copake Inn and rehabilitation of fire damaged buildings for apartments.

Winners are to be announced in January and if Copake should win, the entire process begins again with projects being reviewed and picked.

In response to a question from the crowd, Irwin advised the best way to help Copake win the grant is to write a letter. Irwin also urged the crowd to take the survey on the Copake Waterfronts website.

Go to www.copakewaterfronts.com/nyforward to find the email address to send letters to, take the survey and find out more about the New York Forward Grant and the projects that are being proposed.

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COVID *Continued from Page A1*

ceive both updated shots this season," including people who were infected with coronavirus this past summer. For those individuals, she recommended holding off on boosters until the end of October or early November.

The immunizations can all be administered at the same time. The RSV vaccine, however, is a one-time shot, she noted.

"For all older adults 75 and older it is now recommended that they get the RSV shot. If you are 60 and older, there are a set of comorbidities that will make you eligible for this vaccine," said Juthani.

'A bit of COVID fatigue'

October marked the start of the typical flu and RSV seasons, although the coronavirus remains a year-round threat.

"Unfortunately for COVID, as much as I have willed and wished for it to become a seasonal virus, it really has not completely done that. But what we can do is still protect ourselves to the best of our ability going through the

rest of this respiratory viral disease season," Juthani said.

Health officials said they are concerned that while people tend to not hesitate when rolling up their sleeves for the seasonal flu vaccine, they nix COVID boosters.

Juthani said it could be due to "a bit of COVID fatigue."

"People are used to getting their flu shot. They may feel they've had a lot of COVID shots over the last couple of years." Others, said Juthani, report that they feel sick after receiving the booster.

In that scenario, she recommends that people try a different vaccine, as there are three on the market: Moderna, Pfizer and Novavax.

"It is most important to get some sort of protection going into this season so don't let side effects get in your way. Just try something," advised the health commission. "At the end of the day we want you to boost your immunity so you will have the best chance of success."

Some people believe that the flu vaccine causes the flu,

which is a common misconception, according to Tamar Melin a nurse practitioner with Nuvance Primary Care. She advised everyone to get vaccinated for flu this season.

"It is a protection and decreases the severity of symptoms if ill with flu. The flu shot does not cause flu."

COVID boosters lag behind flu shots

As of mid-October, about 156,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered, compared to 289,000 doses of the updated influenza shot, according to DPH.

"We'd like to try to get those numbers as close to each other as possible," said Juthani. "COVID is a much more morbid and has a much higher mortality than flu does, but more people in our state are getting the flu vaccine."

She also noted that fewer people are testing for COVID or seeking treatment for infections, a concerning trend that became evident last year.

During the 2023/2024 season, 70% of people who were hospitalized for COVID were age 65 and older, DPH statistics show.

"We know that one in 100 people age 75 and older ended up hospitalized for COVID, and 88% of hospitalized adults had not received the most updated COVID vaccine," the state health commissioner explained.

She said statistics reveal that half of the people age 65 and older who became ill with the coronavirus did not seek medical treatment, which might have lessened their symptoms.

"It is our oldest age groups that are impacted the most,

but everybody from 40 upward is where we see the burden of our disease," said Juthani. "Age is the biggest risk factor."

In terms of deaths, the highest number are in the 80-plus range, but also includes those in the 60-69 and 70-79 age groups, she noted. "There were many people who died this summer, and also since August, including one death in a Connecticut nursing home."

Recent spikes in COVID-19 cases have been largely driven by a new class of sub-variants nicknamed FLiRT, which according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention accounts for more than 80% of cases.

"For sure, the general interest in the new COVID variant booster shot is pretty low," confirmed Dr. James Shepherd of Sharon, an infectious disease specialist at Yale School of Medicine.

What may people don't realize is that even a mild or asymptomatic infection can lead to long-term health issues, known as Long COVID, which the epidemiologist described as a mixture of different syndromes with various and common symptoms of fatigue, inflammation, brain fog, dizziness, palpitations and other symptoms.

"An episode of COVID seems to trigger many of these, but other infections could probably trigger episodes too and Long COVID does not seem to require a severe infection to trigger the syndrome," said Shepherd.

"The big problem is that there are no reliable treatments that have much impact on Long COVID. The only thing that helps in most people is time. As weeks and months go by they begin to feel better."

NDP *Continued from Page A1*

for ambulance service," Chris Kennan, the town supervisor, said, "Which makes it very expensive for us and a big piece of the Town's annual budget."

NDP shared its contract with the Towns of North East, Amenia and Dover. Under the contract, an ALS (Advanced Life Support) ambulance must be stationed in each of the three towns.

A possible 70% increase in service pricing would impose expenses on residents, Kennan said, increasing property taxes at an "unacceptable" rate. According to Kennan, every municipality in Dutchess County is dealing with similar EMS problems. This calendar year the Town is spending \$376,858 on EMS services, which is about 10.5% of the Town's budget. NDP has requested \$646,300 for their services next year.

"I've been in the rescue service for 37 years now as a fireman. We need that and it is the cost of doing business," Richard Yeno, the Town of Dover's Supervisor, said. "The problem is it's a substantial hit, a 70 plus percent increase is a major hit to the budget. And it will make taxes go up but my people will have an ambulance service in place Jan. 1, 2025."

Both Kennan and Yeno have expressed the importance of a future meeting with NDP to discuss logistics and as an attempt to lower their previous approach.

"We're going to do our due diligence, shop it where we can shop it, negotiate where we can negotiate, such as NDP," Yeno said. "We do have a future meeting planned with

them. We are back on the table and both parties agreed that this needs to come to another serious discussion. So hopefully it'll get better."

According to Kennan, the emergency medical services (EMS) crisis is not unique to North East, Amenia and Dover. "It is a problem for smaller, less-populated towns across New York State and around the country," Kennan said. "Put very simply, the larger the population, the more customers the EMS providers have to spread the costs around. We have to remember that we are paying for a fully-staffed ambulance sitting in our town around the clock."

Last year, the Town of North East had 256 calls for EMS services, which is less than one call a day, leaving the ambulance sitting without calls for long stretches. The town of Dover has roughly 8,400 residents and is dealing with a similar, over 70%, increase in its EMS service budget.

"The problem is in five years, the prices of everything has gone up. The cost of wages has gone up to be competitive. They need to increase their worker's wages," Yeno said. "I understand that, and that's where we're at."

"My people deserve this service. They need this service," Yeno said. "And I will find a way to provide this service. I won't go backward. I will maintain what we were receiving in service, and nothing but up."

As of Sunday, Oct. 13, NDP has not responded to requests for comment from the Millerton News.

PARK *Continued from Page A1*

lage worked together to create a master plan to refurbish the space.

Phase I enhancements focused on revamping the playground, a natural soccer field, basketball courts, little league field, seating areas, parking and a new entryway. According to LaBella's website, "Enhancements included accessible and creative surfacing, dynamic pathways, existing equipment rehabilitation,

installation of new equipment, shade trees, rain gardens, green infrastructure, and various site furnishings."

LaBella will be assisting the Village in the new design for Phase II which includes a 3,600 square foot pool house and community room and a 5-lane Olympic short course swimming pool. The Village is hoping to begin construction by spring 2025 and complete the project within six to eight months after.

TOWN BOARD *Continued from Page A1*

as towns, joining together for a grant for the plus one grant program, which helps folks be able to build accessory dwelling units. So these are to renovate existing structures, or convert or build, and the grants go up to \$175,000 so we as municipalities can put in a request to be able to be the administrators."

A small survey was sent out to hear from residents and received positive interest. The survey was posted online and residents were notified by postcards, receiving feedback from about 50 people.

"There's some buildings potentially going up right around us that will be apartments and townhouses for rent and for sale," Winkler said, "We tried to do a survey of the town for people who had trouble getting on the internet...Many people have buildings with space in the building that is not being used, or they have a garage with which could have an apartment over it, and this could be income."

The town has been in contact with the county to discuss the removal of snow and ice for some of the roads located in the Town of North East, but are considered Dutchess County roads.

"There are some roads in our town which are county roads, which are a long way for the county to come out and plow, and they have proposed a reimbursement to the town for us to take care of some of

these roads," Kennan said. "We have done this now for quite a number of years. I think from the standpoint of the town, it's been a very beneficial arrangement."

Kennan met with the county executive last week to discuss a handful of ideas, mainly including the emergency medical services and the ambulance contract.

"We learned a few days after that meeting that the commissioner of emergency response, Dan Smith, had resigned and so that's too bad for what we are trying to do because that is the department which oversees emergency response."

Northern Dutchess Paramedics have proposed an increase of over 70% for their EMS services. During their five-year contract the town paid about \$376,000, with a new pitch of around \$646,000.

"We have looked at ways this would create a really difficult and really unsupportable increase in taxes in the town and particularly in the village," said Kennan. "We still are waiting to see what the county may be able to do to help us with this."

"This is a burning EMS crisis around the county and around the state, we're not in a unique situation," Chris Drago, County Legislator, said, "The budget of the county is \$601 million, a lot of money, and one of the things I see as my job is to be an advocate, for our towns and the district I represent...There's been work done to really try to see where we

can solve this critical issue."

There will be a public hearing for the town's budget on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Town Board members also heard new concerns about pipeline construction project.

Emily Skydell, Hudson Valley Senior Organizer for Food and Water Watch, attended the town board meeting via Zoom to share what she said were threats of methane emissions from the Iroquois pipeline Corp.

"The Iroquois pipeline corporation has proposed a dangerous project that they call expansion by compression and, if it's approved, Iroquois will substantially increase in the risk of leakage in fires and explosions, while also increasing the pollution in communities that live near the compressors," said Skydell, "Here in New York, we can stop the expansion of these pipelines and power plants and start to really invest in renewable energy and renewable energy sources."

The Iroquois pipeline is planning on creating compressor stations so that gas is able to push through Long Island and New York City. The company is not proposing more gas to be delivered to the Northeast Dutchess County region.

"It's a proposal that allows more gas to get pushed through an existing, 30-year-old pipeline," Skydell said. Skydell said there are many risks associated with older pipelines, especially when trying to do an expansion.



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

Finding my footing: adventures in a new home

On a cloudy Wednesday at the start of October, my girlfriend, Taylor, and I decided to enjoy the autumn afternoon by getting off our laptops and into the woods for some much needed movement. Having just moved to Norfolk as a new reporter for the Lakeville Journal, I was on the hunt for panoramic views of the landscape I now call home, accessible with the hour and a half of daylight left to us. Haystack Tower it was.

I'm not entirely unfamiliar with the landscapes of the Northwest Corner: I visited family and friends in the region as a child and would drive up on high school joyrides from my home in Westchester County. But calling somewhere home brings new meaning to a place, and I was eager to see a familiar view with a new sense of belonging.

To extend the walk a bit, we chose the yellow trail loop, starting from the bottom of the road leading up the hill off North Street. Our journey began on a neatly mowed path through a gently sloping meadow, with stands of purple-white New England asters poking out from a mosaic of green and red leaves and grasses on either side of the trail.

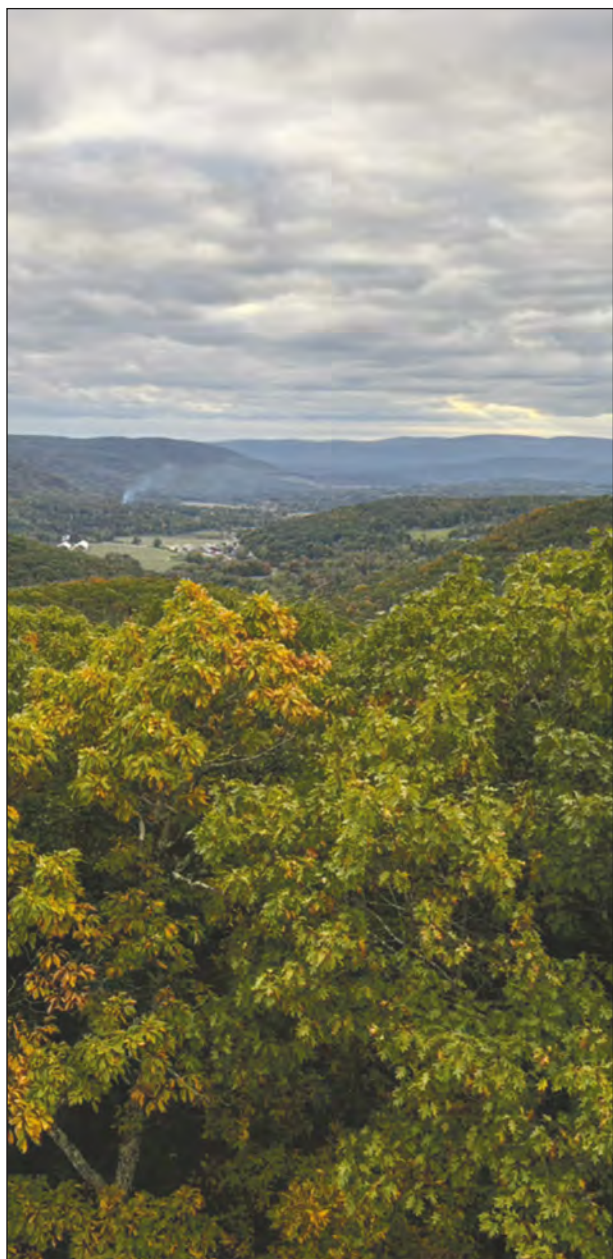
REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK ALEC LINDEN

Our trail took us into a forest sporting half-autumn colors: some maple stands blazed gold and orange while others remained dark green. The occasional fiery swamp maple glowed bright red below the overstory, catching the glints of sunlight that managed to penetrate the cloud layer and canopy.

As we trudged up the forested hillside, my field of vision was so washed in texture — a chaos of rocks, roots, bark, and leaves of every shade — that my eyes almost started to ache.

The trail plateaued after a short climb into a new type of forest: three-story oaks underscored with hickory saplings. With a new composition, the forest assumed a browner and yellower hue than that of the maple-dominated lower hillside.

We eventually reached the imposing stone tower at Haystack Mountain's summit, and we quickly climbed the winding stairs to find what we came for: 360-degree views of forested hills folding over one another as



Scenes from a day of exploration and hydration in the Northwest Corner.



PHOTOS BY ALEC LINDEN

they spread into the distance, interspersed by patches of valley farmland. A cove of orange maples framed Route 44 as it passed through Norfolk below. This was the beautiful patchwork landscape I am lucky to

now call home. A relaxed jaunt down a wide carriage road took us around the mountain's northeastern flank as eastern hemlocks leaned overhead and clung to the steep slope below. Reaching

the car with daylight to spare, we decided to prolong the outing with an evening pint.

At Norbrook Farm Brewery, we were asked if we wanted to join a game of jukebox bingo. It looked like fun, but we couldn't get enough of the October evening air, so we headed outside instead to sit fireside on the patio. Settling into an Adirondack chair, I sipped the brewery's brown ale (the "Beckley Furnace Ale"). It was malty and crisp, and certainly one of the better in the style I've had recent-

ly. Taylor is partial to seasonal beers and opted for their pumpkin ale, joyously titled the "Gourdo." I'm usually not a fan of pumpkin-flavored anything, but I agreed that this was a nicely balanced beer and enjoyed the few sips I took.

As the light faded on the hills, we noted that the foliage across the fields looked to be nearly peaking in the soft glow of the evening. A chill settled in and I huddled closer to the fire, eager to lean into the swiftly changing season in my new home.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Kent unveils juried art show

Chilly rain sprinkles did not keep area art lovers away from the opening of the Kent Art Association's Fall Juried Art Show on Sunday, Oct. 13. Judges for the event were association members Liz Maynard and Conrad Levenson. The show will continue until Saturday, Nov. 2, during the association's open hours. Kent artist and long-term resident Carolyn Millstein (at left) paused for a photo next to her piece, "Near Oakdale."

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COMPASS



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The lunar mud was thick on the banks of the Esopus in Boiceville, New York, near where the stream enters the Ashokan Reservoir.

Autumn angling through lunar mud

I spent a couple days two weeks ago in Ulster County, New York, prowling the Esopus, around and below the Rail Trail pedestrian bridge in Boiceville.

The water temps were acceptable but on the sunny days approached the danger zone by mid-afternoon.

Water clarity was decent. Where it was murky, it was green murky, which is good, as opposed to brown murky, which means mud.

The flows were decent but definitely on the low side. We need rain badly, in the Hudson Valley and



TANGLED LINES
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

in the Northwest Corner.

And the area where I was had a decidedly lunar feel to the landscape, if the Moon has mud.

What worked: Junk flies.

What didn't: Woolies, Tequilley's, unweighted streamers, Leadwing Coachmen, soft hackle wets in darker colors, orange-y caddis dries.

There were stonefly and isonychia casings on the rocks, but not a lot of them.

I was hoping for fat brown trout moving up into the river from the Ashokan Reservoir to spawn. Failing that, I was hoping for greedy rainbows looking to eat the brown trout eggs. It's a little early for that sort of thing, but hey, I don't make the rules.

No trout were disturbed, by me anyway.

Moment of triumph: Way down by where the stream enters the reservoir proper, and the lunar mud figures into the equation, I latched into three excellent smallies and one junior partner in a boom-boom space of about 45 minutes. What

made this especially pleasant was that I had ventured forth with an 11 foot 4 weight single hand rod intending to either tight line nymphs or play with unweighted streamers such as Mickey Finns and Grey Ghosts.

At the last moment I stuck a small box containing mops and squirmy worms in the pack. This was a very good move and almost made up for the Dr. Boing-Boing moment when I realized I forgot the lanyard with the trout-sized tippet, forceps and clippers.

Reluctant to perform the Walk of Shame the half mile or so back to the car, I improvised. I had heavy tippet material, 0X through 2X, on a separate holder attached to my pack, and I found that with a little juju the cigar cutter worked as a clipper. What I could not approximate was the forceps, for squashing barbs, so I was limited to flies I had used before.

That turned out to be a two-fly rig, with the squirmy worm on a dropper up top and a green mop tied on a jig



Stonefly and isonychia casings on the rocks.

hook and with a bead head on point. Three of the smallies, including the fair-to-middling one, opted for the worm, and one bold soul took a flyer on the mop.

The commotion was such that an angler using spinning gear upstream wandered down to see what was up when I took a break. He then directed me to his companion, who was working a riffle further up with a fly rod.

Not wanting to hog the hot spot, and keenly aware that my wonky shoulder was sending out mild but unmistakable distress signals, I ceded my spot to angler number one and made my way upstream to

angler number two.

He turned out to be from Millerton, N.Y. and had read Tangled Lines in the Millerton News.

He didn't specifically say he was a fan but I assumed he was. If he wasn't then he was after I gave him a squirmy and a mop to try.

Note: As I peck this out on Sunday, Oct. 6, the 10-day forecast doesn't look good for rain. If you take a shot at the very low Housatonic or Farmington rivers, your best bet is dawn to noon, long rods and longer leaders, clothing that blends into the background, and a high tolerance for frustration and agony of spirit.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

SHELTER show opens at Royal Arcanum Building in Norfolk

"SHELTER," an art exhibit supporting The Gathering Place opened on Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Royal Arcanum Building in Norfolk, Conn. Featuring works by fourteen area artists, proceeds from sales will benefit The Gathering Place based in Torrington, Conn., which provides essential services to the homeless across 26 towns in Litchfield County. Open week-days, this vital resource offers everything from

hot showers and laundry facilities to housing

assistance. The exhibit runs through Nov. 24.

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FILM: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Election film series comes to Triplex Cinema

The Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington is rolling out a special election season series entitled, "Dying in Darkness: Journalism, Politics & Truth in Film." Curated by The Triplex's creative director, Ben Elliott, the carefully selected series of films confront the fraught relationship between media, politics, and democracy with an evocative lineup that includes "The Parallax View," "All the President's Men," "A Face in the Crowd," "Medium Cool," and "Wag the Dog." Elliott remarked that the series title was a play on the Washington Post's motto, "Democracy dies in darkness." He noted that this was "the first motto that The Washington Post adopted in their entire history," and added, "It speaks to the ways that democracy can be endangered if truth and

journalism are not part of the political process." The selection spans eras, providing Elliott with an opportunity to present movies that are eerily prescient today. In one such film, "A Face in the Crowd," from 1957, Andy Griffith plays a drifter-turned-political manipulator. "It lines up exactly with the last ten years," Elliott commented. In his view, films like "A Face in the Crowd" and "Medium Cool," which blends fiction and documentary, offer uncanny echoes of modern populism and media manipulation. By drawing on a wide array of films, Elliott intended to not just screen thought-provoking cinema, but to foster dialogue among the politically engaged community that frequents The Triplex. He said, "I think bringing people together to talk about all



"All the President's Men" (1976) with Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford will screen at the Triplex Oct. 24.



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the different ways that we're going through this time as a community is important, to make peo-

ple not feel alone in it, and to hopefully still feel up for the fight of staying engaged."

Elliott also emphasized the educational potential of the series, expressing hopes of partnering with local schools to draw in younger viewers. "I think there's a real educational aspect to this," he noted, suggesting that a dive into the narratives of the past could reveal much about contemporary political dynamics.

"These aren't stories that exist in a vacuum," said Elliott. "These are stories that were inspired by real things and that still speak to our current landscape."

"Dying in Darkness" opens Oct. 17 and runs through Nov. 3. Each screening will be accompanied by introductions from guest speakers, each providing additional context on how these films resonate with the current political landscape.

LITERATURE: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Joyce Carol Oates to read at Bard College

Joyce Carol Oates, one of America's most celebrated writers, will give a reading at Bard College on Monday, Oct. 21, at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of the Holy Innocents. Known for her profound storytelling and literary achievements, Oates has been honored with numerous awards, including the National Humanities Medal and the National Book Award. She has written some of the most enduring fiction of our time, including the national best sellers "We Were the Mulvaney's," "Blonde," and the New York Times best seller "The Falls."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Joyce Carol Oates is known for her profound storytelling and literary achievements.

This event, part of Bradford Morrow's course on contemporary fiction, is free and open to the public. Attendees can also look forward to her upcoming work, "Revenants: The Ghost Issue," co-edited with Morrow, featuring works

by Margaret Atwood, Carmen Maria Machado, and others. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from a literary

icon. For more information, visit: www.bard.edu/news/events/a-reading-by-joyce-carol-oates

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

OCTOBER 18

The Memories We Keep

Sharon Historical Society and Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

On Oct. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Sharon Historical Society and Museum, explore objects from the SHSM collection that preserve personal and national memories. Reflect on the items you use to keep memories alive and share your own! Bring a memory-sparking snack, appetizer, and recipe to share.

OCTOBER 19

"Point of View"

Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 7 Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn.

"Point of View", featuring works by Andrea Kantrowitz, David Konigsberg and Thomas Sarrantonio, will be on view at Kenise Barnes Fine Art from Oct. 19 to Nov. 24. There will be a public reception on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Falls Village Fall Festival

Town Farm Property on Route 63, Falls Village, Conn.

The Falls Village Recreation Commission and D.M. Hunt Library are excited to host our second annual Falls Village Fall Festival. Located at the Town Farm property on Route 63 on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. we will host a community event featuring food, live music, hayrides, a pie baking contest and more! Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 20.

North Canaan's Town Wide Scarecrow Contest

Lawrence Field, North Canaan, Conn.

On Saturday, Oct. 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lawrence Field, join us for North Canaan's Town Wide Scarecrow Contest. Make a scarecrow to display at Lawrence Field. There will be four prize categories (most creative, scariest, best use of recycled items, funniest). Judging will take place at 1 p.m. at North Canaan's Pumpkin Fest.

For more info visit northcanaaneventscommittee.org

North Canaan's Pumpkin Fest

Lawrence Field, North Canaan, Conn.

The Pumpkin Fest will be on Oct. 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lawrence Field.

Current Fiction Book Group with Claudia Cayne

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

Join Claudia Cayne on Saturday, Oct. 19, 4 to 5 p.m., for a discussion of Council of Dolls, by Mona Susan Power, a story of three Dakota women. A limited number of books are available for loan at the library. For more information, please visit scovillelibrary.org.

Event page, full description: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/12942463

OCTOBER 20

Film Screening

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

On Oct. 20, "A Face in the Crowd," directed by Elia Kazan and starring Andy Griffith, will screen at Triplex Cinema. Griffith, in his film debut, is supported by Patricia Neal and Walter Matthau, from a screenplay by Budd Schulberg. The film, released in 1957, tells the story of Larry "Lonesome" Rhodes, a drifter who is discovered by the producer of a small-market radio program in rural Arkansas, and who rises to great fame and influence on national television.

Jammin' at the Copake Grange

Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.

Oct. 20 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. People are invited to bring an instrument, choose a song, and everyone plays along. Free event.

CVFD Open House

West Cornwall Firehouse, 289 Sharon-Goshen Tnpke, Cornwall, Conn.

All ages are invited to a fun-filled open house hosted by Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Services members. Activities will take place on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 20 from 12 to 2 p.m. in West Cornwall. Tour the fire station, meet the firefighters and ambulance crew and view displays of important safety information. Touch a truck or hop in the ambulance or Zodiac. Children will love the "Kids Zone" of hands-on games, relays and activities. Here's a change to thank your First Responders. Hotdogs, burgers, drinks and cookies will be provided.

OCTOBER 21

Joyce Carol Oates Reading at Bard College

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.

On Monday, Oct. 21 at 4 p.m., there will be a Joyce Carol Oates Reading at Bard College.

Internationally renowned writer Joyce Carol Oates will give a reading at the Chapel of the Holy Innocents, Bard College. Oates, a recipient of numerous literary awards, will present as part of Bradford Morrow's course on contemporary fiction.

Free and open to the Public

OCTOBER 23

Teen D&D Game Night

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

On Wed., Oct. 23 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the David M. Hunt Library, teens (13-18) can join Thom Wilson from ShireCon for a D&D session! Pizza & drinks included. Register at huntlibrary.org or email dmhuntlibrary@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 24

Book Talk

Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.

On Thursday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. join the David M. Hunt Library, in partnership with Oblong Books and Project SAGE, for a book talk with Michelle Horton, author of "Dear Sister: A Memoir of Secrets, Survival and Unbreakable Bonds." Horton's book is a breathtaking memoir about two sisters and a high-profile case: Nikki Addimando, incarcerated for killing her longtime abuser; and the author, Michelle Horton, left in the devastating fall-out to raise Nikki's young children and to battle the criminal justice system. After the talk the author and representatives from Project SAGE will be available for a Q&A. October is domestic violence awareness month. This event will take place at the Center on Main, 103 Main Street in Falls Village.

Last week's WotW

C	H	A	L	K
C	L	O	T	H
M	U	L	C	H
L	U	R	C	H
L	U	N	C	H

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 WotW.

- Darkest color, void of light
- Often paired with gin
- Cost of a purchase
- Bend, fold, press
- Autumn air

OCTOBER 25

Salisbury Forum Presents "The News on Trial" with David D. Kirkpatrick

Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village, Conn.

The Salisbury Forum will present "The News on Trial," a talk with "The New Yorker" writer David D. Kirkpatrick, on Friday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn. Admission is free.

David Kirkpatrick is returning to the Salisbury Forum after hosting popular talks in the past.

CCS Walkathon

Cream Hill Road and Cogswell Road, Cornwall, Conn.

Cornwall Consolidated School's 20th Walk-A-Thon will be Friday, Oct. 25. The walk will begin at 1 p.m. at the intersection of Cream Hill/Cherry Hill & Cogswell Road. The event raises money for school programming.

OCTOBER 26

Old School: Visions of Local History and Personal Pasts

Sharon Historical Society and Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

On Oct. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Sharon Historical Society and Museum, come see an exhibition by The Beard Collective (Theo Coulombe & Katro Storm), which explores how personal and local histories blend into a creative dialogue. Join us for the opening reception!

Story Time

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Visit David M. Hunt Library for a musical story time with local author Gabriele Davis on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 10:30 a.m. Davis will read from her new book, "Our Joyful Noise," before teaching guests how to make maracas to create a joyful noise.

Community Conversation: Are Heat Pumps Right for Me?

Millerton Library Annex, NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. nemillertonlibrary.org

On Saturday, Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. Compare systems, learn about \$\$\$ incentives, meet installers and advisors.

Hosted by Climate Smart Millerton and NorthEast-Millerton Library

Community Health Day

Sharon Hospital, 50 Hospital Hill Rd., Sharon, Conn.

Sharon Hospital and its staff will play host to a Community Health Day on Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will take place in Sharon Hospital's rear parking lot behind the hospital near surgical services. The day is intended to bring together local families and children of all ages to meet and interact with staff and physicians of the hospital while enjoying a few seasonal treats and activities.

Watch the Wolf Pack Nov. 16

Cornwall Park and Recreation will host a trip the Hartford Wolf Pack hockey game Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. against the Providence Bruins.

Tickets cost \$24 when ordered through Park and Rec before Nov. 1. Transportation is not provided to the event.

Contact park.recreation@cornwallct.org for more information.

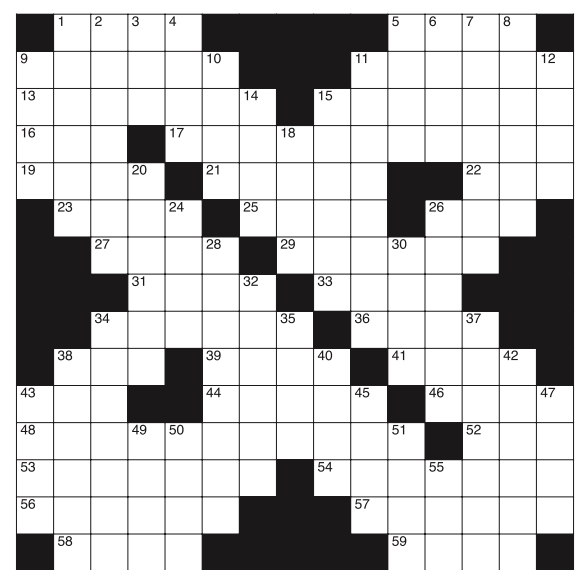
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Tall, upright post on a boat
- Basics
- Used to refer to cited works
- Folds
- Former UK PM May
- Cold region of Russia
- Standard operating procedure
- Separating
- Particles
- A way to map out
- Referee declares
- Beginner
- Water (Spanish)
- Gov't lawyers
- Non-reproductive parts of an organism
- Spanish friends
- A type of tree
- Walk heavily
- About a wood
- Free-swimming marine invertebrate
- Political action committee
- SB19 hit song
- Scorch the surface of
- Moved quickly on foot
- Sacred state for a Muslim
- Growl
- Pearl Jam frontman
- Irritating person
- Something requiring a solution
- Firing
- Hazards
- Taiwan capital
- Impudence
- Rock frontman Durst

CLUES DOWN

- One who rides an elephant
- Absence of bacteria
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Men's fashion accessories
- "Honey" actress Jessica
- Round red root vegetable



- Latin term for "charity"
- Doesn't smell good
- Mental health issue
- Millisecond
- Hairstyle
- Edible starch
- Middle Eastern military title
- Protein-rich liquids
- Indian musical pattern
- Cancer and Capricorn
- Country along the Arabian peninsula
- A bend
- Fishes of the herring family
- Antelopes
- Chaos
- Popular music app
- Cooking material
- Musical instrument

- San Diego ballplayers
- Small amounts
- Poured
- Fabric
- Food option
- Finger millet
- The U. of Miami mascot is one
- Alberta, Canada river
- Canadian flyers
- Dry white wine drink

Oct. 10 Solution

T	E	G	G		M	T	V		T	R	A	M				
A	B	O	U	T	A	H	A		H	E	B	E				
T	A	B	L	E	T	R	U	M	E	L	I	S				
S	N	I	P	E	S	I	M	P	N	I	B	S				
					T	I	M	E	P	I	E	C	E	S		
H	I	P	B	O	N	E		E	R	R	E	D				
A	D	A	P	T	E	D		D	E	Y						
H	O	L	L	A					S	E	L	M	A			
					L	A	D		C	H	I	L	E	A	N	
					C	L	E	P	E	H	A	P	L	E	S	S
Q	U	A	R	A	N	T	I	N	E							
S	U	B	S		C	I	A		G	L	A	D	E	S		
P	I	A	S		H	A	P		S	A	F	A	R	I		
A	N	N	E		E	L	I		S	A	R	A	N			
S	E	S	S		S	S	R			R	I	S	E			

Sudoku

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

Oct. 10 Solution

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

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

A one level, legal two family 3,000 square foot house like this home at 111 Lamoree Road is an unusual find. It sold for \$500,000 on 6 acres including a pole barn and horse trails.

Milan real estate activity picks up at high end

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

MILAN — In August the Town of Milan saw increased sales activity at the high end with two multi-million dollar sales on large acreage after a month of typical activity in July when five houses were sold all under \$700,000. Milan is becoming known for its contemporary spec designs like the house on Becker Hill which sold for \$5.75 million. Only two single family residences sold for under \$1 million during the month of August, plus a two family house and two parcels of land.

At the beginning of October, 19 single family residences were listed for sale in Milan with two under \$500,000 and nine over \$1 million. The highest priced property on the market is Mirror Lake Retreat, an RV camping resort with 216 acres and an 18 acre lake priced at \$11 million.

44 Mitchell Lane — 3 bedroom/1 bath home on 5.4 acres sold for \$220,000.

111 Lamoree Road — two family, 4 bedroom/2 bath on 6 acres sold for \$500,000.

94 Brooklyn Heights Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 19.3 acres sold for \$1.75 million.

880 Salisbury Turnpike — contemporary 3 bedroom/3 bath house on 14.7 acres sold for \$868,000.

285 Becker Hill — 6 bedroom/4.5 bath home on 23.5 acres with Catskill views sold for \$5.75 million.

820 Cold Spring Road — 5.12 acre residential vacant land sold for \$250,000.

Old Jackson Corners Road — 1.32 acre lot sold for \$44,000.

* Town of Milan real estate sales recorded between August 1, 2024, and August 31, 2024, sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency. Information on active listings taken from First Key MLS which may understate available properties. 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.

Haunted Mill to run for three days at Wassaic Project's Maxon Mills

By **COLLEEN FLYNN**
colleenf@millertonnews.com

WASSAIC — The Haunted Mill is extending their Halloween festivities to a long three-day weekend beginning Friday, Oct. 25.

The Haunted Mill this year features a haunted garden, vintage film set, a crawling room, sparkly swamp witch's hut, outdoor open mic "skaryoke," a puppet show, and the land of the monsters under your bed.

Stanford eyes \$20,000 grant for municipal compost program

By **DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS**
Special to the Millertown News

STANFORD — Landfills and incinerators in the United States process enough organic material annually to fill a line of fully-loaded 18-wheelers stretching from New York City to Los Angeles, 10 times, according to a report by the U.S. PIRG Education Fund.

In response, the number of communities with composting programs nationwide has increased 65% in the last five years, and the town of Stanford is considering joining that movement.

The Stanfordsville Climate Smart Communities (CSC) board is seeking feedback from residents via an on-

line survey on their level of interest in participating in a composting program in their community if one were to be established.

Wendy Burton, Town of Stanford Supervisor, said there is a grant opportunity from Dutchess County for up to \$20,000 to fund a composting project for the initial start-up costs for a food waste drop-off program.

Burton noted that the town Transfer Station is under consideration as the site for a municipal composting project.

"The survey is to test the waters on community interest, and we are also going to speak to our local restaurants and Big Rock," as well as the

local school district, to see if they would be interested in participating, the town supervisor said.

The brief survey asks residents to estimate how much compostable waste they think their household produces weekly, whether they would be interested in education about home composting, community composting, with potential drop off options around town, or a composting pick-up service, age range and number of people in the household.

The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management recently launched the expanded grant program for municipalities and schools aimed at reduc-

ing food and organic waste through composting and at the same time provide convenient composting opportunities to residents.

Composting is a process where organic materials, like kitchen scraps and yard waste, are broken down naturally by microorganisms. These tiny creatures use oxygen, water and the carbon and nitrogen in the materials to create a nutrient-rich soil called compost, which is akin to turning trash into treasure for gardens.

The survey is currently being circulated via the Town of Stanford mailing list. For more information, email wburton@townofstanford.org.

Planning Board approves Wassaic timber harvesting along Old Rt. 22

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

AMENIA — Following a brief public hearing on Wednesday, Oct. 9, the Planning Board granted unanimous approval for an application for a timber harvest on 120 acres situated along Old Route 22 in Wassaic.

The property owned by Carlo and John Longobardo totals 201 acres. To be harvested from the site are hardwoods and softwoods in

diameters ranging between eight and forty inches in diameter, as reported by Certified Forester Christopher Prentis. A total of 1,597 trees will be removed, averaging 13 trees per acre. A typical acre would hold 68 trees, Prentis noted.

In addition to removing saw-ready timber, the harvest will also remove poor quality growth such as disease-ridden hemlock, leaving behind healthy hemlock.

Following forest manage-

ment practices for 45 years, the acreage was previously harvested in 2002, and once before. Best practices for forestry management will also be followed for this harvest, Prentis explained.


Work will be done over two winter seasons, 2024 and 2025 between November 1 and March 31 to minimize impact on any forest wildlife.

"This forest is managed," said John Andrews, Engineer

for the Planning Board, noting that the process is monitored by state officials. He said that the selective harvest will open the land to allow healthy growth and encourage new growth.

During the public hearing, resident George Bistransin said that he had no opposition to the harvest project being proposed. He emphasized the importance of encouraging old growth forests in the area.

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Salisbury has its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) now available for public review on the town's web site. The State mandates that all towns update their POCD every 10 years. The issues covered are affordable housing, agriculture, natural resources, villages and other issues concerning the town's growth over the next decade. The POCD is now in a 65 day mandatory review period before the Public Hearing on December 16th to formally adopt the POCD. For more information on this issue, please visit www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-commission/plan-of-conservation-and-development/

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