

OUR TOWNS

Amenia Historical Society honors local fire companies

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The commitment of members of the two local fire companies is measured not only in decades but in generations, and that dedication was honored by the **Amenia Historical Society** at its annual meeting on Sunday, Oct. 20, held at the Town Hall.

Following a presentation and display of historic images and artifacts reflecting the history of the two organizations, representatives of the fire companies of District 1 and District 2 accepted certificates of appreciation given by current society president Carol Lee.

The **Amenia Fire Company**, District 1, has been serving the community since its founding in 1895. Andy Murphy, Captain of the **Amenia Fire Company**, chronicled the history as he recalled the earliest apparatus, the company membership, the buildings and some of the historic local fires, along with the celebrations, parades and community fundraising events.

Captain Murphy, a long-term member himself, recounted that his father, James, had served the **Amenia Fire Company** for 50 years and his mother, Charlotte, was a charter member of the

Auxiliary. He said that the historical society has a treasure trove of historical documents and memorabilia collected over the years. That information was assembled into a book published in 1995 detailing the **Fire Company's** history, but not much history has been assembled and recorded since then.

"It all began in 1895," Murphy said, when there had been a fire in Millerton and a realization dawned that **Amenia** should have its own fire company.

Early records kept in the old firehouse were destroyed in 1941 by a devastating fire, and today, the only records remaining came from the homes of members and residents who had items that were not kept at the firehouse.

The earliest piece of equipment in **Amenia** was a length of 1,000 feet of hose donated by the local water company, along with nozzles, to be used in conjunction with the existing hydrants, Murphy said. About 20 people met at Taylor Hall, the old movie theatre in village center, to form **Amenia Hose Company No. 1**.

Later they would meet at a local clothing store near the post office. By 1898, they had acquired a two-wheel hose cart. By 1899, they had their first firehouse and a fire wag-

on to go with the hose cart. The company then moved to its present site on Mechanic Street.

The relationship between the town and the fire company began around 1900, Murphy explained, whereby the town would own the firehouse building and the fire company would pay rent to the town. A "new" firehouse was built on the site in 1948 and still stands today.

Ambulance service had its beginnings in 1950 with the purchase of the first vehicle to be named "Lulubell." Formation of a **Women's Auxiliary** came along in 1953.

Barn fires were the most usual types of fire calls, Murphy said.

But especially dangerous and disastrous were the 1974 fires that destroyed the movie theater and the **Delavergne Farms Hotel** in the town center, Murphy noted.

"We are pretty well-equipped today," Murphy said, "but most of our trucks are going out driver-only."

"People are not volunteering," Murphy explained, adding that the company has only three or four young people.

"Back in the 1970s, people could not wait to join the fire company," Murphy recalled.

Reviewing the chronology of the **Wassaic Fire Company**, former Chief Bob Bergfels in-

dicated that the fire company was organized in 1931, building its first firehouse in 1937, with the present firehouse coming along in 1966. The **Ladies' Auxiliary** began its service in 1955, and the **Rescue Squad** in 1977.

Seeking to clarify a point of confusion for residents, Murphy explained the difference between the two **Fire Districts** and the two **Fire Companies**. **Fire Districts**, he said, are governed by five local commissioners who sit on a **Fire District Board**. They develop the annual budget and function as the entity in charge of the equipment purchase and repair. The **Fire District** is in charge, Murphy said.

The **Fire Company**, he explained, is a separate organization headed by the **Fire Chief**. The **Fire Company** goes to the fires. Proceeds from the regularly scheduled pancake breakfasts go to the **Fire Company** to cover operational expenses.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

The **Amenia Historical Society** presented **Certificates of Appreciation** at its annual meeting on Sunday, Oct. 20 to representatives of the **Amenia Fire Company** and **Wassaic Fire Company**. Town Historian **Betsy Strauss** presented the certificates to **Robert Boyles, Jr.**, Captain of the **Wassaic Fire Company**, at left, and **Andy Murphy**, Captain of the **Amenia Fire Company**.

Amenia Town Board approves bond issue for new town garage

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — An important step in the project to construct a new town garage occurred at the regular meeting of the **Town Board** on Thursday, Oct. 17, with a unanimous vote to authorize issuance of bonds to cover the estimated cost of construction.

The town has agreed to a 30-year bond issue in the amount of \$6,333,449 to construct the town garage and salt storage shed on town-owned land situated along the east side of Route 22 between Sinpatch Road and Tower Hill Road.

"This is a project dear to the heart of **Victoria Perotti** (former **Town Supervisor**), who will be happy to see this move along," said current **Town Supervisor Leo Blackman** after the vote.

Councilmember **Paul Winters** repeated his concern that the bond issue was not to be

put to a town-wide vote, rather than being decided by the **Town Board**. He spoke directly to video viewers advising them that they have 20

days in which to obtain signatures from 5% of voters, if those voters would prefer to have a town-wide vote on the decision.

NorthEast-Millerton Library to host Halloween 'Festival of Frights' Oct. 31

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Thursday, Oct. 31, the community is invited to the **Festival of Frights** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The **NorthEast-Millerton Library** is partnering with the **Irondale Schoolhouse** and the **Millerton Business Alliance** to help the community indulge in Halloween activities.

The **Festival of Frights** will feature the **Haunted Schoolhouse**, **Truck or Treat**, food and other activities at 16 Main St., Millerton, in the **Harney & Sons** and **Golden Wok**

parking lot. This event aims to bring the community together and celebrate Halloween where it is hard to walk to neighbors.

Organizations or community members are able to sign up to decorate their car to

participate in **Truck or Treat**. Individuals participating in truck or treat are responsible for bringing candy to hand out. Sign-ups end on Sunday, Oct. 27.

For more information visit nemillertonlibrary.org.

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

Supper ‘on a stick’

Isaac Musgrove, age 6, savored a candy apple, his treat of choice, at the Wednesday, Oct. 17, Supper Club at the NorthEast-Millerton Library’s Annex. His sister, Lois Musgrove, age 9, smiled her approval while Lori Brunese enjoyed her own “Food on a Stick,” the theme for the month’s shared meal.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Candied candid

Emily Walsh took her second turn dipping her candied apple without help from her guardian and declared she was big enough to do it by herself at a children’s event at the Millbrook Library Wednesday, Oct. 16. Children’s Literacy Coordinator Kate Anderson led a group of children in dipping their apples in a simple syrup solution she dyed blue to provide a marbled look to the finished apples.



The

MILLERTON NEWS

www.facebook.com/themillertonnews

Millbrook approves application for Alden Place restaurant

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Having addressed concerns expressed by neighbors to an existing Alden Place Drive restaurant, the Planning Board approved a resolution at its regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 14, granting permission for the continued use of the property as a restaurant. The vote was unanimous with several conditions.

Conditions attached to the special permit include that the hours of restaurant operations will be 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and that there be no food service, smoking or audio/visual equipment permitted on the outdoor patio. No new light fixtures can be added outdoors.

The approval also specifies the handling and storage

of restaurant trash, cleanliness of the trash bin area, and schedule for regular removal.

Reviewing the conditions, Planning Board chairman Frank Redl noted that the escrow account payments are a necessary part of the process, and a new kitchen hood will be installed.

Building owner Nunzio Incorvaia, had successfully operated a popular restaurant at the location for 30 years. Ensuing years had seen different ownership. The building had been vacant for the past year before Incorvaia purchased it.

Incorvaia’s tenant, Alberto Quezada, attended the Planning Board meeting and indicated that he understood the conditions. He plans to operate an Hispanic-American restaurant with a new name, Millbrook Continental.

Hillsdale addresses housing prices with accessory dwelling unit info

HILLSDALE — The Hillsdale Housing Committee, in conjunction with the Roe Jan Housing Task Force and the Towns of Copake and Ancram, is presenting an information session for those interested in creating an accessory dwelling unit on their property.

The session will take place from 10 a.m to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library, located at 9091 Route 22 in Hillsdale.

An Accessory Dwelling Unit is a separate apartment in a home or property that meets the basic building and zoning code requirements of the town. It can include an attached apartment within the home, such as a second floor or basement, or a detached unit, such as a garage or barn. It can help provide extra income on property as well as additional low cost rental housing for the community. It can provide housing for a caregiver or an elderly relative.

Columbia County is now offering grants up to \$125,000 for homeowners to build accessory dwelling units if they

meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must own and live in their own home as a primary residence.
- Applicant income must be at or below 100% of the County median income, which varies based on family size.
- Applicant must commit to maintain an affordable rental rate and not use the apartment for short term rentals for ten years.

RUPCO, a non-profit housing provider, will administer the program. In addition, it will assist program participants to find additional financing where needed, as well as with design, budgeting, contractor selection, permitting, rental screening and other tasks.

Applications are due by Dec. 13. For applications and further information, contact RUPCO at www.rupco.org/plusone/.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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.

10-03-24

10-10-24

10-17-24

10-24-24

10-31-24

11-07-24

House of the South Amenia Presbyterian Church for the election of officers and trustees and the transaction of other such business as may legally come before it.

Amiee C. Duncan
Secretary
10-24-24

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF QUESTION TO VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST AT NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to NYS. Education Law #259(1) (b), and in accordance with the provisions of the N.Y.S. Election Law, the following question will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of North East at the General Election to be held on the fifth day of November, 2024:

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE [LIBRARY NAME] BE INCREASED BY FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE SUM ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY?

Further notice is hereby given that said election shall be held at the 28 Century Boulevard in the Millerton, on the fifth day of November 2024, and that the polls will be open on that day between the hours of 6:00 AM - 9:00 PM in addition to Early Voting location and options.

Elizabeth Strauss

Town Clerk
Town Of North East
10-24-24
10-31-24

**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF QUESTION TO VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON AT NEXT GENERAL ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to N.Y.S. Education Law #259 (1) (B) and in accordance with the provisions of the N.Y.S. Election Law, the following question will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of Washington at the General Election to be held on the 5th day of November, 2024.

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE MILLBROOK LIBRARY BE INCREASED FROM ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND (\$184,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND (\$349,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY?

Further notice is hereby given that said Election shall be held at the Millbrook Fire House in the Village of Millbrook on the 5th day of November 2024 and that the polls will be open on that day between the hours of 6:00AM and 9:00PM.

10-24-24

10-31-24

ELECT

CHRIS MAYVILLE



For North East Town Board

❖ Knowledge of municipal finance & budgeting

❖ Experienced in affordable housing projects

❖ A 20+ year resident of Millerton/North East

❖ A record of commitment to community service

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Vote for Chris in the last column of the North East ballot on
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

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OBITUARIES

Gerald Wheeler

ANCRAMDAL — Ger-ald Wheeler, 88, a lifelong area resident, died peacefully on Fri-day, Oct. 18, 2024, at Sharon Hospi-tal in Sharon. Mr. Wheeler worked for The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville. He retired as the Supervisor of Housekeeping fol-lowing a 46-year career at Hotchkiss, where he was loved and respected by the faculty and the students.

Born July 21, 1936 in Sha-ron, he was the son of the late John Henry and Margaret (Hanley) Wheeler. He was a graduate of Webutuck High School in Amenia. On March 11, 1956, in Millerton, he mar-ried the love of his life, Au-gusta Lee Hoyt. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler shared over 59-years of marriage. Mrs. Wheeler passed away on Jan. 25, 2015.

Mr. Wheeler was an avid hunter and fisherman throughout his life. He en-joyed driving in the stock car races at Lebanon Valley Speedway in West Lebanon, New York, and driving in the drag races at the Dover Drag Strip in Wingdale, New York for many years. In his spare time, he liked gardening and tending to lawn work at home with his beloved wife. For several years he was a parishioner at St. Patrick’s Church in Millerton and was

also affiliated with the Dutch Reform Church in Gallatin, New York.

Mr. Wheeler is survived by two sons, Rich-ard Wheeler and his partner Jen-eferShute of Ger-mantown, New York, and John Wheeler and his wife Dana of Mil-lerton; five grand-children, Kae, Sean, Timothy, Nicole and Adam; four great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews, and many friends. In addition to his parents and wife, Mr. Wheeler was predeceased by his son, Gerald Wheeler, and his grandson, Andrew Wheel-er and three siblings.

Calling hours were held on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Mil-lerton, New York, 12546. A funeral service took place on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial followed at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton. Me-morial contributions may be made to the American Mul-tiple Sclerosis Society or to ALS United of Greater New York. To send an online con-dolence to the family, flow-ers to the service or to plant a tree in Mr. Wheeler’s memory please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Howard Henry Lotz

CANAAN — Howard Henry Lotz, 97, a resident of Canaan, and Sarasoto, Flori-da passed away peacefully at his home in Connecticut on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, sur-rounded by his loving fam-ily. Born on May 23, 1927, in Mount Savage, Maryland as one of 14 children born to William Lotz and Grace Ceci-lia (McKenzie) Lotz. On June 2, 1956, he married the love of his life, Mary Segalla of Canaan and celebrated 68 years of commitment and devotion to each other.

Howard was a proud World War II veteran, serving in the US Marine Corps dur-ing the occupation of China as an Expert Rifleman. He was one of the last surviv-ing founding members and original signee of the VFW Post 6851 Charter in Canaan dated 1955 and then received the Commander’s Award for Excellence in 2018.

Howard retired after 27 years of employment at Sha-ron Hospital in the Mainte-nance Department. He en-joyed coaching Little League baseball and K of C Youth boys basketball. He was an avid golfer acquiring mul-tiple tournament and league

trophies as well as execut-ing three holes in one. He was even noted in Golfer’s digest as the Best Amateur Golfer at the Canaan Country Club. He also enjoyed veg-etable gardening, cooking, and hunting deer and morel mushrooms. But, the most enjoyment and joy he expe-rienced was spending time with his family, especially his six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Howard is survived by his loving wife, Mary; his daugh-ter, Diane Coe, and husband, Michael of West Cornwall, son, Howard H. Lotz II, of Canaan, and son, Robert Lotz and wife Jessica (Sunderland) of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts. Howard is also survived by his sister Grace Lepley, 91, of Mount Savage, Maryland, and several nieces and nephews.

A Catholic funeral mass will be held on Monday Oct. 28, 2024, at 11 a.m. in St. Mar-tin of Tours Parish St. Joseph Church, 4 Main St. North Canaan, CT 06018.

In lieu of flowers, memori-al contributions may be made to VFW Post 6851 104 South Canaan Rd. North Canaan, CT 06018 C/O Commander Kirk Harrington.

Edwin McGhee

MILLERTON — Edwin McGhee, 92, of Millerton, passed away peace-fully at home sur-rounded by his lov-ing wife and three daughters Monday, Oct. 14, 2024. Ed-win was born June 30, 1932 to Edwin and Agnes. He was raised in Miller-ton, alongside his siblings, James and Henry. He graduated from Millerton Union Free, at-tended SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY New Paltz, and served proudly in the Army in the artillery unit. Ed enjoyed a full career at Keuffel and Es-ser (Taconic Products) in the maintenance department. Ed was an avid musician, wood-worker, and gardener. A kind and loving father, husband, and friend. He fiddled, whit-tled, and gardened his way through life from beginning to end.

Edwin is survived by his wife, Marion McGhee, his three daughters, Colleen McGhee (William Anstett), Dawn Runge (Robert), Krista McGhee (Jeffrey Litishin) and his grandchildren, Rob-ert Runge (Michelle), Olivia

Runge (William Clark). Also, his six great grandchildren, his brother Henry McGhee (Roberta), the mother of his daughters, Barbara Baker Byron, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by Clark Barrett and James McGhee (Barbara).

A time for sharing memo-ries and offering condolences was held on Thursday, Oct. 17 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22, Copake. A funeral service was held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. at The Smithfield Church, 656 Smithfield Valley Rd, Amenia, New York. In-terment followed in Irondale Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to Sunday in the Country Food Drive (sundayinthecountry.org), Millerton Fire Department, or to Hudson Valley Hos-pice Dutchess County Office (hvhospice.org). To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Sharon (Barese) Hamilton

LAKEVILLE — Sharon (Barese) Hamilton, 75, of Lakeville—loving mother, grand-mother, sister, and aunt—passed away on July 15, 2024, af-ter a brief and sud-den illness.

Born in Mount Kisco, New York, on Feb. 20, 1949, the daughter of Salvatore E. Barese and Irene Rose (Erdos) Barese, Sharon attended Danbury schools and lived and worked in Danbury before relocating to Lakeville in 2001.

Among her many profes-sional accomplishments, she served as Purchasing Agent for the City of Danbury af-ter placing first on the Civil Service exam for the position, and later as the president of the Public Purchasing Asso-ciation of Connecticut and on the National Board of Direc-tors of the National Institute of Governmental Purchas-ing. She was the founder and publisher of Women’s Forum Magazine, a monthly maga-zine written and illustrated by women to promote women, encourage their personal and professional growth, and lob-by for important legislative changes that affect women in the workforce.

A life-long advocate for women’s rights and lover of the arts, Sharon volunteered for, and sat on the board of, many community organiza-tions over the course of her life, including the David M. Hunt Library, the Women’s Center of Greater Danbury and the Charles Ives Center for the Arts. She was an orig-

inal member of First Night Danbury and an active mem-ber and avid sup-porter of the Dan-bury Downtown Council and the downtown busi-ness community, as well as a member of Danbury’s Com-mission on the Sta-tus of Women.

Sharon was a multi-talented creative with a brilliant mind who could speak intelligently on many subjects. She was a skilled seamstress, a baker, an accomplished knitter and artist, selling her blankets, bags, prints and other wares at local artisan and craft fairs. She loved traveling with her family and took many trips that included four genera-tions, including her beloved grandson, Jack.

Sharon is survived by daughters Dana Lemay of Lakeville and Jennifer Otto of Danbury, grandson Jack Lemay of Lakeville, siblings Nancy Barese, Kathi Heer-ing, and Richard Barese, all of Danbury; and David Barese of New Milford, as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. She is predeceased by her parents and two sisters, Dorene and Barbara.

An outspoken advocate for causes near and dear to her, and a great support and companion to her friends and family, Sharon’s loving and joyful presence will be for-ever remembered and greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024 at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury from 2 to 4 p.m.



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Crest of fall



Worship Services

Week of October 27, 2024

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

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-7260
www.christchurchsharon.org

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 You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

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is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

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

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

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

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

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Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
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Canaan United Methodist Church
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Sunday Worship - 11am
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM
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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

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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

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
Sunday, November 10 at 10:30 a.m.
Marion Williams will present:
HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com
All are Welcome

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

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
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For information, please call 860-824-7078

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Worship Sunday, 10 am
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Warm Fellowship following Worship
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www.uccincornwall.org
Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister
Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community

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!

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

Cornwall fundraising helps hurricane victims in Asheville

By RILEY KLEIN
rileyk@lakevillejournal.com
CORNWALL, Conn. — In response Hurricane Helene’s destruction in and around Asheville, North Carolina, Cornwall’s Transfer Station crew has created a fundrais-ing effort.

Crewmember Will Berry proposed the idea to the Board of Selectmen at a meet-ing Oct. 15. He said the victims need assistance in the areas of food, water, shelter and cloth-ing, but the most effective way to help is to send money. He identified a grassroots organization called Beloved

Asheville that had made a sig-nificant impact on those af-fected. Through a network of volunteers and host families in the area, support is pro-vided on the ground to those who need it most. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway suggested kick-starting the fund with \$1,000 from the town’s Can and Bot-tle Fund. The motion passed unanimously. Donations will be collected at Town Hall and the Trans-fer Station. Checks should be made out to the Town of Cornwall with “Aid to Ashe-ville” in the memo.



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The challenge of controlling the invasive plant Phragmites in wetlands is never ending. This is perhaps comparable to the cleaning out of the Augean stables, which was the fifth labor of Hercules. The great majority of the time this is accomplished with pesticides or burning in the winter. Another innovative method of control is introducing domesticated water buffalo which will actually graze on Phragmites; this is most effective in the spring and should be part of a long term management plan. For more information, please visit the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative website at: www.greatlakesphragmites.net/management/techniques/



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Gun at Amenia dance hall; Millerton teen center request & candidate forum

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

Oct. 19, 1933

‘Hamzy Fined for Sullivan Law Violation’; David Hamzy...youth charged with carrying a gun without a permit, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor indictment in county court...was fined \$50. Hamzy was accused of flourishing a revolver when he became involved in a disturbance in an Amenia dance hall several weeks ago...The defense attorney, George M. Betros, told the court that Hamzy participated in an argument over who should dance with an Amenia girl, and that fifteen Amenia boys became angry when he paid attentions to the girl. Hamzy pulled an unloaded gun, but was “very nice” when Corporal Edwin Drainsey of the Amenia Station, State Police, arrived upon the scene and took him into custody, Betros related.

‘About Millerton’; Harry Miller, Service manager at the Dutchess Auto and Supply Co. is on his vacation. Ronald J. Silvernale, Yorke Blanchard, Robert Fenn, Howard Scutt, William Williams, Oliver Valentine, and Lester Aroh, the latter of Pine Plains, are enjoying a week’s hunting trip in the Adirondacks.

Oct. 17, 1974

‘Millerton Youth Seek Teen Center’; Fourteen teenagers approached the Village Board at its meeting last Wednesday night, Oct. 9, about setting up a teen center in Millerton. Debbie Miller, spokesman for the group, said, “It would help the town. We really need one. We’ve talked to a lot of people who are interested like businessmen and parents.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

She said that the area teenagers wanted a place within the village that was easily accessible where they could go at night. She added that they did not want it to be at Webutuck School because many young people who wish to frequent the center cannot drive and would have a hard time getting rides. Phyllis Flinn, another teenager who is working with Debbie on the project, explained, “ We want something where we can have cokes, a juke box [sic] and someone running it who will roll around with us and not kick us out.” She continued, “We need a place where we can go in and sit down and leave when we want to. We also want someone watching us because there are always a few that will ruin it for the others.”

Oct. 21, 1999

‘Supervisor Candidate Forums To Air Next Week on WQQQ’; Our readers are reminded to tune in early next week for North East and Amenia supervisor candidate forums jointly sponsored by The Millerton News and WQQQ (Q-103 FM). On Monday, Oct. 25, incumbent North East Supervisor David Sherman will exchange views with challenger Sanford Kaplan. The following night Amenia Supervisor Arlene Luliano will square off against opponent Phil Sullivan. Millerton News Senior Reporter Mike Hagerty will moderate the North East forum, while Editor Terry Cowgill will preside over the Amenia exchange. WQQQ Station Manager Ron Lyon will also be present. Both half-hour forums will begin at 7 p.m. and will air live.

A vote for Nicole Ahearn is a vote for Amenia

As a long-time Wassaic resident with more than twenty-five years of state government experience, I ask you to vote for Nicole Ahearn for Amenia Town Board. She’s a wife, a mother and the only full-time resident of Amenia on the ballot. We also don’t have to wonder if she’ll make a great member of the town board. She’s already a member and a fine one. I’ve worked with many elected officials in my long career, so I know Nicole is exactly the kind of person Amenia needs in local government. She understands this community because she’s always been part of it. She’s a life-long Dutchess County resident whose husband’s family has deep roots in Amenia. Nicole and Josh chose to settle in Amenia for the same reasons we all live here. The rural beauty. The peace. The stability. They started and raised their family here so their children would receive a great education and a fine quality of life. Five of their six children attend our local public schools. (Their sixth child, Ryan, is only two and a half,

but will be a Wildcat soon.) Nicole is personally invested our community in many ways. In addition to being an Auxiliary member of the Dover VFW, she’s also been a bus driver for the Webutuck School District for the past decade. She knows your families. Your children. She safely brings them to school each morning. She returns them home safely each afternoon. As if being a working mother of six wasn’t enough, she agreed to be appointed to the Town Board in early 2024. She’s been a tireless advocate of Smart Growth initiatives that encourage housing and jobs that will broaden our tax base. She helped the Town Board move forward with

building a new Town Highway Department garage and salt shed that will keep our roadway infrastructure maintained properly for years to come. She understands Amenia’s wastewater issue and knows a solution is essential for future development. She’s met with the Taconic DDSO developers to guarantee that Amenia will benefit from any future project there. As a wife, mother, and full-time Amenia resident, Nicole understands our daily challenges because she faces them too. She got Sheriff Imperati to hold a community meeting when a deranged criminal tormented Wassaic. She knows the high cost of living our families and our elderly en-

dure. That’s why she fights to keep Town taxes low and keep town government accountable to you, the taxpayer. She also advocated more recreation alternatives, such as concerts, community events and the activation of Amenia’s public spaces to encourage safe usage and tourism. Amenia needs a strong, independent voice who’ll speak for us when it counts. Someone who has always been part of our community. Someone with a strong track record of getting things done. That someone is Nicole Ahearn. I strongly encourage you to vote for her for Amenia Town Board. Terrence McCauley Amenia

Voice in support of Nicole Ahearn

This letter is in support of Nicole Ahearn for Amenia’s Town Board. In 2024, Nicole stepped up to fulfill the position as interim board member when current town supervisor Leo Blackman’s seat opened up. Since then, Nicole has proven herself capable of being a significant contributing member to

the town board with insights on both the longterm and short-term needs of the community. She is a longstanding citizen of the town of Amenia and has her finger on the pulse of the Amenia community. She and

her husband have several children in the Webutuck School District. A vote for for Nicole Ahearn for the Amenia Town Board is a vote for integrity. Margaret O’Brien Amenia



“And now I’ll sing the classic, ”Tine After Tine...”

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@millerton-news.com. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mayville ‘understands’ how government works

I am proud to support Chris Mayville for North East Town Board. I don’t often cross party lines but I served on the Webutuck School Board with Chris for many years (go Wildcats!) and

I know that he is a very dedicated community leader and a skilled public servant. Chris understands how local governments work. He operates with transparency within the rules and holds his colleagues

to account. At the same time, Chris has the political savvy to actually get things done and make things happen. If you don’t believe me, take a look at our schools and see for yourself the transformation of our

facilities that has taken place during his stewardship. It is truly something to be proud of. That is why Chris Mayville has my vote. Thank you. Kristen Panzer

Millerton

Re-elect Didi Barrett for New York State Assembly

Early voting begins on Saturday Oct. 26. Make sure that when you vote, you darken the circle under “Member of Assembly” for Didi Barrett. She deserves our support for all of her policies including raising the minimum wage, supporting veterans especially those with PTSD, funding for rural affordable housing, strengthening laws to protect against gun violence, programs that protect the environment and she is a fierce proponent of women’s health. But you should also vote for her because of the attention she pays to her constituents. She knows our community and its needs well and has been the singular most effective Assembly member for Millerton and North East in our history. She has provided support in transformative ways, relieving tax payers from higher local taxes. Here’s a partial list. \$125,000 for handicap-accessible bleachers for Eddie Collins Park’s Little League field. \$125,000 for renovations at the NorthEast-Millerton

Library. \$125,000 for the solar-powered crosswalk signs on Main Street. More than \$100,000 for programs of the North East Community Center. \$1.5 million to Hudson River Housing for affordable housing projects across the region. \$500,000 for the new Town garage. And as if this weren’t

enough, Didi invited Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to visit Eddie Collins Memorial Park on July 25. His visit resulted in a public commitment to the Village of Millerton to provide up to \$7.5 million in NYS funding for the swimming pool and pool house to cover whatever the Village of Millerton did not receive from grants it had applied for. And so the dream of a swimming pool returning to our beloved

park became an immediate reality. The Village has since engaged an engineering firm to draw up the plans. Hopes are high that construction will start next summer. Wow ... we have an effective Assembly Member who understands that government is here to help its citizens. Please vote to keep Didi Barrett in her job ... she’s doing it so well. Jennifer Dowley North East/Millerton

Ahearn for Amenia Town Council

against Trump are way over-the-top. While I wish that we had different choices, the ones we are presented with make it a pretty easy choice for me, and I would hope, for all Americans. Her position regarding illegal immigration alone, not to mention the policies that she has consistently supported are, in my view wholly disqualifying. And God help our foreign policy were she to get her way. Sadly, neither candidate seems willing to address the looming problem with our National debt, but that problem isn’t going away, and will need to be addressed sooner rather than later. A much brighter situation exists regarding our lo-

cal election for the Amenia Town Council. By virtue of her background (wife, mother, longtime fulltime resident and bus driver), the way she presents herself (calm and poised) and her obvious common sense while serving on the Town Council this year, Nicole Ahearn is clearly a rising star in our Town politics, and we are fortunate to have her willing to serve on the Town Counsel, a difficult job to say the least. If you have had an opportunity to meet her, and watch how she handles herself on the Town Council, you will know why she deserves our enthusiastic support. Michael Chamberlin Amenia Union

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support for Mayville

I am writing to offer my support and urge the voters in the Town of Northeast and Village of Millerton to vote for Chris Mayville to continue serving on the Town Board. I have had the privilege of knowing Chris for several years. As an educator I taught both Chris's wife and son. I also worked with Chris while he was a member of Webutuck Board of Education, first as an educator and again as a fellow school board member. During that time, I was impressed with the way Chris would listen to all points, retain and understand all aspects of a discussion and deliver analytical facts-based opinions to the dialoged. As a community

member I have had several opportunities to have discussions about our town and what his visions for the future are. Again, what stuck with me was how Chris knows the issues that impact our beautiful town, knows the community and many of its members and wants to see measurable progress for the town, the board and its members. Local elections are the ones that can affect real change in real time. I hope every eligible voter gets out there and votes on Nov. 5, and I hope on of your votes is for Chris Mayville, because I believe he is the best person for the Job.

John Merwin
Millerton

Mayville a 'team player'

I am writing this letter in support of Chris Mayville as a candidate for the unexpired seat on the Town of North East Town Board. Chris served on the Webutuck School Board for 10 years, as a member and as vice president. During his time on the board he researched the issues that came in front of us and was always prepared for the meetings. Just as important, he reached out to others to gather opinions and try to come to a decision that everyone could get behind. He

was one of the best team players I have worked with, and that is an important talent to have when representing a community. I have no doubt that he will continue to approach the position of Town Board member with the same diligence that he has shown so far. Chris cares for his community and will work hard for everyone, and I wholeheartedly recommend him to the voters of North East.

Judy Moran
Amenia

Chris Mayville 'knows our community'

On Nov. 5, town and village residents in North East should vote to keep Chris Mayville on our Town Board. Chris has served our town as a Councilman for the last two years and is doing a great job. He is committed to serving our community - previously serving on the Webutuck School Board for ten years and being a Mentor/Coach for youth sports for nine years. Chris knows our community and its people, having lived here over 20 years and being a vital part of our community's life.

Chris Mayville has skills in budget and finance, along with his experience in housing matters, which are much needed on our Town Board. All that, with his quality of 'common sense', is why we should vote to keep him on the job. Come Tuesday, Nov. 5, voters should look for Chris Mayville on the far right of their election ballot and fill in the circle next to his name. It will be one good thing they can do to keep North East and Millerton moving toward a better future.

Robert Cooper
Millerton

More letters on page A5

Urging a vote for Nicole Ahearn on Nov. 5

After seeing the Letters to the Editor in last week's Millerton News, I felt it was important to correct inaccuracies about two important town projects.

First: The Amenia Green concept will not cost the town 'millions', nor will it be a 'splash pad.' The maximum cost for the entire project is estimated at between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. However, between community donations and money from the Recreation Capital Im-

provement Fund, the Town is eligible to receive \$750,000 in matching grants. Construction will be limited to only the amount we receive in grant money. This is part of my ongoing commitment to always spend taxpayer money wisely.

Unfortunately, Mr. Miller and Town Supervisor Blackman oppose the Amenia Green project because they support building affordable housing in the parking lot and field next to Town Hall. I believe an open space effort like Amenia

Green is far too important to our community to suffer due to gross inaccuracies and generalizations by certain officials.

Second: Building a new Highway Garage has never been Mr. Miller's priority. His main priorities have always been wastewater and housing with little regard for community input or legitimate community concerns. Along with my fellow board members Nicole Ahearn and Brad Rebillard, I have always been a strong advocate for a new

Highway Department garage and we continue to support it.

Nicole Ahearn and I don't always agree on every matter that comes before the Town Board, but we agree on what's important. We agree that Mr. Miller's vision for Amenia is simply wrong. Amenia should vote for the candidates who represent them. That's why I strongly urge you to support Nicole Ahearn for Town Board.

Paul Winters
Amenia

Vote in support of Amenia Free Library

It has been a busy and challenging year for the Amenia Free Library. We began with a search for a Library Assistant to enable us to add six additional hours to the schedule. As the search began, we found out that our assistant, who had been deeply involved in our programs, was moving from the area. So we found ourselves with a 2-person search and the requisite training needed for Library Operations and Programming. I am pleased to report that we are now fully

staffed with well trained personnel and that we have indeed extended our hours as planned. Hope Bruzzi and Megan Marshall join Tina Hosier and Library Director Victoria Herow in delivering a full range of services to our wonderful patrons. We are now open until 6 p.m. on weekdays except Wednesday, when we serve the public until 7 p.m. Saturday hours remain 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

With an eye toward expansion of our programs for all ages, and the reality of increas-

ing costs, we are asking the public to increase our annual funding by \$20K on Nov. 5. Please turn over you ballot and vote "YES" on Proposition #2. The cost to taxpayers will be about an additional \$4.80 annually (40 cents per month) for a residence with a \$300,000 assessed value. As we continually remind Amenia residents, taxpayer funding is only used for our operating budget. The marvelous facility that we now operate from is entirely funded by Donations and

Grants. We encourage each of you to visit us, check our website (AmeniaLibrary.org), or our Facebook page to learn more about what's happening. Board members will be at the Library on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., should you wish to chat with us.

Thanks for your consideration on Election Day and your belief in the value of your Library.

Alan Gamble
Amenia

Supporting Amenia's Nicole Ahearn

As an Amenia Councilman for the past three years and a lifelong resident of Dutchess County, I believe it's important to set the record straight for voters. Election season is often filled with grand promises from candidates, and this year is no different. Candidate Charlie Miller is offering snippets of plans as if they'll materialize overnight, yet he continues to overlook the essential needs of taxpayers. I'd like to clarify a few things based on my firsthand experience.

As a former member of the Amenia Wastewater Committee, I've seen how challenging it is to move this project forward. Wastewater is a critical

issue, but the solution must involve homeowners and business owners in the district, as it's their referendum to vote on. The problem has always been that their voices aren't part of the broader conversation. For example, the Amenia water system is already in need of costly repairs and federally mandated upgrades, which will increase charges for current water district residents. Until we know what those costs will be, it's irresponsible to proceed with wastewater planning and engineering fees, which would then add more expenses for those in the water district. This initiative simply won't

pass under these conditions.

Regarding affordable housing, I agree that we need it. However, one of the proposed locations by Miller and Supervisor Blackman, next to the Amenia Town Hall, is a well-known flood zone and is unsuitable for development. Moreover, when these projects are funded through government and block grants, outside stakeholders will continue to have input, which could limit access to these homes for local residents, their families, and our seniors. Once again, it's a waste of taxpayer money to plan and study a proposal that isn't feasible.

I've heard from many of you about your vision for Amenia: a stronger business district, a safer community, better education for our children, and, most importantly, smart growth. Councilwoman Nicole Ahearn, who currently sits on the board, is the candidate who can make that vision a reality. Her opponent's approach seems more focused on turning Amenia into the next suburb of Westchester. Let's support Nicole Ahearn and allow her to continue the great work she's been doing for our community.

Brad Rebillard
Councilman
Amenia

New York ballot: Prop 1 = Equality

There's a secret on the New York ballot that few are aware of. It's Proposition 1 - formerly known as the Equal Rights Amendment. Voters have the

opportunity to decide if they want to ensure equal rights are in the New York State Constitution. Why? Because then new legislation is enacted with the spirit that all are equal - yes this means women, seniors, the disabled, and all people regardless of how they identify. Right now the State Constitution protects race and religion - leaving other groups at risk of legislation against them such as reproductive rights. There

is a misinformation campaign, mostly on billboards, creating knee jerk reactions. This amendment does not change any existing laws. It does not impact parental rights, participation on sports teams, immigration or qualifications for voting. Those that we put in office with our votes decide those issues. Let's stand up for a New York that believes in civil rights.

Maureen Rule
Amenia



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Jack-o'-lanterns in waiting

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THE NEWS ON TRIAL

The news media prepared to cover the 2024 presidential election as a historic test of American democracy. It has turned into a test of the future of American journalism. How did we do?



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

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Please register for this event
on the Salisbury Forum website.

Find us on  

www.salisburyforum.org

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OUR TOWNS

Amenia Town Board schedules 2025 budget hearing for Nov. 7

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Following continuing discussion on the details of the 2025 Preliminary Budget proposal, the Town Board at its meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17, voted unanimously to schedule the annual public hearing for Thursday, Nov. 7, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Under town law, the public hearing must be scheduled for the first Thursday following the general election that will occur on Tuesday, Nov. 5. The town is required to adopt its

final budget for 2025 on or before Wednesday, Nov. 20.

To view the preliminary 2025 budget in advance of the public hearing, go to www.ameniany.gov.

Explaining the impact on the local mill rate, Director of Finance Charlie Miller reported that a tentative rate for 2025 would be 2.10262 mills, with all proposed revisions taken into account from previous budget review sessions conducted by the Town Board. The 2024 rate was 1.93296. The increase in the mill rate amounts to 8.8%.

The increase is largely

driven by the substantial effect of projected increase in cost for ambulance service, Miller said, although noting that negotiations are ongoing. The projected debt service for the new town garage is already included in the budget, Miller said.

Brief discussion centered on the Building Department's request for a town vehicle for use by the Building Inspector, who now uses his personal vehicle for his official duties.

The question was whether the vehicle presents a sufficient benefit to the town's residents.

Councilman Paul Winters felt that the vehicle use could be scheduled in such a way as to produce revenue for the town in increased regulation enforcement. As the board thought it would be useful to hear Councilman Brad Rebillard's opinion on the issue, and as he was absent from the meeting, further discussion was postponed.



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Harvest time

Wake Robin applicants revise proposal; neighbors still oppose redevelopment

By ALEC LINDEN
alecl@lakevillejournal.com
SALISBURY, Conn. — Altered plans were presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission Oct. 16 at the third round of a public hearing to redevelop the Wake Robin Inn.

"Not one of these changes downsizes the enormity of this project," said Lakeville resident Darryl Peck, encapsulating much of the public response to the amended plans.

Representatives of the applicant (Aradev LLC), led primarily by landscape architect Mark Arigoni of SLR Consulting, presented an updated plan for the property. The changes were intended to address and respect concerns from the public and from P&Z voiced at the first two meetings of the public hearing.

Major changes to the design included moving the pool and spa, previously intended

to be installed adjacent to Wells Hill Road, further back on the property, closer to the existing Inn site. Cottages will take the place of the pool and spa alongside the road in the revised schema.

The new events barn, which will house a casual restaurant, was downsized "by about 20%" from a 200 person maximum occupancy to 125, according to Arigoni. Other measures in the report included a tree health survey meant to inform a preservation plan, reducing nighttime operating hours, installing a curfew on events, stringent volume control rules for outdoor music and runoff infrastructure.

P&Z reacted positively to the updated plan. "I do think it is better, and I think it responded to a lot of the neighbors' concerns," P&Z vice chair Cathy Shyer said.

"I certainly think it's a big improvement," said P&Z chair

Michael Klemens.

The public was less enthusiastic, citing continued concerns from earlier meetings of the hearing including noise and light pollution, increased traffic, doubts about the town's sewage capacity, parking (both too much and too little), and aesthetic and cultural issues.

Neighbors asked how the measures to control crowds and noise will be enforced. Resident Andy Plesser suggested that the events barn will be too big to enforce the occupancy limit. Peck entertained the idea of having police at events to enforce limitations. "Perhaps, if that were a requirement, this project is completely wrong for Lakeville," he said.

The biggest complaints seemed to be about the size of the project and the effects the development would have on the town.

"It's out of character with

the neighborhood," said resident Julie Norwell, echoing other complaints about the impacts the development will have on the area.

There were also complaints levied against P&Z itself, questioning conflict of interest in the Commission with the project. Resident Joe Costa requested that any commission members with personal ties to the applicant be recused from any vote that might impact the decision.

Not all public feedback was negative: 45 year Lakeville resident Peter Oliver contributed that "the applicants have done a fine job," while Robin Leech said, "the plan is wonderful."

"There will be at least two other public hearings on this," said Klemens.

The next hearing will be conducted at the P&Z's regular meeting on Nov. 18, with another following later in the month.

Dutchess County comptroller to host fraud prevention seminars

POUGHKEEPSIE — Dutchess Comptroller A. Gregg Pulver has partnered with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney Anthony Parisi for two fraud prevention seminars in Millbrook and Wappinger this month.

The first seminar will be at the Farm and Home Cen-

ter in Millbrook, Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 2 to 3 p.m. The second is in Wappinger at the Senior Center the following Wednesday, Oct. 30 again from 2 to 3 p.m.

Experts will discuss common scams, tips for fraud prevention and what to do as a target of an online scam. RSVP is not required to attend.

Climate Smart group talks heat pumps

MILLERTON — Saving money and the climate are two topics to be addressed at a presentation "Are Heat Pumps Right for Me?" from 3 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex at 28 Century

Bvd. Expert installers and advisors will compare systems and discuss the financial incentives available at the program sponsored by Climate Smart of Millerton. For information about the systems go to climatesmartmillerton.org.

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Becton Dickinson ramps up syringe production amid demand driven by China quality concerns

By **DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS**
Special to The Millerton News

NORTH CANAAN, Conn. — Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) has ramped up its production of syringes at its North Canaan plant in response to quality issues with plastic syringes imported from China which were uncovered late last year by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

BD, a leading global medical technology company and Northwest Connecticut’s largest employer, responded to the FDA’s recommendation that consumers, health-care providers and healthcare facilities transition away from plastic syringes made in China by increasing its domestic manufacturing of syringes at the company’s Connecticut and Nebraska facilities.

Since January, BD’s 385,000 square foot North Canaan plant has increased its output of syringes “by over 40% to meet the needs of U.S. healthcare customers,” said Fallon McLoughlin, director of public relations and corporate communications for the Franklin Lakes, New Jersey-based company.

“BD has achieved this increase by driving operational efficiencies and relocating some production lines from other BD plants,” said McLoughlin.

“We’ve added over 100 full-time associates in the last year, and currently have more than 500 full-time associates

and nearly 50 contingent associates,” she said of the North Canaan site, which began its operations in 1961 with eight employees at a 25,000 square foot facility.

BD draws its employees from throughout Northwest Connecticut and neighboring New York.

McLaughlin noted that its Connecticut plant primarily manufactures small-size syringes, and syringe and needle combination products that are “critical to the delivery of healthcare.”

Operations take place around the clock, producing more than 2 billion medical devices each year that are sold in every region worldwide.

Responding to consumer needs

In March, Eric Borin, president of BD Medication Delivery Solutions, said in a statement “BD has the capacity to support additional syringe demand and is further increasing U.S. production to help ensure continuity of patient care.”

Since the initial FDA safety communication in November 2023, he noted, “BD has increased domestic manufacturing of syringes in our Nebraska and Connecticut facilities to respond to customer needs. Ensuring the safety and quality of our products is the top priority

at BD.”

Borin further noted at the time that “The latest FDA safety communication does not include any BD syringes. Over our more than 125-year history, we have served the health care system’s need for essential high quality medical products, including manufacturing 2 billion additional syringes and needles to support the global pandemic response to COVID-19.”

Syringe manufacturers in China cited

In late November 2023, the FDA announced its probe into reports of leaks, breakages and other quality problems with plastic syringes manufactured in China “that are used for injecting fluids into or withdrawing fluids from, the body,” according to the health regulator.

On March 14, the FDA issued an update on warning letters sent to three entities: Jiangsu Shenli Medical Production Co., Medline Industries, LP and Sol-Millennium Medical Inc., describing violations related to the “sale and distribution of unauthorized plastic syringes that had not been cleared or approved by the FDA,” according to a new release.

“In addition, we are actively evaluating quality issues and performance testing failures with plastic syringes

made by Jiangsu Caina Medical Co., a China-based manufacturer cited in the warning letter issued to Medline Industries, LP. The FDA will take additional steps as appropriate,” the FDA stated.

In its Aug. 16 update, the FDA continued to recommend that healthcare providers “use syringes not manufactured in China, if possible.

“At this time, glass syringes, pre-filled syringes or syringes used for topical purposes are not included. If you only have syringes manufactured in China, then continue to use them as needed until you are able to use alternative syringes and closely monitor for leaks, breakage and other problems,” the FDA announced.

In March, BD was named to Fortune’s 2024 list of America’s Most Innovative Companies, and in September, the company announced that it had been named to TIME’s 2024 list of the World’s Best Companies based on employee feedback.

BD’s operations in North Canaan have also been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for achieving the Energy Star Challenge for Industry for energy reduction. The site is a landfill-free site where waste is reduced, recycled or converted into energy.

TOWN BUDGET *Continued from Page A1*

through a 414 budget vote on Election Day.

The town has been providing the library \$175,000, which includes \$125,000 secured from a 2007 vote and an additional \$50,000 that the town has been providing since 2019.

Since securing the \$125,000 in 2007, the library has determined it needs more funds for day-to-day activities and maintenance. In 2019, the Town of North East voluntarily provided the further support of \$50,000 each year since then. Though it seems the funding will remain the same, this year the library is returning to the ballot in order to secure the total budget of \$175,000 from the town.

The Fire District’s budget has risen from \$756,222 in 2024 to a tentative budget of \$771,366, a 2% increase. The Water District is slated for a 2.7% addition, which adds \$1,010 to its tentative budget

appropriation of \$39,978. Another large jump in the town’s proposed spending is for town hall renovations, expected to increase by 50%. In 2024 the town used \$25,000 for renovations and has put down \$50,000 for the next preliminary budget.

There are some cutbacks in proposed spending. For example, the new budget cuts \$20,000 of funding for a part of snow removal, now bringing that budget to \$100,000.

The Highway Department’s budget has been lowered by 15.2%, going from \$1,775,706 in 2024 to \$1,504,963 for the draft of 2025, reducing the amount by about \$270,000.

With the new recreation programs this year, the budget has increased by \$4,800 for the Village’s program. The budget also shows small changes in salaries and benefits for town employees, with medical benefits showing the most change.

BEAVERS *Continued from Page A1*

Now, as a result of careful management and reintroduction, Fargione said the beaver population has grown to about 2 million.

This brings challenges, but it also allows the landscape to return to the transitive nature it had prior to European settlement 400 years ago. Fargione said the modern, agricultural landscape that exists in Dutchess County is the result of human intervention and the removal of beavers. Before beavers were nearly eradicated, the rodents carefully redirected water, manipulating wetlands and low-lying forests and fields to create cyclical habitats. Human farmers responded by channelizing streams, drying swamps and driving out beavers to create more consistently dry farmlands.

Now, as beavers make their return, their incessant need to dam up streams and create beaver ponds is in direct conflict with human infrastructure.

Roads on Cary’s campus have started to show serious signs of damage from the beaver’s hydro-engineering. One path has been completely closed because erosion has created a sinkhole in the middle of the pavement. One group of beavers created

a pond that was flooding the nearby New York State Police Troop K headquarters on Route 82. Fargione took the group by a low-lying brush pit to demonstrate the huge changes beavers can cause.

Before the beavers came in, the low-lying area was a dense forest full of alders, red maples and aspen trees, beavers’ preferred foods. Two streams came down the mountains from the south, feeding water into the low-lying area, and heavier-than-usual storms started to flood the patch. Noticing the new flooding and the tasty wood, beavers got to work damming up the edges of the patch, creating a 20 acre area of standing water five feet deep at its deepest point. In a matter of weeks the slightly-wet forest was transformed into a murky swamp, bringing different animals and vegetation. The day of the hike the pond was dry, but Fargione said the water didn’t just evaporate.

“A lot of that water goes back into the water table, recharging our aquifer,” Fargione said.

The habitats created by beavers are essential to local wildlife. “There’s lots of wildlife here just because beavers changed the ecology,” Fargione said.

SOCCKER

Continued from Page A1

to bring the game to 1-1. That tie was short-lived as a foul awarded a penalty kick to Millbrook that sailed into the back of the goal, bringing the score to 2-1.

Salisbury maintained the intensity, but every time the Knights tied the game up the Mustangs found another opportunity to take back the lead. With just 90 seconds left in the game and a tied score of 3-3, Millbrook was granted a free kick that squeaked by Salisbury’s keeper, eliminating any hopes of the Knights taking the win back home to Connecticut that chilly Friday night.

The Fall Family Weekend game at Millbrook’s campus ended with a Mustang win 4-3.

ervation.

“The first surprise is that most people don’t know that the garbage is taken from their curb and driven to be burned,” Sandra Stratton-Gonzalez, a member of Mothers Out Front for Dutchess County, said. “The second thing that people don’t know are all the detrimental health effects of all the pollutants that come out of that city.”

Their current campaign is “Trash the Incinerator — Clean Air for Dutchess County,” which aims to educate people about the hazards that could come from the county’s incinerator, which is located in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

The American Lung Association 2023 State of the Air Report indicates that in Dutchess County, 4,456 children and more than 25,000 adults suffer from asthma. 61% of residents are susceptible to air pollution, includ-

ing 53,776 people under the age of 18.

The Dutchess County Incinerator is the number one industrial emitter of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, mercury and other substances that trigger asthma. Mothers Out Front encourages a zero-waste management plan, which can reduce waste without incineration and even create jobs that would boost the regional economy.

“We have spent a lot of time over the past year or so, sort of talking to our neighbors about their top priorities, and they tell us that climate, health and housing are their top priorities,” Beacon Time and Action Now co-founder Erin Ashoka said. “I think that the incinerator is an important intersection for these

priorities.”

Poughkeepsie is currently an Asthma Capital and in 2023 was ranked number six in the United States as one of the most challenging places to live with asthma by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

So far the movement has received nearly 900 county residents and was brought to the Dutchess County Legislature. Nine people made public comments during the Legislative meeting after the rally on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Afterwards, Will Truitt, Chair of the Dutchess County legislature, invited Mothers Out Front to meet with him.

“We look forward to this meeting,” Stratton-Gonzalez said, “And to the anticipated November release of the 2025 County Budget.”



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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Above, Bearett and Wesson O'Dell complete the corn maze at Falls Village Fall Fest, Oct. 19. Left, Best Overall Pie winner Eileen Kinsella presents her award.



LIFESTYLE: LANS CHRISTENSEN

Falls Village: Autumn delights

The spacious and inviting Falls Village Recreational Center was site of the Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 19.

A truly gorgeous day welcomed visitors to the afternoon gathering surrounded by fall foliage. The Recreation Department and David M. Hunt Library put together the festival and offered games, music, and food for all ages.

Kids could paint pumpkins or, if they chose, could have their faces painted. Music was provided by John Stey and Rachel Gall, who laughingly said, "I'm also known as the Falls Village Fiddler."

The premier draw was definitely the "Pie Contests. Open to all, "baked from scratch" pies filled the judging table and there were 14 mouthwatering entries.

Apple and pumpkin were the majority of entries, with a strawberry rhubarb in the mix as well. Four judges eagerly



Above, Falls Village Recreation Director Emily Peterson cuts pies for eager guests and judges. Below, children paint pumpkins.

sampled the pies and made detailed notes on taste, originality, and presentation.

Judge Denny Jacobs said he was "amazed at the variety and differences in just the apple pies" and added, "All the pies tasted great but there were a couple of outstanding ones."

Results were tabulated and Emily Peterson, Falls Village Recreation



Director announced the winners: Piper Peterson's pumpkin pie took third, Tamara Polk's pumpkin took second, and the grand prize went to Eileen Kinsella and her

apple pie. The eager public was then offered a tasting and loved every entry and gave the "Peoples Choice" award to Katlyn Kinsella.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Can Can Carl, the scarecrow made out of recyclable materials, at Lawrence Field.

LIFESTYLE: ALEC LINDEN

Fall fun in North Canaan

The North Canaan Pumpkin Fest occupied the expanse of Lawrence Field with spectacular weather on Saturday, Oct. 19.

While sporting a new name, North Canaan Events Committee Chair Jenn Crane assured that this year's festival was a continuation of previous autumn celebrations organized by the Committee. It was the first year the event has been located at Lawrence Field, which Crane said was a welcomed change from the more restrictive sites of previous iterations.

"This is really about collaboration," Crane said, highlighting the many partnerships that enabled the festival to go forward. The Committee joined with many local nonprofits and businesses to bring the action to Lawrence Field, including the Housatonic

Valley FFA Chapter, the Scouts, Saint Martin of Tours church, The Music Lab, and the Cranford Club. Local farms also joined in, with Freund's, Ford and Carlwood farms contributing to the festivities.

Vendor tents lined the field selling various crafts and trinkets, while activities for families included pumpkin painting, regular painting, face painting, kids karaoke and a petting zoo. The festival ran an emergency relief drive for communities in the Southeast impacted by Hurricane Helene, which was continued at town hall on Sunday.

The petting zoo was operated by the Housatonic Valley FFA and included two alpacas and several pint-sized goats in a small pen. Chris Crane, president of

Continued on next page

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BOOKS: PETER B. KAUFMAN

Examining 'dignity in the digital age'

Former president Donald J. Trump's October 2024 call to revoke the broadcast license of CBS for election interference put the spotlight (perhaps just for a hot second) on another place it belongs in American culture: our government policy toward media and the technology overrunning our lives.

"TAKE AWAY THE CBS LICENSE. Election Interference," the ex-President posted, evidence-free, on his own platform, Truth Social. "An UNPRECEDENTED SCANDAL!!!"

"[T]he Greatest Fraud in Broadcast History"

At the end of the 19th century, the Lumière brothers premiered the first moving image film in Paris and Thomas Edison figured out electricity, the light bulb, and the phonograph. Advance the clock 130 years and toss in the advent of computational power and you get the technology steering our present moment: one where Alphabet (the parent company of Google), Amazon, Apple, Meta (Facebook), and Microsoft have a combined market capitalization of \$10 trillion but hardly any regulations over how they control our society.

Author Frank McCourt knows. A billionaire investor turned philanthropist and author, McCourt presents us with details about

how our information system has failed us, but brings with them a game plan for urgent reform – what he calls, rightfully and with no exaggeration, "a once-in-a-civilization opportunity."

We've become enthralled to our digital overlords, McCourt (and his co-author William J. Casey) tell us, each of us the digital equivalent of a feudal serf working land we don't own.

When Amazon Web Services, for example, hosts a third of all websites; Google (with its 4+ billion users!) dominates search, email, video hosting, GPS services, document sharing, and smartphone software; Facebook collects 50,000 data points on each user; and Amazon and Facebook together take in "fully half" of all online advertising dollars, we've let our modern Rockefellers and Carnegies rule the roost.

"Our Biggest Fight" explains how these companies and the Internet as a whole have "evolved away" from earlier ideals into a system that is choking us. Inspired by Thomas Paine and his pamphlet Common Sense and the trust-busting of Teddy Roosevelt, McCourt presents plans for the "NewNet" and what he calls Project Liberty at www.projectliberty.io/

We need to "re-architect" our media and technology ecosystem,

McCourt says, with deeper and systematic consideration of data storage and portability and ownership, cybersecurity, and digital property rights. And it's not just about the money. People and machines are now sliding "an array of racist, misogynist, judgmental, bullying, reductionist, untruthful content into our increasingly toxic online environments."

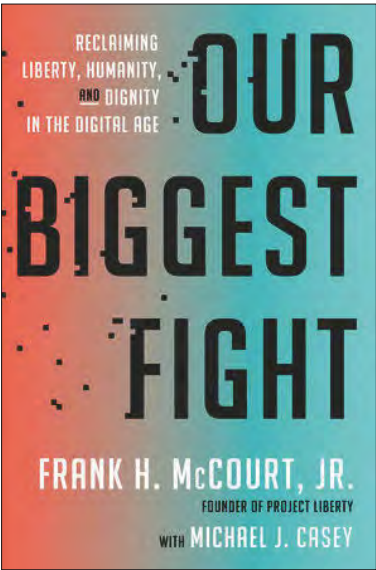
He's right. And how about the math? In 2022 we each spent 151 minutes a day on social media. If you figure five billion people are online, and add up all the days in a year, that's a lot of time that these companies have "sucked out of our lives" and "converted into advertising dollars."

"We have a serious, global addition problem," McCourt writes. "A public health threat that overshadows even the recent global pandemic." "Society is shaped by information," McCourt tells us. Letting everything get away from us may turn out to be "one of the greatest mistakes human civilization has ever made."

Frank McCourt one of the few who can see the symptoms of crisis today, diagnose it, and propose and help administer treatment. Those interested in building a new "social contract" for the Internet age should dive into his plan of action to-

day. And now's the time, before others with other plans, or concepts of plans, start taking away our broadcast licenses and more – by force.

* Peter B. Kaufman works at MIT. His new book, *The Moving Image: A User's Manual*, comes out in February.



Hotchkiss Philharmonic returns Nov. 2

By Ira Buch

The Hotchkiss School will kick off its 2024-2025 Philharmonic season on Saturday, Nov. 2, with a special performance headlined by internationally acclaimed violinist Siqing Lu. The concert will start at 7 p.m. and will run till 8:30 p.m. in the Katherine M. Elfers Hall.

The Hotchkiss Philharmonic was established in 2018 by Barbara Walsh Hostetter (class of '77) and Amos Hostetter to provide gifted young musicians with an opportunity to perform alongside successful professionals. The concerts remain free and open to all community members—no registration required.

The November Philharmonic will be marked by a solo from influen-

tial Chinese violinist Siqing Lu. With over five decades of experience, Lu made history in 1987 as the first Asian violinist to win the prestigious International Paganini Violin Competition. He has since served as the first Chinese soloist-in-residence with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in 2019-2020 and has been a judge for numerous prestigious musical competitions. He is currently the Artistic Director of both the National Center for the Performing Arts May Festival in Beijing and the Siqing Lu Shenzhen Futian International String Festival.

At Hotchkiss, Lu will perform Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 – one of the most popular violin concertos in solo violin repertoire.

Complementing Lu's

performance, Fabio Wirkowski, a head of the Hotchkiss visual and performing arts department and a founder of The Hotchkiss Philharmonic Orchestra, will conduct Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet and Mascagni's Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana, an Italian one act opera.

Hotchkiss student musicians, 22 in total, who are a part of the orchestra will play the two pieces along with local musical professionals and teachers.

The next performance as a part of the Philharmonic season will be orchestrated on April 3, 2025. The upcoming concert on Nov. 2 will mark the beginning of a season rich in musical excellence and inspiring performances at Hotchkiss.

Kidsdale Halloween Monster Mash

The festive spirit is set to come alive at Hillsdale Hamlet Park on Saturday, Oct. 26, with Kidsdale: Halloween Monster Mash Edition. This free, family-friendly event will take place from 2:30 to 5:15 p.m., offering live music, games, Halloween costumes, prizes, and a variety of food and beverages. The rain date is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 27, at the same time.

Attendees can enjoy tunes from Count Slinkula and his Muhmys, savor fresh cider from Little Apple Cider, and grab a bite from the Half Moon Pizza Truck. Local merchants will also join the celebration with a Pumpkin Festival, featuring face painting, giveaways, and in-store contests throughout the day. Costumes are encouraged for children, adults, and even pets, as they join in the Halloween fun.

The day will wrap up with the Hillsdale Fire Company #1's annual children's hayride at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Halloween party at the firehouse, located at 9387 State Route 22.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sponsored by the Hillsdale Hamlet Committee, Kidsdale aims to bring the community together while gathering feedback on enhancing Hamlet Park. "Our Hamlet Park is a vital but underused asset," said Shannon Bell, chair of the Hamlet Committee. "Our goal is for Kidsdale to be just one of many events that bring people

to the park throughout the year."

"This Halloween edition of Kidsdale is going to be great fun with costumes, candy, live music, and the community," added Hillsdale town board member Joanna Virello.

For more information and to fill out the Hamlet Park survey, visit hillsdaleny.com

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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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

Apple 'n' Things Fair

Falls Village Congregational Church, 16 Beebe Hill Rd. Falls Village, Conn.

The Apples 'n' Things Fair at the Congregational Church in Falls Village will take place on Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a hot lunch of chili, cornbread and apple crisp served, \$8 adult/\$4 child, apple pies and other bake sale goodies for sale, with an autumn sale item table and hayrides.

Chocolate Making Workshop with Flora Lazar

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

On Oct. 26 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., make chocolate with chef Flora Lazar.

Register: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13189296

Norfolk Lion's Club Lasagna Dinner

Botelle Cafeteria, 128 Greenwoods Rd E, Norfolk Historic District, Conn.

There will be a Family and Friends Lasagna Dinner on Oct. 26 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening of hearty food, fun, and friendship together. \$10 adults - \$6 children under 10. Take out available. 860-866-7923 for info and tickets.

Kidsdale: Halloween Monster Mash

Hillsdale Hamlet Park, Hillsdale, N.Y.

Kidsdale: Halloween Monster Mash returns to Hillsdale on Sat., Oct. 26, with live music, games, costumes, and food from 2:30 to 5:15 p.m. at Hillsdale Hamlet Park. Rain date is Sun., Oct. 27. Enjoy music, kids' activities, and treats, including food from the Half Moon Pizza Truck and cider from Little Apple Cidery. At 5:30, the Hillsdale Fire Company hosts a children's hayride and party. Sponsored by the Hillsdale Hamlet Committee, the event includes a survey to improve Hamlet Park.

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

B	L	A	C	K
T	O	N	I	C
P	R	I	C	E
C	R	I	M	P
C	R	I	S	P

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.

Fall Craft & Vendor Sale

Amenia Fire House, Mechanic St., Amenias, N.Y.

On Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. fall into the holiday season with our Fall Craft & Vendor Sale. Located at the Amenias Fire House. Contact Stacie for a table 845-421-4953 \$25.00 per table. (This will take place of our regular December craft fair.)

OCTOBER 27

Film Screening

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

Kinetic sculptor Tim

Prentice looks back on his career and the influences that shaped him in the film "The Air Made Visible." A screening will play at Cornwall Library Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. on Zoom. In-person seating is full. Registration is required for the Zoom event at cornwalllibrary.org

Apple Cooking & Baking Contest

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

Enter your best apple dish for a chance to win!

Drop-off: 1 to 3 p.m.; Judging: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 28

Par for the Corks

Silo Ridge Field Club, 4651 NY-22, Amenias, N.Y.

Join the Amenias-Wassaic Community Organization for a golf scramble and a day of fun at Silo Ridge Field Club. All event proceeds to benefit the Amenias-Wassaic Community Organization and the local community.

OCTOBER 29

Salisbury READS: North Woods Discussion

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

Another chance to discuss North Woods. This event is from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on Oct. 29.

Wickers Creek Band at the Copake Grange

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

Oct. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. The Wickers Creek Band performs an eclectic mix of traditional American music, primarily in the Bluegrass tradition. The five-person group sings in close harmonies backed up by fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar and bass. The band's repertoire includes classic and contemporary Bluegrass, country and Appalachian music, with a dollop of French Canadian, Celtic and New England dance tunes thrown in for good measure.

(wickerscreekband.com) \$20 at the door or pay what you can.

MOVIE TRIVIA NIGHT: Annual Costume Competition!

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.

The Moviehouse is hosting a movie trivia night on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

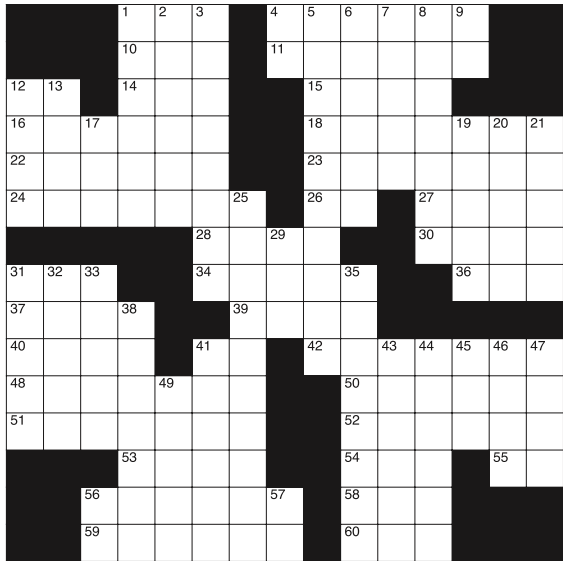
FREE - No ticket or advance registration required.

Play solo or get a team together of up to 4 people. Come early & snag your spot. Space will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a prize for the most imaginative costume.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- “60 Minutes” network
- Train line
- Go quickly
- Straightforward
- Canadian province
- At any rate (abbr.)
- Genealogy
- Make changes
- Utter repeatedly
- In a way, turned up
- Type of ship
- Agents of one's downfall
- Not out
- Something to scratch
- Round water pot
- Refreshing green fruit (slang)
- Promotions
- Primordial matters
- One-time world power (abbr.)
- Source of illumination
- The content of cognition
- An Arab ruler
- South Dakota
- Gnawed at with teeth
- Hawaiian island
- Smaller
- Of a single person
- Rigid bracelet
- Barbary sheep (Fr.)
- Not even
- Specific gravity
- Engage in petty bargaining
- Boxing's “GOAT”
- Split between parties
- Notable offensive



- Flesh covering some birds' beaks
- Energy
- Night monkeys genus
- Small, sharp nails
- Pleasant-smelling liquid
- Affirms one's hold
- CNN's founder
- Texans can't forget it
- “Oppenheimer” actor Matt
- Expression
- Vessel
- Lacking poetic beauty
- Tall, swift and slender dog
- Sports personality Michelle
- Robber

- Liquefied natural gas
- Snakelike fishes
- The most worthless part of something
- City in Crimea
- Bad grades
- Reichsmark

Oct. 17 Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Oct. 17 Solution

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

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.

- Structured written argument
- Hot water vapor
- Beam of focused light
- Train ticket prices
- Autumn garden tools

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL



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OUR TOWNS

Tale of woe: Black cats undeservedly shunned and stigmatized, regional rescue groups report

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to The Millerton News

Lucian is one lucky black cat. The emerald-eyed feline has been living in the lap of luxury since being rescued from the streets of Albany nine years ago by the Pecha family of Falls Village.

Today Lucian lives in Litchfield with his owner, David Pecha, where he spends his days cat-napping, bird-watching, attention-seeking and occasionally cajoling with a neighborhood fox.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Lucian picked his owners outside a grocery store.

Unlike Lucian, not all black cats end up in forever homes. According to regional animal rescue groups, black pets in general, and black cats in particular, are often shunned by prospective adopters.

Enter National Black Cat Day 2024, which falls on Oct. 27 this year. The annual awareness day is designed to support and promote the beauty and well-being of black cats and to dispel myths and superstitions that have haunted them for centuries, particularly around Halloween.

The day plays a vital role in advocating for welfare and adoption of black cats.

Shunned — no fault of their own

“I’ve had someone come up to me and say they would take anything but black,” said Beverly Ditto of Collaborative Cats, a feline foster home-based rescue organization serving Southern Columbia and Northern Dutchess counties of New York. “There are black cat lovers, but that is rare.”

Ditto, who has owned several black cats, said she has found them to be among the “sweetest and most lovable” of felines, second to orange cats, and not deserving of being feared.

She attributes their lack of popularity to long-held superstitions about them being harbingers of bad luck or that they are evil doers associated with Satanic rituals. Black cats also blend in with shadows, giving them a spooky appearance.

Because superstitions

about black cats are reinforced around Halloween, it is common for shelters to put adoptions on hold. According to the Smithsonian, some adoption agencies and shelters won’t even consider placing black cats in homes until after Halloween for fear they will be tortured or sacrificed.

“All the shelters generally are very nervous about adopting out before Halloween,” said Ditto. “There are people out there to be known to harm black cats. I haven’t encountered that, but it has been a big worry amongst the rescues.”

Currently, Collaborative Cats, which takes in stray, abandoned, injured and homeless felines, has several black kittens available for adoption, including Roary, Jacques and Lucifer, all described as sweet and playful.

The organization, which is not a shelter, said Ditto, is constantly seeking new foster homes for its approximately 100 felines.

Raven and Bagheera

At The Little Guild in West Cornwall, two black cats, Raven and Bagheera, arrived at the shelter in August and are awaiting adoption. Both are about a year old and have the sweetest dispositions, said the shelter’s executive director Jenny Langendoerfer.

“It is interesting that people do like to see unique colorings and markings,” she noted. “But the one thing about black cats is that they make the most wonderful pets.”

Langendoerfer described Bagheera, a sturdy, green-eyed young male, as a “mini

panther, very silly and very sweet,” and 1-year-old Raven as very playful.

Lauren Mucha, one of the caregivers at The Last Post cat sanctuary and cat retirement home in Falls Village, Conn., where 124 cats reside, said about 20 of its feline residents

are black.

She said she is perplexed as to why people would shy away from dark-coated cats, as they don’t deserve the negative image.

One cat in particular, Jinx, has been a resident at The Last Post for the last eight years and does not have a mean bone in its body, said Mucha, who described him as a Velcro cat, a “real cuddler.”

This cat picked his family

Not everyone is on board with the negative black cat spin. For some, a visit from a black cat means good luck or prosperity. In some cultures, black cats, considered sleek and seductive with their all-knowing yellow and green eyes, are even worshipped.

Take Lucian’s owner, David Pecha, for instance.

The mini household pan-

ther was rescued by Pecha’s son, Alex, about nine years ago while attending college in Albany. Alex and a friend had emerged from a grocery store “and the cat came flying out from under a car, meowing at them and trailing them.”

It was the end of the school year, and because the cat appeared to be pretty well cared for, said Pecha, they thought it might have escaped during the confusion of the move.

After failing to find a no-kill shelter nearby, they took Lucian back home with them to Falls Village and posted “cat found” posters around campus, but no one came forth to claim the black cat, said Pecha.

Before long, Lucian befriended a doppelganger named Bagheera, owned by the Atwood family just up the street, Pecha recalled.

“He was the spitting image of Lucian, and they hung out together. You would see the two of them running around the streets in the middle of town.”

When Pecha relocated to Litchfield a few years ago, so did Lucian, who has since settled into his new quarters, according to his owner. He considers his cat to be more like a loyal dog, with a unique personality.

Unlike other cats, Lucian doesn’t use a water bowl. Instead, he laps up his drink from a tall glass, filled with cool water straight from the fridge.

And as for snow, the pampered feline will have nothing of it. “He doesn’t do winter,” said Pecha. “He’ll put one paw in the snow, and it’s ‘Oh, hell no.’”

Affordable homes remain available in Amenia despite extreme stratification

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — September was a busy month in Amenia with 11 recorded transfers of residential, commercial and land parcels. Seven of these sales were in the affordable range under \$350,000 while the remaining four, two houses and two building lots at Silo Ridge, were over \$2 million with nothing in between.

Looking at the two most expensive homes sold highlights the disparity in price which perplexes many buyers, sellers and real estate professionals. A stately home on Smithfield Road in the desirable Shekomoko area of Amenia on 28.7 acres sold for \$3.675 million, almost half the price of a similarly sized home in Silo Ridge on Wood Duck Road on .74 acres which sold for \$7 million. Both properties sold for over their assessed values — Smithfield for 55% more, and Wood Duck for 24% over assessed value.

In mid-October, 21 single



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This bungalow style home built in 1920 at 78 Old North Road sold for \$320,000 with two bedrooms and 1.5 baths. Situated on .64 acres it has a generous front and back yard.

family homes were listed for sale with 11 under \$500,000 and the most expensive at \$20 million, according to OneKey MLS.

34 Glen Ave. — mobile home on .43 acres old for \$98,900.

5327 Route 44 — small commercial building on .04 acres sold for \$150,000.

1 Prospect Ave. — 3 bedroom/1 bath single family home on .6 acres sold for

\$223,300.

38 Glen Ave. — 3 bedroom/1 bath home on 1 acre sold for \$230,000.

78 Old North Road — 2 bedroom/1.5 bath home on .64 acres sold for \$320,000.

23 Yellow City Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath raised ranch sold for \$335,540, the median price in September of all properties transferred.

53 Perry’s Corner Road — 3 bedroom/1 bath home sold

for \$349,900.

Redtail Pass (*658785) — .73 acre building lot at Silo Ridge sold for \$2.19 million.

Ridgeline Road (*733429) — 1.54 acre building lot at Silo Ridge sold for \$2.8 million.

20-22 Smithfield Road — 5 bedroom/4.5 bath home on 28.7 acres sold for \$3.675 million.

232 Wood Duck Road — 4 bedroom/5 full bath/ 2 half bath home at Silo Ridge on .74 acres sold for \$7 million.

* Town of Amenia real estate sales recorded between September 1, 2024, and September 30, 2024 sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency. Information on active listings taken from First Key MLS. Parcel numbers refer to parcel designation by Dutchess County and may be accessed on Dutchess Parcel Access. Only transfers with consideration are included. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

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TOWN OF SHARON ASSESSOR’S ASSISTANT: The Town of Sharon is accepting applications for an Assessor’s Assistant. A job description and application may be obtained at the Selectmen’s Office, 63 Main Street, Sharon, CT 06069 weekdays from 9AM to 12 Noon and 1PM to 4PM: phone 860-364-5789 or on the Town of Sharon website sharonct.gov. This is a part-time position, 10-12 hours per week. Applications and resumes must be received by October 31, 2024, by 4:00PM. Mail to Town of Sharon P.O. Box 385, Sharon, CT 06069 or deliver by hand. The Town of Sharon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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